

The Diocese of Manchester

PARISH INFORMATION AND PROFILE

The Benefice of Radcliffe

St Mary's Parish Church



St Thomas and St John's Parish Church

St Philip's Community Centre



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1.0 Our next Parish Priest

We at St Mary's and at St Thomas and St John's with St Philip's are excited about the future and would welcome a new Vicar to help take us there. As well as coordinating the ministries of their colleagues, we are looking for the new Vicar to help our Churches as a whole coordinate and cooperate as a more effective Team, delivering God's message with one voice, not just within our Churches but within the wider community of Radcliffe.

Below are what we consider the qualities we are seeking from our new Vicar:

- 1) Helping us to face the challenges posed by an uncertain future
- 2) Possesses the skills to ensure that agreed mission and ministry tasks, including our drive towards developing our ECO Church credentials, our aspiration to develop our Church choirs and use of traditional and modern church music, and our maintenance and use of the St Thomas and St John's historic organ, are properly supported by necessary infrastructure projects
- 3) Can help our two Churches to work more effectively as a Team by being a good and compassionate listener with the ability to motivate, encourage and develop members of the congregations and to promote proper stewardship of their time, talents and financial resources
- 4) Has the ability to lead us into further strategically planned growth in full co-operation with local Anglican and ecumenical partners
- 5) Be ready to like us, put up readily with who we all are and laugh and cry with us
- 6) To be the lead Pastor to the congregation of St Mary's and of St Thomas and St John with St Philip's
- 7) Work with the local community to grow the congregations and establish, maintain and improve links with local schools, care homes, charities and other local organisations in the area.
- 8) Be a pro-active minister with the drive and enthusiasm to promote ideas to bring the community into the Church and to take the Church into the community. There should be particular emphasis on encouraging children and young families to join our congregations, thus ensuring the continued growth of the Team.
- 9) Be a gifted preacher and teacher, with excellent organisational and leadership skills and be a good, compassionate listener with the ability to motivate, encourage and develop members of the congregations
- 10) able to work with all, and especially the Focal Leader and Reader Emeritus, to promote the ministries of both Churches in the Team and to take a strong role in our Mission Community with other Church of England churches within the area.
- 11) able to explore links with other religions and with Churches of other denominations for the betterment of the people of Radcliffe.

2.0 Introduction

The Benefice of Radcliffe formed in 1991 comprises two Churches: St Thomas and St John's (with St Philip's), and St Mary's - all contained within the borders of Radcliffe.

St Thomas and St John's is the larger church building located in a prominent position near the town centre. Its landscaped grounds with seating and flower beds provide a pleasant amenity for the town. St Mary's church, located approximately 1.5 miles away in the centre of the original Radcliffe settlement, is the Hidden Gem of old Radcliffe, being its ancient Parish Church. It is nestled between Close Park and the Medieval Tower ruins.

Both Churches hold regular services. St Philip's Community Centre, under the control of the PCC of St Thomas and St John's, used to hold regular services pre-covid. Since the Community Centre re-opened in late 2022, services under the auspices of the Radcliffe Team have not been reinstated, although a Sunday service is held there by the Emmanuel Church.

The congregation numbers on a Sunday are small at both churches, numbers not having recovered back to their pre-pandemic levels (see later). We need to look to increase the numbers through all of our doors by engaging the local community, schools and charities.

Our congregations and PCC members tend to be older (see later) and we are finding it difficult to recruit a full set of parish officers from our current pool of churchgoers.

Radcliffe is essentially a deprived town (see later). We see people struggling, and we feel that it is our joint calling to step out of our comfort zone and reach out more to improve our mission efforts to help members of the local Community. We believe that if we can show them God's love by our actions, then perhaps we can show them what it would be like to have God in their lives 24/7 and, maybe, one day they'll walk into our churches to join our journey with God.

