



# A MARTYR'S MESSAGE

A QUARTERLY MAGAZINE FROM ST. GEORGE'S PARISH CHURCH - NEW MILLS

*Celebrating*

 1831 - 2021  
**190 YEARS**



## **St. George's Parish Church celebrates its 190th anniversary this year.**

The Parish Church of Saint George the Martyr was consecrated by the Lord Bishop of Coventry on 25th July 1831, becoming an ecclesiastical parish in 1844.

The exterior of Saint George's has changed little since it was built, except for the extension and subsequent closing of the graveyard. The clock was installed to commemorate the coronation of Elizabeth II.

The interior, however, has seen many changes over the decades, including a major re-ordering in 1897, when 'the Church was to lose its plainness that characterised the churches of the early nineteenth century. The Sanctuary and Chancel were built, new nave pews fitted and the organ and choir moved from the west gallery into the chancel.

Read more inside about how we are planning on celebrating this special mile stone in the church's history on page 6.

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

## FROM THE VICARAGE...

FR. OWAIN MITCHELL | VICAR OF NEW MILLS

The great twentieth century spiritual writer Henri Nouwen often wrote about three key areas of Church life – communion with God, community with fellow disciples and commission to the world. Communion, community and commission are very much at the heart of both my own personal discipleship, and I pray, at the heart of the example I set to you.

To be in communion with God is to be in relationship with Him through worship, prayer, penitence and so on – our spiritual lives. This comes first because everything else we do hangs on our relationship with, and understanding of, God. Then comes our community with our fellow humanity as we support, encourage and enable one another to flourish as God's beloved children and to grow as disciples – our relational lives. Finally, comes our commission, sharing in Christ's continued work in the world, to go make new disciples, to preach the gospel, to glorify God – our missional lives.

Our traditional ways of communion, community and commission have been greatly impacted by Covid-19 restrictions over the past year. But rather than being diminished we have flourished. The Church has continued her faithful work of worshipping God, sustaining the faithful and being good news in the world. We have done this in both traditional and in new ways. New life is evident in the Church and the world as we have found new ways of deepening our faith in God, our relationship with one another and our service in the world.

This time last year, many people spoke optimistically of their hope that life would return to normal by the summer. A year on and the situation remains uncertain... When will we be out of lockdown? When will we be able to gather to worship without restrictions? When will we be able to sing? And yet that spirit of optimism and hopeful positivity is still there in the conversations we are now having. That is something to be celebrated, and for that, I thank God.

Throughout the past year, we have been so blessed by our communion with God - through our communal worship and through our private prayer and reading of scriptures. We have been blessed as a community - by the love, friendship and support of our worshipping and wider communities. And we have been blessed with opportunities to fulfil our commission to serve God in the world - through the kindnesses shared and gratefully received, through our amazing community support links, through our quiet witness in word and action.

I thank God that, at the heart of who I am, there is my relationship with Him. I thank Him for the amazing community of Saint George's and New Mills. I thank Him for all the opportunities to serve Him and my fellow humanity. As we journey through this dark time of the Covid-19 pandemic, the words of John Ellerton's wonderful hymn, 'The Day Thou Gavest, come to mind, we thank God that His Church unsleeping keeps watch over us, that the voice of prayer is never silent, that Her praise never dies away and that fresh lips make God's wonderful doings heard.

With my continued prayers and every blessing,

Fr. Owain

## LENT & EASTER 2021

### The Sundays of Lent

There is limited seating for those attending the 10 a.m. Parish Eucharist. These acts of worship will be livestreamed, and recordings will be available on our Facebook Page, Website or YouTube channel

Sun 07th Mar Lent 3  
Sun 14th Mar Mothering Sunday  
Sun 21st Mar Lent 5

### Palm Sunday (28th March)

There is limited seating for those attending the 10 a.m. Parish Eucharist. These acts of worship will be livestreamed, and recordings will be available on our Facebook Page, Website or YouTube channel

### Maundy Thursday (01st April)

The Maundy Thursday Liturgy will be celebrated at 7 p.m. Seating is limited, and the service will be livestreamed. A recording will be available on our Facebook Page, Website or YouTube channel

### Good Friday (02nd April)

The Good Friday Liturgy – to end at 3 p.m. Start time to be confirmed. Seating is limited, and the service will be livestreamed. A recording will be available on our Facebook Page, Website or YouTube channel

### Easter Day

There is limited seating for those attending the 10 a.m. Parish Eucharist. The service will be livestreamed. A recording will be available on our Facebook Page, Website or YouTube channel

Please do keep an eye on our website and Facebook pages for any changes or feel free to telephone Father Owain.

## STATIONS OF THE CROSS



Stations of the Cross this year have been recorded for you to take part from the safety and comfort of your home.

