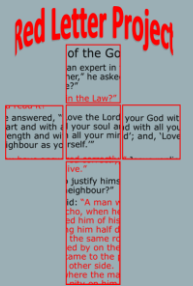


PARISH BROCHURE



St John's Great Horton and St Wilfrid's Lidget Green

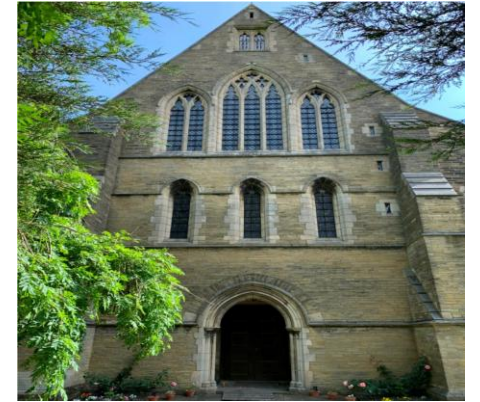
"We share the blessing of Jesus with BD7"

WELCOME

Could you be our new Vicar at the Parish of St John's Great Horton and St Wilfrid's Lidget Green? We are a vibrant, intercultural, and missional parish in the heart of Bradford, West Yorkshire, seeking a prayerful and visionary leader to guide us into the next chapter of our shared life and ministry.

Our parish is home to a diverse and growing community of believers, united by our love for Jesus and our desire to see His blessing shared across BD7 (our churches are the three Church of England churches in the BD7 postcode). We are passionate about worship, discipleship, and outreach, and we are committed to being a welcoming church family for people of all backgrounds.

This brochure offers a comprehensive picture of our parish — our people, our ministry & mission, our context, and our hopes for the future. We pray that as you read, you will sense God's leading and consider whether He might be calling you to join us in this exciting and challenging ministry.



BISHOP'S STATEMENT

Vicar of Great Horton & Lidget Green

Bishop's Statement

Our vision as the Diocese of Leeds is about confident clergy equipping confident Christians to live and tell the good news of Jesus Christ. For all our appointments we seek clergy who have a joyful and confident faith which has inspired a track record of church growth. Here, we are looking for a vicar who can work from the parish's existing vision and values to lead into the next chapter of the life of this strategically important parish. (S)he will need to operate comfortably cross-culturally across this large and diverse parish, and be able to encourage the best from the different worshipping communities of the parish and the various projects run by the Red Letter Project in the parish, enabling them to play to their strengths. (S)he will therefore be an experienced and strategic leader of leaders, who can enable each person and each worshipping community to play their part in such a way that the overall team is much greater than the sum of its parts. (S)he will also be comfortable with the governance demands related to a parish of this size and complexity.

Following a period of sharing the same leadership, the parish was created on 1st January 2020 from the historic parishes of St John's Great Horton and St Wilfrid with St Columba, Lidget Green. This very large parish of 33,000 people contains some of the most deprived areas in the country (it is in the top 3% most deprived nationally). Much of the population is quite transitory and there are large numbers of young people in the parish. Hence there are many schools – including a Church of England primary school. Considerable effort has gone into developing ministry in many of these schools. In recent years, there has been a strong priority in creating an intercultural church community. As part of this, as well as meeting together with others, there are separate gatherings for Arabic-speaking Christians from Sudan as well as for Nepali-speakers, enabling them to integrate better with the whole.

The parish has strong lay leadership and associated structures. In 2019, St John's PCC had accepted my challenge and invitation of being designated as a Resourcing Parish within the Bradford Episcopal Area and the Diocese of Leeds. As part of this designation, the parish has Church Commissioners' Strategic Development Funding (SDF) from 2019-2027 to support revitalisation work in the parish. This funding is providing Operations Management support, and a series of 2-year part-time Mission Apprentices to develop areas of mission and ministry. In return, the PCC has committed to support church planting and revitalisation both within and beyond the parish boundaries, sharing resources generously with neighbouring parishes and sending people graciously to revitalise and plant churches.

The parish has made great progress against the objectives agreed as part of SDF support, and has achieved much in terms of church revitalisation and planting, starting and sustaining new worshipping communities. A group, including a curate, was sent to support the creation of Fountains Church Bradford in 2019. On Easter Sunday 2021, another group was sent from St John's to St Wilfrid's under the leadership of the Associate Vicar, creating a new merged congregation to revitalise worship, mission and ministry in Lidget Green. On Easter Sunday 2024, a new worshipping community was established in the old church of St Columba's Horton Grange, led by a licensed lay minister. In January 2025 Share Church began at St John's on Wednesday afternoons, and in Easter Sunday 2025 a group from St Wilfrid's began another new worshipping community on the Scholemoor estate.

