



PARISH INFORMATION AND PROFILE 2018

Name of Parish:	St Thomas, New Hey
Name of Benefice:	Milnrow and Newhey
Diocese:	Manchester
Deanery:	Rochdale
Address:	Church Street, Newhey, Rochdale OL16 3QS
Patron:	Bishop of Manchester
Church Website:	http://www.stthomasnewhey.org.uk/

Welcome to St Thomas, New Hey



Our Goal is to know Christ and make him known



Our Mission Statement is to seek to:

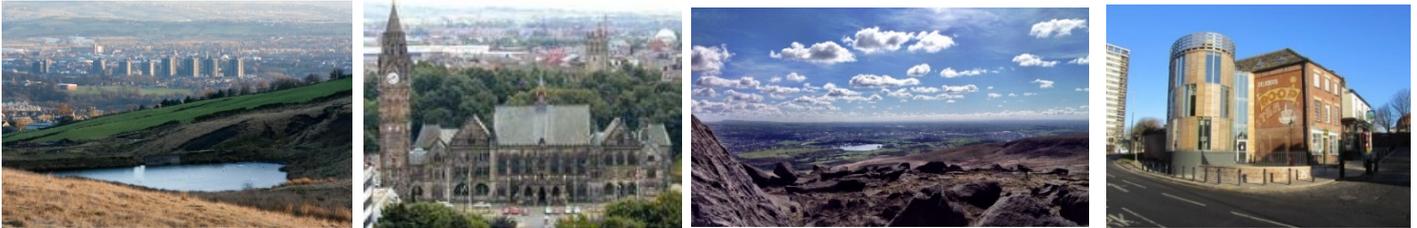
- **Proclaim the good news of the kingdom**
- **Welcome - The smile of God comes on a human face**
- **Teach, baptize and nurture new believers and foster lifelong worship**
- **Be a Sanctuary - To respond to human need by loving service**





The Area

Home of the Co-operative movement, **Rochdale** is a market town in Greater Manchester positioned at the foothills of the South Pennines on the River Roch, north-northwest of Oldham, and north-northeast of the city of Manchester. Rochdale is surrounded by several smaller towns which together form the Metropolitan Borough of Rochdale, population 211,699. Rochdale is the largest settlement and administrative centre, with a total population of 95,796.



The towns of Rochdale and Oldham are the nearest centres for shopping, cinema, sports and leisure facilities.

Newhey



Originally New Hey, now widely referred to as Newhey. The population of Newhey is estimated as 3,213 (source: National statistics).



Within the borough of Rochdale, in Lancashire, lying at the foot of the South Pennines, **Newhey** is a small village adjacent to the village of Milnrow and is on the boundary of the Rochdale / Oldham boroughs. To the east is the border with West Yorkshire.



Originating as a village supporting textile manufacturing, it also was home to the Newhey Brick and Terracotta Company, which opened in 1899 and its bricks were used to build the terraced houses which remain prominent along the high street to this day.



Still within the parish boundary, situated approximately 1 mile to the east of Newhey, towards the Oldham boundary and an area known as Saddleworth, are the hamlets of Upper and Lower Ogden. Ogden is situated in the Piethorne Valley where a succession of 6 reservoirs settle in the open moorland.

St Thomas New Hey, is approximately 4 miles from the local visitor attraction of Hollingworth Lake Country Park and the Rochdale township of Littleborough, another gateway into West Yorkshire.

2% of the population of Newhey is recorded as being from an ethnic minority with the majority being of white British origin. A mixed age population resides.

The Parish



Newhey cont'd



The housing stock in Newhey comprises 2% flats and 98% housing, broken down into 9% detached, 62% semi-detached and 27% terraced (Census 2001. Later figures include Milnrow Parish).

The character of this village remains, with the original brick terraces lining the high street, in addition to two public houses who share virtually the same name – the “Bird in Hand” known locally as the “Top Bird” and “Bottom Bird”.

Newhey is also home to the world’s largest working steam engine at the Ellenroad Engine House Steam Museum.



Despite being the smaller of the two villages, Newhey still has a range of industries within the boundaries. Animal farming, manufacturing and light engineering business; including dye works, ink manufacturer, carpet manufacturer, fire sprinkler contractor, steel fabricators, metal recycling.



