

Parish Profile

Barton under Needwood, St James

Dunstall, St Mary

&

Tatenhill, St Michael & All Angels

November 2010



Barton St James



Tatenhill St. Michael & All Angels



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“Are you the person we are looking for?”

From the perspective of the PCCs of the Benefice, we believe we are looking for a new Vicar who will **strive** to:-

- have a real sense of being called by God to become our next Vicar, and have a passion to serve our **community**;
- be **mission**-orientated, with a commitment to extending the Church’s outreach into the community, so that we bring many more people into relationship with Jesus Christ;
- be committed to **teaching** the Gospel, so that all grow in knowledge of the Bible and in theological understanding, and are helped to realise their vocation to follow Christ and to live the Christian life;
- help to develop and sustain a real **vision** of what it is to belong to a Christian community, loving one another and serving others;
- support and encourage the **ecumenical** development that has been long established in Barton across the entire **Benefice**;
- have a heart to work with families and young people, so that we reach out to new generations and become a more **community-focused church**, which values the commitment and contribution of young and old alike;
- have a commitment to **children’s and youth ministry**, and be willing to lead collective worship from time to time in schools;
- preserve and build on existing good practice at each Church, so that we do not lose what we do well, whilst encouraging us to be open to new ideas and opportunities to encounter God;
- be at ease both in celebrating traditional forms of worship and in developing different models of liturgy and worship that may appeal to a wider variety of people, especially the young;
- be the visible presence of our Church in our community, taking a proactive role in building the Church’s links with the parishes, the people, groups and institutions across the **Benefice**, and having a commitment to visiting parishioners, including those who are sick or in need (and encouraging others to participate in this important aspect of Christian life);
- be pastorally sensitive and exercise an inclusive ministry of welcome;
- be a good communicator and an effective **preacher/teacher**;
- have a vision to bring the three parish churches in the **Benefice** closer together, so that we support one another more effectively, build partnerships, and realise opportunities to make the best use of our collective resources through greater collaboration. As a rural Benefice holding a driving licence would be preferable.

Benefice Profile

The Benefice is part of the Tutbury Deanery at the southeastern end of the Archdeaconry of Stoke-on-Trent. The parishes of Barton and Dunstall have been a joint benefice for 16 years and have built up a relationship of shared worship and work together in confirmation classes and children's activities. Tatenhill joined the benefice in 2007 and now shares services with Dunstall.

At present, few services are shared across the whole Benefice but this is a feature the PCCs are interested in developing. With Eucharistic services currently alternating between Dunstall and Tatenhill each Sunday, there is the opportunity for a "5th Sunday" Benefice Service in some months and some moves have been made in this direction. The current pattern of services and the average numbers attending services for each Church are detailed in Appendix I.

The three churches have previously not worked together extensively, but the process of selecting a new Vicar is seen as a catalyst for promoting greater co-operation and unity across the Benefice.

General description of the area

Barton and Dunstall are villages of almost 5,000 and 100 residents respectively. The area covered by the Tatenhill parochial parish includes the village of Tatenhill, with a population of about 300, and the fringes of the Anslow and Shobnall areas of Burton on Trent, which add a further 300 individuals.

The villages are in an arable, rural conservation area close to Burton on Trent on the western side of the National Forest. There is large scale gravel extraction bordering the Trent and Mersey Canal and two of the pits left after extraction have been restored as pools and the surrounds replanted to make a very attractive natural area incorporating the newly developed Barton Marina just a short walk from Barton village centre. There are railway stations in Burton on Trent and Lichfield which give frequent services to other parts of the country. There is an hourly service from Lichfield Trent Valley to London Euston and from Derby to London St Pancras International. The bus service, based on the Burton - Lichfield - Birmingham corridor, is remarkably good. The River Trent and the Trent and Mersey Canal run to the east of the villages close to the A38 trunk road, which gives excellent communication links to Birmingham to the south and Derby and Nottingham to the north.

Barton Parish Council provides local government for Barton. Dunstall also has its own Parish Council. Tatenhill is in the Parish Council area of Tatenhill and Rangemore. The Benefice is now in the Lichfield parliamentary constituency, although our local District Council is East Staffordshire Borough Council.

The Vicarage for the Joint Benefice

The pleasant, 1950s 4-bedroomed vicarage is located in Church Lane, Barton, opposite St James' Church. The Parish and Diocese realise that the house is not as we would want it to be and it is hoped that works will be undertaken before a new vicar is installed. The Benefice does have monies for redecoration but will wait to discuss any detail with the new incumbent to ensure that it is decorated to their preference.

