



Parish Profile

St. Margarets & All Hallows Church

Warrington

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Where Are We?

St Margaret & All Hallows Church is situated on the A50 with on street parking outside. From junction 9 of the M62 take the A49 (Winwick Road) towards Warrington, then follow the A50 – this will bring you to the church, which is situated on the right-hand side, just past traffic lights at the top of Hallfields Road.

The vicarage, which was built approx. 30 years ago, is located at 2 St Margaret's Avenue, Orford, Warrington, which is the road behind the church. At the traffic lights at the top of Hallfields Road turn right, then first left into St Margaret's Avenue. The vicarage is on the left at the bottom of this road.

The Parish

St. Margaret & All Hallows has a parish population of approx. 12,000. The church is situated quite near the centre of its parish and is bounded by the Anglican parishes of St. Andrew's, Orford; St. Ann's, Orford; St. Elphin's, the Parish Church of Warrington; and Christ Church, Padgate. Within our parish there is the evangelical church of Emmaus and St. Stephen's and St. Benedict's Roman Catholic churches that are just outside our parish boundary. We have previously worked closely with neighbouring churches which formed part of a cluster group that came together for Lent groups, Alpha courses, study groups and Bible studies.

In addition to our own church school – St Margaret's CE Primary in School Road - the nearby Beamont Collegiate Academy and Beamont CP School, which are just outside our boundaries, have in the past used our church at Christmas for carol services. Close by is Warrington & Vale Royal College. We also hold the lease on the SMILE Centre, on Sandy Lane, Orford – this was the previous infant department of our school.

There is no heavy industry in the parish now and the area that used to be the Old Tannery is private housing. The Poplars local authority housing estate was built post-war and covers most of the farmland that used to be Orford.

There is a local bus service and shops can be found at Capesthorpe Road and Norris Street, about a quarter of mile from the church in both cases. Further along Orford Green there is a Tesco Extra garage and shop and nearby there is a hairdresser's, a small cafe, a paper shop/convenience store and a public house called The Blackburne Arms.

The area of Orford is described by the Borough as a Socially Deprived Area due mainly to its large local authority housing estate at the outer limits of the parish. Within the parish there are probably more private houses than council houses, but the catchment area for our school draws from a much wider area.

We have Facebook and Twitter pages and further information about St Margaret's can be found at www.achurchnearyou.com.



The Building

The very attractive building is predominantly brick and sandstone with a slated roof, and has a tower with a single bell, which is electronically operated, and a clock. Remedial work was carried out in 2001 on the tower to make it safe and the building in general is now in a reasonable state of repair. The console organ has been removed and is now placed within the body of the church.

In an Appeal for money, launched in 2001 to complete the urgent work required on the tower, the congregation raised over £70,000 in five years. A loan of £20,000 from the Diocese to start the work was repaid in full and additional work in the form of wheelchair-friendly ramps, dedicated wheelchair places within the pews, easy access for pedestrians, a PA and Loop System were installed. The church has been totally rewired within the last twenty years with modern lighting and the church gas central heating is also comparatively new. All electric and gas installations are regularly checked and certified.

The building will hold 250 worshippers seated on wooden pews. The main font is at the back of the building close to the main entrance, but for 'everyday' use a portable font is used in the Sanctuary. At the back of the church there is a Book of Remembrance and holder for votive candles.

The Vestry, Organ Vestry, Choir Vestry and the Beamont Room are at the east end of the church. The Beamont Room was added in the 1970's and we have fitted a modern disabled toilet near to the back door. The room has an adequate separate gas heating system. Coffee and tea after the Sunday morning service is served in the choir vestry and fund-raising events have been held in the Beamont Room.

We have free use of the SMILE Centre which is owned by the Warrington Church of England Education Trust who lease it to the PCC. The Church Collective, whose role is to reach the missing young people and under 30's also meets at the SMILE Centre.



The Worship

Worship at St. Margaret's is in the Anglo-Catholic tradition and many members of the congregation use the Sign of the Cross. Its services follow the Common Worship book. Hymns Old & New is the hymn book used. Vestments are worn by officiating priests and candles are used on the High Altar and the Nave Altar. Incense is used as well as bells and the priest is assisted by two servers. We sadly no longer have a choir and as we are currently without an organist, we use CDs to accompany hymn singing.

