

HOLY TRINITY

STALYBRIDGE



Parish Profile of Holy Trinity Church,
Stalybridge.

2018

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Thank you so much for your interest in our church and for taking some time to have a look at our parish profile. It is our hope that you will get some indication through the profile of who we are, how we serve God through our ministries both in church and around the parish and our dreams for the future of the church in Stalybridge – we like to dream big!



SECTION ONE - INDEX AND SUMMARY OF PARISH PROFILE

Who are we?

- We are a lively, evangelical Anglican church, affiliated with the New Wine network, with a relaxed and informal style. We are committed to worshipping God, serving our community and helping others to find out about Jesus.
- Our Mission Statement is:
"Worshipping God, Building Community, Serving the Neighbourhood".
- We acknowledge the divine nature of the bible as the living, spirit breathed word of God
- We have an age range that stretches from 8 months to 100 years and an even gender ratio
- Electoral roll currently is 273
- Regular worshipping attendance each Sunday morning over both services is often over 200.



What do we do?

- Worshipping God: 2 morning services with lively worship led by worshipping teams; Little Gems (children's church 0-4), KIC start (Kids church 5-11), Youth bible study (12-18)
- Building community: small groups, Alpha, Youth Encounter, discipleship groups Freedom in Christ, Alive youth group
- Serving the neighbourhood: CAP, family forum, Pregnancy advice, carers connect, street pastors, Foodbank, Holiday at home, Bridge café, bereavement ministry



How do we go about doing it?

- We have a strong established lay ministry: involved in leading services, preaching, pastoral and prayer ministry
- Parish administrator; buildings manager and P/T youth worker
- Schools and children's ministry – story tellers; schools weeks at Easter and Christmas
- Ministry teams/leaders with a passion for their area of service: welcome, prayer, worship

Vision for the next season of our church's life:

- We are passionate to grow and develop in our faith and devotion to God and to ensure that He is central to every part of us. (Deuteronomy 6:5)
- Many close bonds already exist between the members of the church, and we are committed to strengthening and encouraging them. (John 13:35)
- We are eager to continue to develop our ministry to introduce others into faith in our Lord. (Matt 28:19)



SECTION TWO - WHO WE ARE LOOKING FOR

These are a summary of some of the comments made by members of the PCC and the wider congregation:

“Our new Vicar must be:”

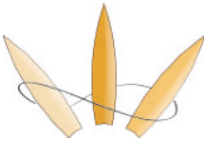
- Someone whose beliefs are the same as ours (they are at section 4 of this document).
- Someone who is filled with the Holy Spirit and who can encourage us in all the gifts and fruits of the Holy Spirit (although unlikely to personally express all of them all of the time).
- An enabler and encourager of all member ministry, someone who will embrace a collaborative style of ministry.
- A Bible believing advocate of the Gospel and its pattern and relevance for living in today's world.
- A good preacher and teacher who is able to compose and deliver sermons which can be understood by all.
- A visionary, who is happy to lead the church in relevant sermon series.
- Someone who is humble and compassionate, with a Pastoral heart for the community.
- Passionate about Holy Trinity Church.
- Someone who is primarily a leader, as well being a good manager and delegator.
- Whilst not wanting to dwell in the past, someone with an understanding of where we have come from and how our church has grown over the last ten years or so. Someone who is keen to build on what God has done in the past in our church, but isn't bound by our ways of doing things.

At its meeting on 15th October 2017, the PCC confirmed that they would be equally happy with either a male or a female Priest.