Barton under Needwood, St James

Barton is a large village with almost 2000 dwellings. New housing increased the population of the village about 40 years ago. Most housing is owner-occupied but about 4% are council-owned, including 35 old people's bungalows and 8 flats in sheltered accommodation for the elderly. There are also two other privately owned sheltered housing developments. The social composition is mixed with many commuters.

The Thomas Russell Infants and Junior Schools occupy separate sites within walking distance of each other. The John Taylor High School (an 11-18 comprehensive school and Specialist Science College), attracts many to live in Barton and surrounding area. Both Thomas Russell Infant School and John Taylor High School were graded "Outstanding" at their last Ofsted Inspections. Thomas Russell Junior School was graded "Satisfactory". The John Taylor High School (at which 71% of students achieved five or more GCSE passes including English and Maths in 2009) has been granted Academy status from 1st November 2010.



There is a new health centre, which includes one of the sheltered housing developments and also a "Cottage Hospital" facility. The vicar has been a chaplain at this facility and its predecessor since 1976. The vicar has also been Chaplain to the local Fire Fighters and the new vicar could expect to be invited to do the same. The local library offers courses and classes in addition to lending and computer facilities. There are a number of shops in the village centre including a Post Office, chemist and a bank as well as two convenience stores, an Indian restaurant, a new café, six public houses and a large village hall that supports a number of community activities. In addition, there is a parade of shops, which includes three takeaways in the southern end of the village. At Barton Marina, which attracts visitors from far a field there are some shops, including a butcher, a delicatessen with café and a large restaurant and bar.

The *Barton Chime*, our parish magazine is delivered to almost half of the houses in the village and is published 10 times a year. It is also made available to parishioners in Dunstall and Tatenhill. It lists the activities of just a few of the many clubs and organisations operating in the village as well as service times for the three Churches. There is a thriving sports area centred around the Holland Sports Club, and a bowls and social club in Dunstall Road. Barton is known for its friendly and active community life.

Church life in Barton under Needwood

Our Mission Statement

To show and share God's love.

Our Vision

As a church we seek to be:

- a people who are open to God and his work;
- alive to ministry in the community;
- a place where God delights in our worship.

We are looking to build up our Church's mission and ministry to our parish and surrounding area in practical ways, and in particular to engage with the very significant number of families who live here.

Where we are

We aim to have respect for the individual faith journeys of all those who are seeking fellowship with Jesus Christ. We have a commitment to supporting the mission of the wider church through prayer and giving.

Where we want to be

We would like to grow and develop as a church guided by the Holy Spirit. Whilst realising that there are numerous ways in which we could do this, we consider the following to be important priorities for St James' Church at this time.

Spiritual Focus

We are used to, and favour, traditional forms of worship, but we recognise that church growth may require us to be open to exploring more innovative and different forms of worship in order to reach out to a wider range of people, including those who find it inconvenient to worship on Sundays and those who are looking for more informal or relaxed opportunities to worship. We believe that families and young people would benefit from a greater variety of opportunities to encounter God. We are prepared to take risks in trying out different ways of encountering God.

We need to develop our vocation as a church and especially to encourage more people to explore their own vocations to live the Christian life and to become more prayerful. We believe God is calling us to become more proactive in reaching out to our community. We hope to extend our ministry and pastoral outreach collaboratively under the leadership of our new incumbent. There is a great opportunity for the new incumbent to lead our church to be at the heart of our community, sharing God's love with all.

Community Focus

We have held a number of bridge building events including a regular concert programme, the *Barton Music and Art Festival*, and the *Barton Open Gardens & Scarecrow Festival*, a church led community fundraiser which encourages visitors to come into the church, with stewards to answer their questions. Despite attracting a large congregation for our *Remembered in Love* service at All Souls Tide and to the *Christmas Crib* and *Carol Services*, we are aware that many people in our community remain largely untouched by the Church's mission. We believe many people could be encouraged and challenged to explore the Christian faith. We aim to be a practical church, which is totally welcoming to all.



Mission Focus

Our congregation is mixed, broadly middle-class or professional (reflecting the social composition of the village), including many retired people. We currently have a small number of families and young people, and we recognise that there are real opportunities for mission growth through reaching out to the very considerable number of people, young and old, with whom the parish church has contact, either through special services and occasional offices, or through the many cultural events that are focused on the church.

