

Parish Profile

Parish of Mottram in Longdendale

www.mottramparish.org.uk

compiled in January 2024



Serving the communities of
Mottram, Broadbottom and Hattersley East
and
Seeking to know Christ, and make Christ known

Our Prayer for the vacancy

*God, who in generous mercy sent the Holy Spirit upon your Church in the burning fire of your love:
grant that your people may be fervent in the fellowship of the gospel that, always abiding in you, they may be found steadfast in faith and active in service;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.*

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Welcome to St Michael and All Angels

Situated in a prominent location, and known locally as the church on the hill, St Michael and All Angels is long-established and blessed with a group of parishioners that are warm, welcoming, friendly and very supportive.

During this vacancy, the ministry team comprises of the Honorary Assistant Priest with PTO, the Reverend Lynn Boyle who is ably assisted by two readers.

Our churchmanship can be described as traditional central, rooted in the sacraments, where communion is distributed at each of our Sunday services.

Our pattern of service on a Sunday usually comprises of two services – 0915 & 1030. However, as we are temporarily without heating until its installation, we are at the moment just celebrating the one service at 1030. The 0915 will be re-instated as the weather warms up. The third Sunday of each month is a Family Service with Communion and a focus upon the younger members of the congregation.

Mottram in Longdendale as a village, is steeped in musical tradition. This is reflected in our worship in church where a small but enthusiastic choir, always robed, belt out tunes from Hymns Old & New, to support our sacramental worship.

In addition to our regular Sunday worship there is a midweek shared communion service at St Barnabas, in the neighbouring parish of Hattersley.

We have developed our lay ministry and have strong leadership across our baptism, pastoral (including weddings and funerals) and children's teams.

We have links with the three primary schools in the parish but there is scope for more to be done and there is a desire and ambition to do it.



HOPES FOR THE FUTURE

We are looking to grow our numbers and spread God's love in this beautiful area through...

- focused cross generational mission work - that is involving people of all ages working together.
- seeing children and adults involved in leading worship on the 3rd Sunday. There is so much the young can learn from the older folk and vice versa.
- redeveloping relationships with Mottram & Broadbottom Primary schools - through the Open the Book initiative or similar.
- providing opportunities for developing and deepening discipleship and spirituality.

The Parish of Mottram in Longdendale

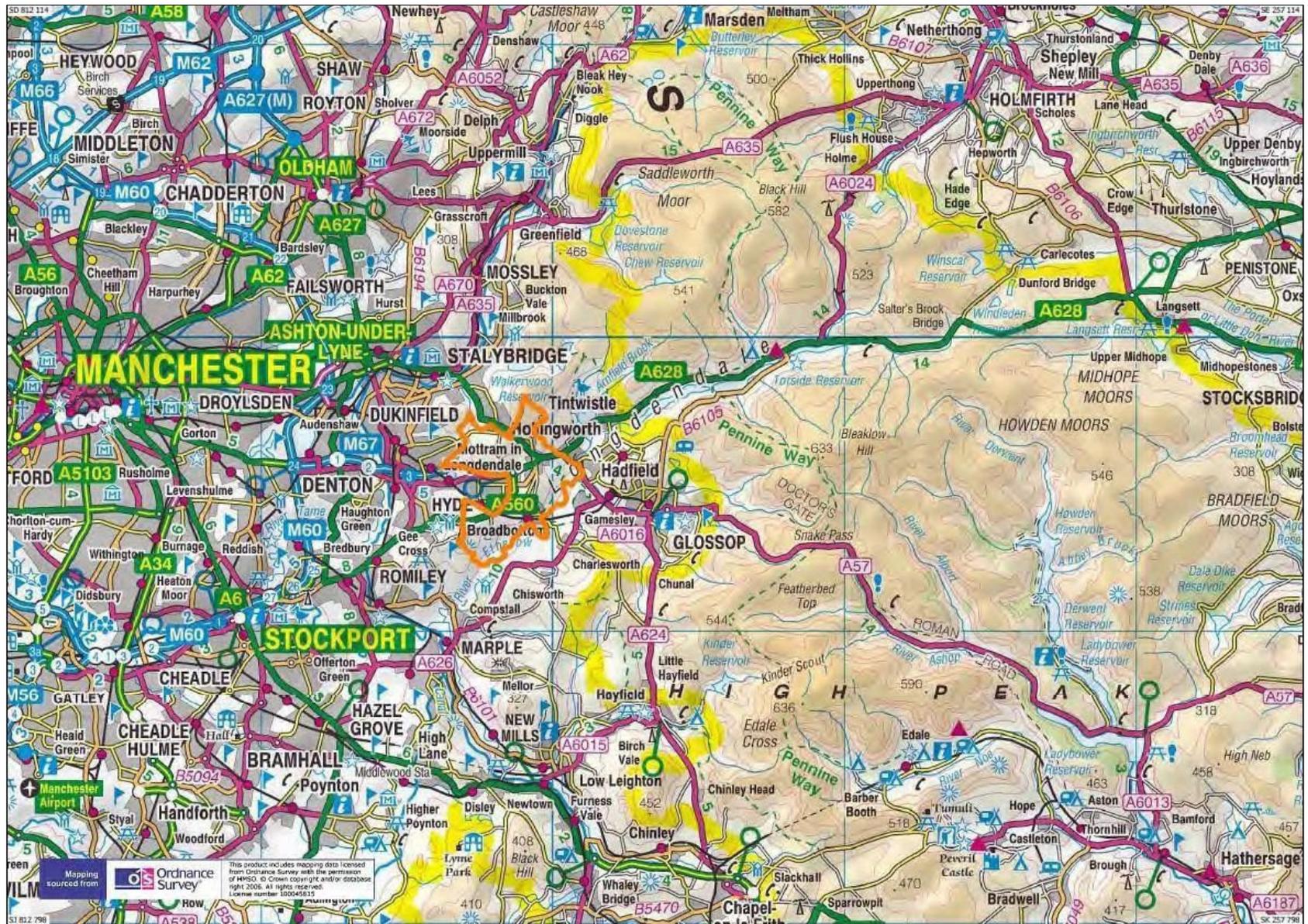
The parish is situated to the east of Manchester (shown on these maps outlined in orange).

