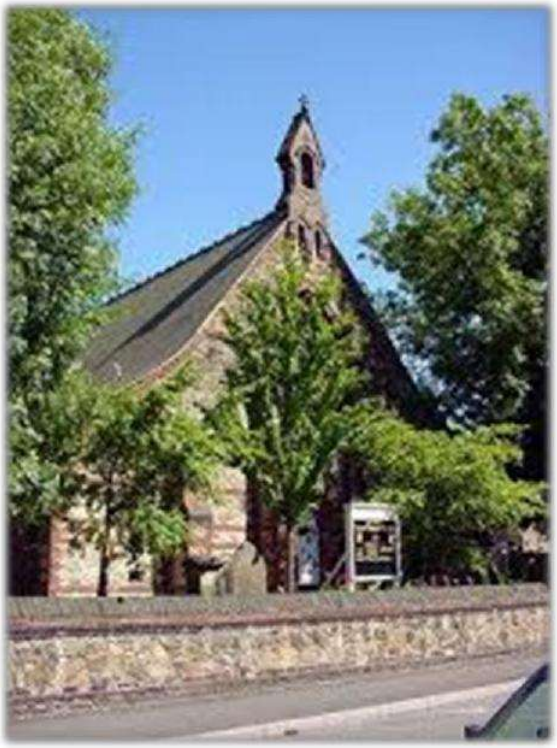
St George with St Thomas
Hyde





THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND
Diocese of Chester



A message from the Bishop of Chester

Thank you for looking at this post in Chester Diocese. Whatever the Lord has for you, I want to assure you of my own prayers and a deep gratitude that we might get to partner together in this part of the Lord's work.

I have spent ages trying to capture the enormity of the privilege I feel in getting to serve the people of this diocese, and my words cannot bear the weight of that calling. This community of communities ranging from the very richest to the very poorest and the deepest rural to the most industrialised and urban is amazing. The diocese holds together in a shared sense of call to be 'Together in Christ Sharing Hope'. We have a deeply held vocation to serve the 1.5 million inhabitants who have no meaningful connection with a community of faith, and share the feast which has been shared with us in Jesus.

In Chester Diocese this is always going to be worked out locally first and foremost: no-one met Jesus through a Diocese! Lives are changed in parishes, chaplaincies, and new expressions of Christian community, when people are invited in kindness and grace into transformative encounter with the love of the God who made them. Together we focus on our broad strategic aims so that those who know they are the people of God can serve all the people God calls in their everyday living.

We are utterly committed to safeguarding, because every person matters to our God and Saviour more than we know how to express. This is also why we welcome applications from every background for posts in this diocese. We are learning how to do all of this as guest rather than always as host, as we partner to serve the world to which we are sent.

If God is calling you to serve with us, I rejoice! Come, roll up your sleeves, and get stuck in! If the call is elsewhere then be assured of our gratitude and earnest prayer that the Lord will lead and provide in all things.

Please do pray for us, too – the harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few.

+Mark

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Welcome



Congregations of St George and St Thomas

Welcome to the parish profile of St George with St Thomas**,** Hyde**.** We are a warm**,** friendly and welcoming community of churches who look forward to meeting you**.**

Looking Forward

What do we want from our prospective vicar?
How do we hope they will invigorate, enable and lead us into God's will for our future?

LEADERSHIP

We are looking for a vicar who will lead our parish in the genuine desire to grow spiritually deeper as individuals, grow collectively as a parish in discipleship, and grow in numbers attending and affiliating to the churches. This person needs to open to being guided by the Holy Spirit and scripture. Where needed, they must be willing to encourage, manage and lead change, so equipping the parish and the churches for future sustainable growth. They will provide overall leadership in the parish/churches, the PCC and other parish/church teams, whilst also being a team player who works collaboratively with others enabling them to grow and to lead where their expertise and gifts lie. This will include developing and supporting the leadership team, prayer team and others who participate in church services and activities.

WORSHIP

Someone who can lead worship in a way that is thoughtful, meaningful and welcoming. Our churches worship in very different styles and this needs to be supported. The incumbent should be passionate about working with people of all ages, encouraging, developing and growing our congregations as a church family. We feel that children and young families need to play an important part in our congregations, and this aspect needs to be renewed and nurtured. St George's music group and choir are an important part of our worship, and we want to see that continue to develop and flourish.



Stained glass window at St George's

Prayer

Prayer is important to both congregations and we are seeking someone who will help us enhance and explore this aspect of our Christian lives further.

Pastoral Care

Along with the incumbent and our safeguarding officers, we want to build a competent team of people who can be more effective in looking after the pastoral needs of our congregations. We have a local residential addiction rehabilitation centre, managed by ANEW, who will particularly value care and attention from a pastoral team. Their clients attend the Sunday church service at St George's every week and many come to Jesus as their Lord and Saviour as a result.

