



Associate Vicar (0.5) in the Parish of Girdlington, Heaton and Manningham



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The Bishop's Statement



The parish of Girdlington, Heaton and Manningham is a very important one within the Bradford Episcopal Area and the Diocese of Leeds. Formed from the historic parishes of St Philip's Girdlington, St Paul's Manningham, St Barnabas Heaton and St Martin's Heaton, this very large parish of over 53,000 people is the 7th largest in England. It contains some of the most deprived areas in the country. Housing

includes poor-quality private-rented homes, a large council estate, large family homes and semi-rural properties. Over two-thirds of the population is Muslim, mainly from Bangladesh and the Mirpur area of Pakistan. 76% are of Asian origin and 16% white (of whom significant numbers are from Eastern Europe).

My desire is to see this new parish develop confident disciples and leaders, who can reach out into the parish in forms of mission which both win new disciples for Jesus and also bring transformation and hope to those affected by the many forms of poverty experienced locally. The parish is facing up the challenge of developing appropriate forms of worship, evangelism, mission and church for deprived "presence and engagement" areas. As such it requires a priest with a pioneering mindset and a heart for this type of community.

There are large numbers of young people in the parish (over half the population is under the age of 30 and one third under 16), while less than 9% are over 65. Hence there are many schools – including two Church of England primary schools, numerous private Islamic Schools, Bradford Grammar School and Bradford Girls Grammar School. Considerable effort has gone into developing ministry in many of these schools.

There is a great foundation on which to build. Much work is being done to engage the community and the buildings have been (and are being) improved and adapted to facilitate community use. Parish-wide governance structures have been put in place to develop and support a range of ministry and mission across the parish.

In 2022, the PCC accepted the Bishop's invitation to become one of six Resourcing Parishes in the Episcopal Area. This has brought Strategic Development Funding (SDF) from 2023 to 2027 to add resource to the parish and new investment in some

areas of ministry. Hence, there is a quality team in this Parish and we need someone else who will share their energy, resilience and vision with a joyful and confident faith. (S)he will have a wholehearted commitment to the Christian gospel which can inspire church growth in multicultural communities with significant other faith presence. (S)he will enjoy cultural diversity and offer a positive welcome for Christians from other cultures. Secure in his/her own identity as a follower of Jesus, (s)he will enable community action to flourish in the parish in new and exciting ways.

The post comes with a half-stipend and housing, for which the post-holder will work Sundays and three other days a week. Given the part-time nature of this post, we are seeking a person who can inspire and develop others into ministry, leadership and responsibility alongside themselves, as well as work collaboratively and supportively with others on the ministry team.



The Deanery of Inner Bradford is comprised of parishes similar to Gillingham, Heaton and Manningham. Most of them are experimenting

with new patterns of mission and ministry as they grapple with what it means to be the Church of England in the presence of large Muslim populations. The new associate vicar will therefore find a group of creative and supportive colleagues in the Deanery chapter, all of whom will be deeply familiar with the joys and challenges that each other faces. Hence (s)he will be expected to work with a spirit of generosity in sharing wisdom and insights about ministry within the Deanery of Inner Bradford, across the Episcopal Area and Diocese of Leeds, and also nationally.

+Toby Bradford
November 2025

The Team Vision

This is both an exciting and a challenging time to be joining the Team that serves the geographical area of Girdlington, Heaton and Manningham in the heart of Bradford.

We are a very large parish that brings significant benefits in sharing skills and resources across the churches. In this way we hope better to serve and reach the population not currently a regular part of a Christian worshipping community.

Over the coming years our primary expectation is that God will bring more people to know Jesus. We pray that revitalisation of our buildings and starting fresh expressions of church will be how we serve our communities better. Although the expectation is for growth, we recognise that this comes alone from God, so the role of each church member is to help cultivate church health, discipleship and faith. Specifically we are striving to become a parish:

- where children and young people are valued, and there is a commitment to supporting families and growing young leaders;
- that gives long term commitment to community transformation and invests generously to that end – including time, skills and buildings;
- where members are encouraged and equipped to engage with community needs and their leaders contribute within wider social structures;
- that is unafraid to challenge where necessary;
- where the people are known to be genuine in their care, humble enough to both work with and learn from others, and as those who make the effort to really listen and understand.
- that seeks both to be and to share the good news of the Gospel, recognising the hope that God has placed at the centre of every moment and seeking through outreach a response to this in individual people's lives;
- that is locally representative and invests in building good relationships with key activists from different backgrounds and is both outgoing and inclusive in its dealings with others;
- where there is genuine concern about local issues reflected through active listening, outwardly focussed prayer, relevant initiatives and a hospitable welcome for all;

Do you want to become part of the team that delivers this Vision?