The Manchester conurbation lies to the west, and the open moors of the High Peak to the east.

This makes the parish easily accessible for trips to the city of Manchester, with its heritage, cultural and retail offerings, or for walking in or visiting the country's first national park - the Peak District.

The area is served well by the shopping areas of Hyde, Stalybridge, Ashton and Glossop.

There are three primary schools and two high schools within easy reach of Mottram.

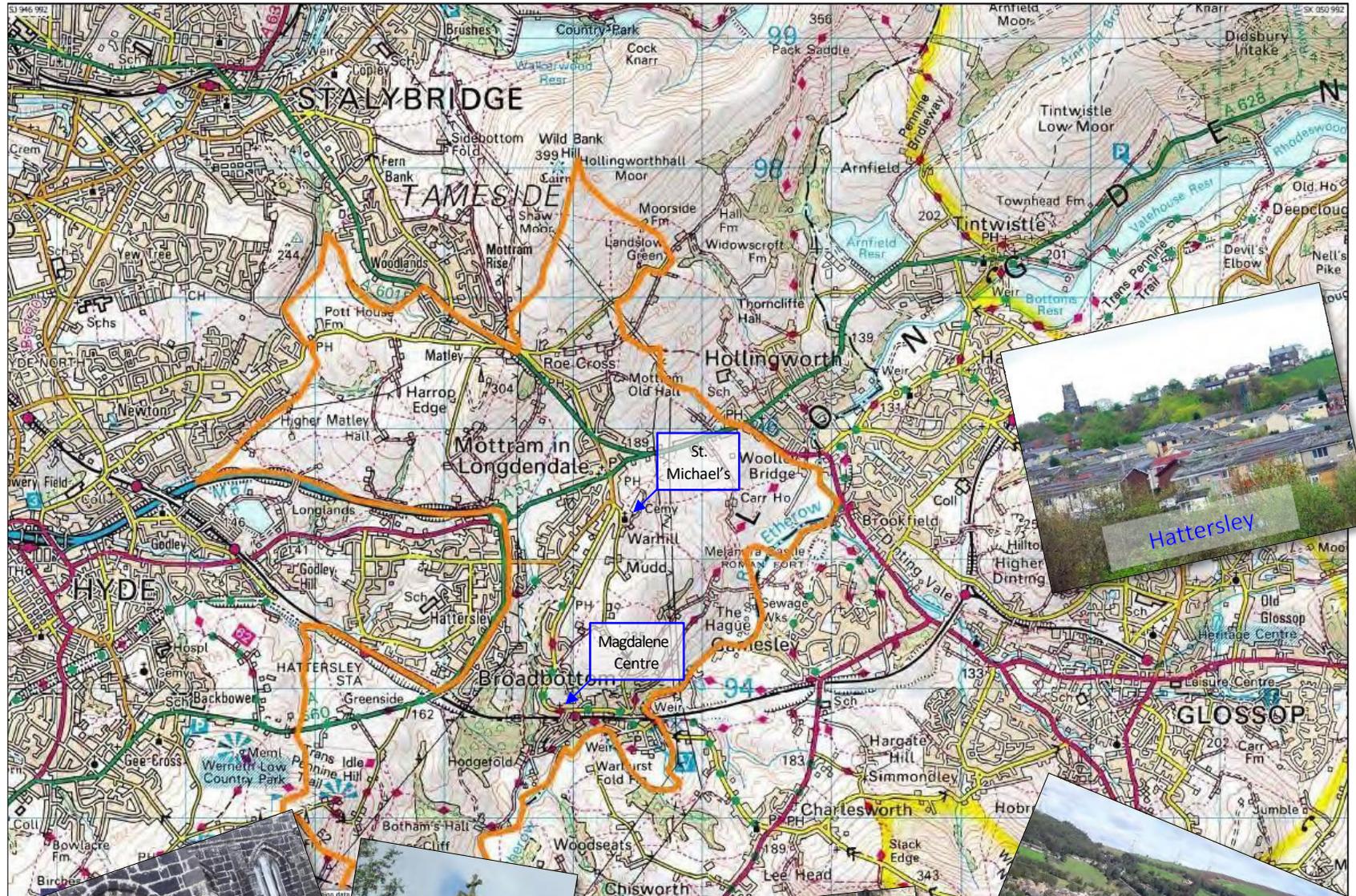


Although we are in the Diocese of Chester, administratively we are in the Metropolitan District of Tameside, Greater Manchester.

The whole of Mottram and Broadbottom are included in the parish, as is one-third of the Hattersley estate, that to the east of the A560.

Both Broadbottom and Mottram consider themselves separate villages although housing expansion has largely brought them together.

Hattersley was built by Manchester City Council in the early 1960s as an overspill estate from areas of Manchester, and the part of the estate to the west of the A560 is a parish in its own right.



The parish and its people

Mottram

The village of Mottram has changed significantly over the years. It is bisected by the busy A57 which gives rise to heavy traffic. The village has a number of small shops, including hairdressers, and funeral directors, all located in the centre of the village. There is a community centre, cricket club and doctors surgery.

The housing in Mottram is mixed and includes many affluent properties, some built for the former local mill owners, but has been much enlarged by modern housing during the 20th and 21st centuries. A large area of the parish comprises farmland.

There is a care home and some sheltered housing. Compared to adjacent areas, Mottram's population is a little older with more retired people although there are many working families.

The nearby Evangelical Church, recently renamed Hope Community Church, now meets at Arundale School in Hattersley, but retains its old church building in Mottram as a community outreach centre.

