

VERSION 1.1

MAY 2018



St Bede

Parish Church, Bolton-le-Moors

ST BEDE PARISH PROFILE

Normanby Street

Morris Green

Bolton

BL3 3QR



@BedeParish

www.st-bede.org.uk

 THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND
Diocese of Manchester

CHURCH
FOR A
DIFFERENT
WORLD

HISTORY

The story of Morris Green goes back a long way. It has been said that the area was the scene of some Royalist activity during the Civil War period. Indeed, when the foundations for the nearby Hayward School were excavated cannon balls were found and sent to the Bolton Museum.

The earliest record of a school in the village was in 1871 when Rev R S Patterson opened a little stone building in the middle of the green which by 1877 sixty-two children attended.

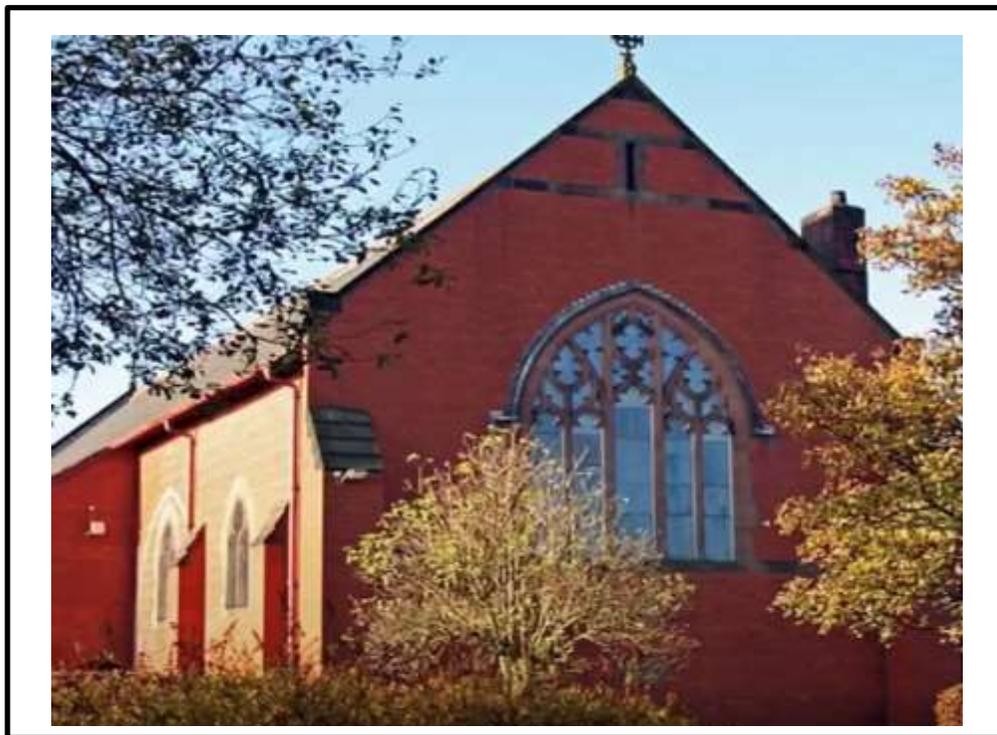
In 1880 responsibility for the school was passed on to the vicar of St George the Martyr as Morris Green was once part of that parish.

By 1915 Morris Green had become a conventional district with a Curate in Charge and it was the aim of the people to have their own church. The 1914-1918 war affected their efforts to raise money to build the church but some of the older residents remember making raffia photograph frames with a picture of the proposed church inset and selling tablets of soap with the same picture imprinted on them.

The people were persuaded to pay 6d to buy a brick and the Young Men's class and Sunday School played their part in raising funds towards building the church.

By 1931 it was decided that construction of the church should begin. The Bishop of Manchester laid the foundation stone in April of that year and on 21 December 1932 the church was consecrated.

Since then the gospel had been preached and people have been ministered to and St Bede remains the Parish church of all who reside in Morris Green and beyond.



THE PARISH OF ST BEDE, BOLTON LE MOORS

The parish of St Bede, Morris Green has an official population of approximately 7,000 people with over 4,500 houses and an electoral roll of approximately 75.

Houses are just within the average first-time buyers price range and they are slowly replacing the older population, many of whom have lived in the area all their lives.

