



# Priest in Charge of Baslow and Eyam; Curbar and Stoney Middleton

June 2025



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

# **Priest-in-Charge of Baslow and Eyam; Curbar and Stoney Middleton**

## **Full-time Permanent Stipendiary Role**

We believe that this is an exciting time for a vicar to come to this new grouping of churches. The churches have strong and enthusiastic ministry from lay and ordained people. There is growth in terms of numbers, engagement, spirituality and a significant number of young people worshipping across the grouping. There are many existing missional activities to build upon and opportunities to impact beyond the boundaries of the parish leading on rural mission and ministry.

We are looking forward to working with our new brothers and sisters in faith as these churches come together for the first time. We recognise that in becoming part of a new larger grouping we have a responsibility for the future flourishing of all our churches. This can only be done if the laity play the major role in managing and running our churches to allow a new incumbent to provide a more strategic leadership. We must also manage the expectations placed on our new priest so that they may flourish and so that together we can build the Kingdom of God.

## **Role Specifics**

- To continue to grow the churches making new disciples and deepening the faith of existing church members
- To develop the ministry and mission already taking place, and develop and deliver new initiatives in response to identified needs and missional opportunities
- To support, and lead where currently missing, a strong ethos of pastoral care.
- To nurture a rich variety of church experience and worship tradition across the churches
- To develop existing community partnerships, form new ones and explore opportunities to create new worshipping communities with those partners
- To maintain and further develop strong relationships with schools and youth organisations
- To maintain and further develop strong relationships with families, schools, children and youth organisations based on and developing the principles of Growing Faith
- To develop a culture of financial and missional generosity considering how they might resource the wider Church
- To support Stoney Middleton in moving to a sustainable model of governance

We pledge our support to you and we will seek to embrace change even when we find it difficult. We will work with you and commit ourselves to looking after your well-being and ensuring that you do not take on unrealistic levels of work.

Welcome

## **The Venerable Nicky Fenton**

### **Archdeacon of Derbyshire Peak and Dales**

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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 rural communities with significant numbers of visitors. Someone who can work collaboratively within a new grouping maintaining the identity and diversity of the churches identities, theology and traditions while reaching out to those currently beyond the churches reach.

We are praying for someone who will love people, recognise and seize opportunities, balance tradition and innovation, engage creatively and missionally, sustain 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 relationships with children and families, and the number of events and activities currently serving local residents and meeting the needs of those visiting the area.

As part of our next Diocesan Funding Bid, we are expecting that there will be a Growing Faith hub and potentially a FLOURISH community forming in the area and these churches are ideally placed to benefit from and take leading roles in this. My hope is that the good practice that has seen many people coming to faith and growing in discipleship within these churches can be spread more widely across the deanery and can support, resource and inspire other churches in their evangelism, discipleship and mission.

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. This role brings together churches from different traditions for the first time so investing in relationship building and considering how best practice might be shared and what can be done together will be of vital importance to release energy for missional community engagement.

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. You will find supportive engagement from retired clergy and laity and team working 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 through 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 the potential to be real trail blazers 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.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Nicky Fenton". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

**The Ven Nicky Fenton**

[nicky.fenton@derby.anglican.org](mailto:nicky.fenton@derby.anglican.org)

Archdeacon of Derbyshire Peak and Dales

## **Revd Dr David Mundy**

Acting Area Dean, Peak Deanery

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Eyam, Baslow, Stoney Middleton, and Curbar are four rural parishes lying within the White Peak area of the beautiful Peak District National Park. The area is rich in history– Eyam is known as ‘the plague village’, there is evidence of lead mining dating back to the Roman era, a number of settlements are recorded in the Domesday Book. It also attracts hundreds of thousands of visitors every year –Baslow is on the doorstep of Chatsworth House, the seat of the Dukes of Devonshire –while the higher and wilder moors and gritstone edges provide opportunities for climbers, walkers and mountain bikers. Chesterfield and Sheffield are easily accessible.

