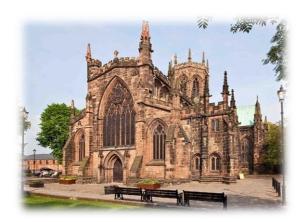


Spiritual heart of the town for over 800 years

ST MARY'S CHURCH
NANTWICH
PARISH PROFILE
2017





"St Mary's has celebrated more than 800 years of Christian mission and worship and is the only Anglican Church in the town. Nantwich continues to go through significant change as it grows. This growth presents us with challenges that we find exciting and which we fully embrace.

We hope that moving to our Parish, starting a new life with us and becoming part of our family will be a challenge that excites you."

From the people of St Mary's Nantwich

OUR VISION STATEMENT

Our Vision Statement "Know God, Show His Love, Grow His Church" is rooted in the teachings of Jesus. This Statement suggests three imperatives for Christian people. Know God through a personal relationship with Him. Show His Love to all around us, both within and outside the fellowship of faith. Grow His Church is outward looking. We want to spread the good news of the Gospel so that we can deepen our own knowledge and encourage one another to deepen their own love of God. The three themes, taken from Jesus' own words, are at the heart of our vision for St Mary's.

OUR MISSON STATEMENT

'Our mission in the parish is the promotion of the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, through worship, teaching, nurture, pastoral care, evangelism, our own individual example and ecumenical cooperation.'



Creation Window

THE ROLE

The *overall purpose* and *main duties* of office as governed by the Ordinal and the Canons of the Church of England and the *general duties* as set out by the Bishop are outlined in the Diocesan Role Description.

• We need someone who will lead us towards a greater understanding of God's love

The team of one part-time Associate Rector (SSM) and one part-time Associate Minister (SSM), Readers, retired Clergy, parish workers, lay group leaders, PCC and congregation need support, coordination and clear leadership to develop how we show God's love in the wider community across all ages.

We are a Church of several congregations with their own identities which need nurturing and developing

This "Broad Church" needs leadership, guidance, encouragement and support in our Christian life together, retaining the confidence of existing worshippers, maintaining our traditions but also enabling us to think beyond them.

• The town's growing population and the Church's congregation provide opportunities to be developed

We want to explore ways to foster the opportunities and links for God's work with the people of Nantwich.

Continue to develop relationships with local government and commerce

Nurture and grow our relationship with Cheshire East and Nantwich Town Councils, shops and businesses.

• Overseeing the development and maintenance of the Church building

A mostly 14th century church made of Cheshire sandstone with the consequent need for continuous repair and restoration is a major challenge on its own. Our next project is to move the existing Visitors' Centre from the South Porch into the north-west corner of the church.

• There are trusteeships, some as chairman, of charitable trusts that are part of the fabric of Church and town

The incumbent is required to take up these trusteeships which are principally the Church Wardens' Merged Charity, Church House Nantwich (Parish Hall), Nantwich Parish Church Preservation Appeal Trust and five Alms House Trusts.

Ecumenical Working

The Rector will support the collaborative efforts of the churches working together in Nantwich.

Don't panic! The Rector has the support of a talented and committed team of lay and Clergy members to achieve these goals.

STAFFING AND LEADERSHIP OF THE PARISH

ORDAINED CLERGY

Apart from the Rector, there is a part-time Associate Rector (SSM) and a recently appointed part-time Associate Minister (SSM). We currently do not have a Curate.

HONORARY STAFF

We are fortunate to have three retired ordained Clergy who participate in the Church's ministry.

LICENSED LAY WORKERS

There are four Readers (one who has commenced ordination training this Autumn) and four Readers Emeriti licensed to the parish.

PARISH EMPLOYEES

We employ a part-time Children's and Families' Worker, a Verger, a Director of Music, an Organist and two part-time Administrators (one full-time equivalent) in the Parish Office. We are currently raising funds to enable us to employ a replacement part-time Youth Worker.