BISHOP'S STATEMENT

In the next chapter of the parish's life, this missional character needs to be sustained with the new vicar discerning with others where the Holy Spirit is leading them next. At the same time, work underway to ensure that the supporting structures for mission, ministry, buildings and governance are fit for purpose will also need to continue.

From the Episcopal Area's perspective, I see the following goals for the new Vicar:

- To ensure the parish's identity, vision, values and strategy is widely understood and owned, maintaining the confidence of individuals and groups from many cultural backgrounds;
- To lead and manage the senior staff team, ensuring it is cohesive and mutually supportive with shared vision and values, and each member plays to their respective strengths.
- To consolidate and continue the parish's mission, outreach and church planting work so that the gospel is shared with more of BD7;
- To strengthen lay discipleship, with new lay leaders being identified, encouraged and developed;
- In the light of the current SDF support ending in two years, and challenges related to the parish's finances and buildings, to ensure mission initiatives are sustainable and focused on agreed priorities;

The Deanery of Inner Bradford is comprised of parishes with a similar demographic to Great Horton and Lidget Green, many of whom are experimenting with mixing new approaches to worship and mission alongside inherited patterns. The new post-holder will therefore find a group of creative and supportive colleagues in the Deanery chapter, all of whom will be familiar with the joys and challenges that each other faces. We expect the new post holder to work with a spirit of generosity in sharing wisdom and insights about ministry within the Deanery of Inner Bradford, and across the Episcopal Area.

+Toby Bradford,

16 July 2025



OUR VISION AND VALUES

Our Vision is to share the blessing of Jesus with BD7.

We believe Jesus brings life, hope, and transformation — and we want to share that blessing with our local community. BD7 is a richly diverse and vibrant area, and we're here to be a blessing in His name: through worship, friendship, service, and love.

Our churches, worship, and culture are evangelical with strong leanings toward the charismatic, and as such we are affiliated with the New Wine Network.

Our Values

These values shape how we live, worship, and grow together as a church family. We are committed to being:

- **Prayerful** – We depend on God. Prayer is at the heart of everything we do.
- **Bible-Focused** – We are rooted in God's Word, which guides our faith and life.
- **Missional** – We are sent people, sharing the good news of Jesus in word and action.
- **Fun** – Joy is a gift from God! We celebrate life together with warmth and laughter.
- **Intercultural** – We reflect the beautiful diversity of God's Kingdom.
- **Welcoming** – Jesus welcomed all — and so do we.
- **Disciples** – We are on a journey of lifelong discipleship, growing more like Jesus.

OUR CHURCHES: ST JOHN'S GREAT HORTON

St John's is a lively, intercultural church with two Sunday morning services:

- **9am Living Water** – A reflective service of Holy Communion with Bible teaching.
- **10:30am Informal Service** – A relaxed, family-friendly service with contemporary worship, children's groups, and vibrant community.

We also host:

- **Nepali Fellowship** – Sundays at 1pm, worshipping in Nepali.
- **Arabic Fellowship** – alternate Sundays at 1pm, worshipping in Arabic.
- **Midweek Communion** – Wednesdays at 12 noon, followed by lunch.
- **Share Church** – Wednesdays at 4:15pm, an after-school church for families.
- **Alive in Christ Youth Group** – Saturdays 4:30 – 6pm



OUR CHURCHES: ST WILFRID'S LIDGET GREEN

St Wilfrid's is a revitalised church with a growing congregation and a strong community presence:

- **10:30am Sunday Service** – Informal worship with Holy Communion, children's groups, and monthly Bring & Share lunches.
- **St Wilf's at the Beacon** – Sundays at 4:30pm, an interactive service in a local community centre.

We also run:

- **Café Salaam** – Tuesdays, a wellbeing café and stay-and-play group.
- **Food Pantry** – Wednesdays, offering low-cost food to those in need.



