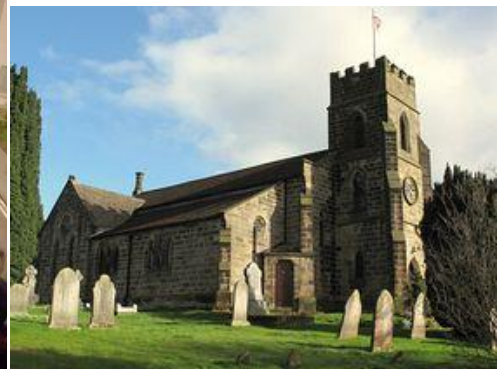


The Parish Church of Holy Trinity, Tansley

www.tansleychurch.org.uk/



Mission Action Plan 2011-2013

MMA29c



The Parish

Holy Trinity, Tansley was built in 1840 to serve the communities of Tansley, Riber and Lumsdale. The parish was originally part of Crich and covers an area from the Chesterfield Road and Lant Lane over to Riber and down to Lumsdale. Since 2004 Tansley parish has been linked with All Saints', Matlock Bank, and from January 2011 this relationship will be formalised with the creation of the 'United Benefice of Matlock Bank and Tansley'.

The parish consists of the small village of Riber, housing development round the Lumsdale mill and the village of Tansley. In recent years there have been several small scale housing developments at Thatchers Croft and off Alders Lane. A number of properties within the parish serve as holiday homes and there are several farms as well as caravan parks and bed & breakfast premises.

The community of Tansley lies within the St. Giles Ward of Derbyshire Dales and is served by Tansley Parish Council, which covers all but the area around Riber.

Many of the village residents work in nearby Matlock or use the community as a base to commute further afield. Villagers have to travel to Matlock for Doctors and Dentists. With the closure of the local post office and shop, villagers now have to journey into Matlock for a Post Office, banking and shopping, and there is only an infrequent bus service.

Within Tansley there are

- Tansley Methodist Church, with whom Holy Trinity works in close collaboration, with a number of joint services and events organised
- The Community Hall (previously called The Reading Room) where a pre-school and toddler group are held.
- The Village Hall where a number of local organisations meet including the Tansley Players, Garden and Countryside Club, Tuesday Club for the elderly, etc. The Village Hall is leased by the PCC to the Village Hall Trust's Management Committee.
- Three public houses, many of which offer food and are well know locally,
- Tansley Primary School, with which the church has strong links, with the school using the Church to host class assemblies and special celebrations
- The Fete Field and Pavilion used by a large number of Junior football clubs playing fields used by local football teams.
- Tansley House Nursing and Residential Home
- Regular Police surgeries (Community policing)

Tansley has a strong community spirit which is aided by an up to date electronic communication facility; Tansley Hotwire, that lets subscribers know of news and forthcoming events, plus the Village Hall website and Parish Council website

Derbyshire Dales is a tourist magnet being near the Peak District National Park, the Derwent Valley Mills World Heritage site and a number of other attractions (Gulliver's Kingdom, the Heights of Abraham and Crich Tramway Museum).

Issues identified of concern are the lack of affordable housing; lack of a shop; mobility if you have no access to a car; problems with traffic on the Alfreton Road; lack of youth facilities; pockets of deprivation locally and a sub-culture of substance abuse.

Tansley Parish Council (within St. Giles Ward)*

According to the 2001 census data, the population was 1192 grouped in 479 households with very little ethnic mix (99.6% white).

Average household 2.45 people

Of which under 16 yrs	17.9%
16yrs – 60yrs 2	63.3%
60yrs & over	18.8%

Single	19.6%
Married	65.2%
Divorced / Widowed	17.1%

Living with a limiting long-term illness 23.5%

Housing Detached	51.5%
Semi detached / Terraced	44.8%
Vacant / Holiday home	2.4%
Flat / Caravan	8.4%

Employed	70.5%
Unemployed	2.0%
Retired	27.5%

Have no qualifications or L1	47.9%
Highest qualification at L2	19.4%
Qualified to L3,4 or 5	32.6%

The Ward contains an above average number of owner occupied properties (82.0% compared with 68.9% (England & Wales)) and of Pensioner households (26.7% compared with 23.8%), is well educated and relatively affluent.

**Figures from 2001 Census returns –*

The Future

With new social housing being built, this should bring some more younger families into the village, therefore having an effect on the provision of primary school places and on the need for increased youth facilities / activities. For the church the challenge will be to engage with the new families and to provide activities in our existing buildings.