If you would like to join us in following the Stations of the Cross please go to our YouTube channel:

'St George's Parish Church, New Mills'

The direct link to the recording can be found by using the video link below:

<https://youtu.be/XnGDoEAcUHg>

## PUZZLE FROM THE PEW

### EASY SUDOKU

				7	9	8		
			8	6	9			
	6	8	4		5	1	7	
7			2	5			3	
5	1	6				2	7	4
	2			7	4			1
2	5	3			8	7	4	
			7	4	5			
8		7	3					

### MEDIUM SUDOKU

	5		8			4	6
		1				3	7
			2				
		8	6	7			
7							9
				5	9	2	
				6			
	2	3				5	
	7	4			2		9

Answers on page 8.



## INGHAM'S ALMSHOUSES

DAVID WELLENS

Many parishioners will be familiar with Ingham's Almshouses. Located in St. James's Square on Spring Bank, they were built in 1880 at the same time as St. James's Church, now Spring Bank Arts Centre.

The church and almshouses were built through the generosity of the Mackie Family. Whilst there has been a close connection between the almshouses and the church, the almshouses were managed by up to six trustees, many of whom were church members. In the early 1970s, there were only two trustees holding office, which was below the number at which the trust could legally act. As a consequence, the Charity Commission appointed Dr. Millward, a long serving New Mills G.P. as an additional trustee. Dr. Millward had a long standing interest in improving housing and living standards in New Mills.

Following Dr. Millward's appointment, five new trustees were appointed. The trustees set about modernising all six almshouses, the major work being the provision of bathrooms and inside toilets.

Over the next 45 years the trustees continued to update the properties, however as the almshouses are listed properties, keeping pace with all the requirements of the regulations had become an increasing burden on the lay trustees.

In addition, in common with much in modern life, the bureaucracy associated with owning and managing almshouses was continually changing, which again the lay trustees felt they were becoming less qualified to deal with.

In 2019, the number of trustees had reduced to four (Gilly Brown, Karen Holt, Sue Mason and David Wellens). The trustees had sought to recruit new trustees, without success. As a result, they decided to see whether there was another charity which could take over the management of Ingham's Almshouses.

An approach was made to the Edward Mayes Trust, a Manchester based charity which has been in operation since 1635, and which owns 70 almshouses in the Manchester area.

Edward Mayes Trust was willing to take on responsibility for Inghams.

Following approval from the Charity Commission, Edward Mayes Trust became the Corporate Trustee of Inghams on 17th November 2020 and the previous trustees all ceased to hold office.

The trustees felt that by transferring management of Inghams to Edward Mayes, it would ensure the long term future of the almshouses. In addition Edward Mayes has professional staff who the residents can contact with problems they may have regarding their home.

# DAILY PRAYER INTENTIONS

Join us as we pray for St. George's Church and the community of New Mills.



## St. George's Church

- 1st** Mission Statement – Offering a welcoming, God-centred environment to the people of New Mills
- 2nd** Vision - To remain a lively and active congregation in our Worship Life and Mission to the Community
- 3rd** For each member of Saint George's, that we will be filled with the hope and joy of what is to come
- 4th** For our spiritual and numerical growth
- 5th** For all who contribute to our worship
- 6th** For Tom, our Reader
- 7th** For our Organists and Choir
- 8th** For our Sanctuary Servers
- 9th** For our Lectors and Intercessors
- 10th** For our Sidespersons Team
- 11th** For our Flower Guild
- 12th** For our Bell Ringers
- 13th** For all who contribute to our work
- 14th** For Richard, our Warden
- 15th** For our Parochial Church Council Members
- 16th** For our financial needs
- 17th** For the staff at Church House who support us in our mission
- 18th** For our Hall Hirers
- 19th** For all who contribute to our witness
- 20th** For Leon and our publicity
- 21st** For the Lunch Club
- 22nd** For those we long to see come to faith, to know, love and serve God
- 23rd** For those who have lost sight of God, that they would recognise Him in their lives
- 24th** For the Church catholic
- 25th** For Justin, our Archbishop, Libby, our Diocesan and Malcolm her Suffragan
- 26th** For our Archdeacon, Ven. Carol
- 27th** For Colin, our Area Dean and for our Deanery
- 28th** For our Deanery Synod Representatives
- 29th** For an increase in vocations
- 30th** For all Christians to have the confidence to share the good news
- 31st** For all beginning to show an interest in faith, that their curiosity will grow into a desire for Christ, and they take their place within Christ's Church

