The United Benefice of Todmorden, with Cornholme and Walsden.
The United Benefice of Todmorden with Cornholme and Walsden

- Todmorden is a small market town located in the heart of the Pennines at the confluence of three steep sided valleys, it is blessed with stunning scenery and surrounded by beautiful moorlands, magnificent architecture, a diverse range of shops, and a thriving music and art community.

- With a big industrial history, being built on the area's success in the cotton trade bordering both Lancashire and Greater Manchester it has a population of about 15,451.

- Long distant walking is a theme here as the Pennine way passes through the Town and Benefice, and a boundary walk is held each year, which is 22 miles long. In 2016 Todmorden became a Walkers are Welcome Town. It is also an ideal base for cycling, horse riding, Pennine bridleway, bird watching and much more. It is serviced by railway stations at Todmorden and Walsden, plus good bus services, the M62 and M65 are easily accessible.
What do we look like
Map of Todmorden town centre drawn by our own resident artist, Jan Brear.
So Where in West Yorkshire are we?

The Benefice is situated 17 miles from Manchester and 23 miles from Leeds.

There are train stations at Todmorden and Walsden, there are good bus services and the M62 and M65 are easily accessible.

Leeds, Manchester, Bradford, Huddersfield, Wakefield, Halifax, Rochdale and Burnley are all easily accessible.
We’d like to take you on a walk around the Benefice 1. From The Vicarage:- Walking into Todmorden

Centre Vale Park (Burnley Road)

Todmorden Cricket Club

The outdoor and indoor markets
We’d like to take you on a walk around the Benefice 2.

The Town Hall

Rochdale Canal Rochdale Road

Water Street

Rochdale Road

Pollination Street

One of the Incredible Edible planted raised beds
We’d like to take you on a walk around the Benefice.

Stoodley Pike

Rochdale Canal

Pack horse trails

Todmorden from the tops
The United Benefice 2018

• The United benefice is relatively new and is made up of the parishes of :-

• St Mary Todmorden, St Michael Cornholme and St Peter Walsden.

• The church of St Michael and All Angels Cornholme is currently going through the process of closure. The parish will merge with the parish of St Mary Todmorden.
St Mary’s Church

The centrally located church of St Mary was re-ordered in 1992, the pews were removed and new chairs bought to facilitate a more usable and flexible space within the church.

The worship area is now a bright modern space with a modern sound system, underfloor heating retaining some interesting period features.

The building has several meeting spaces including a well equipped kitchen and “café” space.
St Mary Church Life

Worship
✓ Morning Prayer
✓ Wednesday Eucharist
✓ Sunday 8:00 am said service
✓ Sunday 10:30 Eucharist (Sunday school)
✓ Monthly Evensong (1st Sunday)

School connection
✓ Todmorden National School is Voluntary Controlled
✓ Close friendly relationship valued on both sides
✓ Regular worship in church
✓ Christians in Calderdale Schools is active in all the schools in Todmorden and many of our congregation are involved in the Open The Book initiative.

Regular events
✓ Welcoming weekday visitors.
✓ Friday Club for Yr 6 and Yr 7 pupils.
✓ Independent Living Group (Social gathering for people with learning difficulties.
✓ Food Bank
✓ Mothers’ Union meet monthly
✓ Christmas market
✓ Town Christmas carol service
✓ Dementia Friendly Todmorden
✓ School Services – harvest – Christmas concerts
✓ Over 60’s
✓ Folk Festival
✓ Choral Society
The Parish of St Mary

- Welcoming team at St Mary’s
- Robed choir
- Organist
- Sunday School
- Home communion
- Baptism visits
- Mothers Union
- Bell ringing group
- Food Bank
- Walking Group
- Men’s Fellowship
- Over 60’s Group
The Parish of St Mary

- Community Hub
- Independent Living Group
- Friday Café
- Friday Youth Club (for Year 6 and Year 7 pupils)
- Narcotics Association Group
St Peter’s Church

St Peter’s church burned down in 1948 and was rebuilt, re-opening in 1956.

So like St Mary’s the worship area is now a bright modern space with chairs which are easily re-arranged for special services and events.

The church is much loved by the village
St Peter Church Life

**Worship**
- ✓ Morning Prayer (Wednesdays)
- ✓ 10:30 Eucharist Sundays
- ✓ The Monthly Family worship is a popular and well attended event at St Peters

**Regular events**
- ✓ Toddler and Carer group
  - Monday 9:30 – 11:00 am

**School connection**
- ✓ Village school is Voluntary aided
- ✓ Reader is Governor
- ✓ Close friendly relationship valued on both sides
- ✓ Regular worship in church
The Parish of St Peter

• St Peters is the parish church for the village of Walsden with strong village affection.

• The congregation is small but boosted by monthly all age and messy church services which involve the school.
St Peter’s
Who are we? What do we do as a Benefice?

