

St Mary's Balderstone



Parish Profile

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St Mary's Balderstone

Parish Profile 2018

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Please feel free to contact any of those listed above for an informal chat or viewing.

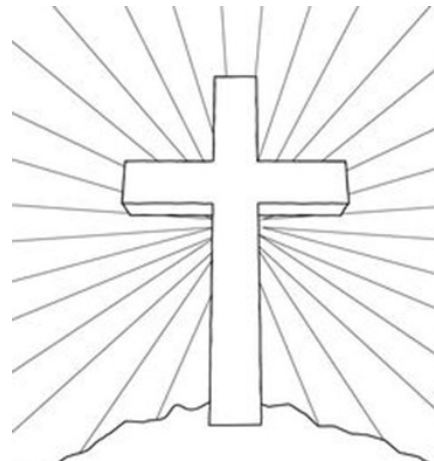
Are we the church to which God is calling you?

Our aims

At St Mary's we are
prayerfully growing together in



And reaching out in witness through the



cross and resurrection of Jesus Christ

Our Vision

To be a church committed to:

Praising God's name



Proclaiming God's word



Loving God's world



Growing God's people



and

Praying for God's Kingdom



St Mary's in numbers

- 1** *Lord and saviour, Jesus Christ*
- 1-2** *Services on a Sunday*
- 3** *Deanery Synod representatives*
- 9** *Elected PCC members*
- 55** *Average age of members*
- 60** *Average Sunday attendance*
- 78** *Christmas service attendance in 2017*
- 96** *On the electoral roll in 2018*
- 102** *Age of oldest member*
- 1872** *Church founded*
- 1988** *Embraced evangelical principles*
- 2017** *Diocesan quota (paid in full)*

Our values

As conservative evangelicals we hold to the doctrine of male headship in St Mary's, but only in respect to our leader. We are a family of God where everyone is involved in the running of the church at all levels; including teaching, preaching and presiding at communion, **but** our male leader is the head of our family, as Christ is the head of His Church

The PCC have on the 5th June 2017 ratified this policy by invoking the resolution and petitioning for extended Episcopal oversight by the Bishop of Maidstone

The policy of mutual flourishing is equally important as nobody should feel unwelcome here. We welcome all to our church on the basis the "For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God" *Roman 3.23* and no sin is greater than any others. However, "all are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus" *Romans 3.24* so we are not saved by our own righteousness but only by the action of Jesus on the cross. Therefore, all sinners are welcome but not sin.

We hold close the Gospel and all it's teachings, keeping the traditional Biblical view, including that on sex and marriage.

Our prayer is for a leader who....

- Is a sound Biblical teacher: teaching traditional Biblical views, including that on sex and marriage
- Is a person of faith and prayer whose life and ministry is rooted in the authority of the Bible
- Is male as head of the church family
- Has a heart for evangelism and a passion for mission



He must have the following abilities and experience:

- Is a good Biblical communicator, leading services which are real, relevant and organised
- Has the discernment to recognise his own skills and limitations, and is capable of nurturing the skills and gifts of the wider congregation including vocations and team building
- Has the ability to connect with non churchgoers, both those who come for baptisms, weddings & funerals and in the wider context
- Has experience and ability to be a training incumbent
- Is capable of co-operating across parish boundaries where possible or appropriate as good neighbours

Who we are

We are an Evangelical Church, Biblical in theology and conservative in style of worship; using a mix of traditional and modern music. We stand in that belief today, not out of tradition, but because it reflects our conviction that obedience to God under the authority of the gospel defines us and is the source of our life in Christ. We hold close the Gospel and all its teachings, keeping the traditional, but positive Biblical view.

We are a committed, loving family of God from a diverse cross section of the local community. We are a town church, situated at a main intersection within Rochdale. We aim to reach out to our local community and witness to the good news of Jesus Christ.



