



# Parish Profile



St Mary's Market Drayton, Shropshire. TF9 1AD

[www.stmarysmarketdrayton.org.uk](http://www.stmarysmarketdrayton.org.uk)

## Thank you ...

We are very pleased that you are intrigued enough by the advert for our Priest-in-Charge to carry on to read our Parish Profile; our prayer is that what you read will touch you, help you discern if God is calling you to St Marys and Market Drayton and then, hopefully, lead you to apply.



*'Lord, we have no Vicar'*, should be your intercessory prayer said Rev Paul Thomas, Archdeacon of Salop in a recent sermon reflecting on Mary's words to Jesus at the wedding in Canaan; a simple but effective prayer that is being echoed throughout our worship as *'Lord, we need a Vicar'*.

This document goes onto to reflect on what we hope from you and, hopefully, what you can expect from us.

Our outgoing minister in his last sermon said that as a community, St Mary's shines in three ways: *'Faith'*, *'Generosity'* and *'Commitment'* and urged us to *'Keep on, Keeping On'* using the example of the Thessalonians. As the Apostle Paul says, we all play a part, and would invite you to challenge and motivate us, walk alongside us, in the great adventure of sharing and showing the love of God for all.

We are excited by the opportunities this vacancy has presented and look forward, with anticipation, to the selection process and welcoming a new family member.

For an informal conversation contact: Justin Frankfort, Lay Chair PCC on 07970 017245.

**Philippians 4:19 "And my God will supply every need of yours according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus."**



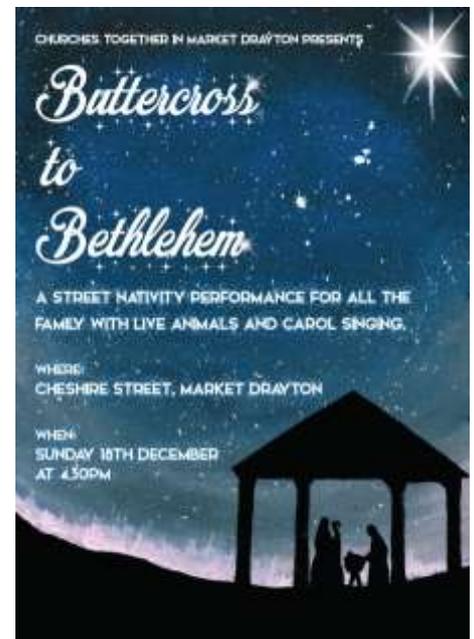
We are praying for a Vicar who will be energised by the way that God has led us so far, who will provide leadership, direction and initiative and who feels called to help us push on with our Vision and associated Mission Action and working alongside us in fulfilling our potential, as individuals and as a body of believers.

## Our Vision Statement

*In Christ's name, St Mary's seeks to Welcome all, to Lead people to Christ, to Nurture the faith and to Engage and Serve the community'*

That person will need to believe in the authority of Scripture and:

- be a gifted, Bible based teacher and preacher, able to expound the Bible and apply it relevantly to our lives;
- believe in the person and visible work of the Holy Spirit today and be able to exercise and oversee ministry involving the gifts of the Holy Spirit;
- seek, listen to and act upon what God is saying in their personal relationship with Him, and for the wider church;
- be self-aware and have a well-developed understanding of their strengths and weaknesses;
- be a visionary leader in order to help develop and implement a strategy for a full time families worker;
- be able to lead and develop the worship and prayer life of the parish in conjunction with others;
- be able to continue to foster our excellent, strong and extensive ecumenical relationships outside the Parish: actively participating in, and with, Market Drayton Churches Together, the Deanery, local institutions, civic authorities, the Armed Services and community activities.
- be an effective communicator



Whilst the above reflects the work of any Anglican vicar, the Vicar of Market Drayton faces some unusual challenges, ie. large and diverse congregations, a wide range of church activities, institutional and civic responsibilities and the strategic position of the Parish within the Deanery and Diocese.

We seek commitment to the distinctive characteristics of the congregations and the development of our vision. We therefore invite you to consider how you might rise to these challenges and what personal qualities and particular gifts you will bring to the Parish.

Bearing these points in mind, we are praying for someone who:

- has the energy, ability and faith to give spiritual leadership and encouragement to large and diverse congregations;
- has well developed interpersonal and leadership skills;
- has the desire to identify and supervise new leaders and release them into ministry;
- recognises the need for engagement with families and provides us with the experience to build this rapidly;
- has the ability to foster teamwork within the staff, PCC and congregation;
- has experience of alternative church, its challenges and opportunities to reach out to the wider community;
- understands the way home groups can be used to instruct, teach and cherish people outside the main services;
- has pastoral gifts to engage with and support individuals in the congregation and the community at significant points in their lives;
- will challenge and nourish theological reflection on local, national and international issues.



