



Working In The Community

Parish Profile



The Church

Since 1943 St. Barnabas' church has been part of the community. The population of the parish has grown, as has St. Barnabas'. The existing church was built in 1953 and extended in 1989.

Bredbury

Bredbury is part of the Borough of Stockport. It is a 15 minute drive away from Manchester International Airport and a 30 minute drive away from the edge of the Peak District National Park. There is an excellent combined Primary School with pre-school facilities facing the church and adjoining vicarage. There are two High Schools just over one mile away. In nearby Stockport there is a prestigious historic grammar school and there are also a number of other independent schools in the Stockport area.



Stepping out of the vicarage, you will find yourself on Dark Lane, a local beauty spot, which leads into the Goyt Valley Nature Reserve, a natural woodland across two working farms, the home of much flora and fauna. This walking, cycling and horseriding route is named the Alan Newton Way after a Stockport Olympian in the 1952 cycling events. Also, a new cricket club is in the process of being built next to the Bredbury Hall Hotel and Country Club, both a few hundred metres from the Church, off Dark Lane

Here you can take relaxing walks along the woodland paths and through local farmland to the historic Chadkirk Chapel. For the more energetic, however, a turn off to the right will take you over the footbridge of the River Goyt where the woodland paths lead to the natural beauty of Woodbank Park, on into Vernon Park, through the park onto Stockport Road West, then Osborne Street and back home (approximately a 5 mile circuit).

Bredbury enjoys good road and rail networks and is a very pleasant place to live.



The Parish of St. Barnabas'

Until 1988, when it became a parish in its own right, St. Barnabas' was a daughter church of nearby St. Mark's church in Bredbury. The vicar of St. Mark's is the patron of St. Barnabas' church.

The population of the parish, which is around 7,000, tend to commute to larger nearby towns to find employment since the area is predominately residential. However, within the Parish Boundary, there is a large industrial estate and three smaller ones. A large estate comprising of social housing is situated a mile or so from St. Barnabas Church Building. Most of the residential property has been built within the last 70 years.

Outwardly, the effect of the economic recession during the last decade is not always obvious in the pleasant looking streets in the parish. This leafy suburb is predominantly composed of owner occupied properties, however many of which are private rentals. There are people with significant money problems, broken family relationships, and social isolation issues.

The Congregation

There are 57 people on the 2021 electoral roll. The largest age group is over 55 years, many of whom are retired and on fixed incomes.

At present, on Sunday, we have a 4-week cycle of morning services on each Sunday each month, commencing at 10:15am. They alternate between family service, 2 Holy Communion services and a worship service. The services are in church, on zoom and on WhatsApp. There are also service sheets prepared each week and delivered or emailed to those who can't attend Church. We have short mid-week services which are on Zoom - Night Prayer at 7:30 pm on Thursdays and Morning Prayer on Saturday at 9:30 am. Over the past years, as a church, we have participated in various bible studies, these bible studies were held in small groups and they ranged from Lent courses, Jesus Shaped People Courses, to the more recent Bishop's course Living in Love and Faith. As we have a raised Chancel, which made it difficult for some of our more disabled members to fully take part in the worship, a decision was made to locate a secondary altar, made by the same local craftsman who made the main altar, to the level of the nave.



There is a prayer chain which is being extensively used and it is the privilege of over 20



people involved to be able to serve our brothers and sisters in this ministry. In recent years, the church has established a prayer request system for all members of the congregation and parish community. This is primarily for healing prayer for any reason.

Community Outreach

In recent years, we have focused our attention on a number of

outreach projects in order to engage the community and appeal particularly to young parents and children.



We have created a Community Orchard over recent years. Trees have been donated by members of the congregation in memory of loved ones. There are 3 beehives in-situ (one of which was donated by church members). The apples and the honey are then distributed to the congregation and people in the community.

The logo used on the front of this booklet was produced by an Art student from the local Werneth High School. We told the what we would like in the logo, reflecting our work in the community through the orchard and this was the winning entry.

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Hotel to



church originally liaised with Stockport Council and Bredbury Hall annually purchase a Christmas Tree. However, after a request and consultation with the Church, the

Council now provides a large tree which is sited facing the Church and adjacent to the local shops. There is an annual traditional Christmas Tree light switch on and Carol Singing. Even with Covid restrictions in 2021, we served refreshments (mulled wine and mince pies) in the church car park afterwards. Our "Do It Yourself" community Nativity proved very popular and brought in many local families before the Covid restrictions.

During the pandemic, some of our groups, e.g. Rainbows and Brownies, Barney's toddler group and Open the Book working in the school and Community Corner, (part of a places of welcome initiative) have temporarily stopped. We hope that these will recommence as Covid Restrictions ease.



