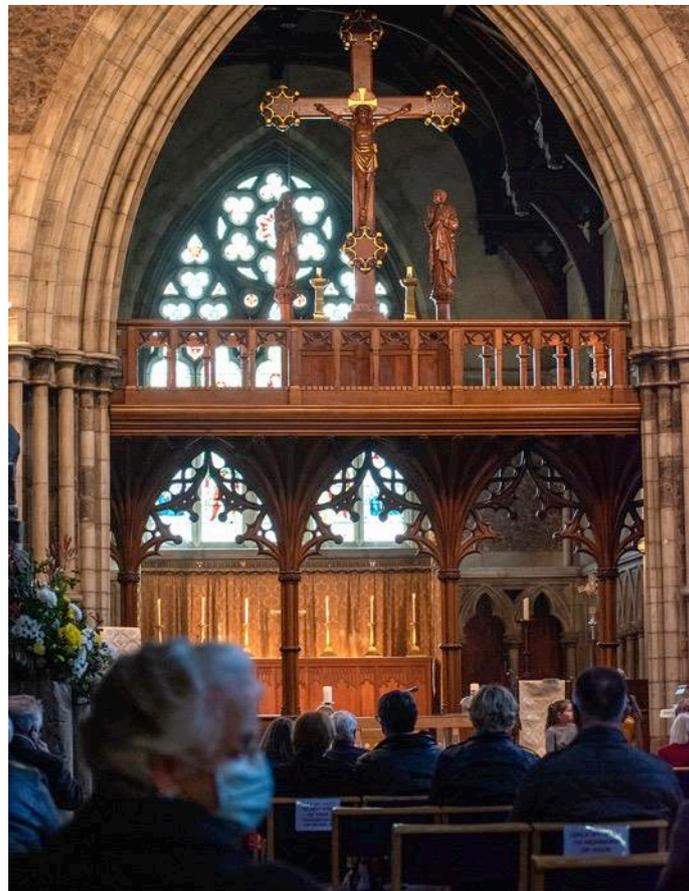


The Abbey Church of St Mary the Virgin Nuneaton

Parish Profile



Bishop of Coventry's Introduction

'The Abbey', as it is affectionately called, is quite simply a superb sacred space. It is not often that I would strongly recommend a parish based on the quality of its building, but in this particular case it is genuinely iconic, and ideal for both traditional and more innovative expressions of Anglo-Catholic worship, and the missional opportunities such worship in this setting presents.

However, there is more to this parish than the building! There is real opportunity to build on the good work of previous parish priests by continuing to strengthen the life of the congregation and by extending the reach into the wider community. For example, previous priests and congregation have been faithfully serving the local schools, and I would be delighted to see this work developed further with the next incumbent. Schools are very important communities within our parishes and I very much warm to increasing the links between them and our churches.

It is a joy to serve with the Bishop of Ebbsfleet, Assistant Bishop in the Diocese, and to see the positive relationships he and the Society priests have grown within the wider Diocese. We would welcome a priest who would contribute to himself, the congregation, schools and wider parish thriving in this mutually supportive Diocesan context and fulfilling our common purpose to worship God, make new disciples and transform new communities.

I commend the post to you.

In my prayers.

+ Christopher



Bishop of Ebbsfleet's Introduction

This parish profile beautifully and accurately describes the parish community *that I know*, and that have come to love over the last eight years as bishop; and I, no less than the people of St Mary's, eagerly await their new pastor. For the right priest of the catholic tradition, the blessings, opportunities and challenges of the coming years at 'the Abbey' will be wonderfully rewarding, stretching, and fulfilling. The congregation is open both to a continued deepening of its Catholic tradition and to learning new ways in which it can be lived and extended in its mission to the people of Nuneaton.

The last few years at the Abbey have been ones of real vision for growth – and the way in which congregational life and witness has been resourced during the last 15 months of the pandemic, in prayer and practical mutual support (first under Fr Wintle and recently in the vacancy) have only promoted that sense. Despite the inevitable disruption of the pandemic, energy and hopes for various initiatives remains constant.