Being Approachable

Willing to listen without rushing to judgment and keeping confidences as appropriate.

Teaching and Preaching

Done in a way that helps people understand and apply the Christian faith in their personal lives as part of the community we are in.



Adult baptism at St George's

Supporting the Local Community

This will include our school, charities, and community groups. St George's currently has a mission team who advise PCC on financial giving and practical support. Events at church are key to engagement in the community, support for these is essential. In our context someone with an interest in strengthening links with our multifaith community, which is predominantly Muslim, would be an advantage.

Guidance

Providing moral and spiritual guidance when people face difficult decisions. We have a growing demographic of young men. Someone who can engage and encourage this particular group would be ideal.

VISIBILITY

Being visible, engaged and proactive, not just on Sundays but throughout the week. We need a vicar who wants to get involved in all aspects of the church not just worship or preaching. Overseeing, delegating as appropriate, and being involved in the administration of the churches.



Volunteers at children's activities

DEVELOPING OTHERS

Someone who can encourage servanthood and nurture the congregations, helping others to develop and use their gifts rather than trying to do everything alone.

INSPIRATION AND SUPPORT

Someone who can offer hope and extend compassion, especially during times of crisis or change.

PERSONAL QUALITIES

We seek someone who is...

- Kind and genuine
- A good listener
- Energetic and fun loving
- Clear and engaging when preaching
- Respectful of people from different backgrounds.
- Dependable and trustworthy
- Active in serving the wider community

The Parish

The Parish of St. George with St Thomas encompasses two churches of differing traditions. St George's is the larger of our two churches and is low, open evangelical in nature whilst St Thomas' is inclusive Anglo-Catholic in tradition. The two churches have regular and welcoming congregations and are looking for an incumbent who is flexible enough to lead the worship, fellowship and missional aspects of the Parish.

Our Parish Vision is that we aim to:

- Be a church family
- See lives change
- Reach the local community with the Good News of Jesus



2025 St George's
2026 St Thomas'

For the last three years the combined PCC has been working with members of the churches on a strategic action plan which has focused on discipleship in the following areas: Worship, Fellowship, Discipleship, Ministry and Mission. One of our recent successes, for example, has been that both churches have gained A Rocha's Bronze Eco church award and are making progress towards the next level. We have made good progress in the areas outlined in the plan, but we are seeking leadership to continue to develop our two church congregations further as a parish.

We would welcome someone who could help strengthen our individual and collective discipleship, encouraging people to find and talk about Jesus, but who also sees our spread of service styles as an opportunity and an advantage.

We feel one area that needs some development is in internal and external communication. We especially need to take better advantage of modern, digital-based opportunities for communication both within our churches and with our surrounding communities. We also aim to streamline our administrative and record-keeping systems using appropriate software to overhaul our current practice.



Celebrating Easter fun day as church family

St George's have regular house group meetings at different times and locations whilst St Thomas' have offered a Bible study as part of a weekly drop in soup lunch on Wednesdays.

The St George's congregation has more families and younger people, although attendance is intermittent due to many competing priorities on them. There is currently no midweek children's or youth ministry, but we have been experimenting with occasional Messy Church style family events. We are also in the process of launching a mid-week Science Club and associated activities, aiming to reach out to children and families through this.

