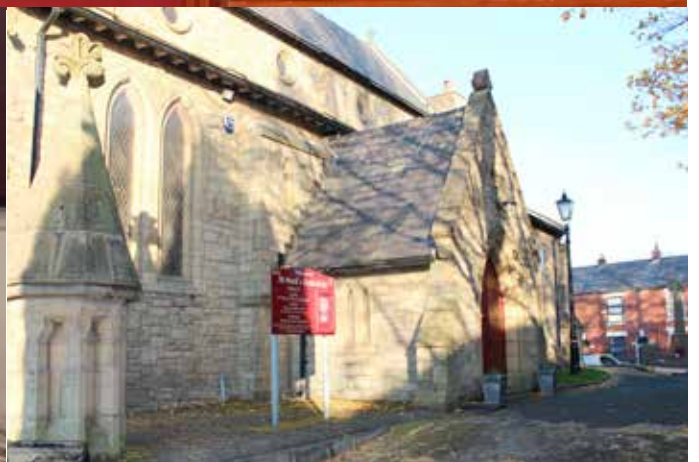


# St Mark's Dukinfield



## Parish Profile 2019

We look forward to meeting you and welcoming you to St Mark's

## Who we are

Parish Profile approved by the PCC on 06/01/19

We are a lively Anglican Church, of the modern catholic tradition.

Our worship is typified by a family friendly, and relaxed atmosphere.

We are a Eucharistic Church where Holy Communion is at the heart of our worship.

We are an inclusive church and believe the love of God is open to all.

We have a wide age range, stretching from young babies to those over 90 years of age.

Our church family is socially diverse.

Members of the church willingly volunteer to take responsibility for all aspects of church life.

Our electoral roll currently stands at 81

Our Sunday worship is regularly attended by 35 or more adults and 22 children, with larger congregations at special services

## Patterns of worship

Our services are facilitated by the Worship Team and on Sundays are supported by the Children's Ministry team.

## Sunday

Holy Communion at 10.30am.

One Sunday each month is a Family Service which offers a more relaxed style of service and encourages families to worship together.

## Wednesday

Holy Communion at 10.00am (said).

## Saturday

The church is open for said Morning Prayer at 9.30 am.

## Additional services

We hold additional services to celebrate Christmas, Easter and other major festivals.



## What we do

We worship God at different times and in varying styles, to reflect the needs of the church family.

We work to build a worshipping community.

We work to serve our neighbours and community, and are keen to engage with the wider community.

# St Mark's Dukinfield

[facebook.com/StMarksChurchDukinfield/](https://facebook.com/StMarksChurchDukinfield/)

[www.stmarksdukinfield.org.uk](http://www.stmarksdukinfield.org.uk)



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THR	FRI	SAT
		1 9.30 Tuesday Group 10.30 Cleaning Team	2 10.00 Holy Communion 11.00 Bible Study 2.00 Mothers Union	3	4	5 9.30 Morning Prayer
6 10.30 Holy Communion Little Lions Junior Choir Club	7 10.00 Finance Team 1.45 Praise & Play 6.00 Ministry Staff	8 9.30 Tuesday Group 10.30 Cleaning Team	9 10.00 Holy Communion 11.00 Bible Study	10	11	12 9.30 Morning Prayer
13 10.30 Holy Communion Little Lions Junior Choir Club	14 10.00 Finance Team 1.45 Praise & Play 6.00 Ministry Staff 7.30 PCC	15 9.30 Tuesday Group 10.30 Cleaning Team	16 10.00 Holy Communion 11.00 Bible Study	17	18	19 9.30 Morning Prayer
20 10.30 Family Service Junior Choir Club	21 10.00 Finance Team 1.45 Praise & Play 6.00 Ministry Staff	22 9.30 Tuesday Group 10.30 Cleaning Team	23 10.00 Holy Communion 11.00 Bible Study	24	25	26 9.30 Morning Prayer
27 10.30 Holy Communion Little Lions Junior Choir Club	28 10.00 Finance Team 1.45 Praise & Play 6.00 Ministry Staff Standing Committee	29 9.30 Tuesday Group 10.30 Cleaning Team	30 10.00 Holy Communion 11.00 Bible Study	31		

Sunday Lunch Club 1st Sunday

Parish Administrator on Wednesday

# Who we are looking for

## Essential

### Public Worship

- Lead us to grow God's kingdom in Dukinfield.
- Help us to grow our understanding of the Bible and the development of prayer.
- Be passionate about working with people of all ages and encourage spiritual growth.
- To expand both the traditional and contemporary elements of our worship.

