

PROFILE OF THE UNITED BENEFICE OF WINCLE, WILDBOARCLOUGH & BOSLEY

THE PEAK PARISHES



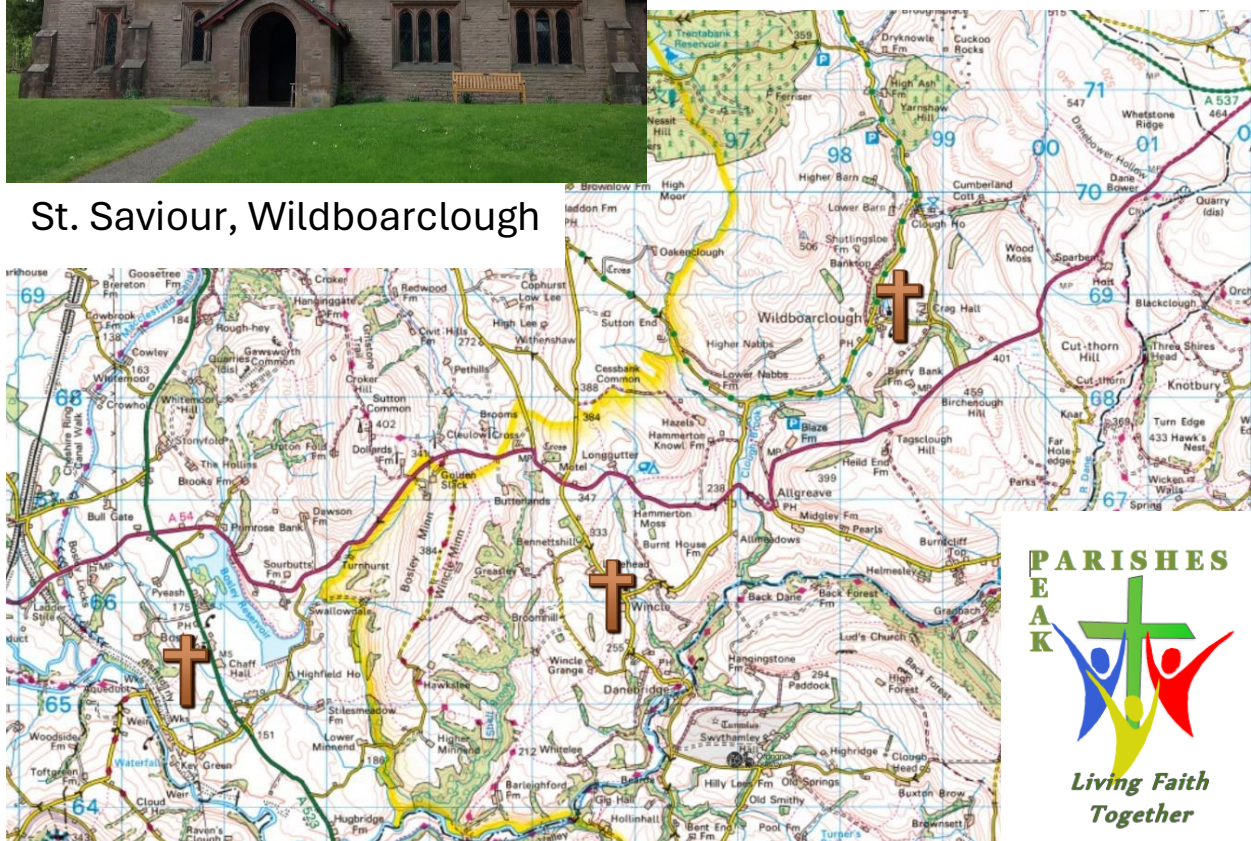
St. Michael, Wincle



St. Mary the Virgin, Bosley



St. Saviour, Wildboarclough



PARISHES
E
A
K



Living Faith
Together



The Benefice – An Introduction

Welcome to the United Benefice of Bosley, Wincle and Wildboardclough. We are excited to be forming this Benefice and look forward to working more closely as a group, sharing services and faith together.

We are a group of three rural churches connected in many ways; physically, historically and demographically. The Benefice spans the western edge of the Peak District, sharing a common landscape of rolling hills and rivers, connected by the A54.

