

Diocese of Manchester

Deanery of Manchester North and East

Reddish Combined Parish Profiles

The Reddish team will consist of three parishes each with their own worshipping space, they have been working together to provide a Rota of lay and ordained services thus far. They each have their own style of worship, Lay as well as 2 PTO's have provided cover allowing each church to function and grow. Two of the churches have joined the Inclusive Church Network and the third wishes to do so once an appointment is made.



Thank you for taking the time to look at our Parish profile for the Reddish Rector post. The Rector will have primary responsibility for leading the parish in mission, for nurturing new disciples and for discerning with the PCC the way forward for all our churches. They, with the Laity will put in place sustainable patterns of gathered worship and consistent pastoral care. If, after reading the Parish Profile, you have questions, then please contact the Ven Karen Lund Archdeacon of Manchester for an informal chat phone 07909 231 280 or email archmanchester@manchester.anglican.org

Context of the Benefices

The district known as Reddish.

The benefice is in the metropolitan borough of Stockport but within the diocese of Manchester.

The recorded history of Reddish begins at the turn of the 13th century when it was documented as "Redich". Reddish remained a predominantly rural settlement throughout the medieval period, but expanded to become a mixed industrial and residential area during the 19th century. It developed rapidly during the Industrial Revolution, and still retains landmarks from that period, such as Houldsworth Mill.

Broadstone Mill was partly demolished, but now houses small commercial units.

Regeneration efforts at Houldsworth Mill were instrumental in Stockport Council winning British Urban Regeneration Association's award for best practice in regeneration. £12 million has been spent to convert the mill into mixed use. The area around Houldsworth Mill is now designated as a conservation area.

The area flows naturally into 3 areas, though is accessed along one main road;

North Reddish

Houldsworth Square

And **South Reddish** also historically known as **Heaton Reddish**

Stockport as a whole performs relatively well economically, with a high proportion of high-value jobs compared to other towns and cities in the region, although it is important to note there are quite extensive pockets of severe deprivation throughout Reddish.

The incumbent for St Marys Reddish will also become a trustee of the Alms Houses on Gorton Road, though discussions are taking place to remove this responsibility from the incumbent and have in place local trustees.

ST Agnes Church: North Reddish



St Agnes is seeking an Incumbent.

We are an established, active Parish of mixed ages, predominantly over 50's, based in an area of urban living with housing of both private ownership and rented occupation. The Parish boundaries encompass Reddish in Stockport, Gorton in Manchester and Denton in Tameside. The Parish population was 13,087 in 2015. and, although we are predominantly White British, we welcome diversity in all its forms.

There is a Garden of Remembrance at the front of the church but no graveyard.

The church and church hall are easily accessible for disabled parishioners with a hearing loop installed in the church.

We are looking forward to the next chapter in the life of our Parish with a priest who will encourage us to further share in the ministry of St. Agnes.

Our location

Reddish is a densely populated area which is situated 2 miles north of Stockport and 4.6 miles southeast of Manchester city centre. The B6167 , Gorton Road/Reddish Lane, is the main road through Reddish (the Church is located on it). The A57 for Manchester or the M60/67 junction at the north and Stockport and the M60 to the south are accessed from this route. The motorway links mean that the North West coast, including Southport and Blackpool, the Lake District, Saddleworth Moor and the Pennines and Peak District are all easily accessible.

The main bus route is the high frequency 203 which runs from Stockport via Reddish and Gorton to Manchester City centre.

Trains from North Reddish Station run to Manchester Piccadilly and New Mills, with some trains continuing to Sheffield.

Manchester International Airport is 13 miles away.

Manchester Velodrome can be reached in 15 minutes.



4 parks are situated in the Parish -
Debdale Park, Gorton covers 45 acres and is one of Manchester's largest inner city parks. It includes an Outdoor Centre, members bowling green, tennis courts, football pitch, skate park and 2 reservoirs licensed for fishing. The Fallowfield Loop Cycle Track starts there.

Granada Park, Denton has football pitches, bowling green and children's play area.

Thornley Park, Denton is a small floral garden with a war memorial.

North Reddish Park, Reddish has a bowling green, tennis courts, football pitches, games and play area. North Reddish Community Centre is located there.

The Mike Doyle Centre is the clubhouse for the junior football teams of Reddish North End FC and Reddish North End Ladies FC together with training and playing pitches.

Local Amenities

Two doctor's surgeries, a clinic, 1 dental surgery, 2 chemists and a Ladies Gym are all located within the Parish.

Along the B6167 there are many shops, which include food outlets, hairdressers, nail bars, barbers, newsagents, Post Office, household supplies, estate agents and a bathroom and plumbing supplies store. Stockport Timber is located to the rear of North Reddish Station. There is a small Asda supermarket together with several smaller supermarket stores and four car repair or sales garages. There is a long established Workings Men's Club and The Bulls Head pub is now a commercial premises.

The Avery and Station Road Trading Estates are trading estates with a variety of businesses. These include the North West's leading paper and plastic recycling company, a leading engineering subcontractor who specialises in design and manufacturing solutions and a provider of Italian food and wine.



Spey House and Jubilee Court, situated opposite each other on Gorton Road, provide Extra Care Housing of 1 or 2 bedroomed flats.

