

The Parish of Sale, St. Paul



Parish Profile 2021

Where we are

The parish is bound at the north by the River Mersey, to the east by the Bridgewater Canal (blue line on the right), to the west by one side of the A56 (Cross Street, Washway Road and Manchester Road – the orange line to the left) and at the south by Sinderland Brook (black line at the bottom).

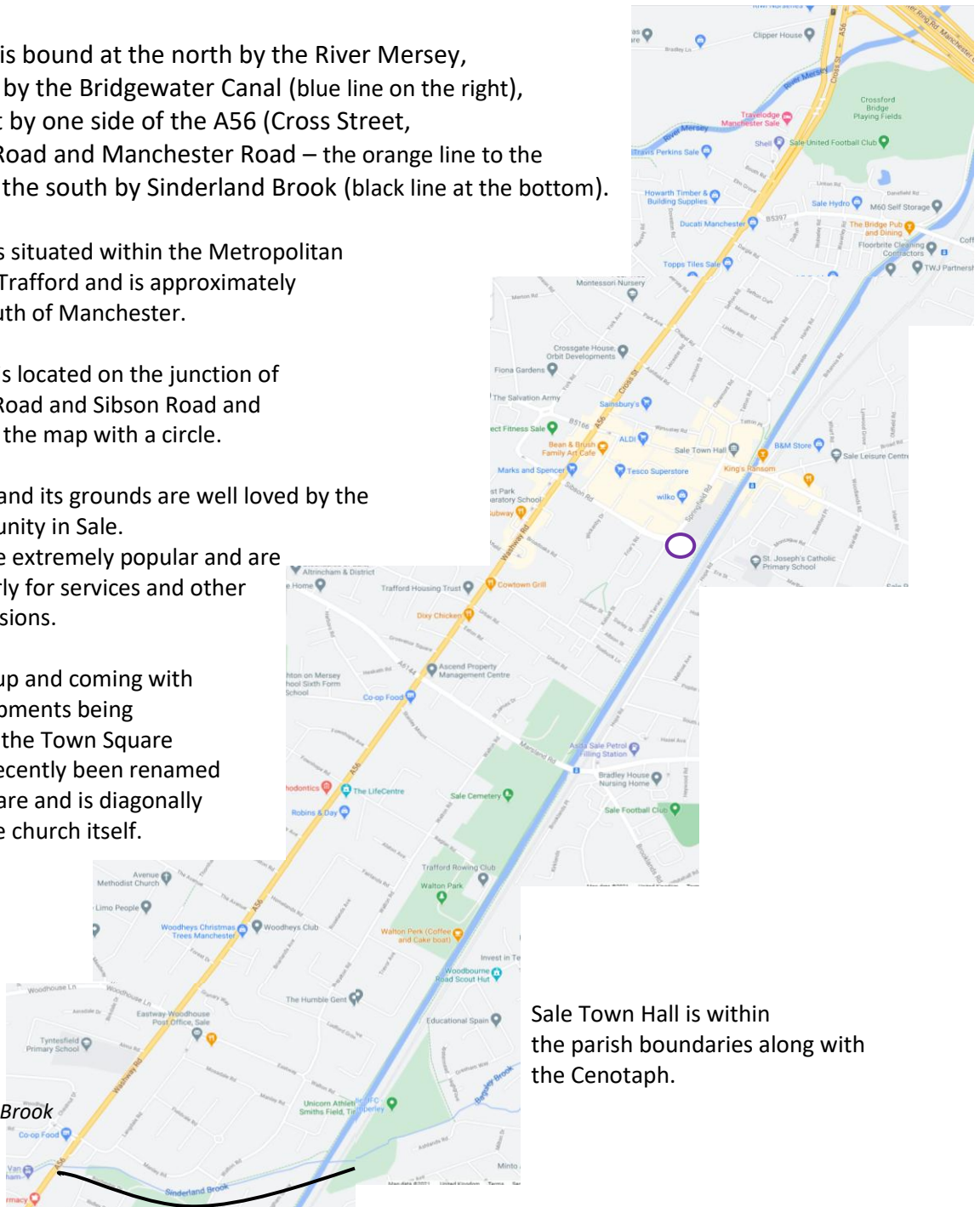
Our parish is situated within the Metropolitan Borough of Trafford and is approximately six miles south of Manchester.

