

Parish Profile

This form is designed to give an overview of a parish to be used in a vacancy for the appointment of a new parish priest. It will be accepted as the "statement describing the conditions, needs and traditions of the parish" required by the Patronage (Benefices) Measure 1986. Additional information may be given by way of printed documents or written submissions.

Please write in black ink

I. Parish Information

1(a)	Name of parish(es) to which this information relates:	The Parish of Whitkirk in Leeds 15, East Leeds
(b)	Name(s) of parish church(es):	St Mary's Church, Whitkirk
2.	Name(s) of other C of E church(es)/centres for public worship in the parish:	None
3.	Cluster or group of parishes within which you work (formally or) informally:	None
4.	Deanery:	Leeds East Deanery
5.	Population: <i>The 2011 census information gives the following figures. Please indicate how this might have changed since then.</i>	13,033 (ONS 2021 census)

6(a)	Number on Electoral Roll:	167
(b)	Date of APM when this number was declared:	23 May 2023

7. Attendance at worship in each church

Please provide details of average attendance at Sunday and weekday services

Church/Service	Time	No. of communicants	Adult attendance	Under 16
Sunday Eucharist	10am	90 - 105	95 – 110 (A further 10 – 20 join us online)	Average 5 -10
Wednesday Eucharist	10am	10 - 15	10 - 15	-
Compline	8pm	-	15 - 20	-
Evensong (monthly)	6pm	-	15 - 20	-

Our Christmas and Easter services are always well attended and enjoyed by the wider community. For example, our Christmas Carol service was attended by 237 people and our annual Crib service was attended by over 300 people. These services are widely advertised on our social media and are open to all who wish to join us.

8. Occasional offices

Number for last 12 months in each church

Church	Baptisms	Confirmees	Weddings	Funerals in church	Funerals taken by clergy not in church
St Mary's	17	6	8	25	8

9. Communications

Names, Addresses, Telephone Numbers and E-mail addresses for each church

Church	Clergy	Readers	Lay staff eg Youth worker, Administrator	Churchwardens
St Mary's	In vacancy	Lynne Pickersgill – Licensed Lay Minister	None	Melvin Herring – Churchwarden Elaine Roberts – Churchwarden Janet Blenkinsop – Deputy Churchwarden

II. Parish/Community Information

1(a)	Briefly describe the population mix of the(se) parish(es) in terms of its employment, cultural, ethnic, age and housing mix.	<p>Data taken from the ONS 2021 census:</p> <p>Unemployment in the parish is around 3%, with around 58% in employment, around 20% schoolchildren and students, with those who do not work and pensioners making up the rest.</p> <p>Around 90% of the population were born in the UK.</p> <p>95.3% identify as being of white ethnicity and 57% identify as Christian (ONS via Church of England Parish map).</p> <p>There is a broad spread across all age groups.</p> <p>Around 91% of housing stock is made up of houses or bungalows and around 9% flats.</p> <p>There is currently a significant amount of new housing being built in the area.</p>
(b)	Are there any special social problems (eg high unemployment)?	No specific social problems are identified in this area.
2.	<p>Please list for each</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local Schools: • Youth centres: • Hospitals: • Nursing/elderly persons' homes: • Places of worship of other faiths • Local Businesses: 	<p>Temple Moor High School Whitkirk Primary School Colton Primary School Austhorpe Primary School Templenewsam Halton Primary School None</p> <p>None</p> <p>Colton Lodges Care Home</p> <p>Kingdom Hall of Jehovah's Witnesses Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints Colton Methodist Church St Theresa's Roman Catholic Church</p> <p>There are 2 retail parks locally; Colton Retail</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Neighbourhood initiatives: • Associations eg tourist group: • Describe any civic responsibilities which the clergy have: 	<p>Park and The Springs. These have a mixture of retail and leisure facilities, including mainstream shops, hotels, cafes and restaurants, a gym and a cinema.</p> <p>There are also many local independent shops, cafés and restaurants within the parish, in nearby Crossgates Centre and Halton High Street.</p> <p>The Church Community Centre hosts Crossgates & District Good Neighbours, Silver Lining Luncheon Club and regular police drop-ins.</p> <p>None</p> <p>We have an annual service which is held at Temple Newsam House, as part of the covenant which gifted this historic house to the people of Leeds over 100 years ago. This is attended by the Earl of Halifax, the Lord Mayor and other dignitaries.</p> <p>We hold an annual Remembrance Day service, with a public procession from the church to our local Cenotaph, which is attended by our local MP, Councillors and representatives of the emergency services, uniformed organisations and the local community.</p>
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III. Church Information