Within the parish there are a number of schools, institutions and voluntary groups. The main school in the parish is St Bede C of E Primary Academy which is a 3 form entry and the largest primary academy in the diocese. The clergy have been actively involved in delivering weekly assemblies and spiritual education as well as spiritual/pastoral support for all pupils and staff. The main secondary school is ESSA Academy which serves the local community and neighbouring area of Great Lever.

The parish has many thriving shops and businesses which serve the community including engineering companies, funeral directors and a local post office.

The fabric of the church building has been kept in a good state of repair. The building seats 240 people in traditional carved pews and has a community room built into the structure of the church which has kitchen facilities. We are currently accessing funding streams to develop accessible toilets and kitchen facilities and a projector for the main church space.

We organise regular fund-raising events and we have a weekly newsletter, a website a Twitter feed and a Facebook page.

The congregation of St Bede offer a wide range of skills and experience to support our ministry team. The ministry team consists of 1 Assistant Priest/Minister, 1 reader emeritus and 2 ALM's.

St Bede has a 'middle of the road' tradition, leaning towards evangelical and worships predominantly from the Book of Common Worship. There is a very strong lay participation in reading lessons, intercessions, administration, serving and leading worship.

We have a long tradition of music being used to support our worship. This is led by our organist. Our primary resource for hymns is Mission Praise, however we also include modern worship songs and use CD's of pre-recorded music. We are currently in the process of installing computerised audio/visual equipment to support worship.

There are a number of well-established church-based organisations such as Women's Fellowship, Children's Church, Luncheon Club and Keep Fit.

We are part of a Mission Partnership with St Mary's Deane, St Andrews – Over Hulton and St Thomas/St John's Lostock, more commonly known as the LAMB Mission Partnership.

Our Church is governed by the traditional PCC structure and the council meets on a two-monthly basis. There is an 'Executive Committee' in place to take care of urgent issues that arise between meetings.

The PCC and congregation at St Bede welcome the appointment of both male and female clergy.

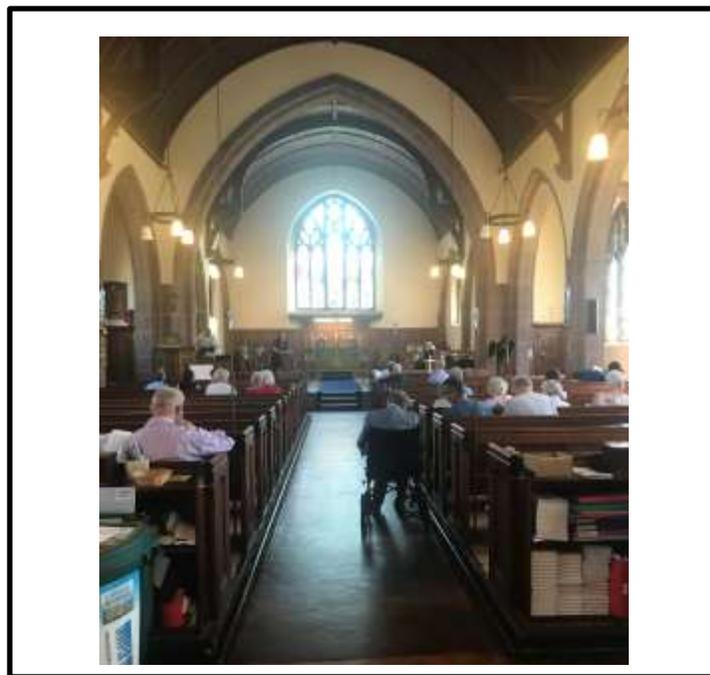
CONGREGATION

The parish church of St Bede has a diverse congregation ranging from the very young to those of pensionable age. Some of our congregation have worshipped at St Bede since it was built and many have been regular worshippers for many years.

In recent years we have seen a steady influx of new worshippers and continue to welcome those who start to worship with us on a regular basis as well as those who come for marriage or baptism.

Our Parochial Church Council is representative of our congregation in terms of including those who are involved with the important area of church life such as working with children and fund-raising as well as a number of church officers. We also have representatives on the local body and directorship of St Bede Academy.

The PCC is forward thinking and meetings are always productive.



