

Team Rector

Buxton with Burbage and King Sterndale

Full Time, permanent stipendiary role



Archdeacon's Welcome



I am delighted that you are interested in finding out more about this unique and exciting post. We are looking for an enthusiastic and experienced priest with a pastoral heart. Someone who will work collaboratively, bringing three new churches into the wider Team while maintaining the identity and diversity of the churches theology, worship, discipleship and traditions as well as reaching out to those currently beyond the churches reach.

There is significant potential for mission given the way the town acts as resource to the wider communities and is a centre of excellence for creative and performing arts. This role is ideal for someone with a background or interest in heritage, tourism, creative arts and performing arts and who thinks creatively and innovatively about mission and outreach.

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.

We are seeking a leader who can continue to build our confidence and skill in governance and strategic leadership. Someone who will inspire others to use their gifts and work in partnership to transform lives through growing church and building community. This role brings new churches into the existing team with the support of a team Vicar so investing in relationship building, considering how best practice might be shared and determining 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, a small staff team and lay volunteers. Collaborative 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.

Nicky Fenton

The Ven Nicky Fenton
nicky.fenton@derby.anglican.org
Archdeacon of Derbyshire Peak and Dales

Area Dean's Welcome

Buxton, along with Bakewell and Glossop, is one of the largest market towns within Peak Deanery. Set in the beautiful landscape of the High Peak it attracts significant numbers of visitors and resources the smaller local village communities.

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.

Revd Fiona Kouble
Assistant Area Dean, Peak Deanery



Our Vision

We are looking for an experienced Priest with a heart for mission to help us to develop and implement realistic mission and ministry plans, and to encourage the parish to become more cohesive and outward facing. We long to be better equipped to build on the missional opportunities arising from the internationally renowned Arts Festival, the heritage of the spa town, tourism industry and the civic life of Buxton.

With the support of our interim Priest-in-Charge we have strengthened the governance of the parish, focusing on the roles and responsibilities of the PCC and its committees, and developing policies and procedures.

We now want to identify and develop the potential of the churches in the parish, and of the congregation members in the churches. Each church is unique, and we wish to embrace and further develop the range of worship styles within and across the Team.

We want our new Team Rector to be visible, engaged and connected across Buxton and its surrounding area, helping us to develop stronger and more diverse relationships with the different communities represented within the parish.

We are seeking an experienced, enthusiastic, pastorally hearted, missional priest to work collaboratively with us to:

- welcome three new parishes into the Team and help each church embrace their unique identity and value their distinctiveness
- offer oversight to 5 churches within the parish of Buxton with Burbage and King Sterndale.
- lead collaboratively, supporting the Team Vicar, staff and volunteers who hold delegated responsibilities
- deepen discipleship and develop lay ministry and leadership
- develop communication and online presence including social media
- use Mission Action Planning to focus outwardly and enable outreach
- form and develop community partnerships and worshipping communities
- support visitors and tourists to become pilgrims

To support you in this role we will be recruiting a Team Vicar to hold delegated oversight for the new churches joining the Team – Earl Sterndale, Taddington and Chelmorton. They will lead on work amongst children, young people and families across the whole Team and offer occasional support with worship and occasional offices for the other churches in the Team.



Our community

Buxton is a very special place, tracing its history through prehistoric limestone caves, a Roman settlement, elegant Georgian architecture and a Victorian park and gardens. The highest market town in England, it has a population of just over 20,000, with 63% aged 16-64 and 25% aged 65 plus; only 2% of the population is non-white (2021 census).

Famous for its spa water, which is bottled locally and sold worldwide, Buxton is also known for its Opera House and annual arts and music festivals which draw thousands of visitors and tourists every year. Visitors also use the town as a base to explore the Peak District National Park and attractions such as Chatsworth and Haddon Hall.