Our Churches are officially a Team and Irene, our Reader Emeritus and Focal Leader, is doing a great job during the current interregnum, conducting a Sunday morning Service of the Word at both churches, when we are unable to obtain the service of a priest, along with leading the weekly Wednesday Service of the Word that we've shared together for many years. Whilst we also share services at special times of the year like Easter and Christmas, we believe that there is still much to do to properly join both Churches to work together in God's name, to share processes and resources and we are hoping that the new Vicar can drive this.

While the building fabric of St Mary's and St Philip's Community Centre is in generally good order, there are problems with St Thomas and St John's, principally with the roof, that will need to be dealt with in the near future.

3.0 Basic Information and Statistics

3.1 Full name of benefice or Parish(es): Benefice of Radcliffe, comprising Parish of St Mary Radcliffe, and Parish of St Thomas and St John with St Philip's Radcliffe

3.2 Title of the post that is vacant: Vicar

3.3 Names and addresses of patrons:

The Right Reverend The Lord Bishop of Manchester, Bishops court, Bury New Road, Manchester, M7 4LE.

The Ven Dr R Mann, Archdeacon of Bolton and Salford, 10 Kirkburn View, Brandlesholme, Bury, BL8 1DL.

The Incumbent of the benefice of All Saints Stand (currently vacant).

The Worshipful The Mayor of Bury, Councillor Khalid Hussain Bury Council, Town Hall, Knowsley Street, Bury, Lancashire, BL9 OSW;

The Senior People's Churchwarden of the parish of Radcliffe (currently vacant)

Mrs Lavinia Mary Akroyd, Aldborough Grange, Aldborough, Boroughbridge, York, YO51 9EZ

3.4 Archdeaconry, Deanery and Mission Community; names of Area Dean and Mission Community Leader:

Archdeacon – The Venerable Dr Rachel Mann,
rachelmann@manchester.anglican.org Tel: 07834 403195

Area Dean – Rev Canon Donna Williams
DonnaWilliams@manchester.anglican.org Tel: 07484 030757

Mission Community Leader – situation vacant at present

Official Clergy Housing:-

St Thomas Vicarage
Vicarage St,
Radcliffe, M26 2TR
A four bedroomed vicarage with a separate study, downstairs cloakroom and integral garage. The property has gas central heating and a large garden.



3.5 Official population:

Population Breakdown *	age range	number
* 2021 census	0-17	7,111
	18-64	18793
	65+	5,230
Ethnic breakdown		
White	27,663	
Asian	1,631	
Black	634	
Arab	79	
Mixed/multi Ethnic	837	
Other Ethnic groups	290	
Total	31,134	31,134
% of total who class themselves as Christian	75%	

3.6 Number on electoral roll: see table

3.7 Average weekly attendance year on year, over the last 3 years: see table

3.8 Average weekly attendance of children and young people under 16: see table

3.9 (a-h) In the last twelve months, requested statistics

Church Statistics 2023	St Marys	St Thomas and St Johns
Number on Electoral Roll	31	115
Average weekly attendance last 3 years (from October Surveys)		
	27	26
Attendance last October Survey	29	40
Average weekly attendance of Children and young people under 16		
	0	2
Baptisms	14	6
Those admitted to Holy Communion before confirmation	0	0
Those confirmed	1	1
Marriages	3	1
Funerals	6	8
Christmas Communicants (all services)	33	30
Easter Communicants (all services)	22	49

3.10 (a-e) Anglican churches and licensed places of worship in the benefice profiled here:

Church Building Statistics	St Mary's	St Thomas and St Johns community Centre	St Philips
Year constructed	Circa 1202	1864	1974
Seating Capacity	250	450	120
Last Quinquennial inspection	Jul-2022*	Mar-2020**	N/A
Disabled access	Restricted internally	Good	Good

*St Mary's Problems Identified and rectified

- Roof repairs & noticeboard repair/replacement - totalling £2000 – complete
- Electrical inspection-estimate £400- Inspection completed awaiting formal report and recommendations
- Replace submersible pump in cellar - estimate £500 - awaiting faculty approval

** St Thomas and St John's Problems Identified

- Chancel re-plastering
- Roof repairs
- Clear pigeon infestation from tower

Total estimated cost of all the above in excess of £100,000 awaiting detailed report. None of the identified work has been undertaken to date.