We are looking for a vicar who will work the equivalent of 2.5 days plus Sunday, in exchange for a 25% stipend and living in a beautiful family sized vicarage. Based in the lovely village of Wincle, ministering to our three churches and taking an active role in the two village schools.

- ✚ Who are we?: A strong committed core of worshippers who are always seeking to grow in faith individually and collectively, but also keen to embrace the wider community in church life and as such we would like our vicar to provide clear and communicative leadership, having the skill set to inspire others to follow and join the Christian journey.

Ideally someone who has the motivation to unite us with a vision across the benefice ***“Where there is no vision, people perish.”*** [Proverbs 29:18]

- ✚ Village life: The life, work styles and tradition of our villages run through the very core of our regular congregation, but we are also mindful of embracing changes to secure the future of our faith, community and churches for following generations. Therefore, our new vicar should be willing to immerse themselves in rural lifestyle with enthusiasm. As the Peak Parish Benefice, we aspire to shine forth as three gems in our hillside communities, united in the ministry of care, celebrating life, faith and love.
- ✚ Schools: The benefice has two primary schools with approximately 113 pupils combined, providing wrap around plus primary care and education. OFSTED has highly rated them. Both headteachers would like to forge stronger links with the churches and each other.

- ✚ **Safeguarding:** To create a safe and secure environment for all. The benefice has recently undergone a DBS/Safeguarding course. This is something we take extremely seriously and we are fortunate that Bosley Church has a Safeguarding Officer who is qualified to organise face-to-face courses for us.
- ✚ **Interconnection:** The trio of churches have already formed a solid working relationship under the previous benefice where we have shared 5th Sunday services, Plough/Countryside and Rogation Services over a number of years. We are all quite independent, but also interdependent by supporting each other in our united services and seasonal celebrations.
- ✚ **Benefice walking route:** We are in the process of developing a Peak Edge Pilgrimage-type walking route with the intention of an information corner in each of the churches, where the pilgrims can read of the history and the saints of the church and there will be a stamp for them to seal their journeys completion at each church.

Administrative Hub:

- ✚ (1) We have formed an administrative hub for the benefice in the form of a **Benefice Coordinators Group**. This will consist of Churchwardens, Treasurers and Secretaries who will disseminate the information from the PCC's to the new incumbent, thereby releasing the need for the new vicar to attend all PCC meetings.
- ✚ (2) The second arm of this hub is the **Benefice Church Service Team**: a member from each church appointed to anticipate and organise the service needs for the Benefice as a whole.
- ✚ (3) We have started to set up a **Benefice Website** profile on "AChurchNearYou" to give quick and easy access to services and activities throughout the three parishes.
www.achurchnearyou.com/benefice/09-281C/

Current Service Pattern:

1st Sunday	2nd Sunday	3rd Sunday	4th Sunday
All Age Service	Holy Communion	Holy Communion	All Age United Service
@ Bosley	@ Wincle or Wildboarclough	@ Bosley	Rotating between the 3 Parishes
		Morning Prayer	
		@ Wincle or Wildboarclough	

At special celebrations (e.g. Easter, Harvest, Christmas) each Parish will retain an individual service, utilising retired clergy and lay readers when necessary.

We are open to change in our service pattern when our new vicar joins us. We are flexible with times of services in this new Benefice grouping, working together to find compromise and solutions.

The vicar we want:

- ✚ Opening the church up to a wider community: Embrace creativity and change but remain faithful to the Bible's teaching of the love of God in our Lord Jesus Christ.
- ✚ A fresh perspective: as a newcomer to the area new eyes are able to assess the potential and encourage growth.
- ✚ Strengthen the link between the C of E primary schools and the church: For example the All Age Service at Bosley, currently once a month on Sunday mornings, could be moved to 5pm in order to meet the time table of family life where Sunday mornings are often filled with sport commitments. These services could be led by some of the children including playlets, art, music, bible readings. This opens the door to children having the opportunity to understand what it means to be a Christian. It will give them the chance to explore their relationship with God in a secure and encouraging environment.
- ✚ Warm Welcome: We could use one service a month, perhaps after the All Age service offering afternoon refreshments, or a coffee morning after a morning service to welcome newcomers to the village or older people on their own. People can socialise, feel engaged and a sense of belonging to where they live, or perhaps want to live.
- ✚ Increase number of attendees: Hopefully as a result of the above All Age service we could look to organise a Messy church or Worship workshop once a month rotating the churches so we encourage more adults and children.
- ✚ Pastoral Care: Visible in the community and visiting the local bereaved/ sick in their hour of need.
- ✚ The ownership of a car and the ability to drive would be a necessity.

