



NORBURY PARISH CHURCH

Drawn together by love

London Road Hazel Grove Stockport SK7 4RF



NORBURY CHURCH IS A REGISTERED INCLUSIVE CHURCH WHOSE VISION IS TO BE DRAWN TOGETHER BY THE LOVE OF GOD. PARTNERING WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT, WE SEEK TO OFFER A BEACON OF HOPE, A COMMUNITY OF WHOLENESS AND A PLACE OF PEACE IN A FRACTURED WORLD.

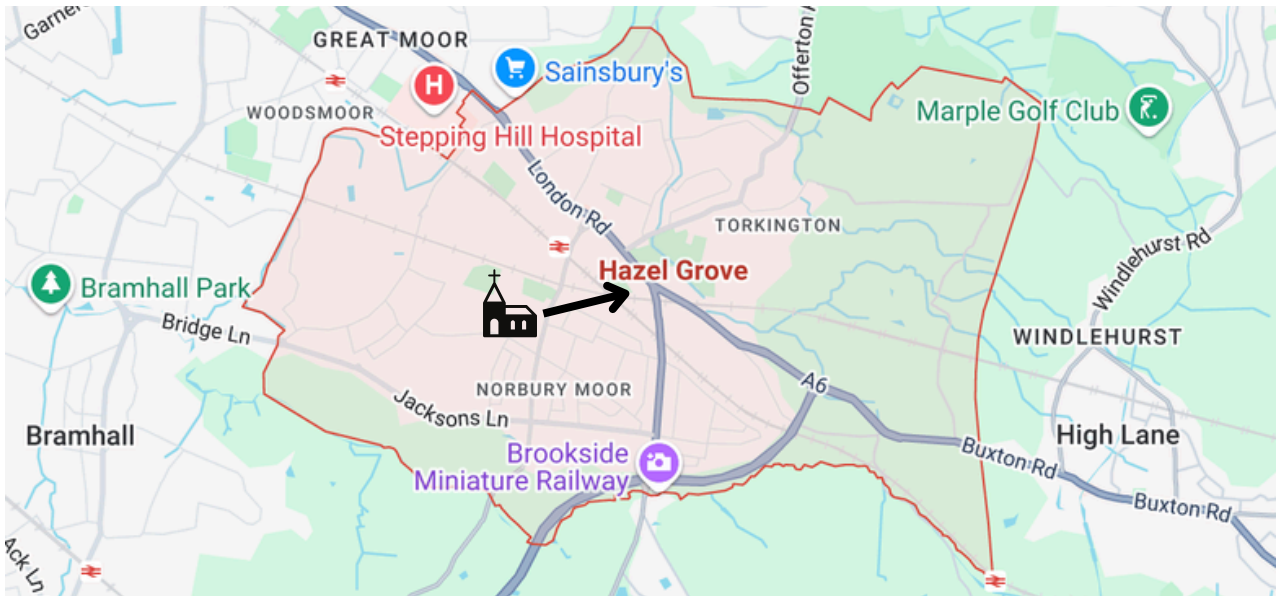


WELCOME

THE PARISH

The Parish of St Thomas, Norbury (known as Norbury Church) is situated in Hazel Grove on the southern edge of Greater Manchester, close to the Peak District.

Norbury Church is in the Stockport Deanery within the Archdeanery of Macclesfield and Diocese of Chester.



The Parish has a population of around 19,000. The centre of Hazel Grove, around the A6, is made up of smaller 19th Century houses. The 20th Century saw the development of housing estates for owner-occupiers; these are primarily a mixture of semi-detached and detached houses.

Hazel Grove is served by six primary schools and one secondary school with a sixth form.

Stepping Hill Hospital, the main hospital of Stockport, is located on the parish boundary.

Hazel Grove has excellent transport connections to Manchester and the Peak District, and then further afield. There are two trains an hour from Hazel Grove station to Manchester Piccadilly. All trains call at Stockport, which has excellent mainline connections.