## The Community of New Mills

- 1st** Residents of streets & roads beginning A
- 2nd** Residents of streets & roads beginning B
- 3rd** Residents of streets & roads beginning C
- 4th** Residents of streets & roads beginning D
- 5th** Residents of streets & roads beginning E & F
- 6th** Residents of streets & roads beginning G
- 7th** Residents of streets & roads beginning H
- 8th** Residents of streets & roads beginning J & K
- 9th** Residents of streets & roads beginning L
- 10th** Residents of streets & roads beginning M & N
- 11th** Residents of streets & roads beginning O
- 12th** Residents of streets & roads beginning P
- 13th** Residents of streets & roads beginning Q & R
- 14th** Residents of streets & roads beginning S
- 15th** Residents of streets & roads beginning T, U & V
- 16th** Residents of streets & roads beginning W - Y
- 17th** Our community leaders and all who shape or influence our community
- 18th** Those who provide for our needs through local business, commerce & farming
- 19th** The pupils, staff and governors of our schools, and the young people of our parish, particularly for Saint George's CofE Primary School
- 20th** Young families in our community
- 21st** For the elderly in our parish
- 22nd** The residents and staff of our care homes – Goyt Valley House, Watford Lodge & Ventura Court
- 23rd** Those whose time is spent caring for others
- 24th** The unemployed and those living in poverty within our community
- 25th** Those who work in the medical professions and healing professions
- 26th** Those who work in the emergency services and rescue organisations
- 27th** For the local voluntary organisations which serve our community
- 28th** For those struggling with addictions
- 29th** For the victims and perpetrators of crime
- 30th** For the mental health and well-being of all
- 31st** For the lonely, the abandoned and the rejected; for all who have lost hope

## BOUNDARY WALL UPDATE

Following a number of concerns shown by members of our local community on social media, we recently contacted the High Peak Borough Council regarding repair work that had been done last year to the repointing and rebuilding of part of the churchyard boundary wall.

It had been noted that the pointing work had started to crumble and the wall was still bowing in parts.

Representatives from HPBC and the contractor who had done the work came to investigate the issues and decided that the repointing of the wall had failed and that they will re-do the areas that are crumbling once the weather got warmer and dryer.

The HPBC building surveyor reassured us that the bowing of the wall is within safe limits and that there is no risk of the wall falling.

Any concerns regarding the wall or indeed the maintenance of the churchyard, we advise you to get in touch with High Peak Borough Council who are in charge of the care and upkeep.

**High Peak Borough Council**  
Tel: 0345 129 7777 / 01298 28400



## New Mills Helping Hands Food Bank

Helping Hands Food Bank - we are here to help those in need. Covering New Mills, Hayfield, Furness Vale & surrounding Areas in the High Peak, Derbyshire.

For more confidential information either Telephone Mobile 07425 177999 for more details – Alternatively Text or Call Back service available (occurs when the originator of a call is quickly called back in a second call as a response)

Email: [helpinghandsnewmills@gmail.com](mailto:helpinghandsnewmills@gmail.com)  
Twitter: <https://twitter.com/NewMillsFBank>



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# 1831 - 2021 190 YEARS

St. George's church has served the community of New Mills throughout its vast history.

To help us celebrate this special occasion, we are asking you to send us copies of any photos or memorabilia taken at special occasions throughout the church's 190 years history. These can be photos of family weddings or baptisms, as well as events that have taken place such as fairs, special services and social events.

Please do not send any originals and please make sure you ask permission from anyone in the photos that they can be used on our website and social media platforms.

We will then collate all the images and create a special page on our website to display the items.

You can email your images to: [publicity@newmillschurch.co.uk](mailto:publicity@newmillschurch.co.uk)

We look forward to sharing these special memories with the community of New Mills.



## 100 YEARS OF THE PCC!

FROM THE PARISH PUMP



Image: BBC's 'The Vicar of Dibley'

It's a hundred years since parish churches gained the power to run their own affairs, separately from what we now regard as local government.

The religious affairs of a parish, as well as its secular business had been controlled by a single committee, which met in the church and was known as the 'Vestry'. Then, in 1894, Parish Councils were formed to deal with secular matters; the Vestry continued to oversee church affairs until 1921, when Parochial Church Councils (PCC) were established. People still get confused by the two.

Churchwardens have been around since the 13th Century and legally 'own' the movable contents of the church. They are meant to maintain order in the church and churchyard, with the assistance of their staves, if necessary. In the event of serious disorder today, a mobile phone might be a safer instrument, with staves reserved for ceremonial occasions! Churchwardens are now chosen by parishioners, though the Incumbent (ie Vicar or Rector) has a limited right of veto.

Today, anyone on the Electoral Roll of the church (sorry, this is another confusion, for the secular Electoral Roll is entirely separate) can attend the Annual Parochial Church Meeting, which elects the PCC. The Incumbent is an ex officio member, as are other licensed clergy and Churchwardens, members of the Deanery Synod, plus any member of the Diocesan Synod and General Synod who lives in the parish or is on the Roll. The Incumbent chairs the PCC, which elects a Vice-Chair and appoints a Standing Committee to transact business between meetings.