The main Sunday service is held at 09.30 am (sung Family Eucharist), normally attended by approx. 30-35 people, mainly aged 50+. We do attract a few young families and a Children's Church runs alongside our main Family Eucharist Service on a Sunday during term time, which takes place in the Beamont Room – our parish room. Church attendance over 6 months qualifies for school entry, therefore numbers fluctuate, depending on how many families wish to have their children attend our excellent school.

Baptisms are held on the first Sunday of the month after the 09.30 am service, starting at 11.00 am. We normally baptize up to 4 children or adults each time.

We have found that calling upon people during the week in any numbers is difficult and we now do most of our 'Celebration' services on the nearest Sunday. The exceptions of course are Ash Wednesday, Holy Week, All Souls and Christmas.

We have not been able to offer midweek services for some time, but previously they were held on a Tuesday morning and Thursday evening.



In addition, we have had a Christingle Service for The Children's Society, a Carol Service with readings, a well-attended Crib Service on Christmas Eve and Midnight Mass, which is well supported.

Confirmation

On average about 12 children, mainly from our primary school, are confirmed each year, together with adults occasionally. We have brought forward the age of Confirmation by a year in order that those in school may partake in communion and hopefully encourage them to continue to do so once they leave the school. In 2022 11 children, in 2023 6 were confirmed and this year 16, which included two members of school staff.



Weddings

Weddings are normally booked at Parish Office, held in the Beamont Room on the first Thursday of each month. In 2021 we hosted 8 weddings, in 2022, 4 and in 2023 we held a further 4. We have a team of vergers who help on these occasions.

Funerals

The people of the parish obviously look to St. Margaret's as being their church, either through their connections with baptism, school or weddings and look to us for consolation during their time of sadness. In 2022, 9 funerals were held in church, in 2023 we held 16.

People

We are renowned for loving and encouraging our clergy and members of our congregation assist the vicar and are keen to be involved. The people of St Margaret's are a friendly, generous, supportive, and welcoming group of predominantly mature females, all of whom can be relied upon to help wherever or whenever they can. This welcome begins at our front door from our team of sides people. We feel that the people of St Margaret & All Hallows Church are its greatest asset.

Unfortunately, St Margaret's has gone through a difficult time over the last 2 years, but we have been greatly supported during the vicar's ongoing absence by Bishop Bev, Archdeacon Simon Fisher and a number of serving and retired clergy. This time has enabled us to find talents we did not realise we had and given us a fresh feeling of belonging, which has given us a foundation on which to build for the future.

Six people prepare and read Prayers of Intercession on a rota basis, and Epistle readers are organized by a member of the congregation. Another member assists the vicar by preparing the bread and wine for each Sunday morning service and we have lay chalice administrators.



Parochial Church Council

The PCC consists of 12 people; there are two Deanery Synod representatives and five Foundation governors at St Margaret's CEP School. The wardens and PCC members are elected annually.

The PCC has always worked hard to try to ensure that the Parish Share is paid in full, through generous giving and regular fund raising, although this has not always been possible. At the moment we are 3 months behind in our Parish Share giving for 2023 but are up to date for 2024. Approximately 90% of our congregation donates via the Parish Giving Scheme.

Groups

CHILDREN'S CHURCH: Whenever children attend church, this is held on a Sunday morning in the Beamont Room, and the families and leaders leave during the last verse of the first hymn and the theme of the morning usually follows that of the main service. There is an opportunity for the children to undertake craft activities and then come and show it to the congregation just before the Eucharistic Prayer, then they remain for the rest of the service.





STAY & PLAY: this is a group for children up to the age of 4 and their carers that is held in the SMILE Centre, Sandy Lane (which was previously our school infant department). There is a faithful group of church members who volunteer to run Stay & Play, which is attended by varying numbers of children and adults.

MESSY CHURCH: We would like to see the return of Messy Church which was previously held on the second Saturday morning of the month in the Beamont Room, led by a group of willing volunteers. Food and drinks were offered, craft activities were available, followed by a time of a child age-appropriate reading, prayer and video. This group attracted varying numbers of families and

attendance qualifies children for school attendance.

