



# The Macclesfield Team Ministry

TEAM PROFILE

September 2017

**Completed application forms should be sent to  
the Team Rector ([teamrector.macc@gmail.com](mailto:teamrector.macc@gmail.com))**

 THE CHURCH  
OF ENGLAND  
Diocese of Chester



## CONTENTS

3

From the Team Rector

4

Team Vicar Profile

5

Overview of the  
Macclesfield Team  
Ministry

7

Welcome to  
Macclesfield

### **Our Four Churches**

9

All Saints

12

St. Barnabas  
& Cre8

15

St. Michael and  
All Angels

17

St. Peter's

## Team Vicar vacancy

**The Macclesfield Team Ministry has a vacancy for a Team Vicar. We are looking for a man or a woman who will develop and work alongside us during the next stages of our Christian journeys. We hope it will also provide an opportunity for the appointed person to grow and develop with us.**

## Our Parish Profile

This is the Profile for the Macclesfield Team Ministry. It describes how our Team works and the town in which we live. We say a little more about All Saints and St Barnabas, because the Team Vicar has direct pastoral responsibilities for these. We know it's a little long, but felt it was very important to tell you something about the Team and all our churches. But first of all, here's a message from our Team Rector.



*St Peter's*



*St Michael's*



*St Barnabas*



*All Saints*

## From the Team Rector:



*Rev Martin Stephens*

**I am excited to be in the market for a new colleague to join me and the staff here as Team Vicar.**

I have been in post here for just over a year, having previously served as a Team Vicar for 12 years in another diocese.

During my time here I have encountered many good, faithful and committed lay and ordained people who serve the churches and wider community of Macclesfield in amazing ways. You'll read about the four different churches of the Macclesfield Team, each autonomous with their own identity but with a willingness to co-operate together where appropriate as a Team. And in the wider area too – be it the weekly ecumenical leaders' gathering for Morning Prayer, the network of 'Hope' churches or the Deanery Chapter - there's a good basis for not feeling isolated in ministry here.

However, there's also plenty to get your teeth into!

Within these churches, where lay people have successfully been encouraged to assume leadership responsibilities, one of your key roles will be to push the boundaries further. Identification of possible gaps in church life ... discernment and nurturing of gifts in others ... telling the good news of Jesus to our communities ... you and I will be working with others to grow the Kingdom in this place.

On occasions we will each work across the Team for mutual benefit, leading services in churches other than 'our own', participating in wider initiatives, and conducting baptisms, weddings and funerals across the churches as best serves each missional opportunity.

The churches of the Macclesfield Team are all looking for help to grow numerically, spiritually and in effective ministry. So there is also scope for you to bring your unique contribution to this Team as we seek to further the Gospel in this town.

I hope you see enough here to encourage you to take the next step in making contact.

As a result of this vacancy, the Team Council will be spending this next year identifying which areas of ministry and mission to focus on and understanding how best to resource them.

As, under God, this happens we may need to review clergy deployment; it is for such reasons that we particularly seek someone who is team-focused and flexible.



*Martin*

**Martin Stephens**

# Person Profile



## KEY PERSONAL ATTRIBUTES

- **Team-focused and experienced in collaborative leadership**
- **Enabler and developer of lay ministries**
- **Focus on outward-facing mission and ministry activities**
- **Flexible, creative, open minded, empathetic and resilient**

**Completed application forms should be sent to the Team Rector (teamrector.macc@gmail.com)**

**We welcome both female and male applicants, who value and recognize the importance of their spiritual and personal prayer life. Our ideal candidate will be:**

- An energetic leader with a passion to recognize and develop, with others, the Church's ministry and mission. Experienced in nurturing, teaching and encouraging the spiritual growth of individuals; supporting and empowering them to go beyond church attendance and play a deeper role in the mission and life of the Church.
- Open and committed to creative, innovative and inclusive approaches to ministry, both within and beyond the church. Able to develop, implement and review strategies to address contemporary and contextual challenges which go beyond maintaining the status quo.
- A person who welcomes diversity and is able to demonstrate their openness and aptitude to working within a broad churchmanship. Someone who upholds scripture as authoritative but not uncritically; who sees the Lordship of Jesus as being something transformative rather than prescriptive and openly applies their faith to real life within the Church and the wider community; acting as a role model for church life and leading by example.
- A leader who naturally collaborates with ordained and lay colleagues and holds a passion for mission, church growth and personal faith development within her/his church community through mutual teamwork and discipleship.
- A visible presence in the wider community, who also actively seeks to expand our discipleship and networks across Macclesfield.
- Someone with strong pastoral skills showing empathy with others combined with a sense of humour.