Local people work in the tourism, retail and leisure sectors plus limestone quarries, light industrial businesses, the Health & Safety Executive Research Laboratories and farming. Residents also commute to Stockport, Manchester, Chesterfield and Sheffield to work and study. These towns and cities are accessible by bus or train as well as by car, and Macclesfield is 20 minutes away for trains to London.

There is a wide variety of housing, from small terraced cottages and Victorian family houses to modern flats and residential estates, plus social housing and retirement flats. Buxton also has a range of nursing and care homes which provide care and support for elderly people. Two small local NHS hospitals deal with minor injuries and offer physiotherapy and other community services. Plans are being proposed to redevelop the town centre with a multi-million pound development.

The town has one infant, one junior, three primary and two secondary schools. There is no Church of England church school in the parish. St Thomas More School is a church school administered jointly by Derbyshire County Council and the Catholic Diocese. The University of Derby has a campus for students studying a range of vocational courses, based in the former Devonshire Royal Hospital in the town centre.

Buxton has a rich cultural life. In addition to the Opera House, plus the Pavilion Gardens arts complex with two studio spaces which also encompass a film club and cinema. The Buxton Musical Society gives regular orchestral and choral concerts, and Burbage has a award winning brass band. There is also a strong tradition of popular music in town - acoustic, rock, pop and jazz.





The Parish

The Parish of Buxton with Burbage and King Sterndale has a population of 13,638 in 6,342 households located in the centre, west and south of the town. In the last census the population was 97.5% white, and 49.7% indicated themselves as Christian. There were 160 people on the 2024-25 electoral roll. To the immediate north and east the remainder of the town lies in the Parish of Fairfield.

Six churches currently form our team parish: St Anne's, St John the Baptist and St Mary's in the town centre, plus Christ Church in Burbage, Christ Church in King Sterndale, and St James in Harpur Hill. These are shown on the map below: Christ Church Burbage (4), Christ Church King Sterndale (6), St Anne (2), St James Harpur Hill (5), St John the Baptist (1) and St Mary the Virgin (3). They are located across the town of Buxton and in adjoining communities. The PCC voted to request permanent closure of St James Church in May 2025, due to its poor structural condition. Three other churches will be joining the team under delegated oversight of the Team Vicar.

The Team Ministry was created in 1974, and is currently staffed by the Revd Sandra Doore (Team Vicar). The Revd Dr David Mundy was interim Priest-in-Charge from September 2024 until his retirement in July 2025. The ministry team also includes three retired clergy with PtO, two Readers with PtO and representations from four of the churches and currently meet bi-monthly.

The Team has implemented 'Safeguarding Children and Young People', the Diocesan child protection procedures and best practice guidelines, and has one Parish Safeguarding officer supported by our paid Administrators, who are not trained PSOs.

A number of lay people have taken part in the Diocesan Certificate of Mission and Ministry course, and assist in worship.

The clergy are supported by a committed and active lay team. There are currently three Church Wardens, although 12 Warden posts are available across the six churches. The parish has a single PCC meeting each month with 19 members who are representatives from each of the churches. In the last year, with the guidance and leadership of the interim Priest-in-Charge we have strengthened the governance within the parish, ensuring that the PCC, Standing Committee, the Finance Committee, St Mary's Committee and other PCC Committees have Terms of Reference setting out roles and responsibilities, delegated authority, membership, and reporting. Parish news and information

about activities at individual churches is circulated through a weekly news sheet and a monthly newsletter.

2024 figures	Christ Church Burbage	Christ Church King Sterndale	St Anne	St James	St John	St Mary
Baptism	1	1	0	-	1	3
Weddings	1	4	0	-	1	1
Funerals	11	1	1	-	0	16
Usual Sunday attendance*	17	12	No Sunday Service	-	57	24
Average Child attendance	3	0.1	-	-	1.4	2.3

* for each church, this is the average attendance at Usual Sunday Services based on church data from our Statistics for Mission response.

Remarriage of divorced people in church is at the discretion of the clergy. The current baptism policy is to conduct all baptisms within one of the main Sunday services.

