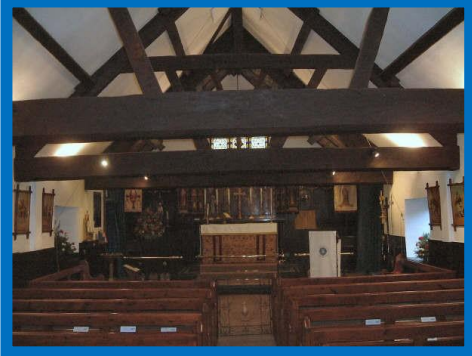


Parish Profile for the Buxton Team Parish



May 2018

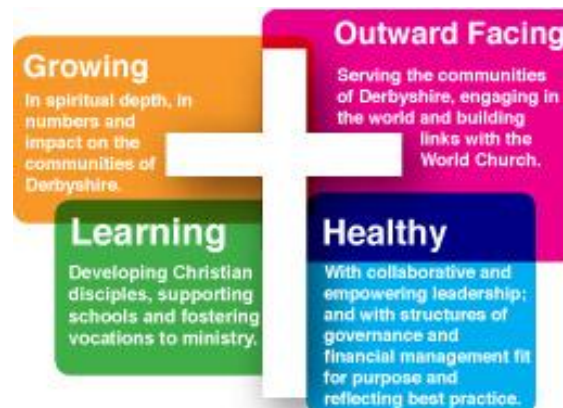
Foreword by the Bishop of Derby

Buxton with Burbage and King Sterndale Team Ministry

This is a benefice with great resources, interesting challenges and huge potential. The next Rector will need to be a person with vision, energy, imagination and effective leadership skills. From the perspective of the Diocese, there are a number of key challenges:

- To bring a greater sense of coherence, which might involve a rationalising of worship opportunities and the use of church buildings. There is a range of ecclesial traditions, from biblical teaching emphasis to a more sacramental and choral spirituality.
- To develop strong links in the rich cultural context, particularly in relation to the Buxton International Festival, the Opera House, the University and Peak District tourism.
- To become a hub in the Deanery for nourishing lay leadership and liturgical resources.
- To develop effective ministries that can engage creatively with a wide range of social and economic contexts.
- To pioneer imaginative partnerships between schools and churches.
- To inspire and develop the considerable ministerial resources that are emerging.

As a Diocese we recognise the imperative of mission priorities and seek God's blessing through our Diocesan strategy, which is to be:



This post represents a significant opportunity for leadership and the crafting of models of mission fit for our contemporary challenges.

+Alastair Derby

Diocese of Derby

Deaneries – development and aims

The Diocese of Derby has established a renewed understanding of deaneries as a key strategic place for mission. We hold a vision to be growing, outward facing, healthy and learning. We have committed ourselves to work together, deepening our common life in service of Christ's presence in every community

The creation of eight new larger deaneries, and the appointment of an Area Dean to each, sits within Derby Diocesan strategic priorities as we seek to better enable growth and mission. Our aim is to facilitate greater missional collaboration and partnership between parishes, deanery and diocese.

Though Area Deans have canonical responsibilities in line with traditional models, they also hold a key role of strategic development, embedding and growing the new ways of working. Deanery development is an intentional strategic response by the Bishop of Derby and his senior staff to the challenge of growth and mission in our time.



Peak Deanery: *Buxton Mission Community – a developing vision*

Buxton Mission Community aims to be intentionally growth and mission focused. The developing vision imagines the six churches of the Buxton Team Ministry responding collaboratively to the mission opportunities which the community, cultural and historic context of Buxton offers. Supported by the prayers and resources of the whole community, each church will be encouraged to drive forward the growth and mission agenda in their own context, but Mission Community also seeks to develop a culture which thinks '*Kingdom first*'. The vision is to encourage willing and sacrificial support for projects which may not be in *my* parish or run by *my* church, rejoicing in God's activity in a place where the community discerns Kingdom is best served. The aim is to build a shared vision which binds the six churches together under a common purpose, displaying characteristics of interdependence – the pooling of wisdom, gifts and resources.