Our priorities

Our Priorities:

- WORD** To teach and preach faithfully the Gospel of Jesus Christ to all across all age groups and situations
- PRAYER** To encourage prayer both as individuals and corporately as this underpins all our activities
- FELLOWSHIP** To share our lives with one another
- WORSHIP** Our Sunday gatherings, our music, the Lord's Supper ...
- PASTORAL** To care for, support, teach, correct and love one another within our church family
- MISSION** To reach out to our local community in love and witness to the gospel of Jesus Christ

Our 5-year plan

Word:

- To recruit new bible teachers and leaders from within our congregation
- To work in conjunction with St Luke's and St Peter's to provide teaching weekend for all
- To train up the new volunteers for leading services, preaching and one-to-one bible studies
- To send leaders to the North West Partnership training course for training on how to teach the bible

Prayer

- Create small prayer clusters (triplets) within the congregation to encourage corporate prayer
- To start a monthly prayer meeting, available to as many of our members as possible, with prayers for ourselves, our Mission partners and the world
- To develop a prayer tree to keep the church family up to date with urgent prayer needs, eventually using social media in coordinating this
- Eventually looking to have a permanent devoted prayer room in the church available to all throughout the week

Fellowship

- To hold regular, pre-planned, bring and share lunches and social events throughout the year to encourage members to get to know each other better
- Possibly looking at introducing 'Fellowship' Sundays with hosts cooking meals for others from the congregation and spending time together

Worship

- To recruit and train new volunteers from the congregation for participation in the worship (reading/prayers/music)
- To use more of our congregations talents to help lead our corporate worship, especially Sunday evenings and praise times

Our 5-year plan cont.

Pastoral

- To grow and encourage the existing pastoral team and providing training for all those involved
- To form a prayer tree (see above) to keep the whole church family aware of urgent prayer needs
- To develop a communication network for the church in order to provide quick information and speedy response to pastoral needs as they arise (possibly using social media etc)
- To develop a 'meals rota' for those who are struggling (e.g. elderly or families under pressure)

Mission

- To continue to teach the gospel to those coming with children for baptism or in preparation for marriage
- To meet with and tell the gospel to those who come to church events such as the coffee mornings, festive fairs and singalongs and invite them to services
- To teach the Bible to the children at SMURFs, Children's Club and at St Mary's School
- Development of welcome cards to be distributed at events inviting people to attend services
- To find out what our local community wants/needs and to seek ways in which we can serve our local community as Christians, opening opportunities for evangelism for example our CAP course
- To identify and recruit someone with the skills and abilities to set up a functioning website that informs visitors what we are about as a church and to take our online communication further
- Look to planting small groups within our local community to reach out and teach the gospel

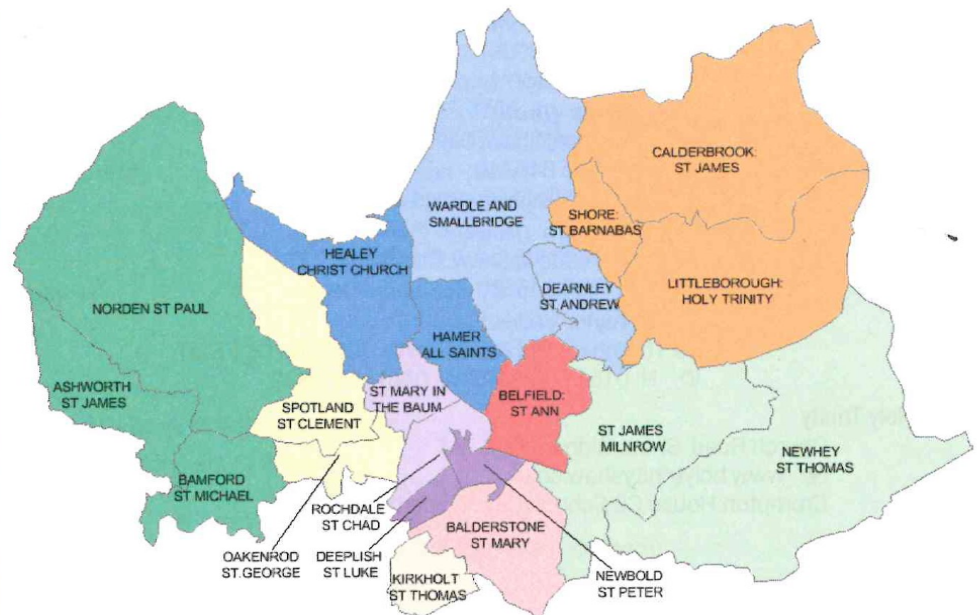
We understand that the local community no longer will come into church just because it's there, or out of a sense of ownership of the local church; many now have never even been inside a church. So we need to go and make disciples, telling, teaching and baptizing in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. To do this we need to meet our community where it is and reach out in God's love.