The church is located on the junction of Springfield Road and Sibson Road and is shown on the map with a circle.

The church and its grounds are well loved by the local community in Sale. The bells are extremely popular and are rung regularly for services and other special occasions.

The area is up and coming with new developments being planned for the Town Square which has recently been renamed Stanley Square and is diagonally opposite the church itself.

Sinderland Brook Boundary



Sale Town Hall is within the parish boundaries along with the Cenotaph.

Sale itself is a mix of residential properties, office buildings and has a number of individual and large brand shops with a mix of eating establishments and a variety of coffee shops. On the third Sunday in the month there is a very popular Makers Market held in the town centre with a wide variety of stalls.

We are close to Manchester City Centre, the Trafford Centre, Manchester Airport, various museums and attractions most of which can be accessed via the Metrolink Trams a few minutes walk from the church. The National Trust owned Dunham Park and Hall lies a few miles to the south and the Peak District is easily accessible.

Our Buildings – The Church

The church was built in 1883 and the tower was a slightly later addition in 1910. The main entrance is under the tower and in 2005 the easier access ramp was completed on the North side leading directly onto the car park.



There are fixed pews in the nave and chancel with a dedicated children's area and several wheelchair/buggy spaces. It is possible to seat around 500 people for a large event. A few pews in the nave show some damage from when the church was bombed in World War II and another has a plaque showing where the scientist J P Joule used to sit when he attended the church.

Various stained-glass windows have been given in memory of local people and are generally in a good state of repair except for the protective covering in some places. The wall memorials commemorate the fallen of the parish in two World Wars and more recently we have inherited others from local churches which have closed. The chancel ceiling garners attention with its painting of gold stars on a blue background- often visitors can be seen counting them and trying to work out whether they are a particular constellation! The side chapel is dedicated to St Raphael and is generally used at our midweek services.

We are lucky to have a full set of 8 bells which are set up as chimes so they can be rung by one person. The view from the top of the bell tower is impressive and you can see for miles in all directions.

Our normal services are:-

Sunday	8.30am	BCP Communion
	10.00am	Parish Eucharist (Common Worship Order One)
	6.00pm	Evensong
Thursday	10.00am	BCP Communion

There are rotas for readers and leading the intercessions. A member of the lay ministry team assists with leading the Eucharist and weekly music is currently selected by the Director of Music. St Paul's is of a central to gentle modern Catholic tradition and vestments are worn at the Eucharist.

We lead and take an active part in the Remembrance Sunday and Battle of Britain Services at the Cenotaph which is in the parish a few hundred yards away outside Sale Town Hall.

The Hall

This building dates from the 1960s and generates very welcome income for the parish and is in use every day of the week by a variety of users including several church groups. It is hired by groups as diverse as karate club, baby and toddler music groups, as well as for private birthday parties. St. Paul's Brownies and Guides also meet here.

Kids Rock

Part of the hall building, including the kitchen, is used during the week by Kids Rock, a local Early Years provider. They also run a before and after school club and Holiday clubs. This contributes a significant amount to our annual income, and we try to make mutually beneficial compromises with them over the use of facilities.



Located within the hall is our parish office which contains the usual equipment. The hall also has a stage which has been used for many concerts. Most of our social events take place here and on the south lawn – we do love our cake and look forward throughout the year to a variety of reasons to enjoy socialising together. The kitchen has recently been refurbished and is well equipped to provide for parish events and outside users.

Leading out from the hall is a fenced off area with seating which is used by the Babes and Tots group, Kids Rock and the Brownies and Guides. We have also enjoyed using it for coffee after morning services.



Some of our People

Trustees

The Church maintains an on-line presence via the website and Facebook.

