

Profile of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Delamere and St Peter's Parish Church

The Churchwardens are:

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Brief History (A complete history is contained in a book, 1817 to 2017, written by Robin Ackerley for the Bicentenary 2017)

Prior to the Enclosure Act of 1812 the land, which now comprises the Parish of Delamere, which includes Eddisbury, Kingswood and Oakmere, was part of the great forest of Delamere. The area was common land, extra-parochial and very sparsely populated. As part of the Enclosure Act the Crown gave an allotment of land for the purpose of building a Church, a Parsonage House, a Burial Ground and the Glebe land for the income of the Rector. As a result of this Act St Peter's is a Crown Benefice, the only one in the Diocese of Chester, and the Queen is our patron.

Following the Enclosure Act the clearance of land resulted in cultivation and dwellings were built. The Forest of Delamere remains an important part of the Parish and attracts a considerable number of tourists.

St Peter's Church was consecrated in 1817 and bi-centenary celebrations were held in 2017.

The Parish of Delamere Today

The Parish of Delamere is essentially rural; agriculture and horticulture remain important occupations. It is situated in a very beautiful part of Cheshire, close to the Cheshire Sandstone Ridge, with open pasture land and adjacent to Delamere Forest. There is no village centre as such; the population increased only after the Enclosure Act and was scattered around the Parish. The current population is centred around Station Road, Stoney Lane and Mere Crescent, which includes the new development at Fourways. The renovation of the old Court House and adjacent development will increase the population in this part of the Parish. The development of the old Marley tile site, off Station Road of some 170 properties will increase the population considerably. The remainder of the population is scattered around

the Parish. Whilst the older members of the Parish tended to work locally the newer residents commute to Manchester, Liverpool, Chester and other centres of industry and commerce. The demography of the Parish has changed considerably in recent years with younger families moving in to the area. The recent property developments, when completed, will increase the population by some 50% and will make Delamere a very different place.

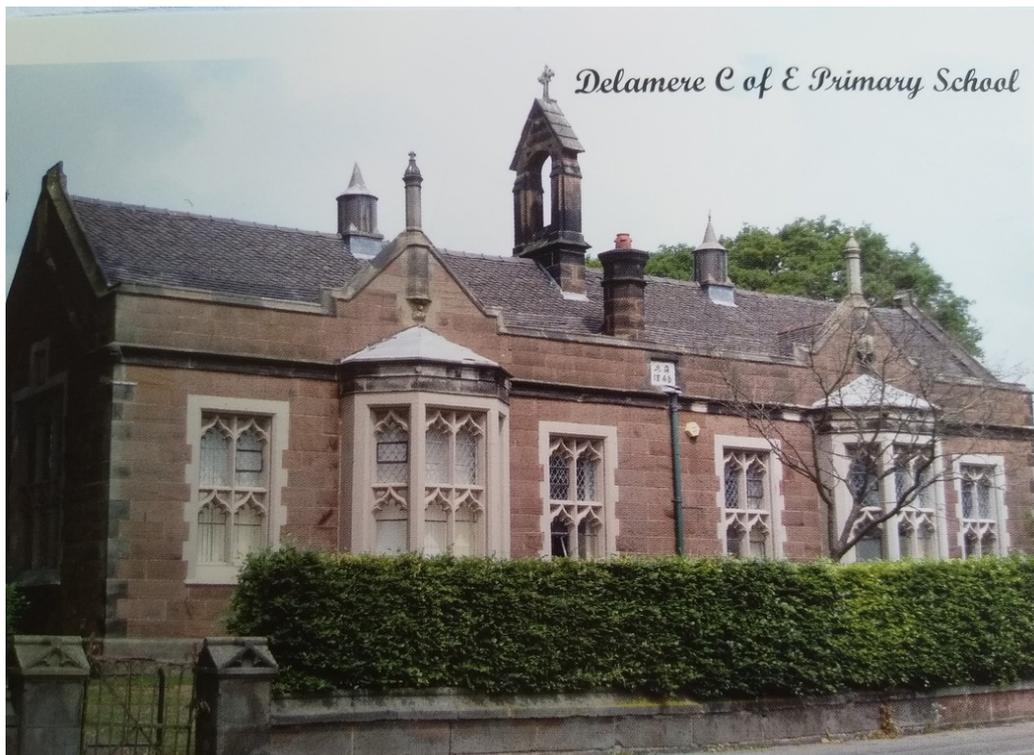


Parish Amenities

In addition to St Peter's Church the Parish has a Community Centre, located on Station Road. This has a bowling green and well developed facilities. The Community Centre is well used by the community. The present Rector is a trustee and serves on the Committee; there are well developed links between the Church and the Community Centre.

The Parish also has a school, Delamere C of E Academy, which is an outstanding school. Our current Rector has developed very close links with

the school, which the PCC is anxious to maintain and develop further. Messy Church is held in school once a month, a team of the laity is involved in this provision. It is very well attended and the school limits the number to 20 children although more would like to attend. The Rector and a member of the PCC are school governors. Each class holds an Assembly in Church, to which parents are invited. There are whole school Assemblies and the Crib Service and Easter Services are held in Church. Currently the school is full and families moving into the area have to send their children to a school outside the parish.



Delamere Stores, located on Station Road, is the village Newsagent and general stores. It is well used by the local population. The proprietor is very supportive of the Church. For other shops the residents tend to use the Co-op and Butchers in nearby Kelsall or travel to Northwich, Tarporley or Sandiway..

