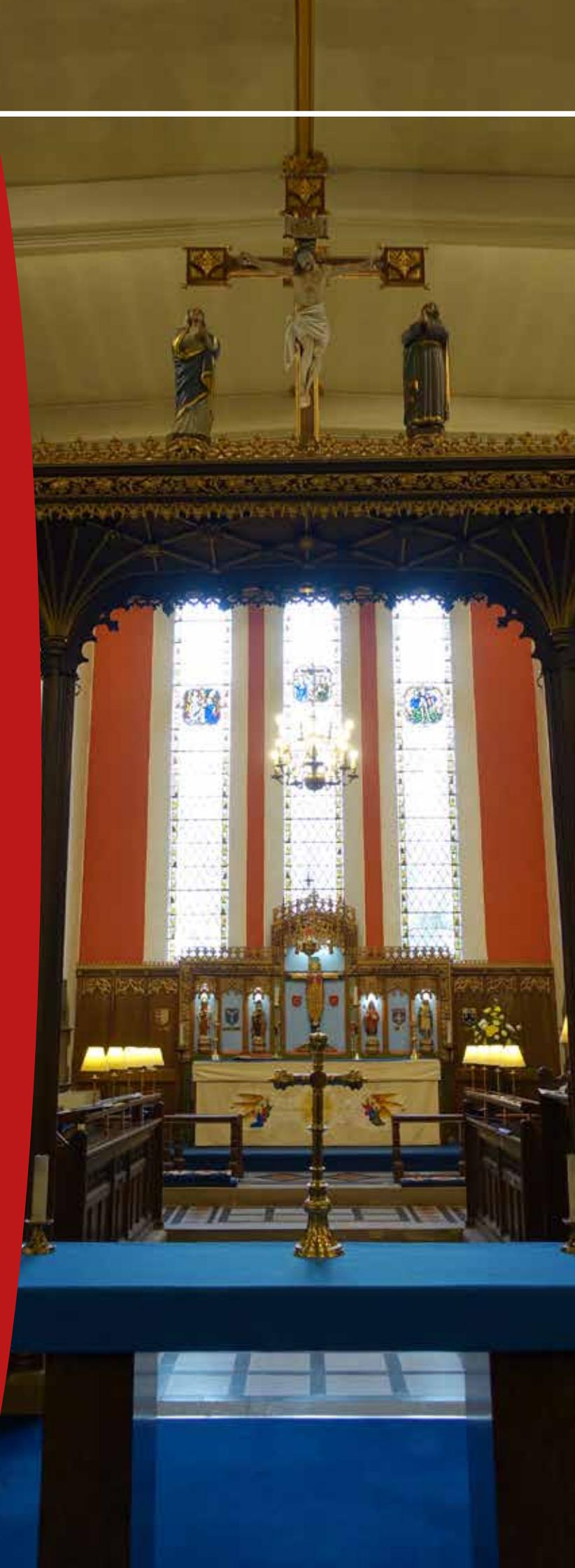


newmillschurch.co.uk

The Parish Church of
St. George the Martyr
New Mills, High Peak

**Parish Profile
& Statement of
Needs**

2019



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Introduction & Summary

In the following pages we hope you will gain an insight into the life and witness of St. George's Parish Church in New Mills, Derbyshire.

We hope that this is a place where you will see God at Work. Perhaps you will also think it is a place where you can lead us into the future.

As with many churches there are successes and there are challenges. It is certainly a place where there is a positive worshipping community with a commitment to our mission in this area.



SECTION 1

A Quick Summary of who we are and what we can offer.

Who We Are

"Offering a welcoming, God-centred environment to the people of New Mills"

St. George's Church is proud to be the Parish Church of New Mills.

Our regular congregation is a warm and welcoming group of people who strive to be the people of God in this place. Many belong to other organisations in and around the church and town.

Many local people speak of the warm welcome they receive for baptisms, weddings, and other services and many families have loved ones buried in our churchyard.

We are part of the Church of England and worship God together in the Anglo-Catholic Tradition where a spirit of joy predominates (formal but not fussy).

With 132 people on the electoral roll, the congregation is active in caring for the buildings, and the worship life of the church, ensuring that St. George's Church is here to serve the community now and in the future. There is also an expanding programme of activities for members of the community run by church members, with the community and in the church buildings.



The Eucharist lies at the heart of our worship.

"I was welcomed on the pathway by ladies walking to the church and again at the door and assured everything I needed was in the books handed to me. Shortly after I sat, someone came and checked if I was warm enough."