Attributes in the vicar we want:

"A pastor and teacher who will equip the people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up" (St Paul)

- ✚ A dynamic person with a strong faith in our Lord Jesus Christ, who is guided by the Holy Spirit.
- ✚ Excellent communication skills and an engaging individual that people will want to approach in times of need, or to share their worries.
- ✚ A willingness to understand our community and area. To be socially active and be prepared to join in.
- ✚ Experienced orator, comfortable leading different styles of worship to all comers. Happy within the school environment and engaging with children.
- ✚ Receptive to our PCCs who are friendly and outward looking as well as our congregation and schools.
- ✚ An open and welcoming manner and a keen sense of humour!
- ✚ Motivated to unite your own newly formed benefice which leads to having a vision across the benefice.
- ✚ To invest in setting the culture for the future of our church.

Bosley St Mary's CE Primary School

www.bosleyschool.co.uk



In September 2021 we joined the CDAT (Chester Diocesan Academies Trust) family of schools, which has provided us with numerous opportunities for growth and collaboration. We are proud to have retained our 'Good' rating in our recent Ofsted inspection in March 2023.

We are a small rural primary school that is guided by the words in Philippians 4:13 ***"I can do all things through Him who strengthens me"***.

We are proud of our rural heritage and welcome children from Bosley, Macclesfield, Congleton and Leek. The school is fully inclusive, and we actively work to promote wellbeing and mental health.



Our aims and requirements for the next vicar:

- ✚ Our new vicar to be young at heart and wise of head – age is an attitude!
- ✚ Be willing to lead, develop and grow our spirituality and Christian distinctiveness. We need a leader, guide and counsellor.
- ✚ Aim to lead at least one worship a month and perhaps be involved in some of our wider activities.
- ✚ Using the church as part of the school week.



- ✚ The inclination and aspiration is for the schools in Bosley & Wincle to work and worship together. The "how" is unclear at present, geographically and practically, but there is a definite wish to do this in the future.

Our School Values

We use 'Bosley Bear' to help us remember our values:

Believe - Being the best we can be

Encourage - Encouraging each other to shine

Achieve - All joined in love and friendship

Relate - Reaching for the knowledge to

Service - Succeed and flourish in God's love



Although small in size we are inspired by
John 10:10 ***“Life in all its fullness”***.



Wincle CE Primary School



*Wincle School creates an enriching and outstanding rural education, nurturing the whole individual: body, mind and soul, inspiring rounded, happy, courageous children **who shine in all that they say and do**, exhibiting a passion for learning, a confident faith, a loving concern for community and an inclusive respect for all.*



Due to being small, we are able to treat pupils uniquely. They know they are loved by God, and have potential to **'Shine Like Stars' (Philippians 2:15)** not only in their lives, but in others too. Due to this close relationship, children are supported on a personalised learning journey, leading to high achievement and success.

School Context

Wincle CE Primary is a Church of England Voluntary Aided Primary School and is not yet part of a trust. It is run by a governing body comprising of 13 members, and we would actively welcome our new parish vicar to sit on the board to help and support the school moving forward.

The school is a small rural church school, with 65 pupils currently and a Governor-Led Preschool which has 13 children on its register. The intake is socially diverse, with many children joining the school mid-way through. A large majority of families travel to Wincle rather than living in the catchment area.

The school has very close links with Diocese of Chester – it is part of Family of Schools and the school works closely with the other local church schools in the diocese – Bosley, Kettleshulme and Pott Shrigley.

