

The Parish of St Mark's

Dunham Massey



Reaching out to all in our Community+

Introduction



The Parish of St Mark's was built by public donations on land donated by the 7th Earl of Stamford and began building in 1866 and opened in 1867. Formerly parishioners walked to St Mary's Bowdon, our Mother Church. St Marks, is right in the centre of the village and is an integral part of our community of 14 farms, rented from the National Trust Estate and many cottages too. There are some homes now privately owned also, but all form part of our thriving community.

Our church welcome all who wish to worship with us and many who have attended weddings here continue to attend in our informal relaxed atmosphere style of worship with many of the congregation taking part in the choir, reading lessons, serving Chalice in Communion and even giving an address from the pulpit. A real community effort.

Services

We conduct a weekly service at 9.30am.

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| 1 st Sunday | Service of the Word and Family Service |
| 2 nd Sunday | Morning Prayer and Holy Communion |
| 3 rd Sunday | Sunday School in Geoffrey Seddon Room and Holy Communion |
| 4 th Sunday | Morning Prayer and Holy Communion |
| (5 th Sunday) | Morning Prayer and Holy Communion |



This beautiful, Rural Church, set in the centre of the village is attended by a wide range of age groups and also attracts many young couples who wish to be married here. There is always a type of Service to attract you.

Those who are married here can have their reception in the Village Hall or at several local venues to suit.

Weddings, Baptisms are arranged privately.

Funerals, Dunham Massey residents and regular church goers, on passing, can be interred in the village cemetery that is situated close to the Church if they wish.

Special services and years events at St Mark's

January	Orchard Wassail and blessing.	Plough Blessing Service
March/April	Easter Vigil	
May	Rogation and Blossom Walk, Rose Queen Festival	

Easter vigil



Blossom walk



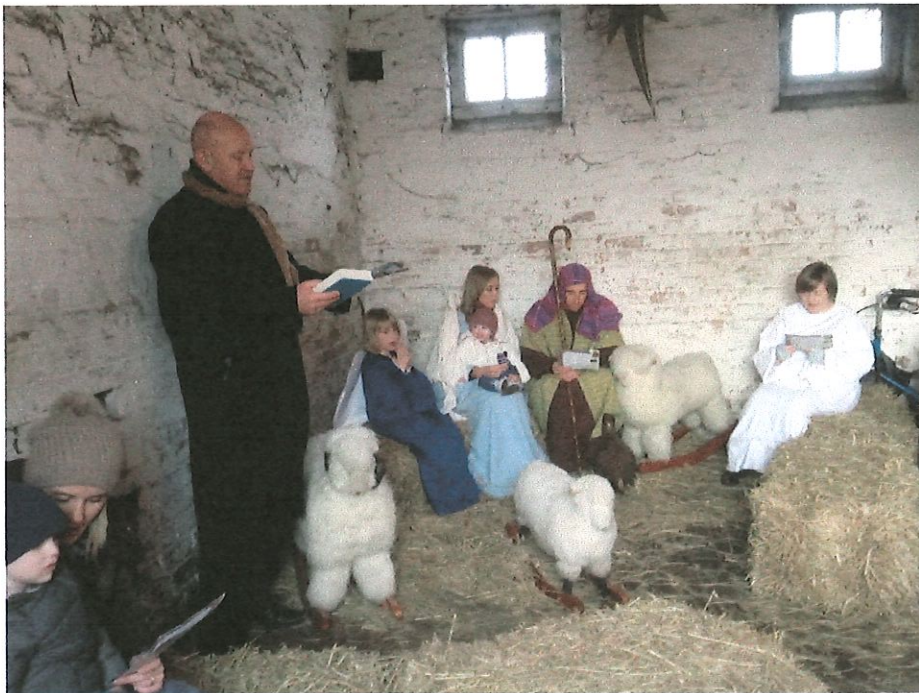
Remembrance day at St Mark's



Harvest loaf



Nativity in the stables



Wassaling in the orchard

Music

Under the Leadership of our musical Director, Ondria Williams, ARMCM Cert Ed, we have a small but enthusiastic choir who meet regularly on a Friday evening for rehearsal. They lead the hymn singing at our weekly services and often give choral contributions during worship. They particularly enjoy singing the anthems to help celebrate events during the Christian Year.

Our Annual Christmas Cracker concert has become a firm favourite with many in the congregation.

St Mark's Church



Is well maintained by our band of willing workers for cleaning and garden maintenance. Just recently our stained glass window has been professionally cleaned and the small leaded windows repaired and cleaned. All funded by generous donations from our congregation.