As a parish we are committed to growing the church both numerically and spiritually in collaboration with our ecumenical partners. There are also opportunities to engage with and collaborate with secular agencies in strengthening and building the community spirit of the village.

Gifts & resources – Holy Trinity Church

Amongst the gifts and resources we have as a church we have;

- A friendly, welcoming Church
- Parochial Church Council.
- Excellent hospitality skills when providing refreshments at special services and events
- Church members who serve as Governors at the local Primary School, which also makes use of the building for special assemblies
- Church members who are also on the Village Hall Committee and active members of other village organisations
- An extremely active fundraising group

- Frequent Social events in the Church
- Annual Well Dressing and Flower Festival. In 2010, this made a major contribution to Tansley receiving a Silver Gilt in East Midlands in Bloom.
- Annual Pancake Social event
- For the last 4 years, a bed & breakfast establishment runs an annual “all day breakfast” which raises significant funds for the Church and brings new people into the social life of the Church.
- An active Friends of Tansley Church organisation
- Weekly Cuppa Call-In sessions staffed by Church members which is regularly attended by villagers of all denominations / faiths or none
- Good informal pastoral care network
- Excellent communication resources in the Tansley Times and website coupled in with the Tansley Hotwire
- An active and positive relationship with the Methodist Chapel
- The Village recognise the Church building as an important amenity to the Village (in 2010 the Church clock repairs and service were paid by the Parish Council and Tansley development Association). The Church has also hosted events for other organisations including the Parish Council presentation for East Midlands in Bloom
- The postman and milkman both fulfil a community role (e.g. they let the Churchwardens know if they have not seen an elderly villager)

Holy Trinity Church – present situation and challenges

Services

Sundays

9.15am Holy Communion (Common Worship Order 1) [Average 18 attendees]

4.00pm Family Service (1st Sunday) [11 adults and 6 children in 2010]

[NB Family Service had previously been held at 5.30pm but the PCC agreed to experiment with 4.00pm from January 2011]

Wednesdays

9.30am Holy Communion (BCP) [Average 7 adults]

Congregational survey 2010 (21 responses)

9 male & 12 female

90% over 60 years

52% over 70 years

16 Retired

4 Full time employed

The congregational survey carried out in connection with the Mission Action Plan showed the largest group to be in the 61-70 category. A sample of the Family Service (many of whom hadn't filled in a survey form) showed around 7 in the under 20 range, showing that this service reaches out to the younger element.

Special services, especially round Christmas, continue to draw in a large number of people – there is still a substantial fringe membership to work with.

Baptisms average around 5 annually

Weddings vary between 2 and 7

Holy Trinity Church faces a number of challenges:

- demographics – The congregations (excluding Family Service) are ageing and over the last six years several regular attendees have died, whilst a number have become infirm and housebound.
- A very small core of active members
- A lack of children's / youth work attached to the church.
- The changing nature of 'commitment' in our society
- Issues relating to the timing of Sunday worship being in partnership with a larger Church at Matlock Bank

Holy Trinity Church – Our aims over the next three years

- To halt the decline in attendance by looking at ways to draw in new members by, e.g. making the building more user-friendly for a variety of activities and events.
- To strengthen membership of the Friends of Tansley Church.
- To improve further and enhance our communications both internally and externally
- To develop alternative, more flexible styles of worship to appeal to a wider clientele
- To nurture the present membership in their faith and to develop work with the school and the young people already associated with the church
- To strengthen our ties with All Saints', Matlock Bank and Tansley Methodists
- To make the most of opportunities presented by the new housing developments in the Parish
- To increase the number of Social Events, Concerts, etc (a new initiative is a Festival of Christmas Trees in December 2010).
- To set up relationships with the Holiday Parks and B&B premises so that they have knowledge of service times, social events, etc

Holy Trinity Church, Tansley Mission Action Plan

Within the next 12 months

- With the building of new housing off Thatchers Croft and Alders Lane, the opportunity arises to welcome new residents and to introduce ourselves – Action: Draw up a welcome leaflet and hold an "open morning"
- A new Notice board at the front to be investigated and priced.
- Formation of a Communications Team to ensure regular publicity for events and services.
- To do a preliminary assessment of what might be feasible in terms of making the building more user-friendly
- To explore the possibility of an informal service after school for those children who come to Family Service involving some craft work, Bible theme, worship. Look at resources needed and form a group that will coordinate the worship. Action: Pricing up of suitable technology (e.g. Digi-projector, etc.)
- To continue and develop the Cuppa Call-In opportunity for outreach and service to the community
- To develop the monthly Family Service, encouraging greater participation, in particular by the younger members