

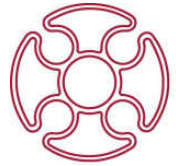


# Deane Parish Church

## St. Mary the Virgin

### **Our mission is to be a Church:**

- that wants to know God more and to allow His power to work in our lives
- whose relationships within the Church and outside the Church reflect God's grace and mercy; a Church that lives to love
- that is excited about telling others about Jesus; what the power of the cross can, and has done in our lives, and what it can do for everybody
- that aims to do what Jesus would do in its decisions and actions; a Church that wants to make a difference in the world – starting with the community around us.

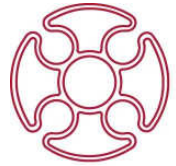


**Our mission is to be a Church that wants to know God more,**

Psalm 42:1 - 2 says 'As the deer pants for streams of water, so my soul pants for you, O God. My soul thirsts for God, for the living God. When can I go and meet with God?'

Luke 12: 27 – 28 says 'Consider how the lilies grow. They do not labour or spin. Yet I tell you, not even Solomon in all his splendour was dressed like one of these. If that is how God clothes the grass of the field, which is here today, and tomorrow is thrown into the fire, how much more will he clothe you, O you of little faith!'

Our mission is to be a Church that longs to know God and His power in our lives more; that longs to see what God can do when we let Him. It is to be a Church that lives in the understanding that everything we have comes from God, and that He will provide everything we need.



**Our mission is to be a Church whose relationships within the Church and outside the Church reflect God's grace and mercy,**

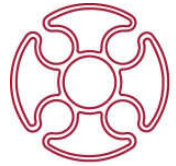
John 13:34 - 35 says 'A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.' God loves us unconditionally and so we are called to love others in the same way. 1 John 3:16 says 'This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers.'

Our mission is to be a Church that lives to love

**Our mission is to be a Church that is excited about telling others about Jesus**

After His resurrection Jesus appeared to the disciples and said to them 'Go into all the world and preach the good news to all creation.' (Mark 16:15). 1 Peter 3:15 says 'Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have.'

Our mission is to be a Church that is excited about having opportunities to tell other

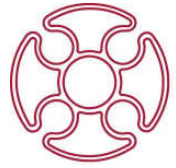


people that Jesus died for everyone on the cross so that everything that we have done wrong can be forgiven. It is to be a Church that wants to tell others what the power of the cross can, and has done in our lives, and what it can do for everybody.

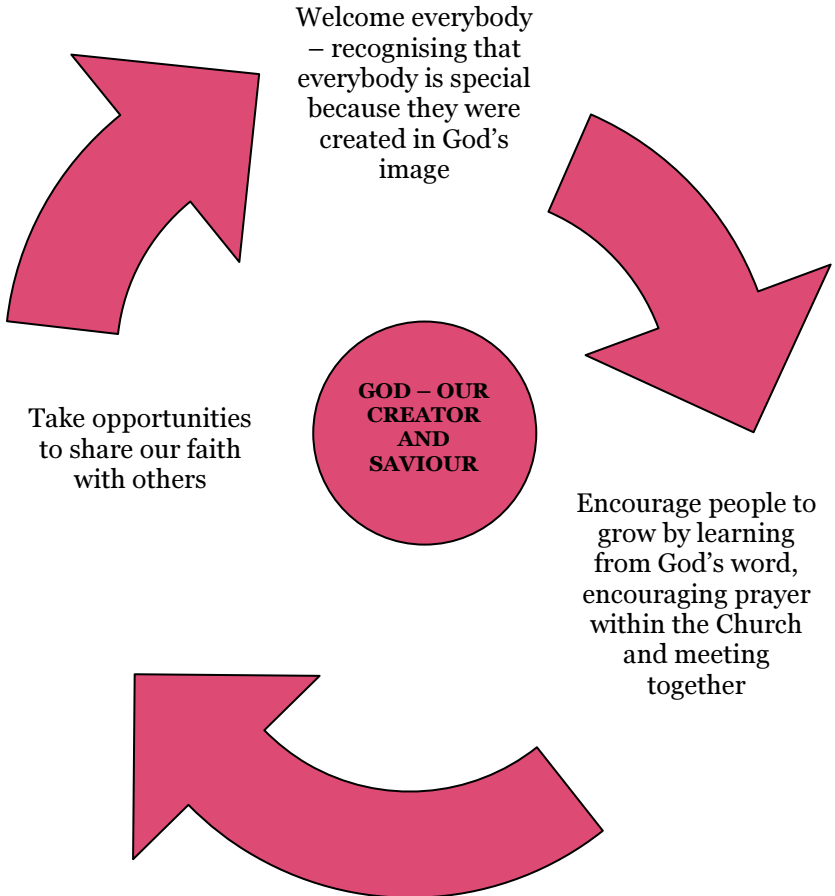
**Our mission is to be a Church that aims to do what Jesus would do in its decisions and actions**