There are also numerous retail businesses including two convenience stores (one with post office), several restaurants and pubs and bars. A specialised cricket retailer, two barbers, hair salon, holistic therapy and beauty salon, accountancy firm, butchers, fuel stockist, gymnasium, tanning salon and a small camping and caravanning holiday park.



The John Milne Premier Inn hotel and restaurant is a large employer in the village although most people believe it is in Milnrow, it is within the Parish of Newhey.



Since 1968, the villages of Newhey and Milnrow have been celebrating togetherness with an annual carnival parade and fair. Held in June this is an extremely popular event in our calendars.

There are 2 doctors clinics located in Milnrow and dentists can be found in Milnrow, Littleborough and Shaw (Oldham).

Transport



With the church itself holding a prominent position on the hill above the village, it is rural in its location. However, being situated just off Junction 21 of the M62 it is very well connected, with excellent transport links to Manchester and Leeds by road (approx. 30 minutes) and a newly built Metrolink station in the centre of the village, it makes Manchester city, Oldham and Rochdale town centres easily accessible.



Education

- St Thomas CE VA Primary School
- Newhey Community Primary School, Hawthorn Lane
- Abracadabra Pre-School, rear Cedar Lane
- Channings Day Nursery, Railway Street

Previous clergy maintained good links with all the above, these connections have unfortunately been weakened by periods of interregnum and need re-establishing.

Hollingworth Academy is a coeducational secondary school with academy status located in Milnrow.

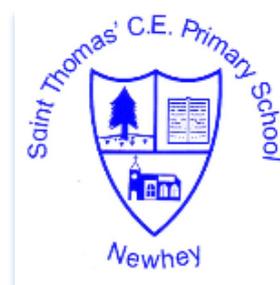
In addition, the minister is asked to lend support to children applying to our two local Church of England Secondary Schools, namely The Blue Coat School in Oldham and Crompton House School in Shaw.

St Thomas CE VA Primary School - There is a Church of England day school located at the bottom of Church Street. The head teacher is Mrs Rebecca Williams.

St Thomas' caters for children aged from four to eleven and has an intake of 21 per year. Children are divided into five, mixed aged classes which are all managed by experienced and professional staff.

Organisations meeting in the school:

- Girlguide Associations (Rainbows through to Rangers groups)
- Boogie Beats – baby and toddler group



The Church Building



The Church

St Thomas sits in a commanding position at the top of Church Street overlooking Newhey and the surrounding countryside.

St Thomas Church was built in 1876 as a replica of Holy Trinity Church, Weston-super-Mare, Somerset, which had been erected fifteen years previously. It is made of Bath stone which gives it a clean and shining appearance during the day, and a translucent appearance at night, especially when the moon is out.



The Church Building



Following a devastating fire in 2007, the church was reordered and completed in 2009. We now have an inside toilet, meeting room, kitchen, chapel and refurbished organ.

Church seats 250+ people.

The Bells

There are 8 bells in the tower, cast by John Taylor & Co, Loughborough in 1968. Their weights (given traditionally in hundredweights, quarters, pounds), sizes & notes can be found in the table below:

BELL	WEIGHT	NOMINAL	NOTE	DIAMETER
1	0-3-20	2226.0	C#	16.00"
2	1-0-12	2098.0	B#	17.00"
3	1-1-18	1865.0	A#	18.63"
4	1-3-10	1657.0	G#	20.50"
5	2-0-19	1473.0	F#	22.06"
6	2-1-23	1389.0	E#	23.25"
7	3-1-17	1234.0	D#	25.88"
8	4-1-17	1097.0	C#	28.50"



The Tower Captain is Helen Rigby - 01706 847964 / 07919 370308 helen.fwb@talktalk.net

Graveyard

We have an open graveyard which contains a number of marked Commonwealth War Graves and we display an official sign to this effect.

The Church Family



Worship and Worshippers

“We are a congregation of ordinary people”

We are classed as “central” “Eucharistic” and “Liberal”.

St Thomas is in a dual parish Benefice with St James, Milnrow. St Thomas has a mix of ages in its congregation. The younger families are attracted because of the children’s work in Sunday School and a desire to apply to the local CE schools, both primary and secondary.

