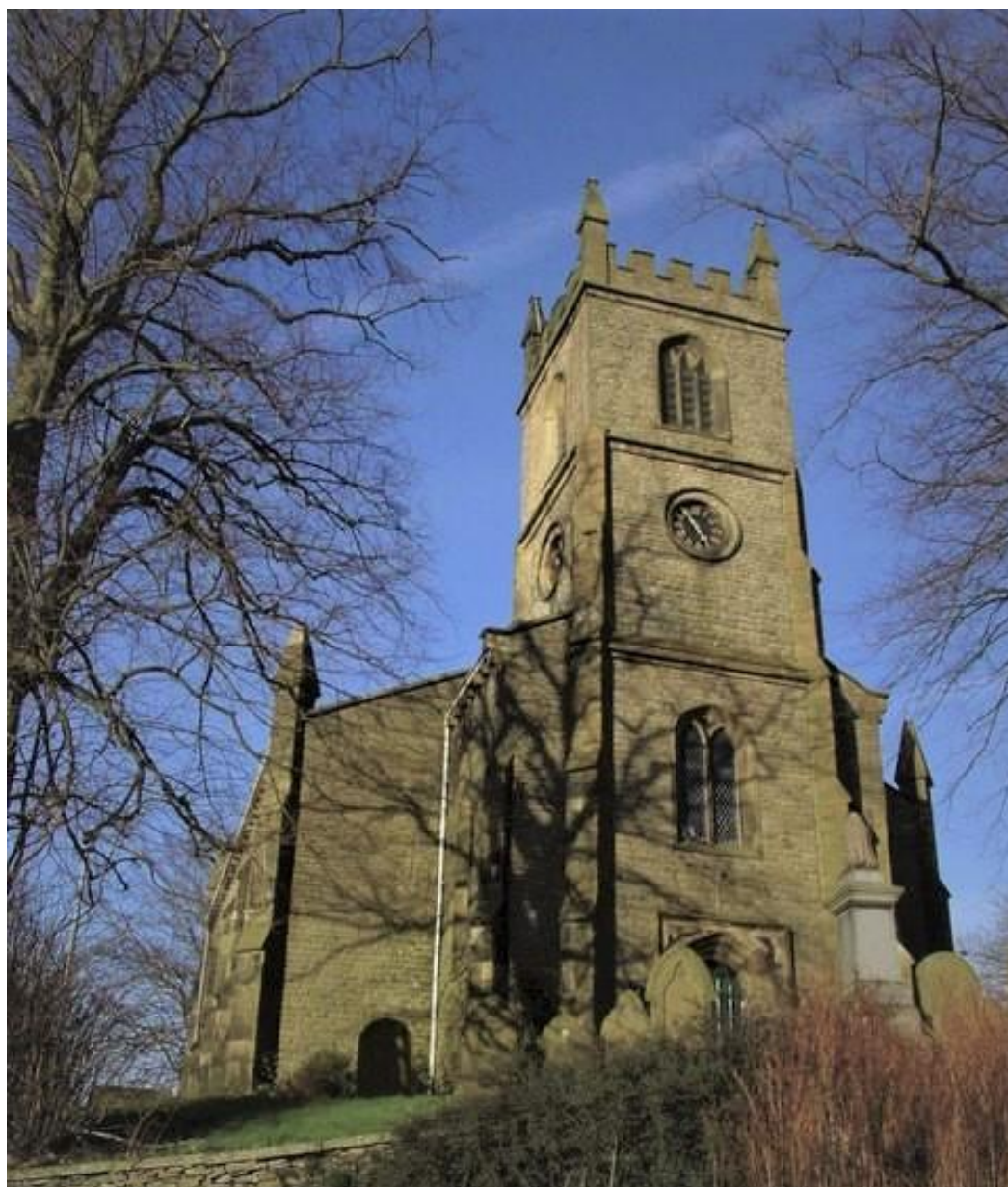


The Parish of Holy Trinity Rainow with Saltersford and Forest



PARISH PROFILE

Holy Trinity Church is the principal church in the combined parish of Holy Trinity Rainow with Saltersford and Forest.

We aim to serve the local community, in faith, love and fellowship through Christ. The vision for Rainow Church in the 21st century, is to be a vibrant, supportive, spiritual centre of worship and an active community building.

We are an inclusive rural parish that celebrates diversity, and we welcome applications from all who are passionate about sharing the love of God with people from all walks of life.

A Vicar for Rainow

Rainow parish is seeking a vicar who will inspire, encourage, motivate, and lead us into the future. He or she will walk alongside us in our life's journey, will visit us and pray for us in times of need and will help us become the people our Lord has called us to be. They will work with the churchwardens, PCC and other volunteers to build up the church's links with the wider community.