Please give details for each church

<p>1(a) What percentage of the congregation lives outside the parish?</p>	<p>Around 20% of our congregation live outside the parish, including those who join us online – we live stream our Sunday morning services for those unable to attend in person and to reach a wider audience.</p>
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(b)	Describe the mix of the congregation in terms of age, employment, cultural, ethnicity, age and gender.	<p>Our congregation ranges from babies in arms to those aged 90+; the majority of our congregation fall into the 55+ age bracket.</p> <p>The vast majority of our congregation are UK born, in keeping with the demographic of the parish.</p> <p>We have roughly a split of 60% female and 40% male members of our congregation.</p> <p>The Church benefits from a congregation with a wide range of employment experience, encompassing professional and trades across both public and private sector.</p>
2(a)	How would you describe the churchmanship tradition of each church and give details of robes and vestments worn by officiants?	<p>Our worship is strongly Eucharistically centred, with a rich liturgical and choral tradition which is highly valued by our congregation.</p> <p>We have a robed serving team who assist the President, including Liturgical Deacons and Masters of Ceremony. We make use of processions in our worship, with incense, processional cross and lights.</p> <p>We have a large collection of well-maintained vestments appropriate to the Church year, including a number of valuable copes and many chasubles. Some of our vestments have been made by members of our congregation so their regular use is appreciated.</p> <p>The Gospel Book is carried in procession and usually read from the body of the Church. Consecrated elements are reserved in a side chapel for the communion of the sick and housebound.</p> <p>Our worship is enriched by the singing of hymns and appropriate parts of the liturgy, supported by our robed choir and our Organist and Director of Music. Our choir has Royal College of Church Music (RSCM) affiliation and also has strong links with Ripon Cathedral, both through the Ambassadors scheme and through invitation to sing at their Choral Evensong, on 10 occasions since 2009.</p> <p>We welcome visiting preachers and recently enjoyed the company of one of the Brothers of the Community of the Resurrection at Mirfield,</p>

		who joined us for the whole of Holy Week.
(b)	What is the regular average weekly giving of those 16 years & over and what proportion of the giving is gift aided?	The average weekly giving is £12.30 per household and 89% is gift aided.
(c)	When did you last have a stewardship campaign?	We held a stewardship campaign from April to May in 2023 - "Yours Lord" – which resulted in 31 people either joining our planned giving scheme or increasing their giving amount.
3.	How does each Church supplement its direct giving in order to meet its financial needs?	<p>We have a successful track record of obtaining grant funding for specific projects, e.g the church bells restoration and the replacement of the York stone pathway with a safer resin alternative and the installation of a defibrillator.</p> <p>We benefit from a recently refurbished Community Centre, which has full stage and lighting, kitchen and licensed bar, separate private meeting area. This is offered for hire and is a popular venue for wedding receptions, parties and community groups.</p> <p>We encourage the leaving of legacies and have benefitted from these.</p>
4(a)	What amount of working expenses were paid to the clergy in the last financial year?	Working expenses in 2023 were £1,218.
(b)	Were these met in full?	The working expenses were met in full.
(c)	Is there an annual discussion about level of expenses as part of the PCC's budgeting process?	Levels are reviewed as part of the annual budget which is approved by the PCC.