The central point that emerges for me in this profile is the role of the new incumbent in nurturing partnerships for that future:

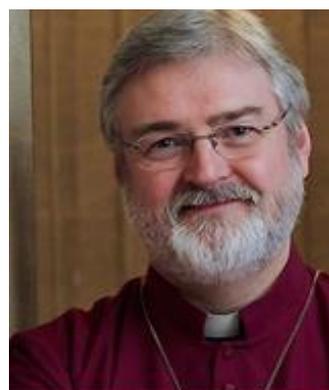
- within the worshipping community *enriching and beautifying* the prayer of the community at every level, and *nurturing* a strong lay spirituality of holiness and evangelism
- partnerships to develop initiatives that *draw people over the threshold* of the Church
- partnerships to be able *to reach out and touch* the lives of people of the town, and to work with other leaders and groups – especially in its schools and in the service of the poor.

These last two are *crucial* – because the new parish priest will be building on good existing relationships with staff and young people in the schools, and with various voluntary bodies in the community.

It is a context where self-consciously dedicated Catholic priestly leadership will make all the difference to the health and vitality of the Church's presence.

This is also a parish with an appetite for joy, and a desire to serve. For that *this* parish at *this* moment needs a confident priest willing to lead by example with vision and delight. I hope that is you.

+ Jonathan



Deanery Summary

Nuneaton Deanery has one of the largest populations in the Church of England, and is also one of the largest for numbers of clergy, although we currently have a lot of vacant posts, mainly due to clergy retirements. It is also one of the poorer areas of Warwickshire and Coventry Diocese.

The Deanery Chapter has a mixture of stipendiary, self-supporting and retired clergy, from a wide range of traditions. We support each other by meeting for prayer and discussion, and sharing lunch together, taking turns to host our colleagues. We have an interesting mix of rural and suburban churches and we endeavour to support each other as much as we can. The previous vicar of the Abbey Church was a valued member of the Deanery Standing Committee.

The Deanery is currently subsidised financially to the level of 2 full-time posts by other Deaneries in the Diocese, but we are starting to take up the challenge of supporting each other rather than relying on financial help from outside. Rather than simply cut back on posts however, we are strategically looking at opportunities for growth. We think that this parish has the potential for considerable growth and are excited about this appointment. We are praying as a deanery for a new vicar to help this parish flourish by growing spiritually, numerically, and financially.

The Deanery has a huge potential for mission and is fully committed to fulfilling the Diocesan Mission Purpose of Worshipping God, Making New Disciples and Transforming Communities.

We hope and pray that you may be the priest to help this church to continue to grow. We look forward to welcoming you to the Abbey Church and the Nuneaton Deanery!



God bless,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dave Poultney". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Rev Dave Poultney
Nuneaton Area Dean

Background to the post

The Abbey Church of St Mary the Virgin has had a long Anglo-Catholic tradition of 144 years, which we value and wish to continue. We have passed the House of Bishops' Declaration, are affiliated to the Society and are under the episcopal care of the Bishop of Ebbsfleet, whilst at the same time enjoying positive relationships with the Bishop and Diocese of Coventry.



Relationships between priests of the Ebbsfleet parishes within the Diocese of Coventry are very good, and the Diocese has demonstrable commitment to mutual flourishing. The Diocese is therefore a warm place for priests of the Society to minister, with a strategy for the health of churches, which very much includes and supports those in our tradition.

This particular vacancy has come about as our previous much-loved curate and incumbent (from 2015-20) Fr Thomas Wintle SSC, felt called to service in the Roman Catholic Church. Fr Mark Liddell, Tom's predecessor was our Vicar for almost 10 years. Although Tom's time with us was short it was a period of growth and progress. We have enjoyed his ministry here and send him from us with our blessing.



