**St Thomas Henbury and St John’s Macclesfield**

St Thomas and St John’s formed a new benefice only fairly recently.  They have worked reasonably well together and certainly have collaborated thoughtfully during the vacancy.

They are very different parishes.  Henbury is a small village in the heart of the Cheshire countryside.  St John’s serves the urban estate on the western side of Macclesfield built in the 1960’s and 1970’s.

In the last few months conversations have been taking place with the rural parishes of mid Cheshire to the west of Henbury and a separate conversation with the Churches of urban Macclesfield, as to how we might re-configure parochial structures to enhance mission.  At the present time those conversations have not been concluded but ideas have been forming slowly.  It is likely that a proposal will come forward within a few months to work towards linking Henbury with the parishes of Chelford and Marthall and for St John’s to be linked in with one of the other parishes in urban Macclesfield.

We are hoping therefore to make an appointment of an interim Priest in Charge for an initial period of two years to lead the mission in the two parishes and to work with the parishes to facilitate a good change, if these proposals are accepted.

It is therefore important for anyone coming in as interim Priest in Charge to understand that they will have a significant role in developing a good outcome.

Living in the vicarage at St John’s, the Priest in Charge appointed would be in a strong position to be appointed to a permanent role in a restructured benefice in the future, but of course at this stage that cannot be guaranteed.