Our vision and values

Our main aim is for our pupils to 'Shine like Stars' which is taken from Philipians, 2:15

Do everything without grumbling or arguing, so that you may become blameless and pure, "children of God without fault in a warped and crooked generation."

Then you will shine among them like stars in the sky as you hold firmly to the word of life.



To break this down to aid understanding for all our pupils, we have created an acronym:

S	Service	<p>★ No act of kindness, no matter how small, is ever wasted." Aesop</p> <p>★ We would like our pupils to have the confidence to know that they can make a difference: have hope for the future.</p> <p>★ We encourage our pupils to challenge injustice and inequality</p>
T	Theology	<p>★ Our principles are founded on the truth that we are loved by the Father, Saved by the Son and Sanctified by the Holy Spirit.</p> <p>★ We want to ignite passion and curiosity for learning, providing an exciting curriculum to inspire all learners to be the best they can be.</p>
A	Attitude	<p>★ We encourage our pupils to show integrity</p> <p>★ We would like our pupils to have the courage to fight for what is important</p> <p>★ When things are challenging, we would like our pupils to display perseverance and not give up.</p> <p>★ Learn from yesterday, live for today, hope for tomorrow" Albert Einstein</p>
R	Relationships	<p>★ We nurture the whole individual: body, mind and soul</p> <p>★ We encourage the pupils to respect every living creature and show compassion.</p> <p>★ We would like our children to treat other people as they would like to be treated following Jesus' example.</p> <p>★ We are all unique</p> <p>★ We help all children build trusting relationships</p> <p>★ Clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience.' (Colossians 3:12)</p>
S	Shine like stars	<p>★ "I am the Light of the world; he who follows Me will not walk in the darkness, but will have the Light of life." (John 8:12)</p> <p>★ We would like our pupils to shine in their behaviour, attitudes, relationships and learning.</p>

As a Church of England School, we are aware that some of our families may not be practising Christians. Our aim is to nurture those who have a Christian faith, encourage those who have a faith and challenge those who don't have a faith. We want all pupils to feel included, safe, secure and valued.

To link with our vision, we have identified five Christian values which underpin our whole ethos and curriculum. These are:

Respect:

We are all different but we are all special, and we celebrate our differences. We treat others as we would like to be treated. 'Encourage one another and build each other up' - 1 Thessalonians 5:1

Compassion:

Compassion is caring about someone else's feelings and trying our best to understand how others might be feeling, and offering to help that person. 'The Lord is gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and rich in love. The Lord is good to all; he has compassion on all he has made.' Psalm 145: 8-9

Hope:

At Winkle we have high hopes and aspirations for our future, our school and community. We also understand that faith gives us hope for both now and for the future, and that this

hope brings confidence. Hope for us means that there is always a future whatever situation we are in, because God promised to never leave us, to always love us, and to help us in times of need.

Integrity:

The word integrity comes from the same Latin root as integer, and implies a wholeness of person. Just as we would talk about a whole number, so also we can talk about a whole person who is undivided. A person of integrity is living rightly, not divided, nor being a different person in different circumstances. A person of integrity is the same person in private that he or she is in public.

Perseverance:

Perseverance is persistence in doing something despite difficulty or delay in achieving success. It is persistence, tenacity, determination, resolve, resolution, resoluteness, staying power, purposefulness and firmness of purpose.



What we can offer a new vicar:

- ✚ An active and engaging congregation of children and their families, ready to further embrace their faith.
- ✚ Eager, young minds, ready to learn how to move forward following in Jesus' footsteps.
- ✚ Families who seek guidance from a higher authority.

Our new vicar would be invited to:

- ✚ Join our governing body and therefore take part in a least one meeting a term.
- ✚ Join in with our Friday service in church for Celebration Worship, led by the children.
- ✚ Support the headteacher in the delivery of worship, both in church and in school.
- ✚ Support the school in developing the children's faith by supporting the teaching of religious education.



The Vicarage



Many local walks are within easy walking distance, with the River Dane close by.

The Wincle Vicarage is a large stone building with five bedrooms built in the 1860s but has been modernized over the years.

It has a large garden and fantastic views of the beautiful countryside in which it sits.