Ministry and mission

Each of our churches has its own pattern of worship, which you can read about in their individual entries. Some churches also host specific services during the church year, for example Advent Carols and Nine Lessons and Carols services are held at St John's while an All Souls Remembrance Service is held at St Mary's. There are Ash Wednesday services at Burbage, St Anne's and St Mary's. Burbage Church also hosts an Animal Blessing Service. There are also parish services on Christmas 1 (St Anne's), during Holy Week, on Palm Sunday (St John's), on Maundy Thursday (St John's), Good Friday (St John's), Easter Eve (St Anne's) and Ascension Day (King Sterndale)

There are also many opportunities for parishioners to get involved in the spiritual life of our team parish in addition to attending Sunday and other services.

Regular activities include:

- Bible Study Group - meets every Wednesday evening during term-time, from 7-8pm, with coffee and fellowship after for those who can stay. We study the following Sunday's Old Testament lesson, Psalm, Epistle and Gospel.
- Exploring Faith Group - a small ecumenical group meeting weekly to study. We are currently reading 'The 4 vision quests of Jesus', looking at Jesus' ministry through the eyes of a Choctaw Christian bishop reconciling his culture with his faith. A bigger group meets monthly for Theological Reflection. Our last topic was to consider a New Year Resolution for the Church. We have got to know each other well and find the challenging literature makes our world a much bigger place.
- A Time for Reflection – a group conceived as a form of alternative worship during the pandemic lockdowns, 'A Time for Reflection' continues to thrive under the leadership of Bishop Jack Nicholls. Many different themes have been explored by session leaders. It is delivered by Zoom and discussion remains central when a range of opinions are expressed by the group of over 20 regular attendees.

Outreach and Fresh Expressions activities include:

- Brekkie Church - a monthly morning service for families at Christ Church Burbage which also includes activities and rounds off with a continental breakfast.
- Jigsaw Church – a monthly non-communion session at St Mary's which is in a more informal style. This service started online during lockdown and is largely led by lay people.
- A lay minister visits Buxton Junior School for 2 mornings each week. Over the course of 3 weeks they listen to 60 children read.

There is a small but active Pastoral Care Group which visits the bereaved and those who are sick or nearing the end of life. Retired clergy and lay readers take communion to those who request it and also visit nursing and care homes

to administer communion.

All our churches have varied programmes of social, fundraising and outreach activities, ranging from suppers, quiz nights and garden parties to coffee mornings, flower festivals and musical events. There is also a parish Table Tennis group which meets weekly at the Bath Road Centre.

We enjoy good ecumenical relationships with other churches in the town, through the 'Churches Together in Buxton' network. These include the Methodist, Roman Catholic, URC, Church in the Peak and Buxton Community churches. There is also an Anglican proprietary chapel, Trinity Church. We have good links with the neighbouring Anglican parish of Fairfield.

Our churches play a role in the civic life of Buxton, including services for the annual Wells Dressing festival, the crowning of the Wells Dressing Queen and Remembrance Sunday, which are led by our clergy team.



Parish Finances

The Parish's finances are managed by a Finance Committee which reports regularly to the Standing Committee and the PCC. A new accounting system has been installed and a part-time book-keeper is employed who is also the PCC Treasurer. Management accounts are prepared monthly.

The Parish's accounts for 2024 are summarised below. The full accounts can be found on the Charity Commission's website.

	Income	Expenditure	Total
St John	£57,228	£18,451	
St Mary	£30,425	£8,460	
St Anne	£5,863	£1,429	
Burbage	£24,284	£3,643	
King Sterndale	£8,790	£798	
St James*	£293	£768	
King Sterndale Hall	£3,711	£3,972	
Parish Centre	£14,933	£4,956	
	£145,527	£42,477	£103,050
Central Expenses (net)**			£135,738
General Fund Deficit (2024)			-£32,688

* Church now closed

** Inc. Common Fund £77,249 (100% of amount asked)

Total funds held by the Parish at the end of 2024 were £283,370, a significant proportion of which were held in Restricted or Designated funds.