Our place in the deanery

It is recognised that there is an existing link between St Mary's with St Luke's and St Peter's and we would encourage the continuation of these links and to work together in Mission Partnership as is currently happening with joint service, parish weekends and outreach. Relations between the clergy are good and we would look to how to improve them further .

St Mary's, Balderstone, along with St Peter's Newbold and St Luke's Deeplish, was part of the Team of South Rochdale, Christ the King which was dissolved in 2011 by the Deanery Pastoral & Mission Committee and St Mary's became a single parish with one priest in charge.

We recognise the Deanery have suggested that St Mary's should work more closely with the neighbouring parish, St Thomas, Kirkholt. However, there has been a reluctance on the part of St Mary's due to the past difference in churchmanship between the two parishes which we feel could be an obstacle to this. St Mary's would be happy to work with any parish, providing they hold to sound Biblical principles.



The parish of St Mary's

The population of the parish is Approximately 11,000 as of the 2011 census. Our electoral roll stands at 96 (September 2018) 64% of whom live within the parish boundaries. Our congregation is about 65 plus with a great mix of ethnicity. This reflects on the ethnicity of the parish, with which there is clearly a great opportunity for growth.

Statistics of the parish from the 2011 census reveal that:

Of the parish population 11,000.

Approximately

62% of the Parish profess a Christian faith

10% of the parish profess a Muslim faith

21% of the parish profess to have no faith or didn't state one

7% of the parish profess to other faiths

Other social statistics of the parish:

9% of the parish are Unemployed

22% of the parish have a limiting long term illness

22% of the parish receive a key working benefit

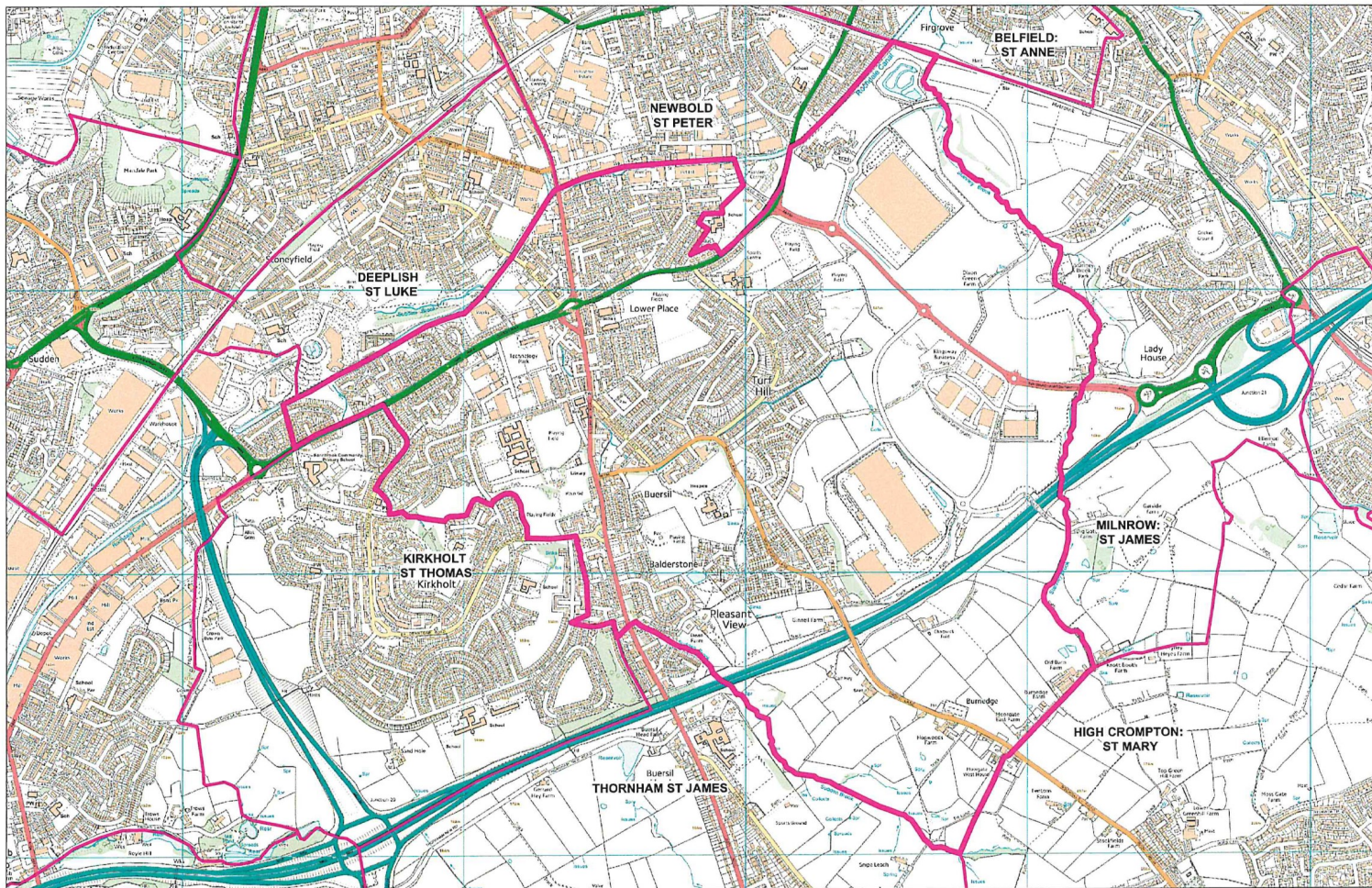
4% of the parish receive Jobseeker's Allowance