Eyam, Baslow, Stoney Middleton and Curbar lie within the Peak Deanery, a collection of parishes – urban, market town, village – within or on the periphery of the Peak District National Park. Collaborative working is a feature of mission and ministry within the deanery, not only between the Anglican parishes but also with ecumenical partners. This post offers you the opportunity to provide leadership in proclaiming the ‘good news’ of the Kingdom of God, building community and seeing lives transformed. Together we serve a rich diversity of contexts and resource mission and ministry across boundaries that will grow the Church.

As members of the Peak Deanery we seek to be welcoming and supportive, working through collegial relationships to sustain one another in ministry. You will be joining colleagues who understand your context and share your calling for this special part of God’s world.

Rev’d Dr David Mundy  
Acting Area Dean, Peak Deanery

## Map of Peak Deanery



# Map of the Benefice

	1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday	2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday	3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday	4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday	5 <sup>th</sup> Sunday
<b>Eyam Church Centre</b>	9.00am Early Church		9.00am Early Church		
<b>St Lawrence's Eyam</b>	11.00am Morning Worship  6.00pm Evening service	11.00am Holy Communion	11.00am Morning Worship	11.00am Morning Worship  6.00pm Holy Communion	11.00am All Congregations all age service
<b>St Hugh's, Foolow</b>	4.00pm Service				
<b>St Anne's, Baslow*</b>	9.45am Holy Communion	9.45am MP/All Age	9.45am Choral Communion	9.45am Morning Prayer	9.45am Holy Communion
<b>All Saints' Curbar***</b>	10.30am Parish Eucharist	10.30am Parish Eucharist	10.30am Parish Eucharist	10.30am Parish Eucharist	10.30am Parish Eucharist
<b>St Martin's, Stoney Middleton</b>	Join with Eyam at 11.00am	10.30am Eucharist	10.30am Joint service with the Wesleyan Reformed Chapel alternating venues	10.30am Eucharist	Join with Chapel at 10.30am

## Midweek services

Curbar have a midweek eucharist at 10:30am on Thursdays and Baslow have a BCP Evensong at 6pm on Wednesdays.



## Parish Church attendance, population and deprivation

	USAA	USCA	Weddings	Baptisms	Funerals	Population	(IMD) Score
Eyam with Foolow	84	15	5	4	14	1200	11398
Baslow	45	4	3	5	4	1150	12104
Curbar	35	1	2	2	2	1700	12099
Stoney Middleton	9	0	2	3	4	516	12099

## The Ministry Team

	SSMs	PtOs	LLMs	Paid Staff	PCC officers
Eyam with Foolow	0	2	1	1.0 Pastor and Children's worker  1.5 admin staff	Full
Baslow	1	0	0	0.5 Community Engagement Officer  Part-Time Book-keeper	No PCC Sec No Treasurer
Curbar	0	1	0		Full
Stoney	0	2	0		One warden No PCC Sec

In respect of working together, there are distinct differences in the identity, worshipping style and theology between the churches. All agree there is no need or desire for these differences to be merged, and at the moment, there is little or no joint congregational activity. Instead, there is a recognition that it is actually beneficial to have confidently distinct offerings across the Benefice and a willingness to signpost any new members to the church that most appropriately connects and resonates with them regarding of which village it is in. Moving forward the intention is to maintain that diversity but consider what it means to become a new grouping and how churches might learn from and support one another.



	Common Fund ask	Common Fund paid	Total income	Total expenditure	Restricted reserves	Unrestricted reserves
St Lawrence, Eyam with St Hugh, Foolow	61,727	51,727	222,205	263,715	164,158 Designated 43,770	58,195
St Anne, Baslow*	24,000	15,500	74,972	65,253	17,544	101,937
All Saints, Curbar**	21,062	10,531	54,574	35,777	13,166	98,328
St Martin, Stoney Middleton	13,544	11,642	27,945	24,313	Designated 43,733	29,599

(2024 for Curbar and 2023 for other churches)





Eyam and Foolow are very community-focused villages. Eyam has a number of very active community groups, ranging from a Carnival and Well Dressing Committee, to a Half Marathon Committee, a Sports Association, an Old Folks Fund, an Eyam Show Committee, an Eyam Museum, a Village Society, a Gardening Group and a Book Barn. In Eyam there is a village pub, Eyam Hall wedding venue, the Mechanic's Institute and bar, two cafes and a doctor's surgery and dispensary. Foolow also has a village pub and an active Friends of St Hugh's that supports the fabric of their church. Both villages have an annual well dressing blessed by the Rector and followed by celebrations in Foolow and an all-day carnival in Eyam. The church works cooperatively with all these groups and activities as it does with Eyam Parish Council. The villages also help and support the churches in various ways and turn to us in times of sorrow and joy.