The role requires a person who is:

- A leader and communicator, with a strong faith.
- Empathetic, approachable and a good listener.
- A team player with an ability to delegate and encourage people of all ages to take part in worship and church life.
- Committed to attracting a broad cross-section of worshippers and developing different styles of worship whilst sustaining some tradition.
- Sociable, and will enjoy the integration of church with village life and activities, particularly building stronger links with the primary school and young people.
- Interested in developing the role of music in our worship.
- Computer literate.
- A car owner – our parish is widespread and hilly.



Rainow Vicarage



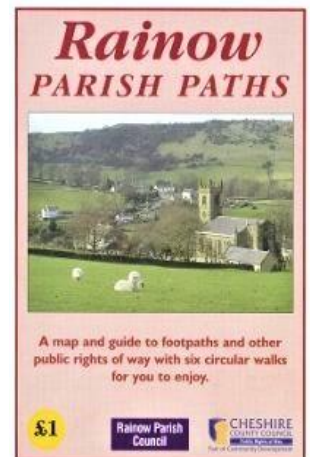
OUR PARISH



Rainow is situated in the Peak District in the local authority area of Cheshire East.

People living here have the best of both worlds. They are in some of Cheshire's most beautiful countryside but are only a few miles from the market towns of Bollington and Macclesfield. Macclesfield found fame and wealth as a silk manufacturing town and is now famous for its monthly Treacle Market.

Whilst most of the parish population live in the centre of the village, Rainow spreads in a ribbon development for several miles and includes many scattered outlying farmhouses.



Rainow Parish Council produced a Parish Plan and from answers to the questionnaires it was clear that Rainow people like living here because of the countryside, the village community and for the “peace and quiet”. It was also obvious that people like Rainow as it is and do not want to see unnecessary change but equally would not want the village to become “fossilized”. As in all communities COVID-19 is affecting many households but in this adversity the strength of the community has been clearly demonstrated by the Church, Parish Council and other village groups acting together.

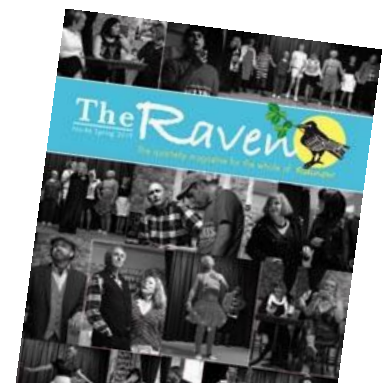
The latest census shows that the village of Rainow has approximately 1,400 inhabitants. 64% aged 16-64 years old, 19% aged 65+, 12% children and 5% very young children. There is a growing number of older people in the village.

In addition to The Church Centre, Rainow has:

- The Village Institute - Pre-school, WI meetings, village play productions, bar licenc
- One pub – The Robin Hood
- An outstanding primary school. – many pupils come from outside the village

The village has limited public transport, but the bus stop is at the bottom of the church steps which helps with access to The Church Centre. There is a dedicated village bus manned by volunteers.

The Parish has a rich social heritage documented in several books and celebrated in 2017 in an impressive, extensive rural life exhibition. A further exhibition is planned for 2021.



Rainow has an excellent quarterly magazine- The Raven. Its website www.rainow.com has extensive parish information

The Three Churches

Rainow Church

Holy Trinity Church was built in 1845 - 1846 on land donated by Joseph Harding and was consecrated in the same year. The builder was John Mellor of Kerridge End (Mellor also built the famous Cat and Fiddle Inn.) The church is recorded in the National Heritage List for England as a designated Grade II listed building.



In 1958 the original vicarage was sold, and a new, four bedroomed, vicarage built adjacent to the church. This was followed in 1992 by the addition of a church centre adjoining the main building. This has a small kitchen and one toilet.

In 2015 a major reordering of the building was first considered to make a building, that was originally funded by public subscription in the mid-nineteenth century, fit for the community of Rainow in the twenty-first century.

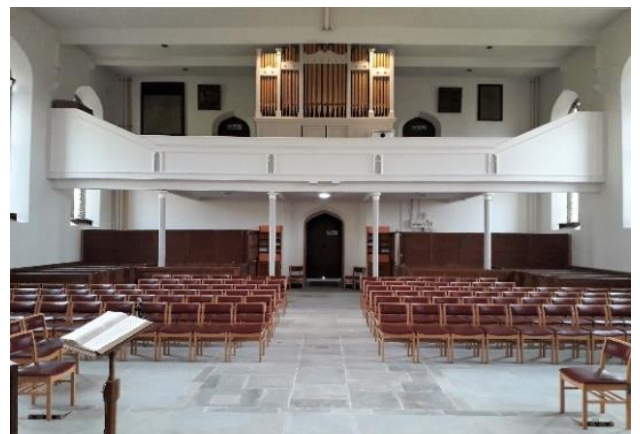
The project was an ambitious scheme to reorder, restore and renew the church building. The proposal involved removing most of the box pews and replacing with moveable chairs, levelling the floor, and installing under floor heating to create a flexible, warm and welcoming church and community building.



