

Parish Profile

St Matthews Hayfield

St Mary's Chinley and St James' Buxworth

Summary

Our benefice, consisting of two rural parishes set in the heart of the Peak District, is looking for a Spirit filled leader with a passion for mission and developing lay ministry. The churches are welcoming and the wider community is vibrant. There are many opportunities for involvement in the community and local primary schools. The challenge for our new vicar will be to explore and engage in those opportunities and empower the church members to play their part.

Although the two parishes are separate and distinctive communities four miles apart the churches work well together with our lay leaders serving across the whole benefice.

Both PCCs recognise our need to be relevant to the wider community and are active in seeking new ways of engaging with it. Children's and young people's work, although small at present, is being actively developed by church members and is seen as an important area of focus for our new Vicar.

Most services follow Common Worship Order One, with occasional BCP and informal worship reflecting the range of churchmanship within the congregations.

Our websites can be viewed at <http://www.chinleywithbuxworthparish.btck.co.uk/>
and <http://www.hayfieldstmatts.btck.co.uk/>



Who we are looking for

Our ambition is to bring the gospel to our communities in an effective and meaningful way.

We are seeking a leader who will be able to help us develop and implement our MAP, in particular:

- Help us explore and develop new and existing opportunities for community engagement and evangelism particularly to those groups not currently prominent in our church family
- Motivate and train church members to play their part in those opportunities
- Develop children's and young people's work both within and beyond the church community
- Support and develop new and existing pastoral care arrangements, especially towards the elderly
- Inspire and help church members take steps towards a deeper knowledge of God and more faithful discipleship
- Work in partnership with other churches towards our common calling to discipleship and mission
- Help the churches make the necessary changes in our thinking, expectations, priorities and activities in order to follow the Spirit's leading in our mission.

Essential personal qualities

- Open to the leading and working of the Holy Spirit
- Passionate about glorifying Jesus
- Comfortable taking faith-risks
- Empathetic, open, approachable, genuine, down to earth and pragmatic

Essential leadership qualities

- Enthusiastic about outreach
- Discerning and motivating of lay ministry
- Sympathetic and encouraging towards the range of churchmanship from traditional to charismatic
- Faithful in preaching and teaching from the word of God

Desirable qualities

- Ability to pioneer new practical and outreach initiatives across different communities
- Experience with family and youth work
- Ability to motivate lay people to pray and receive prayer
- The ability to encourage and support Anglican and ecumenical groups and clergy within the local area
- A background in promoting and encouraging the church in its ministry of pastoral care

Our Parishes

The benefice consists of two rural parishes set in the heart of the beautiful Peak District. People have worshipped at St. Matthew's in the heart of Hayfield for over 700 years and it continues to be thought of as "our" church by the village. The two villages comprising the parish of Chinley and Buxworth are very close, each having a church but largely sharing a single congregation drawn from both villages.

Our three villages have a heritage of industry and livestock farming. Each village includes terraced workers cottages, small estates of ex-council houses, some new housing developments and a variety of large semi-detached and detached houses. Population is a mix of local families and those who have put down roots more recently, people from both ends of the economic spectrum and just a few families from ethnic minorities.

There are increasing numbers of commuters, although many work in the area, often on a self-employed basis or in small businesses. Tourism and leisure are becoming more important in the local economy. Our villages offer the best of both worlds – glorious countryside with all it offers to all ages and young families (walking, climbing, cycling, sailing and sightseeing) with easy access to the facilities and cultural life of two major British cities.

The environment feels very safe here; children roam around the countryside and learn independence in a way that many children in cities are not allowed to do. The hills are amazing and all blessed with footpaths, from which there are panoramic views. In summer these are a great de-stressor with the sights and sounds of plentiful bird, plant and animal life. In winter there's a chance of sledging!

There are several schools in the area, each village having its own excellent primary school (rated good). Older children go to a range of local secondary schools - Chapel-en-le-Frith high school (outstanding), Hope Valley College (good) or New Mills School (requires improvement) or private schools in Macclesfield, Stockport or Manchester. All state schools apart from Hope Valley (academy) are local authority schools.

The mixture of rural beauty and access to city culture makes this an excellent place to live and bring up families. While not an area of conspicuous wealth, most people here feel themselves to be rich in the things which make life truly worth living. We see the wild grandeur of God's creation every day; the hills get in your blood and many people whose work takes them elsewhere find themselves returning after a few years.

Road and rail links are good but local bus services are poor and under threat. Chinley has its own station on the Manchester to Sheffield line - about half an hour each way.

