Parish Profile

St. Mary’s Crich

All Saints, South Wingfield
THE BENEFICE OF CRICH ST.MARY’S AND SOUTH WINGFIELD ALL SAINTS
www.crichstmarys.org.uk

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1. DESCRIPTION OF THE AREA

The villages of South Wingfield, on the banks of the River Amber and Crich, rising to several hundred feet higher, are for many a gateway into the beautiful Derbyshire Peak District and Derbyshire Dales. Both are historic villages built of traditional stone, drawing visitors to such attractions as Wingfield Manor, Crich Tramway Museum and towering over all at 1000 feet above sea level, Crich Stand, the memorial tower to the Sherwood Foresters. But despite the appeal to tourists, these are working villages with a strong sense of community and tradition, but positively addressing the many social and economic changes that are typical of such rural areas. Crich, with a lively village centre and a number of shops is the larger of the two villages, with a population approaching 3000. The larger parish includes Fritchley, Whatstandwell and a number of smaller villages and hamlets. South Wingfield has about 1500 residents.

The area is well served by good small village schools, three of which are church schools. Secondary children travel by bus to nearby Wirksworth or Alfreton. There is easy access to the M1 and A38 and a number of railway stations are conveniently located. An excellent medical practice has surgeries in both villages. Both parishes have a higher than average population of retired and elderly people. Leisure centres and the major supermarkets are available at the nearby towns of Ripley, Matlock, Alfreton, Belper and Wirksworth and the villages themselves provide a huge range of classes, clubs, entertainment and other activities. Within easy reach are other towns like Bakewell, Buxton and Chesterfield as well as the cities of Nottingham and Derby with major theatres, sports teams, concert venues and universities. The Peak District National Park and Derbyshire Dales are on the doorstep and are enormously popular for walking, cycling, climbing and fishing as well as various water sports at Carsington Water.

The region is rich in history and the mills of the Derwent Valley are a World Heritage site. Lead and coal mining, quarrying and the beginnings of the factory system are remembered in local museums at Cromford, Belper and Matlock Bath and Crich Tramway Village https://www.tramway.co.uk/ has an international profile. Luminary figures such as Florence Nightingale, D.H.Lawrence and Mary Queen of Scots have strong associations with the area, though in the last named case her residence was neither voluntary nor happy.
2. OUR NEW PRIEST AND OUR VISION

The benefice was created some twenty years ago when the South Wingfield vicarage was sold and the incumbent was settled into a new vicarage in Crich. In seeking a new leadership together the two churches share the sense of being in transition as communities with old norms being questioned and exciting mission opportunities presenting themselves, taking the church out to the people.

Our priest-in-charge, therefore, would need to be comfortable with something of a public profile in both villages so that the love of Jesus will be a guiding principle in the management of change and innovation that the times require. He or she would enjoy the challenge of working with the wider community, including other churches, of helping create and nurture lay teams and of welcoming and integrating the many families who will be moving into the new housing developments. Here is a mission opportunity to be in at the shaping of expanding communities while at the same time reconciling the old with the new, consolidating the exciting work that is already going on with families while being sensitive to the needs of the elderly and isolated. Three church schools with active church governors provide enormous potential for outreach to children and families.

Both churches aspire to be praying, worshipping and caring bodies of people, not just in the church building, but involved in where the community life happens: in the homes, schools, businesses, organisations, pubs and clubs. A ministry team co-ordinates the worship and mission at both churches, including baptism, confirmation and wedding preparation. There is a strong will among church members to grow in outreach and love and they would look to a priest sometimes to lead, sometimes to facilitate and sometimes to support or encourage the initiatives that are already taking place.
We are looking for someone who will:

- Build and enable teams to address the challenges and mission opportunities inherent in the changing village environment.
- Affirm the skills and experiences we are already blessed with enabling us to use them to God’s purpose.
- Engage with families, encouraging and ministering to children and young people, support the groups that already work with parents and children.
- Welcome the inhabitants of the new housing developments and help them integrate into the church and village community.
- Share resources and maximise the ecumenical relationships that already exist.
- Develop the church buildings as community resources, equipped with appropriate technology and accessible to all.
- Increase the churches’ visibility in the villages and its voice in community affairs.
- Ensure that the elderly and isolated are cared for.
- Share in the broader Deanery mission.
- Strengthen the prayer life of the churches and make worship relevant, inclusive and appealing to different groups and needs.

