

March 2026

The United Benefice of Hathersage with Bamford and Grindleford

Permanent part-time stipendiary role
framed as four working days a week including Sunday



Transformed Lives | Growing Church | Building Community
THE KINGDOM OF GOD - GOOD NEWS FOR ALL

We are an established benefice of three churches with a shared vision of what our Lord Jesus Christ wants of us. With a range of communities we are bound together by a shared commitment to build our churches and parish communities in love and partnership with each other.

We have committed leadership teams in each parish and a desire to find ways of supporting our existing older congregations, connecting with younger people, reaching out to our many visitors and being a useful and valued part of our local communities.

We are committed to outreach, working with our schools and partnering with our brothers and sisters of other denominations.

We are looking to appoint someone who will inspire and lead us in our worship, congregational life and the delivery of our mission priorities.

Our Vision

Growing Disciples, Growing Congregations, Growing Leaders

Key tasks of the role are to:

- Nurture and disciple church members into a deeper relationship with God, enabling us to put our faith into practice in daily life.
- Equip people for mission and ministry, serving our communities and sustaining our Christian presence
- Expand our mission and outreach opportunities amongst children, single people and families to grow younger
- Grow our churches building new worshipping communities in our existing and new community partnerships
- Reach out to visitors and walkers forming pilgrims who encounter faith within our heritage
- Lead our churches in challenging injustice and caring for creation through the Eco Church Awards.
- Shape our structures creating new and innovative ways of working together across the benefice.

We are looking for someone who:

- Is dependent on prayer and the Holy Spirit.
- Teaches and feeds us from God's Word.
- Is a creative and inspiring leader with proven collaborative leadership qualities and the ability to empower, encourage and excite.
- Has experience of growing churches - particularly to a younger generation.
- Is a mission enabler, especially committed to working with schools and with a heart for community.
- Enjoys being a pastoral and visible presence in the community.

In return we offer a flexible and supportive approach. We are prepared for, and excited by, the possibility of change in the way we worship, how we are organised and how we use the resources (including financial) at our disposal.

We are open to discussion with the successful candidate about how we might fund ministerial support for the incumbent to support the work of building God's kingdom in the benefice.



The Venerable Nicky Fenton

Archdeacon of Derbyshire Peak and Dales



I am delighted that you are interested in finding out more about this unique and exciting post.

We are looking for an enthusiastic priest with a pastoral heart and passion for maximising missional opportunities in these rural communities who have significant numbers of visitors. The churches have a real heart for mission and are longing for someone who will lead them deeper into discipleship and help them reach out to all those God sends their way.

We are praying for someone who will love people, recognise and seize opportunities, engage creatively and missionally, sustain the existing church life, develop lay ministries and form new partnerships aiming in all things to bring new people to faith.

There is significant potential for mission building on the work with schools, existing community engagement, in the areas of tourism, visitor engagement and pilgrimage and through the environment and care for creation.

We are seeking a leader who can inspire others to use their gifts and work in partnership to transform lives through growing church and building community.

You will find a willingness and energy to look outward, to work in partnership with others and an aspiration to grow the churches through generous faith, courageous hope, and life-giving love. Teamwork will be of fundamental importance.

At a pivotal time in the life of the Diocese of Derby, this role offers an innovative opportunity to work and model a new way of leading churches into growth, partnering across boundaries.

Together we are committed to deepening relationships with God, serving our local contexts, challenging injustice and making new disciples. These churches have real potential to make a difference in our desire to prioritise growing younger, being greener and becoming more diverse.

So do read on and if you are wondering whether this might be where God is calling you, please contact me and request an informal conversation so I can answer any questions and we can begin exploring the possibility together.

N Fenton

Revd Mark Griffin

Assistant area dean

The Bamford, Grindleford and Hathersage Benefice is located in the east of the Peak Deanery. The three villages are a considerable draw for locals and those from further afield, attracting a significant number of visitors especially walkers and hikers. It is a beautiful part of the world and a benefice that is moving forward into God's future.

