



# **Wilmslow Parish**

## **St Bartholomew's and St Anne's Churches**



**Parish Profile - 2022**



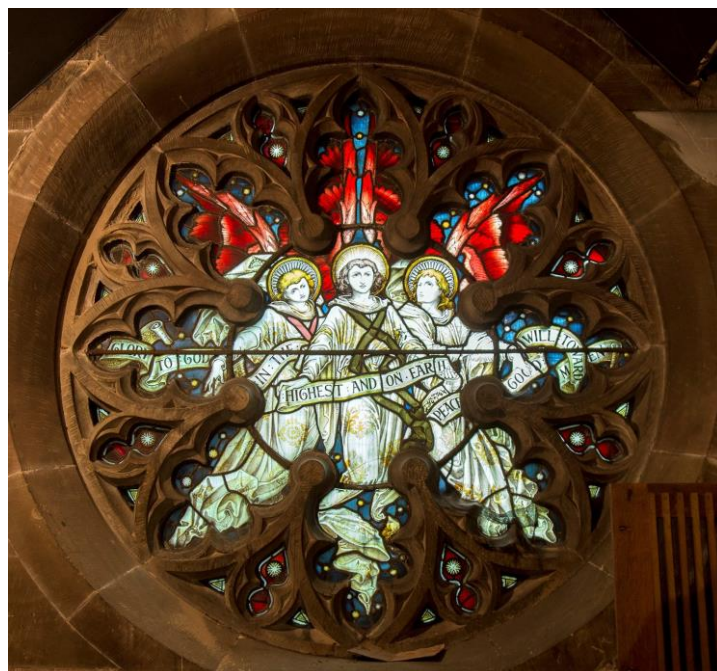
# Welcome to Wilmslow Parish St Bartholomew's and St Anne's Churches

## Contents

Our Mission .....	2
The Parish.....	3
The Church Buildings.....	3
People .....	5
Worship and Ministry .....	7
Community.....	10
Looking To The Future .....	12
Finances .....	12
Parish Data .....	13
Additional Information.....	13

## Our Mission

- To proclaim the good news of the Kingdom
- To teach, baptise and nurture new believers
- To respond to human need by loving service
- To seek to transform unjust structures of society
- To strive to safeguard the integrity of creation and to sustain the life of the earth



## The Parish

Our Parish is in the small town of Wilmslow lying south of Manchester on the edge of the Cheshire countryside. It is a residential commuter area but with many businesses having their offices in the town. Major employers include Royal London Insurance, Waters (a supplier of laboratory equipment), the Information Commissioner's Office and Manchester Airport.

Wilmslow is also a popular retail centre, with a growing café culture. Wilmslow town centre is focused upon Bank Square, Grove Street and Water Lane. Although Bank Square has traditionally provided the location for many of the town's banks, the name in fact originates from the bank, or slope, leading down from the railway station to the Carrs Park. The River Bollin flows through The Carrs Park and once provided the power source for nearby Quarry Bank Mill, now a National Trust site, and enjoyment for the local population. The town centre boasts many pubs, cafes and restaurants, and a cinema.



*Grove Street*



*Centre of Wilmslow*

The Parish has a population of around 18,413 split largely between families with young children/teenagers and retired people. It is an affluent, predominantly professional white middle class area. The Parish also includes some social housing.

Wilmslow has a Methodist Church, United Reformed Church, Unitarian Church, Roman Catholic Church, Life Church and a branch of the Society of Friends. The group 'Churches Together in Wilmslow' (CTIW) provides a coordinating function, and we participate in collective activities.

Wilmslow has excellent transport links with regular train services, including direct connections to Manchester and London, and is convenient for the M6, M60 and M56 as well as the airport. There are limited bus services.

## The Church Buildings

### Churches

St Bartholomew's (St Bart's) church is a Grade 1 listed building and is mainly 16th century with additions in the 18th and 19th centuries, although parts date back to the 13th century.

An extension comprising a kitchen, meeting room and toilets was completed in 2007. A major reordering was completed in 2013, which removed pews and replaced the entire floor in the body of the church. We now use movable pews and chairs, giving excellent flexibility in the use of the space.