We recognise that the work of proclaiming the Gospel and setting Jesus in the heart of our community is a shared joy and responsibility. Our benefice is blessed with a committed team of readers, lay leaders and retired clergy, but we will need to develop new leaders. An effective ministry to us would be one which identifies and channels the skills and experiences we have, but which also identifies and nourishes the diverse ministries of all church members. We long for the time when our buildings in the two villages, two splendid churches and a useful hall, are seen by all to be at the heart of our community, open and accessible during the week and resounding to a variety of forms of praise and worship. It is also important that Jesus fills our community rather than our community fills Sunday services. Members of both our churches are working ecumenically in effective community ventures and alternative worship and teaching forms without the expectation of its resulting in conventional church attendance. We look forward to being inspired and invigorated in new ways of being a church.
3. DETAILS AT A GLANCE

a) A wide variety of worship styles are on offer and many shared ecumenical activities. All the activities and events listed are run with the generous help of laity.

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Services and events</th>
<th>St.Mary's Crich</th>
<th>All Saints South Wingfield</th>
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| Sunday Worship      | 8am Holy Communion  
10:15am Morning Service or Communion  
or All Age  
6:30pm Evening Prayer or 1662 or Taize  
Celtic or Folk or Sunday@7etc | 10:30am Holy Communion, in Church,  
with Family Service on 2nd Sunday  
(normally in the Church Hall,  
except major festivals).  
No evening services, nor separate communions. |
| Midweek services    | Ash Wednesday, Ascension Day, Well Blessing | Monday 9:15am Morning Prayer.  
Attendance 4+ |
| Occasional Offices  | Baptisms 3, Marriages 4, Funerals 16  
Figures for 2016 | Baptisms 3, Marriages 2, Funerals 4  
Figures for 2016 |
| Electoral Roll      | 75 | 25 |
| Average Sunday      | 65 | 10-20, 5-10 more on Family Services |
| attendance          |    |    |
| Regular Activities  | Prayer groups, Bible Study, Discipleship Group,  
Alpha, Lent and Advent studies  
Toddler groups, Parent groups,  
Choir, Mothers' Union  
table tennis, scouts. | Bible Study and Prayer Groups with Zion Methodist.  
Lent & Advent studies shared with Crich,  
Toddler group, W.I. |
| Special Events      | Remembrance, Healing, Bereavement,  
Christingle, Toy and Tin, Crib, Carol Service,  
Good Friday crafts, Easter Sun-Rise service,  
Coffee mornings, Fete | Remembrance and Patronal festival, Carol Services,  
Crib Service, Easter services shared on rotation with  
Methodists and Baptists in village.  
Twice yearly Church Fayre. |
| Ecumenical          | Popalong, Messy Church, Cafe Church are provided at the Wesleyan Chapel | Joint services at some festivals, with other denominations in village. |
b) Colleagues
A Ministry Team currently organises the worship in both churches, benefiting from the services of retired clergy and readers from within the parishes. In the past an assistant priest took special responsibility for All Saints. A paid parish clerical assistant gives part-time support. Rotas in both churches allocate members of the congregation to readings, intercessions and stewarding and there is strong lay involvement.

c) Accommodation
The incumbent has been resident in Crich since the two parishes became one benefice. The vicarage is late 1990s, and is a spacious 4 bedroom house with a study and pleasant easily manageable garden. It is situated next to the Glebe Field Centre and is a short stroll from St.Mary’s and the village centre. The last incumbent based the church office here.
4. FINANCES

a) St. Mary’s, Crich

Financially the church remains fairly sound, though inevitably money must be stewarded thoughtfully and prayerfully