OUR CHURCHES: ST COLUMBA'S HORTON GRANGE

A recent church plant from St John's, St Columba's hosts:

- **Sunday Worship** – Informal evening gatherings at 5pm with food, worship, and fellowship.
- **ABC (Adults, Babies & Children)** – Thursdays, at 9.30am, a stay-and-play group.
- **Zindigi Kids** – Saturdays at 10am, a drop-in play session for local families.



OUR COMMUNITY

BD7 is a richly diverse area of Bradford, with a population of over 33,000. Our parish includes Great Horton, Lidget Green, and Horton Grange — areas marked by cultural vibrancy, economic deprivation, and spiritual opportunity.

We serve a community that includes:

Long-term residents and recent migrants.

Refugees and asylum seekers.

Families, students, and older adults.

People of many faiths and none.

Our churches reflect this diversity, with members from over a dozen nations and a wide range of backgrounds. We are committed to intercultural ministry and to building bridges across cultural, linguistic, and generational divides.

We work closely with local schools, community centres, and charities, and we are known for our warm welcome and practical care.

“The events I have attended at St Johns have been so successful showing how diverse their congregation is and how they embrace other cultures. The Churches work well together and always support our annual community festival in the park.” – Cllr Joanne Dodds



OUR COMMUNITY DEMOGRAPHICS

Within the parish and our churches, a wide range of languages are spoken, including English, Urdu, Arabic, Nepali, Slovak, and many others, reflecting the wide diversity of the area.

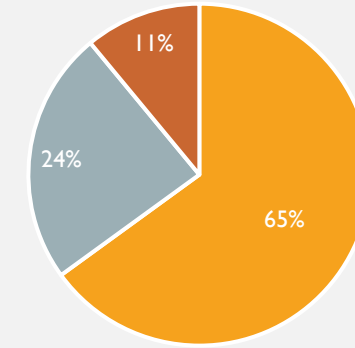
BD7 is ranked 9th most deprived out of 30 wards in Bradford with high levels of unemployment, housing instability, and food insecurity.

Housing in the parish is predominantly rental, with high turnover and transience.

This context presents both challenges and opportunities. We are called to be a church that is intercultural, inclusive, and deeply rooted in the life of our neighbourhoods. Our congregations reflect this diversity, with members from over a dozen nations and a wide range of backgrounds.

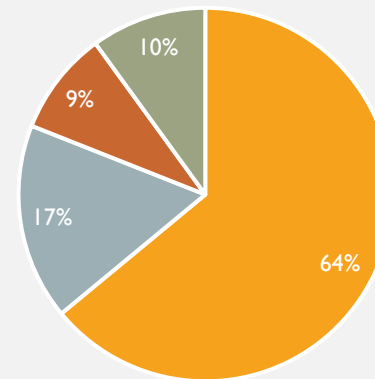
With such a high number of local Muslims, there is a wonderful opportunity for dialogue across faiths, and we are praying that we will see Muslims come to faith in Jesus, not just attend our activities and events.

Ethnic Heritage



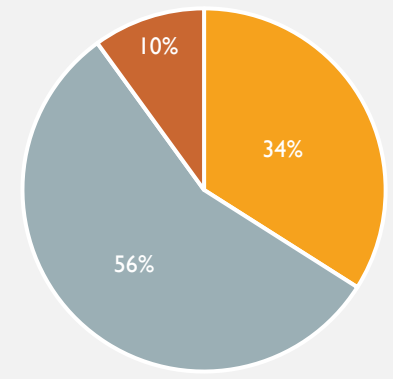
■ Asian ■ White ■ Black, Mixed, and Other

Religious Affiliation



■ Muslim ■ Christian ■ No religion ■ Other

Age Profile



■ Under 20 ■ 20-64 ■ Over 65

OUR TEAM

Teamwork is a key foundation of our Parish and we are blessed with a committed and gifted team, including:

Associate Vicar (St Wilfrid's) – Revd Adam Dickson

Curate (St John's) – Revd Millie Cork

Curate (SSM) – Revd Ludia Shukai

Licensed Lay Ministers – Jan Nicholson, Gaby Young, Simon Dennis

Mission Apprentices – Patricia Mgbaji (St John's), Felix Ogboh (St Wilfrid's)

Operations & Admin team – Jan Nicholson (St John's & St Columba's), Ric Nield (St Wilfrid's)

Red Letter Project Staff – Rachael Armitage, Claire Outram, Charlene Quick and the Nursery Team

We also have a large team of volunteers, Connect Group leaders, and ministry leaders across our congregations.