An imaginative extension seeks to develop a conversation with neighbouring parishes, enhancing existing relationships, inviting shared thinking on a wider interpretation of Mission Community, exploring the growth and mission possibilities that wider participation would bring.

In response to the challenges of being church in our age, the vision for Mission Community is to be pioneering in approach, creative in deployment and sacrificial in action. We aspire to reach children and young people, offer support in poor and marginalised areas and plant new worshipping communities. It is a bold vision requiring a leader of exceptional quality. It will be important for candidates not only to be comfortable with and supportive of the new deanery and its aims, but to also grasp the opportunity Mission Community offers. Great potential exists for Kingdom growth, but it will not be without challenge. Applicants will need an approach which is creative and courageous yet able to exercise leadership with sensitivity, recognising that the journey ahead will need careful navigation and respect for context and diversity.

I warmly commend this exciting vision to prospective candidates.

Reverend Colin Pearson
Area Dean, Peak Deanery

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Visit our website: www.buxtonparish.org.uk

1. Our new Team Rector

This is an inspirational opportunity for a leader who will join us on our faith journey, using their gifts through the Holy Spirit to help us fulfil our mission in Buxton.

We seek a Team Rector who is willing to help us explore and respond to key questions:

- **What kind of church are we?**
- **What does God want us to be?**
- **Do we have a vision for the future?**

Our team parish's strengths, opportunities and challenges

Strengths

- We embrace a wide variety of worship styles
- Our congregations are open to ideas and discussion and we aspire to work together more collaboratively across the team parish
- Our parish is financially stable.

Opportunities

- To make links across our community, within our existing congregations and out to the wider population of Buxton
- To connect with Buxton organisations involved in developing and regenerating the town. Our church buildings could play an important part in this activity.

Challenges

- Connecting with groups of all ages, particularly young people and families, and bringing them into our fellowship
- Achieving a more coherent team parish structure and vision, rather than operating as six individual churches.

Our new incumbent

We are seeking a new Team Rector who is:

- Approachable, caring, with good communication skills and empathy with people across all age ranges
- Able to embrace the diversity of our worship styles, and to introduce new approaches to spirituality whilst enhancing and encouraging more traditional ones
- A team player who can delegate and support others in developing their gifts and skills
- Committed to day to day ministry and nurturing our faith, with a heart for mission
- Willing to be a visible presence in our community
- Able to engage with a changing social culture and attitudes to faith
- Someone with experience of youth work who is able to engage with contemporary culture
- Willing to play a role in the wider ecumenical community, through commitment to Churches Together in Buxton
- Can engage with the arts and cultural environment of Buxton.

We would like our new Rector to help us to:

- Develop a vision for the team parish and a plan to achieve it, which are consistent with the aspirations of our new Area Deanery
- Nurture our current congregations spiritually and add to their numbers
- Bring new families into our faith community to develop the next generation of worshippers
- Empower the laity to fulfil their individual vocations.

In return, we feel we can offer:

- A huge amount of support and encouragement to our new incumbent in being an effective spiritual leader in our team parish and the wider community
- Openness to new ideas and approaches, enthusiasm for mission and a commitment to doing everything we can to show God's presence in our community.



Photo: www.visitbuxton.co.uk

2. Introducing Buxton

Our community

Our six churches are shown on the map below: Christ Church Burbage (4), Christ Church King Sterndale (6), St Anne (2), St James Harpur Hill (5), St John the Baptist (1) and St Mary the Virgin (3). They are located across the town of Buxton and in adjoining communities.



Buxton is a very special place, tracing its history through prehistoric limestone caves, a Roman settlement, elegant Georgian architecture and a Victorian park and gardens. The highest market town in England, it has a population of around 22,700 (16,200 in Buxton Parish and 6,500 in neighbouring Fairfield Parish), with 63% aged 16-64 and 25% aged 65 plus; only 2% of the population is non-white (*all data from 2011 census*).



Heritage Lottery Fund

Famous for its spa water, which is bottled locally and sold worldwide, Buxton is also known for its Opera House and annual arts and music festivals which draw thousands of visitors and tourists every year. Visitors also use the town as a base to explore the Peak District National Park and attractions such as Chatsworth and Haddon Hall.