3.10(f) Name of any attached or nearby hall

Neither church has an attached hall. Each church has meeting space and simple kitchen facilities.

Within the Team, St Philip's Community Centre provides a venue for parish and Team events, meetings, fundraisers, etc

3.10(g) Details of Anglican churches in the benefice profiled here with whom you will share an incumbent

The Parishes of the Team expect to share a Vicar with each other

3.11 Details of any publicity/literature that the parish produces

Weekly notices sheets of upcoming events in both Churches

3.12 Address of website and other social media

Website St Mary's: www.radcliffeparishchurch.com

and included in www.achurchnearyou.com

St Thomas and St John's: listed on www.achurchnearyou.com

St Philips Community Centre is on Facebook and also listed on www.achurchnearyou.com

3:13 Names of churchwardens

St Thomas and St John's : Mrs Maryse Gooderson, one vacancy

St Mary's: Currently two vacancies

3.14 Names of any representatives appointed under the Patronage (Benefices) Measure 1986 section 11(1)

St Thomas and St John's : Mr Ken Smith and Mrs Maryse Gooderson

St Mary's: Mr Peter Gorman and Mrs Irene Thirkell

4.0 Priests (Ordination of Women) Measure 1993 House of Bishops Declaration on the Ministry of Bishops and Priests 2014

Since 17 November 2014 it has no longer been possible for a PCC to pass resolutions under the Priests (Ordination of Women) Measure 1993 or to petition under the 1993 Act of Synod for Extended Episcopal Oversight. It is no longer a requirement that parishes should consider passing or rescinding resolutions under the Measure at a Section 11 Meeting in a vacancy. Any new resolutions must now be passed under the House of Bishops Declaration on the Ministry of Bishops and Priests. A PCC, on grounds of theological conviction, may resolve to request that arrangements are made for it under the House of Bishops Declaration.

Under transitional arrangements, though, any resolutions passed under the Measure will be treated as if they are resolutions under the House of Bishops Declaration until 17 November 2016.

Please record details below if either,

a) Any resolutions under the Priests (Ordination of Women) Measure or the 1993 Act of Synod were passed by the PCC prior to 17 November 2014 and have not subsequently been rescinded,

b) Any resolution under the House of Bishops Declaration on the Ministry of Bishops and Priests 2014 has been passed.

Neither Parish has a theological or other objection to the ordination of women into the Priesthood.

5.0 Local Community

Radcliffe is a market town in the Metropolitan Borough of Bury, 7 miles northwest of Manchester and 3 miles southwest of Bury. The disused Manchester, Bury and Bolton Canal bisects the town. Radcliffe is predominantly a residential area whose few remaining mill buildings are now occupied by small businesses. It has areas of significant historical interest and is mentioned in the Domesday Book along with St Mary's church and Radcliffe Tower, both Grade 1 listed buildings. Adjacent to these is the beautiful Close Park. The social demographics of the town's population includes a mix of working and suburban middle classes.

Much of the existing housing is Victorian terraces constructed in Radcliffe's industrial past. While Radcliffe had a prosperous past, it has suffered in past years. It has lost its Civic Centre, its Leisure Centre, two secondary Schools and the Radcliffe Town Hall was closed in 1974 when the Town of Radcliffe became a township in the Bury Metropolitan District.

Since this time, the town Centre has decayed with many closed shops in poor condition and the last bank closed a few years ago. Even the library (the most used in Bury) was under threat. The population is rising, and will continue to do so with new houses and flats under construction, and planned developments

On the plus side, Radcliffe now has two supermarkets, ASDA and Lidl, and a new bus station was built some years back. Thanks to Government money from the Levelling Up Fund, the town centre of Radcliffe is undergoing regeneration.