Recreational facilities for both adults and children are good including local cricket and football clubs and uniformed groups. There are frequent fell races and weekly guided walks, dance classes, exercise classes, hobby groups, community cinema etc. A flavour is given by the following links:

- [Hayfield](#)
- [Hayfield Country Show and Sheepdog trials](#)
- [Hayfield May Queen](#)
- [Hayfield Camp site](#)
- [Chinley](#)
- [Chinley Community Association](#)
- [Bugsworth Basin](#)
- [Buxworth Gala](#)

Hayfield (population 2700) and Chinley (population 2100) both have active village centres with a variety of shops providing for daily needs and the tourist trade.

Buxworth (population 700) does not have any shops and has a sleepier feel to it; many families having lived there for generations. Nevertheless it has a very active community and the historic Bugsworth canal basin is a tourist attraction. Prior to 2000, St James' was the main church in the parish with a substantial vicarage. The formation of the benefice and the relocation of the vicarage to Hayfield has moved Buxworth from being the physical centre of the parish to being out on a limb at the extreme western end of the benefice. Church attendance from Buxworth is low; mission here and caring for the Buxworth community is an area for development.

In addition Chinley hosts Peak School and Alderbrook Adult Centre, a special provision for children and adults with profound learning difficulties and/or very complex needs. A new housing estate about to be built on the edge of Chinley offers new opportunities for mission.



Buxworth Gala



Hot-Dogs group



Our Churches

St Matthew's, Hayfield – average Sunday attendance 38 adults, 3 under 16.

Hayfield Electoral Roll is currently 84

St Mary's, Chinley – average Sunday attendance 27 adults, 3 under 16.

St James', Buxworth – average Sunday attendance 13 adults.

Chinley with Buxworth Electoral Roll is currently 65.

Mission Action Plan

Both PCCs recognise that we need to be relevant to the wider community and are active in seeking new contexts for bringing worship to the community. Both have a regularly updated MAP and its implementation is discussed at every PCC meeting. The two MAPs share a similar structure and vision, each parish having proposals specific to their context. The headings and vision are:

Bridging the gap

Provide activities which are engaging to those groups not currently prominent in our church Family.

Music and Worship

Provide a variety of music and worship styles reflecting the range of backgrounds and tastes within the congregation, which nurture and inspire our faith and commitment to God.

Discipleship & Evangelism

Encourage every member of the church to grow in their relationship with God and to become confident in sharing their faith.

Engagement with the Community

Provide and encourage opportunities for church members to strengthen relationships with the wider community.

Church Feel / Churchmanship

The congregations are a mix of “natives” and “incomers” to the villages and a mix of classes, education and affluence. They are very welcoming of new comers who are quickly encouraged to become part of the network of friendships within the church. Relationships are good and there is a strong sense of unity both within and between the congregations.

There is a real desire for outreach and a number of members are particularly good at sharing their faith, but outreach remains a primary challenge for each church.

Churchmanship is generally evangelical and ranges from traditional (but not particularly high), to charismatic. The age range is wide, from young families to elderly with the significant numbers of active retirement age.

The churches are not afraid of change and have been accepting and supportive of new initiatives; recognising the continuing need to move forward.

Children & Youth

Children's and young people's work, although small at present, is being actively developed by church members and is seen as an important area of focus for our new vicar.

St Mary's has a crèche/pre-school group during the service with four or more children. There is currently no provision for young children at St James' or St Matthew's.

St Mary's has a group for children & young people who meet monthly for games and hot-dogs on a Saturday evening and also plan and lead the All Age Worship on alternate months.

St Matthew's has a small but enthusiastic youth group who take part in family services and usually meet twice a month and a very active weekly toddler group, which meets on Tuesday afternoons in term time and caters as much for the mothers as for the children.

Church-led Groups

Both parishes have a lay-led weekly house group attended by eight or so people who study the scriptures and pray and have joint prayer ministry teams.

St Matthew's also have a weekly ecumenical home group attended by our friends from the local Methodist church and nearby Catholic church. Hayfield Christians Together participate in local events like the Sheepdog Trials, Apple Day and May Queen gala.



May Queen celebration in Hayfield



Mustard Seeds – St Matthew's, Hayfield

Lay ministry and retired clergy

The leadership within the churches is strong, working well as a team and also willing to be led.

Chinley and Buxworth have three willing retired clergy and Hayfield has one. All help with the occasional offices as well as helping with Sunday services.

In addition we have two lay readers. Mary is very experienced but has had to reduce her role due to ill health. Chris, a part time pharmacist, is recently licenced. She is very active in many areas of ministry.

