

# The Diocese of Manchester

## PARISH INFORMATION AND PROFILE

### The benefice or parish of: ST MARY'S, HAUGHTON GREEN



TO KNOW JESUS AND TO MAKE HIM KNOWN  
through our worship, in the lives we lead  
and in the community we serve.

PARISH INFORMATION AND PROFILE	1
1. INTRODUCTION	2
2. THE NEXT PARISH PRIEST	3
3. BASIC INFORMATION AND STATISTICS	5
4. PRIESTS (ORDINATION OF WOMEN) MEASURE 1993	9
5. LOCAL COMMUNITY	10
6. SCHOOLS AND VOLUNTARY GROUPS	12
7. WORSHIP AND WORSHIPPERS	13
8. CHURCH-BASED ORGANISATIONS AND GROUPS	14
9. NEIGHBOURING ANGLICAN CHURCHES AND PARISHES	15
10. ECUMENISM	16
11. MINISTRY	16
12. MISSION	18
13. FINANCE, STEWARDSHIP AND SUSTAINABILITY	19

# 1. INTRODUCTION

St. Mary's Church in Haughton Green is a community deeply committed to living out our Christian faith through worship, teaching, and service. We are passionate about making Jesus known through our lives, ensuring that everything we do is rooted in God's word. Our congregation is a diverse family, where everyone is valued and treated with dignity, reflecting the love and grace we have received in Christ.

Over the past years, our congregation has faced challenges that have impacted our vitality. However, we are committed to revitalizing our church and re-establishing ourselves as a central presence in the community.

Our congregation is blessed with a wealth of talents and gifts, including leadership, preaching, prayer, reading, music, community service, and hospitality. These diverse gifts enable us to serve our community effectively and foster a welcoming environment. We are united in our mission to see St. Mary's thrive again, building on our strong sense of family and shared purpose.

Believing in the importance of community, we strive to ensure that everyone feels included, loved, and supported. This sense of belonging extends beyond our church walls, as we actively engage with and minister to the wider community with compassion and sensitivity. Our initiatives, such as the Food Bank and Messy Church, aim to bring God's kingdom closer by showing Christ's love to all.

As we look to the future, we are excited to welcome a new rector who will share our vision and help lead us in fulfilling God's purpose for our parish and beyond.

## 2. THE NEXT PARISH PRIEST

St Mary's has a strong sense of togetherness and a hopeful outlook for the future. As we look ahead, the key priorities, we hope our new parish priest will address and align with our mission to grow, deepen discipleship, and serve the community. The congregation has shared the following areas as crucial for the next rector to focus on:

1. **Growth and Outreach:** We have a strong desire for the church to grow, particularly in terms of attracting younger people and families. Key outreach areas include expanding our work with children, youth, and families, as well as being more involved in community events and engaging with people from different nationalities.
2. **Strengthening Worship and Teaching:** Our worship services are highly valued for their biblical teaching, inclusivity, and varied music. We appreciate the inspiring, sincere teaching and a continued emphasis on creating a warm, welcoming atmosphere. Many also hope to see more women involved in preaching.
3. **Community Engagement and Fellowship:** A growing priority is enhancing our sense of community. We aim to strengthen our fellowship through more life groups, prayer partners, and collaborative events with other churches and local groups. Support and care for one another remain central to our identity as a close-knit church family.
4. **Pastoral Care and Healing:** Many of our congregation feel that there is hurt that still needs healing within the church. Our new rector will need to be sensitive to this, offering support and understanding while helping us move forward in unity.

### Desired Gifts and Skills for the Next Parish Priest

The congregation has expressed a desire for a rector who is personable, trustworthy, and able to delegate, empowering others to serve. The top qualities we value are:

- **Personable and approachable**, with the ability to connect well with people of all ages.
- **Honesty in all things**, fostering an environment of trust and transparency.
- **Able to delegate effectively**, trusting the congregation to take on leadership roles and responsibilities.
- **Fun and engaging**, able to bring joy and a sense of vitality to our worship and community life.

We also value a rector who is wise and visionary, with a strong commitment to growing the church while nurturing existing relationships and fostering spiritual growth.

### What the Next Rector Can Expect from Us

St Mary's is a loyal and hardworking congregation that seeks to be a family of God. We are committed to supporting our new rector, offering encouragement, care, and service in all areas of church life. We are ready to continue growing, welcoming new people, and engaging in mission activities. We also recognize the importance of prayer and fellowship, with a desire to deepen both individually, and as a community.

In particular, we will continue to prioritise:

- Active participation in **life groups, prayer partnerships, and community activities**.
- Support for the rector's leadership through **delegation of responsibilities** and involvement in ministry.
- **Financial stewardship** and continued commitment to mission work both locally and globally.