There will be a new Civic hub with a swimming pool and other leisure facilities, including a library, café, meeting rooms with, it is hoped, pop-up banking or Credit Union Facilities. The new hub, which is currently under construction, will also house some Council Offices. It is anticipated that the new hub will encourage further regeneration within the town.

The town will also have a new Secondary School operated by Star Academies (its first for over 10 years) with a first year intake opened in September 2025, eventually offering 750 places to 11-16 year olds (see www.starradcliffe.org) for more information. Other schools in the area include Radcliffe Hall Primary, St John's CE Primary, Millwood Primary Special Needs, Cams Lane Primary, Gorsefield Primary, Radcliffe Primary and Chapelfield Primary Schools.

Under the GMCA "Places for Everyone" Joint Development Plan there will be some 3,200 new homes built on Green Belt in Radcliffe by 2039. It is hoped that infrastructure will be created to accommodate the extra population. There is currently widespread opposition to the plan which is seen by objectors as depriving the poorer residents of Radcliffe of open green spaces.

Radcliffe is divided into three local electoral ward: Radcliffe East (location of St Thomas and St John's and St Mary's church buildings), Radcliffe West and Radcliffe North. Local Councillors are:

Radcliffe East: Carol Birchmore, Mary Walsh, Ken Simpson (all Radcliffe First Party)
Radcliffe West: Mike Smith, Glyn Marsden, Des Duncalfe (all Radcliffe First Party)
Radcliffe North: Andrea Booth, Donald Berry (both Radcliffe First Party) Jo Lancaster (Conservative Party)

The Benefice is located in the Parliamentary Constituency of Bury South for which the Member of Parliament is Christian Wakeford (Labour Party)..

5.1 St Thomas and St John's and St Mary's Parish locations rated according to Government Lower layer Super Output Areas (LSOAs).

While Radcliffe can be regarded overall as reasonably prosperous, whole town figures do not tell the whole story. There are still deprived areas. LSOA areas typically comprise between 400 and 1,200 households and have a usually resident population between 1,000 and 3,000 persons. The LSOA around a Church could be deemed to be a "catchment area" for the church. The country is divided into 32,844 LSOA's. The full (2019) data are available from https://dclgapps.communities.gov.uk/imd/iod_index.html

LSOA areas are graded according to the amount of multiple deprivation in the area and give a better indication of hyper local conditions.

The area around St Thomas and St John's church is rated 3,325 out of 32,844 for multiple deprivation. This defines it as one of the 10% most deprived areas of the country.

St Mary's fares slightly better with a ranking of 7,603 (due to the presence of modern private housing estates in the area) but this still puts the church in the 23% most deprived areas in the country.

5.2 Engagement of Churches with Local Areas

Community involvement includes: provision of occasional offices to members of the town community; a monthly Saturday Cafe at St Mary's and a weekly one at St Thomas and St John's churches; monthly churchyard clean-up with local voluntary groups at St Mary's; celebration services with local schools at both churches; support to Porch Boxes (a local food bank charity). St Philip's Community Centre (see later) is being run by St Thomas and St John's PCC with the co-operation of local councillors. It provides space for several local community groups including an addiction group, some mental wellbeing groups and the Royal British Legion. It is also used as a polling station in elections.

6.0 Schools and Voluntary Groups

St Mary's currently has links with Radcliffe Hall Primary School who regularly hold their celebration assemblies in the church. They provide displays of their work at the annual church Heritage Weekend.

St Thomas and St John's with St Philip's: St John's Primary School use the church for their Easter, Christmas and Leavers' services. Radcliffe Primary have also used the church for services. Clergy have attended St John's for assemblies and the like. Other local schools come into the church to look at the building, vestments etc.

At St Mary's Radcliffe Litter Pickers assist with a monthly churchyard clean-up. St Thomas and St John's has had visits from a local Organ Society (to play the historic William Hill organ). St Philip's Community Centre is well used by community groups and others. Both churches have links with local literary and historical societies.