Our parish has a combination of interesting aspects, which make it distinctive:

- The church is built on, and still incorporates, the ruins of the former Benedictine Priory. This gives a unique and very special visual context to the already rich drama and theatre of the Mass and other aspects of our worshipping life.
- We have two Church of England schools in the parish (Abbey C of E Infant School and Queens C of E Academy). We value the relationships and ministry within these schools highly, and traditionally the vicar and members of the congregation have been committed governors in both schools. We are very keen for these links, which developed very well during Fr Tom's time, to continue.
- We have positive relationships with the Deanery and wider Diocese. Our neighbouring parish of St Mary & St John, Camp Hill, which grew out of our parish in the 1960s is currently the subject of pastoral consultation and any changes to its status are likely to come about during the next incumbency at St Mary's.

If you feel that you would value these distinctive aspects of our parish, we would love to hear from you!



Role Specification

The role of this post is to lead the church in fulfilling the Diocesan Mission Purpose of:

- Worshipping God
- Making New Disciples
- Transforming Communities

This will be achieved by developing 8 essential qualities in the life of the church:

- **Empowering** Leadership
- **Gift-oriented** Ministry
- **Passionate** Spirituality
- **Inspiring** Worship
- **Holistic** Small Groups
- **Need-oriented** Outreach
- **Loving** Relationships
- **Functional** Structures

Person Specification

We welcome applications from priests in the Anglo-Catholic tradition registered with The Society (SSWSH), or who are willing to do so and who:

- Are a positive role model to the congregation and wider Diocese in growing healthy churches in the Anglo-Catholic tradition, with the Eucharist at the heart of worship, contributing to the already positive influence Society churches are bringing to the health and diversity of the wider Diocese.
- Sense God may be calling them to a congregation in reasonable health, but one which needs support in areas which are currently weaker (eg empowering laity as leaders, ensuring accessibility for a younger generation, sharing our experience of Christian faith with one another, leading people to become disciples of Jesus Christ, and helping us engage more in social action in our community).
- Value and enjoy working in schools, including being a governor, and can translate that work into reaching and attracting young families.
- Able to laugh and have fun with us, and the local community!

St. Mary, Nuneaton and the 8 Essential Qualities of Healthy Churches.

The Mission Purpose of the Diocese of Coventry is:

- Worshipping God
- Making New Disciples
- Transforming Communities

The parish of St. Mary, Nuneaton is fully committed to fulfilling these three aspects. We believe that we will achieve this Mission Purpose by developing 8 Essential Qualities in the life of the church. Our most recent survey was completed in February 2018, and is encouraging.

Empowering Leadership

The people of St. Mary's involved in leadership enjoy their roles, and feel supported. We had been encouraged to take responsibility for areas of church life. This has been greatly affected by the pandemic restrictions, which continue as we go into this interregnum. An active retired priest, Fr Brian Regan covers a reduced schedule of weekly services. We also benefit from the ministry of a Reader, Helen Allred, who is the Diocesan Reader Secretary.

We are aware that within our tradition priests can take on too much workload in parishes themselves, which can limit the growth of the church. We would welcome a priest who can help us develop our lay discipleship and leadership. Support in helping to achieve healthy churches is available in the form of a member of the Diocese Serving Christ Team.

Gift-oriented Ministry

We enjoy the tasks we do for the church, understand what is expected of us, and feel that we are valued and supported in carrying them out. People are grateful for and acknowledging of, the work others do within the church.

Members of the congregation carry out roles such as welcoming at services, reading the lesson, leading prayers at the intercessions, the offertory and Eucharistic ministry, assisting with administering Holy Communion and taking the Holy Sacrament to the sick and housebound. The teaching in our children's church, which takes place during parish mass on Sundays, is completely lay lead.



Prior to the start of the Coronavirus Pandemic a small group, led by the vicar had been formed for a project named 'Vinny's Kitchen'. The purpose of this was to provide a healthy meal once a week to any child from the Abbey Infant School and their family. A lot of work went into preparing for this including ensuring the kitchen was up to specification and all health and safety guidelines were followed, sadly this was brought to an abrupt halt by the virus but we sincerely hope that we will be able to relaunch once restrictions are lifted as we see this as a very valuable source of outreach and an area for growth. We recognise that there is still much more to do in helping people discover their skills and gifts, which can be used in other contexts, inside and outside of church.