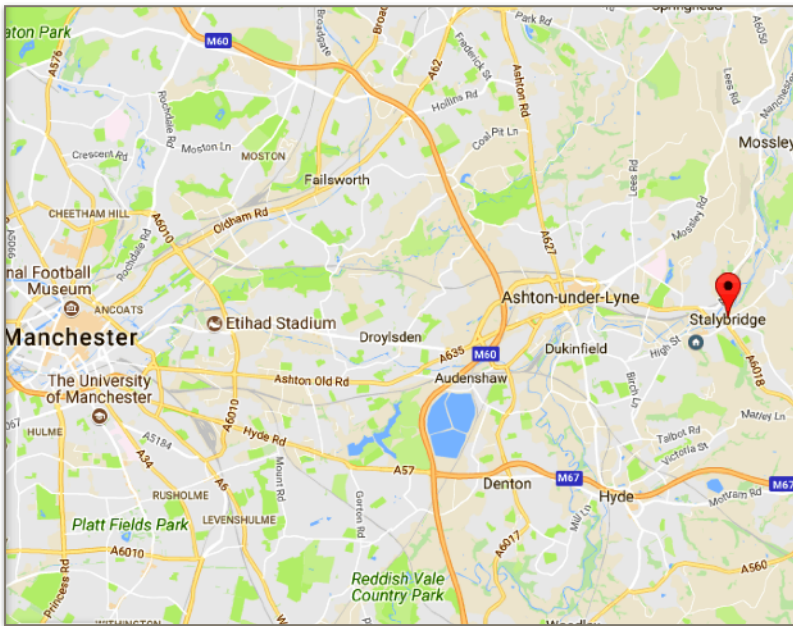
“Although not essential, we’d really like our new Vicar to be:”

- Family orientated, but not necessarily with a family of their own.
- Someone with previous experience of secular work.
- Someone with demonstrable experience of church growth, maybe as the Leader or Assistant Leader in that church.
- A good communicator who is able to reach those on the fringes of our church as well as those in leadership positions.
- Keen to make friendships with the people of our church and quickly become a “Person of the People”
- Someone who can encourage others to Step Up and Step Out.
- A skilled listener who is able to help people to see their own needs.
- Familiar with practical and technical issues, though not necessarily wanting to take a “hands on” approach to all of them; mindful of the gifts and abilities of our Lay members and happy for them to be involved
- Someone keen to shape a culture of evangelism within the church family as part of their daily life. We see a significant opportunity for outreach to the residents of the many apartments which have already been or are being built around the town.

The PCC expect the Vicar to take proper holidays and days off and will support them in their training, reading and personal development. They also expect the Vicar to claim reasonable incurred expenses.



SECTION THREE - STALYBRIDGE AND ITS SURROUNDINGS



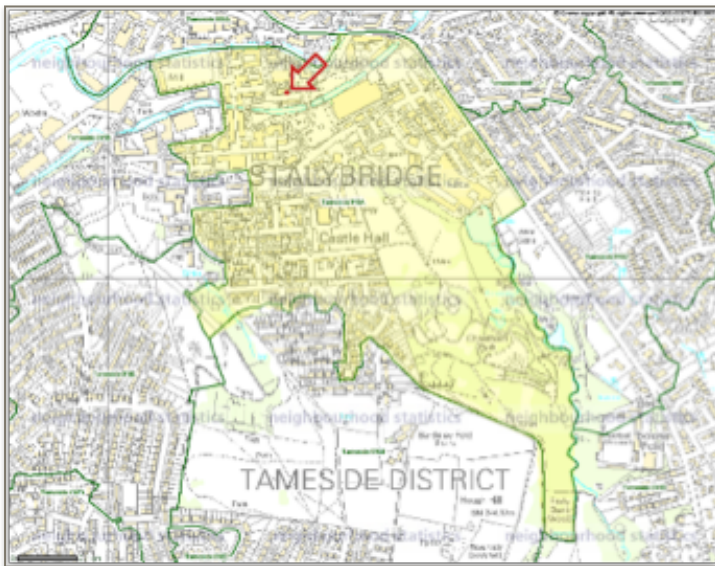
Historically Stalybridge was part of Cheshire, but with Local Authority reorganisation has now been absorbed into Greater Manchester. Stalybridge flourished in the days of the Industrial Revolution, becoming one of the main centres for textile manufacturing. The river Tame runs through the town centre and into the Mersey further downstream.

Set on the edge of the Pennines and beautiful Peak District, Stalybridge is a well-established and growing former mill-town with around 24,000 inhabitants; and Holy Trinity Church situated right in the centre. The town has excellent transport links: Manchester's orbital M60 motorway is within a 2 mile drive and the station has regular trains to Manchester, Liverpool and York. There are three major supermarkets within a mile of the town, with a large 24-hour Tesco based right next to the church. There are accessible leisure facilities, including two large parks, and swimming pools and courts at nearby Copley Centre and Gym Etc.