The Peak Deanery stands at the north of the Diocese of Derby, and as well as looking south, parts of the deanery look towards Sheffield and Manchester. It has three larger towns – Bakewell, Buxton and Glossop, as well as a number of villages – some housing commuters, others more traditional rural-based Peak villages – but all with their own unique characteristics from centres of walking like Edale in the High Peak to estate villages like Edensor in the White Peak.

Although geographically large, the deanery works well, continuing to develop collaborative ministry and offering a sense of identity in a varied landscape. The clergy chapter meets about six times a year, giving collegiality and connection amidst the challenges of parish ministry. You will find a supportive and encouraging group of lay and ordained colleagues in Peak Deanery as we share the task of building the Kingdom in our deanery.

Community

	Bamford	Grindleford	Hathersage
Population	1193	875	1808
Population Density	29.2	209.34	184.63
% Aged 0-19	15.53	17.71	17.87
% Aged 20-69	64.28	61.63	58.27
% Aged 70+	20.19	20.66	23.86
% Christian	50.99	47.85	50.53
% No religion	43.27	44.93	41.67
% White	97.78	96.67	98.19
IMD (as at June 2025)	84%	98%	97%

The benefice is located in north Derbyshire within the Peak District National Park, situated at the southern end of the Pennine Way and surrounded by majestic hills and dales. We have three large reservoirs near us, a haven for wildlife and a magnet for walkers and cyclists. We are on the boundary between the Dark Peak gritstone and the White Peak limestone which leads to fascinating geology and a variety of flora and fauna. In particular, our moorlands are very important and are the focus of much conservation work, for example, restoring sphagnum moss and re-wilding.

Employment is in tourism, farming, care for the environment, quarrying and service industries. Many people commute to nearby urban centres. Unemployment is relatively low. Each village has a primary school whilst secondary education is mainly provided at Hope Valley College in Hope with alternative provision in Bakewell, Buxton, Chesterfield and Sheffield.

The range of facilities including shops, restaurants and cafes, visitor accommodation, sporting and medical facilities varies from village to village. There is road and rail access to Sheffield (11 miles) and Manchester (36 miles). The Hope Valley benefits from a huge and varied range of clubs and societies covering sporting activities and much else from Art to Yoga. All age groups are catered for and support of the elderly is particularly important. Rural traditions are central and the church often has a role to play in these.



Across the Churches

Current Worship Pattern

	Bamford	Grindleford	Hathersage
First Sunday	11am Holy Community at St John's	9:30am Holy Communion	9:30am Morning Worship
Second Sunday	11am Bamford Methodist Church	9:30am Morning Worship	9:30am Holy Communion
Third Sunday	11am Third Sunday Service at St John's - lay led	9:30am Holy Communion	10am Sunday Special
Fourth Sunday	11am Bamford Methodist Church	9:30am Morning Worship	9:30am Holy Communion
Fifth Sunday	10am Benefice Worship together in each village in turn.		

In Bamford the pattern of alternating worship between the Anglican and Methodist church building has developed under the name 'Village Church'. Anglicans organise the staffing of the first and third Sunday services whilst the Methodists make arrangements for the second and fourth Sunday.

In Grindleford a Sunday morning service is held each week usually at 9.30 am, alternating Holy Communion and Morning Prayer; the fifth Sunday being the joint Benefice service. Readings and prayers are lay-led. Our services and other church events are promoted through the village newsletter, online via 'A church near you' and via the village WhatsApp group 'Grindleford Ramblings'.

The main service in Hathersage takes place at 9.30 am on three Sundays each month, with two of these being Holy Communion. This congregation tends to be older, enjoying the traditional style of worship with the choir leading the hymns. Bell ringing by a growing and committed team precedes each service, and prayer ministry is offered fortnightly.

'Sunday Special', part of our mission and outreach with families, meets monthly at 9.30 am over coffee and croissants. A more informal style of service at 10am is based around a bible theme or verse, with opportunities for further exploration through craft, discussion, teaching and reflection, and is well supported by the existing congregation.