**Job Areas** – which are descriptive of the role and not prescriptive:

- Support and develop our informal worship styles, continuing to allow service leaders and congregation members the opportunity to express themselves individually and to exercise their gifts of leadership.
- Work within our Team and with other Macclesfield Churches in developing, monitoring and refining our approaches to ministry with other organizations, for example, care homes within the town.
- Actively engage with Cre8 Macclesfield, encouraging wider community involvement in joint activities and services whilst maintaining a close and effective working relationship with the Director and Trustees of Cre8.
- Maintain and extend effective links with local schools, such as providing pastoral support to Christ the King School, as a Governor, and re-establish links with Parkroyal Community Primary School.
- Support, be involved in and help develop our churches' work with younger generations, such as All Saints' Messy Church and 0 to 5 Club.
- Support and be involved with Hope in NE Cheshire and encourage involvement in joint activities and services.
- Proactively support, inspire and personally share in the pastoral care carried out by our congregations, and a commitment to shared ministry of occasional offices across the Team.

## SOME KEY PEOPLE

**There are two full time stipendiary clergy posts within the Team:**

**The Team Rector -**

Rev Martin Stephens, who also has direct pastoral oversight for St Michael's and St Peter's

**A Team Vicar** with direct pastoral oversight for All Saints and St Barnabas.

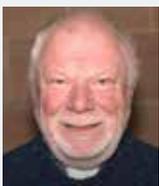
In addition, we have a Team Curate, **Karen Brady**, who was recently ordained deacon (July 2017) plus two self-supporting ministers:

**Rev David Wightman**, a Town-Centre Minister based at St Michael's, and **Rev Rob Wardle**, a Community Priest based at St Barnabas. Rob is also the Director of Cre8, an independent charity on the Moss estate.

We have a **Team Clergy PA** and **Parish Clerk**, **Sue Reid**, who is based in the office in St. Michael's.



*Rev Martin Stephens*



*Rev David Wightman*



*Karen Brady*



*Rev Rob Wardle*



*Sue Reid*

# Overview of the Team Ministry

## Background

The Macclesfield Team was set up in 1985 as a single parish with three churches - St Michael and All Angels, All Saints and St Peter's. St Barnabas joined the Team in 2002. In 2010, as part of a move to build local lay leadership and responsibility, we changed from a Team Parish to a Team Ministry of four parishes. This was also intended to introduce simpler and local decision-making.

## How it works

Each church has its own PCC and leadership team. Since 2010 the Team churches have all been moving from a clergy-centred leadership model to one of shared leadership. The role of the Local Leadership Team is to take issues identified by the PCC for more in-depth consideration and strategic thinking, while formal decision-making remains with the PCC. Development of this model of leadership is still evolving and its implementation varies between the four churches. Most decisions affecting each church and its congregation(s) are now made locally.

The exception to this are those matters which the four parishes collectively agree to delegate to a Team Council. These responsibilities include finances (including how we contribute to the Parish Share [see further below]), safeguarding policies, and our bi-monthly newsletter (The Link). The Team Council broadly comprises the clergy and two lay representatives from each church appointed by the PCCs. It proved invaluable at a time when our churches faced a financial crisis in 2011/12. The Council has also proved to be a great forum for open discussion of cross-church and wider church/community topics.

All four churches have unanimously decided that they will accept a woman as a minister who presides at Communion and as an ordained clergyperson in the benefice. We welcomed and supported the appointment of Bishop Libby Lane as our Area Bishop.



## LIKE AN INFORMAL CHAT?

**If you would like to find out more about our Macclesfield Team Ministry through an informal chat, please contact:**

**Martin Stephens**

(Team Rector) on 01625 426 110 or by e-mail at teamrector.macc@gmail.com

**John Phillipson**

(Lay Chair, Team Council) on 01625 428 874 or by e-mail at jhphillipson@googlemail.com

## Getting the money right

Responsibility for local church finances rests within the four congregations and their PCCs. However, through the Team Council, there is willing co-operation and real sharing between the four churches to set the framework for meeting our collective needs. This includes:

- Deciding how Team costs, such as Parish Share and Team Office, are allocated between the four churches, based on trust/mutual support and on the principle of who can afford what.
- Organising the annual giving appeal across the four churches.
- Strategically reviewing current and future incomes and costs.

Getting the money right will always be a challenge given our changing membership and historical building inheritance. We know that, through our strong Team approach, we are in a much better place to meet those challenges than if we stood alone as four separate churches.

## Why it works

The lives of our four very different churches have been enriched and strengthened by being part of the Macclesfield Team. We have been able to share resources/finances and ideas/concerns through working together in an open, co-operative and flexible way. There are many areas where individuals from one congregation play an active role in initiatives of another church, such as St Michael's café, Cre8, holiday clubs and Messy Church. There are some activities which have been organised as Team events, for example, day retreats, Lent groups and "Open the Book" (teams taking Bible stories into schools).