The building is in a good state of repair with no major work currently needed. The tower houses 6 bells, which are rung by our dedicated team of ringers every week and also for weddings and on special occasions.



*St Bart's with Jubilee Beacon*



*St Anne's from the air*

St Anne's was originally built in 1876 to house both Church and school. It includes a vestry with a sink and cupboards as well as the priest's vestry. It is in a good state of repair following an excellent Quinquennial in June 2021.



## Parish Halls

Both churches have halls. The Parish Hall is located next to the attractive, recreational, Carrs Park, with Council parking and a public play area. It has good office, toilet and kitchen facilities and is regularly let out, attracting regular bookings as well as occasional activities. It is the long-term home to Wilmslow Town Council. The Parish Hall is maintained by a salaried caretaker.

The St Anne's Hall is adjacent to the church, with good toilet and kitchen facilities. It is also used for church activities, and is hired out for community use.



*Parish Hall viewed from St Bart's tower*



*Jubilee Tea Party in St Anne's Hall gardens*

## The Church School

St Anne's Fulshaw C of E Primary School is located directly over the road from St Anne's Church.

The building was opened in 1890 to house the school, as numbers grew beyond the capacity of the church.



## Rectory

The Rectory is situated on Parkway close to the centre of Wilmslow and to Wilmslow High School.

It is a spacious home, with a large garden. There are three reception rooms (one good sized room used as a study), a large kitchen and a downstairs cloakroom. The house has five bedrooms, one of which has previously been used as an additional study. Two of the bedrooms have en-suite facilities, and there is a family bathroom.

There is hardstanding at the front providing parking for 4/5 cars.



## People

### Ministry Team

#### Reverend Canon Professor Roger Yates (PTO)

Roger has been an active member of the ministry team since 1987 and despite being officially retired, continues in this role. He is a retired consultant pharmaceutical physician. For many years he was Bishop's Officer for Non-Stipendiary Ministry and served as Rural Dean for Knutsford for seven years. Roger has represented the Deanery on Diocesan Synod and been an elected member of both the Bishop's and the Cathedral Council. He is still active as a Spiritual Director and Deanery Vocations Advisor. His particular interests/concerns are the ethics of medical research and the science-religion 'discussion'.

#### Reverend Georgina Watmore (PTO)

Georgina worshipped for many years in the Parish before becoming ordained. She took early retirement from the post of Rector of Tarporley (Chester Diocese) at the beginning of 2021 and since then, with PTO, has helped to cover services in Wilmslow Parish and other churches within the Diocese. In May 2022 she was commissioned as Bishop's Pastoral Chaplain supporting the Bishops and Archdeacons in offering pastoral support to clergy in the diocese.

#### Reverend Val Hollis (PTO)

Val moved to Wilmslow in 2018 from Bedfordshire, where she had served as an SSM in the St Alban's Diocese since 1992. She retired from full-time employment in 2000 but retained an active interest in Early Years Education, having combined her SSM role with her work as a headteacher. From 2000 she continued as part of the ministry team and then with PTO, supported a number of parishes within North Bedfordshire, served as the SSM Support Officer within the Bedfordshire Archdeanery and continued as Spiritual Director. In 2019 she was granted PTO in the Chester Diocese, her ministry limited to St Anne's and St Bart's.

### In Training

#### Flo Knowles

Flo manages St Bartholmew's Church and our parish food bank, Food Friend. She is an active volunteer in our community and is in her final (third) year of training to be a licenced Lay Pastoral Worker. She is a qualified counsellor with a special interest in bereavement ministry and hopes to officiate at funerals once she is licensed, which is expected to be in October 2023.

### Financial Management

#### Julian Bowker

Julian is the PCC Treasurer and is responsible for maintaining the financial records of the PCC. He produces reports, forecasts and the annual accounts, along with managing the cash resources, including banking receipts and making payments (in conjunction with the Parish Administration Manager), maintaining Gift Aid records and making reclaims, plus many ad-hoc tasks.

### Safeguarding Officer

Our Safeguarding Officer is Diana Smith, a member of the PCC.