5(a)	What amount of Share has (a) been requested; and (b) been paid from the parish in: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • last year? • current year? • next year? 	<u>Share requested</u>	<u>Share Paid</u>
		2022 £117,000	£80,500
		2023 £112,000	£84,000
		2024 £86,000*	aim to pay £86,000
		*We have been advised by the Diocese that this figure is incorrect and are awaiting	

		confirmation of an updated figure.
(b)	Will this year's be met?	We have committed to pay the full £86,000 that has been requested.
6(a)	Is there any capital project in hand at the moment?	<p>We have a serious issue with damp in the North West corner of our Grade I listed church, and this is currently being addressed.</p> <p>We have recently installed solar panels on our Community Centre, to reduce our energy costs and our environmental impact.</p>
(b)	Please give brief details with costs and state how they are to be met.	<p>The work on the damp problem in our church is being overseen by an Architect and a specialist contractor will be appointed to carry out the work. The estimated cost will be £22,990, funded by a generous legacy from a member of our Church family who recently passed away.</p> <p>The installation of solar panels had a cost of £17,000 which was also funded by legacy money. We have a grant application currently under consideration, to cover up to 50% of this cost.</p>
7.	Please attach a copy of the last PCC accounts.	Attached.
8(a)	What is the general state of repair of: the Church(es) - <i>please list</i>	<p>Our church is a Medieval Grade I listed building. Our most recent Quinquennial report (May 2023) states: "the church is generally in good condition and the PCC clearly look after the building well".</p> <p>As with any building of this age and construction there are challenges involved in carrying out maintenance and repairs. However regular checks and maintenance, overseen by our Buildings, Fabric and Finance team, are carried out to keep the fabric, function and beauty of the building.</p>
(b)	Please give details of major maintenance needed following the last quinquennial.	<p>Our most recent Quinquennial report (May 2023) identified the following issues to be addressed:</p> <p>As an immediate priority –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • significant areas of plaster loss due to damp issues • a void in the church tower floor

	<p>to be completed within 12 months –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • further areas of plaster loss • some loss of pointing around a window • some mortar loss to the tower and stair turret • weathering to some exterior stonework <p>The PCC has committed to manage these issues.</p>
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IV. Outreach and Mission

<p>1(a) What are the regular mission and outreach activities of the parish?</p>	<p>We have strong links with local schools, including school assemblies, services in church and young people’s music. We also visit local schools, at the invitation of the Headteachers, to talk to the children about aspects of the Church year, such as Advent, Epiphany and Lent. We also welcome local schools to hold their annual Christmas celebrations and concerts in our Church, which are attended by large numbers of parents and carers.</p> <p>We hold regular communion services at Colton Lodges nursing home.</p> <p>Messy Church is open to all families and children in the parish, an opportunity for all to engage with us in a more informal setting.</p> <p>Whitkirk Family Gathering – a monthly informal evening in our Community Centre which is open to all members of the parish.</p> <p>Pints of View – held in the local pub, a chance to discuss faith, belief and anything else in a relaxed setting.</p> <p>We hold regular social events throughout the year which are open to all in the parish. For example, a Pancake Social, Summer and Christmas fairs and Harvest Lunch. We have marked national events, such as the recent Coronation with a celebration lunch, followed by dedicated worship in Church.</p> <p>We support the national Heritage Weekend, by opening our church to visitors; encouraging</p>
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		<p>people to learn about the history of the church and what we do here. As part of this we also host a lecture which is held in our Community Centre; an entertaining and informative event focussing on different historical aspects of our church, our local area and links with Temple Newsam.</p> <p>Open Church - we open our church to visitors on each Saturday afternoon throughout the Spring and Summer months offering a space for people to come and pray, reflect and have some quiet time.</p>
(b)	<p>What are you doing to help people find out about Jesus?</p>	<p>Our mission statement is “Where all find a welcome and are nurtured in their journey with Christ”.</p> <p>We run regular courses, encouraging everyone to develop their faith through open discussion, shared thinking and learning. For example, in 2023 we ran Pilgrim; a recognised course of Christian learning and exploration and Faithbook, a discussion group devised to explore what it means to be a Christian, who Jesus is and why following him makes a difference.</p> <p>We hold Lent courses. This year taking the form of a series of talks by members of the congregation, titled “Living in Lent”, followed by sung Compline. In 2022, a parishioner wrote and led a course based on CS Lewis’ “Screwtape Letters” and in 2023 we ran a course called “Sight and Sound”, which was how music and art help us consider our Lenten journey.</p> <p>In 2023 we held a parish retreat at Parceval Hall, North Yorkshire attended by around 20 members of the congregation, this included acts of worship, time for reading and private study and social activities.</p>
(c)	<p>What are you doing to help grow people in discipleship?</p>	<p>We are fortunate to have over 30 dedicated teams of volunteers in all areas of our church life, growing in discipleship through their service and commitment to the church and church life.</p> <p>We held a recruitment event in April 2023 which we called ‘Whitkirk’s Got Talent’,</p>