The Parish of Eyam is home to the iconic church that tells the story of love and self-sacrifice during the time of the plague 350 years ago, attracting 100,000 visitors annually. It is also home to lively, growing multi-generational congregations, drawn from a wide area, which often exceed a 100 on a Sunday. The parish includes the churches of St Lawrence, Eyam and a Mission Church, St Hugh's, Foolow.

Eyam is a very varied church and although most of our members are lifetime Anglicans, we also have a number who have joined us from other Christian denominations and over half our congregation live outside the parish. We welcome all Christians and value their contributions and celebrate the richness they bring to our witness and worship. The result is that the style of our services is varied from the contemporary to the traditional, being fairly informal and family friendly but we are



united in our Bible-based teaching and in prayer. We are a group of Christians who may vary in our opinions about all sorts of issues but we worship, pray, love, support and work together and also party together. We have articulated our vision as being to grow a community of faith through worship and attentive prayer and develop our discipleship together in order to implement God's plan in this place. We have adopted as our verse for the present term "Let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us. fixing our eyes on Jesus" (Hebrews 12:1-2).

In recent years, we have focused on building the church by drawing in children, young people and their families enabling them to experience the love of God and develop their discipleship. The nature and range of our services and other provision have been designed to achieve this vision reflecting the love of God through the love and support we have for each other. This mission has been successful and our church includes significant numbers of children, young people and their families. We have recently been discussing how to reinforce this mission focus and extend it to young adults and to prepare to pass on the leadership of the church to a new generation.

Presently we have an Early Church service every other Sunday (one a Messy Church and the other a Cafe Church), a Morning Worship Service every week (which is live-streamed and then posted on social media) an Evening Service every other week at Eyam and once a month at Foolow plus weekly School Services.



In addition, we have a weekly Parents and Crawlers Group and a Parents and Toddlers Group and 3 Youth Groups for different ages. We run an Open Doors (warm space) every Friday which provides morning coffee, lunch and afternoon tea. We also provide facilities for a Music for the Mind group aimed at dementia sufferers and their carers and an Art Group.

We have nine home-based Growth Groups to support bible study and prayer, develop discipleship and offer pastoral care and support. In addition to these events, we have a number of prayer groups and ad hoc united church celebrations. We work closely with Eyam CE Primary School and the school uses the Church for major Christian celebrations. We run Alpha Courses each year.

### **Children and young people connecting with Eyam Church ministry - as of January 2025**

Age Group	Crawlers Wednesday and Toddlers Friday	Evening Youth clubs	Eyam school service weekly in term time	Sunday morning 2nd and 4th Sunday of the month	Early Church 1st and 3rd Sundays of the month
1-2	20				
5-11		34 + waiting list			
5-11			70		
7-17				9	
Under 18					20

We also have a significant outward-looking mission reach. Eyam church is one of the most visited in the country with about 100,000 visitors a year. This is mainly as a result of the inspiration of Christian self-sacrifice in response to an outbreak of plague in the village of Eyam in the seventeenth century. This story is often used for teaching in schools and we welcome a large number of school parties each year to whom we tell our story. We also have two Pilgrim Trails ending in Eyam, one from the south starting in Ilam and one from the north starting in Edale. We generally have people in the church to welcome visitors and we give talks to school parties.

A highlight of our year is the annual Plague Memorial Service when we process through the village to worship in the Cucklet Delf as our forebears did in order to limit the spread of the plague. Both our churches are open in daylight hours and Foolow offers free coffee and biscuits and receives prayer requests from the many walkers who pass by. We want to examine what we could do to strengthen and modernise our external mission as we seek to spread our faith.

