



# St Mary's Church

Prestwich GROWING • GIVING • SERVING

Sunday 28 October 2018

## **A message from the Rector, Chris Wedge**

Before the service continues I have some personal news to share with you. After months of prayer and careful discernment I am going to be leaving St. Mary's at the beginning of January after five wonderful years. My final Sunday will be Epiphany which is January 6<sup>th</sup> 2019.

For some time I have felt called by God to explore a different pattern of ministry with much more focus on prayer and silence as well as developing my involvement with Spiritual Direction.

Although we will be living in Lincolnshire I will still have permission to officiate in Manchester but I will no longer be based in a parish and will spend my time developing my life of prayer and working with others who want to enter more deeply into the presence of God through Spiritual Direction.

## **A message from the Bishop of Manchester**

I am both very sorry that we are going to be losing Fr. Chris Wedge from Prestwich and the Manchester Diocese but also rather excited at the direction his journey is taking him. The renewal of the life of prayer and of Christian spirituality is very much at the heart, not only of my own vision for the Church but that of Archbishop Justin. I do believe this will be a way in which Chris can be of considerable service to God and the wider Church as he draws deeper into the life of prayer and spiritual direction.

I know that you will be very sad to lose him as he has been such an exceptional priest and led you into an extraordinary time of growth. My prayer is that the foundations he has laid are ones that you will continue to build upon in the years to come so that St. Mary's, the Prestwich Mission Partnership, and the Church of England in this area can continue to bring glory to God.

May God bless you at the beginning of this time of transition, and through it. May he himself lead and guide you that your journey may, like Chris's, be to be drawn ever more deeply into his presence.

Yours in Christ

+David

## **A message from the Church Wardens ,Stewart and Susie**

We are sorry to see Chris leaving St Mary's but totally understand and support the step he is taking into a new chapter of ministry. This is a clear call from God and a step of obedience.

We are committed to our Mission Action Plan and the growth of God's kingdom in this place. As we pray together for all that's ahead, we have no doubt that God will continue to bless St Mary's as we look to the future with our confidence firmly rooted in Him.