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# ST MARKS

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AN EVANGELICAL ANGLICAN CHURCH IN  
THE HEART OF HAYDOCK

LOVE

COMMUNITY

FELLOWSHIP

EVANGELISM



# OUR PARISH PROFILE

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St Marks is a church that has always been blessed with creativity, passion and love.

# Who We Are:

## A bit about **St. Marks**, Haydock

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*We are an Evangelical Anglican church believing in the authority of scripture, the life-giving power of the Holy Spirit and the importance of community.*

Our worship styles vary and we have **4 Sunday services** that include a contemporary all-age service, a contemplative modern service, a more traditional service and a reflective, creative service.

From pregnant mums and young families to our amazing Golden Oldies, we are truly blessed to have a congregation across a fantastically diverse range of ages.

During the week, and central to our church life, we have a selection of home-groups - places for our people to grow in their faith and personal ministry.

We are also strong believers in Fresh Expressions of church. Our 27 worshipping communities include **EMERGE**, our thriving young adults & families ministry; **SMARTIES**, our blossoming children's group; and a great number of ministries for all ages in and around the neighbourhood.

In addition we have **TANGO**, our pioneering outreach project. This provides clothing and furniture to those in need, with an affordable community café.

Overall, including Sundays and Fresh Expressions, we have a worshipping community of **431** adults and **120** children. Our average Sunday figures are **177** adults and **26** children.


We believe that the gospel of Jesus is for all nations. Our mission giving goes to the suffering and persecuted, the church overseas and the church at home.

You can check us out on our website here: [www.stmarkshaydock.org](http://www.stmarkshaydock.org)





From young families to senior citizens, St. Marks is blessed with a good representation of congregants across all ages.



LET US  
RISE UP  
AND  
BUILD  
NEH 2.18

# The **Incumbent:** Attributes we treasure

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*We are a very passionate people at St. Marks and we are looking for a leader who can share that with us. Below are some of the attributes that we would value highly in any applicant for the position.*

## **Spirit Led**

A leader who is led by the Holy Spirit, who is comfortable and supportive of the power that the Spirit gives to us, and allows themselves to be open to "God" ideas over "good" ideas.

## **Apostolic / Visionary / Forward Thinking**

Growing our church is paramount to us. Someone with an apostolic gifting who will lead us forward and not be afraid to get "stuck in" is something that we would welcome.

## **A Strong Influential Preacher of Biblical Principles.**

Our ideal Vicar would be someone who believes in the authority of scripture, its relevance to contemporary life and discipleship with Jesus Christ.

## **A Deep Passion for the Lost**

With a parish of over 8,000 people and only 20% of our congregation living in our Parish - our ideal incumbent would lead the way in caring for the people and praying them into St. Marks.

## **Genuine Interest in People and a Pastoral Nature**

A deep, genuine interest in both our congregation and community is essential to us. Someone who cares strongly about people at an individual level is something we really value.



Sunday Worship and the fellowship that comes with it is an essential part of our relationship with God.



# The Church and its People

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*At St. Marks we are really passionate about our worship!*

*For many of us the church is at the centre of our lives - and our week starts on Sunday*

Sunday begins at **9.15am** when we have our first service of modern worship and a contemplative feel. Following this is our **10.45am** service; a contemporary, family-friendly gathering for people of all ages.

In the afternoon we have our **2pm** service which is more traditional with Common Worship at Communion, attracting an older contingent.

Finally, we have our **8pm** service known as DREAM. Held monthly, it is a reflective and creative space for all.

Running alongside these, we have our popular Children's Groups and Youth Bible Study. Engaging and full of activities, these allow our youngsters to enjoy themselves and connect with God in a way that is more relevant to them.

Our Sundays are also growing in importance within the wider neighbourhood. The monthly Fellowship Meal is very popular with our 2pm congregation and their friends in the community, as we provide a free meal served inside the church.

**Baptisms** are very popular at St. Marks. With 26 over the last 12 months, and large numbers being booked in for 2018, this has opened the door to more and more opportunities for outreach in the Parish.

One thing that is unmistakable about our congregation is the desire to be involved in the church's vision. St. Marks has a fantastic history that continues year on year of being active, creative and fun-filled.

Last Easter the congregation worked together to create a vibrant cross, symbolising Jesus transforming brokenness into beauty.

At Christmas our successful **Pop-Up Nativity** saw our congregants (and a number of our community) dress up as characters from the Christmas story and act it out together!

During advent our theme was 'Given'. For two Saturdays we wrapped presents for free and gave out candy canes to bypassers, in both Haydock and St. Helens market.



Our love for community is reflected in our number of thriving ministries, such as our 2pm fellowship meal and its team of volunteers.