Electoral Roll

	Bamford	Grindleford	Hathersage
Electoral Roll	25	25	53

Church Attendance (principal services)

Type of Service	Bamford		Grindleford		Hathersage	
	Number Held	Average Attendance	Number Held	Average Attendance	Number Held	Average Attendance
Holy Communion	15	20	18	11	21	38
Morning Worship Sundays	3	16	19	14	13	35
Third Sunday lay-led	7	21				
Sunday Special					7	34
Benefice Communion and Patronal Festival	2	28	2	30	3	52
Baptism / Thanksgiving for a child	1	34			5	45
Weddings / Blessings	1	80	2	110	5	98
Funerals / Memorials	4	85	5	70	10	120
Burial of Ashes in Memorial Service					3	15
Messy Church					10	35
School Services					8	140

Ministry and Governance Teams

PCCs meet bi-monthly. Currently there are ten members on Bamford PCC, eight members on Grindleford's and 14 members on Hathersage PCC. Bamford has one churchwarden, Hathersage two and currently Grindleford is without a warden.

Bamford's licensed lay minister of many years retired in November 2025 but is still active; consequently there are now two LLMs within the Benefice. We have one retired PTO clergy.

There is one parish safeguarding officer who works across the benefice. We take safeguarding seriously. Members are responsible for ensuring that their training is up to date.

As a benefice we are meeting together every fortnight to pray about the vacancy, that God would lead and guide us on the way forward.

Finance (Figures for 2024)

	Bamford	Grindleford	Hathersage
Common Fund Requested	£13,680	£13,342	£30,073
Common Fund Paid	£13,680	£13,342	£30,073
Total Income	£27,545	£94,333 (~£40k)	£100,661
Total Expenditure	£29,436	£165,135 (~£34k)	£75,126
Restricted Reserves	-£4,980	£52,526	£2,652
Unrestricted Reserves	£59,000	£31,595	£401,182

Bamford

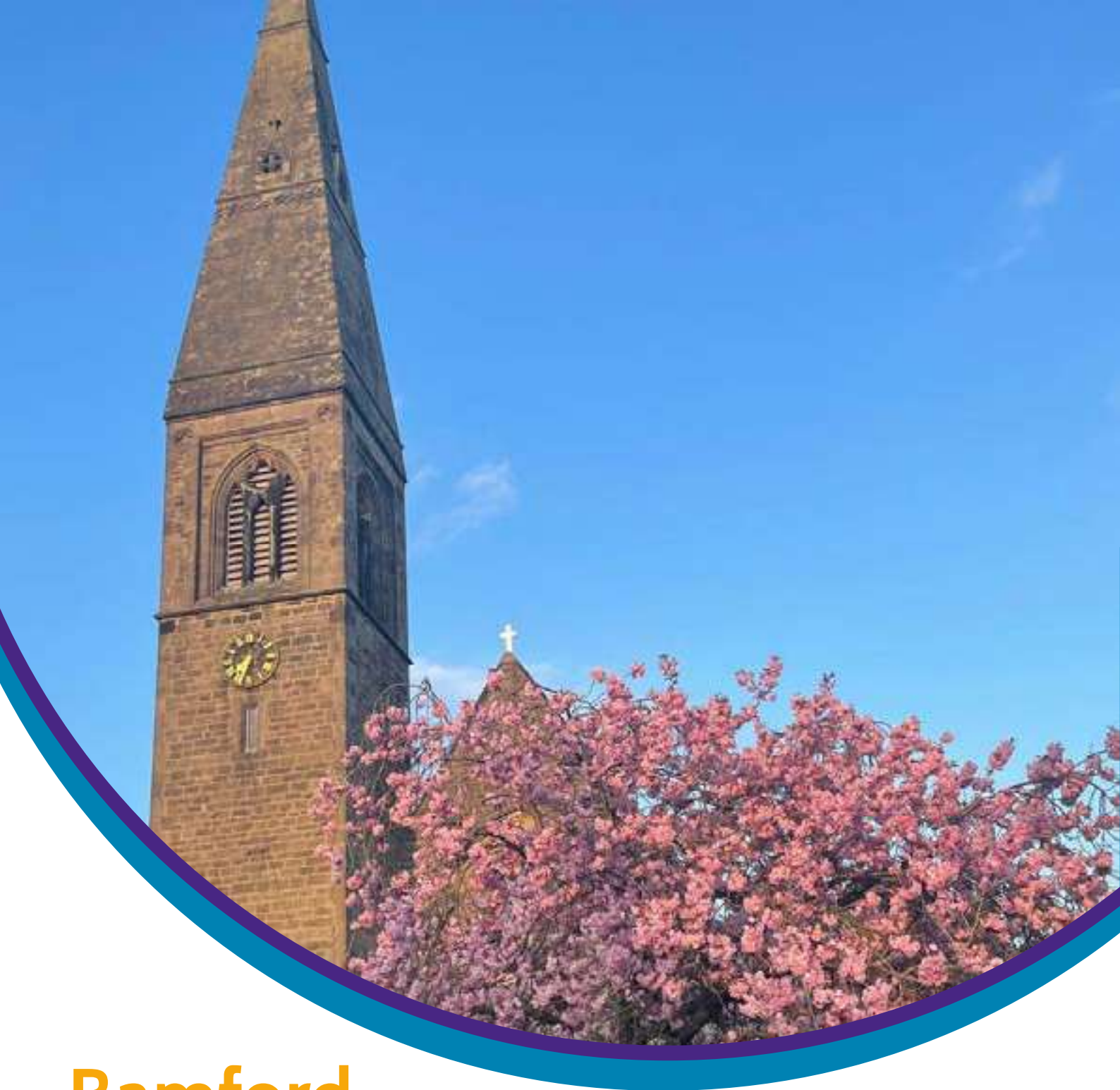
We are part way through a programme of investing some of our reserves in improving the usability of the church for congregational and community purposes and have drawn up plans for a new disabled entrance. We look forward to considering further initiatives with our new incumbent and are eager to use our reserves to grow Christian ministry in Bamford.

