Welcome to St Mary’s. We are a Church of England parish which is committed to Growing, Giving and Serving. We aim to be an inclusive and diverse church where prayer and worship is at the centre of our lives. We seek to put the Gospel into action and we want to give with joy. The Sunday Eucharist is the high point of our shared life as we come more deeply into the presence of God week by week. We are a church on the move, we engage with the reality of life and we are growing in all sorts of ways. We want to welcome new members and to be a place of hospitality wherever you are on your faith journey.

This leaflet is designed to give you an overview of the church and a flavour of our priorities. The church building is an ancient holy place but we are a forward thinking and progressive community seeking to make sense of our faith and our lives in the twenty first century. Our worship is dignified and reverent with high quality choral music. We hope you find a warm and genuine welcome here and we pray that St. Mary’s may be a place where you can encounter the wonder of God. We look forward to seeing you soon.

Welcome message from Chris Wedge, Parish Priest

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With all blessings, Chris

Regular worship at St Mary’s

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Service</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sunday</td>
<td>0800</td>
<td>Eucharist</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1030</td>
<td>Sung Eucharist</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>0730</td>
<td>Morning Prayer*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>0915</td>
<td>Eucharist in St Mary’s School</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>* Services marked * take place in the Oratory at the Rectory, Church Lane</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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Children are a valued part of our community. Junior Church (for children aged 5-11) meets on Sundays at 1030 during school term. It is very well attended with the children gathering first in church, before moving to Church Lane Community Centre, and returning to church in time for Holy Communion. The group is run by a committed team of DBS-checked adult volunteer leaders and helpers. Contact Emma Chadwick: emma.chadwick@live.co.uk

On the first Sunday in the month there is an All Age Eucharist at 1030. Children over the age of 7 who have regularly attended junior church are prepared for admission to communion before confirmation. Children too young to attend Junior Church are very welcome to use the Tower Room during our services. Toys and baby changing facilities are available.
Welcome to St Mary’s Prestwich

Pre-School Praise
A short time of prayer and praise - planned with toddlers in mind - followed by refreshments for parents and toddlers. Weekly on Thursday mornings during school term from 1000-1100.

The Prestwich Mission Partnership Youth Group is for young people aged 9 – 14 and meets in Church Lane Community Centre on Sunday evenings during school term from 1830-2000. Contact Adele McKie 0161 773 9544.

The 22nd Prestwich Scout Group is sponsored by St Mary’s and is the largest group in the district. The group runs four nights a week in the Scout Den on Church Lane, comprising a beaver lodge, two cub packs, two scout troops and two explorer units. Contact Julia Dutton, Scout Leader 07931 293470.

St Mary’s Church of England Primary School is a voluntary aided school with strong links to St Mary’s.

The school Eucharist on Fridays is an integral part of the Christian ethos of the school and is highly valued by both the school and the church community. The most recent OFSTED inspection judged the school to be Outstanding and great value is placed on high standards in every aspect of school life. The school’s mission is to be an outstanding school; providing high standards of learning for all; giving excellent care and attention for each individual; promoting self-confidence; and serving God’s World. More information is at http://www.schoolswire.org/public/stmary003.html

St Mary’s Choir
Music is an important part of our worship and we value the ministry of St Mary’s Choir. We are keen to welcome new members who feel they have a reasonable singing voice, a good ear, a sense of humour (most important!) and a willingness to be moulded. Rehearsals are on Thursday evenings. Contact Gary Hulme, Organist and Choirmaster by email at gary.hulme2@btinternet.com.

Baptism (Christening) takes place regularly at St Mary’s.

We are delighted to welcome those who wish to be baptised into Christ’s church. Contact our Baptism Coordinator Barbara Dutton 0161 773 8647.

The Prayer Tree in the Wilton Chapel at St Mary’s is a focus for our prayers. You can light a candle and leave a prayer on the Tree. Prayer intentions are removed periodically and offered on the altar at one of our services.