In December 2021, we ran an after school activity called Advent Family Fun for 4 weeks which was very well received. We also ran an annual "Tea with Santa" event and an Easter Egg hunt, which we hope to continue now Covid restrictions have ended

Community Corner was an initiative which ran once a week.

This was to encourage the community to come into our building and enjoy a cup of tea/coffee and biscuits and a friendly chat. We also facilitated a knitting group which met for fellowship in the Church, and "Barnies", a mother and tots group also once a week

Two thirds of the building is a large multifunctional space which is, and has been, used by such diverse groups as Slimming World, children's private parties, rehearsals for a local operatic society and adult fitness classes.

We are currently providing a welcome space for fellowship, craft, refreshments and advice for a number of Afghan Evacuees to participate in. This initiative is being run by the charity Make a Difference. This charity also hopes to work with us in starting up a stay and play session for youngsters and their parents and also maybe some other community activities. They aim to host activities suitable for everyone, regardless of their race, gender or physical or mental capacity.

Before lockdown, we started to meet with members of our community to look at ways in which we could use our building to meet the needs of the community. Prior to lockdown, a brass band concert was held.

Activities during lockdown



Our WhatsApp group was invaluable in keeping our congregation in touch with one another and encouraging one another. We also encouraged people to share pictures of the crafts or other activities they were doing during lockdown. When we were able to open the church again, we then had a display of art, crafts, poems, stories and many other creative things that people had done in that difficult time. When restrictions allowed, we did visits on the doorstep and takeaway communion on the church car park. Our vicar stood in the church car park

with a bubble machine and this encouraged people to talk (socially distanced). We also put a cross outside at easter and left coloured ribbons for people to tie on in memory of those who died in the pandemic and we also did this for people to pay their respects with black ribbons when the Duke of Edinburgh died.

We had a prayer walk on the church car park for Pentecost and also trails on the window for easter (donkey themed), Christmas (angel themed), summer (bee themed) and Autumn (scarecrow themed). We also cut a labyrinth pattern into the grass of the orchard for prayer and reflection

In July this year we will be holding an Art Exhibition. A local art group who have run the exhibition for many years need a new location and approached us. The paintings and crafts will be on display for 2 days and a café will be open for light refreshments.

Worship Tradition at St. Barnabas'

This can be described as Low Church with a Charismatic emphasis. This tradition of worship has existed for a number of years, and is totally inclusive.

There is an active music ministry, with a group and two individual musicians who share the service rota. Occasionally CDs are also used. The service details are projected onto a screen as a visual aid to the worship or preaching and thus removing the need for booklets to distract worshippers which enables them to concentrate fully on the service. The information projected is specific to the service of the day, removing the need to flick to different sections of a book or have a separate hymn book.



Licensed Reader



The licensed reader, Mrs Daryl Beaumont, is an experienced Reader who has worked collaboratively with three previous incumbents. Some of the things she has been involved in are undertaking the the worship teaching, leading and officiating at committed



planning of and taking services, preaching and planning pastoral work, facilitating courses and funerals. With a church fellowship, she

has had a major role in holding the church together during two vacancies. This work has been recognised when, this year, she was nominated by the Bishop to receive the Maundy Money from Prince Charles at Windsor.

Parish Office Admin Officer

The admin assistant, Mrs Beverley Wilson, has been in place since July 2010 and is seen as a vital role to aid any incumbent in the day-to-day running of the Church, specifically in income generation and cost saving initiatives, especially in connection with the renewal of all utility supply contracts.

In conjunction with the Incumbent and the PCC, the post holder provides assistance to the treasurer in the preparation of timely financial information using state of the art technology. The post holder also updates and maintains the church website.



This role ensures that the incumbent is not diverted away from their spiritual and pastoral responsibilities.

The PCC unanimously wants this role to continue in order to support effectively the Incumbent and the PCC.

The New Incumbent

Naturally, we hope the new Incumbent will, through their role as a church of England priest, exercise their priestly and personal attributes in order to continue the spiritual growth for all in the lower Bredbury parish, hopefully for many years to come. The PCC also desire the Incumbent will bring excellent skills as a Pastor and be an effective communicator. It is desirable that the Incumbent will have a heart for mission, as there is a lot of opportunity to grow, and also encourage and facilitate members of the church to realise and exercise personal gifts and encourage a childrens' ministry

The Church and PCC recognise that, with this being a part time post, it is important that the new Incumbent will be able to balance life and work, and that they will have the full support of the church in honouring these part time hours in friendship, support and trust

Accommodation

Adjacent to the church there is a 4 bedroom vicarage with study area and an integral large garage at the front. There is also ample car parking space at the front of the house. The house was built in the 1970's and has a large, well tended, back garden which adjoins the church field, orchard and the local sports field. At the back of the property there is a pleasant natural landscape of fields and woodlands, which is not overlooked by any other properties.