A great deal of the Team benefit arises from wide communication of what's happening across the four churches and then individuals getting involved. Mutual trust and support have developed greatly over the last five years through these new working arrangements. We know that the sum of what we have been able to be and to do has been much greater than if we'd been operating as four separate parishes.

## Accommodation

The accommodation provided is a modern four-bedroomed house with en suite, a large garage, parking for 2-3 vehicles to the front and a large garden to the rear (complete with greenhouse).

Located in a very quiet cul-de-sac, this Team Vicarage is close to the hospital, is within walking distance of the town, and is only a mile from the health centre and railway station.

The property will have benefited from recent extensive improvements and complete redecoration by the time of occupancy.



*Team Vicarage*

# Welcome to Macclesfield

## The Town



Macclesfield is a large market town on the boundary between the Cheshire Plain and the Peak District. There are approximately 55,000 inhabitants, with the Team Ministry covering about half of these. In the past, the town was the centre of silk production, and although there is now very little textile industry, that heritage is evident with some remaining mill buildings and museums. The shopping centre is adequate (for its size) although, like many similar towns, there are a number of empty shops. Plans for a significant redevelopment of the Town Centre, including shops and a multi-screen cinema with associated restaurants, have recently been agreed.

## Money and Employment

Macclesfield is a relatively affluent area but with pockets of deprivation, one of which is in St Barnabas' Parish. The majority of houses are owner-occupied. Crime rates are well below the national average.

The largest employer in the area, pharmaceutical company AstraZeneca, has a major manufacturing site in Macclesfield, but recently closed its major research centre at nearby Alderley Park. This has affected the town as some staff relocated with the company, though others remained and took early retirement or initiated start-up companies. AstraZeneca was a major focus for drawing young professionals to the town, which has not been replaced. The other large employer is Macclesfield District General Hospital. An increasing number of people now commute out of the town to work, mainly, but not exclusively, to Manchester.



## Education and Health

Primary and secondary schools in the area have a good reputation, and there is good provision for pre-school nurseries and playgroups. Services at Macclesfield District General Hospital include 24-hour Accident and Emergency cover, a new maternity ward and a MacMillan Cancer Support Unit. East Cheshire Hospice lies in west Macclesfield, just beyond our Team boundary.

## Culture

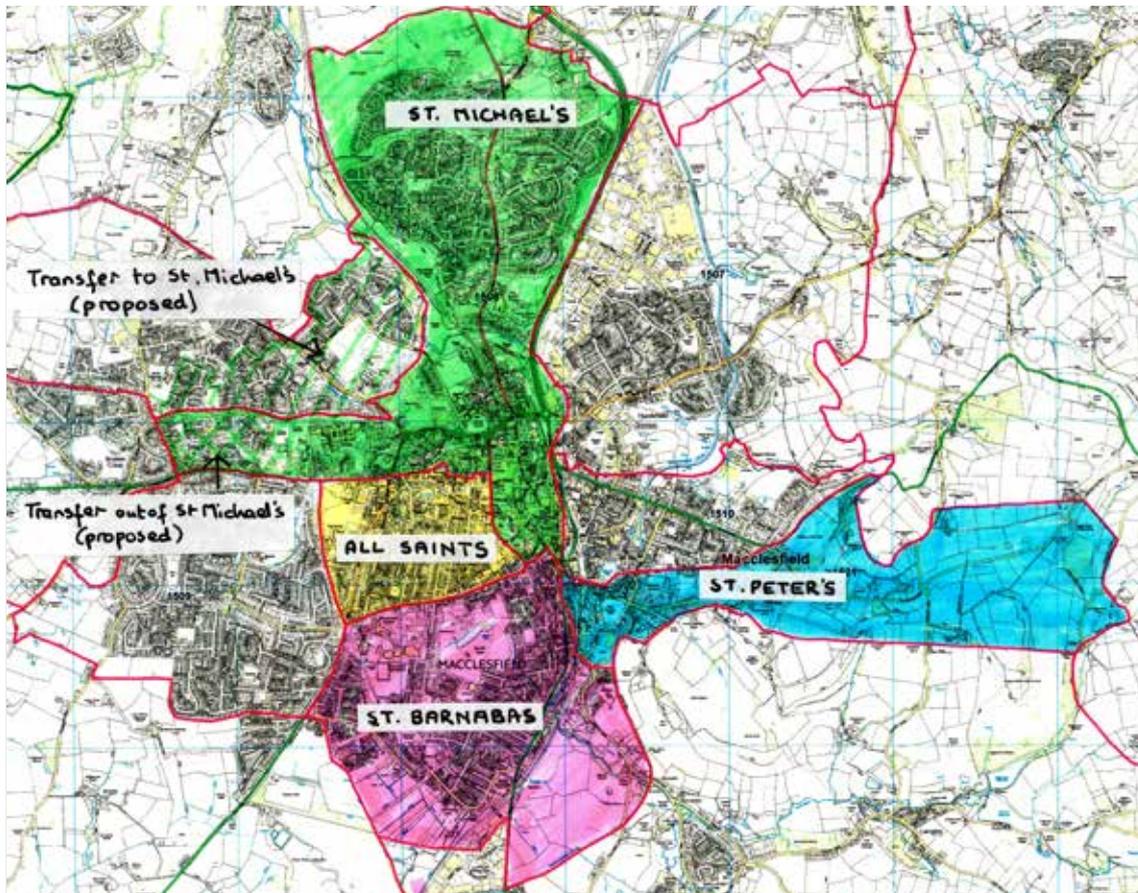
Volunteers initiated the Barnaby Festival of music and arts eight years ago, and a monthly artisan market, known as the "Treacle Market", draws crowds to the town centre on the last Sunday of the month. There is a strong amateur music scene for all ages, and an amateur dramatic group, as well as professional performances at Gawsworth during the summer. For the film enthusiast there is both Cinemac, an independent cinema within the Heritage Centre, and SilkScreen Film Society; plans for a multiscreen cinema development are said to be progressing.