### Social Engagement / Families

- Invest in ministry of young people and families,
- Promote the Church within the wider community and support outreach projects to meet the needs of different groups of people.
- To value the diversity of our congregation, including supporting those who can no longer attend weekly services.

### Gifts and Skills of Volunteers

- To recognise and actively develop the skills of people thereby growing our worshipping community.
- Liaise with, manage and encourage the growth and confidence of our volunteers.
- Be supportive of the fundraising ethos of our congregation.

### Desirable

- To engage young people in the life of the church beyond our regular services. In the past this has been through puppet ministry.
- Recognise the value of the social events of the Church.

# Person Specification

- Someone who is keen to build on what God is doing in our church but isn't bound by our way of doing things.
- A preacher and teacher who is able to compose and deliver sermons which can be understood by all.
- Deeply prayerful.
- Whose heart loves people.
- Committed to Dukinfield and passionate about the life of the Church.
- Missional in terms of social action.
- Good at understanding and managing people and complex lives.
- Good at drawing out the best in people and able to build confidence.
- Strategic leadership abilities which will ensure the finances and the management of the church administration runs smoothly.
- A good communicator and skilled listener.
- Organised and able to prioritise demands to ensure the right processes are in place to facilitate worship.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank you for reading our profile and hope that, together with prayer, it will help you to decide if St Mark's is the right place for you.

## St Mark's Congregation Hopes and Aspirations for the New Vicar.

A good listener with pastoral skills

Someone who is funny, energetic and kind thoughtful and helpful

To encourage our children to play such active part in our services.

Good teacher and preacher

Someone who can connect with teenagers and young people, develop social activities.

Have good communication skills between the group leaders and volunteers

Compassion, a good leader and listener,

Be able to interact with children and young people at their level

A good leader, deep faith, family orientated

Compassionate, caring, a good communicator.

Someone who is approachable and will listen when we need someone to turn to and trust.

To maintain the traditional service with a modern twist

Enthusiastic, ready to initiate change where needed

Prayerful, compassionate, kind, visionary leader

Be passionate about St Mark's.

Remember! We are not a leafy suburb, this is a working class area! Also need to be friendly, approachable and willing.

Make sure everyone feels included

Stay true to our traditions

Demonstrating humility. Content to serve, rather than be served.

Attract the younger generation and families into the church

Engages with all ages

## St Mark's Childrens Hopes and Aspirations for the New Vicar.

Someone who is funny, energetic and kind, thoughtful and helpful. Be generous with biscuits after the service.

Someone who is kind, and a little bit funny!

Respectful

Energetic

Don't be boring / be enthusiastic, knows their stuff, be funny.

Helpful, Joyful

Intelligent



## Styles of worship

Our Sunday morning service is predominantly traditional in style.

We have an organist who accompanies our services and we sing hymns using the Complete Anglican Hymns, Old and New hymn book.

We use technology, with a video screen for the structure of the service, and more modern songs of praise.

We use Order of Service booklets which change according to the Christian calendar and its seasons.

The Wednesday service is a said service.

We offer an inclusive Communion policy to actively support everyone on their Christian journey towards Confirmation.

The service is structured and planned in advance. It is led by one person, usually the priest. Prayers, bible readings, and Eucharistic administration are carried out by other members of the congregation. The Reader assists with planning, preaching and leading worship. It is supported by the Children's Ministry Team.

We follow the Lectionary and this is mirrored by the work of the Children's Ministry Team in Sunday School.



## Music at St Mark's

St Mark's has an organ, which was rebuilt in 1949, and an organist. We have an adult robed choir of 5 ladies and a Junior Choir which has 9 regular and committed attendees. The organ leads the Liturgical music and three of the hymns used in Sunday worship. The music for hymns, Taize chants and Liturgy is predominantly from 'Complete Anglican Old and New', occasionally supplemented with hymns from 'Mission Praise Complete'. The music is varied during the seasons of the Church and is used flexibly to suit the style of worship. We enhance our worship with a children's action song and a modern worship song using our audio / visual system. Our communion hymns are sung to piano, accompanied by an acoustic guitar and supported by both the adult and junior choirs.