Local people work in the tourism, retail and leisure sectors plus limestone quarries, light industrial businesses, the Health & Safety Executive Research Laboratories and farming. Residents also commute to Stockport, Manchester, Chesterfield and Sheffield to work and study. These towns and cities are accessible by bus or train as well as by car, and Macclesfield is 20 minutes away for trains to London.

There is a wide variety of housing, from small terraced cottages and Victorian family houses to modern flats and residential estates, plus social housing and retirement flats. Buxton also has a range of nursing and care homes which provide care and support for elderly people. Two small local NHS hospitals deal with minor injuries and offer physiotherapy and other community services.

The town has one infant and one junior school, three primary and two secondary schools. There is no Church of England church school in the parish. St Thomas More School is a church school administered jointly by Derbyshire County Council and the Catholic Diocese of Nottingham. The University of Derby has a campus for students studying a wide range of vocational courses, based in the former Devonshire Royal Hospital in the town centre.

Buxton has a rich cultural life. In addition to the Opera House, there is the Museum, the Green Man Art Gallery plus the Pavilion Gardens arts complex with two studio spaces which also encompass a film club and cinema. The Buxton Musical Society gives regular orchestral and choral concerts, and Burbage has a celebrated brass band. There is also a strong tradition of popular music in town - acoustic, rock, pop and jazz.



3. The ministry team

Working together for our team parish



Six churches form our team parish: St Anne's, St John the Baptist and St Mary's in the town centre, plus Christ Church in Burbage, Christ Church in King Sterndale, and St James in Harpur Hill (www.buxtonparish.org.uk). There are 157 people on the electoral roll and our team parish is part of the new and developing Peak Deanery. This new Area Deanery brings together three rural deaneries – Bakewell & Eyam, Buxton and Glossop.

During the year to 31st December 2017, there have been 10 weddings, 19 baptisms and 32 funerals. There were also 23 funerals which were conducted by our ministry team at the crematorium.

Office	Christ Church Burbage	Christ Church King Sterndale	St Anne	St James	St John	St Mary
Baptisms	4	4	0	1	4	6
Weddings	2	2	1	0	2	3
Funerals	12	0	2	6	3	10
Usual Sunday attendance*	22	11	8	15	53	40

** for each church, this is the average attendance at Usual Sunday Services based on church data for a five month period in 2017*

Remarriage of divorced people in church is at the discretion of the clergy. The current baptism policy is to conduct all baptisms within one of the main Sunday services.

The Team Ministry was created in 1974, and is currently staffed by a Team Rector (vacancy); Revd Keith Cocking, Team Vicar, who is Acting Team Rector; Revd Margaret Slyfield, Assistant Curate (SSM*); Revd John Overton, Associate Priest (SSM). This core team is assisted by four retired clergy with Permission to Officiate and four Readers. Also involved with the team parish are a former Bishop of Sheffield, the Right Reverend Jack Nicholls, who is an Honorary Assistant Bishop in the Diocese, and the Reverend Canon Stephen Shipley, a BBC religious broadcast producer, who is 'Licensed under seal'. (*SSM = *self-supporting minister*)

Buxton is a training incumbent parish, making it an attractive opportunity for a curate to serve here. Our parish has a strong history of nurturing both curates and people at the very beginning of their journey to ministry.

The core team meets approximately once per month, and aims to have three or four wider team meetings per year. Morning Prayer is said in St Anne's at 9.15 am on weekdays, and this is an important feature of ministry team worship.

The team parish has implemented 'Safeguarding Children and Young People', the Diocesan child protection procedures and best practice guidelines, and has individuals trained as Parish Safeguarding Links for children & young people and for vulnerable adults.

A number of lay people have taken part in the Diocesan lay worship leaders course, and assist in worship. Others are studying or have completed the 'Education for Ministry' (EFM) course which is run locally by a Lay Reader.

The clergy are supported by a committed and active lay team. There are currently five Church Wardens, although 12 Warden posts are available across the six churches. The PCC has 28 elected and ex-officio members and meets every two months. Parish news and information about activities at individual churches is circulated through a weekly news sheet and a monthly magazine.



There are two clergy houses in the team parish. The Rectory is situated in a residential area close to the town centre and the Pavilion Gardens.