### **Supporting Our Clergy and Their Household**

St Mary's values the well-being of our clergy and their families. We are committed to ensuring that the next rector and their household feel supported and cared for. This includes providing a comfortable living environment in the rectory, offering a strong network of support (both practical and emotional), and ensuring the rector and their family have time for rest and renewal in line with the Diocesan guidelines on Clergy Wellbeing.

We are also blessed with many individuals within our congregation who have talents for leading and preaching. This enables the new rector to rest and renew, sharing the load of ministry and ensuring that the demands of leadership are not overwhelming. These gifted individuals can help facilitate worship, lead teaching sessions, and support other key areas of church life, allowing the rector to focus on pastoral care and long-term vision.

### 3. BASIC INFORMATION AND STATISTICS

- 3.1. Full name of benefice or parish(es):  
St Mary's, Haughton Green, Denton
- 3.2. Title of the post that is vacant:  
Rector
- 3.3. Name and address of patron:  
Bishop of Manchester, St. John's House, 155-163 The Rock, Bury, BL9 0ND
- 3.4. Archdeaconry, Deanery and Mission Community; and name of Area Dean and Mission Community Leader:  
Archdeaconry of Rochdale,  
Rev Canon Karen Smeeton - karensmeeton@manchester.anglican.org  
07504 960446  
Deanery of Oldham and Ashton  
Area Dean: Rev Daniel Ramble DanielRamble@manchester.anglican.org  
07471 234 493

#### Rectory Description

The rectory at St. Mary's Church is a desirable, modern, well-maintained family residence offering a blend of comfort, space, and charm. This five-bedroom home provides ample room for family life, with practical features such as a downstairs toilet and a dedicated study for work or quiet reflection. The large reception room creates a welcoming space for hospitality, complemented by an additional reception room offering flexibility for family activities or accommodating guests.

Outside, the rectory boasts a spacious garden and a garage, ideal for those who enjoy outdoor living. Its prime location adjacent to the beautiful Haughton Dale Nature Reserve means you're never far from tranquil walks and natural beauty, making it a perfect retreat from the busyness of ministry life.

#### Haughton Dale Nature Reserve

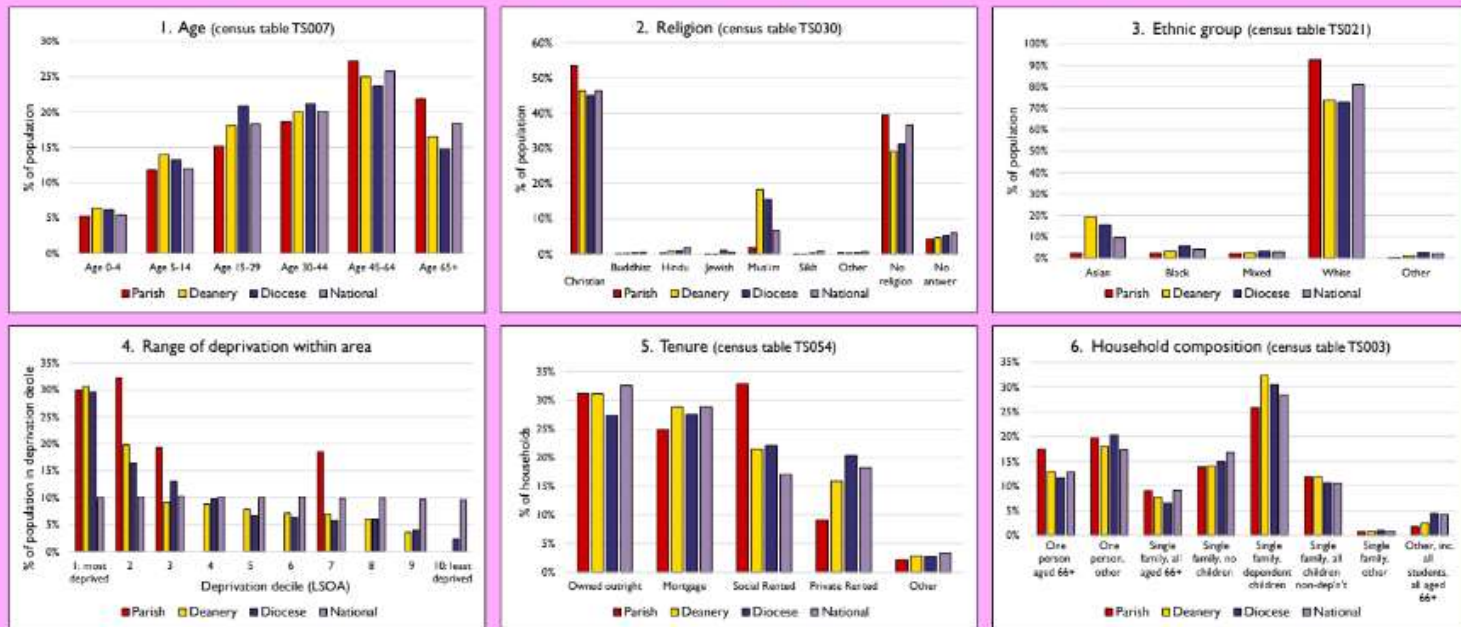
Haughton Dale is Tameside's largest Local Nature Reserve, encompassing ancient woodlands and meadows that survived industrial development. The reserve offers a variety of habitats, including woodland, grassland, and wetlands, providing a haven for local wildlife. Visitors can enjoy scenic walking trails, riverside paths along the River Tame, and opportunities to spot diverse wildlife.