- Gift Day 2017 produced £6500
- Common Fund for 2018 is £33,009 which we will pay.
- Gift Aid 2018 will be at least £7,000
- Charitable Giving is 10% of church giving received. £5,000 estimated for 2018. A list of charities is available on the website.
- Loan of £4,000 repayable over 2 years, which we have sufficient reserves to pay

b) All Saints, South Wingfield

- Common Fund for 2017 is £11,759
- Gift Aid for 2017 is £7,856
- Collections (Cash & Envelopes not gift aided) £2456
- No outstanding debt
5. ST.MARY’S, CRICH

a) The Church and Buildings

CPAS are patrons of St.Mary’s. The Grade 1 Listed building occupies the high point of the village and is frequently visited by tourists and is close to the Crich Tramway Museum. It is always open during daylight hours and many find it a serene and sacred space. A Fabric Committee maintains the building and recently ‘The Welcome Project’ was completed aiming to make the church more user and disability friendly by providing a toilet for the disabled, social space, kitchen and a meeting room.

A new ringing room was constructed for the visiting teams of ringers. Much of this work was project managed and carried out by church volunteers. The success of this venture was affirmed by the presentation of the Bishop’s Award for Best New Project. Dating from 1135 the interior has some fascinating tombs and interesting architectural features though increased technology and adaptability enable modern and varied worship to take place. The ancient extensive churchyard is no longer in use but a Parish Council Cemetery is adjacent. (See www.crichparish.co.uk)

The Glebe Field Centre https://www.crichglebefieldcentre.org/ is the hub of Crich village entertainment and care provision. It was built in the late 1990s on the Glebe Field as a joint church and medical practice initiative and the church retains some rights of usage.

b) Worship

St.Mary’s offers a diversity of worship styles as can be seen above. All are informal and often experimental with considerable lay involvement. Sometimes a robed choir provides the music, or it might be CDs, a youth band or worship group. Words are usually projected onto the screen or on printed sheets.

c) Communication:

This is seen as vital in inspiring and co-ordinating the mission of the church. As well as the church website a magazine is published regularly and is distributed widely throughout the parish. A news slip is issued at all services in both churches and has a strong emphasis on prayer. The Crich Area Community News www.cacn.org.uk is a quarterly magazine which is distributed free and
welcomes contributions from the churches. Ensuring that communication is opened up with the new housing developments and other newcomers is seen as essential over the next few years.

d) Children's and young people's work:

Children attend a session in the new meeting room based around ‘Friends and Heroes’ DVDs enabling parents to attend Communion. The ‘Big Events’, such as a craft morning on Good Friday, Christingle and Crib Service attract a large number of children and families from the village. But the number of regular children is small and meeting the needs of the different age groups is challenging. Messy Church and a cafe style church are being run at the Wesleyan Church, synchronised with St.Mary’s provision. Some teens meet in the home of one of the readers as a 'D' (discipleship) group. Safeguarding procedures are actively implemented and support and co-ordination for children’s work is provided by appointed members of the church.

e) Schools Work:

With three church schools in the Crich parish, clergy and church appointed governors are active in supporting local education, visiting and leading worship. The schools participate in church services and events and it is hoped to strengthen this relationship. It is recognised that such mission opportunity reaches more children than traditional Sunday service ever will. http://www.fritchleyprimaryschool.co.uk/; https://www.crichcarrprimary.co.uk/; http://www.crich-inf.derbyshire.sch.uk/

f) Wider Ministries:

**Popalong**, a joint initiative with the Wesleyan Church, has about 30 families on register and up to 20 may attend each session. Here parents and carers are cared for and get to know each other often forming strong friendships of mutual support. It has led to many families attending church for special festival events. Many of the children proceed to the pre-school group at 3, then re-appear in one of the church schools a year later, providing a lovely opportunity for continued nurture. An off-shoot of Popalong has been an awareness of what parents want in terms of spiritual support. From this have grown a **Care for the Family Course ‘Parentalk’**, **Alpha** and a follow up group. **The Monday Group** is a meeting of women from a variety of backgrounds. All of these have experienced lay leaders and exemplify the church going out into the community. The **Mothers’ Union** too has a strong membership and includes many non-church members.

