



ST MARK

HEYSIDE

Parish Profile

St Mark, Heyside



 **THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND**
Diocese of Manchester

**CHURCH
FOR A
DIFFERENT
WORLD**



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Introduction

The Parish Church of St Mark's has been the focal point for Christian ministry in the village of Heyside since it was first consecrated in 1878. Our aim is to provide a friendly supportive atmosphere, where all comers, both new and old, will feel that they are entering a welcoming community of worship.

We always ensure that new attendees are warmly greeted and made to feel at home at our normal weekly Sunday morning sung Eucharistic service, and our Tuesday morning Eucharistic service. This welcome also extends to our services on special occasions throughout the year, and when possible, we include an offer to share refreshments with us.

Children are invited to attend our fortnightly Sunday School. On the second Sunday of each month, we have a family service in Church when the whole congregation comes together. It is also the Parade service for our Brigade members.

There are a multitude of other activities which go on in the Parish, many based in our Parish Hall situated behind the Church and a major landmark in the village of Heyside as people travel from Shaw to Oldham.

As we embark on our transition from a United Benefice with St Anne's Royton, to being held in plurality with St Thomas Moorside, our aim is to grow our congregation spiritually and in number and make even more use of our Parish Hall. In doing so, we seek to improve our financial position and secure the longevity of our buildings.

We offer a welcoming and supportive congregation and PCC, keen to encourage you to develop your own particular gifts and enthusiasm in ministry. You will be part of a wider Mission Community, including adjoining parishes in Oldham.

If you believe that you are the person God is calling to lead us into exciting times ahead, please read further!



ST MARK

HEYSIDE

History of St Mark's

The Parish Church of St Marks, Heyside was built and first consecrated in 1878 at a total cost of £3,500 (over £500,000 today) on land donated by local cotton mill owner, Mr Richard Fitton.

Prior to this, Heyside Parish Hall was opened in 1868 and was originally the Village school, Sunday school, and worship centre until the Church and Blackshaw Lane Infants School was built.

In 1971 the Church underwent a complete transformation to its present form. The organ having been replaced at the rear of the Church, the organ loft becoming the Chapel of the Living Christ. The Altar was brought forward into the space created by removal of the choir stalls. The chancel screen was used to create the screen for the chapel, and the font brought to the front of the Church.

In the late 1980's the original vicarage, (which became Roselands Nursing Home) was replaced with a modern four bedroomed vicarage adjacent to the Church on Perth Street.

In 2015, following the retirement of Revd. Ray Morris, we became a United Benefice with the parish of St Anne's, Royton. Our two parishes have collaborated closely with joint PCC meetings and a variety of Spiritual and Social events. When Revd. James Read retired in 2020, we spent 18 months in Interregnum before the appointment of Revd. Liz Devall.



The Parish of Heyside

The population of Heyside has steadily grown over the last 50 years and was 3,851 (in 2018). This has grown further in recent years with a medium housing development recently built, comprising 77 dwellings within the parish boundary. There is still a village feel as the parish has open moorland to the east and urban parishes on the other 3 sides.

Housing in the area is mixed with several large historic properties, traditional Victorian terraced houses, now encompassed by modern estates built over the past 40 years. The population is a good mix of ages which is reflected in the worshipping community.

Other amenities in the parish consist of shops and a post office, one pub serving food, two restaurants, a cricket club, a primary and secondary school, and some light industry.