We wish to develop new forms of ministry and “fresh expressions” of proclaiming the Gospel to new generations. We would particularly like to develop work with the mothers and toddlers who meet in the Church Hall. We will also seek to develop relationships with the local schools. We recognise there is a real need to develop children’s and young people’s participation in worship and the life of the Church.

We need encouragement to discuss issues of faith and Christian teaching. We also need to be more willing to discern and nurture each other’s spiritual gifts and, in addition, to develop further our ministry of listening to and caring for one another.

Services and Worship patterns

Our church is within the central tradition of the Church of England, having both catholic and evangelical elements. Vestments are worn and there are processions on great festivals. Our worship is centred on the Eucharist, which is celebrated each week with a said communion at 8.00am on Sundays and a sung Eucharist following at 10.30am. On Wednesdays there is a said communion in the Chapel of Peace. At other church festivals on weekdays, there is a sung communion service in the evening. Occasionally, we have non-Eucharistic services including a *Remembered in Love* service around All Souls Tide, which is very well attended, Sunday evening services (e.g. on Easter Day or St James’ Day) and the traditional *Crib* and *Carol* Services at Christmas. There is an annual Act of Remembrance for the whole parish held at the War Memorial followed by a service at St James’ Church. Holy Baptism is usually included in the Family Communion although a non-Communion Family service is sometimes used.

There is an annual “William Key Sermon” preached on Good Friday, for which the Vicar still receives £0.50p (10/-) as part of the Charity set up in 1651 on the death of William Key, a local benefactor. The vicar is an ex-officio trustee of Barton under Needwood and Dunstall Key Trust.

Most of our services are based on *Common Worship*. Once a month, there is a *Book of Common Prayer* communion service at 8.00am (except August). We use the *New International Version* of the Bible in the weekly services and use other versions when desirable. Our hymnal is *Common Praise* with a

supplement of modern hymns and worship songs. Our Director of Music is also our organist and we have a robed choir. The Allen Digital Computer Organ AP17i was installed in September 2004 and an Allen Midi Assistant has recently been added.

We no longer have a Sunday School, although the few children who do attend services are welcomed and can play in the children's corner. Average Sunday attendance is 70 adults and 8 children. There are 150 on the electoral roll. During the last year 18 Baptisms were held during Sunday morning worship; 9 weddings were celebrated and 15 funerals took place in church. A total of 6 services were taken by the vicar at Bretby Crematorium.

Lay Involvement

Our Reader helps to prepare families for baptism and younger members of the church for confirmation. Several lay people hold Episcopal authority to administer the Eucharist. We regard the participation of lay members of the congregation as a key part of our life and worship together. About 20 people are involved on a rota basis in reading lessons, leading prayers, assisting with communion and welcoming the congregation. Further lay involvement includes production of the weekly notice sheets and the monthly magazine as well as flower arranging. There is also a rota for coffee making.

The PCC comprises a number of elected members plus three deanery synod representatives, two churchwardens and their two deputies, plus the ex officio Vicar and Reader. The full PCC meets bimonthly and subcommittees meet on an occasional basis. There is a Standing Committee of eight with the incumbent.

Church organisations and groups

The robed choir has 18 members, 9 of whom are children, with some occasional additional singers, and it practises weekly, on Fridays, under the direction of the Director of Music. It is affiliated to the RSCM and choir members follow the Voice for Life programme. Almost every Sunday the choir sings an anthem from a growing repertoire. Each year they are invited to sing at Dunstall for the annual Carol Service which is very popular with people from Barton, Dunstall and Tatenhill and elsewhere.

The Parish Magazine *The Barton Chime* costs £4.50 pa and is delivered by a team of 28 volunteers to almost 800 houses in Barton and Dunstall. Details of the times of services in Dunstall and Tatenhill are included and their special events given publicity. There is a *Churches Together* page, which has the service times of the Methodist and Roman Catholic Churches and any events they wish to publicise. We estimate that the Barton Chime is read by almost three quarters of Barton residents, as we are told it is passed on to family members and neighbours in the village. There are also a number of postal subscribers.

The *Barton Music and Art Festival* of concerts and art exhibitions held in church has enjoyed four seasons. *Barton Art Fest* includes exhibitions of examination work by students at the John Taylor High School plus a variety of work by other local artists.

The *Friends of Barton Churchyard* work on projects in the churchyard, including repairing and restoring gravestones. A team of villagers uncovered and recorded all the gravestones they could find. Last year the *Friends* published *Celebrating our Ancestors*, a detailed account of every memorial inscription in the church, churchyard and parish cemetery with a fascinating introduction about the church and some of the memorials. A revised and updated version is eagerly awaited.