## St Mark's Junior Choir

The Junior Choir was founded in 2015 with 7 interested children already attending church. The organist is also the Choir Trainer and is assisted by one of the parents at choir practices.

The Choir follows the Royal School of Church Music's Voice for Life Programme. The aim of the Junior Choir is to be as inclusive as possible and the programme has been adapted to be suitable for the younger choristers.

The Junior choristers wear royal blue zipped hoodies identifying them to St. Mark's Choir in the same colour as the adult choir robes.

The Junior Choir perform specially prepared items for every monthly family service and for all special services such as Candlemas, Mothering Sunday, Harvest and Christingle. The choir's participation in services is highly valued by the church's congregation. A priority for the Choir Trainer is that the young choristers will remain engaged with the church through choir membership as they progress through adolescence and into being young adults.



## Children's Ministry



## Sunday School

St Mark's Sunday School is known as Little Lions. It was established in 2011 and runs each Sunday during morning worship. There is no session during a family service. The current age range membership is 3-12 years. We have around 19 children who attend Little Lions on a regular basis. Each session is planned for by a leader using material from Roots. We follow the Lectionary and the children's learning reflects that of the wider congregation. In addition to the leader, there are 2 helpers who support each session. Due to growing numbers Little Lions currently takes place in the church hall which is a separate building. The children join the main congregation at the beginning and end of each service. As well as Sunday worship the children in Little Lions participate in a nativity play at Christmas and walk in the procession around Dukinfield at Whitsuntide.

## Praise & Play

Praise and Play is a toddler group for babies and pre-school children. We meet on a Monday afternoon term time only. We start in Church with a welcome song, this helps us and the other children to learn everyone's name. This is followed by a simple song and a short bible story, accompanied by Maxi Mole - a real favourite with the children. We then go over to the Church Hall where we have lots of toys, simple crafts and a drink with some nibbles.

We feel this is a way for people who feel uncomfortable going to a Sunday Service to still feel part of the Church and hopefully get involved in future events.

## Church staff

Our church currently has a self supporting Curate who works in the church on a part time basis. We also have a Reader.

The church has a financial commitment to the organist and a cleaner who is responsible for the cleanliness of the church hall.

The church is also supported by a dedicated group of volunteers. Roles that are taken on include shared warden duties, children's ministry, finance, and maintenance of the church buildings and grounds.



## Cleaning team

The team consisting usually of 6 or 7 members keep the church spick & span, dusting, sweeping and mopping and making it a pleasant place to worship throughout the year. We have plenty of banter and chit chat and are generally good natured bunch of people. We have tea and coffee in the church lounge after our work is done where we usually interact with the Tuesday group as they are finishing their meeting. It is a good time to be together outside of worship and very fulfilling. We are always looking for new members.



## Prayer corner and visiting team

The prayer corner in church is a quiet and peaceful place for private prayer. Candles are lit for private prayers; Morning Prayer is said there on Saturday mornings. Prayer cards and gifts are produced by church members and offered for sale. A Prayer group that concentrated on visiting and prayer ran from 2014 to 2017, and it is hoped that this could be revived. The former members continue to visit and pray for people in need in the congregation.



## Tuesday group

(formerly Faith, Coffee and Friends)

We are a group of adults who meet on a Tuesday morning (pre school children are welcome). We have tea and toast followed by a discussion about faith and learning from the Bible.

There is a lot of chat and some serious stuff. We have arranged minibus trips to the seaside – Lytham, Llandudno, Towyn and Blackpool lights, and a Christmas outing.

Some of our members take part in other church activities such as leading Praise and Play, Little Lions Sunday School, and the Christmas Tree Festival.



## Sunday lunch club

Once a month some members of the congregation go out to lunch after the morning service to a local pub. There are usually between 10 and 14 people. It is a chance to spend time together and is greatly appreciated. In December there is a church Christmas lunch which is attended by about 30 people.