Various **scout groups** are actively involved in the church with their leaders being largely drawn from the congregation. A highly gifted **flower group** enhances regular worship and have often provided stunning displays for weddings and special events. A number of **table-tennis** players meet weekly. **Visiting bell ringers** often operate and there have been attempts to teach the art to others.
Looking much wider St.Mary’s has strong links with the **Church of North East India** and another off-shot of Popalong, **CHIKS**, supports children being cared for in a community in Kenya.

**g) Portrait of the Village:**

Crich literally can be seen from a distance as a beacon set on a hill – the memorial to the Sherwood Foresters. Just below it also visible from miles away is the spire of St.Mary’s.

In the market place you can feel the buzz of this vigorous community with its award-winning bakery and butchers. There is a huge variety of community activities.

At certain times there will be well-dressings, firework displays, village carol singing and bizarre vehicles attending events at the Tramway Village; not to mention tourists, walkers and cyclists exploring the ancient centre of the village with its quirky lanes, secret surprises, steps and alleyways.

Many of the residents are elderly and their welfare is threatened by funding cuts. As is typical of Crich, volunteers, many from the church, are maintaining these activities. For instance a Local Plan has recently been produced, the Recreation Ground significantly enhanced and a dementia group instigated. Traditional industries employ fewer people and more workers commute. Broadband has enabled home-based businesses to grow; often successful enterprises but working in isolation. See [http://info.ambervalley.gov.uk/docarc/docviewer.aspx?docguid=b3c0ff03d18644d6a8a79984b35f9b7f](http://info.ambervalley.gov.uk/docarc/docviewer.aspx?docguid=b3c0ff03d18644d6a8a79984b35f9b7f)

Around 300 new houses are under construction or projected, representing a considerable enlargement of population which is currently less than 3000. Most of the new houses are expensive, while local people struggle to find affordable accommodation. It is hoped that this will provide the new priest and congregations with fresh opportunities for mission and church growth.
6. ALL SAINTS, SOUTH WINGFIELD

a) The Church and Buildings:

All Saints parish has an ancient parish church building with attached churchyard which is still used for burials and interments of ashes, and an early 20th century church hall at the side of the churchyard with a car park.

The Church:

All Saints is an old parish church, grade II* listed, with its foundation in the 11th century, and the present buildings dating from the 15th century, with a tower housing 6 bells, and nave and chancel, with two side aisles. The Nave has wooden pews, seating about 100 and a modern electronic organ and basic sound system. There is a relaxation area for mothers and toddlers and there are toilet facilities in the adjacent church hall.

The building is in an attractive location and is open one day a week. It is in reasonable condition as re-pointing and other repairs have recently been carried out. The fine bells are often rung by visiting teams, although there is no longer a resident ringing team.

Churchyard:

Surrounding the church the graves are both ancient and modern with memorials still standing from the 1700s, many of which are flat and unidentifiable. The churchyard is well tended by the contracted Community Payback team however the churchyard suffers from flooding from the Amber, usually two or three times a year, and the flooding may spread to the church building if severe. Recent work has been undertaken to strengthen the river bank next to the church tower.