The housing stock is mainly terraced or semi detached houses, with some flats and detached

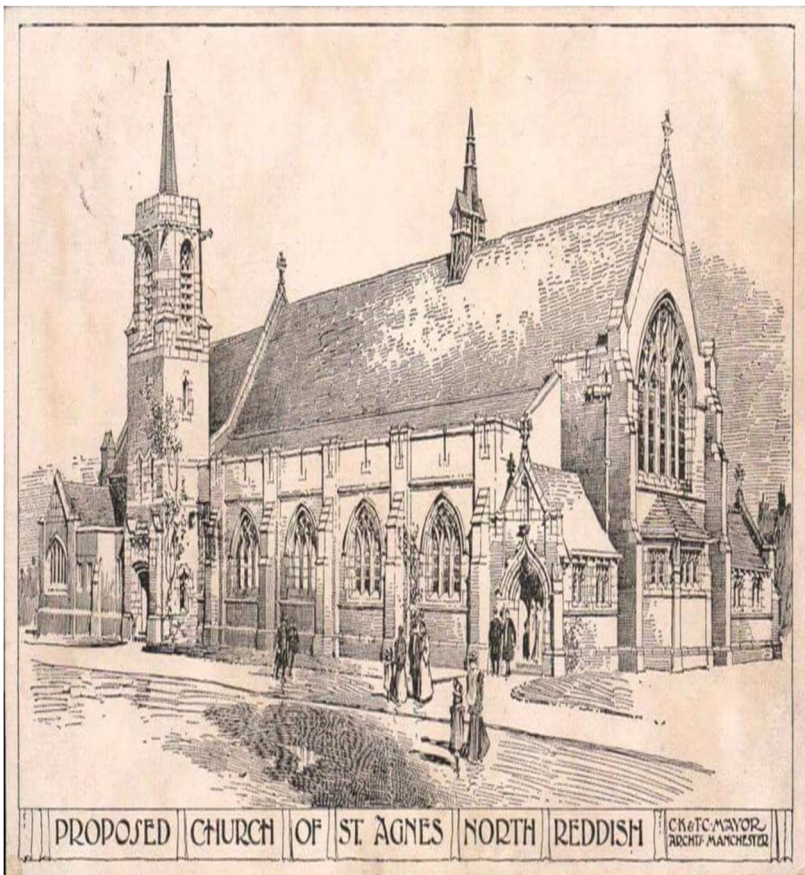
Houses. Some of the housing was built in the late 1800's for the local workforce of the now demolished Furnival's ironworks. There are also some newer pockets of housing development built during the last 25 years.



Our History

St Agnes North Reddish was constructed in 1908. The church style is Edwardian with Arts and Crafts influences. The building is constructed of common facing brick and terracotta dressings with a slate roof. The church is surrounded on four sides by roads. One of these being the main route from Stockport to Manchester. The surrounding two storey red brick terrace houses reflect the working heritage of the community who have and continue to worship at the church.

In the Autumn of 1880 Rev Addison Crofton, Curate in charge of the District held several meetings with a group of gentlemen from North Reddish. On the 3rd Sunday in Advent St Agnes Mission began in a room above a slaughterhouse. The opening service at 3.30 p.m. was attended by 91 people. Two years later an iron building was sourced from Didsbury to accommodate the growing congregation and was known as the Iron Church. A brick Sunday School was built in the side street 8 years later and was also used as a centre for social activities.



In 1900 fund raising began to purchase land on which to build a new church and in 1902 the Parish of St Agnes was formed.

By 1908 the church of St Agnes was built at a cost of £6,000 and consecrated on December 3rd and the Rev Spencer Gibb became the first Rector.

Sir William Henry Houldsworth, a local mill owner, donated the organ in 1913.

A Parochial Building scheme was launched in 1928 to fund the completion of the Church, build a Parish Hall to accommodate the Sunday School and for Parochial use and to build a Rectory. This was

accomplished over the next 10 years.

The boundary wall of the church and a Lych gate were built by 1952.

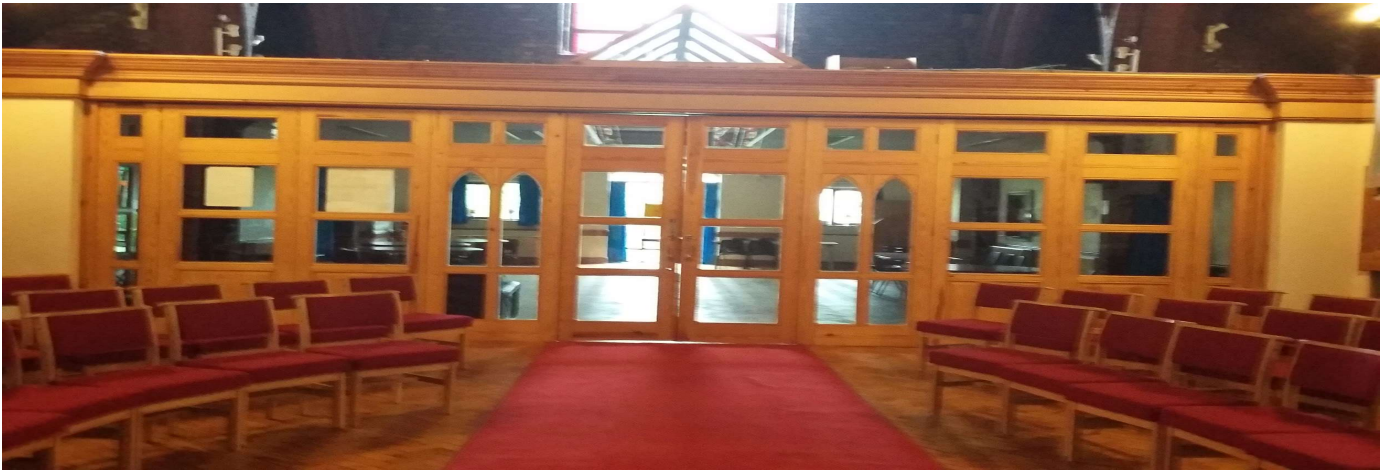
In 1967 the PCC decided to complete the West end of the church, including a 40 foot high stained glass window.

The Garden of Remembrance was consecrated by the Bishop of Manchester in 1977.

The Parish Hall was demolished and houses built on the land.