## Purls of Wisdom Knitting Group

We are a group made up of members and friends of the congregation. We formed three years ago to knit nativity figures. Enthusiasm grew and we have since knitted many Biblical scenes. To mark the 100th Anniversary of the end of the Great War we have created a cascade of knitted poppies which was displayed in Church from Remembrance Sunday. Our enthusiasm unabated, we are continuing to produce more Bible scenes for future display.

## St Mark's Mothers Union.

The Mothers Union was formed during the 1950's and has been run by members on a monthly basis for over 60 years. Two of our ladies have been members for over 50 years. At the moment our numbers are small but we are a lively bunch who enjoy our time together and also interacting with other groups in the church. We support our Praise and Play group on a weekly basis as their Tea & Toast team, involve the children in activities such as Flowers for Mothering Sunday and planting bulbs. We welcome speakers to our meetings as well as have fun on our craft nights. We support the Mothers Union "Away from it all" initiative and The Moravian Outreach Programme for local disadvantaged families. Our meetings start with prayers and finish by singing a hymn chosen by one of our group and saying The Grace together.

## Bible Study Group

Our Curate Jenny leads us as we meet weekly on a Wednesday morning after the Communion service. There are currently 6 of us. Our recent study was Acts, using a Bible Study guide by Tom Wright. Before that we studied the Gospel of Matthew, and the Pilgrim series of Bible studies. We also enjoyed the E100 series and would like to do it again. It is very rewarding to look more deeply into the Bible and learn from it. One member says "It opens up whole new passages and helps me understand it better. You get everyone else's perspectives and you learn a lot."



## Church Finance

St Mark's is not wealthy but we have been able to pay the full parish share for 2017 and 2018. This is a priority area for us and it is our intention to continue to pay this going forwards. St Mark's has a banding of 0.55 which, in monetary terms for 2018, was £33,715

The majority of our income comes from planned giving and we run periodic stewardship campaigns to encourage a review of this. Although finances are fragile, regular monthly giving directly into the church bank account and CAF donations have steadied, enabling the Treasurer and PCC to budget accordingly and ensure bills are paid when due.

The income from hall users is significant and vital to support the running of the church. This is supplemented by the HMRC gift aid refund which is claimed annually. In addition, we benefit from income from a legacy of performing rights royalty payments.

In the past, St Mark's has successfully bid for additional funds from various grant bodies including The All Churches Trust, G Weston, The Archbishop's Council and The Big Lottery Fund. Along with specific legacies, the grants have enabled us to improve the facilities on site, one of the biggest projects being the creation of a lounge, purpose designed kitchen and disabled toilet, which includes a baby change area, at the back of the church.

We take our social responsibility seriously and support the work of charities both domestically and overseas. For example, Operation Christmas Child, Willow Wood Hospice, The Children's Society, The Royal British Legion, Water Aid, Toilet Twinning and the Mother's Union initiative Away From It All are some of the charities we have supported. In addition, our Sunday School sponsors a donkey at the Donkey Sanctuary in Manchester.

We hold £7,500 in a restricted account which is for the future employment of a children's and family worker to support the growth of the church in this key area.

Following the absorption of the Parish of St Luke's in 2016, we will receive the net proceeds from the sale of the site. This will help to provide the financial security of St Mark's in the medium and long term future of the church.



## Church in the Wider Community

### Schools

Two of Dukinfield's five primary schools lie within the parish, Lyndhurst Community Primary and Ravensfield Primary Schools. Both schools bring children of all ages to the church for educational visits at Easter, Harvest & Christmas. They are regular contributors to our annual Christmas Tree Festival, along with St Johns Primary School. All three schools bring pupils – over 300 children – to visit the display and spend time with members of the church talking about the Christmas message. The children's choir from Ravensfield is a popular part of the festival entertainment. We have also hosted visits from two nursery schools, Kids Planet and Rainbow Nursery. Our curate has spent time in Ravensfield working with the children on a Christian Aid environmental project. Many of the children have no other contact with churches, but now consider St Marks to be "their church".

### The Blue Coat High School

The Blue Coat School is a Church of England high school in the centre of Oldham, rated as outstanding by Ofsted. There is a school bus service to the school, we don't have any formal links with The Blue Coat School, however a small group of our children from families at St Mark's attend.