This is a demanding job, but we believe a highly rewarding one, for someone seeking a new challenge. We are looking for someone who will help to discern and lead energetically into the future God has planned for us. While the demands and expectations are high, the congregations are active and supportive.

We are praying for the right person to be touched by the spirit and lead this church family.

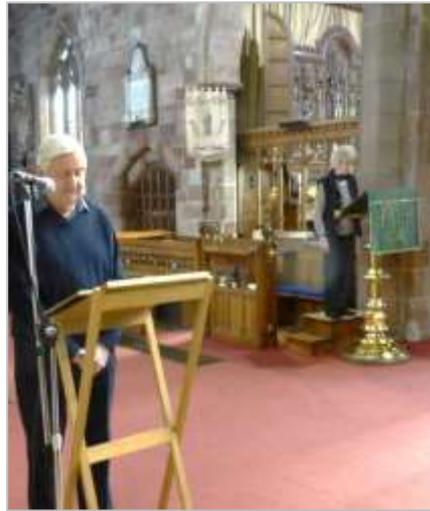
## About St Mary's



If facts and figures are your thing, here are some of ours :

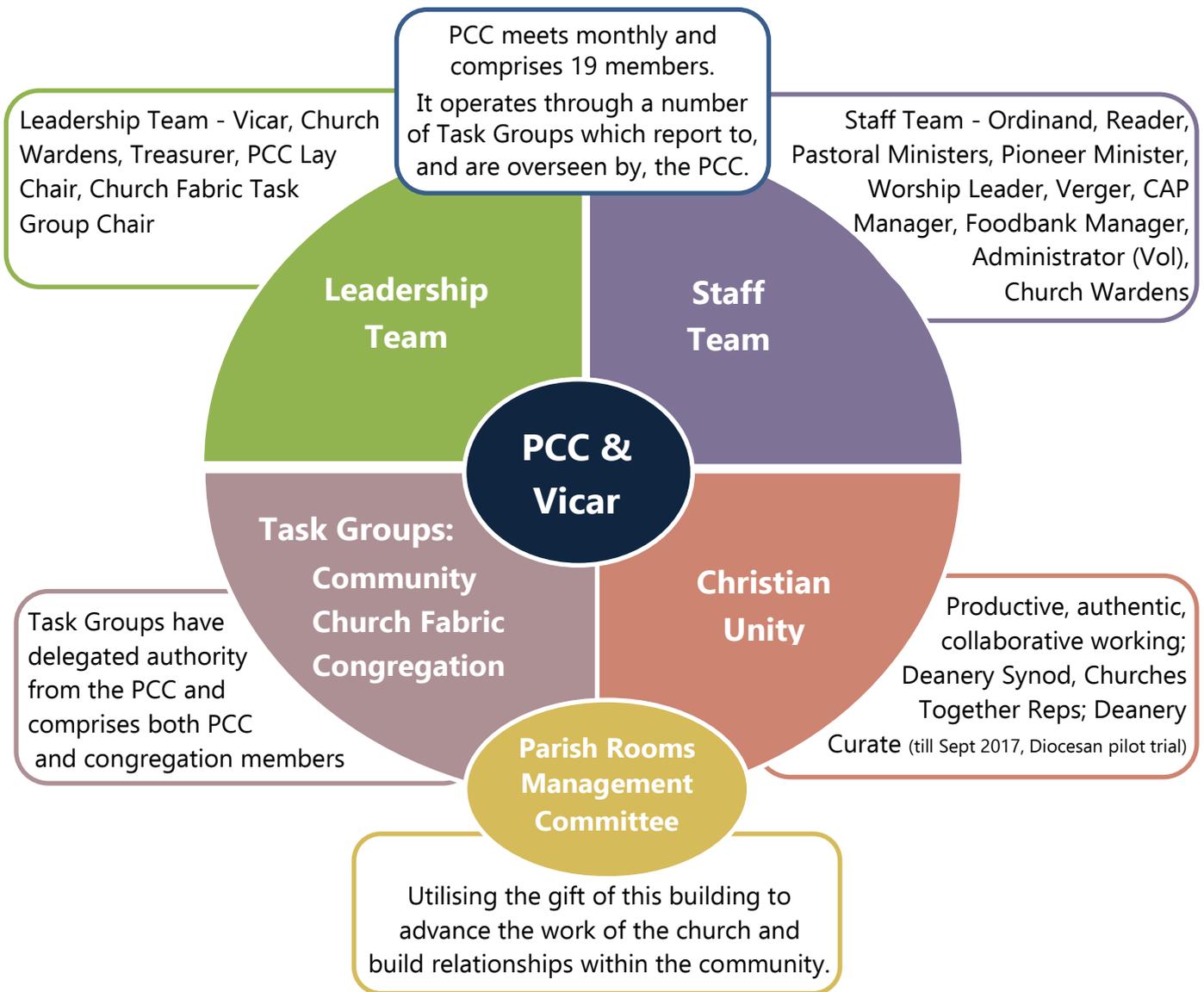
- our worshipping community comprises 347 people
- we've had 209 services over the last year
- the average Sunday attendance is 119
- we are mentioned in the Domesday Book
- we have some Kempe stained glass windows