There is a branch of the *Mothers' Union* which meets in the Church Hall once a month. A Mothers' Union corporate communion takes place on the second Wednesday of each month.

There is an eight bell installation in the tower but there are few regular ringers. The 19th century fittings and the 1739 frame need replacing. As yet, we have not found a solution to this challenge which meets with English Heritage approval. Currently, two teenage boys are learning to ring and three ringers ring on Sundays. The St James' Hand Bell Ringers meet weekly.

Relations with other denominations

For many years there has been a strong ecumenical partnership in the village comprising the Anglican, Methodist and Roman Catholic churches, which is known as *Barton Churches Together*. Joint activities include services throughout the Christian year and a public act of witness on Good Friday outside the Middle Bell Public House.

This organisation also produces Easter and Christmas Cards giving details of services, which are delivered to all houses in the Benefice.

In January the congregation from St James' is invited to join the Methodists for the annual Covenant Service.

There is a monthly children's club *The Light Factory* usually held in the Methodist Church for children aged 6-10 and a popular weeklong summer holiday club, held in St James Church Hall, (see picture below) both run by volunteers from all the churches.



Overseas missions and charity

The annual charity event, *Barton Open Gardens*, has raised £97,000 over 12 years. The event also includes a Scarecrow Festival throughout the village and Teddy Bear Extravaganza in the Churchyard. Each year, three different charities are selected, one national charity, one local and one small overseas charity. In addition to this, other charities are supported by individual gardeners and groups, such as the Scouts and the Fire Fighters, using the event to raise money for their organisations. 80% of the money is given away and the rest goes to the Bell Restoration Fund and St James.

Every year about 100 shoeboxes are given for the *Samaritan's Purse* appeal.

The Children's Society benefits from a *Christingle Service*. It also receives the proceeds of one of the concerts in the *Barton Music and Art Festival* programme raising about £1,000.

The Bishop's Lent Appeal is supported by the Parish Church. Harvest Festival also sees a special collection. The *Staffordshire Historic Churches Trust* is helped by the church being open and a few stalwart cyclists and walkers who get sponsorship. Approximately £400.00 is raised and half of this comes back to the church.

In the summer there is an ecumenical walk organised by the Roman Catholic Church which gives part of the proceeds to the local hospice, St Giles, at Whittington.

Liaison with schools

Once a year, the vicar and the Roman Catholic priest join the Methodist minister to visit Year 6 at the Thomas Russell Junior School to distribute New Testaments to the children who will be going on to secondary school. All the schools use the church for occasional services such as Carol Services, the Infants' Spring Service and the service for new Year 7 pupils at John Taylor High School. The Year 7 pupils visit St James', the Roman Catholic and Christadelphian Churches as part of their RE course.

Annual accounts

Annual income of the church in 2009 was approximately £110,000 of which £34,000 was from three bequests. Parish expenditure was £66,000 of which the Parish Share was £34,000. The envelope and Gift Aid scheme, together with tax recovered and cash collections contributed £31,000 to the church income. The church benefits from generous bequests and endowments, which were made in the past and still generate a significant income. The church has also received annual grants from a charitable fund, The Barton under Needwood and Dunstall Key Trust.

Buildings

Church

St James, Barton is a 16th century church, enlarged by the Victorians in the early 1860s. It is a Grade I building with pew seating for 300+. It houses a late 13th century iron-bound oak chest said to have come from the previous church of which nothing is known. It was a Chapel of Ease to St Michael and All Angels in Tatenhill and only became a parish in own right in 1881. The church is open every Saturday morning for visitors. During June, July and August this year it was also open in the afternoon. There is an extensive churchyard around the church. The west side leads to the newer Parish Cemetery administered by the Parish Council.

The church building is structurally sound although some stonework on the tower has eroded both outside and in the bell chamber. The inside of the church is in need of re-decoration but the PCC plans to complete work on a new heating system before commencing this work. The theft of lead from the roof over the choir vestry and chancel and damage to one of the stained glass windows occurred recently but they have been repaired. The cost of repairs has been met predominantly by insurance, the fabric fund and also generous giving by a local family.

We are awaiting the report of the quinquennial inspection, which took place last year.