MINISTRY & DISCIPLESHIP

We are an active Parish with lots going on throughout the week to help people grow in their faith.

Connect Groups – weekly Bible study and fellowship groups meet across the Parish, most follow up the Sunday teaching. We have an Arabic speaking connect group, and a Nepali prayer group, and in the past have run Al Missera in Farsi

Alive in Christ Youth Group – a Parish wide youth group which meets at St John's on a Saturday afternoon

Captivated – a monthly women's breakfast, with prayer, worship and a speaker. In 2024, there was a Captivated Conference

Men's breakfast – a monthly gathering at a local pub on a Saturday morning with a speaker

Sunday Club – during the 10:30 services at St John's and St Wilfrid's there are children's groups that meet and learn more about their faith



MISSION & OUTREACH

Mission is at the heart of our parish life. We are actively engaged in:

Alpha Courses – Regular opportunities to explore faith.

Children's Mission – Share Church, ABC, and Zindigi Kids, Summer holiday club, and holiday drop ins.

School's Ministry – a team do assemblies in a number of local primary schools.

Community Support – Food pantries, wellbeing cafés and wellbeing hub.

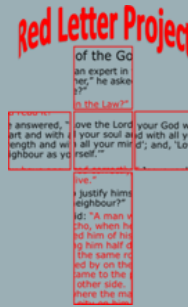
Red Letter Project – Our parish charity, running the Community Hub, nursery, and outreach at St Columba's.

Evangelism – Street outreach, prayer stations, and special events.

We are a Resourcing Parish and have planted or revitalised three congregations in the last five years. We are passionate about raising up new leaders, including through the Mission Apprentice scheme. Our clergy are part of the Resourcing Parish learning community and leader's meetings which happen each month.



THE RED LETTER PROJECT



At the heart of our parish's mission is a deep commitment to serving the people of BD7 not only spiritually, but practically and compassionately. The Red Letter Project (RLP) is the social outreach arm of our parish, established to bring the love of Jesus to life through tangible acts of service, hospitality, and justice. It is a registered charity founded by the PCC. It operates across multiple sites and ministries, offering a wide range of services to meet the needs of our local community — especially those facing poverty, or marginalisation.

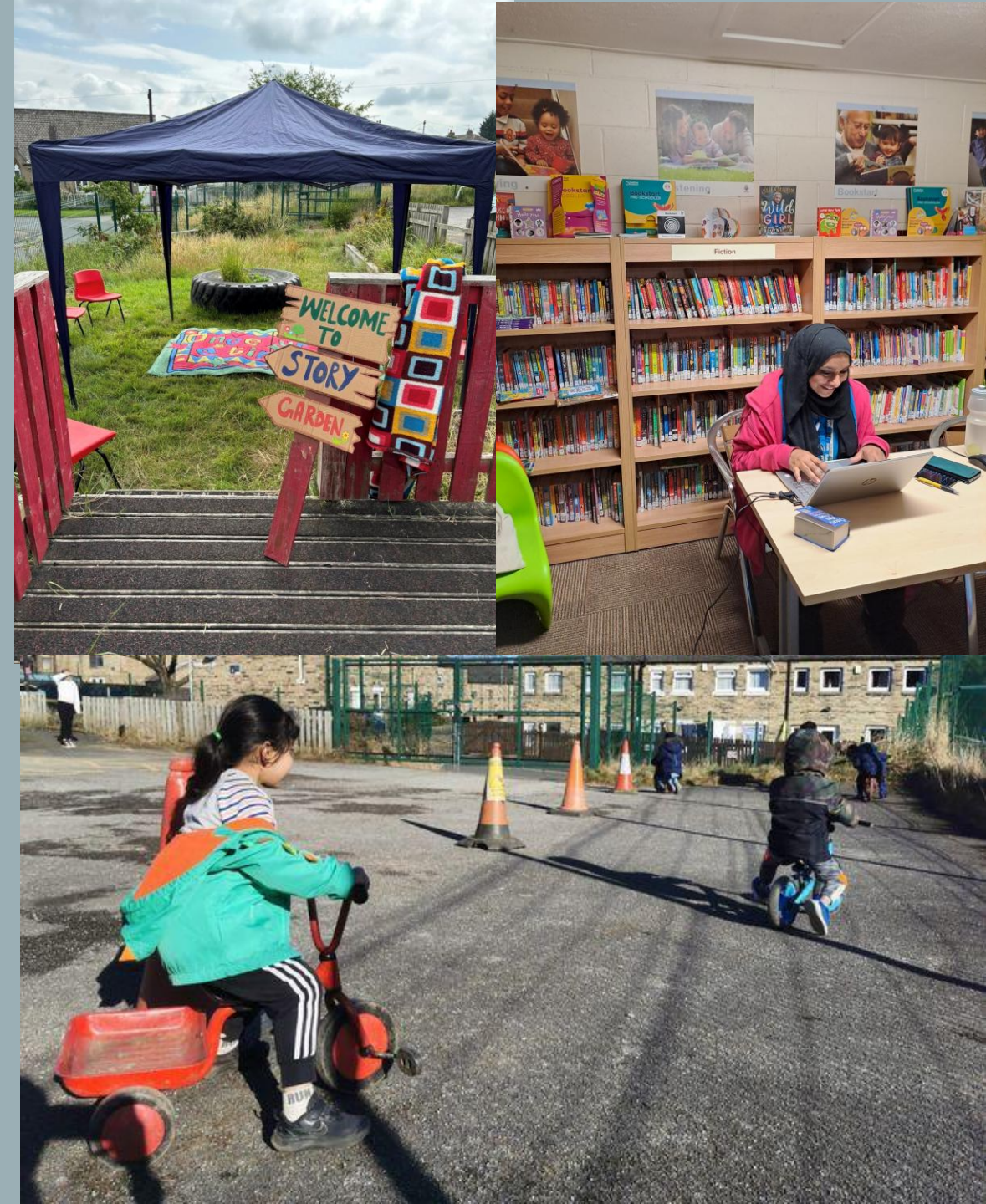
Our Four Main Areas of Focus:

Great Horton Community Hub

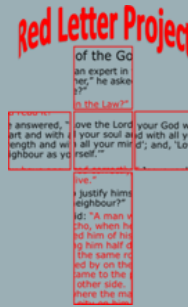
Located at 69 Beldon Road, the Hub is a vibrant centre for community life. It hosts Great Horton Library, Council youth work, The Wellbeing Hub (with social prescribers, welfare advisors, and more) Craft groups, book clubs, yoga, and two worshipping congregations as well as ad-hoc community events and bookings.

Nursery Provision

St John's Under 5s Preschool, based at the Hub, provides a nurturing early years environment for around 30 children. It is a vital ministry to local families, offering affordable, high-quality care and education.



THE RED LETTER PROJECT



Weekly Food and Fellowship

At St John's Church, RLP runs "The Share Table" – a food pantry offering fresh and store-cupboard items at low cost, "Tuesday Friends" – a lunch club with games and fellowship.

St Columba's Outreach

In Horton Grange, RLP has helped to revitalise a long-closed church building into a hub for new ministry Zindigi Kids – Saturday play sessions for local families, holiday club play sessions, and Community partnerships – including a start-up business, charity offices, and a new church plant.

In terms of governance the Red Letter Project has its own Trustees and staff team, however it is overseen by the PCC and the on-the-ground running of the charity is symbiotic with the mission and ministry of BD7 Churches.



OUR CHURCH SCHOOL

St Oswald's is a wonderful school where the head teacher Miss. Gillian Wilson and her team work hard to embed a Christian ethos and values. The school welcomes pupils from a range of backgrounds, faiths and religions into the school family, embracing and celebrating both differences and similarities.

The school is located on Cross Lane, a short 10-minute walk away from St John's Church.

The school has seven core values that reflect its Christian ethos; Love, Endurance, Compassion, Hope, Humility, Koinonia and Service and the children are encouraged to recognise these throughout daily school life.

The parish team provides pastoral care for the school and the families, helps lead collective worship, provides governors for the governing board and organises Christmas, Easter and Year 6 leavers celebrations for the school within St John's church. The school also collects food for the Red Letter Project's food banks.



“The strong relationship between St Oswald's and St John's helps to bring about the best outcomes and life chances for our children and families. Both organisations are incredibly rooted in the community they serve, seeking to remove barriers; befriend families; remove fear and prejudices and to instil hope and positivity amongst the community we both serve.” – Gillian Wilson, Headteacher of St Oswald's

OUR HOPES

Over the last year our PCC and a wider team had input from a coach, this has helped us galvanise our vision, but also highlighted some areas that we hope to grow in.