LAY LEADERS

There is a range of leaders within our Church family who are not paid or licensed but who contribute hugely to our ministry. This is the strength of our Church.

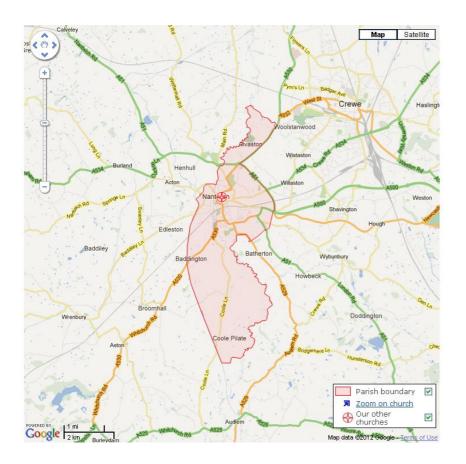
CHURCH WARDENS

Mr Steve LockettMrs Pat Stalker4 Hillfield View13 Maisterson CourtNantwichNantwichCW5 7BZCW5 5TZ01270 62820301270 625381patandsteve@live.co.uk(email via Church office)

THE PARISH

The parish is in the Nantwich Deanery which is in the Archdeaconry of Macclesfield.

Nantwich is an historic market town in South Cheshire. It is 20 miles from our Cathedral city of Chester and is surrounded by farmland. It is within the administrative jurisdiction of the unitary authority of Cheshire East but also has its own Town Council.





St Mary's Church The Parish Office Church Walk Nantwich Cheshire CW5 5RG

Tel: 01270 625268

Email: office@stmarysnantwich.org.uk **Website:** www.stmarysnantwich.org.uk

THE PARISH



High Street, Nantwich

"I love stewarding at St Mary's as it means we can keep the Church open for visitors from far and wide. Some have questions to ask, others want prayer and support whilst others just want peace and tranquillity...... the atmosphere in the Church and its history brings a warm glow."

Liz Chisnall

St Mary's Church Nantwich is a Grade I listed building often referred to as the "Cathedral of South Cheshire". It has a clock striking quarter hours and a ring of 8 bells with an active band of ringers aged 11 to 80+. Bells are rung for the 10.45 am and 6 pm services, weddings and other special occasions. Practice night is Thursday. The Church is situated alongside the Town Square and market within the town's pedestrianised conservation area. Many tourists visit Nantwich, attracted by its Elizabethan buildings, thrice weekly market, independent shops, cafés and restaurants and nearby canals. The prominent and beautiful, mostly 14th century church was visited by over 20,000 people last year.

There are six primary schools, one of which is a Catholic school, and two secondary schools both with thriving Sixth Form Centres.

The population of Nantwich is developing towards 20,000 having grown from 12,500 over the last 15 years with new build estates to the north and south. With more developments in the pipeline, the population is expected to increase further in the coming years. St Mary's therefore seeks to serve a thriving established community of "Dabbers", as those born here are called, and new, mainly young families who have moved here to take advantage of particularly good schools and excellent road and rail links. The town has its own railway station, Civic Hall, a Primary Care Health Centre, 3 supermarkets, market hall, a small theatre, museum, large library, indoor and outdoor swimming pools, Nantwich Town Football Club, Nantwich Cricket Club that hosts Minor County games, a lake, and fishing and riverside walks along the river Weaver.

The church family represents a cross section of the people of Nantwich in all age and income groups. It also attracts worshippers from other areas.

THE PARISH

"St Mary's has been the focus of our worship since we moved here in 1979. Through being encouraged to grow in faith, I became a Reader and consider it a privilege to serve our Church and community."

Paul Ramsey



Young Persons Catering Team

Nantwich is becoming well known for its many annual festivals, including the International Cheese Festival, part of Nantwich Agricultural Show, the Jazz & Blues Festival, Skoolsfest, Food Festival, Words and Music Festival and Holly Holy Day. The church participates alongside these festivals by invitation of the organisers and the Town Council.