# The Church and its Community:

*Fresh Expressions of church are really important to St. Marks - tying in mission, fellowship and community. Here is a selection of our ministries that bring people to God - sometimes in unexpected places:*

**SMARTIES** - Our twice-weekly Parent & Preschool group in the heart of the community.

**Emerge** - An ever-growing hub for our 20's to 40's and young families, with events and social gatherings.

**Golden Oldies** - A burgeoning community group for retired people with refreshments and games.

**The Source** - A sandwich, coffee and cake cafe, situated inside the church extension.

**Ladies Meeting** - An activities and events cluster, meeting weekly, with guest speakers and great ideas.

**Youth Meal** - A popular fortnightly meal for our youth to gather and share table fellowship.

**Light & Life** - An outreach ministry, visiting Mind, Body and Spirit Fayres and offering Jesus to the spiritually hungry people.

**Soul Mums** - A parent & baby group that meet weekly.

**New Creations** - Craft and painting with a message.

**Cafe Church** - An informal gathering with a message; plus tea, cakes and occasional entertainment.

**DREAM** - Our monthly alternative Sunday Service filled with creative ideas for worship.

**Pastoral Care** - Our team offers communion and care for those who can't get into church.

**Cool Club** - Our fortnightly after-school club for 5-10 year olds.

**Light & Life Café** - A monthly in-church event focusing on healing, prayer and prophecy,

**TANGO** - Our community outreach project, with a charitable furniture & clothing ministry and an affordable café inside the centre.

In addition, we have many more activities on offer, including our photography and book clubs, bowling, community garden, fellowship meal and walking group.





Inside the church is a beautiful open space; equipped and flexible for all kinds of events and services.



# The Church Building

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*A beautiful reflective space pointing back to tradition, yet a well equipped and modern place to gather. St. Marks is perfectly set up for preaching the gospel and worshipping in the current age.*

It doesn't take long to stand inside the rustic **Edwardian** walls of St. Marks before you begin to fall in love with it. Its finely designed wooden roof and well placed windows allow natural light to fill the body of the church. The pews have long since been replaced with comfortable chairs - allowing complete flexibility over the layout or seating arrangements and great **versatility** for a range of activities.

SMARTIES parties and the Fellowship community meal are both held inside the main church, whilst it is also appealing for other community events such as the local school concert (incorporating the world famous Haydock Male Voice Choir), which sees in excess of three hundred people year on year.

Alongside the space, the church enjoys a fantastic selection of instruments for our **contemporary** worship band: a new electronic drum kit, a selection of guitars, a stage piano and various other instruments are available for our musicians - along with a spacious audio-visual area at the back of the room. This also includes a top of the range mixing desk and a visuals computer linked up to an online collection of music should it be needed for funerals, weddings or services.

In addition the church also has an organ for the more traditional services, and a wide, open dais offering a **great space** for leading and preaching.

A recent addition to St. Marks has also seen 5 flatscreen TVs added to the body of the church for worship, readings, sermons and liturgy; allowing clarity and engagement in services.

The church also houses a number of well sized rooms:

Situated to the sides of the dais, we have a large upstairs meeting room, a large downstairs office space, a modern and comfortable chapel and a room for storage and archives.

At the entrance to the church we have a wonderful **modern extension**. Used as a welcoming area on Sundays, this doubles up as The Source cafe on weekdays due to its well equipped kitchen.

Upstairs in the extension we have the Vicar's private office, a glass meeting room that overlooks the church, and finally, a second large office currently used for administration and management. This well equipped office has three PCs, three Laptops, super fast broadband and online storage.



Our top of the range audio-visual desk and good sound system allows for a really immersive worship experience.



## Other Church Buildings

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*Along with the spacious main building, St. Marks also own a number of other buildings that can be used for worship and community purposes.*

### **The Centre**

The former Richard Evans Infants School was acquired by the church in 2007. St Mark's Centre is a truly flexible space, situated adjacent to the Church. With a capacity of 200, the centre can be used as either a large central space (100 people) and 2 separate rooms, or separated into 5 individual rooms. The building also houses a small office that is used by TANGO, a large kitchen used by the TANGO cafe, and a number of storage rooms.

### **The Warehouse**

TANGO Warehouse houses the furniture and clothing arm of our outreach project. This doubles up as a charity shop that allows the project to fund itself. The space was formerly used as the church hall and is another sizeable asset.

### **Church Grounds**

The grounds around the church are impeccably kept by our staff gardener and we have a reflective space in our Community Garden which is part of the Quiet Garden Movement. We also have a large field (designated green space), dog walking area, child friendly area, churchyard and large car park with disabled parking.