Did you know?

- Stalybridge is home to both the longest and shortest named pubs in the UK.
- The song 'It's a Long Way to Tipperary' was written here in 1912 by composer Jack Judge, in one night, on the back of a pub bet.
- The Chartist Movement started here in 1842, with over 10,000 fiercely petitioning for worker's rights.
- Stalybridge Old Band, formed in 1809, is still deemed as the world's first civilian brass band.
- Stalybridge Buffet Bar is one of the few remaining authentic Victorian train station buffet bars in the UK.

The town centre is coming back to life following a period of mild dereliction. The Huddersfield narrow canal has been opened up again and is navigable by narrow boats right through the town. Armentieres Square, a large open space has been built around the canal and the church forms the Eastern frontage to the square. New apartments are being built within the town centre.



The Parish of Holy Trinity church is part of Mottram Deanery and the Archdeaconry of Macclesfield, within Chester Diocese. We are located right in the middle of Stalybridge, with really good bus and rail links to Manchester and beyond, then up into Yorkshire towards the East. At the 2011 census, the population of our parish was shown as 4446. Obviously this is now some 7

years old so may well have increased as the town centre apartments have been built. A plan of the parish is shown below, with the church building marked by a red arrow.

Recently our church held its first Heritage Day, which was attended by lots of interested people, some from within the family of the church and other visitors. Attached at the end of this Profile is the Heritage Booklet which was given to everyone who came through the doors. Our plan is that this will be an annual event.



Schools:

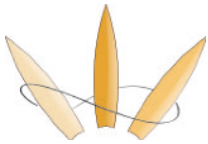
Stalybridge and the surrounding area has several Primary, Junior and Senior schools, below is a link to Tameside MBC web site detailing them:

<https://www.tameside.gov.uk/schools/primary/area#staly>

Hospital:

Tameside General Hospital is about a mile and a half away, and offers full facilities, including Accident and Emergency.

<https://www.tamesidehospital.nhs.uk/>



SECTION FOUR - THE CHURCH AND ITS PEOPLE

Please refer to the attached Annual Parochial Church Meeting Agenda and Review booklet which gives detailed accounts of most of the activities which have taken place in the previous year.

Our Beliefs:

We are members of the New Wine Network and the Evangelical Alliance and share their core beliefs, you will find them at:

<http://www.eauk.org/connect/about-us/basis-of-faith.cfm>

<https://www.new-wine.org/about>

Patterns of worship:

About three years ago, the PCC took the decision to have two services every Sunday morning. Attendances were growing and we found it increasingly difficult to accommodate the folks who were joining us into the life of the church family. By having two almost identical services at 9.15 and 11.15, we have found we are able to accommodate growth more effectively. Leaders of the various ministries are more able to communicate with people between and after worship. The services are facilitated by separate Welcome, Children's Ministry and Worship teams.

Our worship patterns are as follows:

1 st and 3 rd Sunday mornings:	Communion at 9.15 and 11.15.
1 st Sunday evenings:	BREATHE service at 18.30 twice each term.
2 nd Sunday morning:	Morning Praise at 9.15 and 11.15.
4 th Sunday morning:	Family Service at 9.15 and 11.15
5 th Sunday morning:	Communion at 9.15 and 11.15
Every Wednesday:	Open prayer time at 9.00 to 9.45

Occasionally, we have a joint morning service, at times such as Christmas and Easter, but as our church attendances have grown so much over recent years, that is becoming increasingly difficult to manage.

Styles of worship:

Joining together every Sunday with the rest of the family of God is a top priority for us. We are resourced and equipped by celebration style worship, teaching, and through our fellowship with one another. Communion is offered to everyone who is baptised and loves the Lord, irrespective of age.