It is within a short walk to both Wincle Church and School and a little further down the hill, but still within easy walking distance, is the Ship Inn and local Wincle brewery.



PARISH PROFILES

Three Rural Parishes:

BOSLEY is a rural parish on the edge of the Peak District approximately six miles south of Macclesfield on A523, nestled between The Cloud – a National Trust outcrop with fantastic views over Cheshire to the west, and Bosley Minn to the east with the River Dane running through the valley.

The main local industries are sheep and dairy farming while the old mill buildings are used by a wood grinding business and other small manufacturing industries. We have two small mixed private housing estates off the main road with bungalows for older residents and family houses. Population of approximately 450.



The landscape is rolling farmland, at its centre is a large expanse of water; Bosley Reservoir, which feeds the Macclesfield Canal. Bosley's canal section includes 12 locks below 'The Cloud' and both landmarks are well-known to walkers and narrowboaters alike.

St. Mary the Virgin Church (www.bosleychurch.org.uk)

Building: The church of St Mary the Virgin in Bosley goes back to Norman times. The building is Grade II* listed dating back to 1402 when it was erected as a small Chapel-of-ease to the Mother Church of Prestbury. The tower is part of the original building as the nave burned down in 1777 but was rebuilt and enlarged in 1834.

The fabric of the church is in good condition and has benefitted from recent extension, renovation, and repairs: new boiler, kitchen, toilets, re-roofed vestry and removal of a number of pews to create a flexible space. There are also planned future improvements.



The church tower houses a peal of six bells. We have a small but dedicated team of bell ringers who can be viewed through a glass panel from inside the church.

Services: We offer, at present, modern and conventional styles of worship. This can range from a more contemporary All Age format with our Worship band through to Common Worship. In the past, under different leadership, St Mary's was a designated a House of Prayer which incorporated Taizé services, this has lapsed in recent years but could easily be revisited.

We are very proud of our links with the Methodist chapel and would look to continue to hold shared services which are important to us. Their speakers and style of service give us a wider experience of faith and it's an opportunity for furthering community links.

Congregation: Mixed and lively congregation who support church services, social and fundraising events. Enlarged at special festivals by the local community.

What does our church offer worshippers and community?

The church is open daily for personal reflection and for visitors; walkers, parishioners or even those tracing ancestors.

We offer the church for social groups, wedding breakfasts/receptions, various clubs and classes, and it is used as our local polling station.

New renovations over recent years have improved our building's facilities for the future and allow more space for outreach ventures and we have invested in comfortable chairs for our congregation.

Newcomers are welcomed with a St Mary's card detailing service times, church wardens etc.

Our church yard is progressing with an area dedicated to wildlife and the school is keen to involve the children in caring for this environment. A local Community Payback Team maintains the graveyard for us.

We have hosted a lunch for COP 26 as part of their journey through the UK. We host several seasonal celebrations; lent lunches, harvest supper, brass band concert.



We nurture strong links with Bosley C of E Primary School located just across the road: this is also wholeheartedly supported by Bosley School's newly appointed headteacher which is exceptionally positive.

A core group of church members form a choir to sing at special services, at Bosley or jointly with the other churches. It endeavours to learn new songs and perform at events throughout the year. We also have a small Worship band which is a great asset and needs building upon.

In Spring 2020 as we were all locked down during the COVID-19 pandemic, Bosley Choir embarked on a new challenge to unite us in spite of isolation; how to make a choir piece from our own homes, with limited technical know-how. Our first piece was aired during an online service, about 19 minutes in; view at www.youtube.com/watch?v=QkGW7fuEUsY The second is at www.youtube.com/watch?v=vCyy-WB_bQo



In December 2023 we held our Nativity Service at the Barn at Pye Ash Farm. Attended by around 250 people from babes to nonagenarians, they came dressed in various biblical nativity costumes to celebrate Jesus' birth. We had a beautifully behaved Jesus who slept all through the hymns, worship band and choir pieces and even the animals in their pens laid down and listened to the wondrous Christmas story.



How do we go about doing it?

- A very warm welcome to old and new worshippers.
- Coffee/tea after services is always welcomed and well attended.
- Friendly services; central style mainly and some more informal, supported on some occasions by the music group.
- Hosting outreach events; community lunches, concerts, school plays, craft groups.

