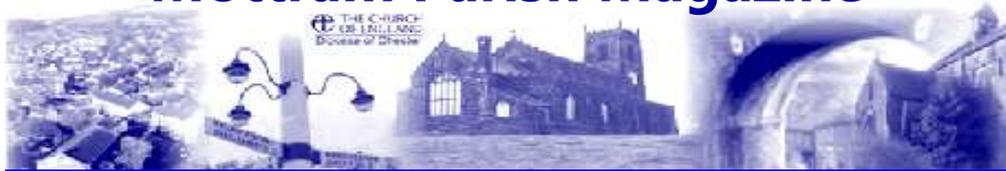


Mottram Parish Magazine



Adoration of the Shepherds Bartolome Esteban Murillo (1617-1682), Spanish painter, known for his religious works and realistic depictions of the everyday life of his times.

We aim to be

~ a growing fellowship of believers ~
warm in welcome ~ reverent in worship ~ gracious in witness
and joyfully serving God and our community ~



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Mottram Parish

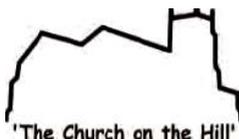


@mottramparish

December 2023
(Contents - see back cover)

Price 70p
or download or read online at
www.mottramparish.org.uk

Mottram Parish



Vicar:

vicar@mottramparish.org.uk

www.mottramparish.org.uk

the Church of England in Mottram Parish, serving the communities of
Mottram, Broadbottom and Hattersley East
together "seeking to know Christ and to make Christ known"

OUR MAIN SUNDAY WORSHIP IS AT 10.30am (see p 11)

St. Michael & All Angels, Warhill, via Church Brow, Mottram, SK14 6JL

USEFUL CHURCH CONTACTS IN MOTTRAM PARISH

Churchwardens

Bob Joy 07546 251709

Kevin Hall 07801 091023

Readers

Allen Standeven (Emeritus)

01457 857331

PCC Secretary

Kate Best 01457 857248

PCC Treasurer

treasurer@mottramparish.org.uk

Parish Administrator

Juliet Edwards

07828931445

Prayer Group Contact

Tony Kershaw 01457 765350

prayer@mottramparish.org.uk

Children and Families Missioner

Louise Britton 07721 419866

louisebritton@mottramparish.org.uk

Mental Health First Aiders

Louise Britton 07721 419866

Maggie Flint 07801600637

First Steps Baby & Toddler Group

Pat Hall 01457 861827

Baptism Coordinators

Cathy Laycock 07971 479903

Pat Hall 01457 861827

Wedding Administrator

Jackie Kneen 07949 874165

Pastoral Visiting Coordinators

Christine Brandreth 01457 238268

Christine Kershaw 01457 765350

pastoral@mottramparish.org.uk

Safeguarding Coordinator

Claire Bibby 01457 763758

secure email: safemottram@gmail.com

Organist

Matt Harrison

mattharrison@mottramparish.org.uk

Friends of Mottram Parish Church

Christine Kershaw 01457 765350

Holy Dusters

Jackie Smith 07791 517468

Chris Kershaw 01457 765350

Bellringers' Tower Captain

Christine Broadley 07810 560796

chris.broadley21@outlook.com

email: use the person's name - eg: pollybrown@mottramparish.org.uk

MAGAZINE CONTACTS

Editor: Polly Brown 01457 865278 mandpbrown@protonmail.com

Subscriptions: magsubs@mottramparish.org.uk



Advent is well known as a time of preparation, but we are well versed in this season now. We all have our traditions; making the cake by this date, sending cards and gifts by that date, putting the tree and lights up, we may have asked people for a list of gift ideas, we have written family, friends and work nights out in the calendar. We start to plan that special meal and even what we are going to do for New Year's Eve.

By my time of life Advent is a well-oiled machine. The services have been in the diary since the Summer and by Advent Sunday, I have known what I was doing every day for the whole of December for many years. It's a very busy time but predictable as clockwork.