Community consultation, detailed planning and fundraising followed, the work started in June 2019 and was completed in January 2020.

New plans included:

- Youth Group
- Homeworkers' Lunch
- School community events
- Music/singing for tots
- Film Club
- Christmas Tree Festival





The “new” church building will make an enormous difference to the village offering more than just a more comfortable church for the regular worshipping congregation.

Holy Trinity Church has an Open-Door policy, and the building is always available to, and regularly visited by, individuals needing a quiet place for contemplation.



Jenkin Chapel

Jenkin Chapel stands in an isolated position just outside the Goyt Valley. In 1733 local hill farmers, with their own labour, materials and money built this small, simple chapel. The interior remains exactly as it was originally built.

The chapel stands within a small church yard surrounded by a belt of trees, which form a landmark on the bare hillside. In the yard are many old graves, some un-marked, and a few modern ones.

Jenkin has been in continuous use since its building. Services are held regularly, on the third Sunday of the month, between Easter and Christmas: parishioners loyally attend, and any passers-by are always very welcome.



There is a Harvest Festival in September and the candlelit (Jenkin has no electricity) Carol Service is a very special part of Christmas. That is the last service until the Spring, but the chapel stays open and continues to be visited throughout the winter, if people can get there!



Some parishioners – and a designated member of the PCC - are particularly dedicated to looking after this little church in the hills, with its unique feelings of religion, security and history. The visitors' book has wonderful, and very moving, entries from local people and others from far and wide.

Forest Chapel

This beautiful 17th century Chapel stands approximately 1300 feet above sea level, on the edge of Macclesfield Forest.

St. Stephens is loyally supported by a dedicated congregation at an evensong service, on the 1st Sunday of every month.

We also have a weekly prayers service, called 'Light in the Forest', at 12.30 every Wednesday.

Two members of the PCC are from the regular congregation.

As well as the monthly services, the chapel holds an annual 'Walkers and Cyclists' service to raise funds for the Buxton Mountain Rescue.



Forest Chapel is probably best known though for the Rushbearing Service, which takes place every August (including 2020) and is very well supported by the wider community.



Like the other churches in our Parish the chapel is always open and is visited by a constant stream of people throughout the year, who leave wonderful comments in our visitors' book.

Many walkers and cyclists pause here, either to admire the views, or to take shelter from the weather and picnic in the porch.

All leave with a sense of having visited a truly special place.

The people at our church

Rainow Church has around 40 regular communicants and all are actively involved in one way or another. (Saltersford and Forest add a further 20+ regular worshippers).

Whilst the regular congregation may be small the church is often full for baptisms, weddings and funerals.

The church is particularly appreciated by the wider community for special events and services. The active congregation include many people who are at the heart of village life; they know our community and offer care, support, and assistance.

There are a number of groups and events which are led by lay members:

- Carol singing
- Garden Safari / Plant Sale
- Homegroup
- Jolly Tots
- Junior Church
- Light in the Forest
- Mothers' Union
- Parish Magazine
- Prayer Group
- Monthly Saturday Cafe
- The Social Committee
- [Website](#) and [Facebook page](#)



65+
Senior Resident's Party
19 November 1:00 - 3:00pm
in the
Church Centre

PHONE 572031 or contact a member of The Social Committee

CAROL SINGING

14 DEC – MILLERS MEADOW 16 DEC – RAINOW LOW
19 DEC – HOUGH CLOSE 22 DEC – BULL HILL

ALL WELCOME
7:00 PM – Meet in the church foyer
9:00 PM – Refreshments at the finish.

There are also other groups that are not directly affiliated with the church but do contribute to our vibrant church life. These are:



- The primary school
- The Parish Council
- W. I.
- Older People's Welfare
- Art Group / Art Exhibition
- Cubs and Beavers groups
- The Fete Committee who run the Church Fete and the Christmas Market
- The R'Ukes – Rainow's ukulele band
- Handbell Ringers
- The Crows – women's social group

Where members are not running groups or services, they serve through various rotas to assist with the communion service, social events and other fundraising initiatives like the Fairtrade stall, Christian Aid, the Children's Society and India Direct.

Regular clergy-led services are detailed in the Parish Fact Sheet. Other services and events include:

- Lent course
- Easter services
- The Annual Rushbearing Service
- Annual Civic Service
- Remembrance Sunday service with a procession to the war memorial.
- Christmas - there are a number of services which are all well attended and highly anticipated by the church and the village community. The season begins with a small, outdoor service for the lighting of the village Christmas tree. At the Family Service, toys and wrapping paper are collected to distribute to struggling families. Each church has its own carol service.