Passionate Spirituality

Our longstanding Anglo-Catholic tradition has the Mass at the heart of our spirituality. The Holy Sacrament is celebrated twice on Sundays (said and sung) and during our last incumbency was celebrated daily, the reinstatement of which would be welcomed by the parish.



Morning and evening prayer and the rosary were offered pre-pandemic and the congregation was also encouraged to follow a daily pattern of Bible readings. During the pandemic, before the interregnum, online Compline and Devotion was offered and a weekly zoom group focussing on 'this week's gospel' was well attended. During the first period of lockdown we were sustained by online worship.

The congregation of St. Mary's are supporters of the Shrine of Our Lady at Walsingham, with parish day visits having been arranged and well supported for

a number of years and indeed there was a successful post Easter pilgrimage in 2019 with another planned for 2021 before being prevented by the pandemic.

Our weakest areas in the NCD survey relate to our lack of confidence in speaking about our faith either to others in our congregation or outsiders, so we could do with, and would welcome some help in this area!

Inspiring Worship

This is the area of greatest strength in the life of St. Mary's, and is much valued by the congregation. They look forward to attending services, which are inspiring, allowing them to connect with God in a meaningful way, and having a positive effect on them.



The main service each week is the 10.15am Sung Mass on Sundays. The Mass is traditional with full ritual and drama, a full team of servers, incense and the ringing of bells. We are fortunate that we have the services of an accomplished organist and choirmaster to lead us.



The nave altar is used for most services but the chancel and high altar are used for some special occasions such as Midnight Mass. During the week the chancel and high altar is used for Mass as well as the Chapel altar, in the north transept (a ramp for disabled access is available when the chancel is used.)



In addition to our regular weekly services, we have a programme of meaningful and inspiring services throughout the Christian calendar and throughout the last incumbency all mid-week feasts were celebrated.

New opportunities in a church that has really strong connections with the schools, and wider community, were beginning to be delivered before the pandemic restrictions. There is a need to develop forms of worship that will draw people in and help support them in developing and sustaining a spirituality and faith rooted in and centred in a relevant and inspiring Mass. We have an established children's church on Sundays at 10.15 during Mass. Although the children's church has not taken place in church during the Covid restrictions, the lay leader has kept up contact and teaching materials have been sent out to the regular attenders and returned completed.

During the pandemic, we have continued to worship from home when the churches were closed. Sunday Mass being live streamed via Facebook and some services and the Rosary being live streamed via Facebook from the vicarage during the week. The church website and the Facebook page being used to keep the congregation informed. When the churches were allowed to open again we returned to worship in limited numbers and with more limited services in church, and there was a brief but promising experiment with a children's mass on Sunday afternoon. The 10:15am Sunday Mass continued to be live streamed via Facebook for those who were unable to return to church.



Holistic Small Groups

This is another weaker area. We have a number of small groups, which meet regularly, but they are not for bible study or prayer. These include working teams for church cleaning, flower arranging, gardening, tea and coffee on Sunday mornings and the fayres and functions group, who work together to plan and organise the programme of fund raising and other events throughout each year and the Abbey Fellowship group. They therefore are good for ensuring some tasks are fulfilled, and they help our loving relationships, but they do not really develop us as disciples of Jesus Christ.

The groups that have encouraged this have been the Lent study group (typically begun with a poverty supper and ended with Compline), the Rosary, 'This Sunday's Gospel' and Cenacle (study, discussion and pudding!) groups, were being established before the pandemic and continued where possible until our interregnum.



This year with the pandemic restrictions Fr. Brian Regan has developed a successful Zoom Lent Group.

In 2019 we had an Alpha Course, which ran for nine weeks, was supported by a lay team who provided a two course meal each week prior to the course. This brought some new members to the church.

We would therefore welcome a priest who has experience in developing small groups within an Anglo-Catholic tradition (such as the devotional and Sunday Gospel or who sees the importance of them and is willing to learn from our own and other traditions who excel in this area and adapt as appropriate for our context.