## Local Churches

We have a close working relationship, with our near neighbours at Dukinfield Methodist Church, with whom we share a Palm Sunday Service and Last Supper, alternating the venues. In recent years we shared the running of a community lunch club, which sadly closed when grant funding ended. We also contribute to their bi annual Flower Festival. We work with other churches at several events throughout the year, taking our turn in rotation to lead the events. The Women's World Day of Prayer in 2017, benefited from contributions by the Junior Choir Club.

There is a social gathering of the churches after Easter each year, usually on Low Sunday, at a Songs of Praise event to share in the singing of favourite hymns. This is due to be held at St Marks in 2019. A major event in the local calendar are the annual Walks of Witness, or Whit Walks, held at Pentecost. St Marks is one of five churches who continue the walks, which have been held for over a hundred years. Each congregation parades with their colourful banners from their church, accompanied by a brass band to Dukinfield Town Hall for a combined Act of Worship, before parading back to their home churches. In 2019 St Marks will lead the walks and service, and have extended an invitation to Bishop Peter to lead our congregation.

The whole community comes together at Remembrance to parade and worship at Dukinfield's War Memorial. The service, which by local tradition is held at 3pm, is always lead by St Marks clergy, crucifer, choir and church family. The congregation hold its own act of remembrance during our morning service, with the laying of a wreath, and observing of a silence, at the war memorial in the church grounds.

## Community use of the Church Hall

A variety of community groups make use of our church hall, providing activities for various age groups. Information about church services and activities is displayed in the hall and literature is available to take away.

The hall is a popular venue for children's parties, and we have an exclusive agreement with a local company, Jalmac, to supply bouncy castles. In return they provide subsidised play equipment at our fundraising and social events.

We have a long term relationship with SSAFA who use the Parish Office on a part time basis as the local Tameside hub to support members of the Armed Forces community as they face life's challenges.

**ssafa**  
Lifelong support  
for our Forces  
and their families



## Engaging with the Community and Fundraising

The Church is a lead member in the running of Dukinfield Festival, held in our local park each July. The event is intended to provide entertainment and information for local people and attracts around 2000 people. It has also been an opportunity to raise funds from a tombola. We have taken part in this event for the last 2 years as an alternative to a summer fair and an opportunity to engage with a wider cross section of the community.

Bonfire parties have been held in the vicarage garden, attracting around 200 people. Refreshments were served in the church hall. The last event in 2016 raised over £500 for church funds.

Our annual Christmas Tree Festival is the largest in the area, being supported by schools, community groups, businesses and churches, as well as groups within our congregation. It demonstrates how the congregation works as a team to run the event and is an opportunity to engage with our local community, provide information about our services and activities to our visitors and is our major fundraising event, raising over £1400 for church funds in December 2018.

The church is used as a concert venue by various local music groups, including Adamsons Military Band, Arnfield Brass Band, Yew Tree Singers and Willow Wood Hospice Choir.

Although we don't currently have our own unit we regularly host the Girlguiding Dukinfield's Carol Service, and Dedication of Standards Service. One local Brownie unit has visited the church to work towards their Faith Awareness badges, aided by our Curate.

## Supporting our Community - Projects

The congregation has always been generous in their support of those less fortunate than themselves. Our harvest offerings in 2018 have been donated to the East Tameside Foodbank, The Mothers Union have in the past supported Samaritans Purse Operation Christmas Child Shoebox Appeal, but this year are supporting our neighbours at Dukinfield Moravian Church's Outreach Programme supporting local disadvantaged families. They also support Away from It All, providing holidays for low income families.

The congregation are regular supporters of our local hospice – Willow Wood in Ashton under Lyne, and have raised funds for it for over 20 years. This support includes holding concerts by the hospice choir and their quarterly memorial service. We have been approached recently to host a service in spring 2019.



## The Church & it's Buildings

St Mark's benefits from a single site set up, which is walled / fenced on all sides. As you drive on site from Railway Street, the vicarage is on the right with a private, gated driveway. You will drive past the Church Hall on the left following the one way system to the carpark at the back of the hall. The church stands proudly in front of you on an elevated area with the war memorial at the far end near the entrance on Church Street. There is no church yard.

## The Vicarage

The Vicarage is a large, modern, well maintained home. It was purpose-built in the mid 1980's.