We support local charitable work, especially in nearby Sheffield, but we also support a range of Christian missions and charities overseas. Each year we give 10% of our given income to other charities

In addition to our two churches, we have a modern Church Centre which acts as a link between the church and the wider parish. The Centre has a main hall with a professional kitchen, two meeting rooms and a crèche, offices for staff and an office for the Rector.

We have recently updated our fire safety in the church and installed an up-to-date audio/visual system. We are in the process of updating our IT system as the basis for improving our management capabilities and revising our internal and outdated external communications. We are examining greening our buildings.





Baslow is a beautiful village in the Peak District with a strong and active sense of community, and is well served with all amenities. It is home to approximately 1,200 people of all age groups. St Anne's Church is well regarded within the community and has broad and deep networks throughout the village, playing a key role in many community activities. There are many societies and social occasions and the church primary school is a popular and thriving one. The village is an ancient settlement which grew up around an important crossing point of the River Derwent, and these days is very popular with visitors to the Peak District.

The church dates back to the 12th century, with that original building now partly comprised in the north aisle of today's church. The church was extensively renovated around 15 years ago, is nicely proportioned, comfortable, and well-equipped, and is much loved by the congregation and by the community. Events such as the Repair Café and Come & Sing Workshops happen in the church.



In Baslow, there is an SSM, who plays a key part in designing and taking the church services, and who also acts as a part-time Community Engagement Officer, paid for by the PCC, whose role is to lead on mission and community engagement. Over the last few years, he and our strong lay team, have together successfully driven both an increase in church attendance and an increase in engagement with the village. In the lay ministry team we have a Director of Music, whose roll includes running our friendly church choir and organising the music within our services, with music always being an important thread for the congregation, whether by organ or praise band. Indeed, our monthly Choral Communion is the best attended service. The Music Director also organises outreach events in the form of our popular Come and Sing workshops at the main festivals. A lay team runs our monthly informal all age service, Sunday2gether, which is attracting new parents and young children, and leads Open the Book in the School. Various lay people, particularly our Almoner, lead in offering pastoral care. Our Prayer Group and our Bible Study Group are also lay lead. Our PCC is seven strong, supported by a part-time book-keeper, and we have a bell-tower captain, three organists, and a team of Flower Arrangers.

Our style of worship depends upon the service being held, and can either be traditional or informal, as we alternate weekly between Holy Communion and Morning Praise. Vestments are generally worn, but not at the lively all-age Sunday2gether service. Church members are predominantly over 50 years of age, but there are a number of young families with children who do regularly attend, especially the all-age service. Visitors and new-comers are warmly welcomed, and one new attender recently commented “Most churches say they are welcoming, but we can say we have joined a family”. There is a Church Fellowship Group, which meets regularly. We encourage people to discover God in their lives, hear the message of the gospel, and deepen their faith. St Anne’s is always open every day for locals or visitors to come in, look around, reflect, and pray.



Our activities in the community are many and regular, placing St Anne`s as a meaningful player in the life of Baslow. The church holds a regular Repair Cafe, organised by the Community Engagement Officer, which is well attended by people in the area, both as customers and repairers. The church also participates in the Baslow Environment Group, founded by the Community Engagement Officer, by the greening of the churchyard, and the placing of bird boxes on the church tower.

During the year, there are a series of regular events that involve local people, whether they are church attenders or not:- A Harvest Supper is organised by the church each year in the Village Hall, which is always full for the occasion. Villagers each Remembrance make poppies to add to, or replace parts of, the Poppy Cascade hung from the altar and running down the nave. A team of local men erect Christmas lights in the churchyard, started with a Switch on Ceremony attended by the local school children, and greatly admired by the passing traffic on the main road. The Community Engagement Officer arranges carol singing in a village pub in the week before Christmas. The church produces a monthly Parish Magazine, which comprises many articles and information about village life in general as well as articles and information about the church itself. Pupils from the village school hold a Carol Service and a Leavers Service at St Anne`s church. We also raise money at specific events for local charities such as Church on the Bus, which helps the homeless in Chesterfield.