Need-oriented Outreach

We see our primary social action ministry as ministry within the schools (see further below under 'Schools'). This emphasis however needs to be widened to meet the needs of other aspects of the parish.

During the pandemic the parish hall was used by a local group for the collection of food and distribution of food parcels to the vulnerable and needy.

At Easter and Christmas, the clergy and laity go house-to-house, leafleting church information, but we are not good at 'Making New Disciples', so a priest who can help people explore Christian faith and also develop Christian discipleship in our Anglo-Catholic context would be welcome.

Fr Tom had been in discussion with the Archdeacon Missioner about a youth & family worker for the parish with the strong potential for diocesan funding. All parties are keen to carry this forward following the appointment of a parish priest.

Loving Relationships

We are a happy congregation and warmly welcome all who enter our church whether that be for a service, an event, or social occasion at church. The atmosphere is one of fun, love and forgiveness, and we would welcome a priest who will continue to support and strengthen us in this ethos.





Functional Structures

The activities of our church are planned and well organised. The PCC, which consists of two ex-officio members, five co-opted members and nine elected members, meet on a regular basis as do the Fayres and Functions Group and the Standing Committee meets as and when required. This year with the pandemic restrictions the PCC meetings are being held on-line via Zoom.

Members of the PCC are encouraged to think about any agenda items before the meeting and read any discussion papers, so that the discussion and any debate at the meeting are informed and constructive.

We have no paid administrative or other staff but we are fortunate to have a volunteer who edits the weekly pew sheet, however we will need someone who has the expertise, or enthusiasm to learn, to administer the website and Facebook page as these have been a valuable form of information sharing and outreach.

The History of the Church.

The parish of St. Mary, Nuneaton was established in the 1870s as the town was expanding. New houses were being built in the area around the site of the ruins of the former Nuneaton Priory, which had been dissolved in the reformation in 1539 and over the centuries fell into ruins.

The will of local landowner Thomas Bottrill left a bequest for the building of a new church. It was stipulated that this must take place within ten years of his death. It was decided to rebuild on the foundation of the Priory's church and the architect, Clapton Rolfe was engaged to prepare designs for the first stage of the building. The new church became known as The Abbey Church of St. Mary the Virgin, Nuneaton when it was established in 1877. We celebrated the 140th anniversary of the consecration of the church, on 8 October 2017.

The church is a Grade II listed building on the site of the remaining ruins, which are a Grade I listed ancient monument.

Nuneaton Museum & Art Gallery is planning a very exciting exhibition to tell the story of the foundation of Nuneaton Priory and the growth of the town. Working in partnership with the church the museum plans to have an in house exhibition and a permanent display within the church. The project will also be working to develop relationships for learning with our church schools and other schools.

The project is looking to:

- Contribute to the development of a confident, cohesive and diverse community
- To offer visitors a fun experience
- Increase people's understanding of their surroundings through interpreting objects and bringing the past to life
- Provide a varied programme of events and activities suitable for a range of audiences
- Continue to provide opportunities for learning
- To develop the service as a key asset in encouraging visits

Location of the Church.

The parish is located in Nuneaton in Warwickshire. The church is in the Diocese of Coventry.

The parish covers an area to the north of Nuneaton town centre and has a mixture of residential and commercial properties. It is made up of parts of Abbey and Barpool electoral wards for Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council and Warwickshire County Council. The parish contains pockets of some of the most deprived wards in Warwickshire. The population is about 9,000 Abbey Ward and 7,500 for Barpool ward.

The plan below shows The Abbey Parish, the location of the church in context with the town can be seen on 'Google Maps' – "St. Mary's Abbey Church, Manor Court Road, Nuneaton".