Broadbottom

Situated a mile and half down the hill from Mottram, Broadbottom contains many small streets of what were once mill-workers' terraced cottages and some 20th century properties.

There are a small number of shops, one public house and a popular garden centre. Close by is a business specialising in printed fabrics, located in old mill buildings.

The Etherow Centre which provides facilities for disabled horse riders and an indoor bowling green can also be found here. There is also a community centre, an outdoor activities and crafts centre and a cricket club.

Broadbottom has a close community and active Community Association - much more so than in Mottram. Its population includes younger, professional and mobile residents, exploiting the commuter rail-link to Manchester.

Near to the railway station is the Victorian building of St. Mary Magdalene Church, refurbished around 2010 to become our church and community resource, and now known as the Magdalene Centre.

Just over the river and out of the parish is the Catholic Church of the Immaculate Conception, in the Diocese of Nottingham.

Hattersley East

Once a rural district of Mottram, Hattersley was built by Manchester City Council in the early 1960s as an overspill estate, and is now managed by Onward Housing Association. Approximately one-third of the estate lies within the parish of Mottram.

Compared with Mottram and Broadbottom, the population of Hattersley is generally some ten years younger and includes many families experiencing social deprivation. A Foodbank operates here. Housing is a mix of new-build and the original social housing, some now privately owned.

Within our part of the estate are a small general store, and three takeaways. Just inside the parish is a large Tesco store which serves much of the surrounding district. Adjacent is 'The Hub', a community centre incorporating administrative offices, hall, library and café. The original community was close, since families moved on-site together in the 1960s; however this has waned in recent years.

The remainder of the estate has its own parish church (St. Barnabas), a Baptist Church and the Catholic Church.

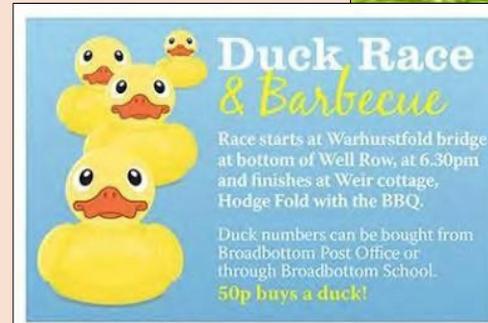
The population of just over 5,600 is almost exclusively White British (approximately 99%). There is a mix of age groups from retired people to young families, and a mix of different kinds of employment, but with substantial levels of unemployment in Hattersley East. Just over half of all homes are owner occupied, and one third social housing.

Around the parish



Community events

Some of the regular events in the parish:



Mottram Parish Church.

Our regular worship pattern

Our worship is of a traditional central style but rooted in the sacraments.

Sunday

09.15am Said **Holy Communion** (BCP or Common Worship)

10.30am The main service each Sunday morning always celebrates communion.

Services are usually led by the Vicar and Reader ably supported by our small choir. All are robed, and accompanied by Matt Harrison, our director of music on a high quality Makin digital organ, or occasionally the piano.

Adults and young people are rota'd for readings and intercessions. Hymns are from a variety of sources - mainly Hymns Old and New.



Wednesday

10.30am **Joint service of Holy Communion** at St. Barnabas, Hattersley



Other services

As well as the usual highlights of the liturgical year - around Easter and Christmas - there are occasional extra services, including Taizé, an annual Memorial service at All Souls, school services etc.

Baptisms are carried out in our normal 1030 am service, or occasionally at 1215.



Remembrance services are led by the church, both at the war memorial in St. Michael's and the cenotaph at Broadbottom.

The congregation

There are currently 146 people on the electoral roll. Our usual weekly attendance, counting both services, is around 50 adults and 6 children. Around 20% of the congregation live outside the parish.

The 09.15am service can attract up to 25 people, with a core of 6 or 7 faithful attendees.

The numbers show a downward trend and given that a significant number of people do not attend regularly, this represents a challenge for the future.

Children and young people

We love having children of all ages with us at church. They are not just the 'church members of the future' - they are part of the church now!

Our young people are a great asset to the church, both as individuals and as a group. We strive to give them a good grounding and encouragement on their journey of faith. Our numbers are low at the moment and so the provision consists of Sunday school during the main service combined with the work of our Children and Families Worker, Louise Britton.