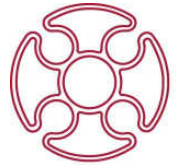
1 Peter 2: 20-21 'But if you suffer for doing good and you endure it, this is commendable before God. To this you were called, because Christ suffered for you, leaving you an example, that you should follow in his steps.'

Our mission is to be a Church that chooses to follow in Jesus' footsteps – no matter what the cost; to be a Church that wants to make a difference in the world – starting with the community around us.



**Our mission statement shapes us a Church family to:**





## **Welcome everybody:**

We want people to be seen as individuals; people who are special because they were created in God's image. We encourage everybody to find their identity in God, and to discover the acceptance, forgiveness and hope that that brings.

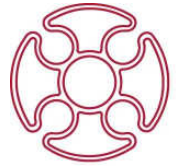
## **Encourage people to grow by:**

Learning from God's word.

Learning from God's word is for everybody – all ages and all abilities. We learn together at our Sunday services, in our Sunday School and youth groups, but we also encourage people to read the Bible on their own and to meet together at other times to read the Bible and talk about what it means, what it shows us about who God is and how it can change our lives. Home Groups are an important part of Church life and we encourage every adult to join one.

Encouraging prayer within the Church.

Prayer is powerful. We encourage people to pray alone, but also to pray with other people. We meet together as a Church family once a month to pray for the world, to pray for the community of Deane, to pray for each other and others that we know. We also encourage people to meet together informally to pray for one another.



## Meeting together

We meet together as a whole family to worship God. Our services always reflect our need to confess our sins to God and to ask his forgiveness, to hear God's word and to learn from it, to share with one another what we believe and to pray together. Although they have different styles these always form the core 'ingredients'. We also encourage people to meet together outside of those services, to share life and to build relationships.

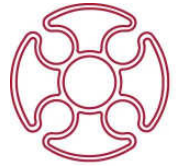
## **Take opportunities to share our faith with others:**

Being ready to tell other people about Jesus ourselves

Telling other people that Jesus died for them on the cross so that everything that they've done wrong is forgiven is an enormous privilege, but can also be daunting. We recognise that it is not just about the words that we use, but about our actions and the way we live our lives. We look for different ways of sharing our faith with others and encourage people to share their faith – at work, school, home, with friends and neighbours.

Supporting the work of others

We support the work of mission and charity organisations in our local town and



community, across the country and in other parts of the world who work to practically share their faith with others.

## **The Church – the Body of Christ**

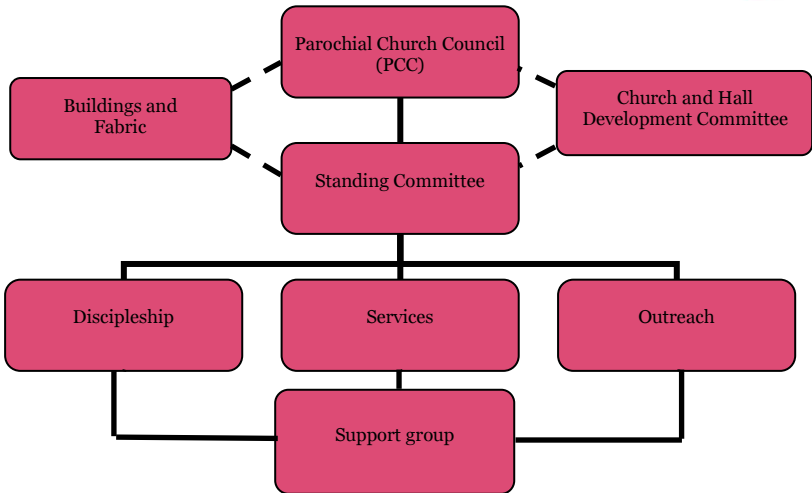
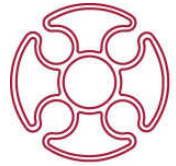
The Bible describes the Church as the body of Christ. It is a body which is made up of many parts, and every part has an important role to play (1 Corinthians 12). There are many different aspects to the life of the Church and all are important in ensuring that we do our best to fulfil the mission that God has given us.