	<p>showcasing the different areas where people could contribute to church life. This resulted in some new volunteers coming forward however, this is an area which is open to further effort and an opportunity for us to work with the new Vicar.</p> <p>Home study groups have historically been a rich part of the Parish's community life, some running continuously for over 15 years. These stopped with COVID and have not restarted yet. This is something we would like to work with the new Vicar to re-establish, alongside developing a wider plan for discipleship.</p>
<p>(d) What are you doing to grow people in leadership?</p>	<p>We have established training for new volunteers who come forward for particular roles.</p> <p>We value and benefit from our existing Licensed Lay Minister and we would welcome the development of others into leadership roles who have the appropriate calling.</p> <p>There are also a number of volunteers who, with the right encouragement and support, could offer more to the community than they presently feel confident giving. For example, we have a strong team of intercessors who lead prayers on rotation; around half of the team of 10 have only started within the last 24 months. With the right encouragement these people might be encouraged to re-start the public offering of Morning and Evening Prayer, or other worship.</p> <p>We have a number of vacancies on our PCC so do see the opportunity to work with the new Vicar to identify individuals and provide support and encouragement for them to grow in to positions of leadership in church life.</p> <p>We also are fortunate to have a number of people with very strong online skills, but other than our streaming services we have struggled to identify how to effectively make online ministry effective for us. This is an area where the new Vicar could encourage us to do more.</p>

2(a)	Please give details of the support of the Church overseas:	<p>We have recently taken part in 'toilet twinning', an initiative run by Tearfund, to provide basic sanitation in overseas communities who currently have no access to toilets. A very successful appeal and fundraising event allowed us to 'twin' all our toilets in the Community Centre, providing funding for eight toilets in communities overseas and we were also able to donate to the work of the Tearfund.</p> <p>We participate in Christian Aid week each year, collecting almost £2,000 this past year.</p> <p>We encourage giving to Water Aid at Harvest time.</p>
(b)	How much is given annually?	In 2023 we gave £2,483 to overseas charity
3(a)	Give details of the support for home missions and charities:	<p>We encourage weekly donations to support our local food bank which is facilitated by a neighbouring church. We are also able to make occasional financial donations to the foodbank. We are actively exploring how this work can be developed and in 2023 began presenting our food donations in the offertory procession to highlight their importance.</p>
(b)	How much is given annually?	Our charitable giving in 2023 was £656 to mainland charity
3(a)	Does the parish have an overseas link?	No.
(b)	If so, please state where/who?	N/A.
4(a)	Is there an organised system of outreach and welcome to new families?	<p>We are welcoming to new families and individuals.</p> <p>We have a strong website, Facebook and social media presence, thanks to our hard-working communications team, where all services and events are advertised widely in the community.</p> <p>Our 'Landmark' parish magazine produced by our volunteer teams is distributed locally and is also available on our website.</p> <p>We live stream our Sunday morning services, choral evensong services and festival services, and these are available to watch at any time on</p>