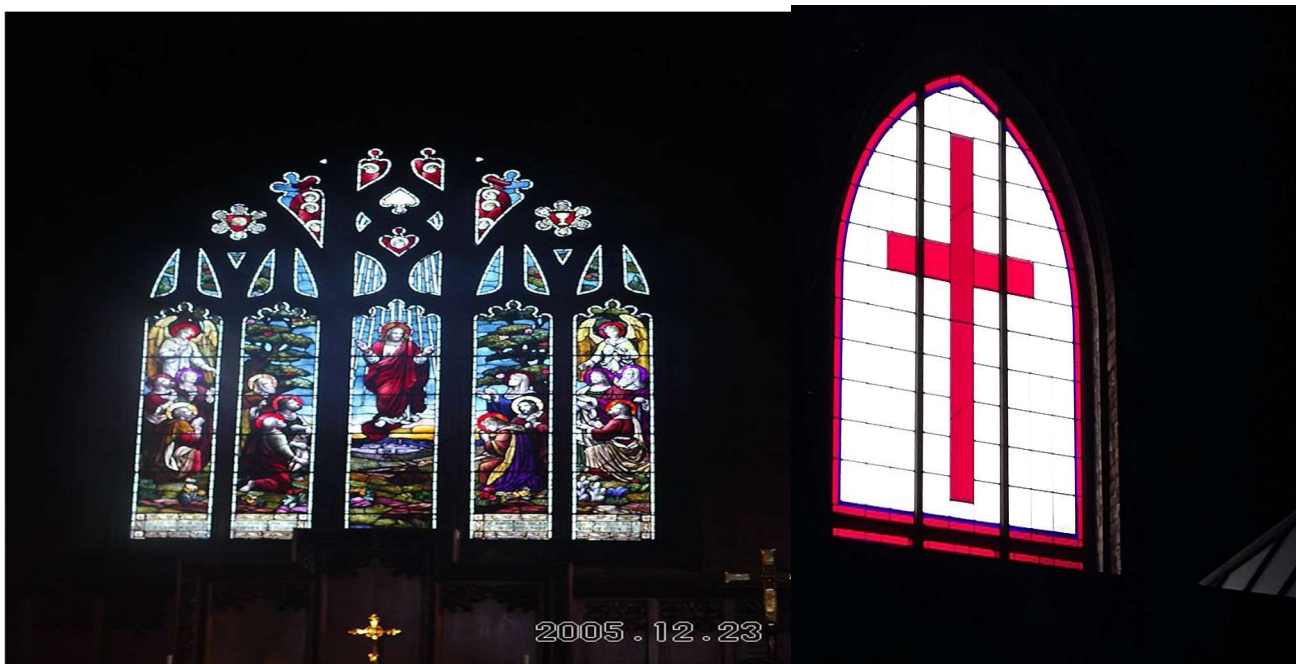
The West End extension had to be redesigned in 1992 to incorporate a church hall within the

building and was rededicated by the Bishop of Hulme.



In 2008 the Church celebrated its centenary with a series of special events culminating in a birthday service with the Bishop of Middleton.

In the past St Agnes' has benefitted from the generosity of the congregation who contributed to our beautiful stained glass windows, electric lighting, altar rails, the wooden screen across the Lady chapel, candlesticks and hymn number boards.



The original uncomfortable wooden pews have been removed and replaced with comfortable red chairs.

Our worship

St Agnes welcomes Christians and those who seek to understand Christianity. Our aim is to make contact with and encourage others to join us in our life enhancing Christian journey. We are a friendly, open church community where we welcome others to join us in our worship and service to God. Our emphasis is on learning and understanding the Bible and following the example of Jesus and his followers. We are a welcoming, inclusive congregation who are comfortable with engaging and interacting with the liturgy. As a community of faith endeavouring to engage with the 21st century in our time, place and space we are searching for the God within us, between us and beyond us.

SUNDAY

10.30 a.m. **Holy Communion.** This service includes hymns, prayers, readings and a short address. It uses progressive, contemporary liturgies within the framework of and structure of **Common Worship.** Members of the congregation participate in the reading of the lessons and assisting when necessary.

Currently we light what is called the **Care Candle** which displays

A RED AIDS/HIV RIBBON as a reminder of the 42 million people worldwide inflicted with the disease.

A PINK CANCER RIBBON as many of us know others who are living and dying of Cancer.



A GREEN ENVIRONMENTAL RIBBON to remind us of everyone's responsibility in caring for the world in which we live.

A YELLOW DEMENTIA RIBBON reminds us of all those living with Dementia and their carers

BARBED WIRE to remind us of the work of Amnesty International.

During the service we have moments of silence, prayer and the service prior to the pandemic concluded with a Circle of Love of blessing where the congregation joined hands in a circle for the blessing. We hope to resume this in the future.

As part of our inclusiveness in worship the Bread and Wine are distributed first to those with mobility problems who need to remain in their seats.

After the service people gather in the hall for light Refreshments.

An average of 25 adults and occasionally children attend.

ST AGNES DAY

St Agnes Church is named after a young girl who was martyred for her faith in about 304-305A.D. at the age of 12 years. A present day interpretation on her life story was that Agnes was a victim of the most horrendous abuse. For St Agnes Day on 21st January each year (or the nearest Sunday to the 21st) we acknowledge the part we play in abusing others with and without intention.



INTERNATIONAL PEACE DAY

September 21st is International Peace Day and we have held events on or close to this date to celebrate and promote world peace. Local school children have been involved with some of the activities, including writing messages of peace on dove shapes. This is something that we are hoping to reinstate in the future.

EASTER DAY

On Easter Sunday as part of our celebration of the Resurrection we 'Flower the Cross'. This involves members of the congregation bringing flowers which are placed onto a large wooden cross covered in oasis which transforms it into a cross of flowers. The Cross remains outside the church throughout the following week.



CHRISTINGLE SERVICE

On Christmas Eve in the afternoon we hold a Christingle Service. This is well supported by local families. The children receive a small 'goody' bag, put together by our congregation. In 2019 the service attracted 43 adults and 37 children. We are having a Christingle service this year which is our first since the pandemic.



Our Congregation

We have an ageing congregation which is mainly female and over 50. Some have family links going back over 2 or 3 generations. We welcome the vulnerable, the lonely, the stranger and asylum seekers. There are several families with young children who, when they attend, give an added dimension and joy to the service. Members of the congregation actively participate in housekeeping, hospitality and liturgical ministries.

