

September 2024



Vicar for St Mary the Virgin, Boulton-by-Derby



Transformed Lives | Growing Church | Building Community
THE KINGDOM OF GOD - GOOD NEWS FOR ALL

Archdeacon's Welcome



XXXXXXXXXX

The Venerable Matthew Trick
Archdeacon of Derby City & South Derbyshire

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Matthew Trick".

Who we are looking for

The Vicar We Want to Walk with Us

Our Vision: Building and Claiming for God

We are a church community who have been without a vicar for a number of years with a large part of that time being taken up with managing the challenges of a global pandemic. It has not been an easy time both for our Church Warden, our Reader Team or the wider congregation, but the Lord has brought us through it all with renewed hope and optimism.

In the main, the majority of the church family at Boulton St Mary's are now ready to move forward once again; to grow what we have always done well and to develop new areas of ministry and service. This of course means change and change whether people are in agreement or not is always a challenge.

But we know that we need to think both wider and deeper about how we can connect to a different generation and the community around us. The truth is that we now have two generations in the UK who have not consistently been taught Bible stories in school and for whom 'formal' church is a complete mystery. We need to use both our church space and how we do ministry more imaginatively if we are to be 'salt and light' to our neighbours.

Our reordering project focuses on putting in place the physical structure that will enable Boulton St Mary's to more confidently reach out to the people of Boulton. We want to build on the foundations of what we are currently doing to expand and grow our offering to the community.

However it is not just about the physical church building but a process of working together, journeying together in God to fulfil His purpose in this place. It is about looking prayerfully at the way we do 'church' to identify new ways of connecting to a community, who in the main, has no clear understanding of what we are really all about.

We want Boulton St Mary's to become a vibrant centre for community engagement and growth. A place where everyone is welcome, particularly young people. We want it to be a place that is safe and nurturing, a place of friendship and hospitality. A place where individuals will be listened to, where problems can be shared and where flourishing is the key. We also want to be a place of many places, recognising the need to move out from our hub church building into other settings.

Our project has a bold vision for the future, but a vision needs to be built on a clear, practical 'steppingstone' process; the key to which are activities with strong, measurable outcomes that lead us, success by success, to establishing vibrant links to our community; to support flourishing over languishing.



Our Objectives

To support our congregation through this time of upheaval and change.	To develop a clear 'Action Plan for Change' in which everyone has a stake.
To bring our church reordering process to a successful conclusion.	To create a warm, loving, safe space for all, whatever their circumstances.
To grow our youth, schools and children's ministries.	To look at diverse ways to do 'church', including growing our House Group initiative and looking at new settings.
To look at a variety of ways to worship God that add to our current offering and which might include the development of areas of more contemplative worship and prayer.	To support our church family to grow in confidence, so that everyone's God-given gifts are used for His glory.
To use our multimedia suite to live stream our services over the internet to reach a wider audience.	

Our New Vicar

Below are the list of characteristics, skills and experience that we believe we need in our new priest to support us to connect more deeply to our neighbours and our community.

The new vicar of Boulton St Mary's Church:

Has a real passion for 'telling out' the Gospel of Jesus Christ and for mission and outreach.	Has an understanding and practical experience of managing the challenges that change brings within a congregation
Is able to listen to and pull together a wide range of views and opinions with compassion and love.	Supports the church's 'Action Plan for Change' with compassionate insight and spiritual discernment, built on a solid foundation of prayer and consensus.
Can fully support the successful completion of our reordering project which will take enthusiasm, diplomacy and persistence.	Has a real passion for reaching out to the young and for developing a vibrant Youth Ministry team.
Can support and grow our Schools' and Care Home ministry through the development of our Parish Chaplains.	Can support us to grow our House Group initiative that will more fully support the spiritual growth of the wider church.
Can nurture the existing congregation in their discipleship.	To spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ and build His Church.

Location and Map

ArcGIS - Church of England parish map - [need an updated link showing parish info](#)



The Diocese of Derby

The Diocese of Derby consists of most of Derbyshire and a couple of parishes on the fringes of Staffordshire. The cathedral is in Derby itself. The diocese serves a population of around one million people and has more than 300 churches. It works in communities, schools, prisons and hospitals as well as being represented in various other aspects of city and country life.

Under three archdeacons, The Archdeaconries of Derby City and South Derbyshire, Derbyshire Peak and Dales and East Derbyshire consist of deaneries and parishes all of which work alongside Christians of other denominations. The parish of Boulton St Mary's resides in the Derby City and South Derbyshire Archdeaconry.



People – Demographic Information

Boulton St Mary's is a suburban parish located on the southern side of Derby.

Derby is a small but expanding city. Being almost at the centre of England, Derby is easily accessed by road and rail. The parish itself has no specific industrial areas, but Rolls-Royce, Toyota and the railway sector are all well established in the Derby area. Most of the parishioners work outside of the parish as Boulton itself has no commercial or industrial areas. The flagship of Derby's expanding business community, Pride Park, is just a five-minute drive away as is the home of Derby County FC.