Our morning worship services are quite informal, but are structured and planned in advance. Often the service is led by one person, with prayers and intercessions, bible reading, testimony and sermon by others. We do not follow the lectionary, instead, the preaching team prayerfully consider the spiritual needs of the congregation and a preaching series is planned and structured around this. The teaching series usually lasts around six to eight weeks and both sermons on a Sunday morning are the same and delivered by the same person. Small Group study notes are generated from the topic and are thus relevant to the subject which the whole church is studying that week.

We worship to live music provided by a committed worship team which is divided into two bands; one serving the 9.15 service and one serving the 11.15 service.

The bands consist of vocalists, keyboard, guitars and percussion and hold practices on Thursday evenings. The team see leading worship as an enormous privilege and



they enjoy helping people connect with God. They welcome opportunities to expand the group. Songs are mostly more modern worship songs but we also sing more traditional hymns in a modern style. We introduce new songs from a variety of sources (e.g. New Wine, conferences, Worship Central etc.) and we strive for worship that is honest, authentic and unpretentious.

BREATHE services held on the first Sunday evening of each month, twice termly and are more meditative. They allow space for more contemplative devotion, extended times of worship, open worship and testimony.



We have recently been blessed by having the opportunity to welcome into our church, several families seeking asylum. Many of them were Christians before they joined and others have come to faith since being here.

Church staff:

Our church currently has an Ordinand in training, who will take up a Curacy elsewhere in summer 2018. We also have two Licensed Lay-Readers and a Lay-Reader in training.

We employ a Youth Worker* on a contract of 20 hours per week, Parish Administrator- 24 hours per week, and a Buildings Manager - 10 hours per week.

*The contract for our current youth worker will finish in July 2018 as he has expressed a desire to move on in his ministry. The PCC have approved funding for a WTE youth and schools worker (or 2 P/T posts).

Each year we employ two interns for a period of one year and have done for the last few years. They are based at church and are enrolled on the New Wine Discipleship Year and as such attend weekly teaching at the local hub along. They learn a great deal about parish life and help with our youth programmes and generally around the church.

Other activities:



Kic-Start is our Sunday morning children's time, which is run on all but the fourth Sundays in St Matthews Hall, a short walk from church. It caters for children of Primary school age and runs at both services.



Little Gems is an organised crèche run in the church lounge for pre-school children, run by volunteers, assisted by parents of the children who attend.

Youth work:

We run two midweek groups for young people, 'Alive!' (Ages 9-13), and Encounter (ages 14-18). On the first and third Sundays of every month the young people have their own Encounter age youth group for the first half of the church service, where they catch up with each other, have some fun, and discuss that morning's service topic. This group varies in size depending on service and visitors.



We have a mentoring programme for teenagers in place where young people have the opportunity to meet up with a mature Christian from the church to talk about issues of school, life and faith. We regularly take our youth groups on social trips, as well as youth holidays which are all great times to build relationships and grow



deeper in faith. This last year we have been to Spree NW; North West Baptist Youth weekend; some attended a summer Christian youth camp, and we are planning more adventurous, faith building trips and weekends away over the next year.



Schools work:

We currently have a team of about fourteen people who are also engaging in local secondary schools work, where they are leading assemblies and teaching some Religious Studies classes. We see a huge opportunity here to expand this work. Several of the local schools bring as many as 300 children into church for their termly celebration services such as Christmas and Easter. Currently we work in five schools, but are very keen to promote and encourage this work.



Story-tellers:

We currently visit local Primary Schools to present "Open the Book". This is a project run by The Bible Society which offers primary school children an opportunity to hear the major stories of the Bible, from a team of Christians from local churches, who present the stories during assemblies/acts of Collective Worship. Each presentation takes around 10-15 minutes and can be incorporated into a wider school assembly, or can stand alone. It is a three-year rolling programme with an additional, but optional year of material based on Christian Values.

Small Groups:

We currently have 12 small groups which meet weekly at various times during the week in people's homes. Our small groups and discipleship groups are the basic building blocks of the church's life. Small groups are made up of 8 to 10 people who meet weekly in one another's homes, currently there are 133 members. The basic format of the groups follows the Four 'W's, (Welcome, Worship, Word and Witness) and the study topic is based on the sermon series currently being followed (see earlier).