- 3.5. Official population: **8182 (National census 2021)**
- 3.6. Number on electoral roll: 62
- 3.7. Average weekly attendance year on year, over the last 3 years: **64 (Adults)**
- 3.8. Average Weekly Attendance of children and young people under 16: **11 (U16)**

**National Census 2021 Dashboard for the Parish of Houghton Green: St Mary the Virgin in the deanery of Oldham and Ashton**



**7. 2019 Deprivation Statistics**

Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD), domains, and subdomains

IMD - overall deprivation	8%
Employment	6%
Crime	11%
Health	6%
Income	9%
Income: Children	13%
Income: Old people	13%
Education	8%
Children & Youth	11%
Adult Skills	7%
Housing & services	84%
Local services	87%
Affordability	19%
Living Environ't	68%
Indoors	68%
Outdoors	43%

Shading shows severity of deprivation compared to other parishes, colour-coded by decile. E.g., a figure of 25% means that 25% of parishes are more deprived than this parish.

	Parish	Deanery	Diocese	National
Population	8,182	386,732	2,233,382	56,506,784
Occupied households	3,772	155,424	908,759	23,444,438
Living in households	8,134	384,430	2,197,895	55,542,946
Average household size	2.16	2.47	2.42	2.37
Living in communal estab'ts	48	2,302	35,487	963,838

**Parish, Deanery and Diocese codes**

Parish	240040 St. Mary the Virgin Houghton
Deanery	24210 Oldham and Ashton
Diocese	24 Manchester

**Notes & definitions**

Census and deprivation statistics have been mapped onto parish boundaries, and are therefore approximations. Census data as shown in figures 1-3, 5, & 6 are derived from the National Census 2021 produced by the Office of National Statistics (ONS). For details from ONS see: [https://www.nomisweb.co.uk/sources/census\\_2021](https://www.nomisweb.co.uk/sources/census_2021). Deprivation statistics are derived from the English Indices of Deprivation 2019, produced by the Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government. More details can be found at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/english-indices-of-deprivation-2019>. Deprivation statistics are published at LSOA level. Figure 4 shows how the population of each area is split across LSOAs, categorised by LSOA deprivation decile. For more detailed parish census and deprivation information, see: <https://www.churchofengland.org/about/data-services/resources-publications-and-data#>. For an interactive map showing parish deprivation and census statistics, see: <http://arcg.is/1Ra54CS>.

Parish deprivation statistics in figure 7 are colour-coded by parish deprivation decile:

	< -Most deprived -> Medium -> Least deprived ->									
Coding	5%	15%	25%	35%	45%	55%	65%	75%	85%	95%

Produced by the Data Services Team, Church House, Great Smith Street, London SW1P 3AZ. Date of production: 27/2/2024. Version 32; index: 4377

Every effort has been made to ensure that data are reliable. We would be grateful to be notified of errors and to receive comments/suggestions: please email [statistics.unit@churchofengland.org](mailto:statistics.unit@churchofengland.org).

3.9. In the last twelve months, numbers (if applicable) of: -

- a. those baptized:
- b. those confirmed:
- c. marriages:
- d. funerals:
- e. Christmas communicants (all services): **56 adults and 11 under 16**
- f. Easter communicants (all services): **96 adults and 21 under 16 + (Christmas Eve nativity service) 47 adults and 17 under 16**
- g. last October survey:

Date	Worship Style	U16's	Adult	Comment
06/10	All Age Worship	6	62	inc. Harvest
13/10	Holy Communion	15	68	
20/10	Morning Worship	8	53	Local HT holiday
27/10	Morning Worship	8	61	Local HT holiday

3.10 Anglican churches and licensed places of worship in the benefice or parish(es) profiled here: -

- a. Name of principal church:
  - St Mary's
- b. Approximate key dates for the building
  - Consecrated on the 25th March 1876, listed Grade II, List Entry No. 1067968.
- c. Approximate seating capacity:
  - **250**
- d. The last Quinquennial Inspection reported that the building is generally in a good state of repair, although the south elevation requires specific attention.
  - i. What are the top 3 priorities as highlighted by the architect
    - Repairs to the south-facing gable wall.
    - Restoration of the south window.
    - Re-rendering and decoration over the link corridor.
  - ii. How much did the architect estimate they might cost?
    - We have not yet obtained a formal cost estimate.
  - iii. What progress has been made thus far by the parish?
    - The required works have been put out to tender, with Bullen Conservation being the lowest tendering contractor.

e. How accessible are the parish buildings?