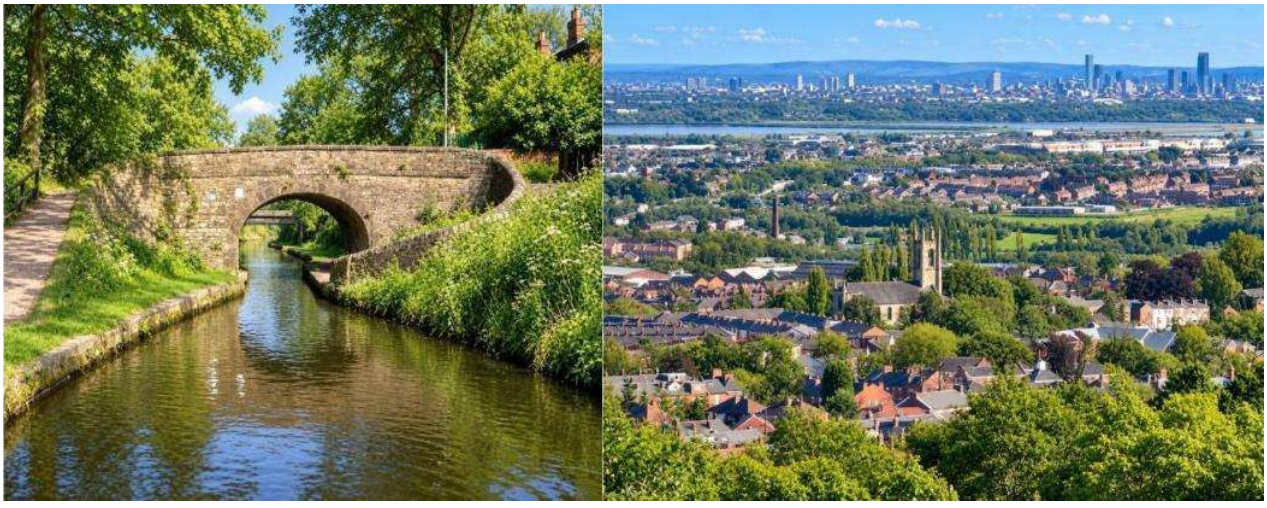


Show the Love week

We would welcome an incumbent who is particularly willing to work with the two congregations to build children's and young families' ministry up again on Sundays and throughout the week.

The congregations already have joint services and events as well as organising independently of one another. Please find attached our annual report for 2026 which highlights many of our activities.

Each church is managed financially independently to one another and contribute on a 90:10 split with respect to parish share. We have always paid parish share as requested by the Diocese. Parish membership stands at around 129 adults, many of whom live outside the formal Parish boundary.



Local area of Hyde

The two churches nestle either side of Hyde town centre in the Metropolitan Borough of Tameside, and are in Mottram Deanery, in the Diocese of Chester.

Historically, Hyde is a former Cheshire market and mill town, and this is still evident today through the remnants of its architecture, indoor and outdoor markets, canals, factories and rail network. Hyde is conveniently situated between the hustle and bustle of Manchester city centre and the natural beauty of the Peak District. The Peak Forest Canal, Trans Pennine Trail and Werneth Low Country Park are all natural beauty spots to enjoy locally.

There are good public transport links in place and the M67 sits on our doorstep. As well as the town centre, the Hyde area is made up of several villages and suburbs which include Gee Cross, Newton, Godley and Flowery Field. Also bordering Hyde is the suburb of Hattersley and a promised new housing development at Godley Green.



Parish Boundaries and Location of St George's and St Thomas' Churches



Location of Parish in relation to Greater Manchester

About Us

St George's



St George's morning worship

Our church is Anglican, in a low tradition, and operating from an open and inclusive perspective. Our congregation is between 80 - 100 people across the two Sunday morning services, with ages from under 3 to 100+ years, although concentrated at the higher end of this. We do however have several young families in our congregation and have good links with local primary schools and the wider community.



Altar decorated with knitted nativity

During this vacancy we are supported by a team consisting of our Warden, two Lay Readers along with another two at various stages of training, and an OWL (occasional worship leader). This group meet monthly to plan and organise services and would normally be led by our vicar. On Sundays during vacancy, we are also supported by a retired vicar with PTO status (permission to officiate) from our congregation and by other local clergy. Other congregation members are also stepping up into leadership support. We have two morning services each week comprising of a traditional service at 9.15am and a more contemporary family service at 10.45am. The first Sunday in the month is a combined service giving both congregations an opportunity to share fellowship. We are keen to restart a regular Thursday Communion and lunch which has had to be put on hold in recent months due to a lack of sufficient capacity.

We are an active and ambitious congregation with a strong family and community ethos, a robust volunteer ethic and who are always up for trying something new.

As mentioned already, at St George's, we currently lack regular mid-week children's work beyond the toddler age. We do, however, have intermittent attendance by a good cohort of children at Sunday Services and see great potential in wider action here. We have a thriving Parents and Tots group who meet during the week in term-time.



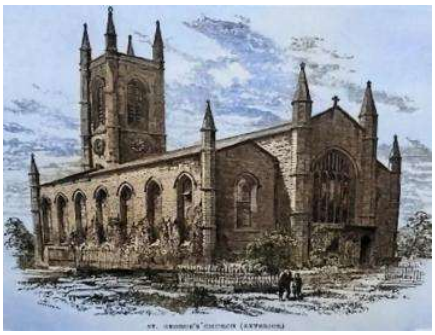
Partial Solar Eclipse party for the community

An exciting initiative has resulted in us recently being awarded a grant of around £8,500 from the Scientists in Congregations programme of ECLAS (Equipping Christian Leadership in an Age of Science) to develop and pilot a science club for those aged ~ 10-13 yrs that can serve as a model for other churches. This will be accompanied by other science-themed community activities and is a project we hope will continue to grow and attract investment/people beyond its initial year of operation. We have already run a successful 'Science Wonder Day' event and a 'Partial Solar Eclipse Party' where we attracted several hundred of the local community to attend and engage. We are also working with local schools to increase participation and collaboration.