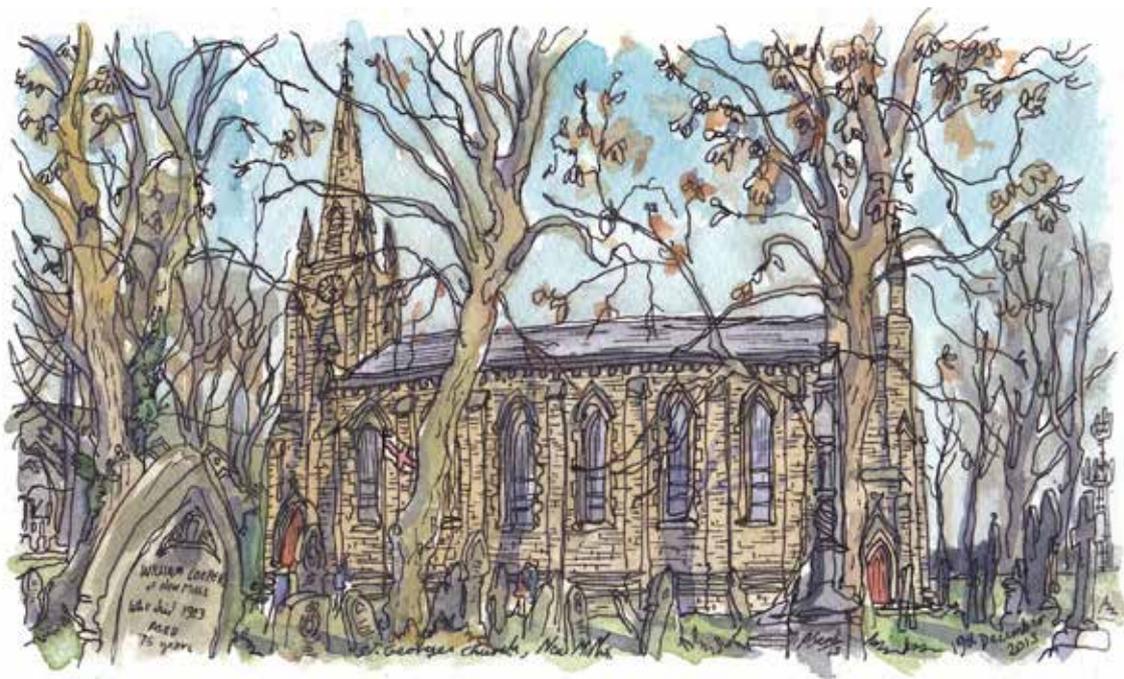
the Mystery Worshipper - 2017

"Dignified high church without incense and with robed choir, yet did not feel stuffy nor exclusive."

the Mystery Worshipper - 2017

What we can offer you.

- We are a single Church Parish, with many opportunities for mission and ministry.
- Our congregations are mixed, friendly, relaxed and welcoming.
- We are receptive to change if it is introduced well.
- We have good lay participation.
- The vicarage is a modern, detached, four bedroom stone house situated between the Church and Church Hall.
- We enjoy a village atmosphere in an historic town. There is a positive community feel to New Mills, with a lively Arts Scene.
- We benefit from good transport links to Manchester and Sheffield, as well as enjoying the magnificent rural scenery of the High Peak.
- We have a variety of good schools serving the town.



SECTION 2

The Priest we would like

We are looking for a priest who is able to lead the 'Body of Christ' in this place.

In particular, we are looking for a priest who:

- is a good communicator, well organised and can prioritise.
- is approachable and supportive, is a good listener, and with the ability to nurture and develop people's gifts and potential.
- works well collaboratively.
- can work comfortably within the church's anglican tradition, whilst being creative in attracting new people into the church. We want our priest to continue the joyful worship in the high anglican tradition and to be imaginative in his/her approach to services for special occasions and/or new ventures.
- has a strong desire for mission in the community with compassion for all people.
- has the vision to encourage families and young people to join our worshipping communities.
- can manage change sensitively.
- has a good sense of humour.

and who will:

- continue to develop the connections with schools.
- explore how the church can improve the lives of disadvantaged people locally.
- raise the profile of the church in the community and is able to engage with people of all backgrounds.
- nurture the existing congregations in their discipleship.
- engage with the local community, businesses, local government and community groups, care and residential homes.