## Macclesfield is a good place to live:



- It's small enough to have real character and identity, but big enough to have reasonable facilities.
- It's near enough to easily get to the theatres, galleries, shops, and other facilities of Manchester (19 miles), the Potteries (22 miles) and the Trafford Centre (22 miles).
- It's on the doorstep of the wild countryside and beautiful little villages of the Peak District, and the lush countryside of the Cheshire Plain.
- Local walks and beauty spots within walking distance (or a short car ride for non-walkers) include the Middlewood Way, White Nancy (hilltop monument), and Tegg's Nose (a former quarry with great views).
- A lot of visitor attractions are within a few miles: Jodrell Bank radio telescope (10 miles); the black-and-white Cheshire houses of Gawsworth Hall (4 miles) and Little Moreton Hall (12 miles); Tatton Park – house, deer park, farm, and gardens (14 miles); Old Trafford (21 miles); Alton Towers (25 miles); and probably the best stately home in England, Chatsworth House (27 miles).
- It's within easy reach of the motorway network – the M6, M60 (Manchester Ring Road), M62 and M56 all being nearby.
- Trains from Macclesfield run directly to London in under two hours, stopping only at Stoke-on-Trent.
- For international travel Manchester Airport is 12 miles away.



# All Saints

## Church History

**In 1849 Christ Church Macclesfield opened a mission school in Crompton Road. It later came under the responsibility of St Michael and All Angels church, and became a licensed mission hall called St Andrew's. When the school closed in 1970, the buildings were purchased by the congregation, giving the total building complex over to the church and community.**

In 1983 Christ Church closed and many of its congregants joined St Andrew's, prompting a renaming of the church to All Saints. In 1985 All Saints formed the Macclesfield Team Parish with St Michael's and St Peter's, and was consecrated as a parish church in 1995.

## The Parish

Our parish is on the south side of Macclesfield set in a residential area of some 7,000+ people. There is a mix of new and old owner-occupied housing, with the remainder being either social housing or privately rented, a primary school, a Catholic secondary school, a care home and some small businesses.

## Our Buildings

We have a church, a large hall, kitchen, toilets, a meeting room, two classrooms and "The Institute", which is a separate annex to the old school complex.

There have been two episodes of building work: the first in 1987, which simplified the church space creating an upstairs meeting room, foyer, and kitchen; and the second in 2012, to renew the toilet block and upgrade the kitchen facilities.

The two old classrooms are in a poor state of repair and there is currently a PCC sub-group looking into options to remove these from the church footprint.

The church buildings are offered for hire and are used for many church and community activities including Brownies, Guides, a toddler group, children's and adult dance classes, Pilates classes, language classes, and musical events. Up to 90 people can be accommodated for events in the hall.

There is a car park which can take up to 20 cars.



### **Our Church Goals:**

We are very much an outward-facing congregation but also understand the need to support, strengthen and care for each other in order to be able to go out in God's name.