Church Hall:

The large hall has a capacity for 90-100 with a small meeting room, kitchen and toilets and ample car parking. It is hired out and is much used, accommodating exercise groups, exhibitions, WI, dog-training, parties, Stay and Play mums’ and toddlers’ group, a twice yearly Fayre, as well as joint church events and a range of other activities.
Wingfield Park Mission:
This is a well-maintained small wooden building set in Wingfield Park. The managing trust is chaired by the incumbent and services are held there once a month.

b) Worship:
Holy Communion is from the Common Worship book. Family Services are Morning Prayer with a customised format on printed sheets for each service, and songs from Mission Praise. Hymns are from Hymns Ancient & Modern New Standard. Church festivals attract larger congregations: a harvest supper is shared with Crich; Easter has a joint service with other denominations; Christmas Carol and Crib services attract a significant attendance; Remembrance and Patronal Festivals are much valued by the community.

c) Communication:
A church and community magazine for South Wingfield and Wessington is produced quarterly by two of our congregation. A monthly magazine, a weekly church notice sheet and website is shared with Crich parish.

    c) Children and young people’s work:
A monthly family service takes place but there is a need to develop children and young people’s work, previous efforts having floundered. Stay and Play group is a mums’ and toddlers’ group for pre-school children and their carers on Wednesday mornings in the Hall and is creating links with local families. Seasonal celebrations and activities are organized by a team from the church and village.

    d) Schools Work:
There is a Primary school in the parish which, although not a Church school, has links with All Saints with Easter and Christmas services in the church, book presentations and occasional assemblies. There is a Discovery Club in the school at lunchtimes, run by the Valley Cids voluntary group. [http://www.southwingfieldprimary.com/](http://www.southwingfieldprimary.com/)
f) Wider Ministries:
There is cooperation with the local Methodists and Baptists, with a shared ladies group and bible study at Lent and Advent, and shared services at Easter on a rota. The church looks forward to extending such fellowship. Home communion is offered and volunteers from both parishes take worship to Holly Bank sheltered housing in Oakerthorpe.

g) Portrait of the Village:
South Wingfield has a population of about 1500. Its centre is a conservation area.

The village has one general shop and an animal feed store. There is a golf course, active Social club and Cricket club.

There are several farms around the South Wingfield parish in the village and hamlets of Moorwood Moor, Wingfield Park and Oakerthorpe.

There is one primary school, a pre-school group (meeting in the Parish Room), two children’s play areas and two youth clubs.

The village has an action group, which has galvanised local opinion on some proposed housing developments, recently defeating one. A Local Plan is currently being prepared.

South Wingfield parish has an active local history group, which is currently working on a living history project. The churchyard has a few graves that are linked to the 1817 Pentrich Revolution. This began in the parish and included local men some of whom were transported to Australia.

The ruined Wingfield Manor, a Grade 1 Listed English Heritage property and Scheduled Ancient Monument, is now part of a local farm.
7. HARDWICK DEANERY AND DERBY DIOCESE.

The Churches of St Mary’s, Crich and All Saints, South Wingfield are part of Hardwick Deanery which was launched in 2016. Churches within the Deanery are encouraged to play a significant role in the new Derby Diocesan vision focused around relationship building, wide participation, networking for learning and training, forming partnerships for mission and collegial working. The successful applicant may have an opportunity to be part of the Deanery vision of priests with a ‘portfolio’, a focus of expertise, that can be shared with other parishes.

Hardwick Deanery Chapter meets most months. A typical meeting involves a short time of worship, time thinking together on an area of work/mission and time supporting one another. Visiting speakers regularly attend.

Archdeacon of Chesterfield Carol Coslett took up her place early in 2018 and is supportive of the aspirations of the benefice to engage in mission within the community.

It is hoped that the next priest will be someone who will work collegially within the Deanery to serve God and to share the Gospel. This will involve encouraging and challenging the congregations whilst reaching out to the wider community, particularly in the various new housing developments. We feel enthusiastic about sharing experience in supporting parents and families and developing the mission of welcoming newcomers into the family of Christ as well as into the family of the villages.

8. CONTACTS FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

You are welcome to informally contact further information:
Church Warden: Martyn Offord (01773 853722, martynofford@gmail.com)
Area Dean: Gill Manley (01773 873305, gill-manley@sky.com)

9. LOCAL MAPS

Maps of the Area