SECTION 3

About the parish of New Mills

New Mills is situated in the North-West of Derbyshire, consequently it is also in the North-West of Derby Diocese. Whilst not in the Peak National Park, many features, for example, Kinder Scout, the highest point in The Park, are within sight of the town. Most of the older properties in the town are constructed of millstone grit, which is a geological feature of the Peak Park.

New Mills itself has its own spectacular physical attraction. Running below the town is the Torrs, which was formed by the Rivers Goyt and Sett eroding the rocks to form a gorge 100 feet deep. The Torrs are now a riverside park through which also runs the Millennium Walkway bridge, opened in 2000.

New Mills originally derived its name from corn mills situated on the banks of the Rivers Goyt and Sett. From the time of the industrial revolution the mills were involved with the cotton and textile industry. In recent years the town's major employer has been Swizzels Matlow, well known throughout the country for the manufacture of Love Hearts .

The population of New Mills is approximately 10,500, however the population of the parish is some 1,500 less than this. This is because the Newtown area of the town is in the Parish of Disley, which is in Chester Diocese. Unfortunately, in parochial terms, this has created something of a vacuum since Newtown does not really relate to Disley, nor does the Parish of Disley relate to Newtown. Through consultation with Disley and the two dioceses, we see bringing Newtown closer to the Parish of New Mills as an opportunity for the future.

The demographic profile of New Mills is mixed. Parts of the East Ward have areas of high deprivation, whereas the West ward has a large proportion of Owner Occupiers, many of whom commute to the nearby towns and city of Greater Manchester.

New Mills is well served with good transport links to the surrounding areas. Two railway lines serve the town, with Manchester and Buxton being about 35 minutes away whilst Sheffield is about one hour away. Bakewell, Matlock and Derby are attainable by bus. Manchester Airport is less than one hour away from the town.

New Mills has six primary schools, including St. George's C of E School which is located across the road from the Vicarage. 11 to 16 year olds are catered for by New Mills School which is also located adjacent to the Vicarage. 16+ education is available in Stockport, Marple, Hazel Grove, Poynton and Buxton. There are also two nursery schools in New Mills, one of which is at St. George's School. In addition, there is also a number of day nurseries in the town.

St George's, together with the other churches in New Mills founded the Volunteer Centre in the early 1990s. Whilst this organisation is independent, many parishioners have and still do play an active role in the organisation, which provides a wide range of services to the elderly and vulnerable.

There is a thriving arts scene in the town. St. James's Arts Centre is located in a former daughter church of St. George's and there is also the 500 seat Art Theatre. Both these venues stage a wide range of events throughout the year, some of which are presented by professional performers. Both venues are supported by teams of volunteers.



NEW MILLS
HIGH PEAK

New Mills Band, formed in 1812 claims to be the oldest Silver band in the country. One of our readers is currently its president. New Mills Festival is held annually in September over a two-week period. There is a wide range of activities during the fortnight and many of the town's organisations take part. For example, past festivals have seen local sports organisations arranging tournaments, there have been lantern making workshops the lighted lanterns then being paraded through the Torrs in a procession linking one side of the town with the other. St. George's has played its part in the festival, hosting a range of events over the years. For large professional productions Manchester, Salford, Buxton and Sheffield (all within an hour) offer a full range of shows, concerts etc.

Within close proximity to the Vicarage is the Swimming Pool and Leisure Centre and there is a number of sports clubs within the town including football, cricket, tennis, bowls and golf. Professional sport is available in Manchester or Sheffield.

New Mills, we believe, is an excellent place to work and live. The town and parish is large enough to support many services and activities within its boundaries. It is a town with an interesting history and it is well blessed with a beautiful environment. At the same time it is close enough to larger towns and cities for those things which New Mills is too small to offer.



SECTION 4

About the parish of New Mills

Services & Worship Patterns

We worship God together in the Anglo-Catholic Tradition where a spirit of joy predominates (formal but not fussy).

We follow the Liturgical Calendar and Lectionary of Common Worship for all services.