About the area

The parish covers a culturally rich area with a population of just over 53000. The minority ethnic diversity ranges from 62% around St Martin's Church, Heaton to 90% at St Paul's Manningham. (CUF Data)

There are excellent transport links by bus across the area and into the City Centre where the two main railway stations provide good links to the region and wider afield.

The areas are all thriving with shops, especially fast food outlets, and the Bradford Royal Infirmary is situated within the parish boundary. There are also plenty of green and open spaces with excellent public park facilities for everyone to enjoy.

The whole area is surrounded by breathtaking countryside with the Yorkshire Dales close on hand.

This is a vibrant area with a very young population. The churches provide a ministry to the local schools of which there are:

14 State Primary

2 Church of England Primary

5 Secondary

3 Nurseries

As well as a Catholic Primary and Secondary school and a number of private and Islamic schools

The skill and outreach of the church is very well respected around the city. Statutory agencies are always very willing to work alongside churches in serving the community, particularly in supporting those people on the edge who are suffering through a variety of factors but particularly poverty and health.

This area faces immense challenges of employment, poverty and health issues. However, the local authority is open to new initiatives and in many instances looks to the churches in supporting and delivering community services. It's a good place both to live and work but above all to make new disciples and proclaim the good news of Jesus. Come and join us for an enriching and exciting ministry.

A week in the life of GHM

Each Sunday we gather for worship as a whole Parish. Usually about 80 people of whom a quarter might be under 18. White British would be in the minority here with Nigerian, Iranian and Pakistani backgrounds making up the majority. Our worship is low Anglican – with confession and communion but also choruses and every other service being ‘alternative’ being either Breakfast Church or All Age.

In the afternoon our team will be opening the doors of St Martin’s for Bubble Church which is aimed at young families. A high octane energy rush of songs, activities and Jesus.



On Monday our team will be opening St Paul’s Church for Community Pantry made up mainly of older ladies of Pakistani Heritage. There will be chat with tea and toast as well as a seated aerobics class. After this there will be a Pantry where people struggling for affordable food will be catered for. Meanwhile at St Martin’s parents and toddlers are meeting for our popular stay and play for children not yet in the school which is next door.

Tuesday is usually the day our team take as a rest day. But in one church there is an English lesson taking place and in a church hall there is more Seated Aerobics

Wednesday Morning finds us at St Barabas Church for a traditional Parish Communion with tea and coffee afterwards. This service also provides most of the members of our Mother’s Union. At St Paul’s Church our English lessons are taking place

In the afternoon we have our team prayer meeting and diary meeting.

Thursday is St Martin's Community Day in Heaton – we have a pantry, a café, the library, seated aerobics and currently we are doing a patchwork project – weaving stories and fabric from those stories together.

Meanwhile at St Paul's Church Farsi discipleship is settling down for a meal and currently working through the Alpha Course

In the evening we have a Bible Study at St Philip's in Gillingham – praying into that place and asking God what is next for that community.

Friday begins with our Drop in Café when those battered by the storms of life gather for a free lunch. This has been provided for the community for decades and although it pains us that we have to provide it we make good and lasting relationships with many vulnerable people who need help and love from the church. We've recently started a more targeted well being group with those who come to this lunch – we love being able to speak of the love and the care of God to those who often don't feel it from our society.

Saturday we are often preparing for Sunday – but monthly we have a "Bible and Brunch" event. At the moment we are watching "The Chosen" with those who come. Most of these people are those who are regulars at the Friday Café – with a few Church members too!

There are many things that happen in a week that aren't so regular. We have good relationships with the wider community that take up our time. As well as assemblies, school visits and monthly youth events. There is capacity for so much more too – as our Parish is huge and there are many areas and ministries that we are yet to branch out into.

Our Parish has four Churches: **Saint Barnabas' Church**

St Barnabas Church has served the community from its present site for 160 years.

The Churchmanship is traditional. We engage in ecumenical initiatives and support the early morning Easter Day service followed by breakfast in the village hall. We have a strong presence at the *Heaton Gala*. We have one of the only Mother's Union groups in the area and their program covers various initiatives.

Currently St Barnabas has a midweek communion service attended by an average of 20 people.





Saint Martin's Church

St Martin's Church is situated in an urban area next to a busy main road.