This year, however, is different. The services are in the diary but I stand removed from them. There is a house move on the horizon, but there has been a hiccup in the process and I don't know when we will move. I have no idea what will happen or when, and it feels, on the surface, a little "un-Christmassy".

As I contemplated this uncertainty, I thought about what being unprepared for Christmas means theologically. I have spoken so many times about stripping Christmas down to the true meaning of the season. Traditionally, the decorations would not go up until Christmas Eve, as the world welcomes Christ; the light of the world into the darkness and it is that light which is sewn into the season – not a tiny single light amongst thousands of twinkling lights that we can turn off with the press of a switch, but a light which begins with the birth of a small child in lowly circumstances, amidst the agonized screams of a teenaged girl, as animals press in on the scene and weather-worn field labourers drop by to visit.

Over the course of 2,000 years that light has grown in the hearts of millions of people, from the most earnestly devout to those who simply get caught up in the excitement of this era known as "The Season".

Rev Cait Writes (continued)

I wonder, was this the plan? The first Christmas seemed chaotic – no room available, no baby clothes ready washed and folded, no family on hand, no decorations, no gifts, no feast prepared, just two young people, waiting to greet the Son of God, and yet, despite their apparent unpreparedness, it was perfect; everyone played their part; everything came to pass as God had declared.

Our Christmas, or indeed our futures, may seem uncertain, yet God will ensure that it is perfect, whatever or however we celebrate. We may encounter another mouth to feed, or a screaming teenager, the great unwashed may knock on the door; visitors you had not planned to see. It seems that no matter how organized our Christmases may be, the only way to experience the season is with a certain amount of resignation to the uncertainty, the unexpected, the disruption of Jesus Christ in our lives.

As Mottram Church faces another interregnum, another winter without heating and much uncertainty, I ask you to face it with the certainty that this will not be the last time that Jesus disrupts the life of the church. It will not be the last time you may feel uncertain or even uncomfortable in your pursuit of drawing closer to your God. The church is a living, breathing body. Bodies are unpredictable, they often do things which make us uncomfortable, sometimes embarrassing, or noisy and sometimes downright irritating, but they are beautifully and lovingly created by God. They are perfect in His eyes.

So, I want to wish you, from the bottom of my heart a very messy, unpredictable and perfect Christmas.

With love,

Cait, Elijah and Reuben



NOTICE BOARD

Community Groups and Charities

You can make use of our notice boards - it's free!

Send your notice to the editor at mandpbrown@protonmail.com

Deadline for the January issue is Thursday 28 December.

The magazine should be in church and online by Sunday 31 December.



Tameside Toy Appeal

Sunday 3 December - during the 10.30am service donations of new (unwrapped) gifts can be made to the Tameside Toy Appeal.

Alternatively you can make a donation at
www.justgiving.com/campaign/tamesidetoyappeal2023



Times of Christmas Services
at Mottram Parish Church
See page 13



The
Children's
Society

Children's Society collection boxes.

If you have a Children's Society collection box, please bring it into church and hand it to one of the churchwardens before the end of December.

NOTICES (CONTINUED)

Walk with the Walkers

Saturday 9 December (10.30am - 3.30pm)

A walk around Hollingworth

Meet 10:30am at the Church gates.

Led by Bill & Joyce 07544 144344

Monday 1 January 2024 (11am - 3.30pm)

New Year's Day walk from Crowden

Meet 11am at the church gates.

Led by Bob 07546 251709

As usual, please come prepared for all weathers with appropriate clothing, suitable footwear, and a packed lunch. We meet at the church gates, and car share, so can offer a lift for non-drivers.

Welcome to all - not just churchgoers!

We collect a voluntary donation of £1 per person per walk for the benefit of an agreed charity - Willow Wood in 2023.