Where we can improve

Links with the school need reinvigorating: The Bosley School has a new headteacher who is keen to forge a stronger partnership with the church so this is extremely encouraging.

Direction: To clarify and ensure a united direction within the newly formed benefice of three parishes, sharing services and resources throughout the year.



Community: We have Craft groups who meet in the church and it would be good to grow this type of outreach of activities, but it can be difficult to enthuse new ideas and find willing volunteers.

Visitors: We are often visited by walkers in the area as there are many great routes locally; we need to entice/encourage them inside.

Finances

We are breaking even financially and 60% of our monthly income comes as regular giving via Standing Order.

We are always looking for new and interesting fundraising opportunities; Open Gardens, Band Concert as well as regular events such as the Village Fete & Fell race.

We have successfully sourced grant funding in the past for projects including over £140,000 for the extension housing the new toilet and kitchen facilities.



Community Spirit

In 2015 Bosley suffered a tragic Mill Explosion which actually produced a positive impact on the community as a surge of helpful and caring people throughout the village rallied round to help those in need. It proved what a strong, loving village community we have. They provided immediate help in the form of food, temporary housing and emotional support. Longer term help was enabled via events and a charity was formed to distribute the fund raising efforts and to provide support for permanent support and re-housing. The church was central to this support network and the charity setup.

Bosley Mission Statement & Wider Context

Our mission is to respond to the needs in our small, rural community - spiritual needs, pastoral care, social needs of activities & events and the need for marking life events. We believe that our church building and its people are here for a reason; to share God's teaching, receive his message of unconditional love and spread the Good News.

- ✚ We currently support Hope For Justice (Challenging Modern Slavery), amongst other charities. One of our church wardens works for this charity.
- ✚ We have made successful claims for grants and fundraising to support our renovations and additional building work.
- ✚ Engaging within our community i.e. Summer Fete, Fell Run, an Open Garden weekend, Band Concert, Live Nativity and planned Art Exhibition.
- ✚ We all offer a range of creative and organisational talents to support innovative and long term plans and ideas for our church.

WINCLE is a small rural parish in spectacular countryside in the deanery of Macclesfield in the diocese of Chester. It is located about 5 miles from the market town of Macclesfield which has a mainline station and all required shops and restaurants. The village is also about 6 miles from the town of Leek, 20 minutes from Buxton, 40 minutes from Manchester International airport and 20+ miles from Manchester.



Leek and Macclesfield both have well supported football teams, as does Manchester of course. Wincle is within the Peak District National Park.

We share boundaries with the parishes of Bosley to the west and Wildboardclough to the north east.

Wincle is in the Peak District National Park with a population of some 200. The main occupation is livestock farming, but we also have a pub and brewery as well as some B&Bs and holiday lets. The village is set amongst rolling hills and woods. There are many walks through and around the village.

The community is warm and friendly with most helping and taking part in our annual fete which usually contributes some £10,000 divided between church, school and community. The fete also includes the famed Trout Fell Run, the 350 places for which are usually taken up as soon as booking is opened.

The brewery runs a beer festival in the summer and has a tap night on the first Friday of the month. There is a very active WI in the village.



St. Michael's Church (www.winclechurch.org.uk)



The current church was built in the 1860s on foundations established in the 16th century. It is a stone built building with a square tower containing one bell. The interior is an open space with pews and a recently installed lavatory and kitchenette at the back. All are in good repair.

Our music benefits from a superb 4 manual Makin organ which was donated to us, and by the occasional help of the Danebridge Choir singing on special occasions.

The foyer includes boards detailing the history of church, school and village.

Future plans include replacing some pews, installing a path between church and school and updating the exterior and interior lighting.

There is a closed graveyard around the church and a current one on the opposite hill.

The school have their Friday assembly in church; a service lead by the pupils and Head. The community at large is encouraged to attend. The service is very well attended by parents and villagers.

The school also has their own Christmas, Easter, Harvest and Remembrance services in the church as well as their nativity play.