**To go where God leads us**

**Build on our Messy Church and 0 to 5 contacts**

**Pastoral Care**

**Build relationships with our immediate local community**

**Classroom plans**

## PERSONNEL

### Readers

Chris Gleaves,  
Robert Marshall,  
Elizabeth Varney

### Worship Leaders

four members of  
congregation

### Church Wardens

Tony Hallatt,  
Chris Campbell-Kelly

### Treasurer

Phil Marsh

### Secretary

Chris Campbell-Kelly

### PCC

10 elected members plus  
vicar who meet five times  
per year

### Local Leadership Team

8 nominated members plus  
vicar meeting five to six  
times a year

## Patterns of Worship

Sunday service times have been arranged to accommodate sharing our vicar with St Barnabas and are 9.30am at All Saints and 11.15am at St Barnabas. We have a regular service pattern as outlined below, tailored using material from Common Worship. We regularly use a screen and projector.

<b>1st Sunday in month</b>	Café church with worship and discussion - (this has included Alpha, 12 objects in the bible and topics such as dealing with conflict)
<b>2nd Sunday in month</b>	Holy Communion
<b>3rd Sunday in month</b>	Morning Worship
<b>4th Sunday in month</b>	Holy Communion
<b>5th Sunday in month</b>	Different service formats, sometime experimental
<b>1st Saturday in month</b>	Messy Church 4-6pm

Music is provided by one of a number of pianists accompanied by a clarinet player.

Our church hosts baptisms and funerals but weddings are occasional.

## Our Church

We are an open, active, friendly and supportive congregation, outgoing and young at heart.

The church is strong in lay leadership and administration which is supported by the structures of the PCC and Leadership Team.

There are 79 members on the electoral roll and 45-60 people attend on a Sunday morning who, on the whole, are 50+. We offer a Sunday School once a month for two young people whilst a children's play area in church with activities is always available. As we describe below, our best contact with families and young people is made at times other than on a Sunday. Our main church "together time" is Sunday morning and we enjoy refreshments together after worship as a time to chat and catch up with each other. We are happy to extend this time too and use it for teaching etc.

Messy Church is on the first Saturday in the month from 4-6pm. We recognise that for the 10 families attending regularly (40+ people, including helpers) it is their "church and worship" time together, just as Sunday is important for other members of our congregation.

There is a thriving, well-established toddler group called '0 to 5 Club', which meets every Wednesday during term-time, with committed church volunteers and some 20 families attending.

The congregation is keen to learn, and members have attended termly teaching events on Saturdays, along with a fortnightly evening fellowship meeting involving biblically-based discussions relevant to living in today's world. A group of church members also prays together regularly.

"Gentlemen's Evensong" is a men's group which meets on the first Sunday of each month in a local pub.

We have a book group which meets on the first Monday of each month.  
 A walking group is arranged during the summer months.  
 Members of the congregation are very ecumenically-minded,  
 volunteering in:

“Open the Book” – there are three teams which go into primary schools  
 The Hope Centre – Christian café and bookshop  
 St Michael’s café  
 Silk Life Foodbank  
 Joint musical activities in the town

For more detailed information about these activities, please look at our website: [www.allsaintschurchmacclesfield.weebly.com](http://www.allsaintschurchmacclesfield.weebly.com)

## Our Finances

The congregation is faithful and generous in its giving.

The parish share is split between the four churches in the team ministry, and the church treasurers work together to ensure that the churches pay a pro rata contribution. In 2017, we will pay £40,000 which is 25% of the team parish share. We have some £50,000 to spend on identified building work, whilst also keeping three months’ operating costs in reserves. We have a very good bookings secretary and earn about £10,000pa from the hire of the premises.

We have a Planned Giving Scheme and the congregation supports capital projects.

As a church we support Christian Aid, The Children’s Society, MAF, Mark & Andrea Hotchkin who are doctors in Chad (a church connection), and India Direct. Locally we support the foodbank, both individually and as a church with food and monetary donations, the Hope Centre (bookshop and coffee shop), ‘ROAR’ (an organisation for people recovering from addictions), and local projects such as one which provides a meal and company every Saturday evening for homeless people.



# St. Barnabas

## St Barnabas History

**St Barnabas was built in 1937 as a daughter church to the parish of Sutton, St George. It was built at the same time as the Moss Rose Estate, and sits at the heart of the estate.**

When St George's closed in 1998, the majority of its congregation moved to St Barnabas. When, in 2002, Sutton St George was formally dissolved, the area transferred into the Macclesfield Team Parish, and St Barnabas became a district church.

When, in 2010, the four district churches of the Team Parish became distinct parishes within Macclesfield Team Ministry, St Barnabas covered the area previously assumed by Sutton St George.

Today, the parish of St Barnabas has a population of c.8,500. It is bordered to the north (direction of the town centre) by Park Lane; to the west by Congleton Road; and to the east by London Road/Macclesfield Canal. To the south it includes the entire Moss Rose Estate. The parish contains two primary schools (Christ the King and Ashgrove), a high school, a special needs school, Macclesfield College of Further Education, and a large park (South Park). It also has a number of nursing and care homes.