The local population comprises retired, middle aged and young families and is now predominantly of Asian extraction with some Eastern European families as well as indigenous people. We have

developed good links with our neighbours of other faiths, our local schools and institutions by making our premises available.

In 2018 Bradford Council built a small Library in the Narthex. The books and systems are the Council's but the work is done by volunteers. This has enabled us to wrap community work around the times we are open. The building is now open 12 hours per week for a variety of activities including Chair Aerobics, Stay and Play, school groups etc.



On Thursdays we run a Community Pantry together with a café – this is very popular in the area and we have seen a lot of growth here. A welcoming atmosphere is always noticed by those entering our building from all parts of the community.

In January 2024 we launched Bubble Church as a new service on Sundays. This is aimed at children under 7 and their families. This has led to new families joining us and a Bible study growing from it.



Saint Paul's Church

Situated in the inner city, the area has seen many changes over the years and is now an area rich in different faith traditions. The different Muslim communities form the largest part but there are members of all the world's major religions in the area.



There are very high levels of deprivation in Manningham, as reflected in the national indicators of poverty, life expectancy and health related issues. In some areas drugs and prostitution bring their own misery.

The former parish of St Paul's Manningham was created in 1984 by the amalgamation of three parishes comprising five churches.

St Paul's Church is offered to all as a place of safety, support and care. It has hosted: a weekly Drop in Cafe for the homeless; a Well Being Cafe for the Afro-Caribbean community; a place of worship for a Congolese congregation; a learning environment for local schools; a classroom for those with English as a second language; a Places of Welcome; a week of the Inn Churches winter homeless provision.

After the pandemic we began to meet here at St Paul's as a whole Parish. Soon afterwards a large number of African students arrived – mainly Nigerian. We have a fluctuating number of Iranian asylum seekers too. This has brought life and vibrancy

to the church and we've been enriched with freshness and enthusiasm. Their energy and willingness to serve God in practical ways has blessed the whole church.



Our worship has an Anglican structure with mainly modern choruses; all using projection screens with simple English and live App based translation into other languages. One Sunday per month we meet in the church hall for Breakfast Church when we worship and eat together. Our other services are either "Sermon with youth provision" or All Age services.

We have a lot of young people and families who come to our church – although they rarely all come at once! If they did we might not have room! We have about 8 in creche, 10 in Sunday School and 12 in youth group.

This summer our Baptism and Confirmation service reflected well the community of faith that we have. Of the 15 candidates, 10 were children. Of the 5 adults 3 were asylum seekers.

The people of this Parish work hard to meet the needs of the community it serves. God has provided it with many members from all over the world. Our desire is to serve the living Jesus in this wonderful part of Bradford. We believe that the future is bright.



Saint Philip's Church



Built in 1860, St Philip's historic vision statement was that it is an evangelical church, committed to bringing the Gospel, in word and deed, to the whole community.

Around 78% of local inhabitants are from the Pakistani rooted Muslim community. We have worked hard at reaching this community.

We are closely associated with the nearby Church of England St Philip's Primary Academy, where the church is involved in the local governing body and leading assemblies.

Currently we do not worship regularly at St Philip's Church – we have a weekly Bible study that meets here which is the result of many years of prayer walking. However there are three groups here that work for the good of the community that we long to bring together with us in some way. Cecil Green Arts makes wild and wonderful art creations and installations for the city. Most of their projects are made in St Philip's Church, where they occupy the open sanctuary space.



<https://cecilgreenarts.co.uk/>

There is a composting project based in the backyard of St Philip's that is trying to encourage the local community to use their compostable food waste and build relationships for the Gospel as it blesses the people involved.

<https://hayatcompost.co.uk/>

Greener Girlington is an organisation that works to bring plants and nature to this part of the city that often feels lacking in open space.

We would love to find ways to work more closely with these projects

A group of men from St Philips and other local churches have built a good relationship with the local Madrassa and have met for more than 10 years to discuss each other's beliefs and occasionally run joint youth projects.

We are confident that the Holy Spirit is at work in Girlington and that St Philip's will be with Him as He fulfils His task.

REstore

'Restore' is the outward facing work of the church, our social action, our practical presence in and across the Parish of Girlington, Heaton and Manningham, putting the gospel into action and demonstrating God's Kingdom in many and varied ways outside of our regular Sunday services.

Currently we are working towards setting up a separate charity for the management of our considerable amount of community work. The governance and the finances are increasingly complex and having them tied into the Parish often makes for unnecessary complications.

What do we think Restoration could look like?