Discipleship groups:

There are also about 12 discipleship groups meeting regularly for prayer, encouragement and bible study. We aim to have two to three people of the same sex in each group; we have a total of 29 members.

Baptisms, Weddings and Funerals are arranged with the Vicar, through the church office.

Alpha:

We run an annual Alpha course usually each autumn, which is attended by about 20 guests. This then follows on well after "Back to church Sunday" and we constantly find that it introduces people into a relationship with God in ways they previously hadn't experienced. Like many churches across the country, our church membership has grown significantly because of people who committed their lives to our Lord through Alpha.

Relationship with other churches:

We have a healthy and supportive relationship with many other churches in the area. Historically, Stalybridge and the surrounding towns have held a Walk of Witness around the town at Whitsuntide, culminating in an outdoor joint service of worship. Several times per year, we hold joint united services around the churches in the town and from January to May each year we pass a "prayer baton" around the churches. The baton is in the form of a scrap book which each church keeps for a few weeks and enters in prayers for the community. The event ends with a 24 hour prayer event for each of the churches.

We, along with two other churches in the area, host the Tameside East Foodbank. Between us, we provide food and meals for many struggling families in the area. Please see the accompanying APCM booklet for more detail.

Town centre relationships:

We consider ourselves to be very fortunate to be located in the very centre of Stalybridge and we work hard to maintain good relationships with the folk who live, work and play there. We have occasional “prayer walks” around the town and call in at some of the shops to offer to pray for them. We are members of the Town Team- a volunteer group who organise regular morning events to pick litter etc. We usually host those events at church and provide somewhere to have refreshments before and after. Tesco often provide snacks and pastries free of charge for the mornings.

As mentioned elsewhere, hundreds of new apartments are currently being built within a few hundred metres of the church and we are very keen to ensure that we have a well prayed for and thought out approach to inviting the new residents to join us for worship.

New Wine membership:

We are members of the New Wine Network and derive a great deal of encouragement from their teaching and support. Around 50 to 60 members of the congregation enjoy attending the New Wine summer camp each year.



<https://www.new-wine.org/network> and <https://www.new-wine.org/about>.

Evangelical Alliance:

We are members of the Evangelical Alliance and are committed to the beliefs and affirmations listed on their website and repeated elsewhere in this document.



<http://www.eauk.org/>

Bluecoat School:

We don't have any formal school links, but many of the children from families at Holy Trinity attend The Bluecoat School in Oldham. Bluecoat is a Church of England school whose vision statement reads "Faith, Vision, Nurture". An excerpt from their prospectus reads "Our faith is our bedrock. We believe that we have all been created unique and individual by our God whose love for us is unconditional and limitless, as revealed in the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. We try to put His teaching and example into how we are and how we behave with one another throughout our daily lives."

<http://www.blue-coat.oldham.sch.uk/>

Church Finances:

Please refer to the summary of the Treasurer's report which was given to the APCM in April 2017 and is shown in the accompanying booklet. Our church finances are in good shape and we pay our Parish Share in full every year. People are encouraged to give by Standing Order, Weekly Envelope scheme or cash. We don't pass a collection plate around the church; instead, there are baskets at the back of church for folk to give as they arrive.

In short, the total income for the year 2016 was £215,059 and the total expenditure was £195,924

Because of grants received our income has increased, we have been able to increase our giving to Missions throughout the world. This helps to support many different missionary based organisations at home and overseas.

We encourage the principle of tithing to God's work and the PCC aims itself to give away a regular, planned amount in support of Christian organisations working at home and overseas.

The Gift Aid tax recovered this year amounted to a significant proportion of our income.

Summary

Strengths:

- We feel we have a diverse age range of people regularly worshipping, with only a small gap at University age.
- Our church has grown significantly over the last ten years or so and our male membership is high.
- Teamwork and Lay Leadership are exceptionally good around all areas of the church and our small team of paid workers are very dedicated and committed.
- We are a welcoming community and enjoy opening our doors at outreach events held throughout the year
- Our Pastoral and Prayer ministry is very effective, as is our youth work to our own children and also those not yet involved with the church.
- Teaching and Preaching by our dedicated and trained team is very effective, edifying and instructional.