The Moss Rose Estate, at the south end of the parish, is itself bordered by the football ground (Macclesfield Town are in the National League), a retail park, privately-owned houses and open fields. It is a mixed area which ranks above-average in most measures of social deprivation. It is not a 'no-go' estate, but it has its fair share of problems associated with social deprivation (anti-social behaviour, drugs, domestic violence, single-parent homes, youth crime and unemployment).

## St Barnabas Church

The Church has a reputation of being a community meeting place and has been active in children's work. The first Messy Church in Chester Diocese was started at St Barnabas, and for a number of years it ran a successful annual holiday club. Due to the size and age of the congregation it became difficult for the church to sustain this children's work, and, with the rise of the work Cre8 was doing with young people in the area (see further below), St Barnabas decided to cease the holiday club and Messy Church.

The life of St Barnabas is mostly lived out on a Sunday, with an average congregation of about 30 and a small Sunday School. There are 38 people on the Electoral Roll. Members of the congregation also attend other activities within the Team, including Team Services and Lent Groups.

Churchmanship is central, with services alternating between Holy Communion and Morning Prayer. Members of the Leadership Team come from a variety of church traditions/backgrounds, whilst the previous vicar was open evangelical.





The Church is a community building, with the chancel at the east end being used as the primary worship area. There is both an organ and a good quality piano. Seating for worship extends into the main hall when needed, including for services such as weddings and funerals. Two years ago the church underwent a £70,000 refurbishment to create better facilities, including a separate meeting room. The kitchen is used frequently for church, Cre8 and community activities, and the building is hired out and extensively used throughout the week, generating important income.

There is a voluntary aided school in the parish (Christ the King, Catholic and Church of England Primary School), of which St Barnabas is one of the sponsoring parishes.

## Worship

The pattern of services is: 1st & 3rd Sundays Holy Communion; 2nd, 4th & 5th Sundays Morning Prayer/Praise. Services follow, or are based on, Common Worship liturgy, the two Readers leading most of the non-Communion services. The hymnbook used is Complete Anglican Hymns Old & New, with printed sheets used for hymn/songs not in the book. Music is played on the organ or piano, with CDs when no musicians are available.

## Outreach and Missional Activities

'Tea and Chat' for older members provides a range of activities and interests, and a Toddler Group is currently being started (September 2017). Two or three times a year, a popular and well-supported Sunday Lunch Club is held for members of the congregation. We have previously had home groups, and occasional short courses at certain times of the year.

## Pastoral Care

Care of those who are sick and/or housebound is managed on an informal basis by a small group. In addition, members of the congregation are mutually supportive and good at looking out for each other.

## Parochial Church Council and Leadership

The PCC of 2017/18 is made up of the Community Priest, two Readers, two Wardens, five elected members and a co-opted Treasurer (a member of St Michael's and Team Treasurer). Since the Electoral Roll is under 50, we are entitled to six elected members, each serving three years (so at present we have one vacancy).

As well as sharing the Team Vicar with All Saints, St Barnabas benefits from the ministry of Rev Rob Wardle. Rob is resident on the Moss Estate and is currently employed as the full-time Director of Cre8. Rob leads services, preaches and administers communion and other sacraments at St Barnabas. Occasionally he also serves other churches within the Team, and is visible more widely in Macclesfield in his role with Cre8.



## Finances

The parish share is split between the four Churches in the Team Ministry according to ability to pay. St Barnabas now contributes 13% of the total Team Central Costs (mainly the parish share), this figure having steadily increased over the last 12 years or so from a low point of 4%. There was a surplus again at the last year end (31st December 2016), resulting in reserves of £28,130.

## Aspirations for the future

We are an open and friendly congregation and welcome everyone. We want to continue to share the love of God, in any way we can, with all those who come into our church.

We are keen to develop and build on our relationships with the other churches in the Team, with Christ the King and other schools in the parish, with Cre8, and with the care/nursing homes.

We recognise our limitations, but we wish to go where God leads us, and want to make the most of the great resources available to us, to His glory.

## Cre8

Cre8 is an innovative, national award-winning youth and community development programme which was started by Churches Together in Macclesfield on the Moss Rose estate in 2005.

Cre8 is well-known for its strap-line of Faith : Change : Community. The organisation's aim is to empower young people and adults to make change happen for themselves and for their local neighbourhood. Cre8 is staffed by an enthusiastic team of workers and volunteers who live on the estate. The organisation is led by its founding Director, Rev Rob Wardle, a Community Priest licensed to the Macclesfield Team. Cre8 has a growing interest in grass-roots faith development.