So there is currently a definite buzz about the church, and St Anne`s PCC is keen to build further on the recent invigoration of the church`s life and worship .”





Curbar Parish is located in the heart of the Peak District, in some of the most beautiful countryside in England. It has a total population of approximately 1700 and embraces the three civil Parishes of Curbar, Calver and Froggatt. The population is fairly static. The majority of housing is in private ownership and the old village properties are outnumbered by new housing which has been built since the 1950's. There are a growing number of holiday cottages. There is a single bedroom flat within Calver Village owned by a trust of which the vicar will be a trustee providing a home for a needy member of the local Parish.

Most of the population is employed in the surrounding towns and cities of Bakewell (5 miles), Chesterfield (11 miles), Sheffield (12 miles) and Manchester (36 miles). There is little work in the Parish. Residents who work locally are most likely to be self-employed tradesmen or working in the limited number of retail outlets.

The Parish maintains a Petrol Station with shop and across the road a highly rated Spar shop which works closely with local producers being a winner of Best Spar in the country. It also contains the local Post Office and has an attached Coffee Shop. There is in addition, a Repair Garage, a Craft Centre with attached Tea Room, a Shoe Shop and a Tailor. There is a Pub Restaurant with rooms in Froggatt, a Pub serving food opposite the church and a further 2 Public Houses in Calver both serving good food. There are also a number of B&B's

There are many active organisations in the Parish – Cubs, Scouts, Girl Guides, Senior Citizens, Flower Club and a Women's Institute. There is plenty of sport along with facilities such as football pitches, tennis courts and a Bowling Club. The old Cricket pitch is currently being converted into a village green and playground. There is a modern fully equipped Village Hall which was opened by the Duke of Devonshire in 1995. The Hall has a working bar and also film equipment with recently



installed sound system for an active and popular Film Club. It also has top quality IT facilities and is popular with local activity providers supplying regular classes for Tai Chi, Yoga, Pilates etc. It is also a growing choice for Wedding Receptions. The church retains a representative on the Committee serving also as a trustee.

The villages also have a number of other events such as the annual Froggatt Horticultural Show which features brass band and all the stalls associated with a traditional village show. There is also a newly established annual Gala in Calver enthusiastically supported by the community and by our church which has resulted in a generous donation to the church from the organisers.

The public transport system has been cut back as in most other rural areas throughout the country, creating difficulty for some of our residents. There is a reasonable bus service to Bakewell and intermittent services to Buxton, Chesterfield and Sheffield. We have an excellent Community Transport system to augment the public transport, provided by Bakewell & Eyam Community Transport which is a local charity. They provide door to door shopping services for the elderly and disabled along with weekly outings. There is a mainline railway station at Grindleford (2 miles) where the slow train stops on its route from Sheffield (20mins) to Manchester (1hr). Internet connection is excellent with full 'to house' fibre broadband available throughout Calver, Froggatt and Curbar.

All Saints has a liberal Anglo-Catholic tradition which makes it stand out from surrounding Parishes offering a unique alternative in the area. There is a full set of vestments which are worn at all Eucharist Services. Music plays an important role in our services and we are fortunate to have a number of organists who are able to play for us. We have a small but enthusiastic choir which has been increasing in number. We do not have any Lay Led services. Our pattern of Service has been in place for over 15 years and has been very successful. We encourage baptisms to be held within our Sunday Eucharist service when possible. We combined with the other churches in our previous Benefice for the Easter Vigil and Service of Light which we took it in turns to host.



There is an active Methodist Chapel in Calver Village and a Wesleyan Reform Chapel in Curbar. Froggatt has an old Methodist Chapel but is only used for a Harvest and Carol Service being Lay led by Village Members. We have good relations with Cliff College, a Methodist Teaching and Training College with an interesting history of training missionaries for work in Africa and other undeveloped areas of the world. There is a popular Roman Catholic Church in the adjoining Parish of Hassop.