The electoral roll was reported at one hundred and nineteen including a number (51) who live outside the parish and travel some distance to attend services and meetings.

There are 11 members of the PCC who meet monthly. We have two Churchwardens and two Deanery Synod Representatives (one vacancy); there are 7 people who are certified by the Bishop to assist with the Chalice at Communion and perform the duties of Lay Assistant.

There are no Lay Readers at St Thomas but there are around 15 who read lessons and 7 who lead intercessions.

Our worship has been based on traditional music (Hymns Old & New), however during the interregnum it is proposed we explore other types of music and delivery methods.



Refreshments are served after each main service which gives us an opportunity to welcome newcomers and to share fellowship with each other. Refreshments, church cleaning, flower arranging are carried out by teams of volunteers. Church yard maintenance is carried out by teams of volunteers as and when required. We expect the stewardship campaign to address the issues of regular maintenance by building teams of volunteers.

We do not currently have a parish magazine.



We do have a parish website, however we recognise that this is an area for improvement, plus a presence on social media would be advantageous <http://www.stthomasnewhey.org.uk/>.

We take part in the Heritage Open Day scheme on an annual basis.

Worship at St Thomas'



Holy Communion is celebrated on Sunday mornings at 10.30am using seasonal booklets.

In Ordinary time Common Worship Prayer B is used with the Lectionary and other Eucharistic Prayers in other booklets for each season are used. Minister wears an alb and stole

Holy Communion celebrated on Thursday mornings at 10:00am, Common Worship Prayer H again in a booklet. Conducted in the chapel area within the main church.

On a Sunday the average number of communicants is forty-two. Sunday school which meets during Holy Communion each Sunday during term time, is very popular and has twenty-five children in its care. We also provide a register for parents attending for school admission and this numbers approximately twenty-five.

We have 64-70 adults connected to Church of whom 20 are over 70. There is an approximate split of 50/20 female/male and we have about twenty-five to thirty children from babies up to aged 18.

In 2017, twenty children were baptised, eleven were infants and nine between the ages of 1-4.

Once an incumbent is in place, baptisms take place as follows:

- 1st Sunday - St James Milnrow
- 3rd Sunday - St Thomas New Hey

Maximum 3 baptisms on each occasion. Further requests are accommodated during the Holy Communion service at 10:30am.

St Thomas PCC passed a resolution to accept the marriage in church in cases where there has been a previous marriage dissolved. This is subject to incumbent approval on a case by case basis.

Although the PCC passed a resolution to admit children to Holy Communion after preparation, no requests have been received. In 2017/18, five young people were confirmed.

In 2017 five couples were married here and two in 2018 to date (August 2018).

There were thirteen funerals, including burials of ashes, in 2017 and eight in 2018 (August 2018).

Over the Christmas Festival in 2017 there were sixty-one communicants and at Easter over one service there were seventy-eight.



Worship at St Thomas'



Finance and Stewardship

Parish share and financial position:

Year	Parish Share	Contribution	Shortfall
2018	£16,000*	£8,000 to date	On track to pay in full
2017	£20,854	£16,709	£4,145
2016	£22,267	£22,267	£0
2015	£23,541	£23,541	£0
2014	£24,618	£17,000	£7,618
2013	£23,865	£17,000	£6,865

*Diocese offered reduction in Parish Share to enable full payment. Previous periods of shortfall due in part to lengthy interregnum and reduced weekly attendance.

We have scheduled a meeting with the Diocesan Stewardship Officer to plan a new campaign (September 2018). The parish priests' expenses have always been paid in full.

The parish has always tried to pay the parish share in full, however there were some years where we fell short, as the share increased beyond our means and during the interregnum congregation numbers fluctuated and regular and sustained giving reduced.

In 2018 the Diocese offered a scheme whereby the parish share reduced, the proviso for signing up to this scheme is that the share is paid in full. St Thomas PCC has signed up to this scheme and are committed to fulfilling our obligations in 2018.

Priests (ordination of women) Measure 1993: This was discussed at a meeting of the PCC on the 6 August 2018 and unanimously agreed. St Thomas New Hey would be happy to welcome a woman or a man to join us and minister to us in all priestly capacities.