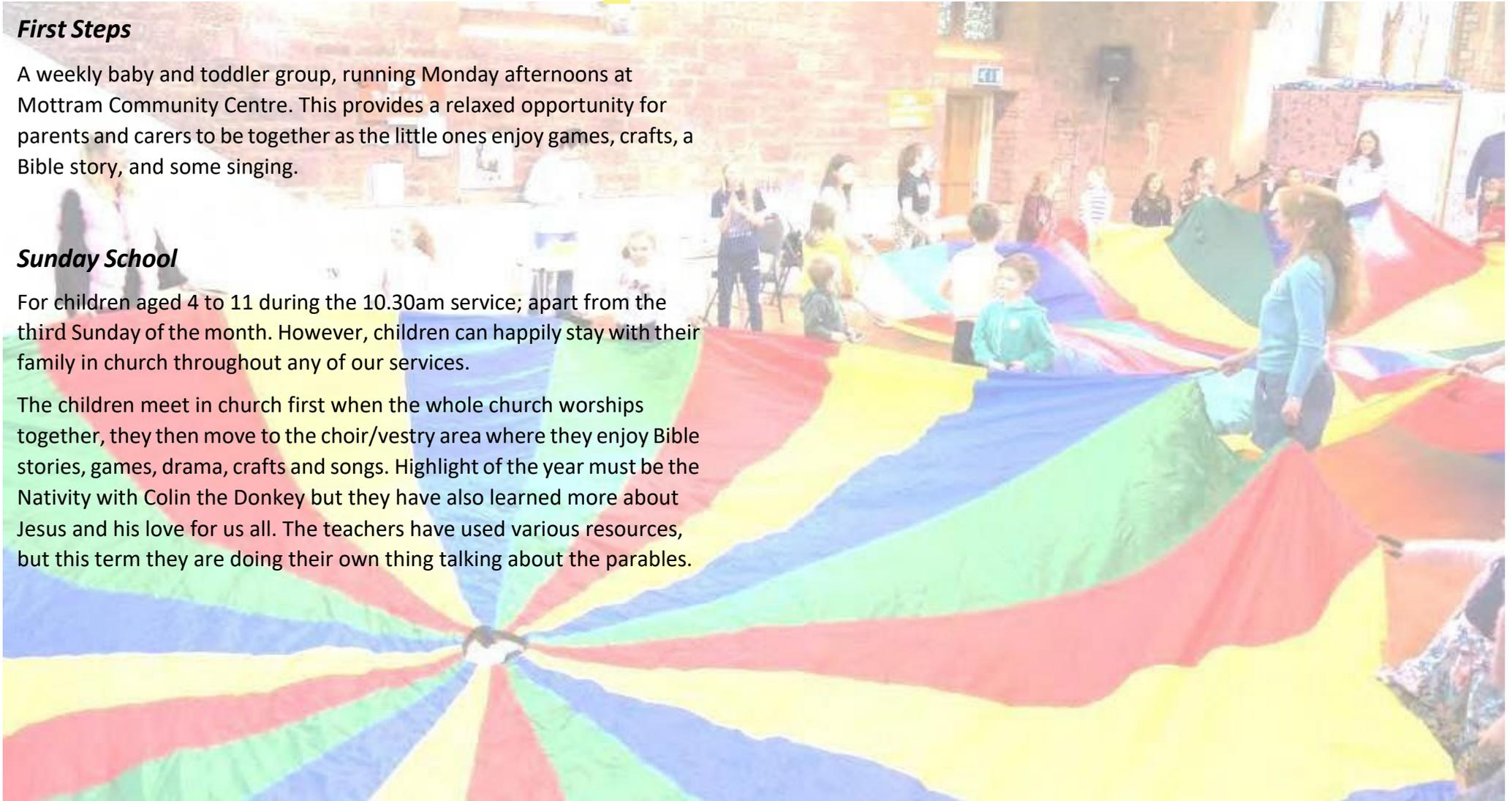
First Steps

A weekly baby and toddler group, running Monday afternoons at Mottram Community Centre. This provides a relaxed opportunity for parents and carers to be together as the little ones enjoy games, crafts, a Bible story, and some singing.

Sunday School

For children aged 4 to 11 during the 10.30am service; apart from the third Sunday of the month. However, children can happily stay with their family in church throughout any of our services.

The children meet in church first when the whole church worships together, they then move to the choir/vestry area where they enjoy Bible stories, games, drama, crafts and songs. Highlight of the year must be the Nativity with Colin the Donkey but they have also learned more about Jesus and his love for us all. The teachers have used various resources, but this term they are doing their own thing talking about the parables.



Meet the team

Our Interregnum Spiritual Leader

Is our Honorary Assistant Priest with PTO, the Reverend Lynn Boyle.

Church Wardens

Our Interim Churchwardens are Kevin Hall and Bob Joy.

Parochial Church Council and Parish Reps

The council comprises fifteen members, plus Reverend Lynn. The Parish Representatives are Pat Hall and Mick Boyle.

Readers

We have two Readers here at St Michael's and All Angels.

Mick Boyle is our Licensed Reader, and Allen Standeven is our Reader Emeritus with PTO

Hatches, Matches and Despatches

Our three Occasional Offices Co-ordinators are the first point of contact for families wanting to book baptisms, couples wishing to get married and for funeral directors or families wishing to arrange funerals.

Last year, we carried out 12 baptisms, 7 weddings and 37 funerals.

Our Co-ordinators are Pat Hall for baptisms, Jackie Kneen for banns and weddings, and Kate Best (during the vacancy period only) for funerals.

Pastoral team

We have a highly effective pastoral team in place. Whilst some people have official roles, there are a considerable number of others who quietly and efficiently support the team.

If we think of the Church as a family then we understand it's our job to look after one another, and there have always been members of the congregation who regularly visit, shop and give lifts. Our Pastoral team Chris Kershaw, and Christine Brandreth, visit the sick, bereaved, and housebound at home and in hospital. This is not limited to members of the congregation. They regularly take home communion to the housebound as requested. They act as point of contact for congregation members to liaise with, to advise of those who might benefit from or appreciate a visit, or who have not been in church recently.

Reverend Lynn Boyle



Honorary Assistant Priest with PTO

Kevin Hall



Church Warden

Bob Joy



Church Warden



Mick Boyle



Pat Hall



Allen Standeven



Paid staff

The post of Childrens and Family Worker is held by Louise Britton. This post, established 2022 is funded for three years from a recent legacy donated to the church.

Juliet Edwards is our **Parish Administrator**, working 8 hours per week. Her responsibilities include dealing with enquiries, collating data for the annual return, printing service sheets and other materials. A large part of her job is that of **Magdalene Centre Manager**, dealing with regular users, ad hoc bookings, ordering supplies and being line manager for the caretaker.

Neil Dunn is **Magdalene Centre Caretaker**, employed for 6 hours per week, and responsible for cleaning, routine safety checks and minor repairs. He works with our Maintenance Team leader in major DIY maintenance jobs, and acts as keyholder and named contact for emergencies.

Two **Vergers** assist the vicar or other ministers at funerals and weddings.