Currently, under the supervision of a licensed minister, occasional preaching by unlicensed lay ministers has been practiced.

Services

HC: Holy Communion, Common Worship.

MP: Morning Praise (lay-led).

EP: Evening Prayer (sometimes lay-led)

IW: Informal Worship (lay-led).

AAW: All Age Worship (No communion, sometimes lay-led).

MMA: Mission & Ministry Area (benefice) HC-CW. Venue rotates between the churches.

Date	Service		Date	Service
1st Sunday:			2nd Sunday:	
St Matthew's 8am	HC		St Mary's 9.15am	HC
St James' 10am	HC		St Matthew's 11am	HC
St Matthew's 11am	MP		St James' 4pm	EP(BCP)
St Mary's or St Matthew's alternating 7.30pm	IW			
3rd Sunday:			4th Sunday:	
St James' 8.15am	HC		St James' 8.15am	HC
St Mary's 9.15am	AAW		St Mary's 9.15am	HC
St Matthew's 11am	AAW		St Matthew's 11am	HC
St Matthew's 6pm	HC(BCP)			
5th Sunday:			Midweek Services	
MMA: 10.30am	HC		Tues (St Matt's): 9.15am	Prayer
			Thurs (St Marys): 9.15am	Prayer

Most services follow Common Worship Order One, with occasional BCP and informal worship. The congregations are used to having lay leaders preach and lead services which was actively encouraged by our previous vicar.



The Church and the Community

Baptisms, weddings & funerals

We welcome members of our local communities into our churches for baptisms, weddings and funerals.

Baptisms take place in our main morning services to enable the regular church family to be present. We have a baptism support group who arrange preparation and follow up, making regular invitations to AAW and other appropriate special events.

A wedding preparation day for the benefice has been held annually, organised by the Vicar and assisted by members of the congregation.

We have a small bereavement support group who are able to visit families following a funeral.

Outreach to community

We have a home communion team and offer help to those recently home from hospital. We hold a regular simple service at Welby Croft Residential Home.

Various special events take place at Easter including processions and hill top services.



Christmas tree festival held biennially at Hayfield

The church provides the focal point for Remembrance Sunday in each village, drawing in many who would not usually come into church, including uniformed groups, the Parish Council and the local brass band.

Christmas is also taken as an opportunity for outdoor services and a Christmas tree festival in church and we have held harvest and carol services in community venues across the joint benefice.

Church members and associated professional musicians provide concerts in our churches for the community.

All our events are well publicised in local shops, on the website, on our mailing list and in our church magazines and we deliver a card to all homes in each village at Christmas.

School connections

The heads of the primary schools are welcoming towards the churches. Our previous vicar took regular assemblies in each primary school, but we may not be able to continue during the interregnum. Church members provide tea and coffee on Parents' evening at the Primary Schools and schools are invited to contribute news to the Parish Magazine. We currently have or have recently had representatives on the School Governing bodies.

Church member involvement in community

The churches join in community events where we provide exciting games for children alongside offering prayer, healing and a chance for people to share their spiritual journey. Church members are involved in almost every village group.

Hayfield have a keen and enthusiastic Bell-ringers group who ring for our weekly services as well as being available for weddings and other services.

Church Buildings

Chinley with Buxworth

St James' Buxworth

St James' Buxworth was built in 1874 to serve a largely rural community. It is a simple but beautiful Grade 2 listed stone building set on a hillside beside the B-road through the village. It is in good condition. The rear of the church has been partitioned to provide a good sized entrance area, a kitchen and a toilet. The graveyard is a considerable responsibility with various Fabric Group initiatives and much work going in to keeping it well maintained.

St James' has a refurbished tracker-action organ and digital piano.



St Mary's Chinley

With the growth of Chinley, due to the coming of the railway, St Mary's was built in 1907 as a temporary measure prior to the building of a full scale church for the village but this never happened. St Mary's is a simple stone building and is in good condition. It has a lower room consisting of a good sized meeting room, small kitchen, toilet and store room.

St Mary's has a new electric action pipe organ and a very good grand piano.



Building use

St James' entrance area is used for fund-raising lunches at various times in the year. We also produce a beautiful Well Dressing with a flower festival and village scarecrows where Buxworth groups are involved in creating the wells, flowers and scarecrows.

We have regular concerts at St Mary's with local professional musicians and well supported by the community. The lower room at St Mary's is used by our children and young people's groups, prayer and bible study groups, quilters and the local community choir and can squeeze in up to 40 people for events such as our Burns Night supper.