A yellow poster for Easter services. On the left is a dark brown cross with a white lily and green leaves. To the right, the text reads: "GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE 10:00 am", "KERRIDGE CROSS SERVICE 8:00 pm", and "EASTER SUNDAY - 10:00 am" in large green letters.



A poster for Harvest Festival. The top half shows a field of golden wheat under a sunset sky. The text reads: "HARVEST FESTIVAL" in red, "This Sunday at 10:00" in a yellow box, and "ALL DONATIONS WELCOME FOR LOCAL FOODBANK" in a white box.



A poster for Toy Service. The background is dark blue with a green Christmas tree and a red gift box. The text reads: "THIS SUNDAY 10:00 am", "TOY SERVICE" in large colorful letters, "ALL DONATIONS OF TOYS WELCOME", "3.00 pm", and "JENKIN CHAPEL - CAROL SERVICE by CANDLELIGHT".



The church's calendar is a busy one, especially at Christmas, and it serves as a significant hub of village life, even for those who do not consider themselves to have a faith. This is one of the key strengths of our church but is also a necessary area for growth. Many people in the village, who are only occasional attenders, expect that the church will always be there, but their active support is needed for the church community to be sustainable.

The PCC have had a very interesting and demanding few years managing the ambitious reordering project alongside the regular parish business and maintenance of the church buildings. The worshippers in the three churches are a good mix of locals, whose families has been in the village for generations, and those who have been drawn to the beautifully-rugged countryside and the easy commute to the local towns, City of Manchester and fast rail links to London.

Besides the forward-thinking PCC, and the hardworking congregation, the vicar also has the support of one Lay Reader, two church wardens and an organist.



Church and the community



Rainow is recognised for being an inclusive, vibrant and supportive community. Some church services and village events have been celebrated for decades and today's residents appreciate the continuity of village life; our rich social heritage engenders a sense of belonging.

The purpose of our building is to provide not only a centre for regular Christian worship, festival and special services but a social centre for our rural community. Social engagement, regardless of individual religious conviction, is at the heart of any thriving community.

The church works in partnership with all the leading organisations in the village. The Parish Council and the church jointly organise an annual Civic Service and a Remembrance Service. The Rainow Village Bus is parked on the church car park. The primary school Leaver's Service is held in church and the building is used for RE instruction and available to the school should evacuation be necessary. The Church Fete Committee is a group of people from across the community working together.



The School Carol Service

A recent initiative, with The Parish Council, is the development of a Resilience Plan for Rainow providing a system to activate a rapid response to need in the village.

Nowadays the regular congregation may be small but so many more people take part in everything that Rainow has to offer. The church is still very much at the heart of the community.



The wider spectrum of appreciation ranges from the hundreds of people who enjoy The Church Fete to a late-night phone call to a churchwarden for help. The church is for everyone regardless of any one individual's religious convictions, offering fellowship and social opportunities to all.

This is particularly important when many people live outside the village centre in rather scattered outlying farms. The church plays a vital and essential role in Rainow, fostering community spirit and reducing social isolation.

New residents are made welcome with a copy of The Parish Magazine and a cake.



A new community group is currently consulting with the local population to plan and facilitate new activities and opportunities in the reordered church building.

“Our Vision for 2020” had an Open Day planned at the end of March 2020 when people could have visited the Church Centre to enjoy exhibitions, performances and find lots of information from the different groups and activities in our village.

The church building annually welcomes approximately 9,500 visits: over 5,000 visits for services and around 4,500 visits for wider community activities.

Looking forward.....

The Parish of Rainow with Saltersford and Forest is undoubtedly a wonderful place to live and the churches have been at the centre of community life since they were built. However, our village, like all society, has changed so much since 1846. Engagement with the church as regular Sunday worshippers has developed into a much less formal commitment from the wider community who nevertheless still want to have an active church and a vicar in Rainow. There are quite a lot of people regularly volunteering for church related activities who are rarely seen at a Sunday service.

We need a vicar who will give us a vision of where God wants to lead us, who will encourage us in prayer and mission and will support us in reaching out into the community.

Our strengths include:

- A strong, caring, community spirit in both the regular congregation and the village population.
- General support for the church across the parish.
- A mother church building that is situated in the centre of the village with two other, very distinct, and special chapels in peaceful rural settings.
- Significant numbers of visitors are drawn to the parish by the religious and community events in the churches.
- Human resources – there is enormous creative ability and potential in the village.

Essential areas for growth:

- To get more people regularly committed to supporting the church - worshipping, donating time or money, appreciating the fellowship and supporting social occasions.
- Encourage and nurture more active engagement in mission
- Develop greater involvement with families and children and provide social space and opportunities for young people
- Promote the “new” Church Centre as a place for everyone.