Church Hall & Parish Room

The Church Hall was built in the mid 1970s. It is planned to install a toilet for the disabled. The facility is used by the church for PCC meetings and a whole range of church and community events throughout the year. The hall is available for lettings and generates income for the church.

The Parish Room, near the church, is used as a storage facility at the moment. Its future is currently under review by the PCC regarding refurbishment and potential uses. No decision will be made on this until our new incumbent is in place.



Dunstall, St Mary

Dunstall is a small and attractive hamlet, with a handful of cottages, two or three farms, and lies just to the north of Barton-under-Needwood and 10 miles from the Cathedral City of Lichfield. The Parish is comprised mainly of the privately owned Dunstall Estate. St Mary's Church & Church Hall are the focal point of the village together with the separately owned Dunstall Hall, which also includes the village cricket ground.

Dunstall has only 45 dwellings in the electoral area giving an adult population of 82. Few children live in the village. In addition to the houses in the village, the Parish includes some 50 houses located on the northbound side of Lichfield Road (the A38), although people who live here have to pass through either Barton Parish or Tatenhill Parish to get to Dunstall. Despite regular mail drops people living here do not generally use the church. Our Parish Share is calculated on a parish population of 215.

Church life in Dunstall

- Our Mission Action Plan States “ To show and share God’s love”
- Welcome all visitors with an open church
- Committed to outreach
- Prayer
- Encourage all to participate

Our Vision

As a church we seek:

- To keep the Church open as a place of worship
- To remain a key focus of the village
- To provide opportunities for Worshipping God & Caring for all.

Where we are

As a Church we have a small core congregation, which is boosted by members of Tatenhill Church when they do not have a service and Wedding couples and their families who join us on a regular basis whilst preparing for their marriages. We attempt to make all welcome so that they can join in our worship.

Where we want to be

Whilst realising that there are numerous areas in which we would like to grow and develop as a church, we consider the following to be central to St Mary's at this time.

Community Focus

We realise that as a church within a small village the church building is seen as a focal point of the village. To enable all villagers and walkers to view and pray in our wonderful church we leave it open throughout the year. Visitors leave many messages both in the visitors' book and in our prayer book, which is left just inside the door together with a welcome message to all who enter the church. We get a large congregation for our *Carol Service* and a larger than normal congregation at Christmas and Easter, but we would like to attract and welcome more regular worshippers. Hopefully with our recently refurbished Church Hall we may be able to share both the Church and the Hall with the local community, our Benefice partners, the local Deanery and the Diocese.

Congregational Focus

We are a congregation derived from many church backgrounds, resulting in a rich variety of Christian experience. Although we share with each other at a social level, we need encouragement to discuss issues of faith and teaching outside of our normal Sunday services. We also need to be more willing to discern and nurture each other's gifts and, in addition, to develop further our ministry of listening and caring for each other.

There are 28 members on the Church Electoral Roll, 21 of whom are not resident within the parish.

Services and Worship patterns

Services are not held every week. In January & February there are two Holy Communion services held each month at 9.00am on alternate Sundays. At other times we have Holy Communion on the first and third Sunday of each month and an Evensong service on the second Sunday. If there is a fifth Sunday in a month we usually hold a traditional Matins at 9.00am or more recently a Benefice Service. These arrangements sometimes have to be altered so that services can be held for major festivals. Tea & coffee are served after the first service each month.

The average weekly attendance over the year is 8 but this takes into account the fact that we don't have a service every week. Our average attendance is 12 but this is very variable with many of the congregation retired and taking regular breaks away from the area. As always the Carol Service was particularly well attended and there was an increase in numbers at Easter (28) and Christmas (25).

Last year we had no weddings at St Mary's but this year there will have been seven celebrated in Church and we already have seven booked for next year. The nearby Dunstall Hall is a wedding reception venue and several couples who are holding their reception at the Hall wish to be married in church. Following the change in wedding regulations we are seeing an increase in couples wishing to get married at Dunstall church.

We have an organ, which for weddings and special services we endeavour to arrange for an organist to play. For other services we have a music system on which we play hymns from discs brought several years ago, using Ancient & Modern & 100 Hymns for Today.

Congregation

The congregation is mixed, broadly middle-class or professional, mainly middle aged and elderly people. Most of the congregation live in Barton.