Alpha Course

**Wednesdays 7.30pm St Barnabas,
Hattersley Rd East, Hattersley,
SK14 3EQ**

Explore the Christian faith in an informal, relaxed, environment. We'll eat some food, watch a video, then you can say what you like about it!

If you think it's not for you, that's fine, you don't have to come back and we won't follow you up.



Operation Christmas Child

Margaret reports that 40 shoeboxes were filled with presents for needy children.

An excellent total; thank you to all contributors.

MORE NOTICES

Sunday 10 December

- 10.30am Worship for all with Nativity
- 3.00pm 'Pop-up Choir' practice for
Nine Lessons and Carols.
Everyone welcome.
- 5.00pm Nine Lessons and Carols



Saturday 16 December

Starting from St Barnabas, Hattersley, at 2.00pm

A Nativity Treasure Hunt

(A joint effort with Hope Church, St Barnabas and St Michael's)

Wanted - Cast, including Shepherds, Kings, Inn-keeper, etc
Volunteer helpers also needed.

If you can help please speak to Louise Britton
or email louisebritton@mottramparish.org.uk
or sign the sheet at back of church
or telephone 07721 419866



Christmas Eve

- 4.00pm Christingle and Crib Service
- 11.15pm Midnight Communion



THE FLOWER ROTA

Altar flower rota December - December 2023



| | | | | |
|--|---|--|---|--|
| July 2nd 4 th Trinity | July 9 th 5 th Trinity Anonymous | July 16 th 6 th Trinity Kath Higgins | July 23 rd 7 th Trinity Patt Kurn | July 30 th 8 th Trinity |
| August 6 th 9 th Trinity Betty Goads | August 13 th 10 th Trinity | August 20 th 11 th Trinity Alison + Shirley Beverly | August 27 th 12 th Trinity Joellyn Stringer | |
| September 3 rd 13 th Trinity | September 10 th 14 th Trinity Sue Joy | September 17 th 15 th Trinity Monica Powell | September 24 th 16 th Trinity | |
| October 1 st 17 th Trinity Dorothy Beverly | October 8 th 18 th Trinity Sue Joy | October 15 th 19 th Trinity Maryon + Jeff | October 22 nd 20 th Trinity Sue Williams | October 29 th 21 st Trinity |
| November 5 th 22 nd Trinity | November 12 th Renewance Kath Higgins | November 19 th 23 rd Trinity Christ the King BIBBY | November 26 th | |
| December 3 rd Advent No Flowers | December 10 th 2 nd Advent No Flowers | December 17 th 3 rd Advent No Flowers | December 24 th 4 th Advent No Flowers | December 31 st Post After Christmas |

If you wish to dedicate altar flowers in memory of a loved one please speak to Sue Joy or Kath Higgins or email flowers@mottram.org.uk or sign the list in the porch.

AND MORE NOTICES

Baby and Toddler Group



Mondays

during term time

10.00 am to 11.30 am

at

Mottram Community Centre
Church Brow



**For more information ring Pat
on 01457 861827**

The Food Bank



needs:

**Tinned fish Tinned fruit
UHT milk Pasta sauce
Steamed puddings
Long-life Cake
Long-life fruit juice or
squash**

**Bring your gifts to
church and leave them in
the box near the church
door or leave them in the
box at Tesco's,
Hattersley.**

**Please pick up a leaflet
in church if you are able
to contribute financially.**

Christmas Fair

Thank you to everyone who baked, brewed up, donated, lugged stuff around, ran raffles, manned the stalls, purchased from them, cleared up and supported in any way whatsoever The Christmas Fair.

It was a great success and raised over £1,000 for Church funds and charities, so especial thanks go to Dorothy Stringer and Sandra Gateley for organising it.

ANOTHER NOTICE

Teenager Leila McClure from Dukinfield is swimming the equivalent of 5 marathons AND cycling 73 miles to raise funds for Willow Wood Hospice in memory of her grandmother, Mary McClure. Mary passed away peacefully in the Hospice on 5th May 2003.

