

## **Saddleworth Team Benefice Profile 24.03.25**

Saddleworth is a collection of villages to the north east of Oldham in the South Pennines on the northern edge of the Peak District. Each village has its own Anglican worshipping community. There are seven parishes and nine worship centres. There are other denominations represented across the Benefice. Each village has grown over time, due to new housing developments, making Saddleworth a desirable area in which to live.

### **History and tradition**

There has been a Christian presence on the site of one of the Parish churches since 1215. Following the increase in population, churches were built in each of the villages in the mid-1800s. There are many long standing church and community traditions in which each parish plays their part including Whit Friday, Rushcart festival and Remembrance services. The Saddleworth Team Benefice was formed in 2003 and amended to include the parish of Denshaw in 2015. On the formation of the Team each parish retained its own PCC.

### **Ministry Team**

The Team consists of: Team Rector (vacant), one Team Vicar, one part time House for Duty, one Ordained Local Minister, one Associate Priest, one Deacon in training and one Reader, and is supported by a number of clergy with PTO. The Ministry Team work closely with the Laity to deliver worship. A number of Laity have undertaken the Diocese ALM courses in several electives or are in the process of training.

### **Team Administration**

The Team Rector is supported by a part time Team Administrator based in the Team Office at the Parish Centre in Uppermill. The Team Administrator is the first point of contact for all enquiries, enabling the Team Rector to concentrate on the spiritual needs of the churches and community. There is a Team Council with representatives from each parish as well as a volunteer Team Treasurer.

### **Worship styles across the Benefice**

There are different worship traditions across the Benefice, from Evangelical to Anglo Catholic. The new Team Rector will need to be respectful and adaptable to work across the broad spectrum of worship styles.

### **Sunday schools / Junior Church**

Across the Team there are Sunday Schools / Junior Churches catering for the needs of children and young people led by the Laity.

### **Midweek services**

As a service to the community we offer several mid-week services to help meet the demands of a fast and ever changing world. These services are very well attended and cater for families committed in other ways on Sundays, and enable children to obtain the required attendance to meet the Church of England Secondary Schools' admission criteria. There are also several morning mid-week services of Holy Communion.

### **Serving the Community**

There is a strong desire to serve and support the local communities by the churches in the Benefice. We do this through the traditional Offices of the church for example marriage and baptism. As part of our outreach the Team delivers Holy Communion and pastoral care to older and vulnerable parishioners across the local area. This may be home visits, residential care homes or hospitals. There are also numerous other activities which serve the local community, for example a charity shop, warm spaces, coffee mornings / afternoons, café church to name just a few. The Whit Friday walks are a community event, which witnesses our faith and attracts people from far and wide, including the participating brass bands some of whom have travelled from abroad.

### **Schools**

There are five Church of England primary schools each with close links to their parish. There are also a number of other primary schools and one secondary school within the Benefice. Across the Oldham district there are three Church of England secondary schools.

## What the Saddleworth Benefice has to offer

Saddleworth is a beautiful area in which to live, with good transport links to Manchester, Leeds and further afield. There's a plethora of activities catering for all ages and tastes including sport, music, drama, dance, art, walking groups, leisure centre, gyms and more. There's also a wide range of places to eat, meet and socialise.

The Team Rectory is situated in the heart of Uppermill, opposite the Parish Centre. It has four bedrooms, large lounge, kitchen diner, utility room, study, wrap around private garden, garage and off road parking.

There are many exciting opportunities for the new Team Rector to inspire, lead and guide us into the next chapter of the Saddleworth Team Benefice.