	Service		Age Group & Range	Average Congregation
Sundays	8am Said Holy Communion <i>1st & 3rd Sunday of the month</i>	Common Worship	most above 50	7
	10am Sung Parish Communion	Common Worship	90% over 16 most above 50	65
	6.30pm Evensong/Evening Prayer	BCP	most above 50	8
	6.30pm BCP Holy Communion 4th Sunday of month	BCP	most above 50	9
Weekdays	Wednesdays 9.15am Said Holy Communion	Common Worship	most above 50	10
	Fridays 11.00am Holy Communion at the Lunch Club	Common Worship	most above 70	26

'Worshipping Community' at end of 2018

Children aged 0-10	Young People aged 11-17	Adults aged 18-69	Adults aged 70+	Total
6	0	20	63	89

Other Services

Other services include those of :

Christmas

(Inc. Christingle & Carols with School)

Holy Week

(Inc. Stations of the Cross)

Patronal Festival,

Harvest,

All Souls Memorial Service

Remembrance Service

(Inc. parade to High Lea Park)



Service		Numbers
Easter 2018	Communicants	94
	Attendance	137
Advent 2018	Congregation & local community	382
	Civic organisations & schools	589
Christmas 2018	Communicants	78
	Attendance	384

Occasional Offices 2018

Service	Numbers
Baptisms	12
Weddings	2
Funerals	14

Ministry Team

There is an active ministry team involving three Readers.

One Reader is now over 80 and with the Bishops' permission to officiate and there is a husband and wife with Current Licences.

All robe for services.

During Services there is also a robed Altar Serving Team of 3 (rotation of a group of 8) as well as a Team of Chalice Assistants.

We do not forget the important ministry role of Churchwardens and sides-people at every service.

In addition several members of the congregation read lessons, and lead us in intercessions.

We try to be flexible and work as a team.

In the past the Incumbent, Churchwardens, Readers and Choir Director have met quarterly to arrange a rota for Liturgical Duties.



Music & Worship

Music is well established as part of our liturgy at St. Georges.

Our music at the Sunday morning Eucharist is led by an adult, robed SATB choir, accompanied by the organ.

Occasionally the choir will contribute anthems or settings as appropriate. The choir also sing for special services such as Ash Wednesday, Good Friday and the Christmas Carol service.

The choir, which is affiliated to the RSCM, rehearse weekly during term time.

We attend RSCM events from time to time, especially the annual choir festival in Chester cathedral.

In recent years, music for worship has been selected by the choir director, guided by RSCM publications. Hymns are predominantly from the New English Hymnal with additional material from New Hymns and Worship songs.

The psalm is sung to Anglican chant; the Eucharist setting currently is the mass of St. Thomas by David Thorne.

We host a choir festival annually where local choirs are invited to join us for choral evensong.

Regular evening worship is congregational, accompanied by the organ, played by an assistant organist.

The organ was originally built by Samuel Renn in 1835.

It is currently in reasonable repair having recently undergone phase 1 of an overhaul which updated the console. Phase 2 will attend to some issues with pipe work and wind supply.

The choir director/organist is a graduate in music and organ playing with 30 years experience, the last ten years at St George's.

The choir director/organist performs a variety of repertoire as voluntaries and is supported by three assistant organists.



Godly Play & Children's Area in Church

This group was set up some 18 months ago and is currently run by two members of the congregation. It takes place once a month and invites children to explore biblical stories and themes. It also provides an open invitation to baptism families.

The aims are to relate the bible to both children and adults who accompany them. Those who attend the group are then invited to come into church at the last part of the Eucharist.

There is a permanent play area at the back of the church for young children which aims to provide entertainment and inclusivity for children of families in the service.



Bellringers

We have a peal 8 bells at the church, with the first 6 having been installed in 1899!

We practice on a Friday night 8-9.30pm. We are reliant on ringers coming from other towers to ring, with only the tower captain actually living in New Mills! So currently we have a practice once or twice a month and haven't been able to ring for Sunday services this year so far.

However, when we do ring, the bells produce a joyous sound and we get visitors coming to ring at New Mills, because our bells sound so pleasant and are satisfying to ring.



Mothers' Union

The Mother's Union branch at St. George's unfortunately ceased at the end of 2018 as a result of an ageing and declining number of members.



Study Groups and Spiritual Development

Confirmation lessons are offered every year to the older children at St. George's School, as well as to the wider congregation/community.

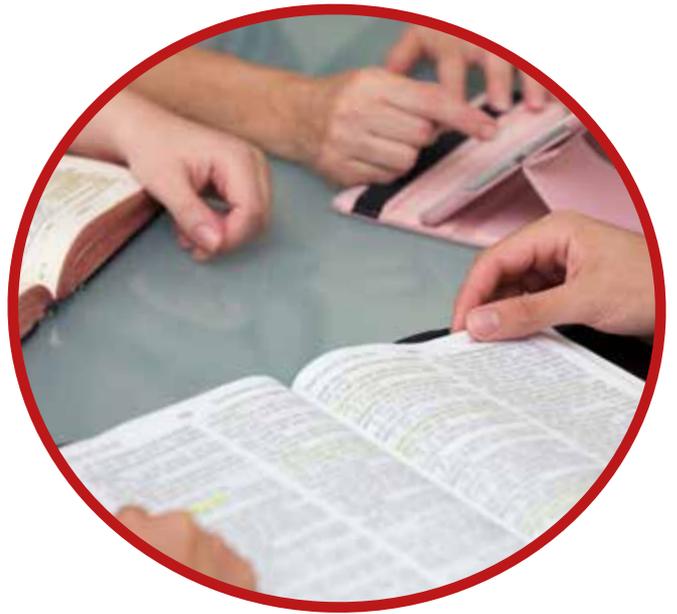
There is an active fellowship group called 'Faith Explorer'.