We are an extremely sociable and friendly church and we encourage everyone, especially visitors, to stay on for coffee and biscuits after the service. This encourages socialising and gives a perfect opportunity to get to know new attendees and visitors. We are very much known as a welcoming Church. At special services such as our Patronal Service or Harvest Festival we serve drinks and nibbles in the side chapel.

We have an enthusiastic fund-raising committee organising a number of events throughout the year including our annual Open Gardens. We had a talk in the autumn by Lord Burlington (the heir to the Duke of Devonshire) on Chatsworth Past, Present and Future. We have held two coffee/tea events including sale of jewellery, scarves etc and there are regular coffee mornings running throughout the year. The church is also used for concerts by local choirs.

Our Mission is centred around building on our links with the community through a strong Pastoral leadership supported by a willing church community. We are strong supporters of the Save the Parish movement. Visiting Parishioners is a vital part of our Church Mission and we would hope that this should be strongly led by the incumbent. With the incumbent not residing in the Parish it is vital that they be seen out and about within the villages so as not to become disconnected from the villages that they serve.



We support The Archer Project in Sheffield an initiative supporting homeless people developed and supported by the Cathedral. Their CEO spoke to us recently to during a Sunday Service keeping us up to date with their work and we regularly raise money and collect food and clothing for them.

All Saints' Church was consecrated in 1868. It is not a listed building but is in a conservation area. The church seats approximately 150 persons. It has a small kitchen, toilet, choir robing room, office and vestry. The side chapel was re-designed in 2012 to make a Baptistry, in the Chapel of Christ the King. This is where we hold our Thursday Eucharist service. Adjacent to the altar within the chapel is an Aumbry for the Reserved Sacrament. The chairs in this area were provided by members of the congregation and allow us to utilise this area for meetings and social events. Since 2015 we have added glass doors to the porch along with a disabled entry ramp. This enables us to have the main door open during services flooding the back of the church with light. We have an excellent hot air central heating system which is very efficient and we always receive comments about our lovely warm church.

Our latest quinquennial, completed in 2017 reported that the general fabric of the church was in good condition but an ongoing and historic problem of water ingress to the side chapel corner was worsening. Following a timely bequest, we have been able to do a complete roof replacement of the roof over the side chapel. A redecoration program is anticipated for 2025 following replastering.

The churchyard is still open for re-opening of graves and the burial of ashes. The adjacent local burial ground is controlled by the Curbar Parish Council and is now used for most internments.



The Parish of Stoney Middleton, lying within the Peak District National Park has a stable population of about 516 (2021 census), of mixed age groups living in 220 properties in the village and its surrounding farmland. The village sits astride the A623 main trunk road linking the M1 motorway, through Chesterfield, with Stockport and Manchester via the A6. We are 5 miles from both Tideswell and Bakewell to which there are bus services along with services to Sheffield and Chesterfield. Much of the village is now a designated Conservation Area leaving little scope for any new 'affordable housing' which is needed to meet the needs of younger families. Some dwellings are holiday accommodation.

Stoney Middleton is a 'working village' with a number of businesses within its boundaries. Historically the centre of a 19th century boot and shoe making industry, and lead mining. There is one boot factory remaining in the centre of the village. A working quarry above the village closed in 2024. The site contains a number of small industrial and office buildings. The village has a Motor Repair Garage, Fish & Chip shop, Indian Restaurant, Hairdresser, The Moon Inn and a Butchers Shop run by a local farming family.

A development of new Holiday Apartments along with a heritage centre on the edge of the village opened in May, 2024. The 'Cupola' heritage centre will enhance our local amenities and cater for the local community and for the many tourists, walkers, climbers and potholers who visit our village. We are well-known for the quality of local caverns, climbs and walks.



The Village has an active Horticultural Society, and a playing field association (known as SMILE – Stoney Middleton Interest and Leisure Enterprise) which is raising money to build a village hall.