It is a large modern four-bedroom house (double ensuite, two further doubles and a single bedroom) with a bathroom, study, large dining room, hall, cloakroom with toilet, kitchen, utility room and double garage. It also has a separate entrance in addition to the main front door. The Rectory is currently let to tenants on a short term lease.

The Vicarage is next to St Mary's and is also a modern four-bedroom house (built in 1975) with bathroom facilities, two reception rooms, a kitchen, utility room, study, downstairs toilet and garage.

Financial information

The finances of the team parish are under the control of the PCC and the Parish Treasurer. Accounting systems are maintained for each church and the Parish Centre, together with overall accounts for the Parish. Professional accountants are retained to produce accounting information and to produce statutory accounts. The Parish is registered with the Charity Commission, and full copies of our accounts can be viewed on our website. The majority of the PCC are Trustees of the registered charity.

The income and expenditure of the team parish in the previous three years was as follows:

Year	Income	Expenditure	Surplus
2015	£221,076	£179,862	£41,493
2016	£241,079	£227,218	£13,861
2017	£183,881	£174,409	£9,472

The net assets of the team parish are as follows:

2015	£318,097
2016	£334,265
2017	£345,822

The Parish Rectory and St Mary's vicarage are assets of the Diocese, so are not included in the above.

The Common Fund payments were as follows:

2015	£61,392	(100%)
2016	£62,620	(100%)
2017	£63,872	(96.6%)

The PCC reimburse all agreed clergy expenses, including home telephone, mobile telephone (team parish business), travelling expenses etc.

Five of the six churches are listed buildings and are insured at 100% of their rebuild cost. The one not listed is insured at a lower value. Insurance inspections are carried out, together with Quinquennial Surveys, every five years.

The team parish intends to organise a new Stewardship and Giving campaign, which it is hoped will yield positive results, and will help us continue our mission.

The Team Parish Office is located in the Parish Centre and employs two people: the Parish Administrator, who reports to the Rector, and a Finance Assistant who reports to the Parish Treasurer. Both positions are part-time.

4. Our team parish ministry and mission

Each of our churches has its own pattern of worship, which you can read about in section 5. The whole team parish comes together six times a year to celebrate the patronal festival of each individual church, which is followed by refreshments and fellowship. Some churches also host specific services during the church year, for example Advent Carols and Nine Lessons and Carols services are held at St John's while an All Souls Remembrance Service is held at St Mary's.

There are also many opportunities for parishioners to get involved in the spiritual life of our team parish in addition to attending Sunday and other services.

Regular activities include:

- Anglican Women's Fellowship – meets monthly to share, through an organised programme of events, a diverse range of stimulating activities for mind, body and spirit.
- Bible Study Group – meets weekly, with breaks at Christmas, Easter and in the summer, focusing on the following Sunday's Lectionary readings.
- Education for Ministry (EFM) – a four-year course which includes Old and New Testament studies, Church history and philosophy. The group meets weekly with two mentors. People who have completed EFM have gained greater confidence and gone on to make significant contributions to the spiritual life of the team parish and wider Diocese.
- House Group – meets monthly to discuss a wide variety of topics. Recent subjects include the role of music in church, inspirational Christians, and a Bible reflection. Guest speakers are also invited to talk about their faith journey.
- Mothers' Union – the Buxton branch meets monthly and gets involved in projects at a local, Deanery and national level. The 16 members also regularly welcome inspirational speakers to their meetings and enjoy fellowship afterwards.
- Spirituality Group – meets monthly and members take it in turn to give a short reflection followed by silent meditation.

Outreach and Fresh Expressions activities include:



Brekkie church

- Brekkie Church - a monthly morning service for families at Christ Church Burbage which also includes activities and rounds off with a continental breakfast. Around 30-40 people attend each service.
- Cafe Church – a less formal monthly evening service organised by and for young people, held at St John's. Food and socialising are central elements of Cafe Church and numbers vary from 15-40 people attending.
- Messy Church - for children and families, held monthly in the Parish Centre. It is an extra worshipping body, which has a regular attendance of 30-40 - more than all except two of our churches.

