St Mary the Virgin
Prestwich
PARISH PROFILE
† GROWING † GIVING † SERVING
Overview/Vision/Values

The ancient church of St Mary’s sits in the heart of Prestwich village, three miles north of Manchester city centre, and is home to a vibrant, diverse, hospitable, loving and inclusive community seeking to know and love God through faith and prayer.

We want to pray deeply, see clearly and act boldly.

We are a friendly and welcoming community spanning a wide range of ages, traditions and backgrounds. We are part of the Inclusive Church Network [http://inclusive-church.org/](http://inclusive-church.org/) and our passion is to share fellowship, life experiences and the generosity of God with each other and the wider community through our services, outreach and events.

St Mary’s is built on a strong progressive Liberal Catholic tradition and the Eucharist is at the heart of our worship. Our worship is thoughtful, reflective, and focuses on making the love of God accessible and tangible to all.

Our vision is a commitment to Growing, Giving and Serving and we seek to be a church where:

- Worship and prayer are at the heart of all we do
- We put the Gospel into action
- Giving is a joy, not a duty

St Mary’s is a community which has grown considerably over recent years. God is clearly at work in this parish and the church is full of life. We are a church where all people are welcome. We believe in a God who opens His arms wide in love and who rejects nobody.
ABOUT SAINT MARY’S

St Mary’s church has many strengths and there are countless reasons why people want to belong and to grow in faith in this community:

♦ It is a place of beauty and Holiness
♦ Our worship is dignified, deep and thoughtful
♦ We are a diverse church with people from all backgrounds, age groups and lifestyles
♦ We have a vibrant ministry for our children and young people including:  
  ♦ A thriving Junior Church  
  ♦ Pre School Praise  
  ♦ Scouting  
  ♦ An established Youth Group/‘Food and Faith’ group for older teenagers.
♦ We have very strong links and good relationships with our ‘Outstanding’ parish school.
♦ We have a programme of events and meetings that seek to develop our prayer life.
♦ We have a developing programme focused on the nurture, education, and formation of adult faith and spirituality.
♦ We are blessed with excellent music which enhances our worship
♦ We have regular social events which enable us to get to know each other better and deepen or friendships within our church life.
We are part way through the second phase of our Mission Action Plan following specific themes of:

- **Year of Holiness**: Meditation, Holy Hour, Too busy for God,
- **Year of Confidence**: Develop Youth group, Embed Pre School Praise, Parish Weekend, Breathing Space
- **Year of Mission**: Develop Adult nurture, Charitable giving
- **Year of Joyfulness**: Stewardship, Grow a new congregation, Parish Pilgrimage
Vacancy Prayer

*Loving Father,*

*We pray for our Parish during this vacancy period.*

*We pray for our Church Wardens and PCC as they lead us at this time.*

*Help us to share responsibility, love one another and care for those in need. Together, may we flourish and continue to grow in faith.*

*By the power of your Holy Spirit, stir the heart of our new Priest to discern your Will. Prepare them to serve You and this Parish with love and joy.*

*Amen.*

Worship

Our worship is principally Eucharistic and Vestments are worn at all services with the exception of Pre School Praise. Incense is used at major festivals.

The first Sunday of the month is an all-age service with uniformed organisations parading and a class from our church school leading part of the worship.

Each morning, except for Mondays, we meet for Morning Prayer at 7:30am followed by a Eucharist at 8:00am.

On Wednesday mornings at 10:00 is a Holy Communion (BCP), and on Friday mornings there is at 9:15am Eucharist (Common Worship) at our Church primary school to which all are welcome.