7.0 Worship and Worshippers

7.1 Services

Sundays: Holy Communion 09.30 at St Mary's and 11.00 at St Thomas and St John's.

Wednesdays: Service of the Word at 10.00 either at St Mary's or St Thomas and St John's. Eucharist is celebrated when a priest is available.

Baptisms: Sunday 12.30 or 1:00pm at either church as required .

We use Common Worship Service orders. Services are held in English only. The normal vesture for ministers is alb, stole and chasuble or cassock and surplice (with appropriate liturgical colours). Both Churches consider their worship style to be "central".

7.2 Congregations

The congregation attendees for both churches are predominantly white middle class single females with some couples (all 65+) with only a few of working age. St Thomas and St John's have welcomed (mainly Iranian) refugees in the past but numbers have diminished as refugees move on.

At St Mary's 15 worshippers live outside the parish boundary. At St Thomas and St John's 16 worshippers live outside the parish boundary..

8.0 Church based Organisations and Groups with typical attendances.

Ladies Group 16 attendees monthly meetings (excluding July and August)

Mothers' Union meets monthly at either church or a member's home

Friday Friends 12 attendees (Bible Study Group) held weekly at St Thomas and St John's.

Intercessions Prayer Group 15 attendees held weekly at St Thomas and St John's.

We like to create a welcoming atmosphere and always offer tea and biscuits

9.0 Neighbouring Anglican Churches and Parishes and Ecumenism

We are active members of Churches Together in Radcliffe with other local Anglican Churches and Churches of other denominations. Other Churches in our area include two types of Methodist Churches, a Roman Catholic Church, a United Reformed Church, a Baptist Church and a New Life Church. The St Philip's Community Centre is used every Sunday by the Emmanuel Church of the Diocesan Antioch Network.

Services have been held jointly with other Churches and joint social action has been undertaken, when required, for example the provision of a monthly social and support activity for asylum seekers and refugees. A cooperative approach is also taken to fund-raising for Christian Aid Week. [See also under “Mission”]

10.0 Ministry

Parish Priest or ordained Ministers	0
Licensed Reader Emeritus and Focal Leader	1 (Irene Thirkell)
Authorised Lay Minister	1 (Janette Boote, ALM for St Mary’s (Prayer and Spirituality))

Vocation for lay ministry is fostered by support from the PCCs who provide them with a link to relevant Diocesan officers and also provide advertising literature on noticeboards and through a weekly notices sheet.

Members of the congregations are involved as welcomers, as lay assistants at communion services and with the healing ministry, in reading lessons, acting as intercessors and providing after service refreshments. In a wider context they serve the community through taking communion to the frail, both in care homes and in their own homes, in working with asylum seekers and providing regular support to a local food bank (Porch Boxes).

11.0 Mission

The Churches profiled here take their full place in our Mission Community. Representatives from the Team are on the following Mission Community task groups, which meet every other month:

- Prayers and Spirituality
- Serving
- Nurturing.

We are looking for a representative for the Growing Task Group. (See Mission Community Mission Plan later). The plan is to continue to focus on these areas. We recognize the need to extend and broaden our mission activities.

Both Churches have been working towards the Bronze ECO church award, with St Mary’s being recently awarded theirs. Both support Confirmation preparation and are involved in the annual Ascension Day prayer walks. We hold virtual prayer presentations at Advent, Lent and between Ascension and Pentecost (Thy Kingdom Come) as well as joint Mission Community services in person.

We have occasional joint church services and social events. Emmanuel Church (a church established within the Antioch [Church Planting] Network, Manchester) meets at St Philip’s Community Centre on Sunday afternoons.

11.1 Mission plans for the next three years

We plan that over the next three years both Parishes, working together, will have re-established themselves as an integral and relevant part of the community and church attendance will have improved as a result.

All outstanding building repairs and renovations at both Churches will be complete.

