St John the Evangelist, Warley Halifax and St Hilda, Halifax

St. John’s and St Hilda’s are welcoming and caring churches with a strong emphasis on pastoral care, worship, teaching and fellowship.

St John's Church Mission Statement is:-
"To know Christ better and make Christ better known"

St Hilda’s Church Mission Statement is:-
"Faith, Hope and Love for the future years"
**Uniformed Organisations** consist of Explorer Scouts, Scouts, Cubs, Beavers, Guides, Brownies and Rainbows, who work together with a Group Executive made up of Leaders and Parents. They are a lively, thriving Group enjoying a wide variety of activities thanks to the dedication of their Leaders. The groups often have waiting lists.

**Sunday Services at St John’s**
- 8.30am ... ... Holy Communion (BCP)
- 11.00am ... ... Holy Communion (1st & 3rd Sundays)
- Worship Service (2nd & 5th Sundays)
- Informal Worship (4th Sunday)

**Average Sunday Attendance**
- Adults - 48
- Children/Young People - 1

**Joint Home Groups**
Three home groups meet weekly, for bible study, prayer and fellowship.

**Electoral Roll**
100

**Prayer Breakfast** ...
... is held on the second Saturday of each month when breakfast is served followed by prayer and fellowship.

**Song Group**
St John’s does not have a Choir, but a lively group of people who enjoy singing together. They practise every week and lead the singing at the 11.00am services. The group also give concerts at various venues other than St John’s.

**Coffee Club**
A well-attended and successful Coffee Club is held monthly for over 60’s. The club meets in the church building, enjoying a wide variety of speakers and two or three outings per year.

**Warley Community Association**
The Church has strong links with Warley Village Community Association. Members of our congregation are involved in the committee and the Church assists and supports many of its events.

**Links with Mara (Tanzania)**
St. John’s link to the Diocese of Mara was lost when the old Diocese was split into three, but the Leeds Diocese still has links and so our Harvest appeal this year was to help with their drought and we were able to send £240.

**Baptisms**
2

**Weddings**

**Funerals**

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**By arrangement**

**During 2016**
- 2 Baptisms
- 4 Marriages
- 4 Church Funerals

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The Parish of St John the Evangelist has some of the finest views in the country over the Pennine villages of Calderdale. It consists of mainly private/residential housing, with a small amount of Housing Association and Sheltered Housing property and has a population of approx. 4,300.

The Parish covers Cote Hill, Warley Wood, Trimmingham, Willowfield, Norton Tower, Warley Town and Highroad Well, with small businesses in each area. There is a Post Office and good bus services.

Other Churches in the area are New Hope United Reformed Church and Grace Baptist Church. Warley Village has a small primary school with which we have strong links.

**Local amenities and services**

- Highroad Well Park
- Playground in Warley Village
- Wine Bar & 3 Public Houses
- Tea shop
- Petrol Station
- Repair Garage
- Golf Course
- Vandals Rugby Club
- Warley Cricket Club
- Friendly Brass Band
- Roils Head Moorland Area
- Allotments
- Cemetery

**Business in the area**

- Hairdresser
- Furniture Maker
- Carpet Warehouse
- Vintage Car Hire
- Fish and Chip Shop
- Deli Restaurant
- Poodle Parlour
- General Store
- Various ‘Take Aways’
- Double Glazing Manufacturer
- Light Engineering
- Hardware Shop
PCC Teams

PCC members are divided into teams and have co-opted church members. The teams hold regular meetings and focus on the different aspects of the work of the church. All the teams give a report at PCC meetings.

The Buildings team looks after the fabric of the Church, church hall and grounds maintenance.

The Communications team keeps people up to date with news, events etc., within the church and community and are responsible for the website.

The Pastoral team provides support, through caring and prayer, to church members who are no longer able to attend church regularly and to those who are ill or in need.

The Worship & Teaching team, which consists mainly of the clergy and lay pastoral ministers, are responsible for the organisation and content of services throughout the year.

The Finance team ensures that bills and the Common Fund are paid regularly and monitor income and expenditure.

The Mission team helps to organise services and events during the year within the local community.

The Children & Young People’s Team. The Open the Book team go into Warley Town school once a month.