The website, www.stpaulsale.co.uk is maintained in-house and the software involved is paid for by the Trustees.

Michael Riley - Reader

Michael has grown up attending St. Paul's and as well as being our Reader and Verger with all the tasks they both involve, he also acts as our Archivist. He cares passionately about the church and has a great interest in local history. He organised our first Heritage Open Day over 20 years ago now and it has grown considerably year upon year. Everyone is encouraged to take part, and it brings together the whole church and community. As a member of the Ministry Team, Michael takes Evensong regularly and if required, he also takes funerals in church, local cemeteries and crematoria. Michael is Vice-Chairman of the PCC and Chairman of Churches Together in Sale. He also ensures our bells are rung before services and other special occasions.

Yvonne Kerridge – Pastoral Worker

Yvonne is involved in maintaining links with members largely amongst the elderly and sick including pastoral visiting at home and hospital, end of life and bereavement ministry, taking Home Communion to those unable to attend church and will take funerals in church if requested. She also exercises ministry to the wider community bringing a spiritual dimension of prayer, sharing faith and walking along side people. This has been especially so during the Covid 19 pandemic where pastoral relationships have strengthened.

Karen Salisbury – Pastoral Worker

Karen now holds an appointment as Wing Chaplain for the Royal Air Force Air Cadets for Greater Manchester Wing and works with a wide variety of young people and adult volunteers in this role and leads the annual Battle of Britain Service at the Cenotaph as part of that and produces the majority of the printing such as the Parish News, weekly Pew Sheets, Service Booklets, Reports etc. as well as currently acting as PCC Secretary and takes funerals when required. Karen is also a member of the Scout Association with a role as a Trainer.

Anne Allen – Director of Music

Anne looks after all the music within the church and she is ably supported by our assistant organist Kevin Drury and two retired organists John Clisset and Donald Brooks. Between them they cover the very popular Community Choir.

Churchwardens – Yvonne Stevenson and Harry Thomas

Both offer very different skills to the parish and compliment each other very well and between them cover maintenance and administration, often drawing in support from others.

Treasurer - Brian Hirst

Brian acts as our Parish Treasurer and keeps an eye on our finances.

Safeguarding Officer – Carole Shakeshaft

Carole is a member of the Deanery Synod and is a keen member of the Social Committee (and like a number of other church members makes very good cakes – a great skill needed in any parish). She keeps a note of all who require DBS checks and makes sure that everyone who is required to has completed Safeguarding Training.

Hall Bookings Officer - Eileen Craven

Eileen looks after the bookings of the Church Hall and regularly shows hirers around, lets them into the building and arranges with them the details of their contract.

Flowers - Jean Law

Jean looks after our floral arrangements and has worked with others in producing the popular displays that have appeared on the church porch steps during the pandemic.

Our Church Groups

Throughout the year we have a Men's Society which meets one Thursday evening a month and an afternoon monthly Ladies Tuesday Group. Both often host 'open events' where anyone who is interested may attend one of their sessions with a speaker. They cover many wide ranging topics from church based speakers such as CAP, Christian Aid, to local history and even 'have a go' sessions!



There is a Badminton Group on Wednesdays for anyone interested in some gentle keep fit and a chat. On Tuesday and Thursday morning we run a very popular Babes and Tots session at which we often have to turn children and their carers away as it's full.

We have an active Social Committee who organise a variety of events ranging from a pancake party to harvest suppers, Heritage Day to afternoon teas and soup and roll lunches.



Heritage Open Day

For a number of years, we have taken part in the national Heritage Open Day in early September. It has grown into a significant event in our calendar involving several weeks of preparation and now attracts many visitors. Activities on offer include Tower Tours, a Victorian Tea Room with wonderful cakes, photographic displays from our extensive collection, story-telling, Morris dancing, brass bands and bell ringers, a barbecue and access to church records.