### Diocesan & Deanery Synods

Two members of the PCC are on the deanery synod and there are two vacancies. Our PCC Secretary is currently the Knutsford Deanery Lay Chair.

### Administration Team

The Parish had an Administration Manager until August 2022, and at the time of writing is in the process of recruiting a replacement. The Parish Administrator is a wide ranging role, including day-to-day Church administration, managing funeral and wedding arrangements, as well as bookings and payments for the use of the two Churches and their halls.

The Parish Office is in the Parish Hall and is open to the public during certain hours, with an answerphone facility for out-of-hours contacts.



## Churchwardens

Our Church Wardens are Caroline Lucas and Jackie Watts. They are assisted by several assistant wardens and 20 sidespeople.

## PCC

There is an active and supportive PCC comprising 17 members. It represents both churches and meets 6 times a year. It operates with 2 sub-committees, a Finance Committee and a Fabrics Committee (who deal with all aspects of the maintenance and repair of the Parish buildings). Both these sub-committees have well defined Terms of Reference for their areas of responsibility.

## Volunteers

We have many volunteers who give generously of their time to help with all aspects of church life from cleaning and laundry, setting up for services, bell-ringing, opening up church buildings, gardening, running and hosting home groups and, of course, baking! However we are always keen to attract new volunteers, both to help with the necessary tasks and to expand the reach of the Church in the community.



*The Gardening Team*



*Planting the Jubilee Tree at St Bart's*



*Collecting for Christian Aid*



*Food Friend*



*Tea Party at St Anne's*



*....and in the Parish Hall*

## Worship and Ministry

### Style of Worship

Our Worship has gradually evolved. The relatively recent refurbishment of St Bart's provided a platform at the east end of the nave with an altar and lectern. Initially this allowed us to centre Sunday worship on most Sundays around the new altar. On Festivals and a few other occasion the Ministry of the Sacrament was around the high altar after the Ministry of the Word had been conducted from the new platform. Recently the high altar has not been used at all – but members of the congregation would welcome its occasional use.

In St Anne's the Order of Service has remained constant and identical to that used in St Bart's. The Parish Orders of Service, used for all Communion, were introduced by the Rector before last and have remained in use. In both Churches the first (usually New Testament) Reading and the intercessions are led by members of the congregation.



*Combined Service at St Anne's*



*Evensong at St Barts*

The Parish has a full set of vestments in both Churches which were previously in use every Sunday, though this practice has lapsed. There are no longer any Servers involved in our communion Services.

The Parish looks forward to reviewing, with its new Rector, its current pattern of Worship and is open to changing and extending it.

### Regular Services

These are the regular services offered at the moment. This represents a partial restoration of the worship offered before the Covid restrictions.

8.00am	Holy Communion (BCP said)	St Anne's	2nd Sunday
9.30am	Holy Communion (CWC)	St Anne's	Sunday
11am	Holy Communion (CWC)	St Bart's	Sunday
4.30pm	Evensong	St Bart's	1st Sunday
10.30am	Holy Communion (CWC)	St Bart's	1st, 3rd & 5th Thursdays
10.30am	Holy Communion (CWC)	St Anne's	2nd & 4th Thursdays
9.00am	School Assembly service	St Anne's	Thursday (term time)

Previously we held all-age services at both churches once a month, and regular healing services, which have not yet been re-established. We have occasional combined services for the congregations of both churches (for example at Patronal festivals).



## Special Services for Festivals

As is traditional we aim to enhance the normal pattern of worship at Easter and Christmas, and other Festivals such as Harvest and Remembrance Day.



*Easter daffodils at St Bart's*



*St Anne's Christingle Service*

We have held special services for the following occasions:-

- Ash Wednesday, imposition of ashes
- Palm Sunday, procession with donkey
- Holy Week - Stations of the Cross, Passover meal
- Feet washing on Maundy Thursday
- Good Friday, 3 hour vigil
- Easter Day sunrise service
- Confirmation
- Wilmslow Civic service
- Harvest Festival
- Remembrance Sunday
- Carol services for local schools
- Nine Lessons and Carols
- Service of the longest night
- Christingle services, Crib service and Midnight Mass
- Deanery Evensong



*St Anne's School, Year 6 Presentation*

## Music

Music of all types is an important part of our worship and parish life as well as fund raising. Tim Harvey is the Director of Music and has been in post since March 2020. The parish has an adult robed choir of around 16 members who sing at the 11.00 Sunday services, lead Evensong on the first Sunday of the month and provide music for weddings, funerals and special services throughout the year. We use 'Hymns Old and New' together with a supplementary book of worship songs. Less formal styles of music have also enhanced our services.