FUND RAISING COMMITTEE: This is one of the PCC sub-committees that arranges fund-raising activities such as the annual Christmas Fair, which is hosted and supported by the school and last year raised just over £4,000.



CRAFTERNOON: Except during the winter months a group of people meet on a Tuesday afternoon to undertake craft sessions. We have produced knitted teddies and hearts to be given to end of life patients in hospitals and various craft items that were sold at the Christmas Fair.

ORFORD SINGERS: some of our congregation are members of this community choir which is based at St Andrew's Church.

Refreshments

Each Sunday after the morning service refreshments are offered by a team of volunteers on a rota basis.

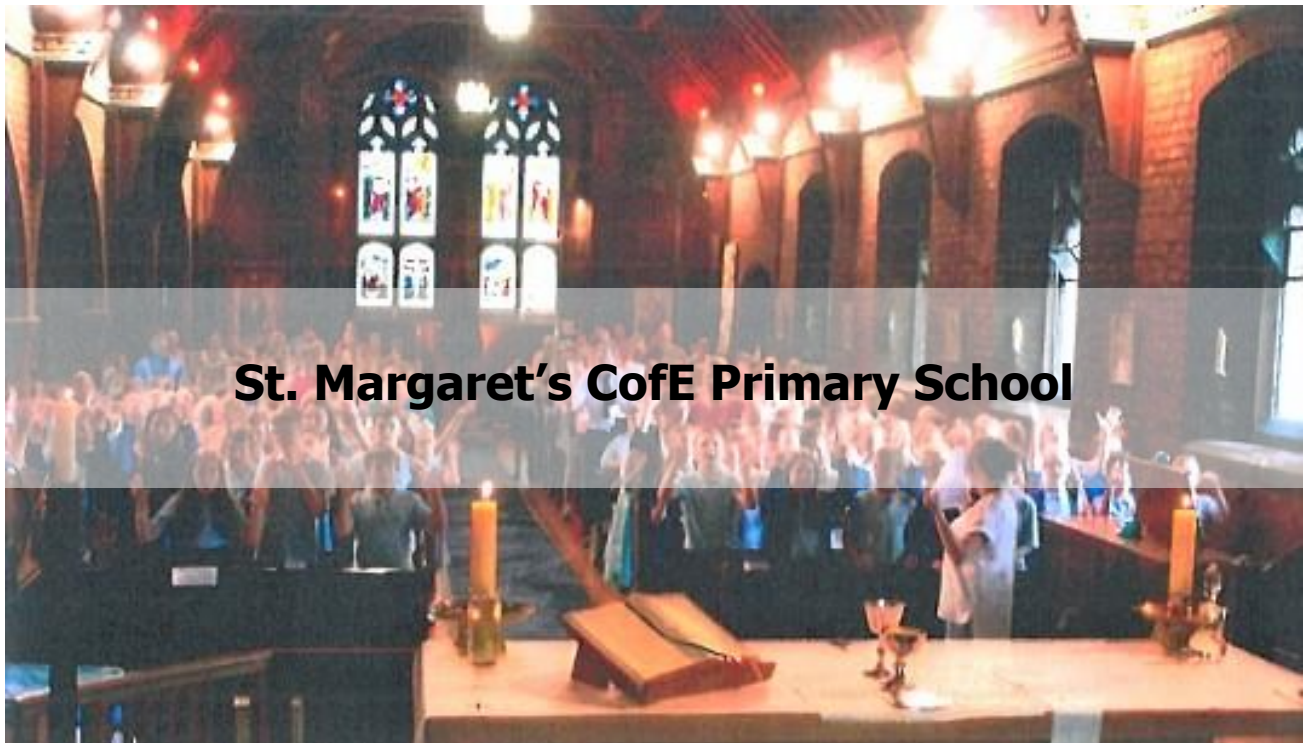
Church Maintenance

We have a small group of willing volunteers who clean the church weekly. A number of people also volunteer to help with removing weeds in the grounds, and we pay for the services of a gardener to cut the grass around the church. MacIntyre Care, a charitable organisation for adults with additional needs, are also bringing a team of volunteers to tend our garden, remove weeds, trim bushes, etc.