Music



St Paul's has a robed choir to lead the 10am service and we endeavour to enrich worship with hymns, a communion setting and a simple anthem. The small, dedicated group of about 10 is augmented by regular friends for Christmas, Easter, Choral Evensongs and other special services. We usually join with St Anne's, our neighbouring Parish for Confirmations and the choir of

St Joseph's RC Church to lead the Cenotaph Service in the centre of Sale. Recent collaborations have also included the annual Advent Taizé service and a wonderful Songs of Praise in 2019. The choir also features in the Music and Tea Afternoon.

The church has a fine 4 manual organ which is well maintained. Much of the original 1899 Jardine pipework remains in use together with several computerised stops added in 1996, making it a so-called hybrid instrument.

We are fortunate to have 2 regular organists and 2 retired organists who also offer help.

Over recent years we have had 8 Organ Scholars from Chethams School of Music and Manchester Organists' Association has held concerts, recitals and workshops in the church.



Our musicians established the hugely successful Community Choir in 2013 for people in the local area with age-related conditions, their carers and anyone who enjoys singing and cake! We meet on Friday afternoons and have a rota of 8 pianists who select music from the shows, wartime songs and other popular requests. Thanks to modern technology, it has continued monthly during the pandemic and will hopefully resume as soon as is safely possible.

Maintenance

We are lucky enough to have a few willing and able volunteers who look after small maintenance jobs throughout the church and hall. The team have an active plan and arrange for larger works to be carried out – over the last few years in the hall we have replaced the hall roof, had the floor cleaned, resealed and polished and installed a new boiler. We are about to replace the entrance door and panelling to the porch between the hall and church. The Maintenance Officer regularly consults with the DAC and the Diocesan appointed architect. Our last Quinquennial Inspection was carried out in 2020 with a list of recommended works, none of which are currently classed as needing to be carried out urgently.

The grounds of the church are maintained by a variety of volunteers who take great pride in their work and try to encourage wildlife. We have seen dragonflies, butterflies, bees and a wide variety of birds as well – including those who are often seen lazily paddling along on the canal in between the various boats and Sale Cruising Club which is located opposite the church.



Charities

Each year the parish supports the Children's Society in raising money through the individual boxes and at our very popular Christingle Service held on Christmas Eve. For a number of years, children have been encouraged to come along dressed as a character from the nativity story and take an active part in the service – on a number of occasions we have even managed to have a baby to put in the crib. We also regularly support the Mustard Tree Charity based in Manchester who work with the disadvantaged, homeless and others in need. During Christian Aid Week we take part in the house to house collection along with other one off fund raising events for urgent appeals. The Saturday Coffee mornings have supported Francis House Children's Hospice over many years.

Outreach and Other Links With Sale

We are an active member of Churches Together in Sale and this provides us with a variety of opportunities throughout the year to join with other local churches.



The months that have a fifth Sunday have a rotating Evening Service which have varied from Choral Evensong to Taize style services to name but two. There have been a number of 'pulpit swops' which have brought fresh insights to all who have taken part both for their churches and for the clergy who are able to support each other locally.

Churches Together in Sale also organise an Open Air Service for Pentecost often held at a church or a local park.

The group has organised a coach trip during the summer in most years and these have varied from Gawsworth Hall and Church, churches on the Wirral, National Arboretum in Staffordshire, Lichfield Cathedral, along with many other places of interest.

We have partnered with a number of other local churches to support CAP (Christians Against Poverty).

For the last few years our Vicar has joined the Rector of St Martin's Church to offer 'Ashing' on Ash Wednesday and shoe cleaning on Maundy Thursday in Ashton Upon Mersey village, an outreach initiative to connect with people who would not normally attend any church.

Locally within Trafford the schools are rated as outstanding and excellent both at primary and secondary levels.



We have active links with the school next door to the church, Springfield Road Primary, with



members of the church volunteering to help the children in their reading and other activities. We regularly welcome groups of school children along with other organisations to look around the church and learn more about the building. The school choir takes part in our Mothering Sunday and Harvest services. They also have their Carol Services at the church.