The parish itself has three permanently sited community centres, three residential care homes for the elderly, three primary schools and three secondary schools. From recent census information the population in the parish is around 14,000 with 12% being of non-white British ethnicity and 40% being retired.

Our parishioners live mainly in privately owned suburban housing although there are a number of council or housing association properties. There are a significant number of households living at or below the nationally recognised poverty line. The parish deprivation rank (IMD, 205) is 854.

There are also good facilities available within the Parish with regard to access to small shops, two public houses and a small park area. There is also one other church, a small Baptist church, although good links are maintained with all the churches within the area of Alvaston through All Christians Together.

Church Description

Our church is dedicated to Saint Mary and is located in Boulton Lane, Alvaston in Derby. The popular name is Boulton St Mary's and that is how most people, affectionately, refer to the church. The church itself is situated to one corner of the parish as shown on the parish map.

As a church family, we have come through the uncertainties of the Covid pandemic with a real desire to embrace the challenge that this new beginning affords in order that we may grow our congregation and our links to the community.

This profile sets out our vision for the future and the kind of priest we want to support us on our journey. We desire to continue to grow what we know we do well but also to develop new ways of serving and worshipping God to His glory and for the nurturing of both the present congregation and our wider neighbourhood communities.

There are 71 people currently on the electoral roll of whom about one third reside outside the parish boundary with most still within two miles of the church itself. There is an average weekly attendance of around 50, which has just started to increase over the last year.

Worship Pattern

It has been a challenge over the period of the vacancy to maintain worship at St Mary's. However our Reader Team have worked tirelessly to keep all the strands together and now as we emerge more fully after the pandemic we feel as a church that we can look to developing our worship offering to include a more sophisticated online presence that would make full use of our multimedia systems.

Our worship is an opportunity for us to show God how much we love Him and how thankful we are for all that He does in our lives. The worshipping community at St Mary's can best be described as low-church with some traces of catholic workshop. This is seen in the presence of a robed choir who sit either side of the high altar, and the carrying of candles and the cross to accompany the Gospel reading at one of the main Sunday services. Listed below are the current services that we offer:

9.00 am Said Service

This is a spoken service without music or hymns and takes place in the side chapel of the church dedicated to St Peter. The service takes about 30 minutes and has a committed congregation of around 10.

10.30 am Main Sunday Service

This is a mixed service delivered through multimedia with an average congregation of 40. Prayer ministry for individuals is offered, by two members of the pastoral team, during this service when it is a communion service.

7.00 pm PraYze Service

Once a month on the first Sunday we have a fresh expression of worship known as PraYze. Worship is led by two dedicated guitarists and is very informal.



Life Events Ministry

A new life is always a time to rejoice and we are happy to discuss opportunities for baptism and thanksgiving services with parents. To this end we hold a parish Coffee Morning in the church on the first Saturday of every month. This is a lovely opportunity for parents not only to discuss their needs but to talk to members of the congregation and have a 'cuppa and a piece of cake' at the same time!

We encourage parents to attend church (or Messy Church) on at least one occasion prior to their baptism service, so that they are fully aware of what it means to be part of the church family. Baptisms are currently held four times a year on the fifth Sunday of the month as a standalone service.

St Mary's was originally a 'village' church and consequently it has the look of a rural church which is enhanced by the lychgate which sets off the pathway leading up to the church entrance. This lovely old rural aspect means it is popular for weddings and in 2024 we have four planned.

There are also a large number of funeral requests and for ash burials in the churchyard. These are generally conducted by two of our Reader Team, one of whom has a particular, God-given calling to bereavement ministry.





Mission and Ministry Activities

House Groups

Currently we have four house groups each being led and supported by a specified House Group Leader. There are around 30 church members active within a group and they meet once a week mostly at one of the members' homes. During the times of Advent and Lent the groups usually participate in the same course of study.

Pastoral Care

Our housebound parishioners receive home communion as often as possible from one of the Reader Team. We have an experienced Pastoral Co-ordinator who organises parish visiting and other support when required. The Pastoral Team also ensure that baptism anniversary cards are distributed and those recently bereaved receive the gift of a plant.

Children and Youth Ministry

Until the start of the pandemic, ministry to children and young people was at the very heart of Boulton St Mary's but unfortunately this has been much more adversely affected than any other area of ministry. The demands of keeping the church open during the extended period of our vacancy has left no time for the current team to give it the kickstart it needs. However this is an area where we have a real desire to develop and grow our offering to the community. We do however have a thriving monthly Messy Church session set up by our Children's Leader in September 2021. There are around 12 families attending and they meet at 4 pm on the second Sunday of the month and every session ends in a family meal.

We have three secondary schools within our parish and there is a real desire to grow our youth work activities and to engage meaningfully with these schools. Again prior to the pandemic our youth group, name FROG, would meet on a Sunday evening and it is our intention to further develop this initiative as we move forward.