The number on the electoral roll is currently 34. 30% of our worshippers live outside the Parish boundary.

Members of the congregation gave reasons for attending St Agnes and the most frequently stated are shown below in no particular order:-

“Family links”

“It’s friendly”

“I find solace there”

“Welcoming to new people”

“It’s my spiritual home”

“I found comfort and support in times of bereavement and stress”

“It’s inclusive of people”

“Caring”

“Open”

“Continuity”

“I find hope, love and inspiration”

“Inclusive service that involves everyone”

Individual parishioners make regular contributions to a variety of charitable organisations as part of their commitment of faith. In spite of our current financial struggle, the congregation as a community has supported

The Children’s Society - by donating the Christingle collection

Leprosy Mission by collecting used stamps

Re:dish is a local charity which aims to improve the lives of everyone by promoting a co-operative and cohesive community. We collect food for the Foodbank and donations for the charity shop.

Fair trade/Rainforest Alliance - we use their tea and coffee for our refreshments

Amnesty International on our Care candle

Macmillan Coffee Morning

MISSION AT ST AGNES

St Agnes has a Mission Action Plan which we are working to implement and develop. We are a congregation whose desire is to make our hearts, hands and our doors more open and our faith more deeply rooted in Gospel values.

As part of the Diocese of Manchester St Agnes’ exists:

- to provide a Christian community where those who seek a church family, whatever their age, race, gender, sexual orientation or emotional status are made welcome and made to feel part of a loving community.

- we provide a Eucharistic setting where people may find a space where they can worship the God who calls us in Christ and where, through interaction and sharing in the liturgical experience, they may find the loving support of those who share that worship and a safe space to be increasingly who God created them to be.
- to be a hub where those who profess faith in Jesus, may together provide support, resources and welcome to the immediate community and, in His name, material support to those in the wider world whose needs are greater.

In 5 years St Agnes would like:

- to be an even more committed Christian community whose faith is fed by liturgy and shared with the community through increased action and service.
- to be still a worshipping community where responsibility, 'ownership' and service is a hallmark of our common life.
- to be involved in our local schools.
- To have completed the building work outlined as priority in the Quinquennial 2017 and to have a five and ten year plan of maintenance in place.

Parish and Deanery

St Agnes feel that our plan connects with and enhances the mission of the Deanery as follows:

- our attention to maintaining the particular nature of our liturgical life and practice means that the Deanery can offer a wide range of church experience so that all may find a church family where they can feel comfortable
- our endeavour to be involved with non-church schools is a way of making the Christian churches in our neighbourhood more visible.

WEEKLY ACTIVITIES

SUNDAY	Arts Central Drama Group for children
TUESDAY	Evening Elegance Dance Studio for Adults
WEDNESDAY	Dementia Friendly Cafe began in May 2016 and is part of the RE:DISH Initiative. It is run by local volunteers for people with dementia and their carers
FRIDAY	Crafty Social Congregation members meet to make craft items to sell at Church Events
Evening	Monthly the church holds a Film Night attended by church members and people from the local community and another type of fund raising event.
SATURDAY	Elegance Dance Studio for Children

SOCIAL LIFE

There are a number of varied, social activities that take place throughout the year in the church hall, enabling not only the congregation but also others from the local community to take part.

These have included -

Old Time Musical Hall

Quiz Nights

80's Night

Afternoon Teas

Film Nights

Last Night of the Proms

Visiting Choirs

Murder Mystery Night

Brass Band concerts

Bingo nights with food

Andre Rieu evening

Hoe Down

Mad Hatters Tea Party

Strawberry Fayre

The congregation are keen to support and help with these activities which raise funds in support of St Agnes and Charitable organisations.

A Christmas Fayre takes place which includes a Christmas Cafe, stalls and children can pay a visit to Father Christmas in his grotto.

We have also had a Summer Fayre.



Our Neighbours



Reddish itself has 2 other Anglican churches :
St Mary's South Reddish and St Elisabeth's Mid Reddish,
off the Houldsworth Square area.

St Agnes, St Elisabeth and St Mary's hold a joint service
on the last Sunday of every month. This rotates around
each church in turn.

Within our Parish boundary there are 3 other churches of different traditions:
 Aspinal Methodist Church on Reddish Lane, Gorton
 Holy Family Catholic Church on Thornley Lane North, Reddish
 Rehoboth, The Redeemed Christian Church of God on Gorton Road, Reddish which opened in 2016.
 We would love our new priest to help us in working together ecumenically.

Local Schools and Voluntary Groups



SCHOOLS

Reddish Hall School, Reddish - specialist school catering for 5-18 year olds. Open in May 2016 located in the ex North Reddish Junior School.

Little Green Day Nursery, Reddish - for 3 months - 5 years old
Oasis Academy Aspinal, Gorton - the school have had services in the church
Dane Bank Primary School, Denton
Denton West End Primary School, Denton
 We would like to find new ways to re-establish a relationship with young people.

Some Statistics for 2022

In March 2022 the Bishop of Middleton confirmed 10 members of our congregation. We recognise that an area of growth is to find ways to nurture and develop followers of Jesus through Bible study groups and discipleship courses.

Average Weekly attendance	ADULTS 25	UNDER 16	Occasional
Easter Communicants	36	Christmas Communicants	18
Baptised	ADULTS 1	UNDER 16	3
Marriages	2	Funerals	
6	Burial of Ashes	4	



Quinquennial Inspection

Our last Quinquennial Inspection was in November 2017. We have been working to undertake the repairs and changes outlined.

We have already undertaken substantial repairs including a new boiler for the church and kitchen, removal of pigeons from the bell tower, stopping the ingress of water to the corridor and toilet area at the East of Church, raising the height of the step to the boiler room and clearing and repairing drains by the boiler house, some of the repointing work outlined has been undertaken. We have completely refitted the kitchen in the Church hall area to make it more fit for purpose.