The main bus route to Manchester along the A6 is a 24-hour service. The recent extension of the A555 to Manchester Airport allows access to the motorway network (M56/M60) within a 15-minute drive.



THE CHURCH

The building of Norbury Church was partially funded by the Church Commissioners in response to the 1818 and 1824 Church Building Acts on land donated by Thomas Legh of Lyme Park. Thomas Legh's descendant, the 5th Lord Newton, is patron of the church. The church and its lych-gate, built 1916, are both Grade II listed.

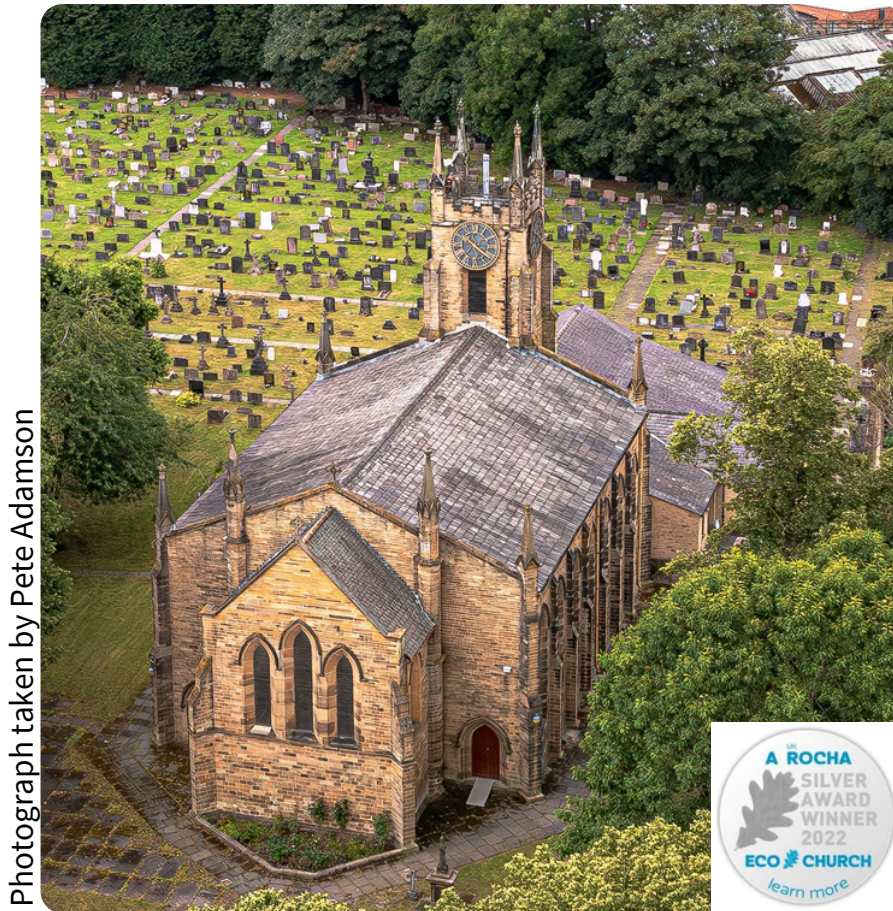


The church was consecrated in July 1834 and is a Grade II Listed Building. Built in the Georgian preaching box style, a chancel and sanctuary were added in the 1920s. Further extensions in the 1980s and 90s provide a large meeting room, three smaller rooms, two of which are now used as church offices, and a kitchen. The chancel was re-ordered in 2000 to enable an open worship area to be created.



THE CHURCH

The churchyard opened for burials in 1834 and closed to new burials in 2008, but burials in existing graves are still allowed. Stockport MBC is responsible for maintaining the churchyard, although we contribute to the cost because of the legal circumstances relating to part of the churchyard. There is a garden of remembrance and grassed area for burials of ashes. The young people in the church created an eco-garden in the churchyard which is maintained by volunteers.