Plan of The Abbey Parish



Abbey Green
Abbey Street
Acacia Road
Aston Road
Albert Street
Arbury Road 1-33

Barpool Road
Bath Road
Bentley Road
Beaumont Road
Beaumont Place
Black-a-tree Road
Bottrill Street
Byford Street
Berkshire Close
Belle Vue
Burgage Walk
Boro Way

Central Avenue
Chandos Street
Charles Street
Clifton Road
Clarence Street
Countess Road
Corporation Street
Culpepper Close
Croft Road – odd nos
Cambridge Drive
Cumberland Drive

Duke Street
Denehurst Way
Devon Close
Dorset Close
De Havilland Close

Earls Road
Etone Court

Fife Street
Ford Street
Friary Street

Graham Street
Granby Road

Haunchwood Road part
Herbert Street
Helene Close
Huntingdon Way
Hereford Close
Hilary Road
Hawthorne Terrace
The Hedgerows

James Street
Jodrell Street
John Street

Kings Way
Kiln Close

Little Duke Street
Lexington Court

Manor Court Road
Manor Park Road
Manor Court Avenue
Maple Road
Meadow Street
Merevale Avenue
Midland Road
Mount Street
Mount Street Passage
Marsdale Drive
Montana Walk
Monmouth Gardens

Norfolk Crescent
Northumberland Avenue
North Street

Oulton Place

Pool Road

Queens Road part
Queen Elizabeth Road 2-800

Richmond Road
Rutland Avenue
Rivermede

St Mary's Road
Sandon Road
Sandringham Court
Somerset Drive
Stanley Road
Stoney Road
Suffolk Close
Sussex Close
Sunnyside

The Circle
Toler Road
Tomkinson Road
Tryan Road
Tuttle Hill

Upper Abbey Street

Vale View
Vernons Lane
Virginia Place

Willington Street
Winfield Road
Wood Street
Warwick Gardens
Westmoreland Avenue
Willow Road
Whateley Court

York Street

The area reflects the various stages in the growth of the town as it has a mixture of size and age of property from pre-1900 to the present day.

Recent developments have seen housing association/shared equity/first time buyer properties built on the former football ground; reclaimed quarry sites off Tuttle Hill and reclaimed brown field sites off Jodrell Street, Merevale Avenue and St Mary's Road.

Some of the larger properties in the parish have been converted to multiple occupancy dwellings and some of the larger gardens have been used to build further houses and flats. Outline plans have been published for 450 dwellings on a site bordering off the side of the Coventry Canal through the former Judkins quarry site. More houses are also likely to be built on the former Council Depot in St Mary's Road.

The parish has a range of shops and small businesses, pubs and restaurants and also a large quarry and landfill site.

The parish has doctors' surgeries, dentists and Community Mental Health services based within it. There are also several sheltered housing complexes for both the elderly and adults with learning disabilities.

There are two Church of England schools in the parish plus another junior school, nurseries and an academy for children with learning difficulties. There is a community centre and an arts centre in the parish.

Opposite the church is Manor Court Nursing Home and nearby Priory Court, both of which we take the Holy Sacrament to on a regular basis.

The Buildings

The buildings consist of the church, church hall and vicarage.

The Church

The church was built in stages starting with the nave, which was completed in 1877, followed by the building of the chancel and sanctuary and then the north transept, as funds were raised to progress to the next stage. The building is of stone on the foundations of the 12th century church, enclosing the four central ruined piers, which form a fantastic central crossing.



Early expectations were to rebuild the church part of the dissolved priory, as funds ran out each stage was finished with brick, at the end of the nave and at the

south transept. It was intended at the time to continue when funds became available, but with the Second World War and lower congregations, this was never achieved.

The church is a Grade II listed building on the site of the remaining ruins, which are a Grade I listed ancient monument. The grounds do not include a graveyard, although there is a garden reserved for the burial of ashes within the ruins of the south transept.

The church has a fascinating, beautiful interior. Entering via the west doors the visitor is treated to the 'wow' factor and a warm welcome to services.



The chancel has beautiful stained glass windows. It also has a wonderful atmosphere creating a very special place for the congregation and our visitors.

The church is used to hold approximately six musical concerts at various times of the year. We hold open church days and also have various school visits.

The church went through extensive restoration work in the 1980s and 1990s followed by reordering of areas during the period from 2000 – 2010.

An electronic organ was installed in 2015 to replace the pipe organ, which was becoming very expensive to maintain and keep in good repair.