15 years ago our bell tower had structural problems and was replaced by a new fibreglass structure, again from generous donations and funding events.

The Geoffrey Seddon Room, adjoining church for small meetings and space for Sunday School and mid week reflection times.

As a joint Benefice, we share the Vicarage with St Margaret's Church, Altrincham. A modern family home on the edge of Altrincham, next to St Margaret's Church. Recently renovated for our new vicar. Walking distance to Metro link into Manchester.

Both churches have independent services and accounts and PCC's, as the churches each have a different character, Urban v Rural.

Fellowship at St Marks.

The Friendship Club for our elderly residents meets monthly at the village Hall and has been meeting since December 1975.

Associated with our church is the Men's Breakfast Group that meets monthly at The Axe and Cleaver, and use the event to support charities through fund raising at their meetings.



Fellowship time shared with coffee after morning Service

Our Annual Rose Queen festival and Fete in May, brings together all the village people with families and friends. Supported by all the village organisations for the afternoon. A procession of floats and dressing up parade for the children. A great afternoon together on the Village Green. Stalls of all kinds around the Green, tea and cakes in the Village Hall. Local beer and cider, local beef burgers from Young Farmers Club and teas from the Womens' Institute. What could be nicer than this in a village community.

Leadership at St Mark's

We currently have 12 members on our Parochial Church Council, 2 Deanery Synod representatives and 1 Church Warden and are seeking another. Members represent areas like Safeguarding, Church Fabric, Health and Safety, a Covenant Secretary, PCC Secretary and the Hon Treasurer. Parents of children run the Sunday School. We actively encourage people to be involved and have recently used a questionnaire survey so we can improve the service to our parish.

We would like our future incumbent to:-

- Be a good listener as well as a good leader and preacher of the Gospel.
- Be welcoming and engaging with our congregation.
- Enjoy Rural Traditions and Festivals.
- Be enthusiastic for growth and vision for St Mark's in our Rural Community.
- Have a good voice to give a good Christian message.
- Be willing to give Pastoral care to elderly in Parish and Friendship Club.
- Be able to delegate and have good communication skills.
- Be open minded about others faith/gender/science/politics/sexuality.
- Be welcoming and enthusiastic with children and youth.

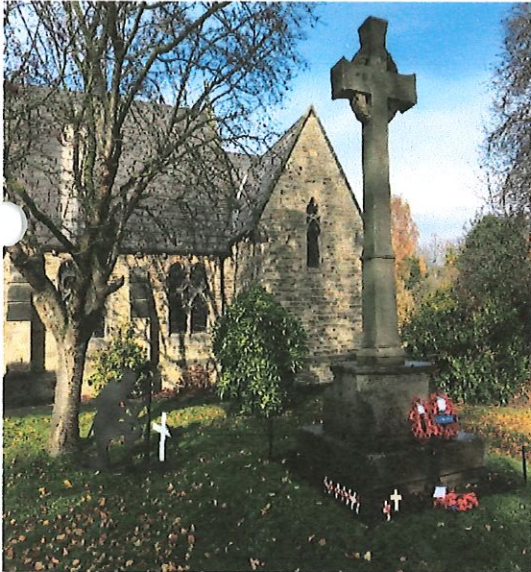
Information of Dunham Massey

Our Village is home to the National Trust property of Dunham Massey Hall, the parkland with open access all year round as a green space for the people of Altrincham and Greater Manchester and is one of the busiest properties of the National Trust in the North west, over 500,000 visitors pa. The 3500 acre estate has 14 farms covering dairy, sheep, beef, cereals, potatoes and apple orchards. Newer enterprises are Micro brewery, ice cream tea rooms and apple juice and cider production. 3 farms have stabling and livery for horse riders. walking distance from home.

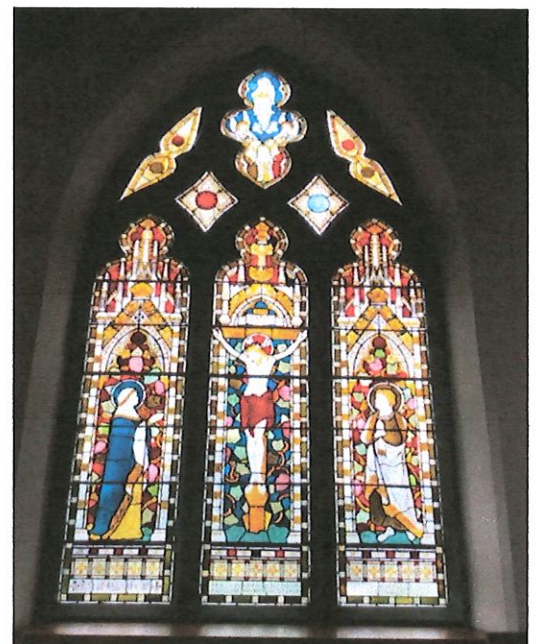
The Village Hall, formerly the Village School, has a large function room, stage, committee room and well supplied kitchen, lobby and toilets. It is used by several village organisations like, Parish Council, Dunham Massey Womens Institute and Young Farmers Club.