Christian Education & Nurture
Every Spring and Autumn we normally run prayer and study groups as a means of deepening our life of faith.
Regular courses are offered in preparation for First Holy Communion and for Confirmation. Our parish calendar includes other opportunities for nurturing faith, such as pilgrimages to holy sites and occasions for quiet prayer & reflection.

Social events are an important part of our parish life. There is an annual programme of activities like a parish barbecue, a curry night, pie & peas, a champagne party at Easter, day trips, and special events for children.

**St Mary’s Churchyard** is a working burial ground and a wonderful place for all who love nature, history and ecology.

**St Mary’s Churchyard Action Group** plays a vital role in the maintenance and improvement of this ancient site and we welcome new volunteers to help. Contact Bill Cottam 0161 798 6489.

**Giving to St Mary’s**

God calls us into a life of love and abundant blessings.

Giving and our use of money are important spiritual issues. Please consider how God is calling you to make an appropriate level of giving towards the life of the parish. Our giving is a key part of living out our faith. To find out more, please contact Adele McKie 0161 773 9544.

**St Mary’s supports Porch Boxes**

A local charity providing crisis packs to individuals or families in need. The packs include enough food for two days and some basic toiletries. Donation boxes can be found in the Wilton Chapel at St Mary’s. To find out more, see www.porchboxes.org.uk.

Other charities regularly supported by St Mary’s include **Christian Aid** which helps the world’s poorest www.christianaid.org.uk and the **Children’s Society**, which works against child poverty and neglect, to help all children in the UK to have a better chance in life www.childrenssociety.org.uk.

**Espresso Church** meets at Costa Coffee in the Longfield Centre, Prestwich on the first Monday evening of every month at 1845. For more information, find us on Facebook at Espresso Church - Prestwich.

**Church Lane Community Centre** is adjacent to St Mary’s Church and is available for hire to members of the community. It is a space which is suitable for meetings, classes, social events and children’s parties with a well equipped kitchen, disabled toilets and baby changing facilities. For bookings please contact Margaret Wild 0161 773 6083.

**St Mary the Virgin, Prestwich** is a Church of England parish church in the Prestwich Mission Partnership within the
Diocese of Manchester. The Parish Priest and Assistant Curate work with our Church Wardens and Parochial Church Council to guide the mission and ministry of St Mary’s.

For more information on the Diocese of Manchester, explore their website at: www.manchester.anglican.org

The History of St Mary’s can be traced back to a church on the site since at least 1200. The current church building, which is constructed in red sandstone, is originally fourteenth century with many later additions, including a Victorian extension at the east end.

The church is a Grade I listed building. Fans of Coronation Street may recognise the church as it has featured regularly in the popular Soap over the years as “St Mary’s Weatherfield”.

If you would like to be married in St Mary’s Church, please contact the Parish Priest in the first instance.

Our Patron Saint is the Blessed Virgin Mary, mother of Jesus
Mary offers a pattern for Christian living in her openness to the love of God. In the Bible, Mary’s song the Magnificat celebrates the liberating justice of God, offered to all through our Lord Jesus Christ.

St Mary’s Parish Prayer
Loving Father, we pray your blessing on our parish. Help us to have hearts open to your Holy Spirit. Give us the courage to follow the way of Christ. Strengthen us to be faithful in prayer and loving service. Help us to play our part in building up your Kingdom here and now.

St Mary’s Monthly News
is available in Church and on the parish website. This monthly newsletter contains up to date information on parish life and events. Get your copy at www.stmarysprestwich.org/church-life

St Mary’s on Social Media
St Mary’s has an active social media presence on Twitter @stmaryprestwich. Follow us for information on prayer and worship, pictures of parish events, and messages about the Good News of Jesus Christ.

We invite you to find out more about us and about Christianity
Website: www.stmarysprestwich.org
Twitter: @stmaryprestwich

Contact us
Email: stmarysprestwich@hotmail.com
Post: St Mary the Virgin, Church Lane, Prestwich, M25 1AN
Parish Priest: Chris Wedge
Telephone: 0161 773 2912
Assistant Curate: Jules Mambu
Telephone 07897 697 503
Church Wardens: Stewart Barnet 07950 354445
Julia Dutton 07931 293470