		<p>our website.</p> <p>Our talented technical team are also able to live stream weddings and funerals, a service which has been greatly appreciated by those families and individuals who are unable to attend these special occasions in person.</p>
(b)	<p>If so, please describe:</p>	<p>We have a team of ‘welcomers’ whose role is to ensure any new individuals and families have a service booklet, somewhere to sit and are invited and accompanied to our coffee in the Community Centre following the service.</p> <p>Families with small children are welcomed to our dedicated children’s area, which is overseen by one of our teams of volunteers.</p> <p>Our weekly service sheets give a clear explanation of the order and content of each service, including details such as when to stand and sit, and an invitation to a blessing for those who do not wish to receive communion. We also have children’s guides to services available in the church.</p> <p>All wedding, baptism and funeral families are followed up and contacted with invitations to services appropriate to their circumstances.</p> <p>For example, baptism families are invited to Messy Church and bereaved families are invited to our twice-yearly Memorial services.</p>
5.	<p>What part does the church play in community care?</p>	<p>We hold regular services at Colton Lodges, our local care home.</p> <p>Our Community Centre is the venue for the Silver Lining weekly lunch club for older people. This is a place for activities, a hot meal, fun and friendship.</p> <p>Cross Gates & District Good Neighbours also meet weekly in our Community Centre, with the aim of reducing social isolation and loneliness for older people.</p> <p>The sense of community in Whitkirk is very strong, with a wide network of neighbourly support within the congregation. We celebrate each other’s life events together, for example, often having wine and cake after our Sunday</p>

	service to mark significant birthdays and anniversaries. Our congregation also take care of each other through difficult times, for example visiting the sick and housebound or those who are in hospital. We strongly value and nurture this sense of community and fellowship.
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6(a)	Are there any Lay Eucharistic Assistants who take communion to the sick?	We have a 'home communion' team – please see below for further detail.
(b)	If so, who are they?	We currently have a team of 6 licensed members of our congregation who regularly take communion to 15 members of our Church family who are unable to attend church in person.
7.	What work does the church undertake with young people, other than in church-based organisations (eg open youth work)?	<p>Our work with children and young people has not been fully re-established since the Covid pandemic and is a priority area for development.</p> <p>We do offer Messy Church once a month, have a dedicated children's area in our church and occasional events open to all – for example our lantern making session and lantern-lit procession for Candlemas 2023 was a fantastic event attended by well over 100 people.</p> <p>We have strong connections with our local primary schools who also come to the church – for example to learn about the heritage/history of the building as well as the Christian faith.</p> <p>We hold annual Christingle and Crib services which attract large numbers of families. For example, our Crib service in 2023 was attended by over 300 people.</p> <p>Our local Guides group meet in our Centre, as well as a newly formed Rainbows group.</p>

V. Ecumenical Relations

1(a)	State involvement in local Council of Churches:	We are represented at the Deanery Synod.
(b)	Is there a formal covenant with any other denomination?	No.
2.	What informal ecumenical contacts are there?	<p>We are represented at Churches Together, an ecumenical organisation which promotes working better together in the community.</p> <p>Many of our serving team are also members of the Company of Servers, a community for all who serve God at the altar. We are excited to be hosting the Company's national service on the 27th April this year.</p>

VI. Church Education and Social Provision

1(a)	Name of Church School(s) if applicable:	N/A.
(b)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aided? • Controlled? • Foundation? 	
(c)	Number of pupils on roll (approx)?	
(d)	If aided, does the PCC support the school?	

VII. Lay Education and Participation

1.	What education and training work takes place in the Church for the following (give approx numbers):	<p>We do offer training to our teams of volunteers in all areas of Church life, especially those new to particular roles (eg new altar servers).</p> <p>We see this as an opportunity to help grow our</p>
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children • Young People • Adults 	Church.
2(a)	Give details of house/prayer groups:	We have a long track record of running house groups, some of which were maintained over many years. These broke down during COVID and this is not something we have been able to re-establish yet. There is a willingness to work with the new Vicar to explore how we can grow in this area.
(b)	Are the leaders clergy or lay?	The leaders are lay members of our Church family.
3(a)	How do you rate the strength of lay leadership?	<p>Lay leadership is generally strong, with a PCC drawn from a wide range of ages, backgrounds and experience. Nevertheless, we are always eager to encourage new volunteers.</p> <p>We would like to work with our new Vicar to encourage greater lay participation across all areas of church life.</p>
(b)	To what do you credit this strength, or lack of it?	<p>Leadership is strong thanks to enthusiasm and commitment of individuals who feel a deep sense of commitment to the church and the parish, fostered over many years.</p> <p>We are fortunate to be able to draw on the experience of the congregation who bring a wide range of practical and professional skills.</p> <p>As we have been recovering from the impacts of COVID, our focus has been on using our existing resources to re-start as much of church life as possible. There is now an opportunity to look to engage new people in the full breadth of church life.</p>