Churchwardens

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pamela.gardiner47@gmail.com

Mrs Judith Jones
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01706 845046 / 07795 818047
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Parish representatives

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Oldham
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01706 842768 / 07754 779194
Jatandgill@googlemail.com

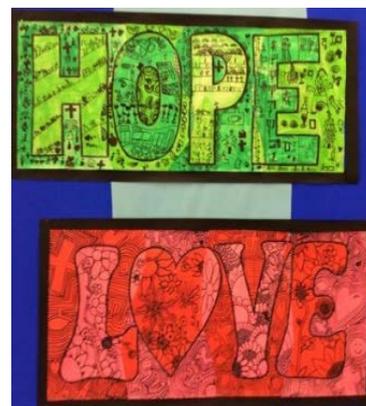
Mr Derek Hambler
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Youth Work at St Thomas'



Young people aged under 18 are very important in our church family.

We have a very vibrant and active Sunday School which meets during Holy Communion in term time and an area in church where young families can sit together, and little ones can play during service.



We encourage young children to be involved in the life of the church from presenting Nativity, Easter, and Mother's Day services.

Confirmation candidates are mentored and assist in various worship roles in alternate churches; Welcome, Lay Assistant, Sides person, Sunday School and Reader.

Finally, there is the opportunity to engage with children through taking assemblies at the local primary schools St Thomas' CE VA School and Newhey Community School and visiting the pre-school rooms within the local day nurseries.





Our Mission Priorities:

The views of the congregation have been sought through dialogue during services to understand their aspirations and wishes for our mission and to welcome ideas to ensure we are meeting as many needs as we can. Any new ideas from the congregation will inform our Mission Action Plan:

'To proclaim the good news of the kingdom'

By welcoming new people who visit St Thomas and encouraging them to join in as much as they wish to.

'Welcome - 'The smile of God comes on a human face''

We aim to make St Thomas a place that will welcome all and be interested in who joins and what they bring.

'To teach, baptize and nurture new believers and foster lifelong worship'

Many baptisms are held in the church and we want to encourage these families to continue their attendance after baptism through communication via cards and invites.

To continue to support young believers through our Sunday School groups which are well attended.

To link with youth organisations and activities including Girl Guiding.

We want to expand our support with secondary school age children who have attended Sunday school and been confirmed, by linking with current organisations including "the Salt Cellar project" Oldham and the Rochdale youth and diocesan activities.

To remain as a place of worship and nurture throughout a person's Christian journey.

'Sanctuary - 'To respond to human need by loving service''

We hope St Thomas church offers a peaceful place of worship and a venue for quiet days for individuals or groups.

We aim to be a place where love and care is given, and the spirit is lifted through worship.

'Giving - 'To seek to transform the unjust structures of society''



Mission



In our own small way, we try to alleviate suffering and the unjust structures of society. We have collections at Harvest Festival and Christmas for the Booth Centre in Manchester to provide not only food provisions but clothing for those who find themselves living on the streets.

We support the Christian Aid week in May, The Children's Society at our annual Christingle Service and also have regular collections of food and provisions for the Rochdale Food Bank.



Celebrating 25 years supporting Chernobyl children and their families in Belarus and Ukraine
- still going strong for those that need our help

Chernobyl Children's Lifeline

Supporting children affected by the aftermath of the Chernobyl nuclear disaster

We also support and promote charities close to our parishioner's hearts; Amana UK, a charity which sponsors children in Uganda. The program seeks to enable children to grow and develop to their full potential. There are currently around 60 children being supported in this way.

We also support the Chernobyl Children's Lifeline which gives children from Belarus, still suffering the effects of the Chernobyl nuclear disaster.

We respond in a positive way to petitions for support and prayer for those in difficulty.

Our Neighbours



St Thomas is in a United Benefice with St James The Apostle, Milnrow. Our other neighbouring church is St Ann's Belfield, Rochdale.

Being in a Benefice with St James since October 2016 and sharing one vicar, we have come together to share festival services, including Harvest, Christmas, Easter, All Souls and Remembrance.



Over the past two years we have worked closely with St James to bring the congregations together on social occasions and for joint worship. Both Churches/congregations have worked together to accommodate changes in Sunday service times to allow for the vicar to lead a Eucharist service at both churches.



We held joint Confirmation classes for the young people from both churches and during the programme of classes the children alternated churches and carried out service duties which was a successful way of increasing the familiarity of both locations for all. The Confirmation service 2018 was held and shared at St James church.