Leila's family have been supporting the Hospice since Leila was 2 years old. Now she is 13 and can choose how to support the Hospice herself, Leila has taken on this huge challenge, which she intends to finish by 5th May 2024.

Leila, who goes to All Saints Catholic College, said: "Unfortunately, I never met my grandma as she died before I was born, however I have been told what an amazing person she was and how well she was cared for in our Hospice.

"This year is the 20th anniversary of her passing. To mark the 20 years, I wanted to do something significant to recognise her and raise some money along the way. I plan to combine two passions of mine – cycling and swimming.

"As she would have been 73 on New Year's Eve and died on the 5th day of the 5th month of the year, I am doing a 73-mile bike ride and swimming the equivalent of 5 marathons.

"The swimming will be the most difficult challenge as that equates to 131 miles, but I am determined to do it and raise much-needed funds for a great cause that is very important to the local community."



Used stamps for Willow Wood

Recycle postage stamps to help raise vital funds for Willow Wood..

All British and foreign stamps including ordinary 1st and 2nd class.

No more than 1cm of envelope left around each stamp.

Not trimmed too close, in case the perforations get damaged.

Please put your used stamps in the box at the back of church.

Thank you - Sarah Davies. sarahdavies.006@gmail.com

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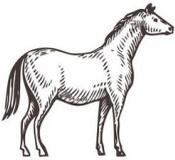


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Ashton-under-Lyne**

*Adverts for items which are
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or email
mandpbrown@protonmail.com*

There is no charge for these.



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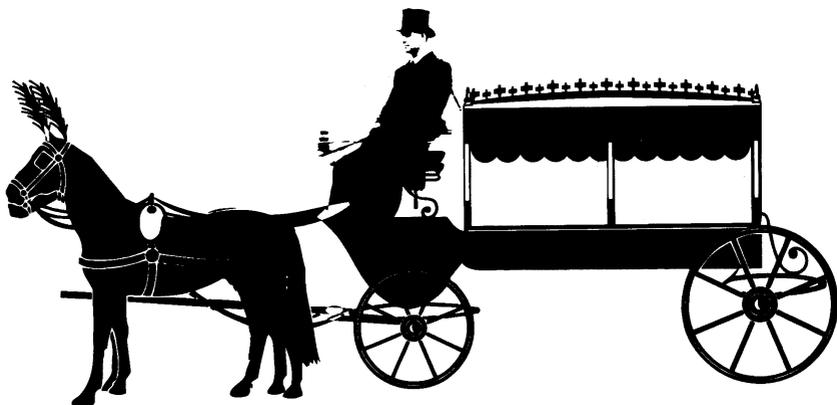
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Phone 07828 931 445

or email

magdalenecentre@mottramparish.org.uk



The following is being offered free.

If you are able to make a donation to church in exchange (any amount) that would be very welcome.

'Confidence' fitness exercise treadmill

With full instructions.

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'Confidence' is a popular and well-regarded range of home exercise machines.

For more information, or to view, please ring Joan on 01457 763247 or see her in church on Sunday morning.

The Church website is at
www.mottramparish.org.uk

Church News - (1)

Sunday 26 November was Rev. Cait's last service with St Michael's before she leaves for her new post as Chaplain at Oldham Royal Hospital.

Churchwarden Kevin Hall presented her with a gift from the congregation in gratitude for her ministry which has been much valued.

Soon after joining us Rev Cait ran the Manchester Marathon to raise funds for the church.

Here she is with her medal —————→



May God bless Cait, Eli and Reuben.

At the same service Rev. Cait presented Tony Kershaw with a gift in acknowledgement of the huge amount of work he has done regarding the new environmentally-friendly heating system, the bell-frame, the website, the E-news and much more.