The town has a very low crime rate. With nightclubs in the town and many bars, Tuesdays, Fridays and Saturday nights can be quite lively in the town centre, and an ecumenical Street Pastors scheme has been established. Whilst there is some poverty and unemployment they are at a low level in this mainly prosperous 'middle class' town.

The Church forms a stop on the Two Saints' Way, a modern pilgrimage route between the cathedrals of Chester and Lichfield.

Leighton Hospital, a general and teaching hospital, is situated 5 miles away on the western outskirts of Crewe. There are 8 nursing/residential care homes in the town, in addition to various almshouses and other sheltered accommodation complexes. There are about 85 communicants receiving communion at home or in care homes on a regular basis.

As well as agriculture and related activities, there is a thriving bakery. Otherwise much employment is within the service and retail sectors. Most people of working age travel to work outside the town. Bentley Motors, several railway companies including Bombardier Transportation, and Mornflake Oats are among the main employers in Crewe, where there are several business parks.

There were 466 on the Electoral Roll at the last annual return in April 2017.

ATTENDANCES

Average attendances at Sunday services throughout the year 2016 were:

		Average Attendance (inc. choir)	Of which 16 and under
8 am	Holy Communion	35	0
9.30 am	Family Worship	111	32
10.45 am	Parish Communion	123	7
6 pm	Evensong	58	1
7.15 pm	Encounter (fortnightly)	24	0
3 pm	Messy Church children (monthly)	43	21
3 pm	Seniors' Lounge (monthly)	32	0
3 pm	Richmond Village (fortnightly)	23	0
These services cover a wide range of Anglican Churchmanship			

A healing ministry, including Clergy, Readers and laity, is provided through the laying on of hands during Holy Communion at the 10.45 am service on the 1^{st} Sunday of the month and at 6 pm on the 2^{nd} Sunday of the month.

Communion Services are also celebrated each Wednesday at 11 am and Friday at 8 am.



The Original Parson's Nose

"Encounter is a place to experiment with different styles of worship and service. It has committed musicians, technical support and speakers, all of whom are open to trying something new. I love it "."

Peter Bennett

PRAYER BOOKS USED AND CLERGY ROBING

8 am	Holy Communion - traditional style of worship using BCP on 1 st and 3 rd Sundays and Common Worship in traditional language on other Sundays. Clergy robed (alb and chasuble), Readers and Servers robed. Generally no hymns.
9.30 am	Family Worship – Worship for all ages, mostly led by lay members and the band. Children leave for Church Mice (pre-school), Launch Pad (KS1) / Orbit (KS2) and Gravity (teenagers) returning before the end of the service. Communion 1 st Sunday – Celebrant robed (alb and stole only).
10.45 am	Parish Communion – a service using Common Worship. Clergy, Choir, Sacristan and Servers all robed; lay administrants not robed.
6 pm	BCP Evensong - 1 st and 3 rd Sundays. Clergy, Readers and Choir robed. Holy Communion - 2 nd Sunday using Common Worship in traditional language, Clergy robed (alb and chasuble). Full Choral Evensong - 4 th Sunday, Clergy, Choir and Servers robed. Compline - 5 th Sunday, Clergy robed (cassock only).
7.15 pm	Encounter - 1 st and 3 rd Sundays. A café style service held in the Parish Hall with a themed programme of informal, ecumenical, evangelistic services with music group, led by Clergy (unrobed) and lay members.

INTERREGNUM PRAYER

"We pray for unity and love between us all in the Church: the ministry team, the office, the Churchwardens and the congregations. Keep us steadfast and united in love; that together we may walk the ways of your kingdom."

This Week - August 2017



High Altar

St Mary's enables the local community to celebrate and thank God at the milestones of our journey through life.

BAPTISMS, WEDDINGS AND FUNERALS

In 2016 there were 89 Baptisms and 2 Thanksgivings and large Baptism congregations are not unusual. The Baptism team provides support for families both before and after the Baptism has taken place. Home visits with cards take place on the first anniversary with email follow ups for the next two years. A party celebrating recent Baptisms was held in the Parish Hall in 2017.