- Monday Lunch Club - for older people, held twice a month at the Parish Centre. Following a short service of Holy Communion in St Anne's Church, the team provides a delicious home cooked lunch plus friendship and support to the guests and each other. Numbers are currently running at about a dozen.
- Welcome Wednesdays - a friendship and activity group for adults, held twice a month at the Parish Centre. The meeting begins with either a speaker or an activity, followed by afternoon tea. Around 30 people attend each meeting.



Welcome Wednesday members and helpers



Having fun at Messy Church

There is a small but active Pastoral Care Group which visits the bereaved and those who are sick or nearing the end of life. Retired clergy and lay readers take communion to those who request it and also visit nursing and care homes to administer communion.

As a team parish we help with the Christian Aid Week collection organised through Churches Together in Buxton. We also support the work of The Children's Society, through activities including a Christingle service.

We also support Charis House (Good News Family Care), a Christian hostel for women and children based in Buxton, High Peak Homeless Help and Zink (Buxton Foodbank).

All our churches have varied programmes of social, fundraising and outreach activities, ranging from suppers, quiz nights and garden parties to coffee mornings, flower festivals and musical events.



St Anne's flower festival



Community picnic at St Mary's

Ecumenical links

We enjoy good ecumenical relationships with other churches in the town, through the 'Churches Together in Buxton' network. These include the Methodist, Roman Catholic, URC, Church in the Peak and Buxton Community churches. There is also an Anglican proprietary chapel, Trinity Church. We have good links with the neighbouring Anglican parish of Fairfield.

The University of Derby has its own active chaplaincy team, which includes one of the retired priests living in our team parish. We also have involvement in the University Chaplaincy Churches Liaison Committee. Our churches play a role in the civic life of Buxton, including services for the annual Wells Dressing festival, the crowning of the Well Dressing Queen and Remembrance Sunday, which are led by our clergy team.



Members of the clergy team at the Blessing of the Wells

5. Our churches and Parish Centre

Christ Church Burbage



Christ Church Burbage, situated to the west of Buxton, is Grade II Listed. It was built in 1860 under the patronage of the Seventh Duke of Devonshire, to the design of Henry Currey. The building is in reasonably good condition, benefiting from extensive work on the tower and roof in the last five years. The stonework, drive, paths and parking area will need future attention.

Service pattern

Holy Communion is held at 9.30am on the 1st, 2nd and 4th Sundays and each Wednesday, and Brekkie Church on the 3rd Sunday. Regular attendance* is 22, age range 1 to 100.

Our congregation and activities

Burbage has just over 2,500 residents. We are well served by our supporters and in 2017 our extensive fundraising efforts raised £9,000.

We celebrate friendship and like to feel we are a most welcoming church. We serve tea and coffee after the Sunday service and make a special effort to include visitors and people who come infrequently. The local community has a strong attachment to Christ Church Burbage, and many have been baptised and married here.

The church hosts three popular Burbage Brass Band concerts a year. We hold a Snowdrop Tea and Christmas Tree Festival which are popular with local people. We also participate in the Buxton Garden Trail, providing refreshment and a Churchyard Trail. In 2017 we had a Pet Service which hopefully will become a fixture. Spring, Autumn and Christmas Fairs and a Harvest Supper (joint with St James) are held in Burbage Institute.

The Mothers Union and AWF (joint with other churches) meet monthly as does our Churchyard Working Party.

** for each church, this is the average attendance at Usual Sunday Services based on church data for a five month period in 2017.*

We celebrate

- Our dedicated team who work hard to maintain the building and put on events and maintain close links with the local community

Our challenges

- To increase our congregation so that we can do more activities and reach out to more people
- To maintain our building for future generations.

Our dreams

- To get the youngsters to Brekkie Church and keep them coming when Sunday sports clubs beckon. There are opportunities for bell ringing training.



Presenting Mothering Sunday posies

Christ Church Burbage Churchyard

The three and a half acre Churchyard is the only one in Buxton open for burials. It surrounds the church on all sides, with an extension on the north side. All boundaries are marked by dry stone walls and the eastern border is alongside Nursery Lane.



The original two acre graveyard was consecrated in 1861 and enlarged in 1902 and again in 1939. Another piece was added but not consecrated until 13th March 1977. This new part is a lawned Churchyard which makes mowing and maintenance much easier.