As well as the PCC teams, there are lots of other ways in which people support the life of the church. Welcomers - flower arrangers - cleaning staff (voluntary) and those who provide Tea and Coffee after services.
Current Church Groups and Related Activities

As well as the groups mentioned on page 2, we also have a Mothers Union.

We are currently looking at strengthening links with the Uniformed Organisations who occasionally attend 'special' church services; eg Harvest, Remembrance Day or Christingle.

There is a well established and highly rated Pre-school who meet in the Church Hall Monday to Friday from 9.am to 3.30pm. The picture (right) shows children having fun in the 'Fire Pit' as part of the Forest School scheme run by the Group. During the past year, as a focus of our outreach, a team of ladies attend the Mother & Toddler sessions to make tea and toast and to provide support when required.

The young peoples work is currently under review, but the Open the Book Team go into Warley Town Primary School once a month.

Strong links have been formed with the Warley Community Association, with an Open Air Remembrance Day service being held every year followed by a parade back to the Church.

There is also an involvement with Churches Together in West Halifax, who have a community event in a local park.

The PCC meet six times a year and have enjoyed several joint 'Away Days' with St Hilda's PCC. Two joint 'Weekends Away' have also proved to be popular and enjoyable. St John's PCC has various teams who deal with specific areas of Church business and we have found these to work very well. (see page 5). In particular the Pastoral Care Team is very strong and provides a great deal of support to those members who are no longer able to attend Church Services regularly, or who are ill and need help.

When asked about St John's
This is what our youngest member thinks.

‘What do you like about going to church’.  
‘Everything! I still want to go there and nowhere else. It’s the best church ever, I never want to stop going. I really like my church, I have a really good time’.

‘What do you think about God?’  ‘He’s always a great God, I never want to stop praying to him’.  
‘What do you know about Heaven?’  Don’t know.. it’s a happy, nice place … nothing goes wrong.
The Church Hall

Built in the early 1870's, the Church Hall initially served as a school and later as a Sunday School and a daughter church of Christ Church, Sowerby Bridge.

The well-maintained building, which has been extensively refurbished in recent years, consists of a large main hall, a social room, a kitchen, toilets and storage facilities on the ground floor. On the first floor is a large room and a smaller room both used by the Uniformed Organisations. There is a large basement for further storage.

It is very well used by a thriving Pre-school each weekday morning and afternoon in term time and by the very popular uniformed organisations four nights of the week.

It is frequently hired at weekends for private parties and is available for hire by clubs.

The Church Building

The church was consecrated in September, 1878 and consists of a sixty foot nave, thirty foot chancel, a sanctuary and a Lady Chapel in the south aisle.

A major refurbishment was completed in 2004. Pews were replaced by chairs to give more seating flexibility, the walls were stone cleaned and the whole floor carpeted. Toilets were installed, including facilities for the disabled, and additional lighting fitted in the nave and chancel. Outside, a path was adapted to allow disabled access.

In 2008 the choir vestry was converted into a galley kitchen.

The tower houses two bells in good working order and a four-faced clock installed in 1905 and refurbished in 2003.

The present organ was installed in 1939. It was cleaned and renovated in 2002 and is now used on special occasions. An electronic keyboard is used at most services.

The church building, which is well-maintained, is used on a regular basis by various groups.

The Vicarage

The Vicarage is situated a minute's walk from the church building. It is well-maintained and comprises a large sitting room, a newly installed kitchen, a dining room, a study and WC on the ground floor. Upstairs there are four bedrooms and a newly refurbished bathroom.

There is a garage attached to the property and gardens to the side and front.

The Grounds

Our extensive grounds feature a well kept Garden of Remembrance and an area used by the Pre-school for a 'Forest School' together with a 'fire pit' for use by the Uniformed Organisations.
Welcome to our parish of St Hilda, Halifax, in the Deanery of Halifax, in the Diocese of Leeds (Formerly Diocese of West Yorkshire and the Dales.) You will find us at https://sthildashalifax.wordpress.com, our up to date and comprehensive website. We are part of Park ward of Calderdale MBC.

Let us show you round our parish here in west Halifax: It is a compact area, of approximately 4760 people in about 1500 households.