There were 23 weddings, three blessings and one renewal of vows in 2016.

In 2016 there were 104 funerals, 58 in church and 46 held wholly at Crewe Crematorium. A Bereavement Group supports our work in this area and there is an 'Open House' meeting held monthly on a Wednesday in the Parish Hall for those recently bereaved or lonely.



Baptism service

OTHER SERVICES

In addition to well attended carol services, St Mary's holds three Crib Services on Christmas Eve at 2.30 pm, 4 pm and 5.30 pm. In December 2016 they were attended by a total of 1500 people, mainly young families. There were 465 people at last year's Christmas Eve Midnight Service. On many occasions, those beyond the regular church-going community are invited to special services such as the Eastertide and All Souls' Memorial Services.

There are also services celebrating Advent, Mothering Sunday, Patronal Festival, Harvest, Confirmation and Civic Services, including Remembrance Sunday.



Family Worship

In November each year, to celebrate his baptism anniversary, a service is held in memory of Sir Edmund Wright who was born in Nantwich and who in 1640 became Lord Mayor of London. He founded the Sir Edmund Wright Almshouse Charity. At the service the Trust Deed requires the Rector to preach 'an excellent sermon'.

We are also pleased to host the Graduation Ceremony for our local agricultural college, Reaseheath and the Rector takes part in this.

MUSIC

Our rich musical life is centred on an excellent RSCM Choir with a broad repertoire, led by the Director of Music and supported by the Organist. The Choir is over 30 strong, including 7 school age children.

Nineteen children take part in the junior choir, Sing@St Mary's, led by the Director of Music. They occasionally take part in the 9.30 am service. Nine members of the group also take part in the RSCM Voice for Life Scheme which helps them learn more about how to sing and music theory.

St Mary's has organised a series of successful Summer Lunchtime Concerts for 28 years and these take place weekly in church during June, July and August. Soloists and performers of a very high quality are delighted to appear and audiences are most appreciative of this cultural offering.



The Choir

The church is often used by external organisations as a concert venue and it is hired on a fee paying basis. We have welcomed international artists including Cleo Lane and Jacqui Dankworth as part of the Nantwich Jazz Festival which takes place over the Easter weekend. Barbara Dickson has appeared as part of the Words and Music Festival.

Additionally, the church is 'home' to the Nantwich Choral Society, a choir of over 100 members and the Nantwich Singers, an a capella group. Their concerts are well supported by both the local townsfolk and people who come from further afield.

CHURCH PROPERTY



The Easter Shroud



The Parish Hall

THE CHURCH'S AGE, TYPE AND STATE OF REPAIR

The Church, started in 1280, is mostly 14th century Gothic. It is generally in a good state of repair. A restoration project, started in 1975, has one phase to complete (the external north wall).

GRAVEYARDS/CEMETERIES

The original cemetery surrounding the Church was closed in the mid 19th century and now constitutes the Church precinct. All Saints' Cemetery, on the outskirts of town, is also closed. The local authority maintains both cemeteries.

RECTORY AND CURATE'S HOUSE

The Diocese owns the Rectory, which is adjacent to the Church. It was built in the late 1960s. It is a large six-bedroom house in a walled garden with a double garage. It has a Church study with separate entrance and a private study and is in excellent condition. The Curate's house is a semi-detached five-bedroom house with a ground floor study. It is owned by the PCC subject to a mortgage via the Diocese. It is also in excellent condition. This house is in the course of being sold and a newer, smaller, better positioned property is to be acquired.