Tony says:

"I'm writing to thank you for the generous gift that Cait presented to me on Sunday morning. It was a total surprise, and left me speechless.

As Chris and I settle now into our sabbatical – we'll be back in the new year – I'd like to say a special thank you to all those who have given me messages of support in recent weeks. I'm particularly grateful to Bob, Kevin, Mick and Charmian, who have made special efforts to take on much of the load from my shoulders.

We pray that the new year may bring a period of stability and unity to the church, as we seek to serve God's Kingdom in this place."

Tony

Church News - (2)

Safeguarding Update

At Mottram Church we take safeguarding very seriously. Safeguarding is about **preventing** harm, **protecting** those at risk of harm and **promoting** wellbeing in every person. Everyone who is involved in leading or organising church activities and events has to act in ways which will do this. That is laid out in our Parish Safeguarding Policy, approved by the Parish Church Council. In October, the PCC approved an updated policy and guidance, which can be found on the church website here: <https://d3hgriq6yacptf.cloudfront.net/5f3febd9cd869/content/pages/documents/policycomplete2023.pdf>

If you have any concerns about safeguarding, either as it relates to yourself or to other people in the church community, you can report these securely at safemottram@gmail.com or by talking to the parish Safeguarding Lead, Claire Bibby (01457 763758). There is more safeguarding information on the board at the back of church, including where to go if you don't want to talk directly to someone involved in our church community.



Our weekly 'Drop in' Afternoon At Mottram Community Centre Every Wednesday 2 - 4.30pm.

Could you spare just one afternoon a month to help serve tea and cake and welcome visitors? If you can, please sign up on the list at the back of church.

Do you know someone who might appreciate a couple of hours with a hot drink, some simple food and friendly company in a warm building during the cold winter months?

Let them know, or bring them along.



Quote of the month

Christ became what we are
that He might make us what He is.

Athanasius

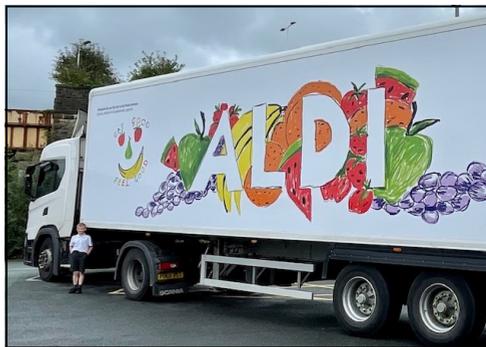
Mottram Primary School News

Joshua Timperley from Mottram School has been crowned a winner in a nationwide lorry design competition, run by Aldi as part of its ongoing partnerships with Team GB and ParalympicsGB.

The supermarket chain asked young people across the country to hand draw a design for its next lorry, and Joshua, aged 10, was the England winner.

The designs had to inspire others to enjoy healthy sustainable food. Joshua's design focused on the fruit and vegetables sold by Aldi, and how eating healthily can make us feel better.

The judges, including Olympic weightlifter silver medallist Emily Campbell, were very impressed by Joshua's creation, which will now be seen on an Aldi lorry.



Josh and the new lorry.

Joshua's teaching assistant and Eco team leader, Michelle Craik, says:

"Josh was over the moon and Emily's appearance was a brilliant start to the day. Her talk inspired a discussion on the children's aspirations and the dedication needed to realise their dreams.

We will be asking the children to help choose how we spend the £1,000 prize money. The Eco Team hope for plants or fruit trees for the allotment. They have begun to harvest fruits and vegetables, so it would be ideal to build on this.



Josh is presented with his prizes by Emily Campbell.

Josh has decided to allocate £20 of his own £100 prize voucher to buying fun things for his friends.

Later in the year, with Josh's teacher, Nicole Brocklehurst, we will be looking at healthy eating and the importance of a balanced diet."

Christmas Greetings

Christmas cards have a history which may surprise you: their origins are not of the Church, but of the Post Office and railways.