Within the parish there are two cemeteries, Sale and Brooklands, which also hold Commonwealth War Graves. Close to these is Walton Park which is a popular spot for families and has proved even more popular during the various lockdowns during the pandemic.

There is a variety of sheltered accommodation in the parish and also several care homes.

Previous incumbents have acted as School Governors, Police Chaplain, Mayor's Chaplain and these opportunities still remain for the parish.

One of our recent members was Mayor of Trafford who has now gone forward to train for ordination. He kept us up to date with the workings of local government.

We also have links with St. Paul's Cathedral Sale, Gippsland Victoria in Australia and amazingly the cathedral looks very similar to what our church would have looked like before the Tower was added.



Being the parish church of Sale is something we are all proud of and in particular the way we have been able to use our space for a number of concerts by a variety of orchestras, choirs and soloists along with a number of exhibitions by local societies (art etc). Local orchestras are keen on returning regularly due to the excellent acoustics of the church – something often lacking in many large buildings these days.

The Future

During the pandemic, especially when church was closed, a variety of seasonal displays have been put in the main porch. We invited people to help themselves to a bunch of daffodils on Mothering Sunday, a palm cross on Palm Sunday and a chocolate egg at Easter. We have also marked Harvest, VE Day and had a cross in the garden throughout Lent. These have been



appreciated by passing walkers of all ages judging by the favourable comments and the short video of the Nativity display on Facebook attracted over 5000 views.

The canal at the back of church has undergone several improvements in recent years and offers new ways to connect with passers-by. We now have a notice-board on the Canal side and use the area on Heritage Day. It is a lovely way to sit and reflect on God's creation as the world goes by.

These are new ways of outreach that we would like to develop further. Like many churches we have also had to become more proficient with technology to livestream services during lockdown. These have been gratefully received by our usual community and also a growing online following. We

intend to continue streaming services from church and aim to improve the quality of our provision with the purchase of dedicated equipment.

We believe there is a lot of opportunity to grow and develop the parish, even more so as the proposed development of Stanley Square shopping precinct opposite church offers exciting opportunities in the town and we want to play our part in this.



The photos used are from events over recent years and include some from during the pandemic.

Could you be our new Incumbent?

We would be delighted to receive a priest who has good listening and people skills and is willing to share their optimism and joy in God's creation. Our new priest will also look to bring a mature and enthusiastic outlook on life to help us grasp new opportunities.

- Someone who is able to help us grow, encourage others to join us and enable us to take our faith out into our wider community.
- Someone who is able to lead regular ministry team meetings and who encourage team work, strategic thinking and who will empower the congregation in their ministry.
- Someone to encourage us in bible study and private prayer and for us to be able to join with them in the daily offices.
- Someone who is willing to work with the other local churches both in the Deanery and those who form part of Churches Together in Sale and is supportive of all forms of ministry, not just those that are formally recognised.
- Someone who would work with us to encourage a good community spirit and be a visible presence locally and on-line through social media and other forms of communication.
- Someone to support and strengthen the links we have with the local authority school next door and other youth groups and the younger generations.
- Someone happy to maintain and grow our Civic connections.
- Someone who is IT literate and willing to help us embrace new technology and ways of reaching others – particularly members of the parish who due to illness or infirmity aren't able to join us in person any longer.

With the developments due to start in the near future to reinvigorate Sale this is an ideal opportunity for mission and outreach to the local area.

We look forward to being able to warmly welcome you into the St. Paul's community.

The Vicarage

This is a detached property located on Kilvert Drive about a mile away from the church itself and just out of the parish.

Downstairs

Entrance hall and stairs

Lounge

Dining Room

Study

Kitchen with adjoining dining area

Utility / Boiler Room

Conservatory

Toilet

Shower Room



The stairs lead to the first floor and split in two directions which is an unusual feature.

Upstairs

Four good sized bedrooms - the Master Bedroom has fitted wardrobes

Family Bathroom

Shower Room

The house is in good repair and an alarm is also fitted.

It has double glazing, gas central heating and at the back there is a large enclosed garden.

There is ample off road parking for two vehicles.