Both Churches present challenges for community use as neither has a church hall. Both have fixed pews which limit the use of the main space and the room downstairs at St Mary's is only accessible via steps making it difficult for mothers with pushchairs.

Maintenance

We have a very active Fabric Group which undertakes much of the maintenance themselves. They have recently overseen the re-roofing of parts of both Churches, and maintained the churches in good repair. St James' organ has been refurbished and a new organ built at St Mary's in 2013. We have been blessed with generous donors and good fundraisers for all these projects. There are no large scale repairs or alterations planned.



St. Matthew's Church, Hayfield.

The present building was erected in 1818 , paid for by public subscription, on the foundations of the church built in 1376 which now serves as a crypt. Due to the frequent flooding in past years it had been necessary to raise the level of the church to match the new level of the road and bridge nearby. The new church incorporated the earlier Tower which houses 8 bells.

The nave is surrounded on 3 sides by a gallery at the West end of which is the organ (built in 1849) a well-made and historically interesting instrument.

The present Church Hall was built in 1977, over part of the churchyard and was linked to the church. This building has had major alterations recently, levelling the floors, to provide easy access for all, creating a Prayer room, refurbishing the kitchen and providing more toilet facilities for all.



Building use

The church is an excellent venue for a variety of events, concerts, art displays etc. and the Nave houses a grand piano, owned by the Hayfield Concert Society but available for church use. The central box pews in the Nave were replaced by chairs so the church could more easily provide an area for social activities and the back part of the church, under the gallery was partitioned off to provide a Foyer. As the largest covered space in the village we are the natural focus for village events- e.g. May Queen, Well Dressings, Christmas Tree festivals as well as events organised by the Hayfield branch of the British Legion.

The church hall hosts a daily group of pre-school children and a weekly group for toddlers and parents/carers and is available for hire to country dance groups and other exercise activities.

Maintenance

Routine maintenance work is usually carried out by a very useful group of church members on a regular basis. In recent years we had the wiring upgraded, a new gas heating boiler, new roof to the annex, new kitchen and substantial clock repairs.

The wider context

Vicarage

The modern 4 double bed roomed vicarage is in Hayfield, on a small housing estate within easy walking distance of the church. Downstairs there is a large living room with patio doors to the garden, a dining kitchen which leads into a separate dining room, utility room and a separate front room that could be used as an office/meeting room. Upstairs there are 4 good sized double bedrooms, 2 of which have en-suite facilities and also a family bathroom. Outside there is a moderately sized enclosed rear garden and detached double garage.



Financial health

We pay clergy expenses. We would encourage our new vicar to take proper holidays and days off. We would similarly encourage and support ongoing professional development and attendance at appropriate gatherings and conferences.

Both parishes always pay their full contribution to the Common Fund. St Mary's and St James' have been blessed with generous giving and a culture of fundraising events. St. Matthew's is looking to improve its financial health.

Missions and charity support

Both PCCs commit to giving 10% of their gross annual income away. Among other charities, St Mary's/St James' support [Life for Liberia](#), a ministry link with churches in Liberia with members travelling each year to Liberia for church-planting, leadership training, healing and starting schools.

St Matthew's supports a sand filter project in Uganda/ Rwanda, a church building project in Uganda, a Pavement Club in Calcutta and a local hospice. We also respond to global crises as they occur.

Peak Deanery

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

The creation of new larger deaneries sits within our priorities as we seek to better enable mission and foster greater collaboration and partnership between parish and deanery and between deanery and diocese. In the midst of that also sits the national church's 'Renewal and Reform' programme. The Peak Deanery has been the pilot for exploring how these strategic aims could best be developed in the diocese through an enlarged deanery presence. The Peak Deanery was established in February 2014 through local agreement between the deaneries of Buxton, Glossop and Bakewell & Eyam who committed themselves to work collaboratively as one enlarged deanery.

Under the leadership of the Archdeacon of Chesterfield, the two year project 'Developing Deaneries' has brought together a total of eight new enlarged deaneries across the diocese, an intentional response to help promote our ambition to be growing and outward facing. The newly appointed Area Deans have canonical responsibilities in line with traditional models, but also have clear focus on strategic development and oversight of growth and mission priorities.

In line with the deanery and diocesan vision for greater collaboration, partnership working and less isolation of parish clergy, the bishop would support the strengthening of relationships and some joint mission endeavour with the neighbouring parish of Chapel-en-le-Frith.

It will be important for a prospective candidate to be comfortable with and supportive of the new deanery and its aims, be open to work collaboratively and seek to participate in its life and work.