

Together we can



Make a Difference

CHURCH AND SCHOOL  
PARTNERSHIP  
AWARD

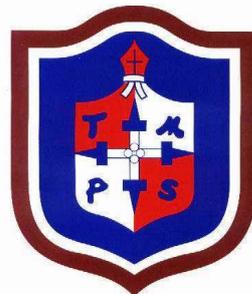


# Up Holland Team Ministry

St Thomas the Martyr and Christ the Servant Church  
with St Thomas the Martyr, Roby Mill and Bishop Martin  
Church of England Schools



**St Thomas the Martyr Church**  
**and**  
**St Thomas the Martyr School**



# The Parish of Up Holland



Diocese of Liverpool



Roby Mill  
CofE School



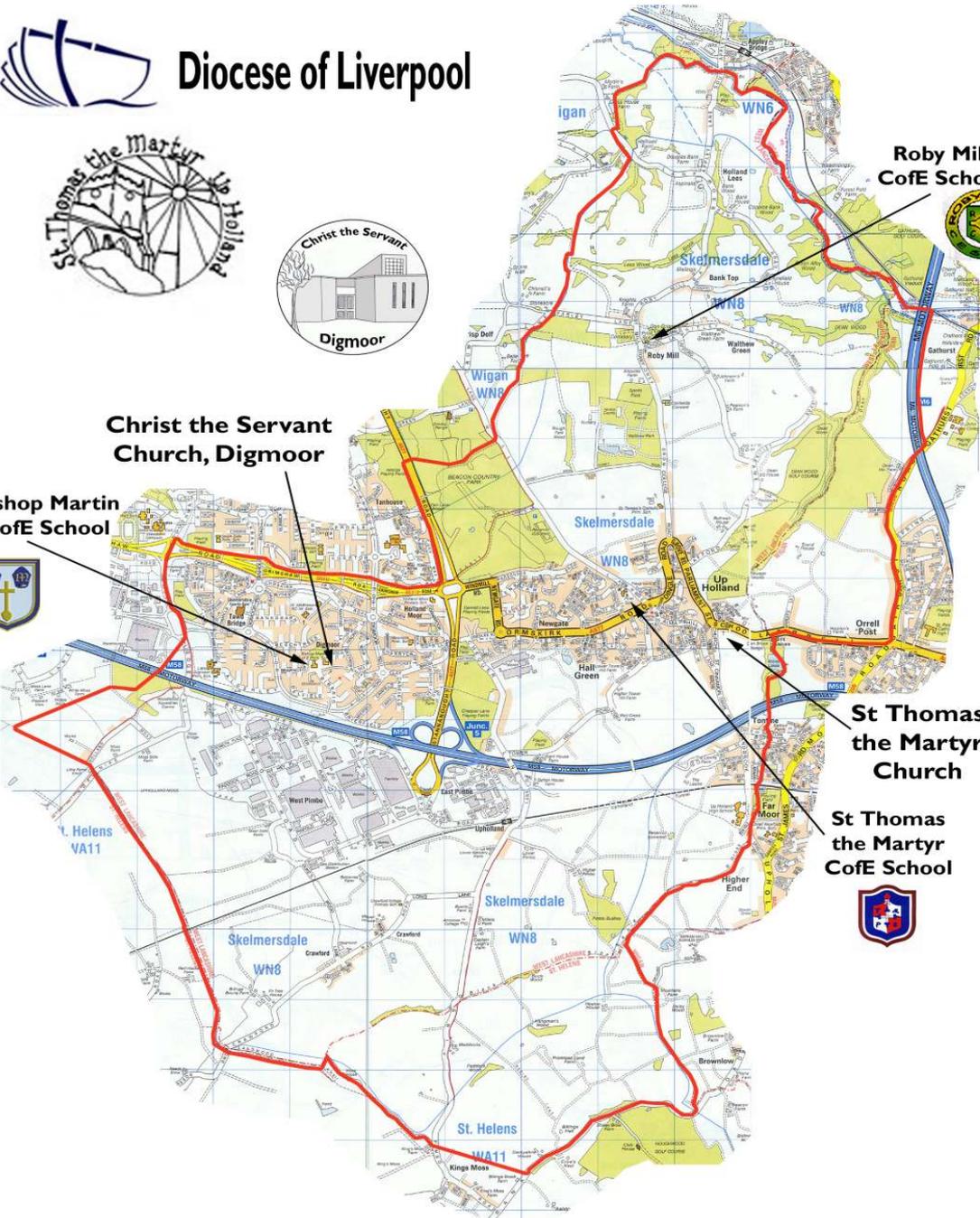
Christ the Servant  
Church, Digmoor

Bishop Martin  
CofE School



St Thomas  
the Martyr  
Church

St Thomas  
the Martyr  
CofE School



## Church and Schools in Partnership

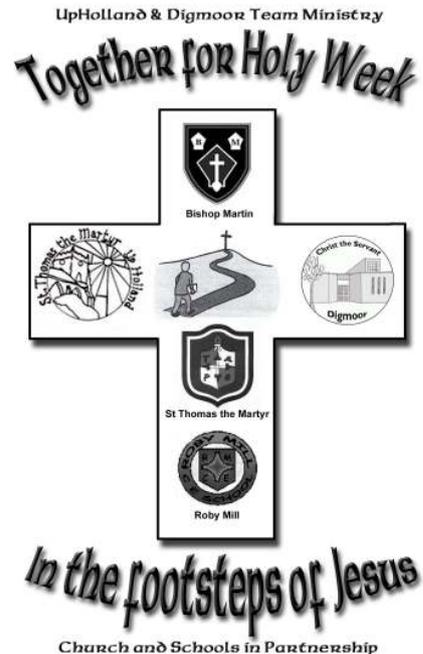
St Thomas the Martyr and Christ the Servant Church

St Thomas the Martyr - Roby Mill - Bishop Martin  
Church of England Schools

# Worship & Prayer Life

## I. How does the Church support the school in its prayer life?

- **Collective Worship** - The three Parish clergy and the Methodist ministers lead the weekly Collective Worship on Thursday mornings and the school are encouraged to keep Saints days and Festivals.
- **School Eucharist** – The Parish clergy have led end of term services, with occasional Eucharists in school.
- **Holy Week 2008** – (See full explanation under “Activities”) The Church encouraged the school to join in a parish wide celebration of Holy Week and Easter as we undertook a journey “In the footsteps of Jesus”. This included acts of worship and a joint church/school prayer.
- **Church band** – Members of the congregation have occasionally provided a band to lead worship.