Here a wide range of discussions take place, looking at moral, social and faith issues in the light of scripture, to more specific exploration of the Bible and certain texts.

The average group size is 12 and meetings take place once a fortnight in the Lady Chapel in Church at 7.30pm.

Lent and Advent courses are also run every year. Sometimes we use the Diocesan source materials and sometimes a course suggested by conferences or the internet.

We also have a Church Library.....St George's has a small but growing library of Christian books on such diverse matters as lifestyle, biographies, inspiration and novels. This is added to monthly with a new publication and a review in the weekly notice sheet (for everyone who comes to church).



The Church and the Community

1. Weddings, Baptisms and Funerals

Weddings	Baptisms	Funerals
2	Infants <1 - 12	Full Service in Church - 14
		Full Service at Crem. - 8

An open baptism policy is in place.

2. Home Communion

There is currently a list of eight people who receive Home Communion. This is organised at present by one of the Readers, some of the communicants are still in their own home, some in care homes. All have been regular and loyal members of the congregation in the past.

Home Communion is available on request and by referral.

3. Home Visits

Home Visits are made by many in the congregation. New Mills is a place where neighbours and friends look out for each other and information is often passed on informally. There is always an open invitation made after funerals for follow up visits. The Clergy, Readers and members of the congregation visit care homes and residential homes on an informal basis.



4. Lunch Club

We have a weekly Eucharist and lunch for the older and less mobile members of the congregation. Many find it difficult to get to church on a Sunday.

This is open to all and we have contact with social services, the Volunteer Centre and local doctors, who from time to time will refer people to us.

Many from the congregation are involved in helping with the luncheon club – organiser, drivers for transport, cooks, servers and 'washers-up'.

Those who come really appreciate their experience.



5. Christmas Day Lunch

For three years now, we have offered a meal on Christmas Day, for the community (this led to the establishment of the Foodie Friends cafe, which is a social eating event using surplus supermarket food and where we serve about 150 adults and children).



6. Church Concerts

There are a number of concerts and music events held in church each year, with the acoustics of the building adding to these occasions.



7. St. George's Parish Hall

The Parish Hall was built in 1929 and by 2012/13, was beginning to show its age with the facilities. 'Not fit for purpose'. The toilet facilities were rebuilt with the addition of a disabled unit and baby change facilities in both the male and female areas. A new larger, modern kitchen was fitted and the roof renewed. The hall has also had a new heating system installed throughout. The final phase of the renovation will be the redecoration of the hall.



All these changes have borne fruit and shown their worth. The hall is now much in demand for use by groups from both within the church and the wider community. Regular users include Weight Watchers, Guides, Brownies, Cubs, Jujitsu training, Mothers and Toddlers, Pilates, Tai Chi, the local Brass Band, Foodie Friends, A Circuit Training Group, Mothers' Union and the Lunch Club and Eucharist. Amongst all these regular users we manage to fit in children's birthday parties, meetings and fund raising social events. The hall is also used every Sunday morning for after church coffee.



We have recently been granted a premises license so we are now able to offer bar facilities to any adult function who request them.

All of these lettings provide a community service and bring in much needed income which helps us run the hall and pay for improvements when required.



8. Social Events - open to the whole community

Fundraising

We do not have a fund raising committee as such, but we do have fund raising events. Currently there are 5 small groups of 2 or 3 people. Each group decides on the event they wish to organise.

For our Church this system works very well at present.

The types of events held in 2017 & 2018 were:

- A 60's party night,
- Music/choir evenings,
- A garden party,
- An afternoon tea,
- A Hoedown,
- Carbs in the meadow,
- A hog roast,
- Christmas fair, Christmas Tree Festival and Crib Festival.

all of which helped to raise a total of £7,350 for St George's.

Coffee is served every week after the Sunday Morning Service. Money raised is given to various charities and not for Church Funds.