Our Neighbours



There is a Baptist congregation in the area. There has been contact with them on an informal level and some of the congregation attend a social event there during the week. We have joined with them on the Whit walks, stopping to sing outside their church as well as other locations in the village.

There is a free evangelical Church in Milnrow whose members we welcome to use our church building.



We participate in the Remembrance Sunday parade and service at the war memorial in the Memorial Park, the associated guiding groups attend.

Special Occasions



Lent and Easter



Alternately with St James Milnrow, we hold shared services on Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and a Service of Light on Holy Saturday however on Easter Sunday there is a Eucharistic Service in both churches.

Mothering Sunday



Mothering Sunday is another special Sunday, there is a service in both Churches. At St Thomas the Brownies Guides attend and assist in the distribution of daffodils to all ladies present at the service! Service is led by Sunday School.

Harvest Festival



The Harvest Festival service is always well attended, and the Church is beautifully decorated. Our day school have a service on the Friday before and bring their offerings into church to start the collection. Offerings are requested for The Booth Centre. The children decorate the font. Any surplus produce is donated to the Food Bank in Rochdale. Service is led by Sunday School.

Special Occasions



Remembrance Sunday



St Thomas School have a service on Armistice Day or the nearest Friday with a bugler in attendance. The names of the fallen from Newhey are read and children lay crosses are on the war graves.



The vicar of St Thomas and St James leads the Remembrance service at the Memorial Park for both villages. A procession for the uniformed organisations and local dignitaries is led by Milnrow brass band and for convenience, the Sunday morning service has recently been held at St James, Milnrow during which the names of the fallen from both villages are read.

Christmas

Both churches have Christmas Eve Midnight Mass service and Christmas Day services. The Christmas Eve services alternate timings (10pm or 11:30pm)

Christingle/Nativity/Carol Service



St Thomas has more recently combined these three services to great effect, with the children leading the way.



Fellowship and Social Events



Associated with the service there are groups:

- Who prepare refreshments for the congregation to meet after the service at the rear of the church
- Bell ringers
- There are lot of people serving the church working as sides-persons, lay assistants, readers, intercessors, cleaning the church, arranging flowers in church

We estimate that well over half the adult congregation contribute to the running of the church by performing the tasks needed to keep a church running, and services continuing.

St Thomas welcomes volunteers to support these activities, from both the church and the local community and is keen and willing to recognise vocations.

Social events and fundraising events during the year include:



- Cake stalls after Sunday worship
- MacMillan Coffee morning
- Daffodil Morning
- Strawberry tea
- Cheese and Wine Evening
- Photography slide shows
- Body Shop sales afternoon
- Christingle
- Christmas Fair and / or Christmas Tree Festival
- Burns Night





To maintain and increase growth particularly with the younger members of the congregation. To build on our strengths and make St Thomas a vibrant centre for Christian worship.

Mission areas we would like to explore further are:

- Encouraging new Christians – new families
- Improving welcome at services
- Opening up our church building
- Developing Pastoral care
- Meeting our financial responsibilities
- Exploring community links
- Building our social activity

The Next Parish Priest

We would like the new vicar to bring energy and drive to the role and inspire us. One of the main areas highlighted for the motivation and drive was to re-establish and strengthen the connections with younger people, through the school and youth organisation and extending to the community.

Over the past two years our congregation has increased with a growing number of young families in our congregation and a thriving Sunday School, however we recognise we would like to continue to offer a youth group or similar to maintain attendance from our children once they move to secondary schools and have been confirmed. We recognise that at this point we lose some of our teenage congregation and it would be of benefit to offer them a place for continuation of their worship.

In addition to the young, there is a strong feeling that the church and the new vicar should be very much part of the local community, encouraging involvement, inclusivity and care of those in need or those who are ill.

What we can offer you

Receptive and open with a desire to grow as individuals as well as collectively in our faith.

We are open to change, flexible and keen on mission.

A home

The vicarage is a large stone-built detached house (c 1980's) in a mature garden situated behind the church and adjacent to the original clergy house.

Living accommodation comprises; study, lounge, dining room, kitchen, utility room, cloakroom, bathroom, 4 bedrooms, garage, and private driveway.