General maintenance for the upkeep of the building has continued but we still need to carry out repairs to our lych-gate in the future.

Parish Share and Stewardship

St Agnes is proud to have paid their Parish Share in full up until the time of the Pandemic. We are contributing as much as we can to our Parish Share and hope in the future to be in a position to once again pay in full.

Our next Parish Priest

GIFTS AND SKILLS

To take us on the next stage of our journey we are looking for someone

- sincere and committed with strong leadership qualities both spiritual and practical
- able to motivate, inspire, challenge and develop others in Christian service
- an enabler and facilitator who will continue to encourage and work with lay members in our congregations
- who can offer services for both traditional and progressive congregations
- has a preaching style that engages with the congregation by presenting the Gospel in a way that relates to everyday, local and global issues
- communicates effectively and is visionary and forward looking
- has an interactive ministry with all ages, both in the congregation and the local community
- kind, caring and compassionate who is able to get the best from people and help them to enhance and develop their individual qualities
- approachable and able to listen
- encouraging the growth of our work with families and young people



Some useful information

Principal Church: St Agnes

Patron: The Bishop

Archdeacon: The Venerable Karen Lund

Tel: 0161 828 1423 or 07909231280

Email: karenlund@manchester.anglican.org

Manchester North and East Deanery

Area Dean: The Reverend Helen Scanlan

Tel: 0161 320 7244

Email: helenscanlan@manchester.anglican.org

Mission Community 4

Churchwardens: Val Cathcart
Andy Stewart

Our two representatives appointed under the Patronage (Benefices) Measure 1986 section 11 (1), or otherwise are Andy Stewart and Val Cathcart

Church seating capacity: 130 which is flexible due to the dividing doors and chairs.

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, or

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

NO RESOLUTIONS HAVE BEEN PASSED

St Mary: Heaton Reddish



WE WELCOME YOU TO ST MARY'S CHURCH

St Mary's is a traditional church with a growing Church community. We are wholeheartedly inclusive, with plans to join the inclusive church network. Our church is a beautiful building and we encourage lay and ordained ministry. Our mission is to reflect the joy and love of God, to share the presence of God with those around us and to serve our community and school.

Looking forward

St Mary's has been in vacancy for nearly seven years. The congregation and PCC are grateful to all who have supported the Church, especially during times of loss and challenge.

We now look forward to developing our links with St Agnes and St Elisabeth and we warmly welcome the incumbent to guide us in our mission and ministry in South Reddish.

THE PARISH

Completed in 1864, St Mary's is the oldest church and oldest building in Reddish. It is located in the community of South Reddish.

In addition to residential housing, our parish includes industrial estates, 4 schools (1 secondary, 3 primary including St Mary's Church of England Primary School), a historic cemetery and the Reddish Vale Country Park by the River Tame.

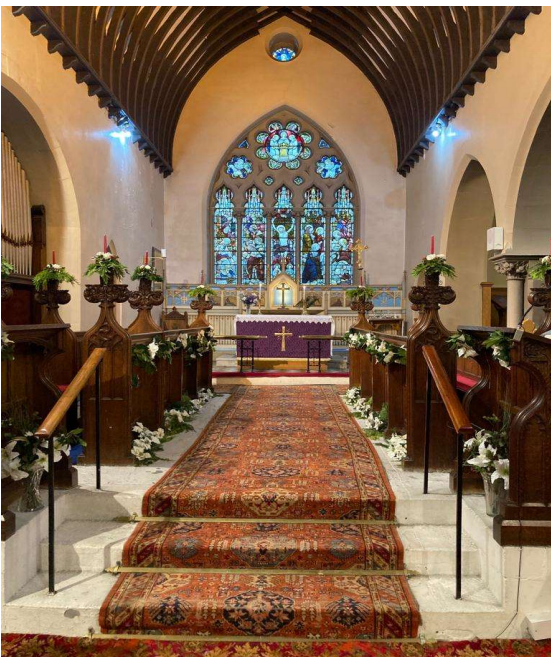
Over this last year, our relationship with the community has grown, especially with St Mary's CE school, a pre-school nursery, Stockport Music Project for young people, the charity Re:Dish <https://www.redish.org.uk/about-us>, Reddish Foodbank, local businesses and supermarkets.

THE CHURCH

Inevitably, the fabric of our period church requires repair and maintenance. We take seriously our responsibility to care for it and ensure the church serves the community for years to come. Necessary repairs to the guttering in 2023 may require grant application. The last quinquennial inspection was four years ago.

Entrance to the church from the main road is through a lychgate and along a level path to the modern foyer with accessible toilet.

St Mary's has the feel of a village church, surrounded by landscaped grass and trees. It will soon have a wildlife garden with a bug hotel which was designed by pupils at St Mary's CE School. Together with the nursery school children, they will assist with planting this coming Spring.



Christmas preparations 2022

Electoral roll: 46 in 2020 54 in 2023

Ecclesiastical tradition: Traditional/broad church, mostly CW and occasional Songs of Praise.

Vestments: Cassock, alb, stole and chasuble for Eucharistic services.
Cassock and surplice for other services.

Music: Bluetooth enabled speaker is effective, with mobile device.
Sound system recently overhauled and rated excellent.
Organ needs attention, no organist at present.
Piano for some services



Steel pan band, Jubilee service, June 2022

Sunday Worship:

(All services at 10.30am)

1st Sunday Service of the Word : Lay leader

2nd 3rd Sunday Holy Communion : Clergy from Reddish churches/ Mission Community

4th Sunday Joint Holy Communion with St Agnes and St Elisabeth (venue rotates)

5th Sunday Holy Communion or Service of the Word

The new incumbent may understandably feel concerned to learn that many of the regular congregation are retired. We hope the incumbent will not feel daunted, as we are feeling hopeful. Younger and older people are equally involved in preparing worship and managing the church. During 2022, we had a series of Special services. These were popular across all ages in the community, including children. Teamwork and commitment from our worship teams were key to their success.

Weekday Worship:

Currently none.