Lay Involvement

We have three members of the congregation who are Eucharistic Ministers, and have undertaken services of Communion by Extension. The two Churchwardens lead the intercessions, with one

Churchwarden also being Treasurer and Gift Aid administrator and the other Secretary of the PCC, and both are the churches Deanery Synod representatives, The Churchwardens are actively involved in wedding preparation and have also been involved with funerals and baptisms. Further Lay involvement includes delivering the Barton Chime to 40 homes in the Parish plus providing tea and coffee on the first Sunday of the month. The PCC comprises 9 elected members, two churchwardens plus an ex officio Reader and clergy. The full PCC meets bimonthly.

Relations with other denominations

Members of St Mary's church actively participate in Ecumenical events with churches in Barton and also support events organised by other churches in the Benefice. For further details please refer to this section under St James Church.

Overseas missions and charity

Two members of the congregation are heavily involved in *Burton's Shoebox Appeal* for the *Samaritan's Purse* appeal, and collections taken after monthly coffee and at the Carol Service goes towards this appeal. The Carol Service collection is also split between shoeboxes and *The Children's Society*.

Annual accounts

Annual income of the church in 2009 was £18,111.56 of which £4,499 is paid as parish share to the Diocese. Parochial expenses and parish share are paid in full, funded in part by a stewardship scheme including an envelope scheme and a gift aid scheme, which covers ongoing expenses. The church benefits from generous bequests, which we still receive from a local Trust.

Buildings

Church

The Church was built and endowed as a bequest from Charles Arkwright of Dunstall Hall (grandson of Richard Arkwright of `Spinning Jenny` fame), who had been wishing to build a church in the village for a number of years. Unfortunately before a stone could be laid, Charles died in 1850. His brother Peter took over the project entrusted to him. The sum of £12000 was set aside to provide the church, school (now the church hall) and a parsonage. During the following year the estate was sold to John Hardy who undertook to carry out Charles Arkwright's plans. The church was consecrated on October 5th 1853 by Bishop Lonsdale of Lichfield.

It is a Grade II* listed building which seats around 120 people comfortably but for recent Carol Services we have managed to get over 170 in the church. As already stated the church is left open all year round for prayer and reflection and just for people to come in and look around.

We have a large open churchyard, which is soon to be extended by kind permission of a local landowner and a new fence put in place. The churchyard is managed by the congregation with help more recently from a young sixth former from Barton, keen to earn some money before going to University.

The building is structurally sound with several repairs having been undertaken since the churches last quinquennial inspection. This year a major repair has been completed on the church spire at a total cost of £20,000. A major fundraising event (Posh Frocks & Pimm's evening) was held at Dunstall Hall and the money from that and a grant from a local trust has raised £12,000. The inside of the church is in need of some re-decoration.

Church Hall

This facility has until recently not been used due to its unsafe nature. As a Grade II* listed building the cost of repairs was not feasible. However thanks to a very kind local family charitable trust, repairs have been undertaken and the Hall is now back in use. Hopefully the building can now be used by locals, nearby villages, deanery and diocesan events for many years to come.



Tatenhill, St Michael & All Angels

The Village of Tatenhill

The village of Tatenhill is a small rural community approximately 3 miles from Burton on Trent. The present population is approximately 300. Whilst the village was once a thriving farming community, it is now mainly populated by retired people and those who wish to live in the country, but work in the surrounding towns and cities.

The Parish extends beyond the village to suburban areas nearby on the outskirts of Burton upon Trent (represented by properties outside the village and adjoining the parishes of Shobnall and Anslow along Postern Road, Henhurst Hill and the Aviation Lane area). Whilst this adds a further 300 people to the parochial parish and a few residents of this area attend our church, the majority feel very little connection with St Michael & All Angels only attending for family Baptisms, Weddings and Funerals.

The village has a Village Hall, which is currently undergoing a programme of renovations funded by grants from County, Borough and Parish Councils, together with local fund raising. An application has also been approved by *Awards for All* for Lottery Funding to improve the heating. Whilst the hall is a completely separate organisation, many joint fundraising activities have been held and the monies raised been shared between Hall and Church, and events organised by the church are well supported by the inhabitants of the village.

The Hall is available for church functions such as the Harvest Brunch and refreshments after special services. There is a public house in the village, but no shops or post office. Transport into Burton on Trent is limited to a bus service twice a week. Like Dunstall and Barton, the village is convenient for the A38. The village is also a popular starting point for walkers in the area.

As in Dunstall, the village shares major gravel extraction on its southern boundary. The Parish Council is working hard with the company involved to ensure that the restoration work meets the needs and wishes of the local community.