Both Churches are actively pursuing the Mission Community Action plan (see 11.0 above), which is summarised below.

Deanery: Bury and Rossendale **Mission Community:** Radcliffe and Whitefield **MC Leader:**

Donna Williams

MAP Areas **Actions**

Growing
 Actions to support the growth in people attending worship

For each parish to plant a new congregation aimed at growing younger
 First contact with Baptism Families developing better relationships/preparation
 Stepping stones in each church (to replace sermon to involve whole congregations in the discussions)
 Sharing good practice/ ideas to make the most of the church seasons

Nurturing
 Actions to support developing Discipleship

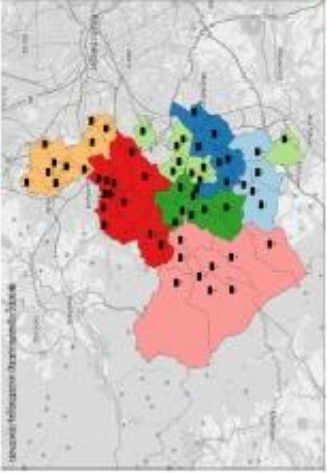
Mission Community led Basics Course - Completed
 Ongoing encouraging each church to run their own or another held jointly
 Exploring Prayer course monthly – as well as regular zoom prayers/prayer walks
 Better follow up with occasional offices focus this year: Baptism families

Serving
 Actions to improve environmental impact and serve local community

Focus on each church attaining Bronze Eco Awards
 Exploring Anna Chaplaincy throughout the Mission Community
 Supporting existing projects e.g. PORCH – St Andrew’s Food Pantry, breakfast clubs and CAP

Sustainability - Actions to support the Church becoming more financially sustainable

Looking realistically at the number of churches in the mission community



Parishes	7
Worship Centres	9
CE Primary Schools	6
CE Secondary Schools	0
LINC Funded Parishes	
Population 2020	67,498
Total All Age AWA 2021	656
Current Deployment (2021)	


THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND
 Diocese of Manchester

CHURCH FOR A DIFFERENT WORLD

12.0 Finance, Stewardship and Sustainability

Stewardship at St Mary's is currently being reviewed. Information on Weddings, Baptisms and Funerals is readily available.

St Thomas and St John's with St Philip's does not have a formal active Stewardship Campaign running at the moment but have made it easier for people to speak about arranging weddings and baptisms by running a weekly informal vestry hour at the church where people can just drop in to discuss things over tea and cake. St Mary's use digital giving to advantage and St Thomas and St John's plan to do the same.

In general, giving has dropped off as congregation sizes have reduced. The attached annual financial returns give a fuller picture. At St Thomas and St John's with St Philip's the number of regular donors to the Church has reduced in line with congregation numbers although some continue to contribute while not attending on a regular basis. While some donors have increased their contribution, many being on fixed retirement incomes have not. The Church has seen a slight upturn for collections at services. Perhaps this is in lieu of permanently increasing regular gifts in uncertain times.

The numbers of weddings, baptisms and funerals conducted at the churches have also decreased, reducing income.

12.1 Parish Share

St Thomas and St John's have paid only the assessed Parish Share once in the last 5 years, the last time being in 2019. We believe that St Thomas and St John's Parish Share had not been properly assessed in line with congregation numbers. In 2023 St Thomas and St John's paid 50% of assessed Parish Share (£14,151). Paying more would have eaten into church resources and put finances into a slow downward spiral. The Church does have cash reserves but it needs to maintain them to be put towards repair costs. Emerging from a Discussion and Agreement meeting with the Diocese, a figure has been agreed for 2024

St Mary's have paid their full Parish share over the last 5 years (except for 2021). The St Mary's 2019 figure of £19,312 was re-negotiated to ensure that an appropriate Share could be achieved and the day to day costs of the church could still be met. The assessed share in 2023 was £13,200 which was paid in full.