Photograph taken by Pete Adamson



In 2024, as a Silver Eco-Church, we embarked on an essential building project, which sought to modernise the church building and make it more environmentally friendly. So far, we have completed a window re-fit, the redecoration of our main Church and an upgrade to our audio visual system. Work is ongoing with our heating project, following the recent installation of infrared heaters, and we continue to work towards our future aims of installing solar panels and updating our toilet facilities. We are working hard to ensure that our lovely late-Georgian church is fit to serve our parish community for another couple of centuries.

CHURCH SERVICES AND WORSHIP



We offer a variety of services and worship styles, to enable everyone to feel welcome and comfortable. Each congregation is distinct, though there is some overlap in attendance across Sunday services. Members of the Ministry Team are supporting across all services during the vacancy.

Sunday 8.00 am – Either BCP Holy Communion or a simple service of Morning Prayer, with a short sermon. Clergy and Readers are robed (cassock, surplice and stole/scarf). Average attendance 2024: 10.



Sunday 9.30 am – An informal and contemporary space for worship, centred around the principles of discipleship, encounter and accessibility. The structure of the service allows for creativity and innovation, along with an established children's group. Contemporary worship is led by keyboard, guitar, saxophone and percussion. Holy Communion is offered at least once per month, using Additional Eucharistic Prayer Two. This service uses the screen for all liturgy and lyrics. Robes are not worn. Average attendance 2024: 30



CHURCH SERVICES AND WORSHIP

Sunday 11.00 am – Generally a Common Worship Holy Communion Service with seasonal liturgy in booklets. At least once per month, this service is Morning Worship. Worship is accompanied by organ or keyboard and a music group. Clergy and Readers are robed (cassock, surplice and stole/scarf).

Average attendance 2024: 60



Wednesday 10.30 am – A said mid-week BCP Holy Communion takes place in church on Wednesday mornings, or Morning Prayer if a priest is not available.

Average attendance: 10

Morning Prayer – Said Mondays (in person) and Tuesdays and Thursdays (online).



CHURCH SERVICES AND WORSHIP



Other Services

Popular civic services include the annual SS Stockport service commemorating the sinking of a convoy rescue ship, and the Act of Remembrance at the local war memorial.

We see increased community engagement at key festivals. Highlights include our Christingle services on Christmas Eve, and a choice of services on Good Friday and Easter Sunday.



Baptisms, Weddings and Funerals

Baptisms are offered during or after the Sunday morning services. In 2024, there were 12 baptisms at Norbury Church.

Weddings are arranged by the clergy in consultation with the couple following their registration of interest. Due to building work, there was 1 wedding at Norbury in 2024.

In 2024, the Clergy conducted 39 funerals, of which 25 were conducted in church, and 14 at Stockport Crematorium.



MINISTRIES



Discipleship Groups

There are three regular adult home groups and a fortnightly group for young people aged 18-25. We have run discipleship courses for individuals seeking confirmation using the Start! materials.

Children's Groups

We have a thriving children's ministry at Norbury Church, led by our Children's Worker. This includes our Sunday Group, Messy Church, Brick Church, and our mid-week toddler groups. Our annual summer Holiday Club is very well attended and well loved in our church and wider community. Norbury Church has a wonderful team of volunteers who enable these groups to run successfully.



MINISTRIES



Retreat Ministry

Combining music, Bible reflections or studies, creative activities, discussion and prayer, the twice-yearly retreats aim to facilitate an encounter with God on a particular theme. We finish by sharing lunch together. The retreats are attended by members from across the three Sunday congregations, and numbers are still growing. This is a ministry we look forward to developing further.



MINISTRIES

Pastoral Care

We have a small team for pastoral visiting, including offering home communion to individuals and a local care home. Recognising the need for whole-church pastoral care, we have an annual celebration of our many church volunteers. Several church members have trained as dementia friends. This is an area we are keen to develop.