11% of the parish provide unpaid care to family, friends or neighbours with long-term physical or mental problems.

As you would expect of a Northern town we have a great mix of housing with the stock consisting of traditional Victorian terraces which are largely privately owned, pre and post WW2 detached and semi-detached houses. There are also two large council estates built between 1920 and 1955 (one wholly within the parish and the other one about 25% within the parish which is undergoing a great deal of change with the demolition of some of the old houses, flats and the shopping precinct and new

ones replacing them). There are 4 sheltered housing units for the elderly, also several housing developments built within the last 20 years consisting of 3 and 4 bed detached, semi-detached properties which are privately owned. Also recently built 1 and 2 bedroom privately owned apartments. The parish is mainly urban and with a smaller suburban area, but like a lot of areas like this much of the remaining agricultural land has been taken up by the recent new housing developments and the large Kingsway Business Park which was started some years ago and is still growing with new developments being built and businesses moving in. What agricultural land that remains is largely used for grazing.

Parish of Balderstone, St Mary (R20240)



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Statistic of Rochdale from the 2011 census

Population of Rochdale 108,000

68% of the population is white

31% of the population has a limiting long-term illness

20% of the population receives a key working age benefit

4% of the population receives Jobseeker's Allowance

11% of the population provide unpaid care to family, friends or neighbours with long-term physical or mental problems.

38% of the population lives in accommodation rented from the Local Authority or another Registered Social Landlord

Rochdale's unemployment rate is 5.8%

Employment within the parish consists of several large commercial enterprises at Kingsway Business Park which is still expanding and has the potential for more growth for employment in the area. We have offered a chaplaincy service to the businesses but currently have not been taken up on this by them. There is also two medium sized engineering companies and a number of small engineering companies, smaller commercial enterprises, small and medium size retail outlets, a large garden centre and Rochdale's Hospice.

The parish room is also available for hire and has been used by the local Police Community liaison unit, Balderstone & Kirkholt Forum which is run by the Council and also Rochdale Borough Wide Housing Community Consultation.

Pattern of services

We currently hold a selection of services on a regular basis to accommodate different needs and tastes of worshippers. We use NIV Bible (2008) for scripture and project the words for hymns and songs from a variety of sources including Mission Praise.

Sunday in the month	Sunday am	Sunday pm	Wednesday mornings 10.30am
First	Family All-age service	Hot Potato* (with St Luke's & St Peter's)	Holy Communion
Second	Holy communion	No service	Holy Communion
Third	Morning prayer	Prayer and Praise Service at St Mary's	Holy Communion
Fourth	Holy Communion	No service	Holy Communion
Fifth	Morning prayer	No service	Holy Communion

** Includes a talk about current topical issues facing the church and society from a Biblical perspective*

The congregation has a wide social mix, with a large percentage retired, but there are members of all ages, including a number of families with school aged children as well as singles, couples and widows/widowers.