- The parish buildings are highly accessible. The main doors at the front of the church provide easy access for wheelchair users. Additionally, there is access from the rear car park through the link between the church and church centre, as well as from the church centre itself via the same link leading into the church. There is also a vestry door, though this is not used by the general congregation.

f. Name of any attached or nearby hall or other similar facility

- Attached to the main church building is our Church Community Centre, a versatile space that is used regularly throughout the week. It serves as the home for our foodbank and Little Lambs toddler group, and it is available for hire by the Haughton Green community for parties and other events. The centre also hosts a regular Men's Keep Fit group on Monday evenings. The church centre is equipped with a kitchen that includes standard appliances such as an oven and fridge. In addition, we have a smaller, more intimate Church Lounge, which we use for our monthly prayer gatherings and PCC meetings.

g. Details of Anglican churches or licensed places of worship in the Denton Area of the Oldham and Ashton Deenary profiled here with whom you will share an incumbent undergoing pastoral reorganisation, or likely to in the near future:

- St Anne's Church Haughton, Denton - No incumbent in position
- St Lawrence Church, Denton - No incumbent in position
- St Hilda, Denton
- Christ Church, Denton - No incumbent in position

3.11 Details of any publicity/literature that the parish produces e.g. newsletter, magazine:

- <https://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/15977/>

3.12 Address of website and/or other social media or remote service offering:

- <https://www.stmaryshg.org.uk/>
- <https://www.facebook.com/stmaryshaughtongreen/>
- <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCcYeO9qJ0JM91UW9fBflkig>

3.13 Names of churchwardens:

- Keith Horsfield: [khorsfield911@gmail.com](mailto:khorsfield911@gmail.com)
- Matthew Pattison: [mpattison.smhg@gmail.com](mailto:mpattison.smhg@gmail.com)

3.14 Names of any representatives (usually two where applicable, but in certain notified cases more) appointed under the Patronage (Benefices) Measure 1986 section 11 (1), or otherwise.

Keith Horsfield (Churchwarden)

Matthew Pattison (Churchwarden)

John Hulme (Treasurer)



## **4. PRIESTS (ORDINATION OF WOMEN) MEASURE 1993**

### **HOUSE OF BISHOPS DECLARATION ON THE MINISTRY OF BISHOPS AND PRIESTS 2014**

Since 17 November 2014 it has no longer been possible for a PCC to pass resolutions under the Priests (Ordination of Women) Measure 1993 or to petition under the 1993 Act of Synod for Extended Episcopal Oversight. It is no longer a requirement that parishes should consider passing or rescinding resolutions under the Measure at a Section 11 Meeting in a vacancy. Any new resolutions must now be passed under the House of Bishops Declaration on the Ministry of Bishops and Priests. A PCC, on grounds of theological conviction, may resolve to request that arrangements are made for it under the House of Bishops Declaration.

Under transitional arrangements, though, any resolutions passed under the Measure will be treated as if they are resolutions under the House of Bishops Declaration until 17 November 2016.

The Archdeacon or the Diocesan Registrar can advise further if there are any questions about this section.

## 5. LOCAL COMMUNITY

### Population Trends and Demographics:

The population of Haughton Green is 8182 (National Census 2001) with a diverse age profile that includes a mix of young families, working-age adults, and seniors as well. The ethnic profile reflects a predominantly White British, with increasing diversity from other backgrounds.

### Main Issues Facing the Community:

Our community in Haughton Green is currently facing challenges in relation to housing development. There are proposals for new residential projects, which have sparked debate regarding the density of new housing, the preservation of the area's unique character, and concerns around increased traffic. A key focus of local opposition is the need to protect the precious green belt, as Haughton Green is home to a spectacular array of natural habitats within the Haughton Green Valley. Local residents are keen to ensure that any developments are carefully managed to avoid damage to this beautiful and vital green space, which is central to the community's identity and well-being.