We work very closely with our small C of E primary school, which is part of the Woodland Federation with Peak Forest and Great Hucklow schools. We welcomed our school to church for special events and festivals such as Harvest and Christmas. We have also done annual remembrance assemblies for the combined Federation. There is a small Wesleyan Reformed congregation in the village with whom we have a good relationship. We have a weekly joint prayer meeting and we held three joint services this year. In 2025, we are beginning a regular monthly joint service.

The highlight of the summer season is our traditional Well Dressing festival which has taken place here since 1936. The process brings together the whole community both young and old and is celebrated towards the end of July with a short service of blessing and includes during the week of celebration, services and concerts in St Martin's Church. There is also a Brass Band, Fell Race and other activities along with barbecues and community events. A lot of the festival takes place in and around the church grounds, which is central to the celebrations. The 'boat race' takes place in the brook outside the church – children and adults build small boats and race them down the stream!

In 2022, we undertook a Christmas Tree Festival. This was extremely well received and supported by the village and was repeated in 2023 and 2024. In 2023, we added a family-orientated Crib Service to our other Christmas services, which drew over 40 people including children and families. In 2024, we added a 'travelling nativity' to our Christmas plans, which had a real impact. The crib service drew over 40 again this year. Over the last two years, through these events and through baptisms, we have built good links with a number of families with pre-school and infant-school-aged children. We are planning to develop an occasional 'Outdoor Church' event during 2025 to connect more with these families through something that builds community with attention to spirituality through sharing together in God's creation.

We try to communicate well to the wider village. We share a bi-monthly Parish Magazine with All Saint's Curbar called The Link. We also keep in touch through the Stoney village Facebook account and Parish Council emails.



St Martin's Church is within the liberal catholic tradition of the Anglican Church with the Parish Eucharist at the heart of its worship each Sunday at 10.30 am. We are seen as a welcoming church. Coffee is always served after the Eucharist and at special services such as the annual Carol Service we serve wine and nibbles.

The church is a Grade 2\* Listed Building being of unusual design and great historical interest. The tower is the only remains of the original church, which was built by Joan Eyre of the Manor of Padley in thanksgiving for the safe return of her husband, Robert from Agincourt in 1415. The unusual, octagonal nave was built in 1759 to replace the original which had burnt down 2 years before, creating the intriguing marriage of styles that exists today. The Vestry was completely rebuilt, with financial support from the village, to double its former size, enabling the installation of an accessible toilet, a small kitchen and a good range of cupboards for secure storage.

The church attracts a large number of visitors throughout the year not least because it is the penultimate church on the Peak Pilgrimage, a walk stretching from Ilam near Ashbourne to our neighbouring Parish Church at Eyam. Visitors express considerable appreciation and enjoyment of the building and we believe there is scope to build on this interest. The church is open from 10.00am to dusk.

There is provision for the burial of cremated remains in the churchyard and a cemetery, maintained by the church, is located to the north of the church on the bridleway, known as Jacob's Ladder.

The congregation is small and ageing. We only have one warden and have no PCC secretary, but minutes are still recorded at PCC meetings. The congregation feels anxious about its future, but is very open to change and development. Stoney village is a strong community and the church is integral to its identity – not least in community activities and occasional offices. People have deep roots in the community and the church is an important part of this. We believe that there is great potential to build and grow Christian community within and outside the congregation, and the congregation recognises the importance of change and new initiatives and is keen to welcome a priest who would lead us in a more experimental and outward-looking approach. We sense that the opportunity to build missionally on the present congregation and Sunday service has probably been missed. A new priest will need to pioneer something fresh in the village. We think that this may best be done with some initial help from other stronger congregations in the benefice.

## **Eyam Church of England Primary School**

The vision to 'let your light shine' (Matthew 5 vs 16) is integral to the work of the school - providing a bedrock for celebrating the progress and achievements of others as well as lighting a way for others to follow. To be a light to others – to offer help and be a source of strength, show compassion and have a friend in Jesus. At Eyam we use the "Roots and Fruits" resources to help us study the following virtues; Courage, Forgiveness, Friendship, Respect, Thankfulness, Trust, Perseverance, Justice, Service and Truthfulness. These help us to embed our School values of Respect, Resilience and Responsibility and through the themes we also learn about the Christian calendar.