Both churches are committed to paying their Parish Share in full in the current year.

12.2 To what extent does the benefice offer financial support to home and overseas mission work, including projects, appeals, and charities?

For both Churches fund raising events are a regular part of life. There is always some form of fund raising going on such as quizzes, raffles, tombolas, Saturday Cafes, Cheese and Wine nights, Heritage Weekends, Easter egg hunts, cake, greetings card and book sales, fun days, lunches and choral and orchestral concerts. Special mention must be given to the St Mary's Summer and Christmas Fayres, regular favourites for many years.

Supported organisations past and present include MacMillan Nurses, The Alzheimers Society, The British Heart Foundation, Christian Aid, The Children's Society, The Church Missionary Society and the Valerie Taylor Trust. Local charities supported include Porch Boxes, Liv's Trust, Women of Worth and Trinity Food Bank Radcliffe.

12.3 Parish Officer Posts

As mentioned before, neither church has a full complement of parish officers and recruitment is difficult. We need to swell congregation numbers taking in more younger people to have a larger pool of potential volunteers to draw on. Full support will be given by the respective PCCs to train, nurture and develop any volunteers.

13.0 Our Buildings and picture gallery

Radcliffe, Parish Church of St Mary

St Mary's has existed since at least 1202 as a Norman Church and likely earlier as an Anglo Saxon church before.

In 1966 the Church was designated a Grade 1 Listed Building by English Heritage; and recorded as Church of St Mary and St Bartholomew.

Over the centuries, there have been a number of restorations and additions to the church, the last being in 1903, which left the church very much as it is today. The interior of the church still retains several medieval and post-medieval features.

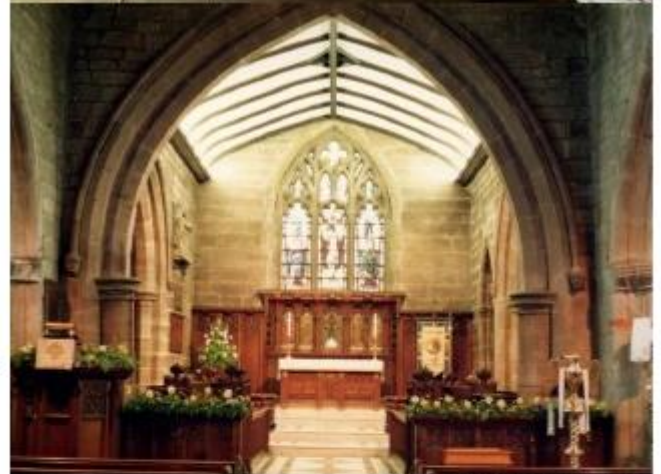
In 1991 the parish entered with the parish of St Thomas and St John into the new Benefice of Radcliffe and the church adopted its present name. St Mary's is recognised and known as The Parish Church of Radcliffe, as seemingly has always been the case.

On Boxing Day 2015 the church was flooded to a height of five feet when the River Irwell burst its banks, which resulted in the church's closure for four months. Throughout that period the congregation joined with that of St Thomas and St John's for services, bringing both congregations even closer together.

As a result a shared midweek service of the word is still undertaken at each church on alternate weeks. Remedial repairs and improvements have been carried out, with the aim of bringing it to a state superior to that before the flood, enabling the Church to be more community focused.