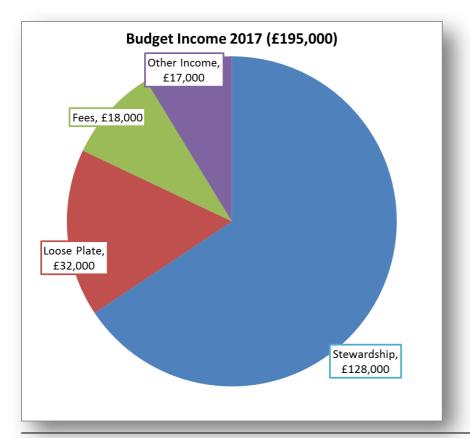
THE PARISH HALL

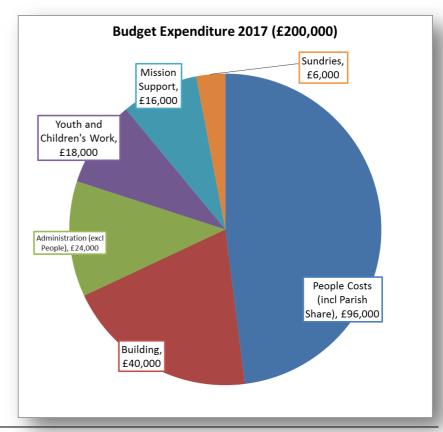
Church House, Nantwich is a charity that is charged with the care of the building known both as Church House and the Parish Hall. The trustees, chaired by the Rector, manage the building and associated assets for the benefit of St Mary's Church and the wider community. This building, which houses the church office, is in reasonable condition.

FINANCES

Our Annual Report and Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2016 is in the Applicants' Pack. In summary however, our total General Account income for 2016 was £233,917 some 55% coming from our planned giving stewardship scheme including tax refund. Our spending on Christian Ministry was £254,393 which included the parish share of £61,000. The balance carried forward at 31 December 2016 was £44,000.

Our 2017 General Account Budget is shown in the pie charts below.





Registered Charity No: 1130903

FINANCES

The capital spend on the interior of the Church building is generally financed through a Restoration and Development Fund which is under the control of the PCC. At the end of 2016 it held £21,000.

The capital spend on the exterior of the Church building is generally borne by the Nantwich Parish Church Preservation Appeal Trust Fund which is an independent charitable trust. At September 2016, it held £20,000.

We have among many things, recently completed the re ordering of the west end of Church including the provision of toilets and glass doors opening the Church up to the town, upgraded the internal lighting and IT systems and, with the help of the Preservation Appeal Trust, undertaken the restoration of the Choir Stall Canopies.

The following Capital Projects are in prospect:

- Restoration of the external north side of the Church. The cost is estimated at more than £200,000. No funds have yet been raised as this is not urgent.
- Repositioning of the Visitor's Centre in the northwest corner of Church. This may cost more than £72,000 of which £20,000 is already to hand.

Our aim is to commit to giving 10% of our General Fund income per annum to mission work outside the Parish, both at home and overseas. We currently only commit 8% and give to:

- Nantwich Food Bank, salary support of £2,000 per year until 2018.
- Funding £1,000 per annum to put two children through school in Kenya for 7 years from 2016.
- Supporting via the Deanery, financially challenged parishes in Crewe that are in need. A grant of £4,000 per year from 2015 for three years will be awarded once a project is identified hopefully in 2017.
- A grant of £3,000 per annum to Christians Against Poverty (CAP) from 2016 for three years.

Clergy expenses amounted to £5,800 in 2016 and are paid monthly.

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PERSONS' MINISTRY



Sunday Club

"I really like the band at the 9.30 service because they sing great songs. I also like the Sunday Clubs (Launch Pad and Orbit) and really enjoy singing with the choir in the 10.45 service."

Erin (Age 11)

The church is active in youth and children's work from babies to young adults, in a variety of settings. Our Baptism Support Team, Church Mice (during the Family Services), Mums and Tots and Little Fish (Tuesday and Thursday mornings respectively in term time) all support pre-school children and their families and carers. Sunday Clubs, aimed at Primary School aged children and 'Gravity' for young teens, provide teaching and activities during Family Services on Sunday mornings. 'Friday Nite Live' is for teenagers from school year 6 onwards and meets locally every other Friday night with talks and activities on a variety of topics.