Finance & Governance

It has been amazing how God has used us as a resourcing parish to plant and revitalise churches, and how our team has grown from input from SDF funding. However, within that our regular financial giving has not kept up with the growth, and there are several large building projects on the horizon. Equally our team has grown significantly, and new governance structures are delicate and we hope our new vicar can help us develop in this area.

Buildings to serve our mission

In 2023 St Wilfrid's completed a new kitchen servery and toilets in the church, which has enabled new mission initiatives such as Café Salaam and Stay & Play take place in the church. Over the next few years, we hope that we can do several large building projects, including a renewed Church Hall extension at St John's and getting St Columba's building to be a real blessing to the local area.



OUR HOPES

To grow our volunteers

As is the case in many churches, we have a dedicated, but small, number of volunteers carrying out much of the work across the parish. In order to care for them physically, mentally and spiritually, we would love to find ways of encouraging a larger volunteer base.

To see more people come to faith in Jesus

Our final hope for this next season is to see many people come to know Jesus as their Lord and Saviour. We would love for the people in our churches to become more confident in evangelism, and to pray that there will be a move of the Spirit in BD7 so that many come to Jesus. If this is your same passion, we would love you to apply to become our new vicar.



OUR BUILDINGS

Our buildings are well-used and much-loved, but they face significant challenges:

- **St John's** – Requires roof repairs, entrance refurbishment, and urgent hall restoration.
- **St Wilfrid's** – Undergoing major roof and heating upgrades through the “Revival 120” project.
- **St Columba's** – Leased from the Diocese and managed by the Red Letter Project but also facing a need for significant work on its roof, heating and fire safety.
- **The Hub** – owned by Bradford Council but operated by RLP, the Hub needs constant maintenance



THE VICAR WE ARE PRAYING FOR....

We are praying for a Vicar who will lead us with faith, wisdom, and love. Someone who will walk with us, challenge us, and help us grow into all that God is calling us to be.

As Vicar you will:

- Lead the parish spiritually, pastorally, and missionally
- Oversee a team of clergy, lay leaders, and staff
- Champion our vision and values
- Support and develop our outreach and church planting
- Strengthen discipleship and leadership development

We know this is a big role, but you won't be alone. As you have already seen, you'll be joining a passionate, prayerful, and supportive team who are eager to welcome you and work alongside you.

THE VICAR WE ARE PRAYING FOR....

We are looking for someone who is:

- **A passionate evangelist** – with a heart for the lost and a vision for church growth
- **Strategic and organised** – able to navigate complexity and lead with clarity
- **A gifted communicator** – able to preach, teach, and inspire across cultures and generations
- **Intercultural in outlook** – celebrating diversity and fostering belonging
- **A bible focused teacher who is prayerful and spirit-led** – rooted in God's presence and open to His leading
- **Committed to traditional Christian teaching on sex and marriage while also being pastorally sensitive to the diversity of views in our congregations** - other clergy in the Parish will not be using Prayers of Love and Faith, while being wholly committed to welcoming and supporting people of all backgrounds.

IF YOU BECOME OUR VICAR...

You will find:

- **A supportive team** – we have a great staff team, a dedicated PCC, and a growing number of lay leaders and those in the discernment process in our Churches
- **Vibrant churches** – as we have grown interculturally, there is a tangible passion for Jesus, and people are growing in discipleship and as they settle into life in the UK, we are seeing them step up more into what God is calling them to.
- **A prayerful culture** – regularly we have 15 – 20 people praying each week-day morning on Zoom, and have teams that prayer walk the Parish.
- **People coming to faith in Jesus** – we have a steady stream of people coming to faith in Jesus and being discipled.
- **A supportive and fun Deanery & Ecumenical partnerships** – chapter meetings are a joy, they happen monthly over lunch in one of the deanery churches. Prayer for Bradford is a fortnightly prayer breakfast again hosted across the city with other church leaders

THE VICARAGE

Our vicar would live in St Wilfrid's Vicarage, which is located next door to St Wilfrid's church in Lidget Green. It has an extensive garden and was significantly updated approximately ten years ago to bring it up to modern standards.

It is a 5-bedroom house with a family bathroom and a separate shower room. Downstairs there is kitchen and two reception rooms with a study and toilet. It has a large, enclosed garden with grass, herbaceous borders and a patio area. There is also an attached annex.