- **Christian Club and After School Worship** – The Church are currently working with the school to start a weekly lunch time Christian club and after school worship at the end of each half term. These are scheduled to start after the February half term in 2009. The sessions will enable the children and their families to experience prayer and worship in a fun and interactive way.



## 2. How is the School involved in the life of the Church?

- **Christmas Tree & Toy Service** – The school have taken part in the Tree & Toy service in church, with children singing songs from their Christmas productions. In 2008 this will also involve children from Roby Mill school.
- **Special services in church** – Special services are often advertised through the school newsletter and church flyers and publicity are also distributed when appropriate ie. Harvest, Christingle, Christmas, Easter.
- **Confirmation classes** – The confirmation course is promoted through the school and takes place in the church.
- **Church servers and choir** – The school encourages children to take part in the life of the church through their involvement as servers and in the choir.

## Worship and Prayer Life Cont'd

### 2. How is the School involved in the life of the Church? (Cont'd)

- **1<sup>st</sup> Parish Schools Service 6<sup>th</sup> July 2008 at St Thomas the Martyr Church** – The service was designed to celebrate the work in all three church schools in the parish and the links with both St Thomas the Martyr and Christ the Servant churches. Songs (including actions and dance) were co-ordinated across the schools and taught in music practise prior to the service. The children provided some music before the service, took part as sidespeople, led the action songs & dance and prepared and led the prayers in conjunction with the other schools. The school also provided a display of work, which went up in church. This has now become an annual event in July as an alternative to using Education Sunday.