Although there is no church school in the parish, St Mary's has links with all the Nantwich schools and regularly leads primary school assemblies. Local schools have taken part in special events such as Experience Easter and Primary Carols. The two senior schools and one primary school hold their carol services in church. In addition, school parties have visited to explore various aspects of their Key Stage 2 studies, often supported by our young people's 'guides' and Clergy.

5th Nantwich Rainbows, Brownies and Guides, although not affiliated, meet weekly in the Parish Hall. The 38th South West Cheshire Scouts and Cubs, which are attached to St Mary's, meet elsewhere in the parish.

We take care to ensure that we fully comply with the current safeguarding legislation. We have a volunteer Safeguarding Children Coordinator and a volunteer Safeguarding Adults at Risk Coordinator who work closely with the Diocese. We have 75 DBS checked volunteers.

LAY LEADERSHIP AND MINISTRY

St Mary's is fortunate in having a varied and active lay participation in the leadership and organisations within the parish.

Readers share in the services. Administration of the chalice is carried out by a team who have been licensed to do so. Participation in reading lessons and in intercessions is predominantly lay.

For over a quarter of a century lay courses have been run in the Chester Diocese and locally to help many seeking a deeper understanding of their faith. The Foundations for Ministry course, a one-year course for those seeking to further their understanding of their faith, has been attended by at least one member of St Mary's each year recently; it can lead on to a 2-year Readers' course as well as courses for Pastoral Workers and Evangelists. The Diocese also runs many other courses for lay people to improve their knowledge and skills, and as a parish we are encouraged to attend these. Some of St Mary's are members of Chester Diocesan Cursillo and meet regularly in local groups. A Julian group meets regularly in the parish for contemplative prayer.

Three members of St Mary's congregation commenced ordination training and one has commenced Licensed Pastoral Worker training in the autumn of 2017. Two further candidates are in conversation with the Diocesan Director of Ordinands which will lead them to attending Bishops' Advisory Panels in 2017/2018.

At St Mary's we offer Home Groups for adults. The Home Groups, which are led by both lay members and Clergy, encourage people to walk in God's love and share it with others, including those who are not yet Christians, or those exploring their faith. This is an area ripe for development. Monthly Men's and Ladies' Breakfasts take place at the Crown Hotel. The speakers are usually from within the groups who are generally made up of people from St Mary's and their guests.



Cross of Shoes and our Worship Band

"I joined a Home Group shortly after moving to Nantwich, to make new friends and study the word of God with others. I am so glad I did; they are a real friendly bunch and my faith and spirituality has grown."

Cathie Riddell

LAY LEADERSHIP AND MINISTRY

The Pastoral Care team, in addition to their work on Baptisms, Soup Lunches and Bereavement Support, hold Welcome events twice a year for all newcomers to the church, have strong links with the Food Bank, work with Christians Against Poverty, support the homeless with practical assistance, raise funds for the Church Urban Fund and regularly provide Holy Communion at eight residential care homes. A pastoral care referral system is in place to support visiting by the Clergy and Pastoral Care Team who provide Communion and prayer at home or in hospital.

ECUMENICAL RELATIONS



Good Friday Witness on the Town Square

"Working in partnership with the other Churches is itself a witness to Christ's love and we achieve so much together, supporting the wider community."

Beth Roberts

St Mary's works together with the other local churches, Baptist/URC, Methodist, and Catholic and has been in covenant with them since 1989. A new covenant was signed and extended to Elim Pentecostal and Acton Parish Church in 2012. Churches Together in Nantwich (CTiN) with Clergy and lay representatives of each of the 7 churches meet bi-monthly and the Clergy meet informally every 4-6 weeks.

CTiN managed the setting up of a Street Pastors Scheme in Nantwich, through the Ascension Trust, and volunteers at St Mary's are involved at all levels.