We are exploring pupil advocacy through being an Eco School and seek ways to reflect on our impact on the world as well as actively learning about social justice through our work as a Fairtrade school. The Headteacher has been in post over 10 years and seeks to ensure there is a culture of challenge balanced with support. She ensures time to reflect on the wonders of the world and through a well thought through curriculum engenders opportunities to give hands on experiences - a moorlands topic for example to learn about local biodiversity and our carbon footprint. What is important at Eyam is our coming together as a community in action – we often take part in a whole school activity to reflect our half termly theme. It usually involves working as a mixed age group to enable pupil Leadership and pupil support to develop.

We currently have 70 pupils. The school works closely with its church and our Pastor leads weekly services in the school. The school uses the Church for its main festival services. The Church also delivers Open the Book child-focused presentations of Bible stories. School pupils attend after-school clubs provided by the Church. The Church also fills two Foundation Governor places on the School's Governing Body.

## **Baslow Church of England Primary School**

Baslow St Anne`s Church of England Primary School is a thriving school where children are nurtured and inspired to learn in a rich and stimulating environment. The headteacher and staff are passionate about developing an enthusiasm for learning, a striving for academic excellence, confident learners, and children wanting to engage with the natural awe and wonder of the world around them. Inspiring children to be inquisitive, independent learners, and providing a solid foundation for learning now and into the future. We underpin all of what we do with our values: respect, kindness, and diversity, alongside supporting mental wellbeing for our children and staff. One parent, typical of many, said "This is a fantastic rural school with some fantastic opportunities for the pupils". We are extremely proud that we achieved "Outstanding" from our recent Ofsted inspection, in the areas of personal development and behaviour.

Our Christian values drive forward high expectations of our children and staff to behave in a manner that is respectful and inclusive of others; being polite ; kind ; considerate; and courteous at all times - building a strong healthy ethos that runs throughout the school. We have an enriched curriculum encouraging a love of learning across all subject areas ; further supported by extra-curricular activities in art, sport, music, singing, computing, STEM, science, debating, enterprise, maths, judo, Zumba, and more. We work closely with the community and St Anne`s Church, and volunteers from the church are currently delivering collective worship in school on a weekly basis.

## Curbar Primary School

Curbar has a very successful County Primary School which was judged as 'Outstanding' in the Ofsted inspection. Consequently, it is very popular with the local community. It is sited adjacent to the Churchyard with a pedestrian gate opening into our grounds. The school has excellent links with the church and the previous incumbent took a monthly assembly in the school. The school also uses the church for its annual Nativity Play.

## Stoney Middleton Church of England Primary School

### School Vision

We nurture children who are healthy, happy and hungry to learn. Our children strive to do their best in line with our federation vision – SMILERS. This stands for:

- Spirituality:** We want our children to grow up with an appreciation of the amazing world around them.
- Motivation:** we want our children to be motivated to be the best they can be.
- Individuality:** all of our children are individuals and this is celebrated and nurtured in our schools.
- Lifelong Learners** We aim to give our children the skills and resilience to embrace opportunities to learn that they will take through life.
- Equality** All of our children have opportunities to thrive.
- Respect** We teach our children to treat others with respect for others' beliefs and religions.
- Supportive** Our children are encouraged to offer support to those in need through charitable deeds.

Retired clergy have led worship in school and in church during the past year for Remembrance Day, Harvest and Christmas. Our children are looking forward to having a vicar for Stoney Middleton. They would like someone who comes to see them in school and will do fun collective worship for them!





The Rectory was an old building but most of it was re-built in the 1960s, with only the staircase and Mompesson's study remaining from the plague time building. It has four bedrooms, a bathroom, kitchen, a lounge, dining room and a study. The kitchen and bathroom were updated just before the previous Rector left.

There is a large, mainly lawned garden to the front and a smaller garden to the rear. The Rectory is accessed via a gate which also leads to the drive to the Church Centre. There is ample parking for the Rectory and a double garage.

# The Rectory

## 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.

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



How to apply