Three or four musical events are held each year in the Church, normally organised by a group called 'Visit New Mills'. We do not ask for payment to hire the Church, but instead ask for a donation.



9. Schools & Children's Work

Open the Book

'Open the Book' has been running in New Mills for the last eighteen months and is proving very successful. Begun by the Bible Society it offers stories from the Bible through simple drama and is ecumenical. Since we began in our own church school we have expanded to take in four more schools in the area with a different team for each school. There has been general interest and no opposition from any of the schools.

The children look forward to it, particularly the 'joining in', which requires them to wear a costume, etc. It seems particularly important in these times of secular assemblies.



St. George's CofE School Assemblies

The Vicar and a team of three others from St. George's have routinely taken weekly assemblies in St. George's School. Each team brings a different approach, but all centre on a biblical/moral theme provided by the headteacher. The children show a good knowledge of the Christian Faith and are always enthusiastic. It is a privilege and a joy to be involved in this.



10. De-fibrillator installation

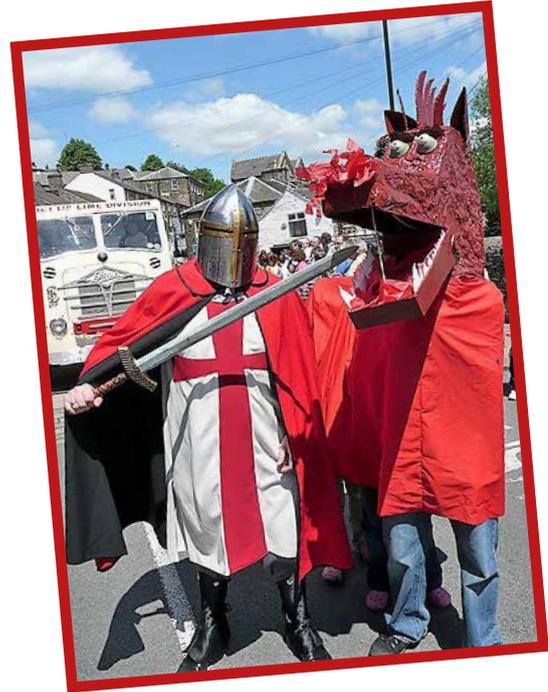
The PCC voted to fund raise for a community defibrillator, to be situated at the Parish Hall, serving the adjacent schools and local community. Seeking support from the community, just 12 letters raised £2,500, enough to pay for the project. Some funds also remained for future maintenance.

This underlines the close association the church and community have built up over the years.



11. New Mills Town Events

There are active organisations that promote community spirit and arts events, with carnivals and festivals bringing the population together to celebrate. The Parish Church takes part in this; the potential is considerable.



12. Food Bank

New Mills Helping Hands is our local food bank. It was set up in 2013 by the local "Churches Together" group to meet the growing need of support for local people suffering from food poverty. Ministers and representatives from the 5 local churches, plus supportive members from the local community, work together to provide this essential service. Members of St George's work as volunteers for the food bank and the congregation donate food in our food bank collection point located within the church.



13. Foodie Friends

New Mills Foodie Friends Café is one of our very successful community outreach projects. In June 2016 we joined the social eating network "SuperKitchen" (www.superkitchen.org) and our primary purpose is to put on a café where everyone from our local community is welcomed to enjoy a delicious, affordable, 3-course meal and to share it with others in good company. It is incredibly popular and we regularly see over 150 customers attending on the first Friday of every month at our Parish Hall.

It is a collaborative project that is headed up by 3 members of St George's but with the dedicated help and support of over 30 volunteers from the local community.

The café brings many benefits to the community. These include, reducing the impact of social isolation, reducing food waste, bringing community groups together and reducing food poverty.



Due to increasing demands on volunteers, Foodie Friends has now been temporarily suspended. There is an opportunity here for a refreshment of ideas with a new incumbent.