During vacancy, no new services could be introduced. The PCC would like to explore some suggestions: for example, Summer Afternoon Family Worship or Wednesday HC/Morning Prayer in the Hall, preceding the “Warm Space” coffee morning.

Attendance figures:

Christmas 95 in 2019 191 in 2022

Easter 35 in 2019 25 in 2022

(2022 Priest had Covid on Easter Sunday morning. Easter Service of the Word was lay led)

Average week October 22 in 2019, 32 in 2022 (no Wed morning HC in 2022)

Usual Sunday Attendance 25 adults, 2 children in 2019, 23 adults 2 children in 2022

Since April 2022, four 4 younger adults have joined the congregation and electoral roll.

Occasional services

Baptisms 15 in 2019 23 in 2022

Weddings 0 in 2019 0 in 2022

Funerals 9 in 2019 4 in 2022

School services: St Mary’s CE Primary School

October 2022 Harvest: two services, 190 children plus parents, carers and staff

December 2022 Christmas: one service, 130 children plus parents, carers and staff.



School Harvest service October 2022

Church Staff members:

No staff members.

The three Reddish churches have two retired clergy who assist in very many ways, including presiding at Holy Communion. We are grateful for their support and we also appreciate the help from the Area Dean and Archdeacon of Manchester.

St Mary's has a lay worship leader who is also a pastoral worker and school Foundation Governor.

Lay involvement:

St Mary's Church is blessed with many volunteers from the congregation who work as church welcomers, vergers, Bible readers, and members of a cleaning team and gardening team. Service of the Word and other Morning Worship services are led by the lay worship leader, with assistance from members of the congregation. We hope that with the support of the incumbent, there will be opportunities for lay worship training.

Examples of 2022 community worship

SUNDAY 05 June

4

Morning Worship: JUBILEE 'SONGS OF PRAISE'

How pleasing to see so many in Church from the local community in celebrating HM Queen Elizabeth's 70 years of service. The event turned out to be very successful despite the rain and the Steel Pan Band played a large part in making the service a truly joyous occasion enjoyed by everyone. Following Morning Service, our celebrations continued in the Church Hall where everyone gathered to enjoy refreshments amongst friends.

SUNDAY 21 August

Morning Worship to remember UKRAINE and our Ukrainian guests who have come to Reddish

A service of readings, prayers and songs held especially for the people of Ukraine and in recognition of their Ukrainian Independence Day which they commemorated on the 24th August.

Pastoral Care:

Several members of the congregation offer pastoral care to those known to the church and also to those not known. Home Communion is shared by the lay worship leader. The PCC plan to establish a pastoral care team.

In the church newsletter and on Facebook and “Church near You”, people are invited to contact us, with the message that the Church of St Mary is here for everyone.

Follow up contact is made with all baptism families.

SCHOOL

St Mary’s Church of England Primary School, Broomfield Drive, South Reddish

<https://www.st-marys-reddish.stockport.sch.uk/>

Since April 2022, we have enjoyed renewed engagement with our church school. Current joint work includes the appointment of a Foundation Governor, nominated by the PCC, and a proposed summer 2023 event supported by St Mary’s school, St Mary’s church and our local charity Re:Dish.

The lay worship leader as a Foundation Governor meets regularly with the Headteacher. Preparations are being made for the upcoming 2023 SIAMS inspection. The Foundation Governor walks the school “safe street” at home time, talking with parents and carers. We are currently in discussion with the Headteacher for an Ash Wednesday service in school and a Holy Week trail in church. The lay leader has been invited to contribute to school worship and class RE.

The school attended St Mary’s church for their 2022 services at Harvest and Christmas. These services were supported by members of the PCC and the lay leader.

Headteacher (appointed September 2022)

The Headteacher warmly welcomes the new incumbent to South Reddish and offers these hopes for their engagement with St Mary’s School:

“To provide ongoing support and resources necessary for the spiritual growth and development of each pupil at St. Mary’s Primary School.

To support the school by planning a programme of collective worship, develop prayer and ensure that church seasons are publicly and creatively celebrated.

To lead assemblies, formal acts of worship, and special services, such as Harvest Festival, Carol Services and the Leavers' Service.

To be a familiar face to the whole school community and a regular and welcome visitor".

Example of Morning Worship to celebrate the school

Sunday 03 July 2022 : Thanksgiving for ST MARY'S SCHOOL

This Sunday morning service had the special focus of our school of St. Mary's. It was an opportunity to celebrate the school, staff, pupils, Year 6 leavers and parents and particularly their Headteacher who was retiring and who had expressed that it was her wish for her work with the children to be held before God and celebrated for that.

HALLS

The Parish Hall was built in 1964 on ground adjacent to the church. It is single storey, fully accessible, with two halls, two meeting rooms, kitchen, kitchenette, toilets and access to garden area.

There is a car park, which requires re-surfacing and the PCC have this in their sight. There is a dedicated Halls Manager who oversees the lettings and fabric of the building and does very much more besides. There are two exclusive-use rentals in rooms of the Halls: An NHS community Diabetic Eye Screening service and a pre-school OFSTED approved nursery. Community groups have regular bookings in the main hall, including a music group for young people supported by Stockport Council. There are also private parties and social events.

Church-led social events are numerous and part of the public face of our mission. The events are varied and have a clear message for all age groups: we are your Church, come to the Halls and have fellowship and fun.

And people are coming and returning, with friends.

The Halls are a vital source of income for the Church as well as a loved place. Two of the weekly Church groups are supported by Warm Space funding from Stockport Council: the popular Wednesday morning coffee and "Singing for the Brain" music sessions which start early summer 2023.



St Mary's Halls on right of photo: built 1964
Recent church-led social events in the Hall:-

03 September 2022 : 'HOE DOWN'

The first Social Event arranged by the new Church Events Committee was a huge success where both the young and old came together and enjoyed a dose or two, a spot of line dancing and even a Virginia Reel and square tango thrown into the mix to add to the fun. Everyone enjoyed themselves and it was great to see that many of those present were from within our local community. The event raised £450 for the Church.