### **Additional Church Property**

Finally we have a modern Curate's House and another property in the parish.



The Parish of St. Marks is filled with families and adults, young and old.  
*'..I tell you, open your eyes and look at the fields! They are ripe for harvest'*  
*John 4:35 (NIV)*



# St. Marks in Haydock

## A bit about the Parish

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*A population of predominantly young and middle aged people, a selection of shops and businesses in village and town, plus travel links to everything from shopping to the seaside. Haydock has a lot to offer any prospective incumbent.*

The **Parish of St. Marks** takes up two-thirds of the village of Haydock and is based in St. Helens, Merseyside.

With a population of over 8,000 people, a strong sense of identity resonates within the village, and the 15 local businesses along the two busier roads (ranging from butchers to hairdressers to chip shops) allow for a degree of self sufficiency and the potential of community.

There are two schools in the Parish; Legh Vale Primary School, which has **565** pupils, and Haydock High School, which has **623** pupils, both of which are a short walk away. Legh Vale currently enjoys strong links with the church. One example of this is the hundreds of children that come along to our popular Christingle and Walkthrough events during the year, as well as the links we have through our Children's Ministry.

Whilst both ethnic and language diversity in the population is very low in Haydock (predominantly white caucasian and English), the age range of the residents has great variation. Statistics show that 40% of the residents in the village are aged under 30, whilst 25% are over 60.

A quick review of the Church Urban Fund website suggests higher than average levels of deprivation, yet the lower than average percentages of both social housing and people living alone, suggests a high value of family and community within the parish.

Pensioner poverty is very low compared to the national average - as is adult and child poverty to a lesser degree. Education and qualifications among adults sit on the national average. House ownership is high; 67% of households are either owned or mortgaged.

With regard to **entertainment** and activities, the town of St. Helens has a lot to offer. We have a world famous rugby team, an internationally renowned racecourse (Haydock Park), and a town centre with a Cineworld and numerous retail outlets, restaurants, and family leisure eateries such as Pizza Hut, Nando's and Frankie & Benny's.

Living in Haydock is also absolutely perfect for venturing further afield. A half hour's drive will get you to the airports, football and shopping havens of both Liverpool and Manchester, whilst an hour's drive can get you to the hustle and bustle of Blackpool, the jaw-dropping serenity of the Lake District, or the coastal seaside towns of Wales.

If all of that is not enough to whet the appetite, one of the highlights of the Parish is the historic **Sankey Valley Canal**. This is a lovely nature walk for people of all ages and easily accessible from the vicarage.



Whether it's support from the congregation, volunteers, staff team, PCC, Deanery or Diocese, St. Marks is well placed to provide our incumbent with the help they need.



## St. Marks - your wider and local support

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*As a new incumbent at St. Marks any prospective Vicar can expect a very strong level of support from within the church, the St Helens Deanery and the Liverpool Diocese.*

St. Marks offers a solid structure of **shared ministry** and support from within the church family. Currently we have 2 Wardens, 3 Lay Readers (who preside over funerals), 2 Vergers and 9 paid Staff (including a Families Pastor, Children's Pastor, Operations Manager and Administrator). The church traditionally accommodates an Ordinand and Curate, and we currently offer training in preaching and leadership for our congregants. We are also blessed to have a diverse PCC when it comes to age and background.

At the Vicar's right hand we have **a team of preachers and service leaders** for Sundays, whilst all midweek ministries are led by lay people, helping alleviate the pressure and time constraints for the incumbent. The congregation and PCC agree totally with the importance of clergy holidays and training, along with reading and personal development needs and this is actively encouraged.

With regards to the Deanery, St. Marks' Church leadership is involved in the new and pioneering St. Helens' Deanery Partnership - a growing idea of togetherness between parishes based on the successful Transforming Wigan vision. Additionally, across three Deaneries, a growth grant of £1,500,000 was received for the development of a Resource Church. Outside of the deanery, the church is affiliated with the Evangelical Alliance and Crosslinks, and the leadership are part of the New Wine network.

When it comes to **church finances**, profit and loss saw a deficit of £14,000 for 2016. Our overall income was £399,000 (£248k from direct giving & Gift Aid tax + £152k Church Activities). Finances are reasonably healthy in the long term - St. Marks never fails to pay its Parish share - and Clergy expenses are always covered by the church. It is of note that we are a tithe-giving church.



# The Vicarage



Set in a quiet location amongst a backdrop of greenery and centred inside a well-sized garden, the vicarage is a fantastic property that has 4 bedrooms, 2 reception rooms, a study and an excellent sized kitchen/diner. It is just five minutes walk from the church.