About 36% on the electoral role live outside the parish Boundary.

The church is best described as following a conservative evangelical tradition with our emphasis on good Bible teaching

Our church activities

Details of our varied activities which meet on a regular basis at St Mary's are detailed below:

Day of the week	Name	Age Group
Monday	Bible Study Home Group (alternate weeks with Tuesdays)	All ages
Tuesday	St Mary's School Assembly Bible Study at Arnold Bagnall Court SMURFS	Adults Mum's and toddlers
Wednesday	Holy Communion (Not during interregnum) Wednesday Fellowship	All ages Over 16's
Thursday	Children's Club	5-11years
Friday	Ecumenical Home Group	Adults
Saturday	Coffee morning	All ages

Throughout the year there are a number of social, outreach and celebration events which are open to the church and local community. These include:

Ash Wednesday Communion

CAP Course

Christmas Fair

Lent Course

Parish Away Day or Weekend

Christingle Service

Maundy Thursday Agape meal

Summer barbecue

Carol Service

Work parties for maintenance of the church

Youth & Children's Work

We have a Sunday school that meets most Sundays during term time with approx. 20 members in total. A crèche is also available during Sunday morning services. Over the last 12 months the Sunday school teachers have been meeting for training and development, aiming to ensure good Bible teaching is consistently delivered. We are currently using Go Teach resources across all ages.

Smurfs (St Mary's Under Fives) – a carer and toddler group meets every Tuesday in term time, numbers vary from year to year.

Thursday club meets during term time providing activities and Bible teaching to an average of 25-30 predominately non-churched children and is one of our main areas of evangelism.

There are two primary schools within the parish, Lower Place primary school and adjacent, St. Mary's CE Primary School (Voluntary Controlled). St Mary's maintains strong links with the church, the school celebrates festivals and weekly church led assemblies every Tuesday in the church which are currently being led by a member of the congregation. The past vicar and curate were welcomed in school to provide lessons and support to both children and staff Both served as school Governors. The vicar is an ex-officio governor at St Mary's School and 2 members of our congregation are church representatives on the governing body.

There is one secondary school Kingsway Park High school which has extensive sport facilities. There are no Church of England secondary schools in Rochdale, however many church going children usually apply to attend either of the two C of E secondary schools in the Oldham LEA, one of which (Crompton House) is close to the boundary of Balderstone parish. Both of these schools are over-subscribed and church attendance plays a significant part in the offer of a place. The vicar is required to counter-sign the application forms. Our previous vicar and curate provided a pastoral care service for Crompton House School as appointed chaplains, and regularly preached at the school communions.

There are also two private nurseries within the parish

Our leadership



The leadership of our church is headed up by our clergy, whom we view as the head of the family as Christ is the head of his church. This being said we look to encourage all members to recognise their God given skills and this has led to a number of people being prepared to play more of a leadership role within the church: this is something we would wish to encourage further so that our new leader will not find that he is expected to 'do it all'. Our two wardens, Jan McCabe & Richard Shales, in particular have shouldered a great deal more responsibility.



Our PCC is made up of 9 elected members (P Collis, C Flint, G Hollis, G Lees S Mason J Menmuir, H Haine and J Seeley plus one vacancy), along with our clergy, wardens PCC Secretary and Treasurer and meets bi- monthly.



Our Sunday School is overseen by Sue Mason. She has a team of 3 regular teachers and a rota of parents who all help with preparing and running the lessons.



The Pastoral Team is made up of 9 leaders, all of whom take responsibility for groups of members of the congregation, keeping in touch and making sure that any needs are recognised quickly and fed back to the clergy, should it be necessary. In addition to this there are a number of church members who host and run the four regular Bible study /fellowship groups.

Our outreach and partners

Since 2011 bi monthly evening services have been running between St Mary's, St Luke's and St Peter's. There are some links with a local free church based in Kirkholt. Trinity Methodist church is the only other church within the parish boundary, there were some informal links in the past and the Christmas midnight service is usually regarded as a joint service.

One of our main outreach is our weekly Saturday coffee morning that is open to anyone providing opportunities for conversation by the church members to those who drop in.