We still have the graveyard books from 1861 onwards showing all the burials and their plot numbers and a detailed plan of the churchyard. The earliest one is in beautiful copperplate script but rather fragile now. In the churchyard there are many interesting memorials and eight commonwealth war graves.

There are about 100 mature trees, mainly sycamore and lime, with some elm, beech and horse chestnuts. In spring there are many snowdrops and other bulbs in flower thanks to the efforts of Burbage Garden Club. The area beyond the memorial garden to the left is unconsecrated and has a small orchard planted by Transition Buxton. Thanks to the hard work of our volunteers the major part of the churchyard is maintained in a reasonable state enabling people to visit and tend graves.

Christ Church King Sterndale



The Church was built in 1847, thanks to the efforts of the Pickford family. Amongst the impressive list of subscribers were the Duke of Devonshire, Lady Fitzherbert and professional gentlemen including Bishop Spencer and Dr Darwin, and representatives of the Pickford family. A portion of their own parkland was given to the site. One of the stained glass windows commemorates William Pickford (1848-1923), Lord Sterndale. The Parish Hall adjacent to the church was used as the village school. We have an open burial graveyard.

Service pattern

We have two 9.30am communion services and two family services each month and we also have our Remembrance Service, Carol Service and rehearsals for weddings. Our chosen hymns are played with our CD player which works well for us.

Our activities

Regular attendance is 11. Our congregation is consistent and does include a small number of children.

We are the only church in Buxton which remains open from dawn to dusk. Our welcome book is full of comments about the church being open, and very good feelings of Christianity. Walkers from the High Peak are frequent visitors.

The Parish Hall is used for many purposes - including as a Polling Station - and is a self-funding resource for the community. Our fundraising activities include a snowdrop event, harvest festival supper, flower festival, Christmas Fair and many more. We encourage anyone we see in our church, including visitors, walkers, passers-by etc. Once a year in Buxton a coach visits our villages, and we are included and we give a short history of our church. We continue to pass on our Christianity to anyone that wishes it.

We celebrate

- Coming together as a community through worship and fundraising
- Encouraging others to visit the area through our church
- Realising that a lot of people appreciate what a small core of people achieves.

Our challenges

- To attract more children
- To encourage more help to maintain our church, e.g. mowing, fundraising
- Having services that suit all.

Our dreams

- That the person selected for the Team Rector post will inspire others, through going out to spread the word and, most of all, reaching the next generations.

St Anne



Our church is very close to the Market Place and is one of the oldest buildings in Buxton. It became the town's church when the original Chapel of St John was suppressed in the 1530s. After a period when it was used as a school, it was re-dedicated in 1881, and followed a strong Anglo-Catholic tradition. It has a small graveyard but burials no longer take place at St Anne's.

Service pattern

The weekly Sunday service is at 8.00am and we use the 1662 Book of Common Prayer. Regular attendance is 8 and the usual Sunday congregation tends to be mainly older people. We have a weekly Monday Communion service which is followed twice a month by a lunch in the Parish Centre. The clergy team also holds Morning Prayer at St Anne's.

Our activities

Our annual summer Flower Festival is a very popular event and we also hold the Festival Royalty Service at the end of the Wells Dressing Week. The church has a beautiful altar screen and many other features, and we are pleased that we have been able to leave it open for visitors each day in the summer months.

We celebrate

- Our form of traditional worship.

Our challenges

- An ageing and shrinking congregation.

Our dreams

- We want to grow our congregation without losing what makes our worship unique.

St James Harpur Hill



Making Mothering Sunday posies

Built in 1909-10 the church is prominently situated 1.5 miles to the south of Buxton in Harpur Hill village. It is built on rising ground to the east of the roadway and comprises: the South West Tower, three bay Nave, a former Baptistry, Porch to the west, two bay apsidal Chancel, north vestries and organ chamber plus a cellar.

St James is enclosed within a small church yard. There is a separate burial ground to the west across the road where a small lych gate gives access to the graveyard. The building has no drainage system as all water is soak away. There are no toilet or kitchen facilities except a cold tap and sink in the inner vestry. The church is unlisted and is not in a conservation area.