Cre8 comprises a charity and social enterprises. It has a broad funding base, with donations, earned and grant income all contributing to the funding of its work. The charity runs a number of well-established activities and projects with children, young people and adults. The social enterprises employ young people and young adults, offering them the opportunity of supported 'employment experience'.

The Cre8 trustee group includes members of several different churches in Macclesfield, with three trustees being appointed by St Barnabas' PCC. Since its beginning, Cre8 has been centrally involved in the development of St Barnabas' building and grounds, which are now used by the organisation throughout the week as a work-base for its social enterprises and for several Cre8 projects.

Cre8 is a very important ministry on the estate and we are blessed to be a part of what they do. St Barnabas and the wider Team see Cre8 as an important part of God's work in Macclesfield and are keen to see it flourish. Although separate organisations, Cre8 and St Barnabas are exploring the possibility of moving closer together, and both look forward to an exciting future.

# St. Michael and All Angels

## Purpose statement:

To journey inward and upward to God, whom we know in Jesus; to journey outward to other people and to all creation.

Our own spiritual journey develops as we seek to create and nurture opportunities for others to encounter God through visiting our building. We journey outwards from our building to be a visible Christian presence within the Town Centre community.



**“This is the only child accessible service in Macclesfield.”**

New parent at 9.30 service

**St Michael’s is the largest of the four parishes in the Team. Situated in the Marketplace, our historic building is unmistakably ‘the church for the town’. Both privilege and responsibility, we seek to fulfil our vocation well with both the civic authorities and the wider population, on occasions on behalf of the wider Christian Church in the town too.**

## Leadership

St Michael’s benefits from much lay involvement, both formal and informal. As well as the Church Council and Leadership Team, we currently have two active Readers, a Home Communion team visiting housebound church members on a monthly basis, and an extensive pastoral care network for all church members.

## Worship

There are two regular Sunday worshipping communities:

**The 9.30 Storytelling Service** is short with minimal liturgy, and is aimed at nurturing an understanding of the Christian faith. Starting together with simple worship, we then split into three age-appropriate activities: a ‘Godly Play’ story for families with younger children; a ‘Roots Group’ for children of junior and secondary school age, and an adult discussion group. Consequently the congregation is predominantly families with pre-school and school-age children. There is a recognised cohesion amongst this group, which is aided by regular social activities including camping together in the Summer.

**The 11.00 Service** generally follows mainstream Anglican liturgy and alternates between Holy Communion and Morning Prayer. This service is often the first point of contact for visitors and Christians moving to Macclesfield. Music is an important part of 11.00 worship, and there is a mixed-age robed choir. Children are provided for with two age-appropriate groups. A less formal monthly service (with a music group) coincides with the Sunday artisan “Treacle Market” and attracts some who do not attend at other times.

As “the church for the town”, we receive numerous requests for Christenings and weddings. Wanting to affirm people’s choices, and desiring to see these requests as opportunities to share the Christian faith, these occasional offices are shared amongst the wider clergy team. So far in 2017 (to 3rd Sept) we have hosted 7 weddings and baptised 15 people (children and adults).

Other services include a monthly service of Choral Evensong and a midweek communion service held in the Savage Chapel, whilst a team of volunteers also leads a monthly Sunday Communion service at Macclesfield Hospital.

Additionally, **special services** are held as part of our ministry to the Town, such as Carols by Candlelight, and a vigil the day after the

## Church life

St Michael's is a very active church. At a 'Thank You Volunteers' tea held earlier this year, some 120 people of a wide age-range represented the breadth of groups, activities and contributions people make to church life.

From the informal hospitality of hanging around to greet visitors, or the commitment of praying regularly, helping to lead the toddler group or one of the uniformed organizations, ensuring the building is well-maintained or pastoral needs are met, calling people to worship (our 12-bell peal is unique for a parish church in Cheshire), or leading others in worship, St Michael's is an impressive set-up.



Manchester Arena bombing attracted some 350 people. We support an annual Neonatal Bereavement Service, and there is a monthly lunchtime service of Prayer for Healing.

Prayer is an important part of our life together. St Michael's hosts the weekly ecumenical Town Centre Ministers' prayer meeting, the Staff Team has started meeting for weekly prayer together, and there's both a well-attended weekly Contemplative Prayer group and also a fortnightly pastoral prayer group. Additionally, members of the public often drift in to appreciate the space and take the opportunity to pray and/or light a candle whenever the church is open.

## Town Centre Ministry

We welcome the people of Macclesfield into the St Michael's community and its building. Our building has a very visible presence in the town centre and is increasingly being recognised as a community resource. For example, an "Open Door" café is available six mornings a week, providing a quiet, unhurried place for people to meet and relax.

We aim to be God's mission where we are by committing to a variety of activities and events which, taken together, we pray will help people in their search for God.