At the front of the house is a large porch and the main entrance to the house, from here there is separate access to both the study and a downstairs toilet as well as the main living area.

The study is situated at the front of the house, overlooking the site, and provides an excellent work area with plenty of space for storage and to welcome guests.

The large kitchen is also situated at the front of the house, and includes space for a dining table – excellent for chatting to family, friends or guests while you are cooking or making coffee! Off the kitchen is a utility room with access to the private spacious rear garden and the large double garage.

At the back of the house is a large lounge and separate dining room. Both benefit from the south facing aspect of the house. The lounge has patio doors giving access to a paved area. The garden is well maintained and walled / fenced making it a secure area for children and pets.

To the front of the house is a spacious tarmac drive behind double gates, allowing parking to the side and front of the garage without blocking access to the garage itself. To the side of the garage is a lockable gate, providing access to the rear garden without compromising the privacy of the living space.

From the upstairs landing are four good sized bedrooms, all with floor to ceiling built-in wardrobes; two bedrooms have personal hand basins. There is a large bathroom which includes a four piece suite and vanity unit with storage; there is also a separate shower room with toilet.



## The Church Hall,

The Church Hall was built in 1983 and is a fantastic resource, providing an excellent safe space for our Praise and Play Group, Church events and serving the needs of the community. It's a valuable source of regular income for the church.

The church hall is a single story building; at one end of the spacious hall itself is a raised stage with a large storage area underneath and a secure storage room to one side. In addition, there is a separate kitchen, male and female toilets and a disabled toilet with baby change facilities. Making this a very popular place for parties and celebrations. It is also where we get together as a church family for social events, including bring and share lunches, sing-a-long film nights as well as hosting fund raising events.

Over the first weekend in Advent, the hall is transformed as part of the Christmas Tree Festival, where you can enjoy (among other things) bacon muffins, mince pies and mulled wine at the Christmas café before trying your luck on the Tombola, name the Christmas 'teddy' or joining in the crafts in the childrens corner.

An important space in the hall complex is the Parish Office, which is ideally situated having both internal access to/from the hall and a separate external door from the carpark. This is a well equipped office with space to work, a computer, a photocopier / printer and plenty of storage. The office benefits from internet access.

Mondays are always busy in the Parish Office as our Treasurer and assistant ensure our finances are up to date.

A one way system is in operation on the site, into and out of the car park, which is located at the rear of the church hall and has space for 22 cars.



## St Mark's Church

On 13 February 1846, the new Parish of St Mark, Dukinfield, was formed and the Prime Minister, Robert Peel, appointed the first Curate in charge. St Mark's was completed in 1847 and consecrated by John Bird Sumner, Bishop of Chester, afterwards by the Archbishop of Canterbury, in 1849.

The church is a Grade II listed building and stands on raised ground with sloped access to the entrance porch from the main site entrance on Railway Street and walking access at the opposite side of the site from Church Street.

The church tower has a working bell, although we use pre-recorded bells played through the external sound system for the services. The clock is serviced regularly and chimes at o'clock and half past the hour. There is external access from the tower room.

The church was re-ordered in 1999, moving the font to the front of the church and installing large ornate sliding doors under the gallery to create a church lounge / meeting area at the back of the church

The building is of a very good standard with no major projects needing attention; the next Quinquennial inspection is planned for 2019.



Over the last 11 years we have made a number of changes to the church building, both for maintenance purposes and to improve our worship space:

- Clear polycarbonate protectors installed on the outside of the stained glass windows
- Extensive work to remove and treat dry rot in 2008/09
- Decorating of the chancel and front of the main body of the church
- Creation of the open children's corner at the side of the church lounge
- Widening of the side aisles and installing ramps to allow easy wheelchair / pushchair access
- Removal of front pews and stepped areas to provide a large flat expanse of carpeted space which gives versatility to enhance our worship
- Addition of a visual / audio system, including a suspended projector with a large drop down main screen and 6 smaller screens situated in the chancel and the main body of the church.
- A major project completed in 2012 to re-order the church included:
  - The addition of a modern kitchen to the church lounge,
  - A purpose-built toilet that provides disabled facilities and a baby change area
  - Installing a double stainless-steel sink and kitchen style units in the tower room
  - Building of a large separate Gallery storage area
- The boiler was replaced in 2010 and in 2018 the old Victorian heating pipes were removed along one side of the church and replaced with more efficient modern radiators.
- Replacement of tiles on a discrete area of the church roof.
- Fitting of a PIR Alarm system



The Chancel has pews on both sides and is home to our wonderful organ. Access to the Clergy Vestry is to the rear of the Chancel just before a stepped and gated access to the High Altar.