Areas we aspire to do better:

- Evangelism as a way of daily living, has not taken off as much as we would like, especially as we are mindful of the hundreds of new residents who could soon move into the area immediately around the church. We realise that more effective use of our existing buildings, or acquiring more space may well be needed to accommodate such growth.
- We are keen to see our outreach into schools grow along with our ability to accommodate both church and non-church Youth Groups.
- Greater congregational acceptance and encouragement of the healing ministry
- Improved support in ministries, assisting the ministry leaders.
- All of these growth areas need to be underpinned by in depth and effective bible study.



SECTION FIVE - THE CHURCH AND ITS WIDER COMMUNITY

In recent years we have given financial support to the following:

Africa Inland Mission- supporting church members in a closed area of Africa	Winning Women Worldwide
Flame International	Simeon's Trust
Tear Fund (Change a Nation)	Just Life
Missionary Ventures	Hope Through Education (Pakistan)
Image	Orphanage in Congo
Christians against Poverty	The Bible Society
New Wine	Gideon's International
The Message Trust	Amen Christmas Shoe Box Appeal

We have also provided financial support to several people from church that God has called to carry out short term missionary work overseas.

As a more local level, we participate in "Back to Church Sunday" and encourage members of the congregation to invite people to church with them.

We are aware that two very large apartment blocks have recently been built in the town centre. Once fully occupied, this will bring around 300 people into our parish, within easy walking distance of our church building. We see this as an almost unique opportunity and are beginning to consider how we might introduce our church and our Lord to these people and encourage them to join us.



SECTION SIX - THE CHURCH AND ITS BUILDINGS

Holy Trinity church was built in 1852 and is a typical example of a Victorian town centre church, generally constructed in Pennine grit-stone under a slate roof. Please refer to the attached Heritage brochure for a much more detailed history of the church.

The building is well lit, well heated and comfortable to use and the PCC are very diligent in their duty to keep it in good condition. Around thirty years ago, a section of seating was taken out from the rear of church and a lounge, kitchen and toilet accommodation was constructed. The church was also re-ordered at that time, the pews were removed, and under-floor heating, new lighting and loose seating was installed.



The Building Manager undertakes numerous “day to day” repairs, including setting up for a variety of events and returning the building to its normal layout ready for Sunday services. When larger scale work or items of a more specialised nature are required, contractors are appointed under the supervision of an architect where necessary.

Modifications have been carried out over recent years to make the building readily usable by disabled people.

Our next 5 yearly (Quinquennial) Inspection of church is due in 2020.

Many of the repairs which were called for in the last report (2015) have now been carried out, including the re-roofing of almost all of the church. This work was completed in November 2017 having been partially funded by a grant from English Heritage Lottery Fund.

There are still items of repair required, and our wish is to be able one day to construct a car park on the garden at the East end of the building.



The church also has exclusive use of St Matthews's hall, a detached building about 100metres from church. St Matthews was built as a nightclub, some 30 years ago and is now owned by a Charitable Trust, left in memory of St Matthews which was a small chapel long since absorbed into Holy Trinity. We have sole use

of the building in perpetuity and are responsible for its maintenance and upkeep. The building is used by Kic-Start, our Youth groups and many mid-week groups. It is also a base for our Street Pastors team, The Foodbank and the Youth Office.



Holy Trinity Vicarage is a modern, well-appointed, five bedroom detached house situated on Mottram Road, about a mile from church.



There is a large double garage, a small front garden and a landscaped, terraced back garden which can be seen from both the kitchen and the large conservatory beyond the lounge and dining room. The building is owned and maintained by Chester Diocese and is in a good state of repair.



Thank you for reading our Parish Profile, we hope we have given you an insight into what our church family is like. We pray that God will bless you and your ministry as you seek to discern his call.

If you want to know more about us, please don't hesitate to contact either of our churchwardens, Paul on paul.watkins1@sky.com or Adele, on xrayat@gmail.com

If you would like an application pack, please contact Ann Brown at our Patrons, The Hyndman's Trustees, on ann.brown@hyndmans.org.uk tel 0114 255 8522



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