Good Friday Walk of Witness

Hands around Todmorden Town Hall
The Town Hall was ringed with anti-racists on Sunday, July 24, in a show of solidarity against race hate. The event was "a sign of solidarity against hatred, bringing people together from all sections of the community."
Who are we what do we do as a Benefice?

National school choir attended a Christmas Carol Service organised by Dementia Friendly Todmorden

Todmorden Choral Society performing at their Autumn Concert.

St Mary’s walking group.

Interfaith Encounter 1: The Mosque came to us.
Who are we?

• Many Todmorden families can trace their roots back many generations in the area, and farming is an important feature of the “local economy”.

• Overall it is a mixed community, some came for work in the industrial heyday, some came as refugees after the war from eastern Europe, others came for the cheap housing in the later part of the 20th century, immigration from Pakistan has also been a feature in our town.

• People from all these groups have become involved in all sorts of community activities, Interfaith Council, Incredible Edible, Todmorden in Bloom.

• Todmorden, West Yorkshire: warm hearts and can-do attitudes (according to the Guardian) see full article https://www.theguardian.com/money/2009/aug/22/lets-move-to-todmorden

• Todmorden - it’s one of the best places to live, says Sunday Times for full article https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/todmorden-the-west-yorkshire-town-thats-bucking-the-market-8mbzg7xjf
Benefice Life

- Joint services are held on a regular basis throughout the year.

- Joint PCCs are held when required and are instrumental in bringing the Benefice together.

- Ministry group meetings are held on a quarterly basis, attended by clergy, lay readers, and lay pastoral minister.

- Parish Link with Nyabitocho in Tanzania.
Benefice Staff

Currently in addition to the Priest in charge we have:-

A licensed SSM - Rev Nancy White who works in education
A Licensed Lay Reader - Mark Johnston who works in IT
A Licensed Lay Pastoral Minister – Pat Dale

The following Clergy with PTO
Rev John Flood - who is very active
Rev Sandy White - who used to be SSM and is still active
Rev Anne Battershall - who takes several services a year

Other Less active ministers
Rev Wendy Cranidge who occasionally preaches
And two Readers Emeritus
Frank McManus, who is no longer active and Terry Halstead who can take the occasional evensong

In addition to the Churchwardens we have number of active and talented bank of lay people in various roles in the Benefice.
Who we are.
The Other Churches

• Christian Churches Together
  – **All** Christian Churches involved – St Joseph RC, Vale Baptist, Central Methodist, Roomfield Baptist, St Mary and St Peter, Christian Fellowship
  – Walk of Witness
  – Christian Aid
  – Northern Lights
The Vicarage

The vicarage is a bright modern home with, 4 downstairs rooms, study, dining kitchen, utility room, 4 bedrooms, master is ensuite, another shower room shared between two bedrooms, with doors entering from each room, double garage.
The Challenges for our new incumbent

The new incumbent will be the first full time priest appointed since the formation of the new benefice so developing the cross fertilisation and support will be important.

Developing good pastoral care in the benefice.

To develop and grow the church congregations, both spiritually and numerically especially amongst younger people and families.

Building on good communication to develop strong links of working with children and families.

Supporting existing and instigating new outreach opportunities.

Building on the good community links already in place.

Developing Communication links between the parishes.
What our schoolchildren want from their vicar

I want the vicar to be a funny but sensible person..

Awesome!

Helpful..

Responsible.

I would like our new vicar to be funny but still honest and can play an instrument..

To come into classes and see our work.

Tells us new stories.

Loving and kind.

To listen to ideas.

We would like our new Vicar to ..............
Our Main Challenges

To allow ourselves to embrace change.

To allow our churches to change.

To welcome all people.

To reach out and to grow a strong vibrant presence in the town and surrounding areas.

To forge stronger links with the community.
What we need from an incumbent.

Our new vicar..................

- Someone whose teaching and leadership is able to lead us forward in faith.
- Strong commitment to faith, discipleship and growth.
- Has experience of working with young families and children.
- Committed to ministering to a diverse range of people.
- Someone who is approachable and non judgemental.
- Has the ability to further challenge us to forge stronger links with the community.
What we offer to a incumbent

We are two church communities who want to glorify God through all that we do.

We are congregations who, although different, want to work together, to grow in numbers, faith and commitment, and will work with a new incumbent who will lead us in innovative and creative ways to promote the mission of God.

We offer excellent support in both churches, and with a developing lay leadership, are committed to working with the incumbent to meet challenges as they arise.

Our Benefice is welcoming, with lots of hard working and talented people who are the mainstays of all that we seek to achieve within our communities.

Both churches have strong links with the C of E primary schools, and also with the wider community, and are involved in many community groups.

On a practical level, we have a lovely vicarage which is in a pleasant area.

We are committed in ensuring the vicar takes appropriate time off and will support them in developing their personal ministerial development.
Thank you
You can find out more about the Benefice on our websites and Facebook pages.

- https://todbenefice.com/
- https://www.facebook.com/walsdensttpeter
- https://www.facebook.com/StMarysTod/