Service pattern

The service pattern is one Sunday service at 9.00am which is usually Family Eucharist with organ accompaniment. Regular attendance is 15. We join with the Harpur Hill Methodists bi-monthly and visit each church alternately. A Crib Service is well attended on Christmas Eve.

Our activities

The age demographic is a concern as most of the regulars of the congregation are in their 70s or older. Few have the energy to significantly contribute to the running of the church. This means very little fundraising takes place – other than a lottery which is supported by a few of the local people.

We celebrate

- A stable, friendly congregation
- Providing a good service for the community of Harpur Hill offering weddings, funerals and baptisms.

Our challenges

- An ageing congregation
- The building needs attention
- We do not have any families attending
- The position of the church is at the top of a hill, away from the nearby residential areas. People do not need to pass the church to reach other parts of Buxton, so it has lost the feel of a village church.

Our dreams

- We would like to encourage the people who attend the funerals, baptisms etc to join us for our other services.

St John the Baptist



Preparing Well Dressing displays

St John the Baptist

The Church of St John the Baptist is a Grade II* listed building, built by the Fifth Duke of Devonshire in 1811 (dedicated 1812) and is the Parish Church of central Buxton. It can hold the largest congregation in the Benefice. It is located close to Buxton Opera House and the University of Derby's Buxton Campus. The kitchen and lavatories were rebuilt six years ago. We have also made a number of alterations to improve access to the building. The grounds include a formal Garden of Remembrance and a closed graveyard.

Service Pattern

Sung Eucharist is celebrated most Sundays at 11 a.m. (except where communal Parish Services are held at other venues). Regular attendance is in the fifties, including an average of 12 choir members. The style of worship is formal with music of a high standard led by a dedicated Director of Music and adult choir. There is a 4-manual Hill organ. During Advent and Christmas many of our services are candlelit and our Nine Lessons and Carols involve many of our civic leaders as participants.

Also, on the last Sunday evening of the month St John's hosts Cafe Church where the worship is informal and music is led by guitar. There are opportunities to share understanding and experience of faith and a small team provides delicious food.

During the Buxton Festival each year the normal Sunday Sung Eucharist is replaced by a large choral mass setting sung as part of our worship. These three services attract hundreds of visitors. One of these services is usually recorded for broadcast on BBC Radio 4.

Our activities

The church is a large, chaired, flexible building with wonderful acoustics for music. It is a very popular venue for diverse secular occasions, including concerts, Buxton Festival performances, Wells Dressing preparations and the crowning of the Wells Dressing Queen, and the Investiture of the Mayor; it is also used as a Polling Station.

Many of the congregation are new to Buxton rather than Buxton 'born and bred'. They maintain links to family and friends elsewhere in the country and abroad and this makes for a shifting Sunday morning population. Throughout the year we welcome a steady stream of visitors who frequently comment on the warmth of the welcome they find here.

The running of St. John's relies a great deal on the unassuming efforts of many individuals and small groups under the exceptional leadership of our Churchwardens. Our flower arrangements are particularly beautiful, especially at Easter and Christmas.

When it comes to social events and fund-raising, the Do-It-Group has been working tirelessly for 15 years to supplement income from congregational giving, lettings and other donations.

We celebrate

- Our beautiful building and choral tradition
- Our dedicated and enthusiastic volunteers
- A strong contingent of retired clergy who both worship here and lead worship.

Our challenges

- The lack of younger people - and an ageing congregation
- To make the church more accessible to visitors
- The costs – financial and time - of maintaining a landmark building.

Our dreams

- Continuous strong and stable leadership in the form of a new Rector
- That more local people will join our loving, worshipping community, including those from the University
- To expand alongside the new, exciting plans for Buxton.

Buxton Musical Society holds regular concerts at St John's



Image courtesy of Mark at Grafika-uk.com

St Mary the Virgin



The church was consecrated in August 1917, and it is an attractive grade 2 listed building in the Arts and Crafts style. It sits in a pleasant garden and lawns setting, with an area for the Interment of Ashes, and a War Memorial which was recently rebuilt. The interior can seat about 200 worshippers on traditional pews, there is a multi-use choir vestry, and a fine organ which is older than the church itself.