Various community groups meet in our church building including a Bread and Butter Thing 'hub' which we host and support, an English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) group and a well subscribed Cannabis Anonymous (CA) group which supports people who have conquered a variety of addictions. Many attendees have been through the ANEW programme and this could be a good opportunity to introduce Alpha.



Every month a small group of us meets to alternate between Prayer Stop', where we gather in church for intercessory prayer, and a town centre prayer walk which also includes members of some other local churches.



St George's church founded in 1832

Our church building is Grade 2 listed, built in the Gothic revival style, and was founded in 1832 as a Commissioners Church with St Mary's, Stockport as patron. Following considerable damage due to dry rot, the church was reordered in the 1980's. St George's is fortunate to have a lovely peal of eight bells which ring out every Sunday morning before the 10.45am service and for special occasions.

St Thomas'

The parish of St. Thomas was formed in 1842, with the church being consecrated in 1868. It is now a listed building which has retained many of its original features, including original stained-glass windows and a pipe organ. This has meant decorations and refurbishment we might have wished to do have been delayed through both permissions and funding.



St Thomas' church



Baptism at St Thomas'

Currently
we have a retired minister who has PTO status. There is one Sunday morning service with communion and in addition we offer a variety of special services throughout the year. We have one or two children who do attend church occasionally on Sundays. There are a number of links with local schools mentioned in the following section.

There is a midweek Tuesday communion service followed by fellowship over tea
and coffee.



St Thomas' interior

Our vicar will have responsibility for leading and maintaining our tradition, being present, growing the church in terms of number and discipleship, and reaching out to the community in mission. The ideal candidate will be able to strongly support us with moving the building towards one that is fitting for the 21st century, so meeting our discipleship and missional strategic aims, and being a place of fellowship and welcome.

Local Connections

School Links

St George's CE Primary school has a strong connection with St George's church and has always held a good relationship with the incumbent. It is a multi-faith school, with 75% pupils being of Muslim faith.



St George's Primary core Christian values

However, the school has a strong Christian ethos and core Christian values. There is daily collective worship in the school and once a week this is held in church, led by the incumbent and is enjoyed by all the children.



Weekly collective worship in church

This provides regular opportunities for children to go into church, that otherwise would not happen, and to experience Christian based worship, hear Bible stories and link those messages to their everyday lives.

The incumbent is also an *ex officio* governor of the school and is a valued member, along with the foundation governors, in bringing the mission of the church into the local community via the school.

Working with the Head Teacher and the school Pastoral Manager, the incumbent also provides pastoral support when needed for the children, their families and staff. Good relationships with staff have been important to us and we would hope that the incumbent would visit the school on a regular basis, to see how things are going, or just to have a coffee in the staff room!

They are always welcome in school and are usually in demand for talking to children about faith or life experiences. Having that visible presence in school and around the community is really important to us.

We would like to see this opportunity extended to other primary schools in the Parish as we move into the future and there is tentative interest in doing so from the local schools following initial soundings. Relationships already exist with Greenfield Primary Academy, Endeavour Academy, and Godley Community Primary Academy which has a strong Christian ethos. We would seek to grow and strengthen these.



St George's Primary School

We really value our school links and would like to see them strengthened further, seeing how they can connect well with our desire to build our work with young people further.

Community and Town



Hyde Town Hall in the centre of the town

The Parish is a part of the borough of Tameside, an area of highly mixed social and economic extremes. While the borough has some affluent areas these tend to be mixed with areas of deprivation that are in the top 10% of England. It is also an area of mixed ethnic, religious and cultural diversity, particularly so in Hyde, where Asian/African ethnic and Bangladeshi Muslim religious populations make up a large proportion of local community life. This is also reflected in the social make-up of the local schools that we work with.

We are conscious that options for children and people to increase their personal aspirations, ambition and attainment can be limited in Hyde and want to play our part in improving this.

The Vicarage and Curacy House

We have two fantastic properties in the parish to house the incumbent and any potential curate. The Vicarage is a substantial five-bedroom detached house, set in approximately a quarter of an acre of gardens (mainly lawn). It was built in the 1930's and is around 100m down the road from St George's church. The Diocese intends to install a new kitchen and conduct other repair and upgrade work prior to the new incumbent starting.



Vicarage and garden



Curacy house, currently rented

The curacy house is a traditional 1930's semi-detached home on a highly sought after road, approximately a 10-minute walk from the church (but outside the parish boundary). It is currently rented out on a short-term lease.

Finally

We would like to take the opportunity of thanking you for reading our profile and hope that, together with prayer, it may help you discern if St George with St Thomas Parish is the place for you.

If you require any further information, then please do not hesitate to contact me.

Lesley Currie

Appendix

Our Annual Parish Report 2026 can be viewed via this link.

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