We are part of a worldwide Church family. In the UK the Church of England has a structure to help that family work together by creating groups of Churches .

We are part of the group of Churches known as the Diocese of Manchester, which is one of 43 Diocese in England. Within that we are part of the Deanery of Deane, which covers a wide area including Horwich, Blackrod, Westhoughton and Lostock.

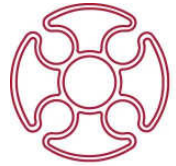
Finally we are in the Parish of Deane: St Mary the Virgin which includes St Mary the Virgin, Deane and St Andrew's, Over Hulton.

Within our Church we have a Committee structure which helps us to work together:



The Parochial Church Council (PCC) is responsible for finances and care and maintenance of the church building and its contents. It is also responsible for promoting the mission of the Church, which includes pastoral care, evangelism and social activities and working with other Churches.

Because there are two Churches within our Parish the full Parochial Church Council includes members from St Mary's and St Andrew's. We meet together regularly throughout the year, but we also meet separately to discuss issues relevant to each Church.



Promoting the mission of the Church, expressed in our mission statement, has three key themes; discipleship, services, outreach. The work of the PCC for St Mary's on those three themes is supported by our committee structure.

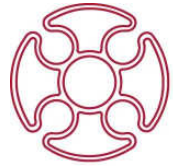
**Standing Committee** is responsible for 'day to day' management of the Church and is responsible for supporting for Church leadership, training (including PAIS / Youth worker), buildings and maintenance and finance.

### **What is each committee responsible for?**

#### **Discipleship – encouraging and equipping one another to grow in our faith as individuals and as a Church.**

This committee is responsible for Home groups, prayer meetings and encouraging smaller prayer groups, pastoral support eg bereavement counselling, Sunday School (including Pathfinders and CYFA), visiting (providing support to the clergy), Parish weekend / away day (jointly with Services Committee), Baptism visiting (jointly with Outreach Committee), Back to Church Sunday (all Committees).

#### **Services – working to ensure that when we meet together as a Church**



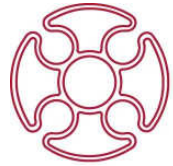
**family we meet with an expectation of encountering and being changed by God.**

This committee is responsible for all aspects of Sunday worship including welcome teams, prayer within services and prayer ministry, music, sound and AV equipment, printed resources (service books, bibles, hymn books etc), refreshments, special services eg Easter, Harvest, Christmas etc (jointly with Outreach Committee), Parish weekend / away day (jointly with Discipleship Committee) and Back to Church Sunday (all Committees).

**Outreach – sharing the gospel with those who don't know Jesus.**

This committee is responsible for links with local primary and secondary schools and Bolton University, links with local mission organisations eg Urban Outreach, overseas mission support, youth clubs (Element and Voltage), involvement in national and local mission events (eg Hope 08), identifying and creating opportunities for witness, Charity shop (through OLM), links with neighbouring parishes, baptism visiting (jointly with Discipleship Committee) and Back to Church Sunday (all Committees).

**Support group – providing practical support to other Committees.**



This group provides practical support (on a regular basis and for one off events) to the other Committees, particularly for special services or specific events.

## **Our buildings**

The PCC is legally responsible for the care and maintenance of the Church building. It is supported in this role by two Committees:

**Buildings and Fabric Committee** is responsible for overseeing the ongoing maintenance of the Church and Hall. It oversees any necessary repairs, working with the local council and other agencies, and ensures that the issues identified through the quinquennial review are addressed.

The **Church and Hall Development Committee** is a time-limited group and is responsible for overseeing the drawing up of plans for the redevelopment of the hall and the re-ordering of the Church. The Committee is supported by a group that is responsible for developing a business plan for the Hall, including identifying potential users of a new hall. Neither group is solely responsible for fundraising. This is the responsibility of the whole PCC. The Church and Hall Development Committee reports to the PCC and Standing Committee.