There are 2 Pubs in Delamere, the Vale Royal Abbey Arms and the Fishpool Inn. Both are generous when approached to provide raffle prizes for the Summer Fair. Abbeywood restaurant and gardens, located opposite the Church, is also a wedding venue. There are three cafes, the Lounge at Oakmere, Linmere in Delamere Forest and one at the Motorbike Centre in Oakmere. There is a Chinese Restaurant at Hatchmere. In addition there are a number of local businesses scattered around the parish including 2 plant nurseries, Stoneyford Cottage Gardens and Morrey's .Tourism is an important industry in the Parish, Delamere Forest attracts large numbers of visitors and walking and cycling are very popular. There are a number of caravan and camping sites and holiday lodges are being built in both Delamere Forest and the old Fourways Quarry site, now known as Delamere Lake.

St Peter's Church



St Peter's Church, which is Grade 2 listed, is located on the A556 main road, however, it is well set back from the road and, in many ways is a hidden Church, although there are signs indicating its location. It is built in local red sandstone and, originally, was cruciform in shape. However, additions over the past 200 years have altered its shape considerably. It is a very attractive Church and visitors frequently mention how beautiful the interior is. It has a very fine stained glass East window executed by Herbert Bryans a pupil of Charles Kemp. The fabric of the Church is in very good condition, all routine maintenance is carried out by members of the congregation as is regular weekly cleaning. The large graveyard and grounds, including a Garden of Remembrance for the interment of ashes, are also maintained by a dedicated group of volunteers. The graveyard contains 3 Commonwealth War Graves identified by a plaque on the wall. It is considered that there is enough room for at least 80 new graves.

The Hearse House

The Hearse House was converted into a Parish or Church room in 1991. It is used for PCC Meetings and for coffee and biscuits after Morning Service. It is available for any other use as required.

The Rectory

The Rectory is adjacent to the Church and shares a common driveway. It is a 4 bedroomed property, built in 1963, with 3 Reception rooms, large kitchen and downstairs cloakroom. There is a good sized garden, garage and parking space on the private driveway. The property is in good condition, although it would benefit from some modernisation.

Current Services and Worship at St Peter's

Worship at St Peter's is moderately traditional. Clergy robe, except at All Age Worship, we have an organist and hymns are both traditional and modern. At the present time there are two Sunday Services, a said Holy Communion at 8.00 and Morning Worship at 10.30. A very loyal congregation of approximately 10 people attend the 8.00 Service. Morning Worship varies during the month, the 1st Sunday is Holy Communion and the 3rd All Age Worship, the remaining Sundays are varied forms of Morning Worship, average attendance is between 25 and 30. There is a midweek Holy Communion Service once a month. Compline is said one evening a week during Lent.

Special Services, such as Palm Sunday, Easter, Harvest, Remembrance Sunday, Plough Sunday and Christmas Services, especially Christingle and Carols by Candlelight, see greatly increased congregations of up to 90 adults and children. The Church remains an important centre for the population of Delamere.

Bible Study lunches are held once a month, weekly during Lent and Advent, and are well attended by approximately 12 Parishioners.

Laity Involvement

The laity is involved in many aspects of Church life. The maintenance of both the Church and Graveyard is in the hands of the laity. A team of Church members is involved with Messy Church held in Delamere School. The laity is responsible for Bible readings, leading prayers on occasions and the Church Wardens Chalice at Holy Communion. The anniversary of Baptism, Marriage and Funerals is recognised with a card. Letters are sent to all Baptism families inviting them to the Christingle Service and the families of Funeral Services are invited to the All Souls Service and wedding couples to Midnight Holy Communion at Christmas. The Rector writes a letter in the Delamere and Oakmere News and all parishioners receive a card from the Church at Christmas wishing them a Happy Christmas and giving them details of Christmas Services. New residents to Delamere are given a welcome by the Church. The Steering Committee and the PCC are active in moving the Church forward.

Current Projects

Car parking at St Peters is limited and, as most people have to drive to the Church, this can be a problem. Planning permission has been obtained from Chester West and Chester Council to extend the car park into the adjacent Glebe field. At the present time there are negotiations with the Diocese to obtain the land to extend the car park. Increasing the car parking will enable the Church to be more of a community asset and enable us to use the Church for community occasions.

Our central heating boiler, oil fired, is elderly and needs replacement. We

have launched a fund to obtain a new boiler. This is going well and we hope to replace the boiler in the summer of 2019.

New Incumbent

- We would welcome an incumbent, either male or female, who would enjoy a rural, but growing, Parish.
- It is desirable that an incumbent would be willing to become part of the community of Delamere and will join in with village life.
- The relationship between the Church and the School is very important to us so it would be helpful if a new incumbent could demonstrate an interest in education and be prepared to develop this relationship further with the support of the laity.
- Given that the Parish is growing significantly we would prefer an incumbent who is able to make contact with new families and welcome them to St Peter's.
- Ideally we would like an incumbent who would be willing to make visits to the sick and elderly in the Parish or, alternatively, be able to support the laity in undertaking this task.
- We would like an incumbent who is willing to have an ongoing relationship with baptism, wedding and funeral families. The laity are involved in continuing this relationship.
- An incumbent should be able to work well with the Laity and develop their involvement with the Church.
- We need an incumbent who will be willing to involve the Church building as a community asset.
- We would welcome an incumbent who could bring new ideas to the Parish.
- We are seeking a parish priest who will help us to grow as effective disciples of Jesus and witnesses to the love of God in everyday life, including in our workplaces, homes and neighbourhoods.