The Clergy Vestry is equipped with a desk and plenty of storage for linens, Orders of Service and hanging space for vestments. There is also external access

We have a dedicated prayer corner and quiet space where people can sit and spend time with God.

Surrounding the outside of the church there is a paved footpath and grassed area to two sides. To the front of the church is a low maintenance planted garden. Walking past this to the end of the church you will find our War Memorial, where we gather to remember the fallen during our Service of Remembrance

This sacred space provides the perfect place to meet God whether that is in personal reflection, community worship or at an outreach event; many people comment that as soon as you enter the building you can feel God's presence and know that He is at work in this place.

### Dukinfield from the Church Tower



## Welcome to Dukinfield

Dukinfield was originally in the county of Cheshire and is one of the 9 towns brought together as part of the 1970's local government restructuring to form the borough of Tameside, Greater Manchester. It is administered by Tameside Metropolitan Borough Council, with a population of 19,000 represented by 6 local councillors.

Dukinfield is divided into 2 Church of England parishes St Mark's to the west (9900) and St John's to the east. St Mark's absorbed the old parish of St Luke's in 2017. There are also churches of other denominations: Roman Catholic, Congregational, Methodist, Baptist, Moravian and Unitarian. The church has good relationships with both primary schools in the parish.

Dukinfield is ideally situated to make the most of the bustle of a big city or rolling hills and beautiful countryside. The town is 7 miles (11kms) east of Manchester and just 4 miles (6.5kms) from the Peak District National Park.

There are very good transport links by car, bus, train and tram (park and ride) to Manchester giving easy access to the universities, extensive shopping facilities and a huge arts and culture scene with galleries, museums, concert venues, cinemas, theatres, libraries and restaurants. In 2017, Manchester joined UNESCO's worldwide Creative Cities network as a City of Literature.

Perhaps best known for the 2 premier league football stadiums, Manchester is home to a number of world class sporting attractions, including the Old Trafford Cricket ground, the AJ Bell stadium (home to Sale Sharks Rugby League), an Olympic size swimming pool and the National Cycling Centre.

The historic Town Hall on the main King Street houses the Tameside Register Office and holds events in their two halls.

Dukinfield is partly industrial and partly residential with areas of both social and privately-owned housing. It was formerly a mill town that thrived in the Industrial Revolution with cotton, spinning, weaving and coal mining. Today there are two industrial estates with engineering businesses, a new cotton mill, William Kenyon's rope factory, and Tulip Foods. The two local supermarkets are also major employers. The area is well served with parks, local gyms, retail outlets (including IKEA) and a local leisure park in Ashton.



The people have a strong sense of identity with various community events eg the Dukinfield Festival held annually in Dukinfield Park on King Street, a carol service in the Town Hall, walks on Remembrance Day and the Whit Friday brass band contests. There are two local choirs – the Willow Wood Hospice Choir and Yew Tree Singers.

Tameside Hospital is only 2 miles (3.2kms) away. The Crematorium and cemetery for the area is just over the parish boundary half a mile from the church. King Street is the main street which has small shops, doctors' surgeries and dentists. There is a public library not far away

There is easy access to local walks along the canal system; the Portland Basin Heritage Centre is nearby situated at the Dukinfield Junction the point where the Peak Forest, Ashton and Huddersfield canals meet. Also close by are many opportunities for outdoor activities including: sailing, walking and climbing.

Further afield Dukinfield is very close to an excellent motorway network with links to the Yorkshire Dales (1¼ hours) the Lake District (1½ hours) and Snowdonia (2½ hours). Manchester International Airport is only 30 minutes by car, 1¼ hours by public transport.



## Maps of the local area



Images taken from Google maps

[facebook.com/StMarksChurchDukinfield/](https://www.facebook.com/StMarksChurchDukinfield/)  
[www.stmarksdukinfield.org.uk](http://www.stmarksdukinfield.org.uk)