Prayer hoops created by the schools. St Thomas focussed on “Community”



Display created in church for the schools service

Left: St Thomas the Martyr

Middle: Roby Mill

Right: Bishop Martin

## Worship and Prayer Life Cont'd

### 3. How does the school involve the Parish/Community in its Prayer/Worship Life?

- **Special celebrations and class collective worship** – The school invite families to join in special celebrations and relatives are specifically invited when a particular class leads an act of collective worship. Families are kept informed of special services through the school newsletter.

### 4. Does the School pray for the Church and its members on a regular basis?

- **Collective worship and class prayers** – Staff and children are encouraged to include the church in their prayers and all classes were given copies of the Parish Prayer Calendar.

### 5. Does the Church pray for the School on a regular basis?

- **Parish Prayer Calendar** – A parish prayer calendar was introduced in September 2008. This includes all the streets in the parish and all the various church and community organisations. As well as St Thomas school being included in the cycle of prayer on the 12<sup>th</sup> of the month the calendar encourages people to pray for the church schools daily. The calendar is used regularly in the intercessions in both churches and copies were issued to all members of the congregations, through the magazine and through the schools. The calendar also includes a map of the parish and encourages all who use it to recognise that they are part of a wider community.
- **Morning Prayer** – The Clergy pray for the schools daily at morning prayer in church.

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### Possible future developments

*These ideas came out of our discussion about the church school partnership and will be considered for future development.*

- **Support/prayer group** - It has been suggested that the church school partnership governors across all three schools could meet regularly with the Schools Minister as a support/prayer group, to discuss the way forward with our partnership across the whole parish and pray for our work in schools.
- **Songs** – The Schools Minister could co-ordinate a core list of songs across the schools and churches to establish a base for joint services. This was started for the schools service in July as songs and actions were shared across the schools and taught before the service.

## **Worship and Prayer Life Cont'd**

### **Possible future developments (Cont'd)**

- **Coffee morning** - The school could invite families to clergy collective worship and hold a coffee morning afterwards in the parish rooms where people could meet with the clergy and members of the congregation.
- **Musicians** - The church could make more use of children who are learning to play instruments in school. The High School band could also be invited to play.
- **Quiet time** - Consideration has been given to a lunch time “quiet time” for staff led by the church but this is not being progressed at this time.

# Activities

## I. What activities are shared between the School and the Church?

- **Benedictine Week** – For the last eight years the church has hosted a Benedictine week in July to enable the children to experience what life would have been like in the Up Holland Benedictine priory church. The children dress as monks and visit the various displays to learn about Latin manuscripts, work on the priory farm, Dean wood, fishing in Dean brook, the stocks and the visit of the King. Members of the congregation also dress as monks and host the visit, taking leadership of the groups. Worksheets are completed during the tour and enable follow up work to be undertaken in the classrooms. The school believe that the week is very beneficial to the education of the children and brings history alive.
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- The image shows several children dressed in black robes, sitting around a table covered with various documents and books. They appear to be engaged in a learning activity, possibly related to the Benedictine Week mentioned in the text.
- **Pageant and 700<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Events 2007** – Across the course of 2007 the church celebrated its 700<sup>th</sup> anniversary, with monthly events. The school and families from the school took part in a number of these, particularly visiting the Flower Festival and taking part in decorating trees for the Christmas Tree Festival. The church also booked Roly Bain, a Christian clown, who ran a workshop for the children in school one Friday and an activity day for the parish on the Saturday. The highlight of the year was the Pageant. The school and grounds were used as a base and the staff and children decorated one of the floats and took part in the procession. It was a wonderful experience for all involved. The Pageant is being repeated in June 2009 and the school will again be involved.
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- The image shows a group of children and adults on a decorated float. A banner in the foreground reads "St. Thomas the Martyr C.E. PRIMARY SCHOOL" and "For the best in the sight of God". The float is decorated with colorful bunting.
- School float in the Pageant procession - "People in History"
- **Educational Visits & Talks** – From time to time various classes visit the church and are given a tour by the clergy and members of the congregation as they explore "church buildings" as part of the syllabus. The clergy have also visited the classrooms to help with various topics and share their experiences. Displays from these visits are put up in school for other classes to see.
  - **Christmas Toy Appeal** – The children from the school provide toys as part of the Tree & Toy service.