### Housing Profile

Haughton Green's housing profile reflects a diverse community, with traditional terraced houses, semi-detached homes, modern developments, and social housing flats. This variety suggests that there are families and individuals from a range of social and economic backgrounds, with some facing financial or social challenges. The presence of social housing highlights the need for a church that can offer support to those who may require practical assistance, alongside spiritual guidance. The church's role in providing affordable, accessible services is crucial, as is ensuring that everyone in the community feels welcomed and valued.

### Community Engagement

Engagement with the local community is already a strong focus for St. Mary's. The church has built meaningful connections through initiatives such as charity evening events, Messy Church, and seasonal gatherings (Christmas markets, table-top sales, etc.). However, our foodbank and Little Lambs toddler group have been particularly effective in fostering relationships with families and individuals in the parish. These ministries offer direct support to those who need it most and create opportunities for outreach to families from all walks of life.

A particularly encouraging development has been the partnership between the Little Lambs toddler group and Greatwood House, a local care home. Through stay-and-play sessions, young children and residents have been able to share in meaningful intergenerational interactions, bringing joy to both groups and strengthening community ties. This initiative has been so impactful that the Diocese of Manchester has taken an interest, featuring it in their weekly e-newsletter as an example of creative and effective community outreach.

St. Mary's also has strong links with the local primary schools, welcoming them into the church to celebrate key events throughout the year, such as Easter, Christmas, and Harvest. In addition, members of the church have been invited into these schools to share information about the charities we support and to lead assemblies, further strengthening our presence within the community and offering opportunities for children to engage with faith in a meaningful way.

As the community continues to evolve, there is room to expand and deepen these connections, ensuring that the church remains a vital presence in Haughton Green.

### **Significant Local Institutions:**

Haughton Green has a mix of local businesses and amenities that contribute to its community spirit. Some of the key establishments include a local butcher, baker, post office and Ray's Fish & Chip Shop (which has been serving the area for over 25 years) all of which play an essential role in supporting the community and encouraging residents to shop locally while also enhancing its classic village feel. The presence of these shops and amenities not only provides essential services but also cultivates a strong community bond

St. Mary's enjoys strong relationships with Manor Green Primary Academy, Corrie Primary School (the two closest schools to the church) and Russell Scott Primary School. These schools are key partners in the church's outreach to the local community, providing numerous opportunities to connect with children and their families. St. Mary's regularly supports these schools through assemblies and events, covering important Christian occasions such as Easter, Harvest, and Christmas.

In addition to these close partnerships, the church has links with St. John Fisher RC and Linden Road Academy. We provide a variety of assemblies and support at these schools as well, alongside our partner charity, Hope House, which offers further engagement through special assemblies. These partnerships enable St. Mary's to have a significant presence in the local educational community, enhancing the spiritual and emotional well-being of children and their families.

### **Local Governance:**

The parish community is situated within the Denton South Ward. Local representation has previously included Councillor George Newton, Councillor Jack Naylor, and Councillor Claire Reid. These individuals were affiliated with the Labour Party but are currently serving as independent representatives following a suspension pending the outcome of an investigation. Our local Member of Parliament, Andrew Gwynne MP, who represents the Denton and Reddish Constituency, is also currently suspended from the Labour Party and stands as an independent while the investigation is ongoing.

## 6. SCHOOLS AND VOLUNTARY GROUPS

St. Mary's enjoys strong relationships with Manor Green Primary Academy, Corrie Primary School (the two closest schools to the church) and Russell Scott Primary School. These schools are key partners in the church's outreach to the local community, providing numerous opportunities to connect with children and their families. St. Mary's regularly supports these schools through assemblies and events, covering important Christian occasions such as Easter, Harvest, and Christmas. Approximately 600 children visited the church for our most recent series of Easter assemblies.

In addition to these close partnerships, the church has links with St. John Fisher RC and Linden Road Academy. We provide a variety of assemblies and support at these schools as well, alongside our partner charity, Hope House, which offers further engagement through special assemblies. These partnerships enable St. Mary's to have a significant presence in the local educational community, enhancing the spiritual and emotional well-being of children and their families.

In addition to our connections with local schools, St. Mary's Church is home to several voluntary groups that enrich the life of the community. The Men's Keep Fit Group meets regularly at the church centre, promoting health and well-being among participants. In the past, the church has accommodated various other groups, such as a weight management programme known as Fun Fit and Free (FFF), which focused on healthy living and community support and an Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) group, providing a supportive environment for those seeking recovery and community. Within the wider parish, the 1st Haughton Green Scout Group and a Boys Brigade provide opportunities for young people to engage in activities that promote teamwork, leadership, and community service.