*St Bart's Choir*

St Bart's is used as a concert venue covering an eclectic range of music from brass bands to choral music. We offer lunchtime piano concerts on some Saturdays and regular organ recitals throughout the year.





*Tim Harvey at the organ*



*Band Concert in St Bart's*

St Bart's has a new three-manual York Pipe Organ (2018) plus a grand piano for use by the church and community. St Anne's has a two-manual Allen electronic organ. Both churches have a media projector and screen with a professional sound system ideal for presentations and concerts.

For the future, Tim Harvey would love our parish to be the first musical venue of choice of the Church and of the wider community and wishes to grow the choir to enhance the worship in both churches.

### Children and Young People

Pre Covid there was a "Mustard Seed Café" Sunday morning young family service that included breakfast "butties".

More recently we held monthly family all-age services, aimed at families with children and young people. These are currently suspended during the interregnum.

The close proximity of, and association with, St Anne's C of E School (as well as other local schools) offers the opportunity to introduce younger children into the Church family. In the recent past St Bart's was very popular for baptisms, which also provided a potential link with young families.

### Congregation

Our services are generally well attended with a total average between the two churches of about 85 communicants every Sunday, typically 60 at St Bart's and 25 at St Anne's.

We also have home groups and a prayer group who meet regularly. The St Anne's Church Ladies' Group, which meets monthly, attracts a cross section of members from both St Anne's and St Bart's.

### Neighbourhood Network



*Neighbourhood Network tea-party*

Our Neighbourhood Network is a group of church members who befriend and support parishioners, as well as welcoming new people in the congregations. They are a link between members of the church and the clergy when required. The Neighbourhood Network team maintain personal links with their group of parishioners. They keep in touch by the sending of Church Easter and Christmas cards, and the team holds two social gatherings each year for everyone.

These links were particularly important during Covid times when priority was given to regular phone calls, and help with shopping. These activities were particularly valuable for people who otherwise found themselves isolated.

The Parish has a link with St Agnes, Longsight, and in the past we have had occasional shared services, usually at Ascension.

## Community

### Parish Community

We have a team of volunteers who have either done Foundations for Ministry, are in further training, or are professional counsellors. Their work has included running a fortnightly bereavement group, Grave Talk Café and making bereavement follow up calls, running listening skills and marriage MOT courses. Volunteer work extends into wedding and baptism preparation and helping with any specific pastoral situations. There is also a small team who deliver Home Communion to the housebound.

St Bart's is open on Saturdays thanks to a rota of 'Church-sitters', and offers coffee and cakes on the first Saturday of the month. It is also open at Food Friend opening times (currently Monday morning and Thursday afternoon).

St Anne's Hall has a Preschool run privately during the weekday mornings.

### Food Friend



The parish food bank, Food Friend, was set up in 2011 and currently operates from St Bart's one morning and one afternoon a week, and makes deliveries when necessary. There is a budget income to spend of approximately £10k pa and we receive regular food donations from the congregation and general public via a donation point at our local Sainsbury's branch. These are enhanced at Harvest and Christmas, especially from local schools, community groups, businesses and Styal Prison, for example. We have helped around 500 families to date.

Food Friend is very much part of the parish's identity and proved invaluable to the community during the pandemic. We work closely with other food banks in the area and offer a listening ear to clients (who understandably present with issues such as depression, anxiety and addiction). We signpost for further help when needed and have run budget cookery classes in the past. Food Friend is supported by a wonderful team of volunteers including young adults with special educational needs and disabilities. We have regularly attended schools and community groups to highlight the issues, often unseen, around poverty. It is a surprise to some that a food bank is even needed in a generally prosperous parish.



