

# Welcome to Sutton St. James



**Welcome to Sutton St. James**

**Who we are**

**About the Parish**

**About the Church**

**A View from a Parishioner**

**Qualities needed in our new Vicar.**



# Welcome to Sutton St. James.

We are the people of the Parish of Sutton St. James, comprising the 3 Villages of Sutton, Langley, Lyme Green and the surrounding areas, in the Macclesfield Deanery in the Diocese of Chester.



We are a lively and active parish located two miles south of Macclesfield, in the rural countryside of east Cheshire, near Macclesfield Forest and adjoining the Peak District National Park. Macclesfield Railway Station is a two mile walk away and is on the West Coast mainline. London is 1hr 50 minutes and Manchester is 20 minutes away on the train. There are fast links to Manchester Airport, the M6 and the motorways around Manchester to the North and South.

We are now seeking a new Vicar to serve our growing semi-rural community.

We are looking for a man or woman who is inspired by the Holy Spirit and who has a track record of developing ministry, worship, and the life of prayer within the Church; a Pastor who can reach out into our communities and encourage and support our laity in bringing the Good News of Jesus Christ to those who have yet to know him.

## Our Church is:

- regarded as warm and welcoming, and as befits its semi-rural location we have a variety of worship styles which are appreciated by communicants from a range of traditions
- valued by our community
- sustained by friendly, active and enthusiastic Wardens, PCC and a range of lay people who offer support and make contributions to church services.
- structurally well-maintained, and together with the church hall has undergone substantial refurbishments in recent years.
- in a community experiencing significant population growth

## Our Challenges for the Future:

- We have an ageing congregation who have been very committed for many years. Many are now affected by incapacity and age-related illnesses.
- We need to respond to God's call to further develop our mission and ministry for families and all age groups across our community and our growing population
- We need to build financial strength to ensure our future viability as a single church benefice



## About the Parish.

### Before

For nine years we have been part of a Benefice with three other more rural churches. This has not been without its challenges and after much consultation and prayerful reflection, it was agreed that St James should seek to return to being a Benefice in its own right. This would allow our new Vicar to focus on the needs and opportunities which present themselves within the Parish of Sutton.

### Now

We are a community previously with 1200 homes and a population of around 2600.

The population is anticipated to grow by approximately 40% with several developments of mainly family-sized homes now nearing completion.

Each of the three villages has a history and identity of its own, but also has a strong sense of being part of Sutton Parish, as demonstrated during the local response to a recent local government boundary review.

The Local Primary School, Hollinhey, is thriving with a school roll of over 200 pupils, drawing in children from the villages and other areas of Macclesfield. Sutton St James Pre School is located within the grounds of Hollinhey. Both sustain links with the church, and we welcome them for annual school Nativity services and other events.



Sutton Stores is a lively Shop, Post Office and Café. And six pubs in the Parish draw in people from inside and outside the locality.



There is one nursing home, Henning Hall and Rossendale Trust provide supported living care to those with learning and some physical disabilities.

There is a very lively Scout Group with Rainbows, Beavers, Brownies, Cubs, Scouts, Guides and Explorers who meet regularly in their headquarters in Church Lane. They attend occasional Parade Services and other commemorative events in the church.

There are a variety of village events throughout the year including Open Gardens, Hollinhey May Queen Parade, Gang Shows, Sutton on Stage, the Onion and Pumpkin Society contest and the highly competitive and well supported Sutton Flower and Vegetable Show and Scarecrow Competition organised by the Ex- Servicemen's Club.

Our Church Hall is home for local groups and organisations offering a range of activities for all ages. it is also used extensively for private parties. Other local venues include Langley Village Hall, the Scout Headquarters and the Ex-Serviceman's Club

Those who have lived in the community for many years have a great affection for the Church This is reflected by our annual Gift Day donations and the recent public involvement in a graveyard extension and 'quiet garden' project.

## About the Church.

The Church was built in 1841 on a hill in the countryside with Church School and Churchyard. It is a stone building, vaguely Gothic in style, with some interesting stained glass. A toilet and kitchenette have been added recently.

The Church seats about 180, and it is kept in good condition with the congregation contributing generously of their time towards maintenance, cleaning, flowers and generally making the place welcoming. It is open during daylight hours. Following a generous donation we have been able to install display monitors in the church. These are used to illuminate the service liturgy, and together with our highly versatile sound system offer opportunities for more creative worship and services celebrating life events.

The churchyard is well cared for with a mowing contractor and a very active maintenance team which meets every week.

We have parking for over 30 cars.



A new Vicarage was built across the lane from the Church in 2015. This has spacious eco-friendly accommodation for a family and includes four bedrooms and a study. There are also extensive gardens.

Our Church Hall, formerly the Church School, has been completely refurbished recently and includes a Parish Office, new toilets, display monitors and full Wi-Fi linking to the church. There is also a catering kitchen for which we are aiming to achieve five star hygiene certification.