Restricted funds

These comprise the following unexpended balances of donations and grants held on trust for specific purposes:

	Balance 31.12.2024
St Anne's Fabric	£1,497
Christ Church Burbage Fabric	£5,350
St James' Fabric	£6,428
Christ Christ King Sterndale Fabric	£6,473
Christ church King Sterndale Youth Work	£170
Outreach	£122
Burbage Graveyard	£586
St Mary's Nadin Bequest	£60,000
St John's Projects	£5,351
Other Projects and Events	£2,648
	£88,626

Designated funds

The following designated funds which have been set aside out of unrestricted funds for specific purposes:

	Balance 31.12.2024
Church Fabric Repair and Development	£76,184
Rector's Discretionary	£1,190
Christ Church Burbage Graveyard	£978

Unrestricted funds

The following unrestricted fund is available for use at the discretion of the PCC.

	Balance 31.12.2024
General Fund	£116,392

Note: since the 2024 year-end there have been some significant adjustments between the various funds to comply fully with the requirements of the Diocese and the Charity Commission.

The financial priority is to reduce the size of the deficit on the General Fund. This will be addressed by:

- Encouraging increases in planned giving. A new leaflet was launched in Spring 2024; however, the topic of stewardship will be a priority for the new incumbent.
- Focusing on encouraging legacies from existing church members and the wider community.
- Maintaining financial policies have been introduced to control all aspects of our expenditure and taking steps to ensure the rules are followed.
- Maximising rental income from all the parish's properties.
- Examining ways to reduce energy costs and our buildings' impact on the environment.

The Parish Centre, Bath Road

This is the hub and administrative centre of the team parish. It houses the Rector's and Vicar's office, and is staffed on four days a week by two paid part-time Administrators. In addition to producing weekly news sheets and service booklets on the large professional copier/printer, the office also holds current parish records and holds and maintains safeguarding records.

The Administrators play a key role in the smooth running of the team parish and co-ordinate church activities to avoid double booking of dates for worship, social or fundraising activities. We also have a paid Parish Treasurer, who is also a member of the PCC who efficiently looks after the parish finances.

Presently, we have a wide variety of users including an over 60s Keep Fit group, Martial Arts groups (Taekwondo, Kick Boxing and Ju-Jitsu), Yoga, two Table Tennis Groups (U3A and a Parish group) and a Games Group. From September there will also be Baby Ballet in the centre.





Christ Church Burbage

Christ Church Burbage, situated to the west of Buxton, is Grade II Listed. It was built 1860 under the patronage of the Seventh Duke of Devonshire, to the design of Henry Currey. The building is in a reasonably good condition, benefiting from extensive work on the tower and roof in the last ten years. The stonework, drive, paths and parking area will need future attention.

Holy Communion is held on 1st, 2nd and 4th Sundays, and Brekkie Church on the 3rd Sunday. We consider Brekkie Church to be very much a nurturing environment. It is very relaxed with stories, craft and music followed by breakfast served after the service. The Crib Service on Christmas Eve is always a highlight of the year, and our Clypping Service in August is very special to us.

We celebrate friendship and like to feel we are a very welcoming church. We serve tea and coffee after the Sunday service and make a special effort to include visitors and people who come infrequently. The local community has a strong attachment to Christ Church Burbage, many have been baptised and married here.

We hold a Snowdrop Tea and Christmas Tree Festival which are popular with local people and this year we held a special celebration for VE day. Spring, Autumn and Christmas fairs are held in Burbage Institute, and are well supported by the wider community.