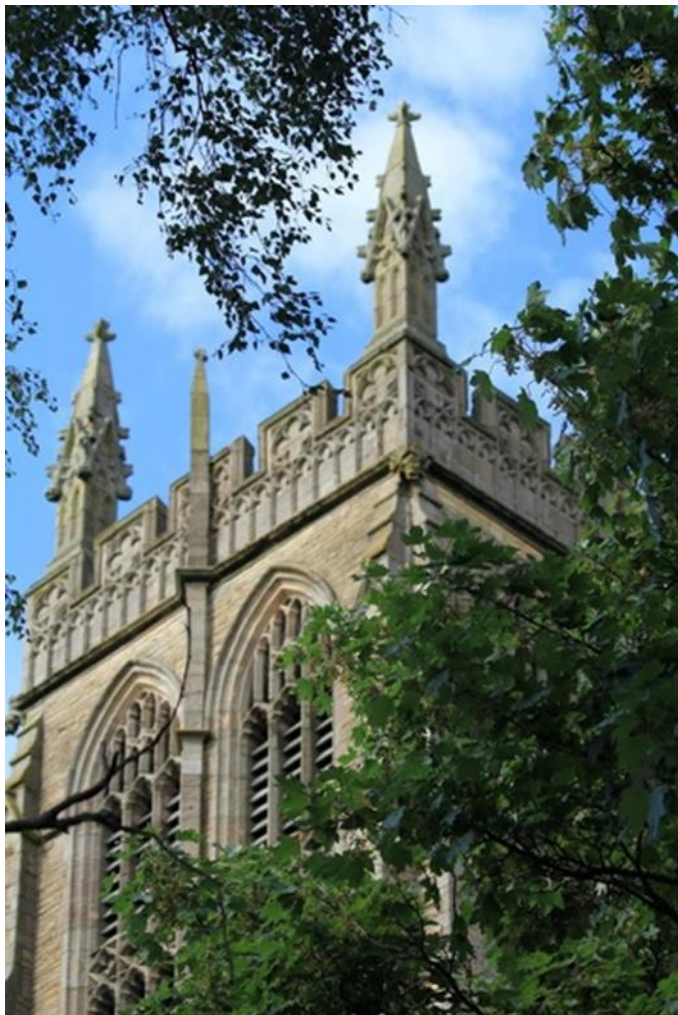
St. Mary's has a peal of eight bells with a tenor of 15 cwt. They are reputed to be the nicest toned bells in Lancashire. They were hung c1827 and re-hung in 1921. There is currently no team of dedicated ringers although we are often visited by groups of bell ringers who come to ring a peal on our bells. The clock is set to chime on the hour and quarter hour throughout the day.

A monthly churchyard clean-up takes place with the support of Radcliffe Litter Pickers, a local community organisation.



Pictures from St Mary's





Radcliffe, Parish Church of St Thomas and St John

The first Church of St Thomas was built on the present site in 1819.

In 1862 the first church was demolished and rebuilt in the Gothic style, with the tower being added in 1871. In 1974 the church building became the centre of worship for the new parish of St Thomas and St John with St Philip's. It is a Grade II listed building.

Major renovations were carried out in 2000 with further renovations due now. The church houses a historic Victorian organ built by William Hill, installed in 1904, which once resided in York Minster. It has been awarded a Historic Organ Certificate Grade II*.

When Radcliffe Town Hall was closed and Radcliffe became part of the Bury Metropolitan Borough the Civic window was rescued and is now installed in the church.



Pictures from St Thomas and St John's



St Philip's former Church and Community Centre

In 1914, St Philip's was built as a mission church of St Thomas's. The mission church was demolished in 1976 and replaced with St Philip's Community Centre - while still retaining its status as a centre of worship for the Parish of St Thomas and St John with St Philip.

It was closed during lockdown and was refurbished and opened again in late 2022. It is self-funding and makes a positive contribution to Church funds

It has full bar facilities, a kitchen, a spacious main hall holding 100 people and a comfortable lounge for 25 people. In the winter months it provides a "Warming Hub" for people who are worried about the rising cost of energy bills and those facing social isolation with a chance for a chat with tea and biscuits.

In the Summer months the Centre runs a regular coffee morning

The Centre is run by a group of community minded volunteers acting on behalf of the PCC.

Since re-opening the Community Centre has shown steadily increasing levels of bookings and we have high hopes for the future.

The Centre serves the local community providing a venue for worship, parties, exercise classes, fundraising events, and meetings of local groups and societies such as the Royal British Legion, Rotary, and addiction and self-help groups.