Tatenhill Parish Council is currently formulating a Parish Plan, the outcome of which will form the basis of suggestions for future development of the gravel pits site. A questionnaire has been circulated to every household within the civil parish and this will form that basis of the Parish Plan which covering future development of the village, attitudes to the church and village hall as well as many other local issues. The results of this survey are currently being analysed.



Church Life in Tatenhill:

Mission Statement:

To create a loving and helpful community by showing and sharing God's love.

Our Vision

We would like St Michael & All Angels to be a welcoming place for all members of the community who are seeking to worship God and share in his work. We want to keep God's ministry alive in our community.

Where we are

During the last ten years St Michael's has experienced three interregna.

These periods of uncertainty have left the congregation depleted, as churchgoers in our small village have drifted away to other parishes. We have had more stable ministry over the last 2/3 years and are looking forward to a further period of growth and stability.

We currently have a core congregation of 20 or so, of whom 10-15 regularly attend services. The Electoral Roll currently numbers some 25. We are resilient, flexible and realistic but limited by the size and age of our congregation, with a significant proportion of the present regular attendees being of pension age.

Where we want to be

We recognise that there are many areas where we would like to grow and develop, particularly the encouragement of families to worship together.

Spiritual Focus

Although a traditional congregation, the PCC realise that if we are to encourage younger members of our community into church we need to grow and change - traditional service times may need to be revised to accommodate family commitments and our style of worship adjusted to allow for a more modern, youthful congregation, whilst always maintaining the more traditional style for those who prefer to worship in this manner.

Community Focus

Our Church is in the centre of the village and along with the Village Hall we would like it to be the heart of the community - being pro-active as well as being there when needed. The churchyard is still open.

Congregational Focus

The congregation has a deep affection for the church and its community and an active commitment to its continuation and prosperity. We endeavour to demonstrate the Christian message through our support of charities both locally and further a field.

Service and Worship Patterns

Worship:

The current congregation prefer Priest led traditional services but as a congregation we do acknowledge the need for change and increased participation in the future and would be very supportive of more interactive services

Sunday Worship:

When we originally joined this Benefice we were maintaining a regular service pattern of Morning Prayer Services on the first Sunday of each month, followed by a Communion Service on each of the following Sundays. However, over the last eighteen months we shared a pattern of alternate Sunday Eucharist Services with St Mary Dunstall. We normally hold our service at 9am on the second and fourth Sundays monthly. If there is a fifth Sunday in the month we would like to establish a pattern of a United Benefice Services. Vestments are usually worn.

We use Service Booklets for each season of the church year based on Common Worship, Order One in the contemporary language. For special occasions i.e. Christingle, Remembrance Sunday, Mothering Sunday we produce an appropriate booklet. We do have a full set of Common Worship Books. Two members of the congregation are licensed to assist with the administration of the Eucharist.

Unfortunately our organist retired at the end of last year. We are currently using the *Common Praise* hymnbook accompanied by recorded music. For special services (e.g. Carol Service) we endeavour to arrange for an organist to play.

Occasional Baptisms are usually part of our 9am service, although we do try to be accommodating to the family if they request a later service time to allow family members to travel.

The churchyard is still available for burials for people connected to the church and village. The churchyard is maintained according to a countryside code designed to encourage wildlife and with a more rural than urban approach. A fund has been established from donations at the funerals of a much loved couple who maintained the graveyard and supported the church for many years.

Whilst our regular congregation is small, we do have a good relationship with a wider group of village residents, who support our fundraising efforts. A very successful Flower Festival was held in 2008. More recently, Brunch has been served after our Harvest Festival Service and in March this year we held a weekend long Mothering Sunday Festival beginning with a concert in church on Friday evening with floral displays all weekend, refreshments and a Craft Fair in the Village Hall, culminating in an afternoon Family Service on Mothering Sunday followed by Tea and Simnel Cake served in Church. This raised £1,000, which was split between the church and the village hall.

Community

Most members of the congregation subscribe to the *Barton Chime*. Over the last eighteen months we have begun our own *Message from Michael* newsletter to engage with and inform the villagers and congregation of service patterns, notices and a message from the Rector. We would like to expand on this and involve the wider village community.

Accounts

The financial position of the PCC reflects the uncertain recent past. The PCC has been able to cover the running costs of the church over the last few years but has not paid its Parish Share in full for some time.