## 7. WORSHIP AND WORSHIPPERS

### Present Pattern of Worship:

St. Mary's Church in Haughton Green centres its worship around the main Sunday service at 10:30 a.m., typically attended on average by 61 adults and 9 children. The first Sunday of each month features an All-Age Worship service, engaging families and children through interactive elements like action songs, dramas, and quizzes. On the second Sunday, a Holy Communion service is held, during which children participate in separate learning sessions before rejoining for family communion. The church also hosts special services during Christmas and Easter, notably the well-attended Carols by Candlelight, as well as an annual bereavement service offering a reflective space for those mourning loved ones. Additionally, services are streamed live on YouTube to reach a broader audience.

### Service Materials:

St. Mary's has transitioned from traditional hymn books to projecting song lyrics and liturgy onto screens, facilitating congregational participation. The Holy Communion liturgy is sourced from the diocesan website, aligning with the Church of England's Common Worship resources. Standard texts such as the Creed, the Lord's Prayer, and confessions are utilized, consistent with typical Church of England practices.

### Language of Worship:

While all services are conducted in English, St. Mary's celebrates linguistic diversity by encouraging members for whom English is a second language to lead prayers, including the Lord's Prayer, in their native tongues when they are on the prayer rota. This practice enriches the worship experience and fosters inclusivity within the congregation.

### Ministerial Vesture:

Ministers at St. Mary's typically wear smart attire with clerical collars. While previous ministers have not worn traditional robes, visiting clergy leading Holy Communion during interregnum periods have donned vestments.

### Congregational Demographics:

The congregation primarily consists of individuals over the age of 50, with a balanced representation of genders. Although there are some younger families with children, the church acknowledges the need to attract more young families to ensure a diverse and vibrant community. Past challenges have led to a decrease in younger attendees, highlighting this as a focal point for future growth.

### Parish Residency of Worshippers:

The majority of worshippers reside within the parish boundaries, though a number of congregants travel from neighbouring areas, drawn by the church's welcoming community and engaging worship style.

### Church Tradition:

St. Mary's embraces a vibrant evangelical tradition, blending contemporary worship songs with traditional hymns. The worship band plays a pivotal role in leading music, and congregational participation is encouraged through various service elements. Members with gifts in leadership and preaching are actively involved, and lay members frequently lead Bible readings and intercessory prayers. The church's audio-visual system ensures that all attendees can see and hear services clearly, enhancing the worship experience.

## 8. CHURCH-BASED ORGANISATIONS AND GROUPS

### Church-Based Organisations and Groups

St. Mary's Church in Haughton Green strives to foster a vibrant community life through a variety of church-based organisations and groups, each contributing to the spiritual growth, fellowship, and well-being of its members.

#### Life Groups:

Formerly known as Home Groups, Life Groups are small gatherings that meet twice a month in the homes of group leaders. These sessions focus on Bible study, prayer, and mutual support, strengthening personal faith and fostering deeper relationships among participants. The intimate setting encourages open discussion and community building.

#### The Engine Room:

Launched earlier this year, The Engine Room is St. Mary's monthly prayer meeting, emphasizing the power of collective prayer to drive the church's mission. This gathering serves as a spiritual catalyst, aligning the congregation's efforts with divine guidance.

#### Social and Fellowship Activities:

The social life of St. Mary's is rich and varied, encompassing:

- **Annual Meals:** Organized for the entire congregation or tailored for men's or women's groups, these meals provide opportunities for fellowship and community building.
- **Church Work Days:** Members come together to undertake projects such as refurbishment, maintenance, and tidying of the church premises, fostering a sense of ownership and collaboration.
- **Children's Church Social Outings:** Activities like bowling and lunches are organized to strengthen bonds among the younger members and their families.
- **Bring and Share Lunches:** Held monthly, these communal meals encourage congregants to share food and fellowship after services.
- **Spring Harvest Group Bookings:** Some members of the church participate in the annual Spring Harvest event, a Christian conference offering spiritual refreshment and teaching. Group bookings facilitate shared experiences and deeper connections among attendees.
- **Church Weekends Away:** Historically, the congregation embarked on annual retreats to venues like The Quinta Hall Christian Conference Centre in Shropshire, providing extended time for worship, teaching, and fellowship. These retreats have been on hiatus but are under consideration for revival.
- **Men United:** This initiative offers regular gatherings for men to socialize, encourage one another, and engage in activities such as film and pizza nights, strengthening bonds and fostering spiritual growth.

#### Potential for Development:

St. Mary's Church is committed to enhancing its community engagement and social activities. Key areas identified for development include:

#### Reinstating Church Retreats:

Historically, St. Mary's organized annual retreats at venues like The Quinta Hall Christian Conference Centre in Shropshire. These retreats offered extended periods for worship, teaching, and fellowship, strengthening congregational bonds. Reviving these retreats would provide valuable opportunities for spiritual growth and community building.