Grindleford

Figures are distorted by a re-roofing project which was substantially undertaken in 2024 at a cost of £131k, partly paid for from grants and a draw-down of accrued savings. Normally income is around £40k and expenditure £34k. A generous bequest generates additional income available for both maintenance and mission. Patrons of St Helen's and church members gifting through the Parish Giving Scheme contribute to church maintenance.

Hathersage

A significant project of quinquennial repairs was completed in 2025 with grant funding meeting a high proportion of costs. The adjacent Bell Room is used for after-church coffee, midweek meetings with regular and 'one-off' bookings. Due to the care lavished on it, it has served us well for many years. However permissions are being sought for a complete refurbishment with a new kitchen and toilets, a sustainable heating system, improved accessibility and a more open and modern layout with additional storage. Although we are pursuing various funding streams, we anticipate the need to invest some of our reserves into this project.



Bamford

In area, Bamford is the largest parish in the Diocese. It contains a rural village and hamlets within a huge area of Dark Peak moorland and the Ladybower Reservoir complex. There is a community owned pub in the village and very active arts, crafts, music and environmental groups in which church members play an active role.

St John the Baptist is a Grade 2* church built by Butterfield in 1860 with a capacity of around 100. It is generally in good condition with a kitchen area, a children's play area and an accessible toilet. The church is open daily, unmanned. Adjacent to the church is the Moore Memorial Hall which is owned by the Diocese and run by a Hall Management Committee. The church and churchyard are maintained by regular working parties which include villagers who don't normally attend church as well as volunteers who undertake routine activities.

Our congregation is largely made up of retired people who are still very active; they are very friendly and supportive of any activities undertaken. Since 2024 we have worshipped together with Bamford Methodists as 'Village Church'. Most feel it a positive move to have a bigger single congregation rather than two smaller ones; consequently we are committed to working closely together.

Weekly services provide a wide range of options from informal lay-led services to Morning Prayer and Holy Communion. Readings and prayers are normally lay-led. Refreshments are served at each service. Prayer is an important part of our worship and is supplemented weekly by a small group prayer meeting and a prayer email.