Of course 'Christmas Greetings' had been around for hundreds of years in private letters. The earliest such letter on record was written in England in 1534.



In 1611 a HUGE Christmas card made a one-off appearance.

It measured a whopping 33" by 24", and was given to King James I of England (King James VI of Scotland). It featured a rose, four poems, a song, and a Christmas message for the king and his son.

1843 saw the creation of Christmas cards as we know them. One enterprising man was responsible for this; Sir Henry Cole, a civil servant who had helped launch the 'Public Record Office', now the Post Office.

Sir Henry Cole helped to introduce the Penny Post. Until then, only the rich could afford the Post, but with the arrival of the railways, which carried far more packages than horses and carts (and went much faster), suddenly the Penny Post became possible.

Sir Henry wanted to encourage 'ordinary' people to use the new service. He came up with the bright idea of a creating a simple card that people could send each other for Christmas. His friend, John Horsley, an artist, designed a three-panel card. Two panels depicted people caring for the poor, the middle one showed a family Christmas dinner.

They printed about 1,000 cards that first year, and advertised under the slogan: 'Just published, a Christmas Congratulations Card, or picture emblematical of old English festivity to perpetuate kind recollections between dear friends!'

The cards sold for one shilling each and could be posted to friends and family for a penny. There was a warm response from the public.

By the early 1900s, the custom had spread across Europe.

The first cards usually included a Nativity, and in late Victorian times, robins and snow-scenes. Robins were chosen because the postmen were nick-named 'Robin Postmen', because of their red uniforms.



Church Services



All these services are at St Michael's, Mottram

Sunday 3 Dec.

1st Sunday of Advent

9.15am Early Communion
10.30am Holy Communion, Toy Service
5.00pm Annual Memorial Service

Sunday 10 Dec.

2nd Sunday of Advent

9.15am Early Communion
10.30am Worship for All with Nativity
5.00pm Nine Lessons and Carols

Sunday 17 Dec.

3rd Sunday of Advent

9.15am Early Communion
10.30am Holy Communion



Sunday 24 Dec.

Christmas Eve

9.15am Early Communion
10.30am Holy Communion
4.00pm Christingle and Crib Service
11.15pm Midnight Communion

Monday 25 Dec.

Christmas Day

10.30am Family Communion

Sunday 31 Dec.

1st Sunday of Christmas

9.15am Early Communion
10.30am Holy Communion

Visitors who regularly take communion in their home church are welcome to join us at the table.



St Barnabas, Hattersley

Every Wednesday 10.30am

Holy Communion - a joint service with our friends and neighbours at St Barnabas Church, Hattersley Road East, Hattersley, SK14 3EQ.



Let's Pray



Parish Prayer Rota December 2023

Month by month, we invite you to pray with us for all the residents of the parish, asking for God's blessing or healing touch wherever it is needed.

Clough End Road
Broadbent Grove
Ball Walk
Deerwood Vale
Webb Walk
Webb Grove
Bunkers Hill Road
Bretland Gardens
Bowden Close
Valley Road
Valley Gardens

'Love your neighbour as yourself'



Prayer Requests

Our regular prayer group's next 'virtual' meetings in our cyber prayer room are 11th December and 1st January 7.30 - 8.30pm

Let us know what's on your mind, for yourself, those you love, or for the world. Reply to our regular Facebook post or eNews bulletins, and we'll include it in our prayers.

If you would like to ask for a prayer - in complete confidence - send your request by email to prayer-group@mottramparish.org.uk or to Tony Kershaw by email, Whatsapp, phone, text or Messenger.

tonykershaw @mottramparish.org.uk
tel. 01457 765350

We don't always get the answer we expect or want, but it's always good to share with God.



Loving Jesus,

You were born in a stable but worshipped by angels. Be with all who are lonely, and with all who feel distant from celebrations. Be for us a living hope that lightens their hearts.