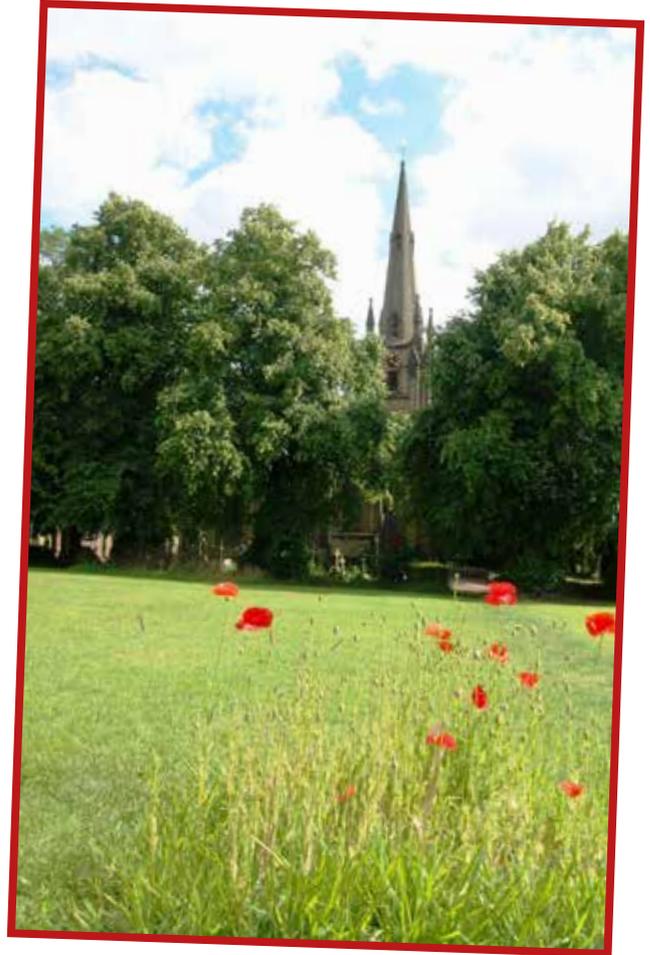


The Church and its Buildings

1. Buildings

St. George's Church was built between 1829 and 1831, being consecrated in July 1831 and dedicated to St. George, opening for public worship in January 1832.

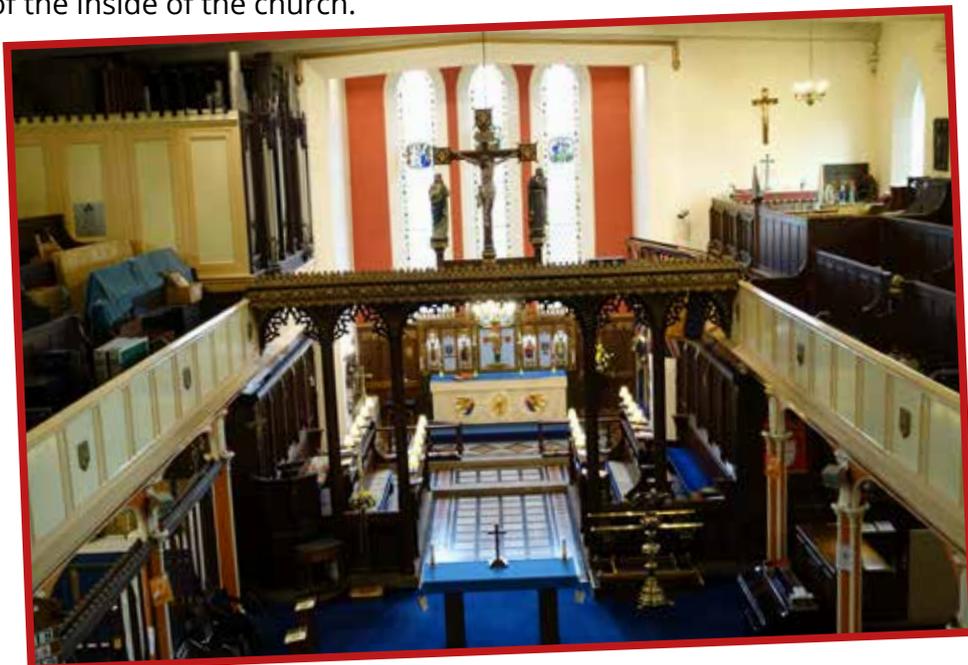
It is built in the Gothic revival style, surmounted by an embattled tower.



2. Open Church

A major project in the last 10 years has been re-roofing the church. Significant fund-raising events took place to organise the considerable sum required for this project. As St George's is Grade II listed some of this included a grant from English Heritage.

As part of the agreement with English Heritage, we open our doors to the wider public on 40 days per year for a duration of 6 hours each time. People are welcomed and can appreciate the special architectural features of the inside of the church.



3. Finances

St. George's Church and Parish Hall are both in viable financial positions. Expenses including Parish Share have been paid in full and on time. The accounts to the end of December 2018 are available if required.

The General Fund now has no cash resources and this is an aspect of the finances that needs particular attention.