Our Churchyard Working Party meets on the second Tuesday of each month. The volunteers form the core of 'Coffee and Chat' which meets at the same time, and is open to everyone in the community. The three and a half acre churchyard is still open for burials. It surrounds the church on all sides, with an extension on the north side. All boundaries are marked by dry stone walls, and the eastern border is alongside Nursery Lane. The original two-acre graveyard was consecrated in 1861 and enlarged in 1902 and again in 1939. Another piece was added but not consecrated until 13th March 1977. This new part is a lawned Churchyard which makes mowing and maintenance much easier. We still have the graveyard books from 1861 onwards showing all the burials and their plot numbers and a detailed plan of the churchyard. The earliest one is in beautiful copperplate script but rather fragile now. In the churchyard there are many interesting memorials and eight commonwealth war graves. We are the only church in the parish with bells and bell ringers, and there are opportunities for bell ringing training.

We celebrate

- Our dedicated team who work hard to maintain the building and put on events and maintain close links with the local community.

Our challenges

- To increase our congregation so that we can do more activities and reach out to more people
- To maintain our building for future generations.

Our dreams

- To get the youngsters to Brekkie Church and keep them coming when Sunday sports clubs beckon.
- To work on projects with other churches in the parish.



Christ Church King Sterndale

The Church was built in 1847, thanks to the efforts of the Pickford family. Amongst the impressive list of subscribers were the Duke of Devonshire, Lady Fitzherbert and professional gentlemen including Bishop Spencer and Dr Darwin, and representatives of the Pickford family. A portion of their own parkland was given to the site.

One of the stained glass windows commemorates William Pickford (1848-1923), Lord Sterndale. The Parish Hall adjacent to the church was used as the village school. We have an open burial graveyard and memorial plots.

We have one 9.30am communion services and one family service each month and we also have our parish Ascension service, Remembrance service, carol service and rehearsals for weddings. Our chosen hymns are played with our CD player which works well for us.

Our congregation is consistent and has recently had an influx of people from St James' Church Harpur Hill, which is presently closed due to building defects.

We are the only church in Buxton Parish which remains open from dawn to dusk. Our welcome book is full of comments about the church being open, and very good feelings of Christianity. Walkers from the High Peak are frequent visitors.

The Parish Hall is used for many purposes - including as a Polling Station - and is a self-funding resource for the community. Our fundraising activities include snowdrop event, harvest festival supper, flower festival, Christmas Fair and many more.

We encourage anyone we see in our church, including visitors, walkers, passers-by etc. Once a year in Buxton a coach visits our villages, and we give a short history of our church.



St Anne's

Our church is very close to the Market Place and is one of the oldest buildings in Buxton. It became the town's church when the original Chapel of St John was suppressed in the 1530s. After a period when it was used as a school, it was re-dedicated in 1881, and followed a strong Anglo-Catholic tradition. It has a small graveyard, but burials no longer take place at St Anne's.

The weekly Eucharist service is at 10.00am on Wednesday, and we use the 1662 Book of Common Prayer. Regular attendance is 12.

We celebrate

- Our form of traditional worship.

Our challenges

- An aging and shrinking congregation.

Our dreams

- We want to grow our congregation without losing what makes our worship unique.



St John's

St John's sits at the centre of Buxton, opposite the Opera House, and has the highest seating capacity in the benefice. Since its foundation in 1811 by the 5th Duke of Devonshire it has played an important religious and civic role in the town. The Grade II* church is a large, chaired, flexible building with wonderful acoustics for music. We are a very popular venue for diverse secular occasions, including concerts, Buxton International Festival and Gilbert & Sullivan Festival performances and Wells Dressing activities, and as a Polling Station. We have good facilities, and although the actual graveyard is closed and maintained by the Council, the Garden of Remembrance and surrounding grounds are quite beautiful and are the subject of much interest. We are a warm and welcoming church, used to meeting and greeting visitors.

Our style of worship is traditional with a talented choir who sing from a range of settings each week. The church has a distinguished four manual Hill organ, which is used both for regular services and organ recitals. Sung Eucharist is celebrated every Sunday at 11.00 am and services are supported by readers and visiting clergy. Regular attendance has grown in the recent past.