## Activities Cont'd

- **Holy Week 2008** – The Church encouraged the school to join in a parish wide celebration of Holy Week and Easter as we undertook a journey “In the footsteps of Jesus”. The theme ran throughout the course of the week. Palm Sunday was celebrated on the Monday, with a procession around the playing fields. A model of Jerusalem was created, with footsteps added each day showing the journey through the city. The Ven Peter Bradley visited all the classrooms to answer questions that the children had prepared. On Wednesday there was a celebration of the Last Supper and a sharing together of a special meal. Thursday focussed on Good Friday as the children completed Easter Gardens and then gathered around the cross. The journey was completed on the following Tuesday with an Easter celebration. It is summed up by the words of two of the children *“I enjoyed the way we got to follow doing what Jesus did”* and *“Holy Week was special to me because it brought pupils, teachers and God closer together.”*



- **Publicity** – The school regularly contributes to the Parish Magazine “New Life” and also includes details of church events in the school newsletter. The church websites for St Thomas the Martyr and Christ the Servant both have links to the school website. There is also a Schools Minister website with details of all our shared activities across the three schools and two churches and a regular Schools Minister newsletter has just been launched.

Websites:

School: [www.st-thomas-martyr.lancsngfl.ac.uk](http://www.st-thomas-martyr.lancsngfl.ac.uk)

St Thomas the Martyr Church: [www.stthomasthemartyr.org.uk](http://www.stthomasthemartyr.org.uk)

Christ the Servant Church: [www.christtheservantchurch.org.uk](http://www.christtheservantchurch.org.uk)

Schools Minister: [www.janetspage.org.uk](http://www.janetspage.org.uk)

- **“Altar cloths”** - Each class decorated a cloth for use on the focus table during collective worship. These are all displayed in the school hall and are used on a rota basis.
- **Family discos and quiz nights** – The Church and the Friends of the School have run family discos and quiz nights in the parish rooms.
- **Christian Club** - The Church are currently working with the school to start a weekly lunch time Christian club, after February half-term 2009. Members of the congregation are being invited to take part in the leadership and support of the club.

## Activities Cont'd

### 2. What is the effect of shared activities?

- The school staff believe that these activities, educational visits and contacts are beneficial to the education of the children and give them a wider view of life in the community. They also help them to understand faith as part of life's journey, as they see the way members of the congregation live out their faith.
  - The links between the church and school have the knock on effect of bringing families into the church, as younger children join Little Church and older children come to confirmation and take part in the services as servers and in the choir.
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### Possible future developments

*These ideas came out of our discussion about the church school partnership and will be considered for future development.*

- The school are currently looking at developing links abroad through the use of IT. The church are also considering a parish link with a parish abroad and there will be potential to share these links between the church and school.
- The church and school both undertake collections for Christian Aid week. There could be room to develop this further and give a more co-ordinated approach using a joint project.

# Buildings

## 1. How does the School use the Church building?

- **Church** – Access to the church is difficult due to the distance involved. However, the school do arrange visits during Benedictine week and for other educational tours as well as taking part in special services, as detailed elsewhere.
- **Parish Rooms** – The parish rooms, attached to the school, are used as an extra hall for lessons, booster groups, activities, PE, fairs and socials.

## 2. How does the Church use the School building?

- The parish rooms are used for occasional meetings and social events. The grounds were used as a base for the Pageant in 2007 and this will be repeated in 2009.

## 3. How does the sharing enhance the relationship between the Church and the School?

- It is good for the school to have the church available as it enhances the children's educational experience. The links between the church and the school are valued and enable mutual support.

## 4. Is there anything else you would wish to tell us about the work you do together?

- We believe everything is covered in other sections.

# Ministry

## **I. How does the leadership (School and Church) work together in shared ministry?**

- The Team Rector is Chair of governors and has regular meetings with the Head. The Associate Vicar also attends the governors meetings.
- All clergy keep up-to-date with what is happening at the school and visit at various times. All attended the interviews for the new Head.
- The Parish Mission Plan in 2007 included the appointment of a Schools Minister to assist with developing the work of the established partnership.
- The Head has attended occasional DCC meetings.
- At the start of 2008 a joint meeting of Parish clergy and Head teachers from the three church schools was set up. It was intended as an annual meeting but all felt that it would be better to meet more regularly.
- Dates of events are shared between the church and school ensuring that there are no clashes and members of both the church and the school are encouraged to support all events.