Parish Census and deprivation summary

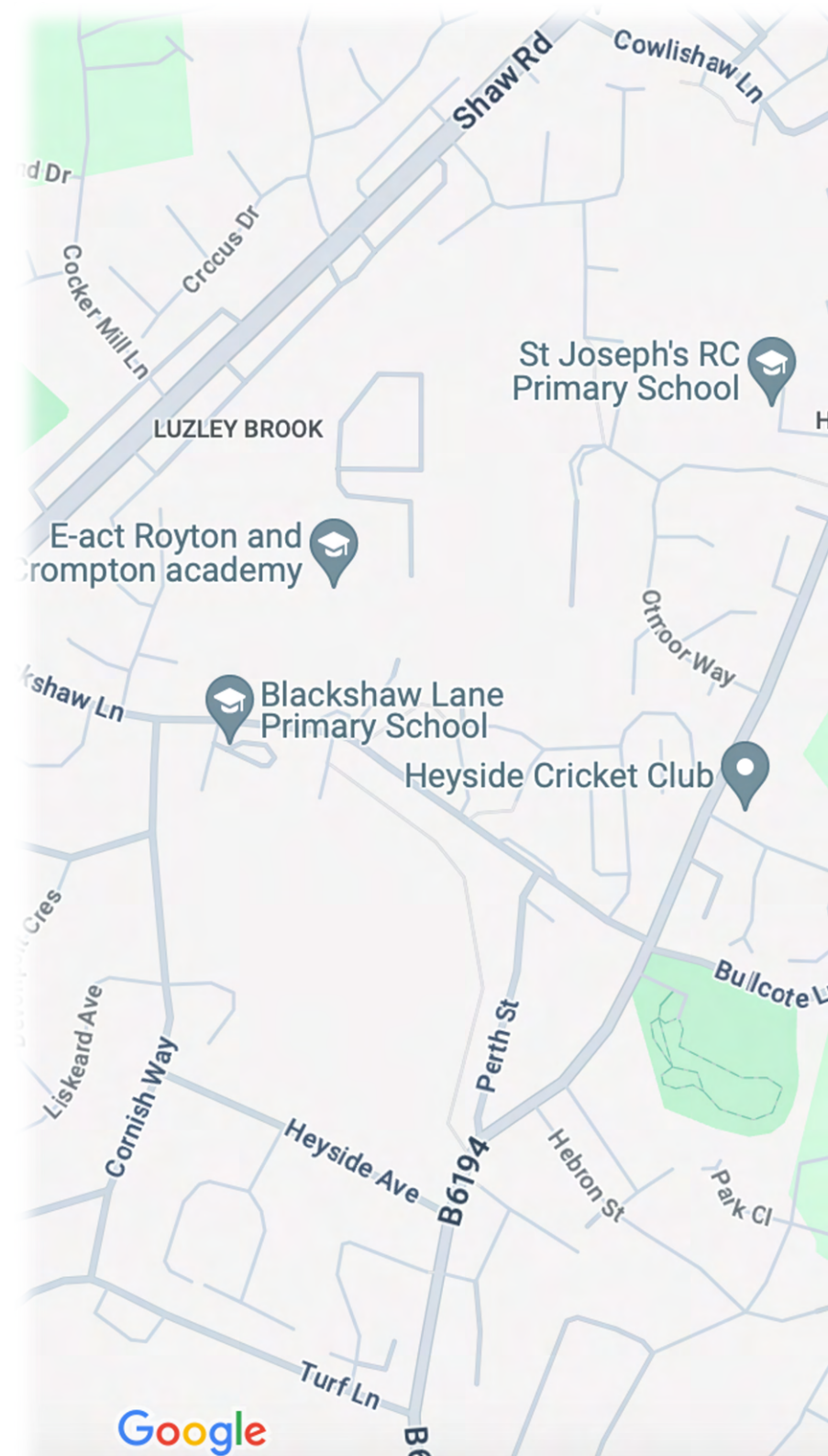
Parish population (2018): 3851

	Parish	Diocese	National
% aged 0-17	20%	23%	21%
% aged 18-44	34%	41%	37%
% aged 45-64	30%	23%	25%
% aged 65 & over	17%	14%	16%
% Christian	77%	59%	59%
% non-Christian religion	23%	41%	41%

Parish deprivation rank (IMD 2019): 4360

(1=most deprived parish in the Church of England, 12,307=least deprived)

For more detailed census & deprivation info: see <http://arcg.is/1RaS4CS>
<https://www.churchofengland.org/researchandstats> and
<http://www2.cuf.org.uk/poverty-england/poverty-map>





ST MARK

HEYSIDE

Our Congregation & PCC

We have a warm, diverse, and committed congregation. It is of all ages, including young families, those of working age, and retired members through to their nineties. All are welcomed into St Marks. There are currently 105 members of our congregation on the Electoral Roll. We have a Worshipping Community of approximately 158 (186 in 2020).

Many people from our congregation take an active part in the life of the Church. Our team of sidespersons and volunteers ensure that our visitors are welcomed, the Church cleaned, flowers arranged, and services safely stewarded.

Our Clergy are supported in their ministry by a team of Lay members who prepare printed material for services, prepare the altar, assist at funerals and interments, prepare Children for Confirmation and handle the vast majority of the administration of the parish.

Our PCC consists of 11 members plus 1 Church Wardens and 2 Deanery Synod representatives. We are committed to growing the congregation of St Mark's and meet bi-monthly to plan our way forward. The PCC has appointed a small Finance and Building sub-Committee to oversee the maintenance of Buildings, necessary works, and general finance.