Developing Community Groups and Community Work:

St. Mary's aims to expand its community outreach by forming groups dedicated to local improvement projects. Initiatives such as planting flowers in public spaces can enhance the area's aesthetics and foster community pride. Engaging in such activities not only beautifies the environment but also strengthens relationships with local residents.

## 9. NEIGHBOURING ANGLICAN CHURCHES AND PARISHES

### Neighbouring Anglican Churches and Parishes

St. Mary's Church currently does not engage in collaborative activities with neighbouring Anglican churches and parishes. However, we are open and eager to explore opportunities for partnership and mutual support under the guidance of our new incumbent.

### Mission Community Engagement

At present, St. Mary's is not actively involved in a Mission Community. We recognize the value of such collaborations in enhancing our mission and outreach efforts. We look forward to working with our new incumbent to establish connections with other local Anglican communities and to participate in shared initiatives that further our collective mission.

### Plans for the Next Three Years

Over the next three years, St. Mary's aims to:

- **Develop Collaborative Partnerships:** Initiate dialogues with neighbouring Anglican and non-Anglican churches to identify common goals and opportunities for joint activities.
- **Participate in Mission Planning:** Engage in Mission Action Planning to articulate our vision and set actionable goals for community engagement and spiritual growth.
- **Enhance Community Outreach:** Collaborate on projects that serve the local community, such as joint worship services, community events, and social action initiatives.

We look forward to embarking on this journey of collaboration and mission, guided by our new incumbent and in partnership with our neighbouring Anglican communities.

## 10. ECUMENISM

### Churches of Other Christian Traditions in the Area

In addition to St. Mary's Church, the Haughton Green and Denton areas are home to several Christian communities, including:

- **St. Anne's Church:** An Anglican church located in Haughton.
- **St. Mary and St. John Fisher Catholic Church:** Recently closed
- **Haughton Green Methodist Church:** Recently closed

### Ecumenical Activities and Collaborations

St. Mary's has a very modest relationship with Christ Church Gorton. Members who previously attended St. Mary have joined Christ Church and have been involved in church planting initiatives in the Denton area. Collaborative activities have included attendance at charity events, social gatherings, and special services such as Agape and Christmas celebrations.

Currently, there is no active "Churches Together" organization in the immediate vicinity and at this time, St. Mary's Church is not utilized by other denominations for worship or activities.

## 11. MINISTRY

### Other Ordained Ministers

At present, St Mary's does not have any additional clergy serving alongside the rector. However, during our current interregnum, our Area Dean provides support, particularly in leading Holy Communion services. When the Area Dean is unavailable, other retired clergy assist as needed.

### Lay Ministers

St Mary's is blessed with a Licensed Lay Reader who plays a key role in leading worship, preaching, and assisting in services. In addition, we have a leadership team made up of lay members who contribute their gifts in preaching, leading, intercessory prayer, and other aspects of worship.

While we do not currently have anyone training for Foundations for Ministry (FFM) or other formal lay ministries, our congregation is highly involved in all aspects of church life.

### Encouraging Vocations

Some years ago, St Mary's supported a member of our congregation in their journey toward ordained ministry. Having grown up in the church, they discerned a call to ministry and were encouraged through the process. They now serve as the Rector of the Parish of Mottram in Longdendale.

At present, encouraging vocations to ordained or licensed lay ministry is not a specific focus of St Mary's, though we remain open to supporting individuals who may feel called.

## **Ministry of the Whole Congregation**

St Mary's strongly believes that ministry is for all. Congregation members are actively encouraged to take up roles that support the ministry of the church, including:

- Bible readings and intercessory prayers
- Joining the worship group
- Leading and preaching
- Children's ministry

The interregnum has seen church members step into new opportunities, leading to even greater unity within the church family.

Our Worship Team meets every Wednesday to plan and prepare music for Sunday services. The team carefully selects music that aligns with the theme and readings of the service, while also welcoming suggestions and requests from the congregation.

## **Outreach & Community Engagement**

Outreach is a key priority for St Mary's, and we are proactive in exploring new ways to connect with our community. We are particularly focused on preschool outreach and have several initiatives in development, including expanding our Little Lambs sessions, introducing a Baby & Crawler Group, and launching activity sessions for young families. We are also working to strengthen intergenerational connections through partnerships with local care homes.

Beyond this, we continue to explore ways to engage families, support parents, and build deeper relationships with local schools. Outreach remains an important and evolving area of ministry for our church.

## **Children's Ministry**

We offer Children's Church every Sunday except for All-Age Worship services, ensuring that young people are nurtured in faith in a way that is engaging and age-appropriate.

St Mary's remains committed to encouraging and welcoming all members of the church to participate in ministry, recognizing that every person has a role to play in serving God and the community.