The situation can be summarised as follows:

	2009	2008	2007	2006	2005
Income	3,880	6489	5833	5374	8262
Expenditure	(3,068)	(4,051)	(4,712)	(3,418)	(3,868)
Net surplus	812	2,438	1,121	1,956	4,394
Parish Share	(5,000)	(7,832)	(8,108)	(7,761)	(7,377)
Overall deficit	(4,188)	(5,394)	(6,987)	(5,805)	(2,983)
Cash	2,132	532	3,791	6,067	4,050
Parish Share	(32,646)	(28,046)	(24,994)	(20,486)	(12,705)
Other creditors	(1,450)	(264)	(759)	(557)	(503)
Cumulative deficit	(31,964)	(27,778)	(21,962)	(14,976)	(9,158)
Parish share paid	400	4,800	3,600	0	4,000

Discussions have been held with the Diocesan Lay Assessor as to how this situation may be resolved. The Diocesan Lay Assessor is taking forward a proposal to the Bishop's Council being held in November. We are currently planning to contact every household in the village/parish, in an effort to encourage regular giving to support our efforts to increase our income to allow parish share payments to be restarted. Should no feasible plan be forthcoming then all options will be considered even the closure of the church. This may not mean the end of worship in the village, as other opportunities will be sought including monthly services in the village hall, or joining either Dunstall or Barton churches. Whatever the outcome our congregation remains optimistic and feels supported by our Benefice friends.

Buildings

Like most English medieval parish churches, the Church as we see it to-day is an accretion of work over many centuries and styles. The present church consists of a short embattled west tower, nave with a south porch and a chancel. The church is remarkably spacious considering that it only has a single central aisle. The church is Grade II* listed, as are the 19thC front railings along the roadside.

The bulk of the building dates from the 13thC and is built of soft red sandstone. Externally, only the south and north doorways of the nave give away the true date of the building. The exterior impression of the church is that of the late middle ages, the result of work carried out during the 15thC and 16thC. The short embattled west tower was also built in the 15thC, at the same time that the nave windows were replaced with large straight-mullioned and transomed four lights windows with arched lights. This style is typical of the Tudor period, with 4 bays divided by 3-stage buttresses. One of the windows in the chancel has an inset rose design window glass believed to be much older than the window itself and which may date back to Tudor times.

The Victorians particularly left their traditional mark on the church - not only in removing an Anglo-Saxon preaching cross to Rolleston churchyard, but through their own brand of "restoration". The Chancel was restored in 1872 by Wm Weldon Champneys, Dean of Lichfield and Rector of Tatenhill. Most of the monuments and wall tablets were removed to the belfry. Further work was undertaken in 1882 by way of the glass in the large east window by Ward & Hughes and the church's organ, built by Walker, a recognised organ builder from London, now relocated to Suffolk.

In about 1890, further work was carried out by noted Victorian architect George Frederick Bodley. He added the timber south porch that remains the main entrance, as well as the stalls, reredos and black and white marble flooring.

Significant restoration of the North Wall of the Church was undertaken in the 1990s with funds raised by the Friends of Tatenhill. Some funds remain and there are plans to continue the work on the South Side in the next 12-18 months.

There are three bells in the tower. These have not been rung for some years following concerns about the deterioration of the headstock, or fittings. Again, some discussions are underway to initiate a restoration project. Further details are given in Appendix III.

History

Tatenhill was the Mother Church to a wide area including Barton, Dunstall, Wychnor and Newbold.

Control of the appointment of the Rector to St Michael and All Angels has moved over time between the Duke of Lancaster, Burton Abbey, the Crown and the Lichfield Diocese.

The church records contain a list of Rectors of the Parish from 1344 to the recent past. The most famous of these, so far, was Adrian Saravia, who was Rector from 1588 to 1595. The account of his life reads more like an exciting work of fiction than historical fact, but historical fact it certainly is. His early years were shaped by the military, political and religious turmoil of the Netherlands in the middle 1500's, but he became a theologian of great intellectual and academic ability who wrote treatises and became a chancellor of a university.

During his seven year stay as Rector of Tatenhill, a parish which still included Barton-under-Needwood, he supervised the building of Thomas Russell's School. He left Tatenhill in 1595 to take up appointments in Lewisham and Canterbury. At Canterbury, he was part of the team working for King James 1 on the translation of parts of the Old Testament of The Bible. He died in Canterbury on the 15th January 1613 at the age of eighty two and he was buried in the Cathedral, with his wife Catherine.

During the last 100 years, the Parish of Tatenhill has been joined at various stages with the adjoining parishes of Dunstall and Rangemore (1983-1994), Branston (1994 to 2008) and now Barton and Dunstall.