15 October 2022 : 'PRE-CHRISTMAS FAYRE'

Nursery toys were kindly donated to the church, after the death of a former church member. The family requested that the proceeds go towards a new church noticeboard. The money raised included a donation from a Quiz Night and totalled £527.

26 November 2022 : 'AUTUMN FAYRE'

A tremendous turnout from the community, so many people came and the work of local crafters and other creative stalls all made for a huge success, the event raising £800 for the church.

ECOLOGY

Bats: August 2022

St Mary's church was selected by the charity "Bats in Churches" to survey the church for the presence of bats. Children from nearby families took the lead with advice from a Lancashire Bat group. A video bat detector monitored any bats in the church and the children had audio detectors to listen for bats flying outside in the evening.

The result?

No bats roosting in church, but lots of bats in the church grounds, possibly roosting under eaves on the North side of church.

And happily we all know much more about Bat ecology !

Landscape around the church:

The church grounds afford many opportunities to raise ecology awareness with all age groups. Children from the school Eco Council spoke about their work at the church Eco-Harvest Thanksgiving in October 2022.

A local branch of "Men in Sheds" is assisting with the wildlife garden construction and also making a bug hotel, working with children from school and the nursery. The Church has applied for an Environmental Grant from a local charity.



Eco Harvest Thanksgiving

2022

The PCC, the Church and the future

The 2022 APCM resulted in a reinvigorated PCC for St Mary's Church. Elected to the PCC were three new members, including the Churchwarden and assistant Churchwarden. The new PCC resolved that the priority this year was to take the Church out to the community and out to the school, to be a presence and a witness in South Reddish. The Church Events team was established and also teams who care for the church and the grounds. Hard work, building up good relationships and a lot of fun have given us hope. In turn, we hope you have sensed this as you read through this profile.

"St Mary's is on the map again" is a repeated phrase in the community.

However, we have only just begun and we share with you what we need your help with on the **road ahead**:

1. To deepen how we take the presence of God out to the community. We hope we are being a loving and spiritual presence. Our mission is to care for all, to be seen to care for all, particularly when there are challenges or we find it hard to care. However, we need help from the incumbent to become people who share the Gospel of reconciliation and to sow the seeds of faith.
2. To understand that it is not just increasing footfall to church, although it is partially that. At baptisms and community services, people are coming to church who have not been before or not for a long time. Nearly everyone has a story to tell: how they love St Mary's but have never been inside the church, or they used to come as a child or they have loving memories of family who worshipped at St Mary's. These connections often seem to be a vehicle for their own search for peace, hope and faith. We look forward to the incumbent guiding us to be more creative with worship, to make it fit for those who wish to come, but are not sure.
3. To remember that we used to say "but they don't come to church" as if somehow the community was at fault. It is fair to say that we now have more understanding of our part, that we need to reimagine what we offer. We hope the incumbent will help us to encourage those who are at the doorstep of faith and do not know The Lord's Prayer or traditional hymns or how a church works. This may also include offering introductory Start and Alpha courses with other churches in the Mission Community.
4. To help us minister to those who are hidden, at the Foodbank, parents who are struggling, residents in care homes who have no visitors and the young people who come to STOMP.
5. To review our management of the Halls, as an income source as well as a mission source, to consider the cost/benefits of our pattern of lettings and to canvass the views of community representatives.

Our next Incumbent.

We realise that being priest in charge of three parishes must feel a huge undertaking. St Mary's Church will offer you every support in the challenges which lie ahead. We also look forward to new ways of working with St Agnes and St Elisabeth and the other churches in our Mission Community.

St Mary's hopes for a **creative incumbent** who

- : is outward facing, down to earth and able to connect with the community of South Reddish
- : is warm and approachable
- : listens
- : is enthusiastic and flexible
- : has the energy and vision to grow the church in the community and in the Church
- : is willing to try new approaches

If you feel overwhelmed at what you have read, remember that we do not expect you to walk alone.

We will be walking together.

If you would like any further information or a recent copy of St Mary's bi-monthly newsletter, do please contact our churchwarden:

cwstmaryschurch@gmail.com

or 07879 121360



In prayer and voice: Away in a Manger at the Christingle Service, with children at the Christmas tree

Grade II Listed Almshouses: erected under the will of the late W. W. Prescott.
The incumbent of St Mary becomes a trustee of the almshouses and chairs the meetings.
Though there are ongoing discussions about relieving the incumbent from the board of trustees and replacing them with local people who have a vested interest in the buildings and area.



St Elisabeth: Reddish

Worshipping God: Celebrating Life: Embracing our community



St Elisabeth's is a vibrant and growing Parish Church community, firmly rooted in the Catholic tradition, and wholeheartedly Inclusive. Our church is a beautiful building, and the central focus of our worship is the Eucharist. Our mission is to live lives which reflect the joy and love of God, to share the good news of God's love with our neighbours, and to be active in prayer and service within the community.



The parish setting

St. Elisabeth's lies at the heart of Reddish, a former 'model mill town' now incorporated into the urban sweep of south-east Manchester/Stockport. Built through the endowment of two Victorian philanthropists, Reddish is still a bustling community with traditional family values, centered on the churches, schools, shops, mills and worker's clubs.

According to mid-year figures in 2015 the parish population was 11,542, and largely white British, but recent redevelopment of a large mill into apartments, and some new building will have increased this to nearer 12,000, with evidence of more affluent families and young professionals choosing to live here, along with an increasing diversity of cultures and nationalities.

The majority of the housing, however, is Victorian terraces, small 3-bed semi-detached houses, and local authority housing, some of which is now privately owned.

According to the 2015 Index of Multiple Deprivation, the parish falls into the most deprived 10-20% of all parishes ranked by IMD. There are particular pockets of deprivation within the parish, where debt, substance abuse, anti-social behavior and long-term unemployment continue to affect children and adults.