Our other main areas of outreach are amongst our youth and children's work including SMURFS (St Mary's under 5's) which is a Mums and Toddler Group organised and run by church members, which has opportunities for one to one evangelism with the parents who attend; The Children's Club on a Thursday which holds a monthly children's service in church and to which all parents are invited and the school through regular church led assemblies. We are also looking for new initiatives, including a new Bible Study Group on a Wednesday morning.

Our former vicar was Chaplain to the Oldham Rugby League Club, but this came out of his personal interest in sport. We would be delighted for any clergy to pursue evangelism through their own interests.

Mission is a regular item on the PCC agenda and recently we have amended our focus to partnership organisations, rather than traditional monetary donations. Our current partners are;

Locally – CAP – we have run our 1st money course and are looking for more people to support its delivery.

Nationally – Oak Hill Theological College, to ensure the continued training of future gospel ministers and workers

Internationally – We have a link missionary family with CMS who are working in Peru. Members from the congregation write to them monthly and they visit us when they are in the UK

Our buildings



The parish church is a traditional grade 2 listed building consecrated in 1872. It was reordered in 1997 using the rear of the church to provide a parish room, kitchen and toilets with an open balcony area which is used for youth and children's work. Within the last 12 months a new heating system has been installed. The church worship area can seat up to 200 people on traditional pews and has a new audio visual system.



The Vicarage (The Sett) is a bungalow, which is situated approx. ½ mile from the church. The accommodation comprises of a large kitchen/diner, lounge, family bathroom and 4 bedrooms. There is a study/office and guest W/C separate from the main living area. There is an extensive garden at the rear of the property and a circular drive and garage to the front.



Finance

Our financial Report for 2017 is available for inspection.

Over the years we have consistently witnessed to the Lord's faithfulness in providing our financial needs through His people. Stewardship is practiced within the parish, though it was some time since the last campaign. The congregation emphasis is on direct giving rather than fund raising, and has been the case for many years. However, it may be time to review our situation, further Bible based teaching and hold another campaign.

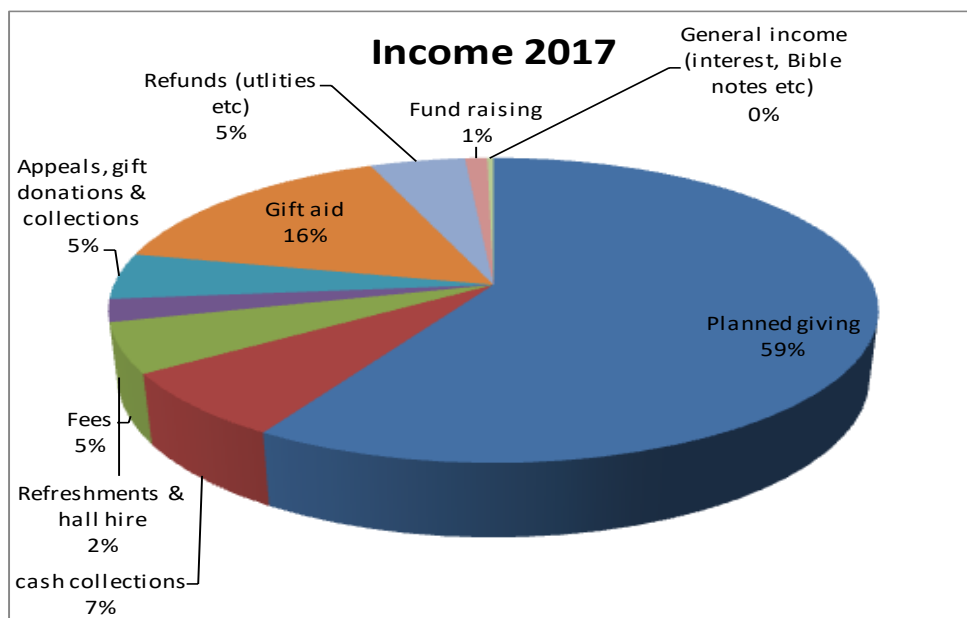
The parish is committed to paying its parish share in full and has done so for more than the last 10 years. The parish has also met the parish priest's expenses in full each year.

Within the last 10 years we have completed the following works from considerable donations from the congregation along with support from the Heritage Lottery Fund and other grants:-

- Restoration of the spire (work completed in 2009)
- Installation of a new heating system (work completed summer 2017)

The parish is also committed to tithing its income (except that given by non- members of the congregation for specific purposes) for missionary and charitable work.