Currently, our main Service is held on Sundays at 10-45am. Services alternate between Eucharistic (Common Worship), Matins (BCP), and All Age Worship with our Worship Band. There are two Sunday evening services per month – one of which is Evensong, and the other a contemplative service. Twice a month we also celebrate Holy Communion (C.W.) at a said service on Thursday mornings, followed by coffee and cake. LIFT (Living in Fellowship Together) meets once a month on Wednesday evening for café style worship, discussion and reflection.

It is anticipated that the new Vicar may wish to review these arrangements to meet new challenges and opportunities, and we would welcome working with them in this respect.





Our Church Hall is recognised as a “Warm Space” by Cheshire East Council. We have received financial support for our weekly cafe which supports the bereaved, and is also home to the Golden Memories Dementia Support Group.

The Macclesfield Deanery is currently comprised of nineteen Parishes. There are approximately twenty five active Clergy serving across the Deanery. The Chapter meets regularly, and Sutton is represented on the Deanery Synod. One of our Church Wardens is currently a member of the House of Laity in the Chester Diocesan Synod.

The town of Macclesfield itself offers a range of facilities to meet the needs of individuals and families. There are four High Schools, offering educational opportunities up to ‘A’ Levels, a college of further education and educational provision for those with special needs.



### More about our church-

Most Sunday worship is lead by our active traditional choir and two organists play the well maintained organ.

We have a very committed band of Bell Ringers ringing our 6 bells, which are considered to be amongst the finest in the Diocese. They ring for all services and practise weekly, including regular teaching sessions for new ringers. They recently rang a Full Peal to commemorate the Coronation of His Majesty King Charles III.

Sutton St. James Handbell ringers can be heard around the Christmas season, raising money for the local Hospice

During the week our two Small Groups meet to reflect upon the relationship of the Bible with our life here today.

Langley Lunch Club is a joint venture with the neighbouring Methodist Church. It provides lunch and fellowship once a month to older people throughout the Parish.



Macclesfield has a range of recreational facilities including a large leisure centre, a cinema, an amateur dramatics theatre and several parks. There are also numerous organisations devoted to music and cultural activities.

The town centre remains a popular draw with a variety of niche shops, cafes and bars and a monthly vibrant artisans’ market. Out of town shopping developments cater for everyday needs





## A View from a Parishioner

*"A new Vicar for Sutton needs to have the confidence and personality to engage with the differing age groups. The majority of residents do not attend church; however, they need to feel that they would know who the Vicar is, and be happy to say hello in the shop, the cafe or in the pub, or just walking around the village.*

*It is essential that whoever is appointed has the capacity to have a visible and meaningful presence in the community.*

*It is noteworthy that at a time of discussion regarding the extension to the existing graveyard, many in the community felt strongly enough to attend a public meeting in the church. The church is an important fixture in the village and whilst people may not attend a regular Sunday service, they value it as part of their community.*

*Many elderly residents, including the outlying farming community, value a traditional approach and at times some will need and value a visit at home especially when they are near to the end of their life on earth.*

*There are many, myself included, who enjoy a traditional service, good old-fashioned hymns and a thundering organ. Any new vicar needs to balance that with the different requirements of young adults and children, who are not always familiar with old ways and traditions, nor do they wish to be.*

*My other observation is that the new vicar has to have the experience, confidence and the ability to walk the path of conciliation within the church and the wider community.*

*The person appointed needs to be able to enable and delegate roles within the church to empower both individuals and groups to grow and develop. Not an easy task, but one that needs to be done in a manner that brings people on board and then takes them forward. As we know change is never easy, if it is done in a way that keeps people on board, things may develop in a good way.*

*At the end of the day our new vicar will be living in a lovely semi-rural community alongside people who are enthusiastic, friendly and willing to help each other. "*







## Qualities needed in our new Vicar.

We are looking for someone, with the following qualities:

A strong Christian Faith with a willingness to engage with the Diocese strategy to grow missional health and reach and to proclaim the Kingdom here and to come.

- Someone respectful of the past and confident to face the challenges of the future.
- A person who will enable, empower and encourage us all to use and develop our gifts and talents and who understands team working, communication and delegation.
- A person who can engage with IT and social media, its use in effective communication and its challenges and limitations.
- Someone who will love living here amongst us:
- **A good listener and friend**

## What we can offer

- A new church Benefice at the beginning of a new chapter in the church's worship and ministry
- A growing population of newcomers into the parish
- Opportunities to develop the church to meet current challenges and shape the future
- Support from lay volunteers
- Retired clergy to help as and when needed.
- Spiritual supervision from the Rural Dean
- Regular debriefings/support sessions with Church Wardens and PCC officers
- A modern, spacious vicarage opposite the church
- Easy access to good schools, transport networks and North West cities

**Come and join us!**