### Friends of the Parish

We are fortunate to be supported by the Friends of the Parish, a group of people who work to raise funds to help maintain and restore the fabric of the buildings of St Bart's and St Anne's. The 'Friends' are mainly present and past members of the Parish, and we would like to extend this to the wider community. They organise fundraising events including Fetes, Lunches, a Wedding Festival, a Jigsaw Exhibition and a Knitted Bible exhibition.

Plans for this year include a celebration of the Twelve Days of Christmas with various events including concerts, activities and a German market.



*Wedding Festival*



*Knitted Bible Exhibition*



## Citizens Advice Bureau

The CAB hold a weekly appointment system in the Parish Hall.

## Services for the Elderly

Communion Services have been held at Hazelmere Nursing Home and at Carrs Court Retirement Apartments on a regular basis, staffed by volunteer Eucharistic Ministers / Readers. These were suspended due to Covid but are soon to start up again.

## Parish Magazine

We have a successful Parish Magazine, with many interesting articles provided by parishioners. The magazine is produced monthly and is distributed by email to over 200 people. It is available on the parish website, and in addition 100 paper copies are printed for those who prefer them. It also raises funds from magazine sales and advertising.

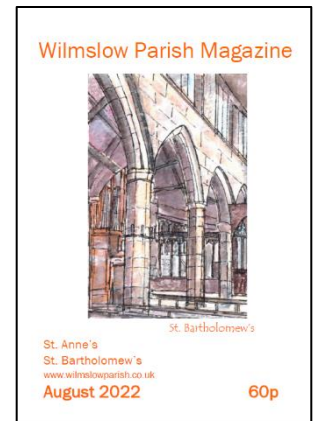
## Social Media

The Parish maintains a website at <http://wilmslowparish.co.uk/> and has an active Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/wilmslowparishCofE/>

## Schools

There are a number of state schools in the area including Wilmslow High School, a large school of over 2,000 pupils, and several primary schools. There are also two private preparatory schools for prep/junior with ages 3 – 11.

The role of Rector includes ex officio governorship of St Anne's Fulshaw C of E Primary (Voluntary Controlled) School and the Church also appoints a second Foundation governor. St Anne's school has a website at [www.stannesfulshaw.net](http://www.stannesfulshaw.net). The school was graded 'Outstanding' in the SIAMS report of 2018, which is online at [http://www.stannesfulshaw.net/serve\\_file/232264](http://www.stannesfulshaw.net/serve_file/232264). The capacity of the school is 133 pupils (currently 129 on roll), and its popularity is very high. It has a higher than average percentage of pupils with Special Educational Needs who benefit from the smaller class sizes.



*In the Hall*



*Painting competition*

It is the only Church of England school in the area. There has been an ongoing link between the Parish and the school for very many years, with several members of the congregation having served as governors. In the future we are keen to build further on this relationship to bring the two closer together. The Head Teacher provides a monthly article, with pictures of their activities, for the Church magazine.

We host carol services for St Anne's school, Lacey Green Academy, Wilmslow Preparatory School and Pownall Hall School. We have also worked with Wilmslow High School on a variety of projects.

## Looking To The Future

Our new Rector will join a Parish family filled with a desire to move forward from the setbacks created by the pandemic and the resignation of our last Rector. We look forward to taking the next steps in our journey, in partnership with our new incumbent.

We will move forward with faith in a caring God, hope for our future, and love for each other. But we are realistic about the challenges. We are a relatively ageing congregation, profoundly affected by the events of the past few years. Both of our churches lack significant numbers of families, children and young adults: those people who will bring new energy and ideas to the life of the Parish and its outreach in the wider community. We need to be re-energised to attract young families into our wider Parish Family, and perhaps a renewed emphasis on Baptisms would offer an introduction to some. We are a Parish family reviving post-lockdown and full of yearning to grow and flourish as a Godly people in this place. We have many of the foundations in place, but know we cannot achieve this without fresh, energetic and engaging leadership, infused with the love of God and inspired by His Holy Spirit.

We want to bring in more people of all ages and demonstrate the relevance of Christianity and the church to the everyday issues faced by the residents of the Parish. We have benefited and continue to benefit from the ministry of women. We feel that Lay Ministry can make a real contribution to our future progress.