The church lighting was replaced in January 2018, with LED lights of lower power consumption. Buttress repairs have been completed in the past year.

The church and the church hall are in a good state of repair.

Church Hall

The church hall is located within the grounds to the south east of the chancel. The hall is a Victorian building, which over the decades has been maintained and updated. Extensive work was carried out about fifteen years ago to provide disabled access, including new toilet facilities and the kitchen was updated and refitted.

The hall is used regularly for church functions: tea and coffee on Sunday mornings after Mass, bingo once a month, Abbey Fellowship once a month, church fetes and suppers and the fayres and functions meetings. The hall also

attracts some private bookings, which bring in extra income for the church. During the pandemic whilst the hall was closed for it's usual activities it was being used by a charity to serve the community with meals and food parcels.

The Vicarage

The vicarage, situated at the east end of the church, was built in the late 1980s. It is a modern house, which is to current Diocesan standards. There are four bedrooms, a bathroom, a good size lounge, a dining room, a new fitted kitchen and utility room. There is also a large study off the entrance hall. The loft has been floored and has lighting. The property is fully alarmed. It has been rewired and has new replacement windows.



The vicarage has a large garden, which is mainly lawn. There is a garage and parking area at the front.

Services

Currently our regular services are:

Sunday

- Sung Eucharist at 10.15am, when we also have a children's church. During the pandemic the service has been live streamed via Facebook for those who are unable to attend at the moment.

Wednesday

- Said Mass at 11.30am

However, during Fr Tom's time there was a daily mass, morning and evening prayer and the Rosary, all of which the parish would very much hope to be resumed.

During term time, Abbey School attends church at times, by arrangement between the school and the vicar.

Daily offices are also said in church throughout the week.



Other services throughout the year include:

- Ash Wednesday we have sung Mass with the imposition of the ashes.
- Stations of the Cross during Lent
- Palm Sunday we have a procession with palms around the church grounds leading into church.
- From Monday to Wednesday of Holy Week we have evening services each day and on Maundy Thursday evening, we have 'washing of the feet', sung Mass of the 'Last Super' followed by a watch at the altar of repose. We have a Good Friday service and on Holy Saturday, Mass of Easter Eve and Sung Eucharist on Easter Sunday.
- We also celebrate Ascension Day, Corpus Christi and The Assumption of Our Lady, with sung Mass; and other midweek principal feasts.
- May Devotion to Our Lady.
- The first Sunday in October we have Harvest Festival and in November we have a Memorial Service.
- Leading up to Christmas we have a service of Nine Lessons and Carols and on Christmas Eve a Crib service for children and all the family and later in the evening Midnight Mass.

In 2018, we had 21 baptisms, 20 weddings and 14 funerals.

In 2019, we had 37 baptisms, 14 weddings and 15 funerals.

We normally have confirmation and preparation classes each year.

School Links

A page summarising the work of the DBE with schools can be found here:

http://www.dioceseofcoventry.org/images/document_library/UDRO_1414.pdf

The vicar has served as a Foundation Governor at both Abbey Church of England Infant School and Queens Church of England Academy. Paul Allred, Church Warden, is Chair of Governors at Abbey C of E Infant School and Nursery and he is Chair of Governors at Queens C of E Academy and Foundation Governor at both. Helen Allred, Reader, is Foundation Governor at Queens C of E Academy.

Abbey C of E School pupils have attended services on a regular basis in term time and both Abbey C of E Infant School and Queens C of E Academy attend special services in church at least once in each term: at harvest time, Christmas, Easter and leavers. KS1 and KS2 curriculum topics are also covered. Our last vicar did some teaching in school and introduced a chaplaincy hour weekly at Queens Church of England Academy, which lead to regular assemblies. Mass on Thursday mornings was adapted when classes of children were in attendance to involve them in the proceedings including giving them a serving role. These services are also well supported by members of the congregation.

We would like our new priest to continue the valuable work established with the schools, especially in the last incumbency, and in alignment with a Diocesan strategy for reaching younger people, help us to reach younger generations.