Safeguarding



The people who work on behalf of our church are people of love and integrity, whose prime concern is in sharing the good news of Jesus through the work that they do. We do, however, need to make sure that no-one who seeks to hurt others is allowed to work with vulnerable people in our congregation and to that end our Safeguarding Coordinator, Claire Bibby, ensures that not only are our leaders individually DBS checked but that they are made aware of the signs when someone is being hurt and what to do about this if they have concerns. Our church undertakes:

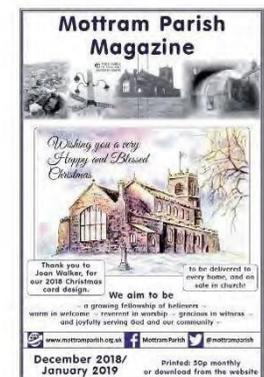
- to prevent abuse and report any which is discovered or suspected;
- to protect those who work with vulnerable people and to support them in doing that safely;
- to promote the growth of all within the love and nurture of the church community.

Details of all our safeguarding policies can be found on our website.

Communications

We use a variety of ways to keep in touch with the congregation and others beyond the church walls:

- Monthly Parish Magazine, delivered to about 400 subscribers around the parish and also available on-line, produced by Polly Brown and the team.
- Website, kept up to date by Charmian Wilby and Kevin Hall.
- A selection of GDPR compliant email mailing lists, using Mailchimp - covering church notices, social events and more – at the moment in the safe hands of Kevin Hall.
- Facebook and Twitter - regular posts by Rachel Rodgers.



Prayer and Bible study

Prayer ministry

Our **prayer board** is displayed in church. Anyone can write and post a prayer request for any situation. The prayer requests are often included in our weekly intercessions during Sunday services, taken to other prayer groups within the church family or used by members of the congregation in their personal prayers.

We have an energetic **Whatsapp** prayer group that is most pro-active and meets on a very regular basis. Formal Whatsapp meetings are held every three weeks but regular communication is maintained on an almost daily basis as circumstances and needs change.

Home groups

This church year several house groups have been established to look, in depth, at the Gospel of St Mark. They usually meet on a monthly basis. But, the frequency is driven by the requirements and interests of each group.

Mustard Seed - is a group of about six (female, but not compulsory) members, who first met together as young parents and carers in the 90's, and now still meet regularly. They following various resources such as The Upper Room.



The church in the community.

Social activities

As individuals or families we all like to have a social life. This is also true for our church family and we hold a variety of social events. Some of these also double as fund-raisers, but it's always good to meet just to get together. Here's a flavour of what we've been getting up to over the past few years:

- Fortnightly walking group
- Afternoon tea
- Barn dance
- Parish picnic
- Organ recital
- Harvest suppers
- Church family weekend away
- Monthly pub night
- Salsa night



- Car treasure hunt
- Parish lunch
- Evenings of poetry and music
- Quiz nights
- Tea dance
- Meals out
- Brass band, organ and choir concerts
- Advent dinner
- Bring and share harvest lunch.

Fundraising

Fundraising has a dual purpose of course - not only does it help us to balance the books, it often engages us with the wider community beyond the congregation, and can be great fun too:

Fundraising activities

Successful and popular events have included:

Sponsored walks

Abseils down the church tower

Parachuting teddies!

Sponsored bike rides

Spring/
Summer/
Autumn/
Christmas Fairs

Flying the flag



Giving Campaigns

From time to time, it is necessary for the church family to dig deep into their own pockets, to support the mission of the church.

A notable example is the Jam Jar appeal set up by Brenda and Graham. This has produced regular and very useful amounts of funding. It is still ongoing and well supported.



Then again, in 2019, faced with a very difficult financial position, a Giving Campaign was organised, which in addition to fundraising activities, made a big impact on the year's finances.

Community outreach - mission

At St Michael's we believe the church has a vital role to play in the community. We aim to deepen our discipleship by equipping and enabling the whole church family, so that each of us can live out the gospel in our everyday lives and in our community. We recognise the importance and value of going out into the community and meeting people where they are and.

Baptisms

The co-ordinator meets with the Baptism families and Godparents as appropriate before the event. This helps to prepare them for Baptism, to help them to understand what it means, and to gather information for to help the service run smoothly and to fulfill administrative requirements. Contact is then kept between the church and the families through phone calls and any other agreed communication platforms.



FIRST STEPS.

Is a baby and toddler group that seeks to engage, foster links, and develop relationships with families who wouldn't necessarily come to church. Such relationships are created through craft and storytelling sessions for children, parents and carers.



Community outreach - offering a helping hand

St Michael's Meals & Wheels

This offers home cooked frozen meals to those experiencing challenging times in their life and provides lifts to those having difficulty with transport. This has enabled us to serve a real and practical need, reaching out in the Lord's love to our community - to those who may be struggling with ill health, bereavement, caring responsibilities or suffering relationship breakdown.



Support to local charities



We have a permanent donation box in church to support the local **Foodbank**, part of the Trussell Trust network and based at Hattersley Baptist Church. A number of our congregation volunteer at the Foodbank Distribution Centre and at supermarket collections, and our church representative is a Foodbank Trustee.

We support **the Spotlight Outreach** Charity by donating the surplus freezer meals from our Meals and Wheels service, which are warmed up and distributed to the homeless community in Tameside and Manchester. We have recently made a substantial donation of much needed socks, talc and blankets to Spotlight.

Each year, our harvest festival collection of food and toiletries is taken to **The Food Bank**



Tony Kershaw and Dejan Melovic are currently trustees of the historic **Mottram Parish Charities**, who have given much financial support to the Foodbank, Spotlight and many individuals and organisations locally.



Regular charitable support - take information from Parish Information Document

Operation Christmas Child is a project of Samaritan's Purse, an international relief organisation, delivering gift-filled shoeboxes to over 168 million children in more than 100 countries. This appeal has become an annual event at Mottram Church. It is a way adults and children show God's love for these very disadvantaged children. The church generally sends between 25 and 30 shoe boxes each year.



The church makes regular and substantial donations to the Hattersley Food Bank.