Whilst the current style of worship suits the existing congregation we are aware that potential new members can find our ways confusing, even daunting. Building upon our strengths we need to find an approach in our church services which will appeal to the wider and younger community. We seek to blend our traditions with an open welcoming culture that offers diversity of expression, perhaps by offering a wider range of services (including non-Eucharistic) and music, catering for all ages and those less familiar with church.

There are opportunities to build on the success of our Parish Magazine and to expand our communications media. We are currently updating our website, and are looking at expanding into other platforms including Twitter.

We need to reinvigorate our stewardship scheme. In recent years fundraising has been focused on building works and the organ renovation, both of which have been accomplished. The emphasis now should be on achieving a sound financial future, to provide a platform on which to build our ambitions.

## Our New Rector

We are looking for:

- someone who will journey with us as parishioners to help us nurture our relationship with Jesus Christ
- a 'people person' who is family oriented and able to engage with all age groups, and to strengthen links with the church school.
- a leader, able to motivate and inspire
- someone prepared to make a long-term commitment to the Parish
- an incumbent with training/supervision skills for Lay Pastoral Workers and Readers
- a person with organisational and administrative skills

The Rector has traditionally held some external responsibilities. These include the Annual Festival of Remembrance as a civic celebration, Chaplain to the Royal British Legion and Patron of St Philip's and St James, Alderley Edge.

## Finances

The Parish was in the fortunate position on 31<sup>st</sup> December 2021 of having a strong Balance Sheet with total cash at bank and short-term deposits totalling £373,312, representing unrestricted funds of £317,354 and restricted funds of £55,958. The restricted funds refer to monies held by "Food Friend" (which can only be used for local food relief) and Friends of the Parish (which can only be used for the replacement or refurbishment of parish property).

Like all churches the finances for both of the years 2020 and 2021 were impacted by the pandemic. Non standing-order giving income was understandably adversely affected, as was the lettings income from the two church halls which had been subject to closure and restrictions for part of each year.



As an offset against the lower income there were cost reductions as a result of the decreased usage of the two churches and church halls. Both local council and government grants were obtained to help mitigate the loss of income and offset certain costs. The combination of these factors resulted in the overall financial position for 2021 being a deficit of £31,118 (£29,061 arising on unrestricted funds and £2,057 on restricted funds).

The balancing of income and expenditure still remains challenging and, whilst the parish is currently forecasting an improvement for the year 2022, the year's budget unfortunately still reflects an annual deficit of around £20,000 (before taking into account the imminent fuel price rises). Therefore, sound financial stewardship and fundraising are amongst the key objectives for the Parish and are a current key PCC agenda item.

The Parish meets its Parish Share in full. It amounted to £81,310 in 2021, and is budgeted at £82,936 for 2022.

## Parish Data

Parish Register	2018	2021
Baptisms	35	5
Weddings	18	7
Funerals	20 in church 13 at the crematorium	11 in church 11 at the crematorium
Confirmation Candidates	0	0

These data show the historical level of activity, which has not been fully restored since the pandemic.

## Additional Information

See also our website [www.wilmslowparish.co.uk](http://www.wilmslowparish.co.uk), and the Parish Facebook page [@wilmslowparishCofE](https://www.facebook.com/wilmslowparishCofE/), at <https://www.facebook.com/wilmslowparishCofE/>.

For further information please contact Ian Bishop (Archdeacon of Macclesfield), [ian.bishop@chester.anglican.org](mailto:ian.bishop@chester.anglican.org).

## Addresses

The Rectory:-

15 Parkway, Wilmslow, SK9 1LS

St Bart's Church:-

Chancel Lane, Wilmslow, SK9 1AW

Wilmslow Parish Hall:-

Cliff Rd, Wilmslow, SK9 4AA

St Anne's Church:-

Nursery Lane, Wilmslow, SK9 5JG

St Anne's Fulshaw C of E Primary School:-

Nursery Lane, Wilmslow, SK9 5JQ

## Appendices

- Financial Statement, 2021
- The History of St Bartholomew's Church
- The Parish Magazine
- The 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Booklet of the Friends of the Parish