Over the past few years, we have developed events including exhibitions, lecture series and lunchtime concerts. The team delivers invitations to Christmas services to all businesses, shops and restaurants within the town centre.

Several church members are Street Angels, ministering to nightclubbers at weekends. We also joined with other Town Centre churches to host and staff a night-shelter for homeless males this winter. Many of these initiatives are shared with other churches through our active participation in HOPE in North East Cheshire. There are good relationships with town institutions, the Police and community organisations.

We have a thriving toddler group and active uniformed organisations. Several schools, including our own church school Bollinbrook CE Primary, come for their Christmas, Harvest and other major services, and lunchtime concerts by students from a local independent school have proved popular, raising money for the local hospice.

## Other Missional Activities

Our involvement in other missional activities often comes about when individuals follow up their personal passions and involve church members. Organisations we have supported include India Direct, CMS, Village Rwanda and Wycliffe Bible Translators. In 2014, St Michael's was awarded 'Eco Congregation' status (now 'Eco-Church').

# St. Peter's

**Our parish is a village-like area of Macclesfield of mixed housing and light industry, with church, green, pub and corner shop.**

## Worship

We have one Sunday morning service, with two Holy Communion services, one Morning Praise service and one informal service each month. Worship is led by our Music Group, using both traditional hymns and worship songs. Worship style is relaxed/informal, with challenging and varied content, which seeks to apply God's message to our personal and church lives.

We have one Reader and other members who support the clergy in contributing to our services through leading worship, preaching, reading and intercessions. We value the variety and richness brought by these contributions.

## Spiritual Development and Nurturing

There is one house group, which meets regularly for Bible study and prayer, and we are just about to start a '2nd Sunday discussion group' as a means to go deeper with that week's sermon. Additional courses or events for the whole congregation, involving study, meditation or prayer, are held during Lent or at other times. These, together with our annual church weekend, offer a variety of opportunities for faith exploration.

As a church we have a strong awareness of world/justice issues, largely due to the commitment of our members to particular concerns. Social evenings and other activities are held to support and promote these further.

In common with other churches, teaching/nurturing work with children and young families has proven difficult due to the small number involved. However, St Peter's is a proactive church which is asking the questions, and we've been encouraged by the commitment of a few families recently, including through contact following requests for Christenings.

Additionally, we are currently seeking to bridge the gap between "Take a Break" (our popular weekly toddler group) and regular worship/church life.



### Summary:

St Peter's is a small Christian community which is diverse, energetic, creative and questioning. Recently, we have focused on:

- How to support the spiritual development, nurturing and worship of our members
- How to reach out to the local community

We continue to search for the direction God wants us to follow. We value working in partnership with our clergy and sharing responsibility for church leadership.

Our parish is a village-like area of Macclesfield of mixed housing and light industry, with church, green, pub and corner shop.





### **The building**

St Peter's has a Victorian (Grade II Listed) building of simple but effective design. It was re-ordered in 2005 to create an attractive and flexible space for worship and community activities. It is used for a Toddler Group, Band and Orchestra practices, courses, parties, concerts, and as a polling station, as well as for church worship and events.

Although the building is in reasonable condition, substantial repairs are required to the tower/roofs and grant applications are being made to finance this repair work.



## Pastoral Care

Oversight of members' pastoral needs is led by a team of lay people, referring more difficult concerns to our vicar or Leadership Team, who also take an overview of the pastoral needs of our whole community.

## Outreach

We believe that Christian faith and teaching contain important messages to people with increasingly separate lives in difficult situations. We know that, while people remain interested in spirituality, they are suspicious of organised religion and churches. Over the years we have tried to reach out by inviting people to join us at accessible Christmas and Easter celebrations, one-off historic/music events and Community Gardens projects.

Whether, for example, with parents and carers at "Take a Break", adults with learning disabilities and their support staff working with church members in the Community Garden, or through conversations instigated by the recent resurrection of bell-ringing at St Peter's, it is possible to engage with a range of people, and responses are usually encouraging. While we have touched people's lives, we recognise that these events do not immediately lead to conversations on spiritual topics or opportunities to reflect what God offers to our world. However, finding a way forward on this outreach journey remains important to our church life.

## Parochial Church Council, Leadership Team and Support

In recent years St Peter's has moved from a clergy-led model to one of shared leadership, with lay members recommended by the Rector and confirmed by the Church Council. This Leadership Team examines issues identified by the PCC for deeper consideration, while decision-making rests with the PCC. It also identifies church concerns and makes proposals to the PCC for consideration.

We have a paid Church Co-ordinator (6 hours/week), who is vital to the planning of our church life and supporting the Church Council and Leadership Teams.