Service pattern

There is a weekly 10.30am Family Communion (Common Worship) with a children's Sunday Club, and regular attendance is 40. At 6.00 pm on Sunday a small, dedicated group attend Evensong (BCP).

The style of worship is fairly traditional, but we do take opportunities to try out new worshipping experiences. The members of the Sunday Club lead occasional services, and members of the congregation perform the readings in services, and organise and lead intercessions. In addition, St Mary's hosts an annual Patronal Festival, a Remembrance Service for All Souls, a bi-annual Christingle service plus events for Messy Church, including a joint Crib service on Christmas Eve.

Our activities

There is an active church committee, a vibrant music group, a flower group, and an ad hoc group of the congregation who organise many of the events. In 2017 we celebrated our Centenary with a 'Celebration of Marriage' weekend, our annual Garden Party, a cake stall at the town's Spring Fair, a Community Picnic, an organ recital, other music concerts, a flower arranging talk by an internationally famous florist, and our annual Folk Carols in December. We also hosted three events for the Buxton Festival Fringe. Additionally we held 'Open Church' for Holy Week and the Buxton Festival Fringe period, and we took part in the national Heritage Open Days in September. Find out more on our Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/stmarysbuxton/>



Flower arranging demonstration at St Mary's

We celebrate

- Our Sunday Club and their involvement in so many aspects of church life
- The music group and what they bring to worship
- Good community relations, contributing to the steady growth and commitment of the congregation
- The flexibility which we are beginning to develop in our worship.

Our challenges

- To improve our facilities in a sensitive way
- To continue to grow our congregation
- Developing use of the building beyond Sunday services
- Looking for even greater flexibility in our worship.

Our dreams

- Developing our own spirituality
- Developing worship and support for young people
- Much better kitchen and toilet facilities to widen the potential use of the building

The Parish Centre, Bath Road

This is the hub and administrative centre of the team parish. It houses the Rector's and Vicar's office, and is staffed four days a week by a paid part-time Administrator. In addition to producing weekly news sheets and service booklets on the large professional copier/printer, the office also holds current parish records and holds and maintains safeguarding records.

The Administrator plays a key role in the smooth running of the team parish and co-ordinates church activities to avoid double booking of dates for worship, social or fundraising activities.

The hall is used as a team parish meeting room, and for team parish activities such as Monday Lunch Club, Messy Church and Welcome Wednesdays. It is offered for Churches Together Lent Lunches every year, and hosts Bring and Share lunches for St Mary's twice a year. The hall also generates substantial income through being rented out to a variety of local clubs and groups. Regular hirers include U3A, Church in the Peak, Age Concern, Over 60s keep fit, various martial arts groups, a youth theatre and mental wellbeing classes (mindfulness, Tai Chi).



Parish Centre



Administrator's office

6. Your application

Thank you for reading our Parish Profile and we hope you will feel inspired to apply for the post. If you would like some more information about this post or an informal discussion, please contact:

Revd Colin Pearson
Area Dean, Peak Deanery
colin2pearson@gmail.com
Tel 01298 938200.

Mr Eric Butterley, Church warden
Eric.butterley@dunelm.org.uk
Tel 01298 23249

Mrs Jean Luton, PCC Lay Chair
jeanneluton@gmail.com
Tel 01298 24352

The presentation of the team parish is currently suspended. The new incumbent will initially be appointed as Priest in Charge of Buxton Team Parish, becoming Team Rector after the suspension has been lifted. The Patron of the team parish is the Duke of Devonshire.

Useful links

Buxton Parish: www.buxtonparish.org.uk

Derby Diocese: <http://www.derby.anglican.org/en/>

University of Derby, Buxton Campus: <https://www.derby.ac.uk/campus/campuses/buxton/>

High Peak Borough Council: <https://www.highpeak.gov.uk/>

Derbyshire County Council: <https://www.derbyshire.gov.uk/>

Visit Buxton: <http://www.visitbuxton.co.uk/>

Experience Peak District & Derbyshire: <https://www.visitpeakdistrict.com/>

Peak District National Park: <http://www.peakdistrict.gov.uk/>

Buxton Messy Church: <https://www.facebook.com/buxpmessychurch>