During Holy Week the service pattern includes ‘Stations of the Cross’, said Eucharists and homilies, a Sung Eucharist on Maundy Thursday with Vigil, ‘Walk of Witness’, Litany and Ante Communion on Good Friday, an Easter Eve Vigil Service on Easter Saturday followed by a Champagne Celebration and Choral Eucharist service on Easter Sunday. Following the tradition of Nine Lessons and Carols in Advent, a
Crib service and Midnight Mass on Christmas Eve, followed by a Sung Eucharist on Christmas Day.
Holy Hour followed by a Eucharist to the Blessed Virgin Mary is held on the last Saturday of each month.
At the beginning of September we celebrate our Patronal Festival. An annual memorial service for the 5,000 patients of the Prestwich Hospital buried in unmarked mass graves in October along with a Remembrance Service for the fallen in the two World Wars in early November.
All age groups are represented within the congregation which has a strong cohort of regular worshippers from a broad spectrum of diverse social and economic backgrounds. There are a large number of young families amongst our attendees.
There are a number of licensed lay Eucharist assistants and trained servers/crucifers, and several of our young people serve as acolytes.
A large number of members from our congregation are involved in reading the lessons and leading intercessions, with children from Junior Church and our uniformed organisations undertaking these roles in our all-age services. Music is an important element in the regular Sunday Worship and at special seasonal services such as 9 Lessons and Carols. The music is led by a loyal and competent robed four part SATB choir which is trained and directed by a professional organist and choirmaster.
MINISTRY TEAM

Rev Carole Barnet
Assistant Curate (OLM)
for Adult Nurture, Education & Formation
to be Ordained Priest in June 2019
Ordained Deacon in 2018

Mrs Adele McKie
Ordinand - to be Ordained Deacon (OLM)
for Children & Young people
in June 2019
The ancient parish church of St Mary the Virgin, Prestwich is a Grade 1 listed building situated within a conservation area, surrounded by an extensive graveyard. The interior design is notable for the very tall octagonal piers that support a fine 16th century coffered roof with carved and gilded bosses and bears some resemblance to the timber roof structure in Manchester Cathedral. Much has changed both politically and socially in the area since the original ‘monks retreat’, which is how Prestwich receives its name, was sited here in 1132. The building is well managed and following a successful Heritage Lottery Fund bid in 2018, work to replace the roof of the medieval Wilton Chapel and the nearby Hearse House are in hand and due for completion in the summer of 2019.

https://www.burytimes.co.uk/news/17308096.st-marys-church-prestwich-receives-heritage-lottery-grant/

St Mary's graveyard is a working burial ground with Commonwealth and listed graves, managed by our Churchyard Action Group with funding from the PCC and Heritage Lottery Fund. The large graveyard enables us to engage with the local Community Payback Team in association with the Probation Service.

On Church Lane there is the Church Lane Community Centre which is used by the church for a number of activities.

https://stmarysprestwich.org/church-groups/community-centre/

We are the charitable trustees of this building and enjoy a good relationship with the Management committee. The ownership of the centre is currently under review with the Charities Commission.
MINISTRY SUPPORT

Ministry support comprises a mix of ALM and Lay participation, supported by visionary Church Wardens, deputies and an active and engaging Standing Committee and PCC of 15 members.

Stewart Barnet
Church Warden
Elected 2014  ALM in 2015
Retired Chartered Engineer

Susie Mapledoram
Church Warden
Elected 2017
Diocesan Youth Officer

Barbara Dutton
Deputy Church Warden
Retired

Tony Smith
Deputy Church Warden
Retired Civil Servant
Our Junior Church meets every Sunday during term time with the exception of all-age services and is for primary school aged children.

Junior Church

It is well attended and led by a gifted and committed team of leaders. Each week the children start in Church before leaving for Junior Church held in the Church Lane Community Centre, returning near the end of the Eucharistic Prayer to receive Communion. The children present their week’s learning and activities to the congregation at the end of the service. Children who attend Junior Church and our Parish School are offered the opportunity to prepare for ‘Admission to Communion’ before Confirmation. This has proved very successful and allows those children who attend the parish school to participate in the weekly school Eucharist service.

Pre School Praise

Pre School Praise has been running for just over 3 years and is a short service of worship, prayer and song with craft and delicious homemade refreshments for an hour each Thursday morning.

JUNIOR CHURCH AND PRESCHOOL PRAISE ARE LED BY A GIFTED, COMMITTED AND CREATIVE TEAM OF LAY LEADERS

It is led by an experienced and creative team of Laypeople, who have built significant relationships with children and their parents or carers over the years.

https://stmarysprestwich.org/church-groups/junior-church/
Adult Ministry
Invitation to bring people to know God include “Breathing Space” for adults looking for peace, Gospel reflection over music and private prayer in their busy lives. Lenten and Advent Study Groups explore more deeply Gospel living and current topics.