The pathways on the Bridgewater Canal give good walks from the village to Lymm (5miles) or to Timperley and Manchester (10 miles).

The old railway line now forms the Pennine Way for walking or riding giving safe nature walks to Lymm or to Timperley and Manchester.



Cenotaph Memorial to our village
Fallen in world war 1 and 2



East window after cleaning
and restoration

Transport

Our village is a little isolated from Altrincham, 4miles for shopping in supermarkets and banking. The area has good access to M56 motorway (3miles) M6 motorway North and South at Tabley (10 miles).

There is an half hourly bus service from Altrincham to Lymm that passes the gate of Dunham Massey Hall.

Schools

Village children travel to Bowdon for the primary schools of Bowdon Church of England , one of the best Church schools in the country. Altrincham Grammar schools for boys and girls and Loreto and Cestrian Schools have a very good reputation and places are much sought after.

Information of current Ofsted reports are available via weblink:

<http://www.trafford.gov.uk/residents/schools/schools.aspx>

Wellington Road Secondary School, Timperley or Altrincham College of Art, Timperley. As you can see, some of the best sought after schools in the country.

South Trafford College is within 4 miles for post GSE Education.



Stained glass window above entrance to Bowdon Church of England School.

Leisure

There is a village Drama group, The Dunham Thespians which has been going now over 100 years and puts on 2/3 shows per year in the village Hall.

Dunham Massey prides itself on having it's own Tennis Club tucked away out of sight of many but open to all who wish to play on it's 2 lawn courts.

A 10 minute drive away are the Altrincham Garrick Theatre, The Club Theatre putting on shows regularly and now 2 film Cinemas. There are numerous restaurants in Hale and Altrincham to suit every taste and country style of cooking.³

There is a squash club in Bowdon, golf clubs, both private and municipal, gyms, and locally there are several sports clubs for football, hockey, rugby and cricket.

I mustn't forget the 'Robbins', Altrincham's own football team playing at Moss Lane, Altrincham, and the Ice Hockey teams of Altrincham.

The PCC and the congregation of St Mark's are always positive in their worship and are enthusiastic when we try something new. The Rural Celebrations of Plough Sunday, Harvest Festival and Wassail are always well attended. Our Lay Ministry side is gathering strength with offers of joining in Leadership

Our congregation and the PCC are always keen that we maintain our building as the heart of the community and the support during the Interregnum has been phenomenal with support from all ages of the congregation.

Plan for the future

We have commenced connecting the various organisations in the Dunham Massey community regarding supporting each other.

We have addressed our congregation by voice and letter regarding finances, 7 extra Standing Orders from parishioners and extra giving in the envelopes showing and extra £290 from January 2019. We would forecast an extra £6000 on collections this coming year.

The challenges we face are huge but we are up for the challenge in St Mark's, the enthusiasm we witness is amazing.

We are considering a signpost for future weddings and a younger member of our congregation is willing to take on the role of Facebook editor.

Next week is the first PCC of the year, then we can begin to really plan our future at St Mark's.

Signed,

Alan Hewitt, Church Warden.

Selection of replies to our SWOT questionnaire of St Mark's, Dunham Massey.

Strengths

Fellowship in small Rural community and attractive Church

Location, welcoming, friendly

Good choir and organist, service caters for all ages, effective short service

Loyalty of congregation and the young families we attract

The Christian warmth felt as a new member

Strong sense of community

Passionate speakers from church

To be in the countryside, peaceful time in middle of busy life is a joy

Christmas toy service popular, generous givers.

Weaknesses

Having to pay equal share of Parish money with bigger church

Lack of weddings during Interregnum

Advertising events so poorly supported

Ageing congregation

Sunday school, keeping children as they get older

Communication. Need to work on Facebook/ emails for round robin to get to all church families for events and what happening this week in church.

Opportunities

Standing Order contributions, fund raising via community events

Could attract more for weddings in country location

Encourage more use of Gift Aid envelopes

Better links with National Trust and Village Organisations

Embrace modern communication, could maybe attract new church members from wider area

Threats

Ageing congregation and loss of church to community

Worry that vicar not replaced and/or appointing the wrong Vicar as he/she might change the character of the church.