Place of Welcome Café

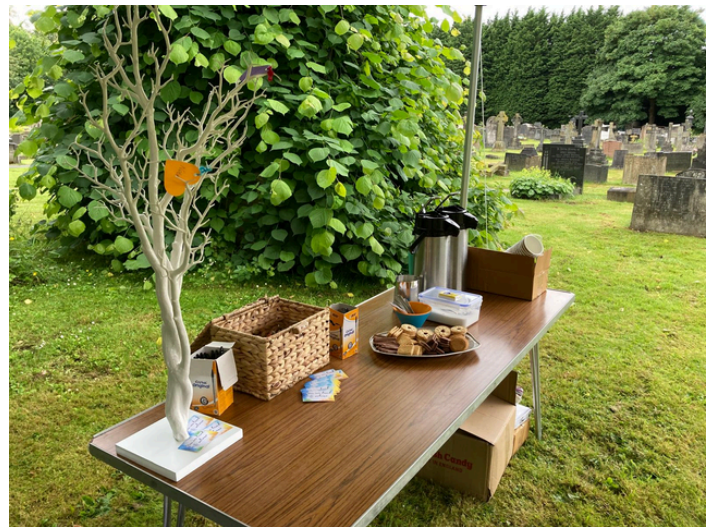
Our Café is a thriving community group with an average weekly attendance of 40 people. We meet every Monday morning and provide a warm, welcoming and safe environment for the community along with the opportunity to have a catch up with friends with hot drinks and toast.



MINISTRIES

Gazebo Ministry

We greet people visiting loved ones who are buried in the graveyard with a small token from the church, and invite them to remember their loved ones by hanging a heart carrying a name or a message on a prayer tree. We offer prayer, conversation and hot drinks to those that would like it. People that we have met through gazebo ministry have become regular members of the Church.



MINISTRIES



Music

Music at Norbury Church is diverse and consists of both contemporary and traditional styles. Our employed Musical Worship Leader and our talented volunteer instrumentalists and singers offer a wide choice of music. This seeks to enable as many as possible to feel at home, and to encounter and praise God. We have a digital organ, a digital keyboard and a baby grand piano which are used for Sunday services as well as for occasional offices and special events such as our annual Carol Service coordinated by our Musical Worship Leader.



Ministry Team

Ordained Ministry

There is one Curate (SSM: 20 hours across 3 days) who will be priested in June 2025, who is being supervised at a distance.

Licensed Lay Ministers

There are three Readers, and one member of the congregation is currently undertaking Reader training with a view to being licensed in October 2025. Two members of the congregation are trained as Occasional Worship Leaders.

Parish Employees

There is a Verger & Sexton (37.5 hours), a Children's Worker (24 hours), and a Musical Worship Leader (10 hours).



VICARAGE

The vicarage, built in 1957, is a large detached house with gas central heating. It is owned by the Diocese and located within easy walking distance from the church, close to schools and public transport links.

The accommodation includes:

Large gardens & ample off-road parking

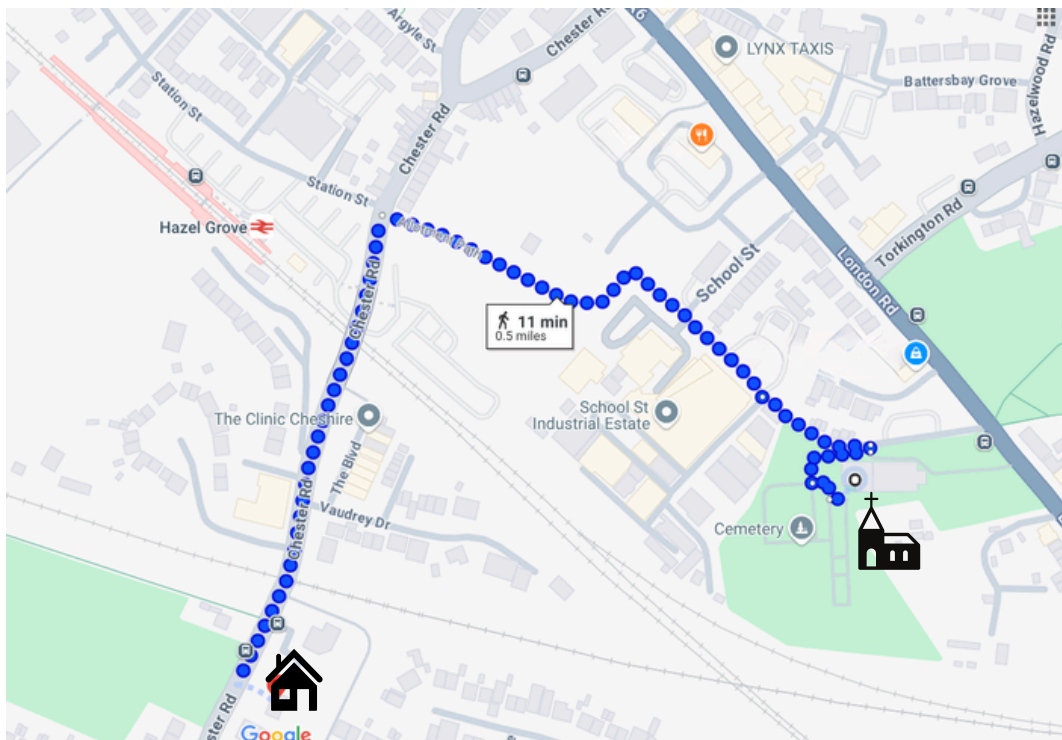


Ground floor:

Small enclosed yard
Attached garage
Utility room
Kitchen and dining area
Dining room
Lounge
Study/office
Cloakroom

First floor:

4 double bedrooms
Bathroom



INCLUSIVE CHURCH



Equality Statement

“There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus”

Galatians 3:28

Norbury Parish Church is home to a diverse community of people, each at different points on a journey together with Christ. We value our diversity and recognise that this is a strength that helps to reflect the whole tapestry of God’s creation. We also believe God loves and has a plan for every individual, regardless of their ability, age, ethnicity, inherited or expressed faith, gender identity, neurodiversity, race, sexuality, marital status or financial means. We want this to be a church where all people feel welcome, safe, valued and free to worship without fear, or fear of discrimination. Within this diversity, we seek to encourage and promote behaviour within our community that we believe honours God and promotes Jesus Christ as Saviour. Our primary revelation for this is the Bible, which we believe contains good news for all people. We believe in a Church which welcomes, accepts and serves all people. We also look to God’s leading through the work of the Holy Spirit who we believe is alive and active today. It is the policy of Norbury Parish Church trustees, employees and volunteers to promote a culture of dignity, respect and fairness for all its members.

Safeguarding

We have a dedicated Parish Safeguarding Officer who, alongside a team of people on the Safeguarding Mission Action Group, ensure the requirements set by the Diocese are met and help work towards making the Church a safer place for all. We confidently use the Parish Dashboard and Safeguarding Hub recording systems provided by the Diocese to keep track of our safeguarding responsibilities.

OUR PRAYER

Norbury Church is praying for a vicar who will:

- Lead with clarity to bring stability and rebuild confidence, enabling us to reach out effectively into our community
- Be an encourager and a listener, someone who can communicate well with people of all ages and backgrounds
- Support volunteers keen to develop our engagement with young people, building on our well-developed children's ministry
- Work collaboratively with a large team of volunteers (including a part-time Curate, three Readers and a dedicated PCC) and three employees (Children's Worker, Verger & Sexton, Musical Worship Leader)
- Uphold our equality commitment to be a church where all people feel welcome, safe, valued and free to worship without fear, or fear of discrimination.

We are a church with a big heart; ready to listen, learn, and walk alongside our next incumbent as we continue to share the love of Jesus Christ.

Photograph taken by Eddie Garry



WE LOOK FORWARD TO HEARING FROM YOU