Other joint ecumenical activities throughout the year include Men's Supper Club, Lent Groups, Good Friday Witness in the town, Nantwich Show Refreshment Tent, Christian Aid events, arrangements for Women's World Day of Prayer, as well as a Christmas Day lunch for those who would otherwise be on their own.

We are part of the Greater Churches Network, an informal association of 55 non-cathedral churches which, by virtue of their great age, size, historical, architectural, or ecclesiastical importance, display many of the characteristics of a cathedral. We are also a member of Cathedrals Plus which has a membership of Cathedrals and Churches of all denominations.

OUTREACH AND MISSION

We recognise that significant outreach of our church happens through the occasional offices and school ministry, as well by way of running several Alpha courses.

The church is open weekdays and Saturday from 8.30 am - 4 pm with Stewards in attendance who provide a warm welcome. It is a place for quiet prayer and contemplation, supported by a votive candle stand and Pebble Pool for prayer requests.

Our mission of hospitality extended to over 20,000 visitors last year from the UK and overseas who signed the Visitors' Book. The Visits Team welcomed several local primary school parties, and visits from the Nantwich Civic Society and U3A History and Architecture Group and a number of local history societies who were given a guided tour of the church.



Primary School activity in Church



Flower Festival

During Advent, primary schools are invited to join together in acts of worship known as Primary Carols in which the nativity story is told and carols are sung. Following the introduction of Holy Week services for primary schools, we now provide an Experience Easter learning environment with eight stations to tell the Easter story. There is an annual Leavers' Service for pupils in year 6 as part of their transition to secondary school.

The small Visitors' Centre and Church Shop, currently in the South Porch, is open from March to December, where volunteers offer a warm welcome as well as serve refreshments and sell books, cards, CDs, Church guides and souvenirs.

In early July each year we hold a Summer Fête in the town as part of the annual Skoolsfest. This is attended by a large number of the townsfolk and visitors and raises funds for the General Fund of the Church. In 2016 we held a very successful Flower Festival.

OUTREACH AND MISSION



Kneelers on display during the 2016 Flower Festival

A monthly magazine, 'This Month' is published by St Mary's and distributed on subscription to the congregation and townsfolk, with extra copies being distributed free to businesses and shops around the town as part of our mission. A weekly notice sheet, 'This Week' is distributed at all services. It is available in church and is collected by other Nantwich residents and visitors throughout the week.

Lay people enable us to carry out much of the outreach work. There is the Friday Soup Lunch held in the Parish Hall. Other groups include members of the Mothers' Union, Flower Arrangers, Housekeeping team, Tapestry Group, Choir, Bell Ringers, Visitor Centre and Stewards.

In 2017, nine candidates were confirmed; the youngest was 11 years of age and the oldest 69 years.



Summer Fete 2017

THE PERSON

We are looking and praying for a Rector who loves God and loves people.

- A disciple of Christ who is continually growing and learning in their own faith.
- A priest with a strong faith, of integrity and prayer.
- A person who is self-aware and personable, with a generous and inclusive attitude.

AN EFFECTIVE COMMUNICATOR

- who will enthuse the whole Church with its vision and enable its development;
- who is a good public communicator able to present the Gospel, clearly and enthusiastically and who would be the public face of St Mary's in Nantwich;
- who has the ability to develop supportive relationships.

A STRATEGIC THINKER

- who can embrace our many varieties of worship and can lead us to new pastures;
- who is a clear thinker who can be innovative and creative within a strategic framework.

AN EXPERIENCED LEADER

- who is a good team leader, with a proven track record;
- who is a good organiser, able to delegate responsibilities, to build, encourage and motivate congregations, Clergy and lay workers to use their skills and talents in the service of God.

"St Mary's: we've got tradition, experimentation, singing, shouting, love, arguments, flower arranging, an eclectic miscellany of human beings, the odd committee here and there, and all held together by our shared love of God. What are you waiting for!?"



"Basically, we're looking for an innovative pastor with a fresh vision who will inspire our church to remain exactly the same."