VIII. Mission

1.	List areas of Church life which you consider in need of development.	The main areas in need of development have been identified as:
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Our offering to people who are not already engaged with the Church or who are recently exploring their faith, in particular those from the younger age demographic including families. • Development of discipleship within those in the existing Church community who remain on the periphery, in particular in areas of faith-based learning, volunteering and financial giving. • Our presence in the local community and in particular how to further exploit our Community Centre as a gateway to faith and Church life.
<p>2. What are the main areas of mission that you think the new priest should prioritise in their ministry?</p>	<p>The main priority areas of mission have been identified as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To establish a robust mission plan providing leadership which enables numerical church growth. In particular this will involve developing and implementing a sustainable strategy for effective ministry and styles of worship to compliment what already works well. This will need to be focused particularly on younger people and families. • To exploit fully the strengths of our core worship and our strong choral tradition by being a beacon for offering beautiful worship in our particular tradition. We also see opportunities to build on our choir, perhaps with a youth or community choir supplementing the existing choir. • To build on our existing relationship with local schools.
<p>3. In summary, what are the top three challenges with which you and the new priest need to engage?</p>	<p>The three main challenges with which we and the new priest need to engage with have been identified as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Managing the challenges and opportunities of an ageing congregation. • Building the Church community in both numbers and genuine engagement, particularly with younger families.

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| | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Being able to meet our parish share requests, whilst at the same time paying our bills and investing in the fabric of our buildings. |
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IX. Additional Information

Please add here, or on another sheet, anything else which you would like the Patron and the Bishop to know about the conditions, needs and traditions of the parish.

Please refer to the Parish Brochure which we have prepared to supplement this profile. This includes many photographs which bring to life our church community, as well as providing important information which will help prospective Vicars consider what life in Whitkirk would be like. This includes particulars and photographs of our vicarage, as well as details of the local area, its schools, and other amenities.

X. The New Priest

List the qualities and skills you would like to see in the new priest.

- We would like a teacher and guide for our active and enthusiastic worshipping community. They should welcome and encourage curiosity and questioning and be able to support those who wish to deepen their faith.
- A confident preacher with a commanding presence in our church's space.
- A genuine leader with good team building and management skills who is prepared to challenge constructively when needed.
- Someone who is respectful of our tradition and adaptable to the needs of this Church community but who is also open to exploring new ideas.
- A person with good people and pastoral skills.
- A welcoming Priest, who is sympathetic to the pastoral needs of those on the fringes of Church life and those who may have previously had a negative experience of engaging with a Church.
- Someone who is enthusiastic about working in an environmentally friendly and sustainable way.
- An original thinker with the vision to take us forward in our journey in faith and worship.

Agreed by the PCC of

**St Marys, Whitkirk
on Tuesday 23rd January 2024**

**Proposed: Elaine Roberts (Churchwarden)
Seconded: Melvin Herring (Churchwarden)**

All PCC unanimously Agreed this is a true record.

Signed: Elaine Roberts

Print Name: Elaine Roberts

Office Held: Churchwarden

This form, duly completed, should be sent to:

***The Mission and Pastoral Secretary
Deborah Thorley
Diocese of Leeds, Church House
17-19 York Place, Leeds, LS1 2EX
deborah.thorley@leeds.anglican.org***

She will circulate copies to the Patron and Bishop

Please also send a copy directly to the Archdeacon's office

***Please keep copies of this form
and ensure that all PCC members have a signed copy.***