In addition to the General Fund, there are seven other funds, which are for specific future projects and are funded by donations from the Congregation and the local community. The total balances on these specific funds amount to £108,000

Over the past five years we have concentrated on updating the Parish Hall, again this has been funded by the Congregation and local community plus Lottery Funding.

We have sufficient funds to now concentrate on the Church building. There are two projects, project one is to undertake repairs as specified in the Quinquennial inspection, project two is to update the entrance and install internal toilet and kitchen facilities. Preliminary discussions with our architect are now under way.



4. The Vicarage

The vicarage was built in the 1989 and has recently been refurbished. Downstairs there is a cloakroom, office, lounge, dining room, kitchen and utility room.

Upstairs there are 4 bedrooms, a bathroom and shower room. there is also a garage and some outdoor storage space.

The vicarage is situated close to the Parish Hall and overlooks the town bowling green and cricket ground at the back, with good views across the valley.



5. Management

The Parish Hall is currently managed by one of the churchwardens. A part-time cleaner is also employed to service the Parish Hall.

The Parish Hall also accommodates a Parish Office.

Maintenance of the church falls to an army of volunteers - hoovering, polishing, brass cleaning, flower arranging etc. Minor work is also in the hands of volunteers who have relevant qualifications - e.g. sound system, electrical work. More major work will be contracted to qualified builders and agents.

The Churchyard is closed to new burials, which now take place at Thornsett Cemetery (5 minute drive away). Existing family graves may still be used. Cremated remains can still be interred in the churchyard. Maintenance of the Churchyard falls now to the local council e.g. mows the grass twice a year and is responsible for the churchyard retaining wall, which abuts onto public pavements and roads.

Some regular and routine work in maintaining the appearance and tidiness of the churchyard again falls to volunteers.



The PCC 2019

Position	Numbers
Churchwardens	2
Elected PCC Members	12
Deanery Synod Members	5
Ex-officio Members (Readers)	3

Note: The number of elected PCC members is subject to revision following the 2019 Revision of the Electoral Roll.

6. Projects

Project one is to undertake repairs as specified in the Quinquennial inspection, most of which are non-urgent and of a minor nature - e.g. re-pointing stonework. (more information about these can be obtained on request)

Project two is to update the entrance (purpose built disabled access) and install internal toilet and kitchen facilities in the church.



Our Vision

To remain a lively and active congregation in our Worship Life and Mission to the community.

We want to be proud, though not complacent, about our service to God through the many and varied services and mission activities that take place in St. George's Parish. We also need to be open to God's call to us, collectively and individually.

So here are some important thoughts to direct our vision.....

Strengths

- Warm, welcoming, active and happy.
- A good organist leading a choir of regular members.
- A full PCC of regular members.
- A loyal congregation turning up each week.
- We try to 'look out' for each other, helping in times of need - in church.
- and in the community.
- What we don't want to change: the Eucharistic focus and anglican tradition.

Lesser Strengths

- Communication within the Parish.
- Disabled access and indoor facilities in Church.

What has fallen by the wayside: the Mother's Union Group.

Opportunities

Possibilities for mission & Growth

- To improve links with other churches in the town.
- To maintain and/or improve links with schools.

What we would like to do

- Increase attendance of families, children and people who are lonely.



Threats

What are the greatest dangers to our Parish and Worship?

- Ageing congregation.
- Secular views, modern life.

What are the serious issues to tackle?

- Attracting younger people.
- Too few children coming to church.
- Not many 20-50 year olds in church.
- Declining General Fund income and the cost of maintaining an old listed building with a declining and ageing population.

The Successes we have had in the last 5 years

- Upgrading the Parish Hall.
- Launch of Foodie Friends.
- Continued links with the Food Bank.
- Work with St. George's Primary school - assemblies & 'Open the Book'.
- Launch of 'Faith Explorer' study group.
- Increased number of organists in training.

We aim to:

- continue to be a lively, active and caring Parish Church in New Mills.
- be a welcoming and happy place where God is worshipped.
- be a missional church to the community.
- be a place that will attract younger people to know God.
- be led by an enthusiastic, caring and supportive priest, ensuring that St. George's Church is here to serve the community now and in the future.

Every Problem probably has a Solution AND every Solution possibly has a Problem

Every group of human beings meets this dilemma. However, seeking God's help, the future lies in the way we prayerfully embrace the challenges and opportunities that face us. Then we can continue to work for God's Kingdom here in New Mills.





**Parish Profile &
Statement of Needs**
2019



Saint George's
The Parish Church of New Mills