ST MARK

HEYSIDE

Our Vision

We are a hardworking and welcoming community with a very active Lay membership. We like to think that we are the spiritual heart of the village, but much more could be done.

We could:

- Encourage more members of the local population to join a regular congregation and become core members of the church community.
- Involve more of the 25-40 age group in Church activities and groups.
- Do more to specifically serve the local business and commercial community, looking to attract them into church with events at strategic times of the year.
- Further develop our Parish Hall as a major source of income to the Parish.
- Strengthen our financial position through generosity and stewardship.
- Develop our charitable activities.
- Improve the physical accessibility to St Marks through level accessed approaches to the site.

Achieving all that would not be easy. Our congregation is already stretched, especially through two long interregnums and the recent pandemic. Our financial resources are also limited. However, there are real opportunities to grow, attracting larger numbers of younger people and financial support from local communities and businesses and as we enter into plurality with St Thomas Moorside.

Fulfilling our vision would require prayer, hope, determination and hard work – as well as enormous energy and commitment. But under the right circumstances, and with the right leadership, it could become a reality.

Our Worship

We acknowledge and are grateful for the help of our 4 retired clergy in the parish who have help to maintain our regular service pattern.

We are rooted in the Eucharistic Anglican tradition using the liturgy of Common Worship and the Book of Common Prayer. Members of the congregation take part in reading of scripture and leading intercessions.

Our current weekly service times are as follows:

Sunday Mornings – 09:30am

1st, 3rd & 4th Sundays

Sung Eucharist, followed by refreshments in the Parish Hall

2nd Sunday

Family Service in Church including Parade Sunday for the CL&CGB

Tuesday Mornings – 09:30am

Additionally, our Lay led healing team provide prayerful support in the Chapel each Sunday during and following Communion.

Since the pandemic, our 9 Lay Assistants have been reduced to 3 who now undertake their weekly duties in serving at the Lords table and two of them are licensed to take home communion to members of the congregation.





ST MARK

HEYSIDE

Our Music

We pride ourselves on our weekly sung Sunday morning Eucharist service.

In addition to our existing early 1900's pipe organ, we have recently acquired a Makin electronic organ through a generous donation. Both are serviceable but rather old and need regular maintenance. A decision is yet to be made as to which we retain but for now, both are used regularly. We have a regular Organist, so the organs are played at least three Sundays a month and at special services.

We have a piano in Church and in the Parish Hall for use as required.

For other services we use our Hymnal 300 which has the full range of hymns and Communion music loaded and is very flexible and simple to programme.

Our Church Lads' and Church Girls' Brigade band play for our Family service, Whit Walk and Carol service.



Fabric & Buildings - Church

Church

The Church building is generally in a good state of repair. The last QI in 2019 indicated remedial work was required to the external stonework and the interior is now in need of redecoration, otherwise it is warm and welcoming. Following a break-in, in 2016, a Security alarm system was installed. The main steps approaching Church from the West, from Perth Street have a history of subsidence and require completely rebuilding. Previous schemes have been unsuccessful. Funds have been allocated to the project which we aim to complete in the next 2 years.

Chapel

The Chapel of the Living Christ has traditionally been used for mid-week services, Lent courses, PCC meetings and quiet prayer for healing during our Sunday Eucharist and other times. Some redecoration is required.

Vestry

The outer Vestry is equipped with modern cupboard storage for vestments and other equipment. The Inner vestry was refurbished in 2017 when we lost the use of the Vicarage study for our Parish Office. It is a working environment with storage for parish records and a safe.

Our “Wall”

Our flower ladies have a “wall” at the back of Church on which they produce displays linked with the current seasons or lectionary.





ST MARK

HEYSIDE

Heyside Parish Hall

A very large old Victorian Parish Hall, we are blessed with a building which is very well used, is flexible and despite its age, is in good repair. Both Upper and Lower halls are available to book on a regular or individual booking basis, with kitchen facilities and toilets on both floors, two rooms on both floors, and a stage in the upper hall which can be used for plays/shows or meetings etc. It does provide us with occasional challenges, but it is used daily by Church and Community groups and the income from the hall supports the parish financially.

Thankfully, the hall is self-financing with the surplus utilised to maintain the building and support general Church finances.

The Parish Hall is used on a weekly basis by 8 Church and community groups with over 350 local people attending.

Church Based Groups

Sunday School – Our group of 15-20, 3–13-year-olds meet fortnightly when the Children, Young people and leaders join the main congregation in Church for Communion and the end of the service. The two Lay leaders are supported and assisted by a group of Parents.