## 12. MISSION

### Past & Present Mission & Evangelism

Over the last three years, St Mary's has remained committed to mission and outreach, offering Christianity Explored courses, baptism classes, and evening services for major events such as Carols by Candlelight, Agape evenings, and prayer events. We have also maintained key community engagement efforts, including Little Lambs, Messy Church, and links with local schools.

While some areas of outreach saw decline under previous leadership, our current period of interregnum has allowed us to refocus on community engagement, leading to renewed growth and positive connections. We also livestream services on YouTube and actively engage with our community on Facebook and Instagram.

### Future Mission & Evangelism Plans

While future mission plans will depend on the vision of our new minister, outreach remains a key priority. We are particularly focused on:

- Preschool outreach, including expanding Little Lambs, launching a Baby & Crawler Group, and introducing activity sessions for young families.
- Strengthening intergenerational connections through a Care Home Partnership.
- Deepening relationships with local schools and supporting families beyond early years engagement.
- Reintroducing Alpha courses as a discipleship opportunity.

### Mission Aims & Objectives

St Mary's is committed to:

- Growing its congregation
- Strengthening discipleship
- Serving the community through social action
- Deepening relationships with local schools

We have also surveyed our congregation to gather their thoughts and insights on our mission priorities moving forward. These comments were used to create Section 2.

### Mission Statement

TO KNOW JESUS AND TO MAKE HIM KNOWN through our worship, in the lives we lead and in the community we serve.

### Mission Action Plan (MAP)

St Mary's does not currently have a formal Mission Action Plan, but we are actively developing new outreach initiatives and strengthening our vision for future growth.

## 13. FINANCE, STEWARDSHIP AND SUSTAINABILITY

### Annual Accounts

Current Finance position as at 30/4/25

Current account balance £10,742

Deposit account balance £117,897

Within these balances Food Bank Restricted funds are £13,242. The balance is all unrestricted

Recent historical information:

Year	Giving <del>incl</del> gift aid	Other Income	Total In	Parish Share	Mission	Utilities <del>incl</del> Council Tax	Other Expenditure	Total out
2024	£73,782	£10,233	£84,015	£37,211	£6,302	£12,706	£37,751	£93,970
2023	£81,017	£12,519	£93,536	£44,085	£9,058	£9,192	£37,791	£100,126
2022	£85,994	£8,964	£94,958	£37,664	£7,660	£7,969	£26,425	£79,718
2021	£87,871	£3,896	£91,767	£42,249	£9,717	£5,231	£28,219	£85,416
			£364,276					£359,230

Stewardship is actively practised at St Mary's. We regularly encourage our congregation to use their time, talents, and resources to support the life and mission of the church. Since the beginning of the interregnum, we have seen a significant increase in the number of people stepping forward to try out new roles in church life. Many have begun leading services, reading scripture, welcoming, and volunteering in areas such as our toddler group. Under our previous minister, opportunities for involvement were limited, so we have been both encouraged and amazed by the renewed willingness of the congregation to serve in a variety of ways.

From a financial standpoint, we have recently introduced a contactless card machine to make giving more accessible. The vast majority of our congregation are dedicated givers, making regular contributions either through the offertory bowl, the contactless device, or by standing order. Our last stewardship campaign took place in 2024 as part of a homegroup teaching series on generosity, which was well received. Regular financial updates are shared with the PCC by our treasurer to ensure transparency and collective accountability.

We are committed to paying our Parish Share in full and have successfully done so for the last five years. The parish priest's expenses of office were met in full last year, with a total reimbursement of £[insert total here].

We reserve 10% of our church income for mission work and currently support a range of home and overseas causes including [insert charities or mission projects here].

All key parish officer roles at St Mary's are currently filled. We are fortunate to have a committed team serving as churchwardens, treasurer, PCC secretary, safeguarding officer, and in other vital roles. We take succession planning seriously and have an in-depth handover process in place to ensure continuity when roles change. Potential future officers are identified and supported well in advance, with current post-holders providing guidance, mentoring, and practical training where appropriate. This proactive approach helps maintain stability and encourages new leaders to step forward with confidence.

**Please return your Parish Profile when complete, together with any other requested papers, to:**

The Bishop of Manchester: [bishop.david@manchester.anglican.org](mailto:bishop.david@manchester.anglican.org)

The Suffragan Bishop:

The Archdeacon:

The Registrar: Diocesan Registry, 3rd Floor, St John's House, 155-163 The Rock, Bury BL9 0ND

The Patron – if applicable:

The Area Dean:

The Deanery Lay Chair:

The Mission Community Leader:

**A hard copy must be provided to the Registrar. Otherwise email copies suffice.**