Music is varied in our services. Although we have a traditional pipe organ we have recently supplemented it with a Yamaha Clavinova keyboard and a Hymnal Plus system to provide a richer musical experience. We have a couple of experienced musicians from the folk and classical traditions who provide musical leadership in our services as well as putting on performances. Bell ringing precedes the main Sunday service in St John's.

Pastoral care is provided through friendship networks in the village but we are very interested in ways to enhance provision to our ageing population.

The church is open during daylight hours and is much visited by walkers on the Hope Valley Pilgrimage Trail and Chinese students (we have welcome notices in Chinese and some Chinese-language John's gospels and other literature). Activities include occasional charity fundraising concerts, an annual sheepdog service and the Remembrance Service. We collect for the local food bank and support village organisations by putting on Well and Crib Blessing services.





Grindleford

The church of St Helen's was consecrated in 1910. It was an ambitious Gothic revival project which thankfully was substantially modified to become a more modest building with a particularly well-lit, practical nave and comfortable seating. The church is open daily. The fabric of the church is in good order and the roof was completely replaced in 2024 with improved insulation and an array of solar panels installed. This project was fundamental to our achieving the Bronze Eco Church Award in June 2025. Several local churches have visited us since then to assist their efforts to manage similar projects. Facilities include good wheelchair/disabled access and an accessible toilet. We have recently received faculty approval for the installation of secondary glazing in the nave and this work is expected to be completed early in 2026.

Large swathes of the churchyard have been set aside for a wildflower meadow and the woodland at the churchyard boundary has been re-wilded.

Our greatest challenge is the shrinking of our regular weekly congregation. The weekly attendance at normal services is 12 or 13 people. The congregation is aging and we have sadly lost former regular members. Our mission, hope and prayer is to establish a succession in our congregation so that St Helen's will continue to thrive well into the future.

Much effort has been put into creating a warm relationship between the church and the local community; special services and events designed for all age groups are well attended, and the church is used extensively as a place for prayer and to find peace. This outreach has been successful and the church is valued by the village community, but it has not translated into an increase in the numbers regularly worshipping or a decrease in the age profile of the congregation.

Remembrance and the annual Carol and Christingle services normally see the church full with around 90 people. Easter, Harvest and summer holidays are celebrated with child-friendly events where the church is open with food and drink; activities provided including Easter egg hunts, churchyard nature trails and craft sessions. The church nave is a flexible space with easily removable seating which has been used for art exhibitions, concerts and talks which are well attended.

St Helen's is one of the churches on the Hope Pilgrimage route through the Hope Valley from Edale to Eyam. Walkers regularly stop here, enjoying a drink from the shop whilst taking in the peace and tranquillity of the church. Community groups that regularly use the church include the Grindleford Book Group and the Junior Gardening Club.

Grindleford Community Shop is housed in the original choir vestry. Run by a manager and volunteers, it serves both the local community and visitors to the village, especially walkers and cyclists. It is open seven days a week, closing on Sunday morning and when the church is being used for a funeral or wedding. The presence of the shop has served to place the church building at the centre of the village community and fostered much good will. The visitors' book is full of appreciative comments about the peaceful, welcoming and prayerful feeling of the church building. The shop manager and volunteers are very supportive in preparing the church for weddings and funerals. Tables and chairs at the back of the church are available for shop customers to use.





Hathersage

The village

Hathersage is a vibrant village having a very strong community spirit, boasting numerous and varied activities appropriate for children, young people, families and adults. The heated outdoor swimming pool is open throughout the year. Older residents are well cared for through a range of support networks, both on an individual basis and within groups, with good health facilities available for all.

There is a good range of shops, accommodation and eateries including some independent traders as well as two small supermarkets and a petrol station. A number of 'outdoor' pursuit shops cater for the many walkers, climbers, bikers and visitors to the beautiful Peak District. Good transport links to Sheffield, Manchester and neighbouring villages makes Hathersage an attractive place to live.

Derbyshire traditions such as Well Dressing and Gala Week are celebrated in July. Traditional Derbyshire Carols are sung in the local pubs in December, and also at the Beer and Carols evening held in the church which is well supported and enjoyed by many locals, regardless of faith.