OUR DIOCESE

The Diocese of Leeds was formed in 2014. It is one of the largest dioceses in the country covering an area of around 2,425 square miles and a population of around 2,642,400, people. The diocese comprises five Episcopal areas, each served by a suffragan Bishop. Each Episcopal Area is coterminous with an Archdeaconry. The Diocesan Vision is 'confident Christians, growing churches, transforming communities and so helping share the Good News of Jesus Christ across our Diocese'. This Vision is embedded into the Diocesan Strategy and Goals.

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.

Barnabas: Encouraging Confidence

The Diocese of Leeds is committed to building **confident Christians** who are part of **growing churches** and helping to **transform communities**.

As followers of Jesus, we are called to **share the Good News**, serve others and make a positive difference in our communities. To help us do this, we need to be **confident** in our faith, in our churches and in the future.

Over the next 10 years, we are focusing on four key areas:

- **Confidence in our Mission** – Helping churches understand their purpose and make the best use of their buildings, time, and resources.
- **Confidence in our Future** – Ensuring the diocese remains sustainable, effective, and well-prepared for the years ahead.
- **Confidence in our Leadership** – Supporting and equipping everyone who serves in our churches.
- **Confidence in our Witness** – Encouraging and empowering people to share the Good News of Jesus, especially with children and young people.

These **four pillars will guide everything we do from Church House**, helping us work together and support the diocese more effectively.

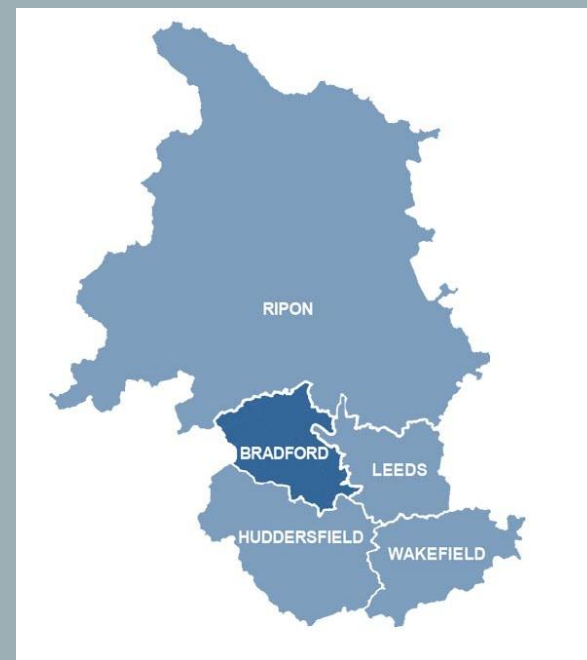
What is Barnabas: Encouraging Confidence?

Barnabas: Encouraging Confidence is a strategy designed to **support churches in their mission**.

Diocesan teams (and we hope Churches across the diocese) are focused on ensuring their work supports increasing confidence in the 4 areas of mission, future, leadership and witness. It goes even further through seeking and using additional funding from the national church to provide resources and targeted initiatives which can help churches to **grow, adapt, and thrive**. A dedicated **Barnabas Programme** team will oversee this, working with wider diocesan teams to ensure we get alongside parishes, offering guidance and practical support.

The name **Barnabas** is inspired by the early church leader who encouraged and strengthened others in their faith. In the same way, this strategy aims to **build up** and **equip** churches so they can move forward with confidence. As we step forward, we do so with a shared commitment to seeing our churches and communities flourish.

Within the Diocese we are in the Bradford Episcopal Area and we are part of the Inner Bradford Deanery.



CONTACT US

If you want to know more about our thriving, exciting and multi-faceted parish, and would like an information conversation about the post, please contact:

Ven Dr Andy Jolley, Archdeacon of Bradford

- Mobile 07973 458403
- DDI 0113 353 0290
- Andy.Jolley@leeds.anglican.org

or contact either

Rev Adam Dickson

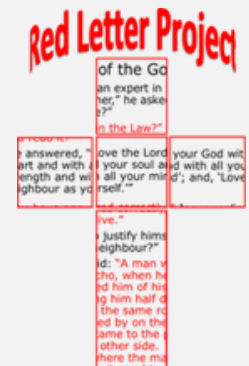
- adam@bd7.church



Or

Rev Millie Cork

- millie@bd7.church



St Wilfrid's Lidget Green