Magdalene Centre groups

You will learn more about our own use of the centre elsewhere in this profile. Much of the time, however, the centre is booked solidly by local community groups and individuals, including:

Scouts, Cubs and Beavers
Hope Youth Theatre
Circuit Training and Kickboxing
Pilates and Dance classes
Occasional Bookings
Parties, concerts and Charity Events
School and PTA events
Hive Youth Theatre
Appleton Childcare
Before and After School Clubs
Wellness Classes



The church in its wider context

Mottram Deanery in Chester Diocese

The Diocese of Chester is the Church of England primarily in Cheshire.

Mottram Deanery is the easternmost outpost of the diocese, situated some 50 miles from Chester. Although Mottram was once regarded as 'the Deanery church' (the ancient parish boundary encompassed most of the modern Deanery), the post of Rural Dean is no longer automatically held by the vicar of Mottram, and is currently held by the vicar of nearby Holy Trinity, Stalybridge.

The PCC has representation on the Deanery Synod at present.

Links with other local churches

St Michael's has recently worked in collaboration with St Barnabas, Hattersley, for the Nativity Treasure Hunt at Christmas.

In addition it is working collaboratively in Gospel endeavours with other local churches who share our vision.

Silver Cord

Is a Tameside based Christian charity supporting churches in addressing loneliness and isolation, particularly - though not exclusively - among the elderly.



The church buildings

Vicarage and 'Curatage'

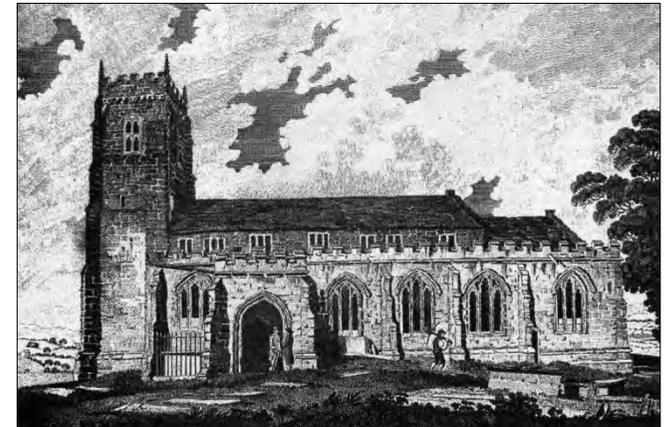
You will have read about the vicarage, earlier in this profile. We also own a small, two bedroomed terraced property in Broadbottom, bought with restricted funds for the use of a curate. This is at present being rented out on short term lease to private tenants.

The Parish Church of St. Michael & All Angels

The present church, a Grade II* listed building, was built in the late 15th century, following a bequest from Sir Edmund Shaa, who lived locally but rose to fame and fortune as the Lord Mayor of London. Shaa died in 1488 and left money for the building of the tower, also St. James Chapel near Tintwistle, and the founding of Stockport Grammar School. It is possible that the whole church was rebuilt at the same time, perhaps as an enlargement of an earlier building. There is documentary evidence of that earlier church, dated 1291, in the Papal taxation records of the time.

Some key features are:

- The Tower houses a peal of 8 bells and the village clock, and is on the At Risk Register;
- Two side chapels in the building: the Staveleigh Chapel and the Hollingworth Chapel;
- Life-size Derbyshire stone effigies of Sir Ralph and Lady Elizabeth de Staveleigh who predate the present building - c1420 - (subjects of the legend of Sir Ro and Lady Elizabeth);
- 12th century stone 'barrel' font, the oldest item of furniture in the church;
- A finely carved alabaster pulpit in memory of architect E. H. Shellard
- The Mottram village war memorial is located inside the church.



In 1855 the church had a major restoration, by local architect E. H. Shellard. The nave roof was raised, and the rather small clerestory windows replaced by the handsome ones we see today. Apart from that fine Victorian restoration, the structure and layout of the church remains much as it was when it was built 500 years ago. Each generation has left its mark, however, and this generation is no different. See our Big Plan, below.

A copy of the Guide Book, and our most recent Statement of Significance (much detail about the church and churchyard) are available on request.

Our Big Plan for St. Michael's

We would like to take steps to ensure that St Michael and All Angels is around for another 800 years. To this end we have recently completed major repairs to the bell frame and tower. We have also carried out some remedial works to address water ingress at the same location.

The inefficient heating system has been removed and are having a much more effective system installed on 12th August 2024. Whilst we have the funding in place for this work, we are trying to manage it wisely, and are currently constructing a funding bid to cover most of the cost, plus replacing the tower roof. If unsuccessful in our bid, then we shall use the existing funds we already hold to cover the cost.

Our future plans would be for the reordering of the space to allow for greater flexibility and improved community access. Although the plans have been drawn up, these would only be actioned once we knew the funds were in place to carry out the work.

Access

We have improved access for all by making a new path across the churchyard in permeable resin-bound stone chippings, to replace the uneven stone path.

Welcome and heritage

We wish to make our church more welcoming and accessible to all, by improving the entrance and social areas, and by replacing the heating and lighting systems. We will improve access to the buildings heritage by moving the stone effigies to a better position, and by researching and renovating the 18th century painted boards over the chancel arch.

The heating is already being addressed and the remainder will be part of the reordering project.

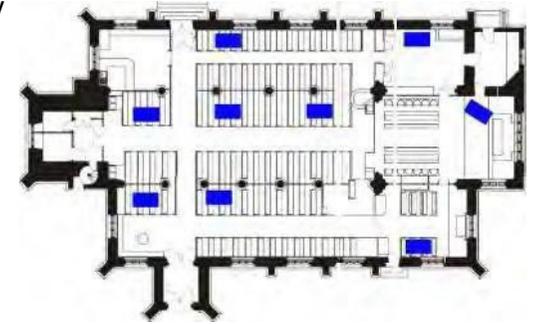
Worship and prayer

We want to make sure our church remains a superlative place of worship, now and into the future. This will be achieved by making the chancel area larger and more flexible to better accommodate different styles of worship, and to improve the way we use it for small services, prayer groups, concerts and school events. This will allow the space to be used more creatively with increased flexibility to support a variety community activities

Grant applications

Applications are being submitted in March 2024 to support the work to the heating and tower roof. When this has been completed we shall the apply again for further funding to reduce our carbon footprint (through solar paneling) combined together with the re-ordering project.