Helping local people get on their feet. We want to help people in our community to learn new things and gain new skills. This will help them figure out what they need and how to get it, so they can feel more confident and take a bigger part in community life.

Bringing everyone together. We want to run activities to help people from all different backgrounds in the Girlington, Heaton, and Manningham areas get to know and understand each other better.

Making sure no one is left out. We want to help people who are isolated or struggling because of poverty. We will work to prevent people from becoming excluded and help those who are already on the outside get back into society.

Giving young kids a great start. We will help parents of young children (below school age) understand how to best support their kids' growth. We'll do this through fun community groups, play and learning activities, and a community library.

See more at: <https://restorebradford.life/>



Dementia Discussions at St Paul's Church

Our hope is that we can continue with a model of Church when we worship on a Sunday as a Parish and grow new worshipping communities out of our community service at each centre during the week.

Working at GHM means a whirlwind of moving from place to place doing a variety of tasks and meeting people in extreme need. It also is a blessing of the highest order to remind people who feel forgotten of the love God has for them.

Community Buildings

Our 4 Churches and their 4 halls are used in a huge variety of ways every week.

Used by:

4 Council Youth Groups

Slimming World

Breast Cancer Support

Brownies/Guides

Rainbow Dementia Care Group

Sound of Trumpets Church

Shalom Pentecostal Church

Maternity Circles

Seated Aerobics x2

Greener Girlington

Hayat Composting

Cecil Green Arts

Farsi Discipleship

Study Buddies

English Classes x2

Bradford Asian Christian Fellowship

Bradford Council Library

Here are some web links that give a flavour of what we've done recently:

[Parish Review 2024](#)

[Baptisms and Confirmations in 2025](#)

[Rajah Spices Advert – filmed at our Service!](#)

[Church Summer Trip](#)

[Breakfast Church tidy up](#)

[ReSTORE Video](#)

About the Team



The Team comprises of:

- Rector
- Associate Vicar (you!)
- Urban Pioneer Minister
- Two clergy with permission to officiate
- Two Licensed Lay Ministers
- Two part-time paid community workers
- Three Mission Apprentices



Revd Chris Chorlton – Rector

I grew up in Jerusalem. I attended school there as well as boarding school back in England. After University I worked in Yemen for two years where I met my wife Angela.

We lived in Leeds for five years before moving to Egypt to work for the Church Mission Society. We worked in partnership with both the Orthodox and the Anglican Church of Egypt for 12 years.

In 2016 we moved to Bradford to work for the churches here. It was a momentous but good decision. We have three children, Anna, Isaac and Noah.

Clare Leighton – Urban Pioneer Minister

At heart I am a local girl – born in Keighley but then moved around while growing up. I have now come full circle back to the North after most recently living in London.

I trained as a youth worker and learnt my craft working on the really messy edges of life where Community and Church seem to collide.

I love the invitation to walk alongside someone and discover together what God is doing. There is nothing better than seeing the impact this has on the lives of people as they meet Jesus and have their lives turned upside down for the better.

It has taken me a while to realise and embrace the gift of not quite fitting in, so not a surprise that I feel more at home working alongside the fuzzy edges while inviting the established middle to join the party



Alastair Bavington – Licensed Lay Minister

I've lived in Bradford for more than 30 years, having been born and brought up in Pakistan and coming here aged 13. After finishing my schooling I had six years away and came back to Bradford in 1990 to work in the local hospital.

I started going to St. Philip's in the early nineties and went on to train as a Reader. I'm now a retired G.P. which gives me more time and energy for ministry in the church. I'm passionate about sharing Jesus with all who God has brought to our city. My wife is a curate at Fountains Church in Bradford.



Michelle Moyle – Community Worker

I grew up in Barrow-in-Furness where I met my husband Steve. After college I spent a year working for London City Mission in Tower Hamlets before moving to Bradford in 2001 to study Civil Engineering at the University of Bradford. After a short time working in Pakistan we moved to Manningham in 2008. I began working for the church in 2013, as a community worker for The Sharakat Project, now part of Restore. We have two children, Eliana and Noah.

Angela Chorlton – Community Worker and Licensed Lay Minister

Hi there! I've been part of the Parish since 2016 when I moved to Bradford with my husband Chris and three children. We were previously in Egypt for 12 years, working as CMS mission partners. Prior to that I lived in Leeds where I trained as a social worker.

I am now employed by the parish as a community worker, as well as being a Licensed Lay Minister. I am so thankful to be working in my role ...it feels as if all my previous life experience and training has come perfectly together - I have the privilege of supporting people with day to day life as well as sharing the good news of eternal life, through Jesus!