For those wanting a ‘rowdier’ evening ‘Gin’, ‘Wine’ and ‘Champagne’ tasting and Men’s Breakfasts take place at regular intervals helping to cement relationships with all the various worship styles within the church and throughout the Parish.

Youth Group
Our Youth Group was established over 4 years ago and meets each Sunday evening in the Church Lane Community Centre. [https://stmarysprestwich.org/church-groups/youth-group/](https://stmarysprestwich.org/church-groups/youth-group/) Our evenings consist of activities around a particular biblical theme, games and some delicious refreshments. Over the years we have had two residential weekends away which have been very successful. Youth Group is led by an enthusiastic, creative, dedicated group of leaders.

The Choir
The choir meets weekly to rehearse and its aim is to enhance our Eucharistic Service and acts of worship each week with appropriate Hymns and anthems themed to the Gospel reading of the day.
Uniformed organisations
The 22nd Prestwich Scout Group is the largest group in the district with over 130 children and young people and meet each night in their own facilities. The group has a strong association with St Mary's, with the group parading at all-age services during term time and providing support for other church activities including the annual Heritage weekend. A member of the ministry team acts as Troop Chaplain.

Heritage
Under the guidance of the Heritage Lottery Fund and working with Historic England we have in place a project plan, funded by HLF, to produce information and activity sheets for all age groups, interpretation boards, guided visits from our local schools. Helping to educate and appreciate the heritage and worship available on their doorstep.

Through the use of social media and a dedicated Heritage website, we expect to promote and expand Saint Mary's activities nationally.
Prestwich is a town within the Metropolitan borough of Bury. http://www.bury.gov.uk/ It lies approximately half way between Manchester city centre and Bury town centre. There are excellent local public transport links with Prestwich sitting on both the tram network as well as several well served bus routes. Located at junction 17 of the M60, there is easy access to the motorway network. Prestwich has a strong ‘village’ community with a vibrant night time opportunities with several new artisan bars opening in recent years. There are a variety of small shops and independent traders, as well as local supermarkets. There are several pubs and good restaurants in the town centre alongside a local library and NHS walk in centre. There is an active local heritage society and an annual local festival starting with Prestwich Clough Day in May and ending with the Prestwich Carnival in June. http://www.prestwichheritage.co.uk/ There is a diverse social character within the Parish with a significant Jewish community which forms part of the second largest Jewish community in the country.
Schools
There are several primary schools, including the parish school, and one secondary school falling within the parish boundary. Links have been established with local schools and they have visited the church and attended a Stations of the Cross event during Lent in recent years, as well as ‘Experience Easter’

Our Parish school, St Mary’s C of E Primary, is voluntary aided with the Parish Priest having an ex officio role on the governing body. The Assistant Curate is also a Foundation Governor.

https://www.schoolswire.org/public/stmary003.html.nocache

There are strong links between the Church and the Parish school. The weekly Friday Eucharist service held in school is an integral part of the Christian ethos of the school and is highly valued by both the school and the Church community. Within the last year the ministry team have also been leading collective worship for Key Stage 1 on Tuesday mornings. Additionally, the Ministry Team has historically taught some RE and prepared Year 6 pupils for Confirmation. The most recent OFSTED and SIAMS inspection judged the school as “Outstanding”.

The school participate in and contribute to several 10.30 Sunday services throughout the year and hold their Easter, Christmas and end of year services in Church. The Church Christmas fair is held on the school premises and is well supported by the school and Parish community.

Neighbouring Parishes
St Mary’s together with St Margaret’s & St George’s and St Gabriel’s formed the Prestwich Mission Partnership in 2010. This was the first Mission Partnership in the Diocese and was created to enable the local Anglican clergy and their parishes to work more closely together and benefit from each other’s experience and achievements.