Garden of Remembrance

This is located at the east end of the church on ground that separates the church from the Vicarage and came into being about 30 years ago. Unfortunately, this area is almost full, with no plans to extend it, but the garden is regularly visited by people from the community.





St. Margaret's CofE Primary School

This was formerly a split-site school but a few years ago both departments were joined into one building thanks to a £3 million spend. Over 360 children attend the school, which is situated in School Road, about a third of a mile from the church. The school achieved a "Good" outcome at the last Ofsted inspection and our last SIAMS found us to be good in all 4 areas.

A Eucharist service takes place at 09.05 am in school on a Wednesday. They would prefer to come to the church but as attendance would require the children to cross the busy A50 road it was decided that it was safer to hold the service in school. However, some special services are held in church. The school also has a Chapel Choir.

The church and school work hard to support each other – Team St Margaret's.

Smile Centre

St Margaret's Institute for Learning & Evangelism – this is the former infant school which the parish has leased to the school and which St Margaret's parish have use of in return for donating the land on which the Church Hall stood. This building is managed by the school and is rented out to various organisations which brings in revenue, none of which comes to church but is used by school in the management and maintenance of the building.

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SMILE is fully available to the church free of charge at any time, prior bookings allowing. Fund-raising events have been held there and full school governor meetings are regularly held there. Stay & Play also meets there every Thursday morning during term time.

Little Bears pre-school, which accepts children from the age of two, many of whom go on to our nursery and primary school, is located at SMILE. Active Hope Urban Adventure Base (a Christian charity that works in partnership with 12 local primary schools to provide unique opportunities to children in school holidays and also take children from St Margaret's and other local schools away for adventure holidays, ensuring that those who will benefit most get them) is also located there.

SMILE is rented out to various community groups including the Marganettes morris dancing group, Cubs and Scouts. It is also used as a venue in the local authority area for training events for school staff.

GROWING FAITH ADVENTURE: St Margaret's, together with our school and the Church Collective we are part of a team looking to grow faith and spread the Gospel in our community. This involves church, together with school, being a Food Bank referring agency, setting up a radio station in collaboration with the local college, circulating prayer cards and online prayer requests, and working with the local Youth Zone to provide activities for children. We are also involved with the local Walton Lea group for adults with additional needs. They come to help to maintain our garden for us and are also involved with school, helping children to grow food.

Aspirations For The Future

We would welcome a vicar who is a good leader and communicator, with a creative mission to lead us, a willingness to make a priority of pastoral care and parish life and who has the ability to nurture and release the emerging talents of our congregation. We would like them to encourage diversity and breathe new life into our mission, be experienced and enthusiastic in working with children and young people to develop their faith and perhaps have a family of their own who could attend our school. It would also be good if our vicar had experience or enthusiasm for supporting school governance.

Next door to the vicarage, in what was our previous vicarage, is a care home offering 1:1 care for severely autistic children. This could also be a mission opportunity – we need to extend a welcome to them and make them part of the St Margaret's community.

We value our churchmanship but feel that we need to offer more to encourage new and younger people to attend our services. We are in touch with so many young lives through our school and various services, yet we fail to encourage them back through our church doors. However, St Margaret's is very much loved and "owned" in the community. We need someone with vision who will dedicate their work to our school, our parish and its many pastoral needs.

We would hope that whoever comes to our church to be our leader has an open approach, a sense of humour, an appreciation of church music, is outgoing, sympathetic to our

churchmanship but ready to stir us up, point us in the right direction and encourage us in mission and growth.

We very much want to reintroduce a Messy Church, update our sound system and have wifi installed. On a practical level we also want to update our kitchen facilities, which would open up opportunities for the Beamont Room to be used by us and the community or rented out to groups. The Beamont Room needs to be redecorated and modernized to create a more relaxing and friendly space into which we can welcome people. All jobs that we would love to complete.

In November 2023 St Margaret's voted in favour of the Fit for Mission initiative and we look forward to working collaboratively with our colleagues in the Deanery. We already have good relationships with local working and retired clergy, who are happy to offer their help and support whenever needed. These relationships are very much treasured.

Members of the PCC
St Margaret & All Hallows Church