Working with Local Schools

At St Mary's we are passionate about local children knowing the love of God and the teachings of Jesus for themselves. St Mary's has special links with the local primary schools including Oakwood Infant and Junior Schools, Moorhead Landau Academy and Wyndham Spencer Academy which has its very own lay Chaplain from St Mary's. We take assemblies in these schools and also invite them into the church whenever possible, including Christmas carol concerts and our Experience Easter and Experience Church sessions. Coupled with our Youth Ministry this is one of the big areas of outreach that we need to expand, establishing closer links and recruiting lay Chaplains for all the schools in the parish.

Residential Homes Ministry

Once a month we hold a service and a time of fellowship in the two residential care homes within our parish which are Kiwi House and Farries Court. Both Kiwi House and Farries Court also have their own dedicated parish chaplains who visit weekly as pastoral support for residents and staff alike.

Ecumenical Links

Our parish has good ecumenical links with all the churches situated around the church. Although there is only a small Baptist church actually in our parish there is a Methodist church, Roman Catholic church, a second Baptist church, a United Reformed church and a New Testament Church of God all within a one mile radius of our own church, as well as three more Anglican churches.

All the churches in the area belong to ACTS (All Christians Together). Regular meetings are held between both church leaders and lay members to forge closer links as we all strive to further the Kingdom of God in our locality.

We also work together to support our own local food bank to distribute parcels of food to local families identified by Social Services as being in need as well as other referrals which come through the main Derby Food 4 Thought Hub. This, along with our joint funding of the Jubilee Debt Counselling sessions which take place alongside the food bank, have become an absolute lifeline for members of our community.

Community Groups

There are a number of community groups who are on the fringe of our church and these include the uniformed organisations, Scouts, Cubs and Beavers whose members attend the four big parade services each year which are Mothering Sunday, Harvest Festival, Remembrance Sunday and Christingle. They are an integral part of each service being involved in supporting the running of each of these events.

Parish Safeguarding

Our Parish Portal is now at level 3 with 98% compliance. Boulton St Mary's is a safe church and we continue to strive to ensure the safety of all our parishioners.





Our Church Buildings

St Mary's Church

The church is in good order as our recent Archdeacon's Inspection will confirm. Our Quinquennial Inspection took place in 2019 and the issues identified have been completed including major stonework restoration. We are currently awaiting the 2024 report.

The Graveyard

The graveyard attached to the Church is a very special and sacred place. It comprises an extensive area, mainly to the back of the church and is now under the care of the local authority. The many splendid mature trees to be found growing there add a feeling of peace and tranquillity for our many visitors. The graveyard was closed in 2007 but reopenings and ash burials in the Garden of Remembrance are still permissible.

The Church Community Hall

Our community hall building dates from the 1930's but has benefitted from extensive modernisation during the 1960's and 1990's. It consists of a large hall (which can hold between 100 and 120 people) with a stage, a smaller hall (which accommodates up to 50). There is a large kitchen and a number of smaller storage rooms. Outside there is a small lawned area and some limited parking.

St Mary's Community Hall is a vibrant focus for church and community groups alike and is largely self-financing for day to day running and small projects. Recent major projects have been the creation of toilet facilities for disabled users, a completely new kitchen and a full rewiring of the building.

Our church and community groups who use the hall include the following:

- Our monthly Messy Church session
- Scout Group
- A dance school plus a number of additional dance groups
- Taekwondo sessions
- Livewell sessions run by Derby City Council
- Yoga sessions

Our Re-ordering Journey

We have been on a long, heartfelt journey to reorder the inside of the church building with the intention to create a warm, loving, safe space for all, whatever their circumstances. To be a refuge for those whose current circumstances require a listening ear, friendly face and practical advice, guidance and support. To this end the project was split into two stages, with stage 1 being completed in 2011 with the fitting of a new sound system. We now have in situ a state of the art drop down screen in the chancel and additional monitors for the side aisles.

Unfortunately the global pandemic halted almost all our plans for stage 2 but we are now eager to pick up where we left off and restart the reordering project enabling us to meet the challenges of our community. The plan for stage 2 is to upgrade the toilet facilities, have an improved kitchen and café facility, a contained creche area and office space. The application was made in June 2021 and despite the local council approving the new door to the porch this has not yet met with DAC approval.

Ministry Team

We have three licensed Readers who have individual ministerial and pastoral responsibilities together with the collective responsibility of maintaining weekly worship on a Sunday. Our Readers also play their part in enabling worship at other churches in vacancy. The ministry of our Readers and the administration of the church is fully supported by our Church Warden and PCC.

There has always been a strong vision for developing and using lay people at St Mary's and spiritual gifts are encouraged and used. We have a strong ethos of team ministry with no one person being above the team.

Finance

After a few years of not paying our Common Fund in full, in 2024 we have committed to once again meeting it in full. We have always been mindful of being good stewards of all that we have been blessed with and sharing that with others. It has always been our priority to tithe to local and national charities.

The Vicarage



The vicarage is a large 4-bedroomed detached house built in the 1960's on an attractive plot on St Mary's close which is slightly further up Boulton Lane, very close to the Church itself. The kitchen was refurbished in 2013 and the house is in good order.

Floor plan



Ground Floor



First Floor