During July we hold three Festival Masses (during the International Festival) which produce a noticeable increase in attendance and a substantial increase in donations.

We have a home Bible study group held every Wednesday for those who wish to develop their discipleship. Our "Do it" group forms the core of many of the activities in the church. Members of St John's are involved in the Pastoral Care Group.

We celebrate

- A lovely building, central location and welcoming atmosphere.
- A high standard of music and four manual organ.
- The high number of visitors, especially during the Festivals

Our challenges

- To encourage young people into our congregation.
- To open the building more.



St Mary's

The church is located on Dale Road and is part of the Cote Heath community. Local housing varies from Victorian terraces to post-war homes. Primary and secondary schools sit within our catchment area. It was consecrated in August 1917, and it is an attractive Grade II listed building in the Arts and Crafts style. It sits in a pleasant garden and lawns setting, with a Memorial Garden for the interment of ashes, and a War Memorial. The grounds are well-used by local families and dog-walkers. The interior can seat about 150 worshippers on traditional pews; there is a multi-use choir vestry, and a Brindley organ which is older than the church itself.

Our style of worship is varied and includes Morning Worship, two different Eucharist services and Jigsaw Church, a non-eucharistic service led by lay members of the church. Members of the congregation do the readings in all services, and also write and lead intercessions. We take opportunities to try out new worshipping experiences, for example a Taizé meditation plus reflections for Baby Loss Awareness Week and a Transgender Day of Remembrance. St Mary's also hosts parish-wide services for Ash Wednesday, our annual Patronal Festival and All Souls. Music styles vary, from traditional hymns to modern worship songs. We have two organists/pianists and also musicians who play the guitar, cello and violin. We are adaptable and keen to develop our broad range of worship styles as part of the wider parish ministry.

A project to install new toilets, a kitchen/servy and cafe area started in early June. Once the re-ordering work in the church is complete, we are keen to open the building for appropriate, wider community use. The St Mary's Committee is looking to plan a programme of events and activities for autumn 2025 to celebrate the new facilities. They have played a key role in caring for and developing our church during a period without a churchwarden

Pastoral care is provided by both clergy and lay reader colleagues, and a member of the St Mary's congregation is part of the Parish Pastoral Care Group. Congregation members also provide informal pastoral care through phone calls and visits to the sick, bereaved and housebound. A new walking group, Snailblazers, is an opportunity for congregation members to chat informally about their faith and to share fellowship over lunch.

St Mary's offers a significant funeral ministry, and the feedback from bereaved families is very positive. Many local families use the Memorial Garden for the burial of ashes, and to appreciate the annual All Souls service.

Our annual Summer Garden Party is very popular and much more than just a fundraiser. We host music and drama performances every year for the Buxton Fringe Festival, and Buxton Quakers meet twice a month in the church.

We celebrate

- The support of our congregation
- Our links with the local community

Our challenges

- To maintain development of our worship
- To re-establish our work with children.

Our dreams

- To develop activities/worship opportunities for children and young people
- To extend the use of the church building beyond Sunday services, enabling it to become a community resource.



The Rectory

The Rectory is situated in a residential area close to the town centre and the Pavilion Gardens. It is a large modern four-bedroom house (double ensuite, two further doubles and a single bedroom) with a bathroom, study, large dining room, hall, cloakroom with toilet, kitchen, utility room and double garage. It also has a separate entrance in addition to the main front door.

The Vicarage, occupied by the Team Vicar, is next to St Mary's and is also a modern four-bedroom house (built in 1975) with bathroom facilities, two reception rooms, a kitchen, utility room, study, downstairs toilet and garage.

How to apply

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](#).

If you have a disability or are neurodivergent, we encourage your application. We particularly welcome applicants from UKME /GMH backgrounds. All appointments will be made on the merit of skill and experience relative to the role.

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