There are three churches within the village who work collaboratively through Christians Together. These events include a Lent study group, a Good Friday Walk of Witness, a remembering service for those who have been bereaved, and services celebrating the Christian calendar and mission.

Church building

The church, a grade 1 listed building, underwent extensive improvement in 2017 to install new lighting and heating systems. The pews in the north and south aisles and the Lady Chapel were replaced with chairs, providing more versatility, accessibility and seating for around 200. Having gained the Eco church bronze award, we are now working towards the silver.

Congregations and style of worship

Several families have welcomed Messy Church, a joint and growing venture with the Methodist Church and held in their hall each month at 4pm. Innovative and exciting games and activities based on a bible theme are followed by our celebration worship, finishing with a simple meal together.

'Ladies that Lunch' meet monthly in the Bell Room to share fellowship, experiences and thoughts around a theme or bible verse, with visits to nearby churches, charities and exhibitions enjoyed by all.

'Bokes Breakfast' attracts men central to church life and others who are more comfortable towards the fringe. A full English breakfast is served monthly in the Bell Room and usually followed by a speaker who shares how their faith has helped them in daily life, with questions and discussion by all.

St Michael's CofE (A) school holds collective worship each term in the church, as well as their Christmas celebrations and leavers' service in July. The church is represented within the school through foundation governors, directing the Junior Church choir each week, and by leading collective worship.

The Remembrance service is arranged with the Royal British Legion, with attendance by uniformed organisations and the local community usually exceeding 200.

We also welcome members of the Longshaw Sheep Dog Trials each August for their annual thanksgiving service, when a shepherd and sheepdog come forward for a blessing.

Mission activities and community engagement

Financial support for mission remains an important aspect of our church life, and this increases each year. Our charitable giving includes local, national and international Christian charities. We also respond to emergency appeals at home and abroad, whilst providing financial and practical donations to two local foodbanks and the Archer Project which supports the homeless in Sheffield.

Repair Café is held quarterly at the Methodist Church Hall when a number of 'experts' provide advice and simple repairs on a range of items. Our maxim 'We repair things, God repairs people', offers a prayer corner and a prayer tree. Many come along for bacon butties and to catch up with friends.



From January to March we offer Warm Space, 11am to 3pm. Hot drinks, homemade soup and cakes are served and games and music are offered, contributing to social interaction, warmth and friendship after the busyness of Christmas when some of our guests feel isolated due to cold weather and short days.

In the south aisle, the Ark children's library provides a welcoming and cosy space with bean bags and bookcases where families can enjoy reading together or play with the toys. This is a well-used haven for local and visiting families as evidenced by the many positive comments in the visitors' book.

As there are few activities locally for young people, the two sessions of 'Dangerous Things for Teenagers,' were very well received. Although currently on hold as the team was becoming overstretched, the concept provides a great opportunity to reach young people with the right team at the helm.

Hope Valley Christian Youth Association has trustees from all churches in the valley, and supports two outreach activities whilst providing Christian books at Christmas and Easter to eight primary schools.

The church attracts many visitors as Little John's grave is reputed to be in the churchyard, having an interpretation board next to it. Whilst staying at the vicarage, Charlotte Bronte discovered a wealth of material in the church, the Eyre graves and surrounding area which she used in her novel Jane Eyre.

A digital visitors' guide is currently being created, with QR codes sensitively positioned around the church to support the illustrated paper version of the visitors' guide book. We are working with the local Scout Group to develop the children's trail as part of their digital citizen badge.

The beauty and sense of presence makes the church a popular venue with visiting choirs, bell ringers and weddings. Creative art weekends celebrated God's creation and good gifts. Many compliments are received on the appearance of the immaculate churchyard, lovingly tended by a dedicated team.

Discipleship, nurturing and pastoral care

This is mainly undertaken within strong friendship and support networks. In response to a suggestion from the Sunday Special 'chat' zone, a small Advent study group emerged with an interest expressed in further bible study.