The Sunday congregation is from 8 upwards, mainly at the older spectrum. We currently have two/three services a month and historically have included an 8 o'clock communion as well as evensong, matins etc. on separate Sundays.

We are open to whatever a new vicar would suggest for future services.

The PCC and churchwardens are a friendly group who are helpful to the needs of the incumbent.

Wincle Mission Statement & Wider Context

Our aim is to spread God's love to the wider community by offering help and support to others whatever their circumstances and to encourage church membership by sharing, visiting and welcoming everyday as well as to special services, weddings and funerals.

We aim to continue to strengthen already strong ties with the school community.

We continue to look at ways to ensure our church remains the centre of our community for the future.

Wincle has representatives on the Deanery Synod. We have a recently installed rural Dean, who is Vicar of the nearby village of Rainow and falls within the jurisdiction of the Bishop of Stockport and the newly installed Archdeacon of Macclesfield, all within the diocese of Chester.

WILDBOARCLOUGH:

Nestled in 'The Valley of the Wild Stream', St Saviours Church, Wildboardclough, is a picturesque parish church with a small but dedicated congregation which is swelled at festival days throughout the year. Dedicated in 1909, by the Stanley family, the church patron Lord Derby maintains a connection with the church, his family owning the nearby Crag Hall.

The parish has a strong community which comes together for larger events such as our traditional Rose Queen fete held annually, which is very well attended by visitors from the locality and further afield. Within the event we host a Fell Run up our local landmark, Shuttlingsloe.

Additionally, villagers organise a variety of key events throughout the year, for example the Harvest Supper and auction and our own local amateur dramatics group putting on an annual show called 'Clough Capers' in the Old Schoolrooms each Spring.



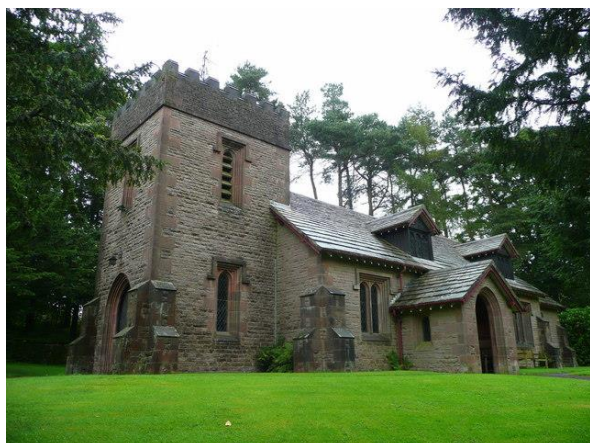
Shuttlingsloe, the second highest peak within the Peak Park, provides the focal point of the landscape with many walkers wishing to climb to the top to enjoy the beautiful views.

We are very accessible – encompassing/ bordering 3 Shires (Cheshire, Derbyshire & Staffordshire) and being home to Three Shires Head. We also have a huge network of footpaths, bridleways and quiet lanes.

Hill farming, mainly sheep, provides much of the local economy although not exclusively, others choose to commute or work from home. Many choose to live here for the joy of the beauty and tranquillity of this place. The parish has a population of approximately 190.

In addition, Wildboardclough is a popular tourist destination with many visitors to the locality enjoying the magnificent countryside, walks and visits to the church for peaceful contemplation, the parish being entirely located within the Peak District National Park.

St. Saviour's Church



St Saviour' Church was built in 1901 by the Earls of Derby.

Although steeped in tradition we are also keen to embrace new ideas and like the many flocks of sheep on the surrounding hillsides we are ready to follow and grow our congregation and to enhance our individual spiritual journey.

In December 2023 St Saviour's Church held their Nine Lessons and Carols. Traditionally this is a time when the other churches in the benefice are invited to come and enjoy this lovely service.

This year Bosley's music group, Winkle and Danebridge Choir integrated a contemporary Christmas song and choral work alongside the beloved carols.

Welcomed afterwards were well deserved refreshments in the church hall.



Wildboardclough Mission Statement & Wider Context

Together we can grow the church, continue our strong community spirit and forge relationships to increase our younger congregation.

St. Saviour's is an essential cog in the wheel of village life and provides the cement that holds the community together in times of need, and in the good times too!