It is a compact but very mixed area – mixed housing, mainly early 20th century stone built terraced housing, some of which is rented, and some have been replaced by modern homes. A mixed economy - formerly a centre of engineering/textile works, there are now a variety of large and small enterprises in the area.

A significant range of social need within the parish, some of which may be obvious but some is harder to recognise.

We have one large community primary school providing the statutory education for the children of our area, (below) and a large High School close by but officially in the parish of Christ Church.

A range of places of worship – ourselves, New Hope URC, and a number of mosques, serve our local community.

A diverse community - There has been quite a change in the past 30 years. Presently we have a large majority of British Asian families, of the Muslim faith, while recently a number of people from Eastern Europe have come. A mix of settled residents and a transient population.

Now, please come and see our church - St Hilda's Gibraltar Road: We all share in the running of our church, with the help of God's grace.
In 2016, we became a joint benefice with the neighbouring parish of St John the Evangelist, Warley.

Next to our church stands the former vicarage which is now home to seven people with learning difficulties, administered by the Mayfield Trust. One or two of the residents take part in our weekly services.

St Hilda’s is a traditional, stone-built church, occupying a central position within the parish boundary. It was consecrated in 1911, replacing a mission church, which was built in 1897, as an outpost of St Paul’s, King Cross.

The previous Sunday School building was demolished in 1986, leaving a small green area around the building. Activities now take place in the Whitby Room, created as a meeting space for the local community, at the rear of the main church.

Prayers for the sick are offered regularly and someone is available after a service to pray with individuals if they wish. Healing services take place on the 5th Sunday of a month. We take occasional prayer walks, in a small group, through the streets of the parish.

We worship every Sunday morning at 9.30am. Three services each month offer Communion; the other is a Family Morning Prayer. Our clergy are robed, as are the servers, the crucifer and choir. There is a monthly midweek morning Communion service. And every Wednesday one of our Ministry team takes Morning Prayer at 9am.

In 2016/17 there were no baptisms, no marriages, 3 funerals in church and 2 taken elsewhere by clergy. We were delighted to see 3 young people confirmed in 2017.
Music at St Hilda's is important in enhancing worship. A robed choir of twelve with four musicians playing organ, piano, guitar and violin, lead hymns and sing short anthems suited to our capabilities. This is a dedicated and loyal group.

Our choir received a Community Award in 2016

Although we are not a rich church, struggling financially despite careful management, “the people are the treasure at St Hilda’s”. We praise God that we have paid our Parish Share in full in the last 2 years.

A long-standing group of 8 churches with 5 denominations witness in the community. We benefit from the encouragement, support and fellowship which enliven our shared Christian experience.

A small number of church members attend meetings of the Calderdale Interfaith Council and Women’s Interfaith Group.

We welcome the occasional visits that are made by our local primary school children in support of the RE curriculum. Strong links have been made with a large local primary school, serving mainly Muslim families, just outside our parish.

Next, we’d like to introduce you to Our Parish Family:

“As soon as I walked in I felt so welcome and part of a family. Everyone is so friendly and supportive of you. We had been welcomed into groups like the choir almost instantly after the service. Everyone has a laugh and the feeling of love, warmth and compassion is strongly prevailing throughout the church.”

K S aged 13yrs

Our congregation has changed over the past few years due to bereavement and the arrival of new, younger people. St Hilda's is an active church with strong fellowship at its heart.
Over the last 18 months we have had some exciting and challenging developments:

- “Gathering (West)”, a local Christian group, helping people who are homeless or vulnerable on their Christian journey, through worship and a communal meal, meet on Saturday evenings.
- We also host a Pre-School business on weekdays. The group caters mainly for local Asian families.
- Our links with Parkinson Lane Primary School have strengthened and this year we were invited to contribute to their annual R E Week when the whole school learns more about all the world religions.
- Our popular “coffee and chat” afternoon, pictured below, which is open to anyone, is well supported and a welcome source of support and communication.

We feel our strength is in adaptability, fellowship and a willingness to participate. We recognise that challenge and opportunity lie in maintaining a Christian presence in the parish, alongside the Muslim population, and learning to live with difference.