## **2. How are others drawn into shared ministry?**

- The church provides Foundation governors and they are involved in the life of the school through their support of the various committees.
- A team consisting of a member of staff, a governor and the Schools Minister was set up to review the church school partnership award document. This has proved a useful means of contact, which is likely to continue. Consideration is also being given to developing this further by linking with the “church school partnership” governors of the other schools and developing a support group in conjunction with the Schools Minister.
- Members of the congregation will be involved in supporting the new Christian Club and after school worship.
- Regular updates are given to Staff, the District and Parochial Church Councils and the church Shared Ministry Team as well as through the various newsletters. Consideration was given to our work with the schools within the church away day. All are encouraged to be involved in the partnership as far as possible and to hold the partnership in prayer.
- A number of people do help in school, listening to children read etc.
- There is a “Friends of St Thomas the Martyr School” group.

## Ministry Cont'd

### 3. How do the children have an effect on the lives of the school and church?

- The children are a positive enhancement to the life of the school and the church. They provide energy and enthusiasm and the challenge to remain active, up-to-date and enquiring. The learning process is very much two-way and we can learn a lot about our faith through their eyes.

### 4. In what ways does the ministry/worship reflect the needs of the community?

- The school has provided carol services at The Dell, providing entertainment and sharing the Christmas spirit with the residents.
- If the church didn't take part in the school many families in the area would not have any connection with a church. Our partnership enables the church to meet people where they are.
- Our consideration of after school worship addresses the needs for accessible worship at a time that is more suitable and a place that is more central.

### 5. How does the school's last denominational inspection report confirm your view?

- The last denominational inspection report dated 25<sup>th</sup> January 2006 (prior to the arrival of the last Head, Mr Craig Heaton) gave the established strengths as:-
  - A clear sense of a Christian identity which is fully inclusive and a strong foundation.
  - Outstanding relationships between all members of the community.
  - Very good working relationships with the Parish Church.
- In terms of leadership and management the inspection report said: *"The close links with the parish church through worship and social/youth groups embracing members of both school and church; use of the parish rooms; church personnel working in school and other joint ventures confirms and supports all in putting the school vision into action."*
- The report confirms the very good partnership between the church and the school and there have been some significant positive developments since the report was written, as highlighted in this document.

## Ministry Cont'd

### **Possible future developments**

*These ideas came out of our discussion about the church school partnership and will be considered for future development.*

- House groups could be encouraged to undertake a short course helping them to reflect on mission with regard to our schools.
- The Schools Minister could help to support and encourage the “Friends of the School”.

# Overall Impact

## **1. What impact do you believe this partnership has had on the overall life of both the Church and the School?**

- Mrs Stella Brocklehurst, acting Head, said *“Over the past years the work we have done in school and shared with the church has been so valuable. This has become apparent as we have focussed on our church school partnership award. We look forward to developing these links over the next few years.”*
- The partnership enhances the life of both the church and the school in many ways and it helps to lay the foundations of faith for the children and their families.

## **2. What evidence is there to support this?**

- The evidence is apparent in all we do, in the good relationships and in the support that is given for church and school events.
- The joint Schools Service in July 2008 was a positive witness to the whole community of our partnership and our faith.

# Additional Information

This document has been completed specifically for the partnership between St Thomas the Martyr Church and St Thomas the Martyr school. However, as noted on a number of occasions in this document, our partnership is wider than that and covers the whole parish, encompassing Christ the Servant Church, Roby Mill CofE school and Bishop Martin CofE school. Separate documents will be completed demonstrating the specific relationships with those schools but we wish to note that our partnership is not complete without the inclusion of that wider vision. The full partnership works together in the following ways:-

- A regular joint meeting of Parish Clergy and School Head Teachers.
- A vision of co-ordinating the work across the whole parish and sharing together where possible.
- The joint Holy Week project, with possible similar events in the future.
- The annual Schools Celebration service.

18<sup>th</sup> November 2008