Cherish
the past
Embrace
the future



The Churchyard

In the churchyard are the Old Hearse House and the old Mottram Grammar School (now a private dwelling).

This would once have looked very different, being a small area bordering the church, with its headstones standing in serried ranks. In 1818 the churchwardens gave notice to all who had headstones in the churchyard to agree to have them laid flat. The churchyard was closed to new burials in 1861. Burials now take place in the local municipal cemetery run by Tameside MBC, which is located beyond the churchyard.

A Memorial Garden for the burial of ashes was consecrated in 1987. It was conceived, designed and is maintained, as a natural area, with vases, stones and other ornaments not allowed. Those who have lived in the parish or who have been a member of the congregation, have an automatic right for their ashes to be buried in the garden. Others who have a significant link to the parish can be interred here at the sole discretion of the vicar.

The Magdalene Centre

In the late 1870s, local landowners Colonel William Sidebottom and Edward Chapman, together with the vicar of Mottram, Canon Miller, raised funds so that Broadbottom could have a church of its own. The new church of St. Mary Magdalene was finished in 1890. Until the 1990s, Mottram's curates were given charge of St. Mary's.

When regular Sunday worship at Broadbottom was ceased, due to falling numbers, the PCC made a commitment to look for ways in which the church building there could be made more welcoming and useful

to members of the local community.

By complete coincidence we were soon approached by Tameside MBC, with a plan to bring a Sure Start Children's Centre to the village by developing the back third of the building to house that centre.

Soon afterwards, we raised the funds to redevelop the rest of the building (Hall and Chancel). Work started in 2008 and by 2010 we had the 'The Magdalene Centre', a worship space and community resource. The Children's Centre room (no longer used by Sure Start) is now named The Chapman Room in memory of Edward.

The centre is used occasionally now by the church, but in the main is booked by various local community groups and individuals.

Appleton Childcare are now using the Chapman Room to provide their Before and After School club.



Looking after our church buildings and grounds



Our buildings and churchyard require a lot of routine maintenance to keep them in good repair, as well as simply keeping them clean and tidy. Keeping on top of this has become problematic in recent years, and is now a real cause for concern.

St. Michael's

is a medieval building, so any work needs to be done in a way that respects its grade II* listed status - from DIY jobs done with due regard to conservation principles, to major repairs carried out by qualified professionals. All this needs to be led by someone who understands the building and its issues - and it is difficult to attract members of the congregation to be involved in this.

Routine DIY maintenance is now at present overseen by the Wardens, with a small team of others to call upon. They currently arrange booking and recording of professional regular maintenance such as boiler servicing and fire extinguisher testing etc, and for liaising with the parish architect or outside contractors for **major professional repairs**.

Regular weekly cleaning sessions are carried out by our affectionately named Holy Dusters led by Jacky Smith. There are three regular cleaners plus two occasional helpers - sometimes however, there are fewer.

The Flower Ladies meet weekly, arranging flowers on the altar and/or other displays. Extra displays are provided at Christmas, Easter and Harvest. Sometimes they are asked to decorate for weddings and funerals. People can sign up to donate money on a particular date, usually for a special occasion.



Churchyard and Memorial Garden

We have been very lucky to recruit two volunteers, a church member and her husband, both in their late 60s, to cut the grass in the churchyard, after the funding crisis that led to our reducing our contract with a local gardening firm, to mowing the memorial garden grass only. A garden working party, which once boasted six or more regular members each month, is now down to one person and hence work in this area of the churchyard is limited.

Magdalene Centre

is in a somewhat better position for cleaning and maintenance, as caretaker Neil Dunn regularly cleans the building and carries out minor repairs, and routine health & safety checks. During this period of inter regnum the Wardens are organizing necessary work such as high level light bulb replacements, more demanding maintenance tasks and decorating. They also arrange for major professional work and regular servicing for the fire extinguishers, fire alarm, boilers etc., but the caretaker is available to give access to contractors. The churchyard there currently receives no gardening attention apart from a yearly hedge cut from the same firm that cuts the Memorial Garden grass.



The Friends of Mottram Parish Church

The Friends was formed over 20 years ago as a means for all people who have affection for our beautiful mediaeval building, to support and contribute towards its upkeep. The Church building is part of our historical heritage here in Mottram, having stood on the hill in some form for over 500 years. We hope to help ensure it stays there for another 500.



The Friends has two objects:



- 1 To raise and provide funds for special repairs, maintenance and improvements to the fabric and furnishings of the church building, in order to enhance the worship environment for the congregation and preserve its heritage value for all;
- 2 To engage those who are not currently part of the church's worshipping community and to encourage them in their support for the church and its activities.

Membership currently stands at 164 and is made up of annual members who pay £10 per year, and life members who pay a one off payment of £100. There is a committee of five, and applicants will be pleased to know that the incumbent, whoever that may be, is the President of the Friends!

We organise three main events each year - a Spring Concert, Summer Garden Party, and the Heritage Open Days weekend. We have been pleased to be able to fund a large number of essential repairs and improvements to the building, having contributed in the region of £50,000 over the years. Recently money was given for projects as diverse as the repair of an unsafe memorial on the south wall of the church; the re-roofing, re-plastering and repainting of the clergy vestry; and a new door mat for the front porch!



Heritage Open Days



Every September during Heritage Open Days Weekend, some 40,000 volunteers across England organise 5,000 events to celebrate our fantastic history, architecture and culture, all of which are FREE to explore.