We do not know what the future will hold but we are open to the challenges which will present themselves and we trust in God’s guidance that we may follow the right path.
We hope you have enjoyed the introduction to our St John’s & St Hilda’s Joint Benefice from which you will see that this should offer an exciting challenge for our new Vicar and you may rest assured that both Churches will fully support the new incumbent.

Agreed areas for mission identified for the future are:- To Guide and strengthen both Parishes in the unity of the Spirit, whilst recognising their different needs, strengths and challenges; to encourage more interest and involvement in work with Young People and Families and to be pro-active in developing existing links with local primary schools, communities, churches and the Muslim community (St Hilda's).

**Essential qualities for A New Incumbent**

We would like to appoint someone who has a heart for mission, is able to provide strong leadership and knows and loves God and people.

He / she would ideally have experience of working within a Parish / Joint Benefice setting, and would encourage Christian discipleship through meaningful preaching and bible-based teaching, in order to promote Church growth with enthusiasm, inspiring confidence in those around him/her.

**Desirable**

- To be able to lead and be comfortable with both traditional and contemporary forms of worship.
- To lead prayerfully, teach, listen, encourage and inspire whole Church Mission and growth.
- To be approachable, understanding and flexible in personal communications.
- To work as part of a team and be supportive of lay involvement and ministry.
- To guide support and encourage our pastoral care and development work.

We shall offer:

- Respect for a committed, spiritual priest
- An open accepting welcome
- A prayerful, honest (and possibly) questioning response
- Openness to a challenge
- Sociability and ....... excellent home-made cake

Thank you for taking the time to read through our Brochure. We wish you every blessing in your future ministry, wherever the Holy Spirit may lead you.
The Diocese of Leeds

In this new diocese, less than three years old, we are working with three core objectives:

**Confident Christians**: Encouraging personal spiritual renewal with the aim of producing clergy and laity who are confident in God and in the Gospel.

**Growing Churches**: Numerically, spiritually and in their mission to the wider world.

**Changing communities**: For the better, through our partnership with other churches and faith communities, as well as government and third sector agencies.

The Diocese came into being at Easter 2014 following the dissolution of the historic dioceses of Bradford, Ripon & Leeds and Wakefield. This followed a three-year process of debate and consultation driven by the Dioceses Commission. Background papers to the reorganisation process can be read at [www.wyadtransformation.org](http://www.wyadtransformation.org).

The Diocese comprises five Episcopal Areas, each coterminous with an Archdeaconry. This is now one of the largest dioceses in the country and its creation is unprecedented in the history of the Church of England. It covers an area of around 2,425 square miles, and a population of around 2,642,400 people.

The Diocese comprises major cities (Bradford, Leeds, Wakefield), large industrial and post-industrial towns (Halifax, Huddersfield, Dewsbury), market towns (Harrogate, Skipton, Ripon, Richmond and Wetherby), and deeply rural areas (the Dales). The whole of life is here, along with all the richness, diversity and complexities of a changing world.

The Diocese is dissected by major motorways (M1, A1M, M62) and major trunk roads (such as the A650, A59), making road communications good. Access to other forms of transport is also good, with rail links to London and many Northern towns and several airports in easy reach.

The Diocesan Bishop is assisted by five Area Bishops (Bradford, Huddersfield, Richmond (with responsibility for Leeds), Ripon and Wakefield) and five archdeacons (Bradford, Halifax, Leeds, Pontefract, Richmond & Craven).

Within the Diocese, there are 323 stipendiary clergy, 165 self-supporting clergy and 398 clergy with PTO along with 408 Readers, 125 lay pastoral ministers and 52 chaplains in 656 churches with 256 church schools.

The Diocese is unique in having three cathedrals, Bradford, Ripon and Wakefield, and over the past year the cathedrals have begun to work together on the key diocesan services as well as developing three strands that they will offer to the diocese - pilgrimage, civic engagement and apologetics. This new diocese, led by the bishops, is working out how best to create a diocese with more than one cathedral, and to develop the ministry and outreach of these cathedrals in a way that secures their future and recognises their distinctiveness.

The Diocese has inherited strong partnership links with the Sudan, Sri Lanka, Tanzania, Southwest Virginia, Skara (Sweden) and Erfurt (Germany).