Find out more including service and congregation details, images and see our Annual Report and Financial Statements on our [website](#).



Something to ponder ...

- 30% of members live in the parish
- 48% of members live in Market Drayton but not the parish
- 22% of members live outside of Market Drayton
- The population of the parish is only approximately 5,000



# About Market Drayton

Market Drayton is located in the top right hand corner of Shropshire – a typical English shire, with lots of history, oak trees and farms. It is also within easy reach of Birmingham, Manchester, and Chester and J15 of the M6 20 minutes away. London is an hour and a quarter away via the Pendolino train service from Stafford.



Several large employers operate in Market Drayton. Müller Yogurt & Desserts and Palethorpes (part of Northern Foods) – both food based, and a Prison. Market Drayton is a dormitory town with a higher than average ratio of elementary occupation workers.

## Occupation of residents (<http://www.marketdrayton.gov.uk/neighbourhood-plan.html>)

|  | Market Drayton<br>% of resident workers | England +Wales<br>% of resident workers |
|--|---|---|
| Managers, professional & technical occupations | 35                                      | 40                                      |
| Administrative & skilled occupations           | 34                                      | 40                                      |
| Elementary occupations & machine operatives    | 31                                      | 20                                      |

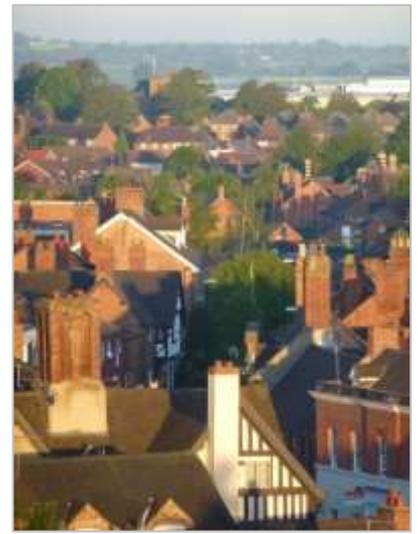
The population of Market Drayton is approx 12,000, we are the third largest market town in Shropshire. 60% of the population are of working age, with 30% under 25 and 18.8% over 65. It is worth noting that despite the beautiful surroundings Market Drayton ranks in the top 20% most deprived areas in England (ref: Index of Multiple Deprivation).



Over the last few years, the consumer experience in the town has been augmented with several national chains such as Wetherspoons, Argos and Homebase. Whilst this has enhanced the variety of stores, the Wednesday market and the Saturday farmers market are still the jewels in the crown of the town - as is, the now national brewery, Joules.

St Mary's Parish occupies the eastern half of the town, with a range of housing from new executive housing, 1960's council housing; over half the houses were built before the 20<sup>th</sup> century. St Mary's population does not reflect the town's, with an older church family, but we have seen steady growth in new church members, albeit not at the younger end. This is a challenge that the PCC has targeted to address through the

appointment of a families worker, linking into our large Messy Church family, CAP, Foodbank and Who Let the Dads Out as well as the schools and Uniformed youth groups. Market Drayton has a large number of ex armed services personnel who were based at Tern Hill camp or Shawbury. Within the town, there is one secondary school, though many students are bussed to other schools in Shropshire, Telford & Wrekin and Staffordshire. There is an infant and junior school and a primary school with many village primary schools in surrounding areas.



Part of the Shropshire Union canal network, St Marys has active Boaters Fellowship links and extensive walking routes.

Find out more ...

- <http://discovermarketdrayton.co.uk/>
- <http://www.marketdrayton.gov.uk/>
- <https://www.northshropshire.co.uk/>
- <https://www.shropshiretourism.co.uk/about-shropshire.html>
- <http://www.originalshrewsbury.co.uk/>
- <http://www.enjoystaffordshire.com/>
- <http://www.visitcheshire.com/>

**1 John 5: 14-15 “And this is the confidence that we have toward him, that if we ask anything according to his will he hears us. And if we know that he hears us in whatever we ask, we know that we have the requests that we have asked of him.”**