Although we tend to be an older congregation, our 'can do' attitude remains strong. We are keen to build on our mission and outreach opportunities, particularly with younger generations, to ensure that the life and witness of St Michael and All Angels church continues for many years to come.



Schools

Bamford Primary School

(local authority). The school is situated next door to the Methodist Church and the two are closely connected: physically, practically and spiritually. This connection extends to St John's since much of the contact between school and church is ecumenical. There are currently 57 pupils on the roll, a stable staff team led by a warm, empathetic head and a supportive PTA.

Together with the Methodists, we fund a worker to run a weekly After School Club and volunteers drawn from both congregations assist. The church building is used by the school for concerts, harvest and Christmas services. There is also a village pre-school.

Grindleford Primary School (local authority).

There are currently 41 pupils supported by nine staff, consisting of two teachers, a deputy head, a (shared) head teacher, school secretary and teaching assistants. There is also a village pre-school. Clergy contribute to regular assemblies at the school. The school uses the church for their annual carol concert and nativity play (always well attended), and for talks from local church leaders.

Hathersage, St Michael's CofE (aided).

The headteacher writes: "Vision: 'Jesus told him, go and do likewise'. In our school we do this through 'Learning, Laughing, Living'. Our vision allows us to learn from Jesus, our teacher. The learning from the parable created happiness and good wellbeing – laughing. It helps us to take forward the compassion and charity that we can show to others and also realise that each of us at some time needs the help of others through no fault of our own. We want our school community to reflect the learning as they live and 'go and do likewise'.

"We also have a focus on six Christian values, which we call our 'Golden Values'. Our Golden Values of hope, friendship, respect, honesty, perseverance and forgiveness are focused on during our daily act of collective worship and we encourage our pupils to display these values every day.



“Our school is very much at the heart of the local community and it is a real privilege to be part of the school community as it is welcoming, nurturing and inclusive. Pupils are delightful; they are inquisitive and have a passion to learn. Although many of our children are not practising Christians, they are very respectful of different faiths and they enjoy developing their own spirituality.

“We work very closely with our wonderful church. We have one of our collective worships in church every term which is led by our pupils alongside the vicar and our vicar comes into school to lead collective worship in school. We have a leavers’ service for Year 6 pupils and hold all our Christmas and Nativity performances in church; these are led by the vicar and are well attended by our families. We try to support the church in any way that we can. Our recent SIAMS inspection stated that the work we do with the churches in Hathersage and engaging families in church has developed meaningful connections across generations, enriching community relationships.

“In a new vicar we are looking for someone who has a positive outlook, who is enthusiastic and who works with us to help develop our pupil’s spirituality and passion for going and doing likewise. We would like someone who continues to nurture the connections to the church that we already have and who shares our passion of ensuring that we equip our whole school community to live life in all its fullness.



House

The vicarage is located in Hathersage, adjacent to the churchyard. It was built in 1986 in the grounds of the Old Vicarage which is now a private house. It is a four-bedroomed house with single integral garage, ample parking and a medium-sized garden with open views across rolling hills towards Stanage Edge. The original walled vegetable garden belongs to it and is at present cultivated by local residents for their own use on a 'grace and favour' basis, rather than any agreed right.



How to Apply

Thank you for reading this profile. We very much look forward to hearing from you and will be happy to supply any further information you may need. If you have any specific questions or would value an informal pre-application conversation then please contact: Ven Nicky Fenton, Archdeacon of Derbyshire Peak and Dales Nicky.fenton@derby.anglican.org

The Diocese of Derby is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children, young people and vulnerable adults. All post holders and volunteers are expected to share this commitment. Click [here](#) for further information on our commitment to safeguarding. All appointments are subject to acceptable pre-appointment checks, including a satisfactory Enhanced DBS Check. Your data is processed in line with our Privacy Notice.

If you have a disability or are neurodivergent, we encourage your application. We particularly welcome applicants from UKME /GMH backgrounds. All appointments will be made on the merit of skill and experience relative to the role.

Be assured you are held in our prayers as you discern whether God might be calling you to this role.