Wibbly Wobbly Jelly Tots – our Parent & Toddler group who meet weekly. They are led by an experienced children’s worker who provide facilities in our lower hall.

Church Lads’ and Church Girls’ Brigade – Our uniformed youth organisation is an integral part of the parish and is recognised as bringing many youngsters and their families into Church. They meet on two nights each week, with members from 4 years to 21 and draw their leadership from Church and the local community.

Community Groups

The Parish Hall is heavily used on a weekly basis by numerous groups who support the development of the local community. These groups include:

- Heyside Pre-School
- Happy Tappers Tap Dancing Group
- Zumba with Frankie
- Jean Griffiths Dance Academy
- Premier Diamonds Dance
- Compass Forest School

Church Gardens

Garden of Remembrance

The Garden of remembrance is situated on the North side of Church and was consecrated in 1961. The garden is available to any parishioners to lay the cremated remains of their loved ones, recording their anniversaries in our Book of Remembrance at the West end of Church. Anniversaries are remembered in our weekly Prayers of Intercession. Work is required to make the garden more accessible, especially to provide level access from the parking areas.

Church Gardens

The Church Gardens are well maintained by a team of volunteers with a contractor maintaining the grass and hedges.

War Memorial

Our War Memorial was erected in 1925, initially to remember those fallen during WWI. It has since become the focal point for our annual Service of Remembrance and as a local history landmark for the children of Heyside Pre-School and Blackshaw Lane Primary School.



Finances

We remain relatively comfortable from a financial point of view. We are grateful of the financial support of our congregation, which alongside income generated from the Parish Hall, allows us to fund the running of St Marks, any maintenance, whilst usually paying our Parish Share in full each year.

We have a restricted Building Fund which allows us to maintain the upkeep of our buildings. This is also included a reserved fund to support the re-building the Church steps.

Regular Giving

We use regular giving envelopes, standing orders and a plate collection to maximise our income. We have not undertaken a stewardship campaign recently. A pledge and shred event a few years ago, highlighted our needs and our reliance on our hall incomes and produced a very good response from the congregation.

We're proud to have paid our Parish Share on time and in full for 2023 after narrowly missing out in the previous 2 years as we recovered from the COVID19 pandemic. We had a good record of payments previously, understanding the needs of the Diocese and recognising that it enables us to benefit from the award of the Discount Incentive scheme. Payment which gives us an excellent start to each subsequent year.

Gift Aid

We actively claim Gift aid on all regular income and loose giving under the Gift Aid Small Donations scheme.

Outreach & Community Contacts

Blackshaw Lane Primary and Junior School

We have, for a few years now, opened our doors to children from Blackshaw Lane School as part of their Religious Studies to see what a Church looks like and have had some interesting responses to our guided tours!

More formally we have used “Experience Easter” and “Experience Christmas” to provide more focussed teaching about both those major Christian Festivals though displays and talks set out around Church.

We encourage our incumbent to be a regular visitor to the school assemblies.

Supported Charities

The PCC administers a percentage of our income which we donate to charities throughout the year. We support several charities through an annual donation and others through retiring collections. We carry out door to door collections for Christian Aid, weekly Food Bank collections, and our annual carol singing round the parish supports a children’s hospice.

During 2023, we have supported several charities including: The Booth Centre, Dr Kershaw’s Hospice, DePaul Nightstop & Lifeshare. And through the Church Lads’ and Church Girls’ Brigade we have supported, Martin House – Children’s Hospice, Guide dogs for the Blind & Oldham Food Bank.



Safeguarding

Our Parish Safeguarding Officer is actively involved with our Church groups, ensuring that leaders and helpers, when necessary are encouraged to undertake Safeguarding training and are covered by DBS certificates.

In 2023, we undertook a full refresh of our Safeguarding policies, process and DBS checks.

Health & Safety

Our Health and safety officer carries our regular reviews of the parish buildings and ground to ensure we take timely action if and when issues are found. We have an up-to-date Health & Safety Policy in place that was refreshed in 2023.

Social Media

You can learn more about St Marks through our website and various social media channels:

<https://www.stmarksheyside.org.uk>

<https://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/15990/>

<https://www.facebook.com/StMarksHeyside>

Appendices

You will find the following documents in the appendices:

1. 2019 QI
2. Archdeacons Visitation Summary
3. 2022 APCM Report & Accounts
4. 2023 APCM Report & Accounts
5. SfM Dashboard for the Parish of Heyside: St Mark