Amen

Almighty God

Thank you for your gift of Jesus – the Light of the world. Thank you that He brought light and life to all who received Him during His life on earth and that He still brings light and life to all who receive Him.

Amen

Jesus, as you healed the sick; bring healing to those of our families and friends who are ill today.

Jesus, Lord of love, in your mercy, hear us.

Amen

Registers and Records

Flying The Flag



Sunday 17 December 2023
**Happy 60th Birthday to
Carol Bryant**

Sunday 31 December 2023
**Happy 80th Birthday to
Allen Standeven**

Funerals and Interments of ashes



Wednesday 22 November
Diana Mary Williams

Monday 27 November
Ian Beresford

Monday 4 December
John Dutton

*Goodbye to our friends.
May they rest in peace
and rise in glory.*

Baptisms



Sunday
19 November 2023
**Ewan Oscar
Jackson**



St Michael's flag is flown for church festivals, community events, and special occasions.

The flag can also be flown for your own special occasion such as an anniversary, birthday, graduation, or in memory of a loved one.

The dedication is recorded here in the Parish Magazine and on the flag page of the website at www.mottramparish.org.uk

We ask for a £15 donation, towards church funds.

Contact Tony on

01457 765350 or email flag@mottramparish.org.uk

Not to be taken seriously...



"For the next part of our carol-service, Nigel, the verger's nephew will play his interpretation of Silent Night..."



COMMUNITY CONTACTS IN MOTTRAM PARISH

Mottram Primary School

01457 763368

admin@mottram.tameside.sch.uk

Broadbottom Primary School

01457 762382

admin@broadbottom.tameside.sch.uk

Arundale Primary School

01457 762328

admin@arundale.tameside.sch.uk

Broadbottom Pre-school

01457 764423

Broadbottom Brownies

07884 006484

Broadbottom & Mottram Beavers, Cubs and Scouts

07912 387358

Police - in emergency dial 999

Non-emergency - dial 101

Longdendale Neighbourhood Police

0161 856 9484

Tameside Police

0161 872 5050

Longdendale Councillors

Gary Ferguson 07842 297520

Jaqueline North 07517 680211

Jaqueline Owen 07891 138943

Member of Parliament

Jonathan Reynolds MP 0161 367 8077

jonathan.reynolds.mp@parliament.uk

Tameside Local Studies & Archives

0161 342 4242

Hattersley Library, in the Hub

0161 342 2552

The Magdalene Centre Broadbottom

Available for hire - see adverts.

Mottram Road Broadbottom

SK14 6BB

Phone 07828 931 445

or email magdalenece-

tre@mottramparish.org.uk

Tameside South & Longdendale Foodbank

Here in the hard times

St Barnabas Church
Hattersley Road East
Hattersley SK14 3EQ
9.00 - 11.00am

We operate on a referral system

Please speak to/email/phone

Louise:

cfm@mottramparish.org.uk

or ring 07721419866



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*Providing sport and leisure activities
for people with disabilities.*

Our large indoor arena is for hire.

contacts: Ted Bussell

edward.bussell@btinternet.com

and Gwyn Davies

davies.gwyn@aol.com

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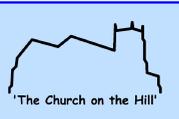
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The Collection Basket

For more information about ways to help with the finances of the church, for instance:

- Giving by standing order.
- Remembering the church in your will.
- Joining our finance team.

Please speak to our treasurer, Juliet Edwards, or one of our churchwardens.

Although we do not have a collection during the service, please remember that we rely on faithful giving to fund our mission in Mottram Parish.



The contactless cardreader

Our Parish Safeguarding Coordinator is:

Claire Bibby 01457 763758

If you are worried about a particular person or situation in connection with any church activity, ring Claire, or you can use a safe email address to report it; this email is checked daily, and can be accessed only by Claire.

Contact: **safemottram@gmail.com**

