



**St Marks Church North Road
St Helens**

Parish Profile

Parish Address

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Summary Profile

St Marks is housed in a truly beautiful 140 year old church which is located on the top of a hill looking down over the town centre. Though we are part of a town steeped in Industrial heritage, the town and parish has recently seen lots of new housing developments and there is a multi million pound town centre redevelopment starting shortly.

While our Parish faces some challenges with a fast-growing population and some areas of deprivation, St Marks strives to continually widen its reach with a dedicated, hard-working family of volunteer mission leaders.

St Marks has for many years been part of the Town Centre Team of churches, however due to the creation of a new single parish under 'Fit for Mission', St Marks, like approximately one third of churches, has decided not to opt in.



We are proud of...

Our three church buildings (Church, Gamble Hall and Parish Hall) as these allow us the scope to reach and support many diverse groups in our community both socially and spiritually. We have a regular and committed congregation.

We recognise the need to....

Develop our Mission by working towards attracting more young people into church. We pray that we will further grow our mission and reach out to everyone with the example and guidance of Jesus' love.

We welcome the right person to help us deliver this!



Coffee and catch up at the Gamble Hall Garden

About the Parish

St Marks North Road

We are a church in the north of St. Helens with a growing population. Our parish consists of residential and industrial properties. It includes: Haresfinch and Victoria Parks.

The population of the parish is around 7000 and is set to grow with the building of a large housing estate just behind the church.

Clearly the right vicar (together with the wider team) could help attract new worshippers from these exciting developmental opportunities!

The population live in a mixture of social and private accommodation with some sheltered housing complexes,

Within the parish there are churches of the United Reformed and Roman Catholic traditions.

The parish is an urban district with a moderate percentage of the population of low to middle income. Our congregation is largely between the 60-90 age range which reflects the static population of the town as a whole.

The town centre boasts a highly respected industrial history with the Gamble and Pilkington families of note playing a considerable part.

One of our church halls (the Gamble Memorial Hall) is named after the Gamble family who famously set up a chemical works in 1828. The family gifted the land and paid for the Hall's construction and gifted it to the parish of St Marks.

Our parish is within easy reach of all areas of St Helens.

Who are we looking for?

We want a vicar who:

Feels called to this church's vision and challenges and wants to be present in the long term.

Is 'young at heart' and can relate to, and take care of, all members of the regardless of age.

Is a bible based, inspirational leader who will in turn inspire leadership within members of the congregation and enrol/involve others in our growing parish.

Will be dynamic and come to fully understand the area and its people

Is missionary minded in their approach considering the challenges of the North West of England and specifically the parish (we have a diverse variety of old and new housing estates with some deprived areas)

Is both visible and available within the parish.

Demonstrates empathy with all age groups.

Can help us develop our family friendly worship.

Could this be you?

The Church and its People



Our churchmanship is of the evangelical tradition although the pulpit, lectern and communion table frontals are changed according to the season. We prefer clergy and readers to robe at most services. We currently have one Reader and a Church Warden who take services in the absence of Clergy..

Our congregation is mainly female and is almost entirely in the 60-90 age range. We have a regular congregation of around 40 people each Sunday morning. Music is important to us at St. Marks and our experienced organist leads us in our praise at Sunday morning services.



The Gamble Memorial Hall

The Church its Buildings and the Community

We genuinely believe that it is our group efforts that make us strong. We are blessed with dedicated mission leaders and some selfless volunteers amongst our congregation, with skilled and talented PCC members.

Many local organisations are supported through our Gamble Hall site which incorporates a meeting hall, Garden (with greenhouse and sheds) and a large field in its grounds.

We run a very successful 'tots and toddlers' group at the Gamble Hall on Fridays. We also have a social group on Thursdays. We have raised funding over the last three years to upgrade the facilities both inside and out and have constructed a large greenhouse in a tranquil garden section, providing activities for children and the wider community.

The hire of the Hall and grounds for parties and functions has helped to provide much needed funds for the church, though we try to strike a balance by ensuring many support groups and other faith groups can use the facilities for either no cost or with just a small donation to cover heating etc.

Throughout the year we host several events for church, including Garden Parties, Summer Fairs, Car boot and Plant sales and a very successful fundraiser for our local Hospice.

We have many ideas about what we can achieve in the future and are firmly committed to finding ways to grow our church community, both in formal and informal worship and in developing our community outreach and support.



Church

The main church was consecrated in 1886, The general fabric is well maintained. We have recently completed works on roof repairs, installed under pew electric heaters, upgraded our electrical system, installed an audio-visual system and are in the process of decorating and updating furniture.



Parish Hall

The Parish Hall which is adjacent to the church is currently let out to a group who run a childrens nursery



Old Vergers House

What was originally a Vergers house has been recently renovated and is now rented out privately to support church finances

We are praying for a new vicar to join in helping us to further grow our mission at St Marks