Summary of the accounts for year ended 31st December 2017

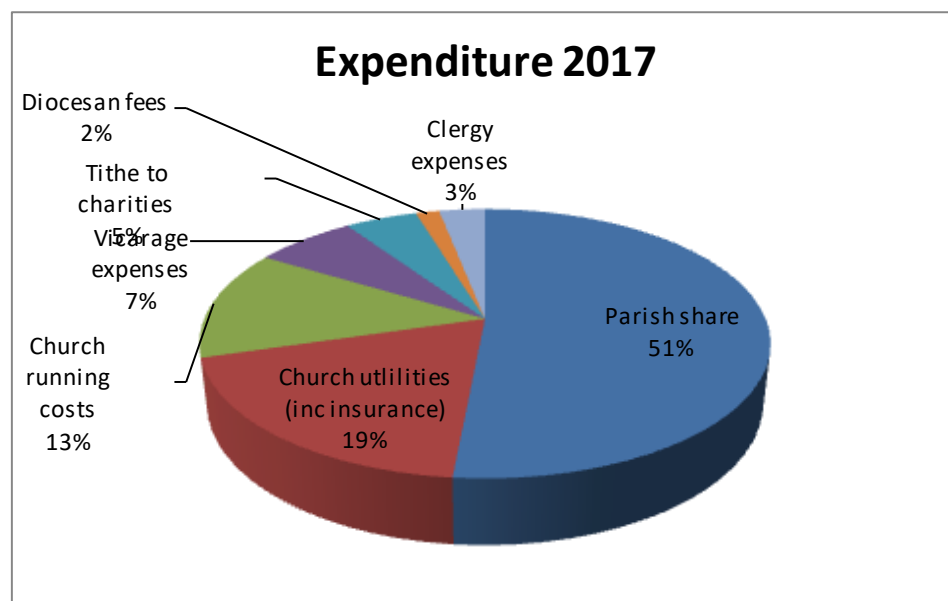


Key points:

Total income for the year £52,367

Total income for the year was up 6.5% on previous year

Some of this was due to large refunds from utility companies



Key points:

Total expenditure for the year was £45,008

Total expenditure went down by 5.9% on previous year.

Excess of income over expenditure was £7,359, however 50% of parish share was paid in 2018.

Comments by Bishop of Maidstone

Dear Partners in the gospel at St Mary's

I am delighted to be connected to St Mary's, having been asked by the Bishop of Manchester to offer you my episcopal ministry. I particularly wish to support and encourage you at this time of transition.

Your big picture of aiming to 'grow together in faith and love and to reach out in witness' chimes in well with the national commitment to 'growth in numbers and discipleship'. Since you first 'adopted evangelical principles' in 1988, there has been steady growth in your confidence in, and conviction about the gospel at St Mary's, as you have sought to follow Christ, grow in Christian maturity and hold out the good news to your community. I add my commendation to your outgoing Vicar both for his testimony to the Lord's grace in his own life and for his love of sharing the good news of that transforming grace with others. It is now our responsibility to look for a new Vicar who will seek to build on these evangelical and evangelistic foundations and to 'go for God's growth' to God's glory.

It is good to see your willingness to 'co-ordinate with other parishes, as necessary and appropriate, as good neighbours', but also your honesty and openness to where close partnership may not be realistic or workable. You are clearly well aware, as others are, of the debates that are surging around the Church of England, and of the need on the one hand to be consistent within your own integrities and tradition and on the other hand to 'maintain the highest possible degree of communion'. That phrase and aspiration come from the 'Five Guiding Principles' that the Church of England has adopted in the settlement that gave conservative evangelicals in the C of E the possibility of access to the Bishop of Maidstone's ministry. They conclude with an unequivocal hope for 'mutual flourishing across the whole Church of England', and I believe that all involved in this process of transition at St Mary's understand that commitment.

Be assured of my prayers and partnership at this time. I leave you with Psalm 37.4-5.

Yours in the love and service of Christ

Rod Thomas, the Bishop of Maidstone

Photograph album

Gladys' 100th birthday



Saturday Brew Do



The Hayes—Church weekend away 2016



Buildings Work Party