The clergy of the member churches have engaged in regular pulpit and altar exchanges since the establishment of the Mission Partnership.
STEWARDSHIP AND FINANCE

The Parish Share is paid in full. Our Cash reserve currently stand at £97,000

The last stewardship campaign was undertaken in 2015 increasing regular giving by £15,000 per year. A new campaign will be a priority going forward to increase giving such that the parish can meet its expenses from the regular giving of the congregation. It is expected that a formal stewardship campaign will be run in the near future.

We run several fundraising events across the year, with our Christmas Fair being the main one.

Church Building

The stewardship of the church fabric is important to us. The last Quinquennial inspection took place in 2015. All the issues raised will be addressed before the next inspection.

The Rectory

Currently the diocese is reviewing the housing situation, however ‘Parsonage Standard’ housing will be provided within the parish.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>SIMPLE ACCOUNTS</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Income</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Congregational Giving</td>
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<td>Gift Aid recovery</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rental</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fees</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fund raising</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Income</strong></td>
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<table>
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<tr>
<th><strong>Expenditure</strong></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ministry/Services</td>
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<tr>
<td>Parish Share</td>
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<tr>
<td>Churchyard/Building</td>
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<tr>
<td>Running costs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Major Repairs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(new Boilers, Lead theft)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Expenditure</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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| Surplus (Deficit) | (£6,000) |

All expenses relating to Ministry within Parish life are met in full.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Adults</th>
<th>Infants/Children</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Population</td>
<td>7,710</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Electoral Roll</td>
<td>130</td>
<td>69 live outside the parish</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Baptisms</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>35</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Weddings</td>
<td>7</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Funerals</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>tba</td>
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<tr>
<td>Confirmation</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>16</td>
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<tr>
<td>Admission to Communion</td>
<td>27</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Average Service</td>
<td>150</td>
<td>45</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>attendance</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Easter</td>
<td>227</td>
<td>296</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Christmas</td>
<td>128</td>
<td>151</td>
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</table>
What we are looking for?
- Prayerful Invest in growth both spiritually and numerically
- Open, approachable and inclusive
- Drive forward the Mission Action Plan
- Identify and encourage new ministries
- Develop social outreach
- Passionate about School and young people’s ministry
- Experienced, Eucharistic, Traditional
- Able to harness and develop the potential within the Parish
- Vision to grow and develop the church in this place
- Energy to make buildings ‘fit for mission’
- Nurture and develop ministers in training

What do we offer?
- A prayerful and welcoming community longing to know God’s gracious love and forgiveness.
- A hardworking ministry team, wardens and officers committed to growing God’s kingdom here in this place
- A close relationship with the Primary School to promote and encourage young people to know the love of God
- Developing Adult Nurture
- Fully expensed ministry provision

Our vision and goals
- To grow God’s kingdom both numerically and spiritually by investing in peoples talents, calling and church facilities
- To Create a place where people love to come and flourish
Meetings and Worship within the Parish

Morning Prayer - weekdays (ex Mondays)  Eucharist to the BVM - monthly
Eucharist - weekdays (ex Mondays)  Breathing Space - monthly
School Eucharist - weekly  Standing Committee - Bi-monthly
PreSchool Praise - weekly  PCC - Bi-monthly
PMP Eucharist - weekly  Social Group - quarterly
Ministry team meeting - weekly  Building Group - quarterly
Junior Church - weekly
Youth Group - weekly  Parish Publications
Choir Practice - weekly  Pews News - weekly
Graveyard Action - weekly  Monthly News - monthly
Wardens meetings - monthly  Parish site
Holy Hour - monthly  Parish twitter

Parish website: www.stmarysprestwich.org
Parish Twitter feed: @stmaryprestwich
Diocesan website: www.manchester.anglican.org
Inclusive Church website: http://inclusive-church.org/
School website: www.schoolswire.org/public/stmary003.html.nocache
Bury Metro website: http://www.bury.gov.uk/
DataShine website: http://datashine.org.uk/
Trip Advisor website: https://www.tripadvisor.co.uk/Attraction_Review-g528792-d10688537-Reviews-St_Mary_s_Church-Prestwich_Bury_Greater_Manchester_England.html

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