Message from Abbey C of E Infant School

Working in partnership with the Abbey CofE Infant School community. The strong partnerships forged with The Abbey Church of St. Mary the Virgin has been instrumental in helping our school's vibrant, Christian character to grow and to flourish over many years. The children, staff and parents at Abbey CofE Infant School value and benefit from working closely with the local Vicar. We look forward to welcoming a new vicar into our school community in the coming months. The children have been considering what they would like their new vicar to be like and they have come up with a list comprising of their own reflections.

We want our new vicar to be:

- sharing and caring;
- calm, forgiving and thoughtful;
- generous, kind and to be someone we can chat to;
- a happy, smiling person;
- joyful and to sing;
- a fun vicar;
- a good friend.

We want our new vicar to:

- pray with us;
- help us to learn about God;
- to invite us to visit Church regularly;
- to visit us in school often;
- to help us to understand our Christian values;
- let us join in, act things out and be active.

Message from Queens C of E Academy

As a school, we are delighted to be linked with The Abbey Church of St. Mary the Virgin, Nuneaton. Over the past few years we have successfully collaborated on creating effective and successful Collective Worship. This has involved weekly Collective Worship delivered by the incumbent Vicar – including live streaming over the internet when school was closed – as well as supporting Senior Leaders in the planning, evaluating and delivery of other Collective Worship.

Through the strengthening relationship between the school and the church, we have been able to develop a unique Christian Vision based on Romans 12:10, Love in Action, that has subsequently permeated all areas of our school life.

Having taught the children the meaning of Love in Action, we are keen to work even more closely with the church and its community so that our shared resources can have a significant impact on our local area.

Over the years we have regularly been invited to the church to celebrate major events including Easter and Christmas and recently, given our increased number on roll, we have worked with the Vicar to produce creative solutions for this. We have also been privileged to use local knowledge at the church to develop our children's historical understanding of the town of Nuneaton.

The final, and we believe most significant, part of our relationship is the presence that has been maintained within our school by the Vicar at St Mary's; this has included being present on the playground for prayer with children at lunchtime once a week, supporting teachers with monitoring and delivery of RE teaching, attending governors meetings and attending wider school events including transitions days and evenings.

"We liked how we were treated equally like family, and he will also try his best to put up the power-points during zoom quickly. Also, he used to put up funny pictures that made us laugh. He was very energetic and had loads of enthusiasm."

"When we did the Christmas play, he was helping people get into their props and showing he really cared. This made me feel happy and cared for."

We look forwards to supporting the new Vicar with their future mission in our local area!

Finance and Stewardship

Finance and stewardship for year ended 31 December 2020

General income £45,542

Planned giving and gift aid £15,175

Fund raising (fayres and functions) None due to pandemic

Grants None

General expenditure £47,455

Parish share contribution £27,420 (£4000 short due to pandemic)

Reserves £5000

Restricted reserved £11,807

Any special considerations None

The clergy expenses are met in full.

Plans have been submitted by the church architects for consideration, for the provision of church toilet facilities, accessed from the west porch.

The parish of St. Mary's Nuneaton is not a well-off parish and this is reflected in the income the church generates.

Further Details

For further details and an application form please contact:

Matt Robinson, Admin Assistant to the Archdeacons

By email to Matt.Robinson@Coventry.Anglican.org

or 02476 521344

For informal conversations, please contact:

The Bishop of Ebbsfleet, Jonathan Goodall, on 07881 875583

office@ebbsfleet.org.uk

or

Archdeacon Missioner, Ven Barry Dugmore, on 07487 578311

Barry.Dugmore@Coventry.Anglican.org

or

Area Dean, Rev David Poultney on 024 7610 2141

rector@bedworthparish.org

Closing date for applications: Noon, Friday 16th July

Interviews: To be held on Thursday 2nd and Friday 3rd September

An application form can be downloaded from the Diocesan Website:

<https://www.coventry.anglican.org/about/vacancies/current-vacancies.php>

Enhanced DBS disclosure is required for this post