The purpose of a PCC, which must meet at least four times a year, is to consult together with the Incumbent "on matters of general concern and importance to the parish", and that includes the "whole mission of the Church". Did you know that changes to the forms of service, or the vesture or the minister, can only happen after consultation?

Inevitably, money and building maintenance take up a lot of room on the Agenda, though we all know they are less important than mission. It's a real challenge for every PCC member to pray for non-churchgoing parishioners and to find imaginative ways of introducing them to Christ and His Church.

If you've got this far and are a member of your PCC – congratulations – you are a hundred years old this year!

## HALF A CENTURY ON THE CHOIR



On Sunday 21st February 2021, Paul Holt was awarded with the Royal School of Church Music 'Loyal Service Medal' in recognition serving on the church choir for 50 years.

Paul is currently our third half-centurion (joining Tom Spires and John Richardson).

On behalf of everyone at St. George's Parish Church, we would like to congratulate Paul on his special anniversary.

Once the choir is able reconvene following the current COVID restrictions, we will be welcoming anyone who would be interested in joining the choir. Please get in touch with us on: **Tel: (01663) 746226 or email: [choir@newmillschurch.co.uk](mailto:choir@newmillschurch.co.uk)**

We look forward to welcoming you!

**THE CHOIR**  
ST GEORGE'S PARISH CHURCH  
NEW MILLS

Your invitation to come and join the choir of St. George's Parish Church in New Mills and help keep a choral tradition alive.

For more information...  
Call: (01663) 746226  
or email:  
[choir@newmillschurch.co.uk](mailto:choir@newmillschurch.co.uk)

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Affiliated to  
**RSCM**  
The Royal School of Church Music

# DONATE TO ST. GEORGE'S PARISH CHURCH HERE



St. George's Parish Church relies entirely on the generosity of our regular congregation giving because we do not receive any funding from the government. The money we receive goes towards the community work, pastoral work, missionary and ministry work within the parish of New Mills.

We are also responsible for the upkeep of this beautiful and historic building of St. George's. The money that our regular congregation gives also has to cover the electric, lighting, heating and repairs. This special building is here as a place of prayer, sanctuary as well as being a useable space for the whole community.

For the work and life of St. George's to continue, we need your help.



Visit [www.newmillschurch.co.uk](http://www.newmillschurch.co.uk) for more information.

giftaid it



1. Scan the above code with your smart phone camera.
2. Click on the link.
3. Select your donation amount.
4. Choose the 'Gift Aid' option\*.
5. Complete payment using the safe donation site.
6. Your donation is gratefully received... Thank you!

\*If you are a UK taxpayer and eligible to Gift Aid your donation, please consider selecting this option. This will increase your gift by 25p for every £1 given (at the current rate), at no extra cost to you or us.





## - WEEKLY SERVICES -

Wednesdays

9.15am - Said Eucharist

Sundays

10.00am - Parish Eucharist

We confirm we have read and complied with the government's guidance on managing the risk of COVID-19 in places of worship.

All services will take place in the nave of the church to allow for social distancing.

You can also watch the services live on our Facebook page.

Please submit your prayer requests to Fr. Owain by calling the vicarage on:

(01663) 743225

or email: [vicar@newmillschurch.co.uk](mailto:vicar@newmillschurch.co.uk)

### Answers to Puzzles from the pews

#### Easy Sudoku

4	3	2	5	1	7	9	6	8
1	7	5	8	6	9	4	2	3
9	6	8	4	3	2	5	1	7
7	8	4	2	5	1	6	3	9
5	1	6	9	8	3	2	7	4
3	2	9	6	7	4	8	5	1
2	5	3	1	9	8	7	4	6
6	9	1	7	4	5	3	8	2
8	4	7	3	2	6	1	9	5

#### Medium Sudoku

9	5	2	8	3	7	4	6	1
4	8	1	9	6	5	3	7	2
3	6	7	2	4	1	9	5	8
2	9	8	6	7	3	1	4	5
7	4	5	1	2	8	6	3	9
1	3	6	4	5	9	2	8	7
5	1	9	3	8	6	7	2	4
8	2	3	7	9	4	5	1	6
6	7	4	5	1	2	8	9	3

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***This magazine is free of charge.***

If you would like to support us by advertising in our next issue (June 2021), or if you have a story you would like to share with us, then please get in touch:

**[publicity@newmillschurch.co.uk](mailto:publicity@newmillschurch.co.uk) or call: (01663) 749323**

All information in this magazine was correct at the time of going to print.

**The Deadline for the next issue of 'A Martyr's Message' is Friday 28th May 2021**

***This magazine is also available to download and view on our website.***