CHILDREN'S GROUPS

Children form an integral part of the church at St Bede and are well catered for in our worship. The children's ministry is divided into 2 groups. 'Shining Pebbles' is currently aimed at children aged 3-7 and 'Church Rocks' is the group for children aged 8 years upwards. In order to meet the needs of all members of the congregation our children and young people meet twice a month for the whole of the service to enable a more traditional form of worship to meet the needs of the adults as well as the children. The children's groups also participate in services and on occasion lead our worship with drama, singing and prayer



FUNDRAISING/SOCIAL EVENTS

St Bede holds a number of monthly fundraising events throughout the year. We have a dedicated Fundraising/Social Group who organise events such as Body Shop evenings, quiz nights, faith suppers and Community Fun Day.

Summer events include a Strawberry Fayre and faith barbecue. Our community room provides us with an all-weather facility and these events are always well attended by the community.

The main fundraising event of the year is our Christmas Fayre held every November. The congregation of St Bede run and stock the stalls and the event is always well attended providing a social link between the congregation, school and the local community.

Throughout the year the church runs a well-established regular giving scheme, both by envelope and standing order and many of the congregation contribute with 'gift aid'.



WORSHIP

Worship is intended to be lively and engaging. We are open to new expressions of worship and are keen for congregation involvement. Currently our worship pattern includes Holy Communion, All Age Family Communion and All Age Interactive Worship. We have engaged in Messy Church which has been well received.

We hold regular prayer group meetings as well as bible study/fellowship meetings

OUR MISSION – FORWARD TOGETHER

We come together at St Bede to discover, express and develop our faith in Christ. We are committed to the spiritual growth and well-being of all who come into our community, regardless of faith and ethnicity. We are actively involved in mission outreach in the community.

Our aims are

- ✝ To serve the Kingdom of God in Morris Green and to spread the good news of the gospel of Jesus Christ by engaging in ministry and mission to the people who reside in the parish and beyond and all to all those who would join us in worship.
- ✝ To make the Christian faith accessible.
- ✝ To seek partnership with existing organisations and institutions
- ✝ Offer a warm welcome to all those who wish to join the worshipping community of St Bede.

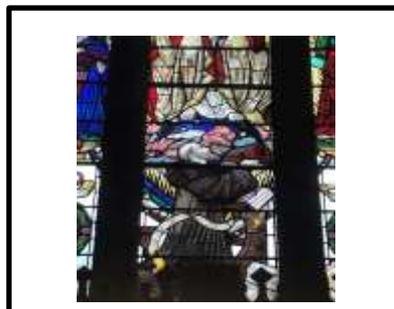
To achieve these aims, we acknowledge the importance and purpose of worship, education, fellowship, leadership and communicating.

We appreciate and see God in Christ as the centre and creator of all things, giving him thanks and praise through and in the Holy Spirit.

We are called to create an environment in which children, youth and adults can learn to read and understand the Bible, allowing them to grow and be strengthened by the Word of God,

Fellowship is seen as an opportunity to share together in all aspects of our lives, to support and encourage one another in the Love of Jesus Christ.

Good leadership and the encouragement of all to have a personal vision and the confidence in Christ to express this. To create opportunities for the development of a corporate vision and the extension of our Christian community.



ST BEDE PRIMARY ACADEMY

St Bede Primary Academy works collaboratively with the church to deliver the Christian message to our local community. It is of upmost importance that the children in the academy experience an education that is driven by core Christian values and this can only be done through strong Christian leadership. This is why the 'Local Advisory Board' for the Academy is made up of more than 50% of the P.C.C and there is a heavy representation from the church on the Directors and Members of the Trust for the MAT (Multi Academy Trust). With this strong Christian leadership the Academy has been recognised for its strong Christian ethos, was recently awarded the Religious Education 'Gold' quality mark and has achieved 'Outstanding' in the last SIAMs inspection.

To maintain strong Christian links with the Academy the vicar would need to:

- Review key policies that contribute to the Christian ethos of the school
- Support with school/church services at key festivals in the year
- Lead worship assemblies within the school
- Support with the R.E & Worship curriculum
- Consider ways to further enhance the Church/Academy links.



STATISTICS - 2017

Number of baptisms in the past 12 months - 18
Number of confirmations in the past 12 months - 0
Number of marriages in the past 12 months – 3
Number of funerals in the past 12 months - 10
Christmas nativity congregation – 64 adults 29 children
Easter congregation – 51 adults 22 children
Average Sunday attendance – 44 adults 18 children

Present service pattern

Week 1 - Family Communion
Week 2 - Holy Communion
Week 3 - Holy Communion
Week 4 - Together for God
Week 5 - Baptism/Songs of Praise

CHURCHWARDENS

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