The Associate Vicar Role

Our vision as the Diocese is about confident clergy equipping confident Christians to live and tell the good news of Jesus Christ. For all of our appointments we are seeking clergy who have a joyful and confident faith which has inspired a track record of church growth.

We are looking to appoint a new member of a close team. Working across the whole parish, (s)he will have particular responsibility for one of these areas:

1. **Sunday Congregation lead.** Pastor and teacher in an amazing multi-cultural church. Working together with the team to make it intercultural. This would include pastoral follow up from Sundays and welcoming new arrivals to the Parish
2. **Pioneer in Girdlington Church plant.** St Philip's Church in Girdlington is home to 3 great community projects that are separate to our Parish. There is much work to do there as a 'Chaplain' to the site and the area. We could work more collaboratively. The building could become even more of a community asset, bring in funds and be a brighter light to the streets around.
3. **Young People:** We have dozens of Primary schools and a lot of Secondary Schools. Bradford is the 'youngest city in Europe' and so there is a huge amount more to do as a Schools/young people/Education lead in the Parish. At Easter 2024 our team delivered Easter assemblies to 3400 primary school children. But there are many we don't visit! How do we build on this amazing opportunity?

Duties beyond the Parish

As part of the Girlington, Heaton and Manningham staff team, this post is in the Inner Bradford Deanery in the Episcopal area of Bradford, in the Diocese of Leeds. Duties include:

- adhering to the responsibilities, guidelines and procedures of the Diocese as detailed in Terms of Service and The Clergy Handbook;
- attendance at meetings of the chapter and deanery and the episcopal area forums;
- attendance at meetings of the Post of First Responsibility programme (if appropriate).

About You

Please see the Person Spec

In the absence of the “ideal” candidate, we would love you to fit as many of these as possible, and recognise and welcome the gifts and experience that are already present in the Team.

Some facts and figures –

(12 months ended 31 December 2024)

Number on electoral roll	102
No of adults on a usual Sunday	77
No of children on a usual Sunday	23
Total no of people attending worship on Easter day	76
Total no of people attending worship on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day	97
No of persons baptised	4
No of persons confirmed (But 10 this year!)	0

Practicalities

Appointment

The post is a part time (half-stipend) appointment under Common Tenure and is subject to a satisfactory Enhanced Disclosure from the DBS. The appointment is made by the Bishop of Leeds following local recommendation. There is an Occupational Requirement that the person appointed be an ordained priest in the Church of England or Church in full communion with it, designated at selection as Incumbent/Stipendiary, who has satisfactorily completed Initial Ministerial Education 1-7.

Provision of the house includes water rates and Council Tax. All expenses are paid. Removal costs and a resettlement grant are available. There are six weeks holiday per annum plus Bank Holidays (or time in lieu) pro rata. Participation in an annual Ministerial Development Review and in-service training is required and an annual retreat is strongly encouraged.

Accommodation

St Barnabas Vicarage is very close to, though not adjacent to, St Barnabas Church. It is a purpose-built 4 bedroom vicarage with ground floor study, dining room, lounge and toilet. There is a garage and hard standing for several cars.



Applications

To arrange a visit or conversation, contact the Archdeacon of Bradford, Ven Dr Andy Jolley: andy.jolley@leeds.anglican.org, 07973 458403

or the Rector: Rev Chris Chorlton:

chris.chorlton@leeds.anglican.org, 07840 312202

Apply via Pathways by **midnight on Tuesday 6th January 2026**

Interviews will be held on **Thursday 22nd January** followed by a further meeting with the Diocesan Bishop prior to a final offer of the post.

Be assured of the prayers of all involved as you discern if God is calling you to this challenging and exciting post.

The Diocese of Leeds

The Diocese of Leeds was formed at Easter 2014. It is one of the largest dioceses in the country covering an area of around 2425 square miles and a population of around 2,642,400 people. It comprises five Episcopal areas, each served by a suffragan Bishop. Each Episcopal Area is coterminous with an Archdeaconry.

The Diocese is a mix of urban and rural. The area includes the major cities of Bradford, Leeds and Wakefield; the large industrial and post-industrial towns of Halifax, Huddersfield and Dewsbury; the market towns of Harrogate, Skipton, Ripon, Richmond and Wetherby; and the deeply rural area of the Yorkshire Dales.

The Diocese is unique in having three cathedrals; Bradford, Ripon and Wakefield. The Deans of the Cathedrals work together to provide key diocesan services.