The Parish Church has been open for visitors during Heritage Open Days weekend, for just over ten years now - more recently, being organised by the Friends. Each year we feature tours, music, tea & cakes, and an exhibition, on themes such as The Big White Dress Show (wedding dresses), a Flower Festival, a Festival of Crosses, and this year, The Picture Show - a display and sale of paintings by two local artists.



THE JOB

Thank you for taking the trouble to read this far.

We hope you've gained some insight of what this little church on the hill is like.

If you come and visit you will find a welcoming, caring, friendly and inclusive congregation. A merry band that is loyal, supportive, passionate and committed to the church. A group that, in its churchmanship, is traditional central and rooted in the sacraments.

You will find also that the church is a real presence in the community. It's location, longstanding traditions and heritage are highly regarded by the parish, including non-church goers.

And we are fortunate enough to be in close proximity to three primary schools, one of them only 30 metres away and facing the driveway to the church.

However, as much as we'd like to think we are, we are not perfect. In the words of Rag'n'Bone Man, we're only human after all. There are things that we feel need to be done to move forward.

For example, although church numbers are on the increase, they are still below pre-covid levels which we would like to return to, and indeed surpass.

The future of the church rests in the hands of the young and so we would like to focus upon the provision and engagement of children and young families. This of course starts with our involvement with local schools which we want to develop. We are very lucky that there is a real desire from both the church and also school governors for this to succeed.

We strongly value our traditional central sacramental approach to worship but would like to provide opportunities for discipleship and to consider the spiritual and intellectual needs of the congregation by engaging with established courses such as Alpha, or similar.

We would also like to further strengthen our community by developing events and opportunities that bring people together to provide fellowship in a social context. If we were then able to connect with other churches and groups in the area, this would deepen the impact.

Of course, being able to pursue our vision of the reordering of the church would then provide a more diverse and flexible space to support fellowship, community cohesion and worship.

Where would any church be without volunteers helping it along? Our pastoral support teams do a tremendous job, and we wish to provide increased support in whatever ways we can to help the work they do.

As can be seen we have much to do, there is a job to be done aided by a willing and able congregation, what we need now is someone with strong clear leadership, highlighted by a sense of direction, to take the helm.

Do you think you could help us out, are you that person?

If you think you are...

So, what would the person, the captain of the ship that is Saint Michael and All Angels, look like? Fortunately, we are not expecting someone that wears a royal blue body suit, a red cape with red shorts and is immune to Kryptonite. But what we are looking for is...

Someone with a strong personal faith that is reflected in their compassion and who leads by positive example. That same person listens to and sees God in others. By doing so, they are then able to recognise the strengths and potential in others, to establish and further develop groups within the church and community. What we have then is a person that can lead from the front and motivate others, but he or she must have a vision of where and how they want to steer this ship. However, as the poet John Donne said, No Man is An Island, so he or she would also need to be collegiate in leadership style valuing the opinions and views of others. Above all our captain is someone who essentially can work IN a team as well as create or build them.

St Michael's has been here for over one thousand years, and we'd like to plan for the next thousand. So, we are looking for someone who believes in preparing for the future by developing the role of children within and across the church and engaging with schools.

In the hurly burly of the 21st century it is easy to get weighed down by the plethora of information, demands made upon us, then combined with the speed of their arrival. To navigate around this, we believe our captain would be someone who understands the importance of administrative systems and procedures, including finance, BUT is not afraid to seek advice outside of St Michael's, and to make use of diocesan support. He or she Manages time efficiently and can prioritize what needs to be done and by when. Therefore, to avoid stressful situations they are able to meet deadlines in plenty of time.

Effective communication between the captain and the crew is essential to ensure a smooth and safe journey. Therefore, the skipper must be able to communicate promptly and efficiently using a variety of appropriate methods that are available. They must also be excellent listeners and are able to delegate sensibly and responsibly, allowing them to have an awareness of all that is going on aboard the ship. It is important that they are able to communicate to a variety of audiences of varying ages and abilities, after all that is the make up of any crew.

All crews have a lot to learn and so we would expect our captain to an effective teacher. An awareness of the bigger picture would help the ship to run smoothly and so an understanding of their role within the local and wider community would be a big asset. So too would a good understanding and grounding within the church of England.

This merry band here at St Michaels values their captain and want them to be fit and well for the task ahead and so we want them to take good care of themselves and their families wellbeing by ensuring they take their time off and be prepared to ask for help, advice and support whenever they need it.

We are a ship looking for a new captain to steer us on a course for the future. If you think you can help us we would like to hear from you.

Of course, if you happen to dress in a royal blue body suit, red cape and red shorts...then maybe it's time for a makeover.

Thank you for taking the time to read this.

God bless.

Parish Finances

St Michael and All Angels is very proud of the fact that in living memory it has always been able to pay its full parish share. However, following Covid, congregation numbers dropped considerably and we struggled to meet our obligations to the diocese.

Despite having no heating in church at the moment, numbers are increasing, which is encouraging. Working in close collaboration with the diocesan finance officer we have been able to reconcile the situation and working towards rationalizing our financial position.

Following the advice of the diocese we have created a finance team of 3, sharing equal responsibilities. They are Jean Russell (named treasurer), Dorothy Stringer and Sarah Davies.

Our financial situation at the moment is as follows....

Our Current Position...

Current Acc: £59,868. This includes approximately £11,000 grant funding for Louise, £10,000 Bequest from J. Lamb and £600 raised by Mottram school towards a defibrillator .This should also contain the majority of the Parish Share - £68,000

Deposit Account: £129,121 – This includes some money belonging to the bellringers and approximately 2 years of Louise's salary (her Lottery grant includes £4000 towards her salary). Includes Legacy.

Other accounts - in hand and to be clarified by Sharon at Church House in due course.

To be continued.....