Though undoubtedly urban, the parish and immediate surrounds contain large pockets of green space; the area immediately around the Church is a Conservation Area; Reddish Vale Country Park borders the parish; the Peak District hills are visible, and Wales and the Cheshire Plain are easily accessible.

The parish is at the heart of the recently delineated "Houldsworth Village" and within its boundaries lie St. Elisabeth's CE Primary School, 2 retirement homes, a large supermarket, a thriving Roman Catholic parish church and school, two large sports complexes, and a mix of high-street shops and businesses. Excellent bus links to Manchester and Stockport are making Reddish a popular and affordable choice for working people, and a train station, located just outside the parish boundary will take people into Manchester City Centre in minutes.

In 2014, St Elisabeth's founded a community charity called Re:dish. Now a thriving Charitable Incorporated Organization, with 3 full time paid employees and over 80 volunteers, Re:dish has recently been awarded the prestigious Queen's Award for Voluntary Service, in recognition of its engagement in the community. Re:dish remains an important strand of the mission and ministry of St Elisabeth's.



The Church

St Elisabeth's Church is a Grade 1 listed building, a virtual cathedral, endowed by Sir William Henry Houldsworth in 1883. It was built for high-church ceremony, and today it is home to a diverse and Inclusive Catholic Anglican congregation, made up mostly of local people, who are both proud of, and dedicated to, their Church.

We are an open, welcoming and wholeheartedly inclusive community, a place where the talents of all are appreciated and encouraged, where children play an active part in church life, and where collaborative leadership is practiced.

Vestments are worn for liturgy, incense is used on feast days, the Blessed Sacrament is reserved in the tabernacle, and there is an emphasis on ritual, symbol and beauty, peace and silence.

Yet music plays an important role in our worship. We have an active and talented choir, a wonderful pipe-organ, and an even more wonderful organist and Director of Music. A wide range of musical styles enhance our worship every Sunday, including an all-age Worship Band once a month. Common Worship is used both for our Sunday Eucharist and for Daily Prayer, we have had the influence of Iona liturgy coming through in midweek, we are looking forward to that being incorporated once more.

Junior Church had met during the Parish Eucharist on alternate Sundays, with Family Eucharist, and a Messy Communion, once a month, and a variety of social activities for children and families. However, since Covid this has not been reinstated but we would be looking at beginning something similar in the future.

The continued restoration of our large, lovely building is always a focus; a legacy has allowed us to restore wooden and tiled floors, to adjust the lay out of pews to create more flexible social space, and to restore our unique and significant 'Stations of the Cross'. But the church is not a museum, it is the home of a living, evolving, growing and diverse community. It is a place of welcome for a range of weekly events, and community social

nights. St Elisabeth's has also featured extensively on TV recently, being the venue for the ITV 'Carols at Christmas' programme, and a 'Songs of Praise' favourite.



THE PATTERN OF SERVICES

SUNDAYS

- There is one Parish Eucharist on a Sunday, at 10.30am, with an average congregation of 35 adults.
- Baptisms often follow the Eucharist on Sundays, with an average of 40 baptisms per year.
- On the 4th Sunday, we worship with the parishes of St Agnes and St Mary.

MIDWEEK

- On Tuesdays, we are used to having a eucharistic service in the morning, followed by Places of Welcome, which we hope to begin again once we have a new Rector.

OCCASIONAL SERVICES

- Baptisms (32 in 2022), Weddings (12 in 2022) Funerals (11 in church in 2022, and Interments (14 in 2022).
- Midweek Feast days were often celebrated with Solemn Eucharists.

MAJOR FESTIVALS

- Christmas attendance for 2022 (Eve and Day) was 197 Adults and 91 children.
- Easter attendance for 2022 (Vigil and Day) was 200 adults and 9 children

- Easter Experience and Easter Messy Church 41 children and 75 Adults in 2022



PCC'S VISION FOR THE FUTURE OF THE CHURCH

Worshipping God: Celebrating Life : Embracing our Community

Despite our impressive building, the congregation sees itself as very ordinary, yet is beginning to recognise the gifts of a huge number of its members. Following a recent process of reflection and prayer, the PCC has begun work on its Parish Mission Action Plan, and identified its new priorities of action - in a local context as apathy, disinterest, lack of purpose, and community isolation

Our aim is to be 'a growing, diverse church community that reflects Jesus Christ by being Inclusive and Equal

Joyful in worship and prayer

Encouraging of one another's faith

Confident in our beliefs and identity

Responsive to our community

Mutually responsible

Financially sustainable

Careful stewards of the building and

Increasingly lay led.'

We actively support the work of our community charity Re:dish, we make our worship increasingly accessible yet still beautiful, we have an inclusive 'open-table' policy at

Communion, and we use the church building in the heart of the community to create shared experience and a sense of belonging.

There is plenty more to be done, but enthusiasm is high, and we are learning all the time.

THE IMPACT OF RE:DISH

Over the last 8 years, the development of Re:dish has impacted the parish and the clergy team, bringing us face-to-face with an increasing number of vulnerable people in our neighborhood, and with the tremendous community spirit that exists here. Volunteering in the Foodbank, the Dementia Café, the Shop, the Green Café or the visiting programme has given many of us opportunities to serve and reach out to people with God's grace and love. Re:dish began at St Elisabeth's, became an Ecumenical project, and is now very much a community charity based on Christian and co-operative values. A Vicar at St Elisabeth's could play a creative role in helping shape the next phase of the work of Re:dish.

Schools

There is a Church of England Primary School within the Church complex of buildings, which has recently gone through some testing times. The children used to come into church weekly, there is an open invitation into school, and relationships with the Head and Staff are good.

Three other Primary Schools lie just over the Parish border, they use the Church regularly for visits at Christmas and Easter, and welcome us into their Schools.



And in conclusion

St Elisabeth's offers a unique combination of Catholic, Inclusive and Collaborative strands of ministry. With frequent occasional offices, a prayerful and beautiful liturgy, along with substantial opportunities for mission and community engagement, there is much potential here.