

Christchurch | St Paul's | St Peter's

A watercolor illustration of a large, light-brown church building with multiple windows and a central tower topped with a cross. To the right, a tall, thin brick chimney stands against a pale blue sky. The foreground is filled with lush green foliage and some red flowers, partially obscuring the church.

Shiopley Parishes Brochure

Interim Associate Vicar (0.5)

WELCOME!

Welcome to Shipley!

Our vision is to see the town of Shipley changed by the power of God. We want to see this happen through Christian communities being filled with the power of the Holy Spirit and committed to the Word of God, which serves others in order to bring God's Kingdom. We want our churches to become key transforming communities bringing about this change, as churches that are alive with the joy of knowing and worshipping Jesus Christ.

This brochure will give you information about who we are, where we are and what we do, so as to interest you in our vacancy. We hope that you will feel prompted by God to join our team of faithful and committed Christians across the whole town of Shipley.

Based in a wonderfully accessible part of West Yorkshire with both Urban city life of Leeds and Bradford (20mins by train) or the rural countryside of the Dales (20mins by car), Shipley is a great place to live.

[shipleytowncouncil.gov.uk/
about-shipley/](http://shipleytowncouncil.gov.uk/about-shipley/)

[www.visitbradford.com/
discover/](http://www.visitbradford.com/discover/)

[www.bradford2025.co.uk/
visit/](http://www.bradford2025.co.uk/visit/)



WELCOME!



Our vacancy is for a part-time Interim Associate Priest-in-Charge for an initial three years. The role will be to support the Interim Priest-in-Charge and lay leaders to identify new ways of sharing God's love across the town, through the different worshipping communities of Christchurch (an LEP) on the estate of Windhill, St Paul's Shipley and St Peter's Shipley.

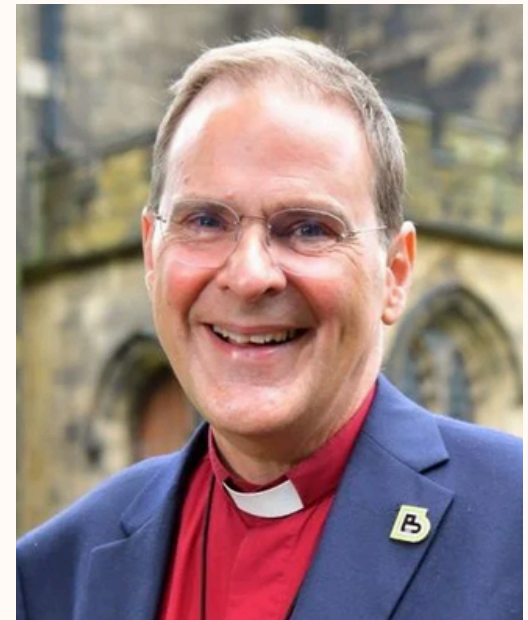
This is such an exciting time as we discern how we are to shape Christian worship in the future. St Paul's will be celebrating its 200th anniversary this year and so, as churches together, we want to use this as our foundation for considering how we best use all the resources that are available to us across the town to enable a strong, worshipping community across the whole of Shipley.

Could you help us to make the changes we need to shape and grow to be the church that will serve Shipley for the next 200 years?

BISHOP'S STATEMENT

Interim Associate Vicar (0.5 stipend) Christ Church Windhill (LEP), St Paul's Shipley and St Peter's Shipley

Our vision in the Diocese of Leeds is about confident clergy equipping confident Christians to live and tell the good news of Jesus Christ. In appointing to every post, we seek people who have a joyful and confident faith which has inspired a track record of church growth, both numerically and spiritually.



The town of Shipley is home to the parishes of St Paul's Shipley, St Peter's Shipley and Christ Church Windhill. Our long-term vision is for these three churches to work closely together for the benefit of the whole town which also comprises the village of Saltaire, a world heritage site. This could possibly develop into a single parish along the lines of the nearby parishes of Keighley and Baildon. This vision has begun to be realised with the licensing of Revd Natasha Thomas as Interim Priest-in-Charge of all three parishes.

The Interim Ministry set up across the three parishes has four key priorities:

- To develop outreach and worship which will attract a younger demographic into St Paul's, St Peter's and Christ Church (in particular more families and young people);
- To devise and implement a strategy for disciple-making which provides ways for fringe people to consider Jesus, opens new approaches to discipling beyond existing home groups, and fosters a culture of disciples who make disciples and leaders who grow leaders;
- To bring St Paul's Shipley and Christ Church, Windhill to work alongside St Peter's Shipley to reimagine mission and ministry for the whole town of Shipley, and to explore possible structural changes, including pastoral re-organisation, which might support this better;
- To develop outreach and new worshipping communities for less-reached parts of Shipley (for example, Hirst Wood, Wycliffe and Windhill).

The incoming Associate Vicar will support mission and ministry to help progress the above four priorities, bringing welcome fresh energy and vision. Especially given the part-time nature of this post, we are seeking a person who can develop others into ministry and leadership alongside themselves. Working under the overall leadership of the Interim Priest-in-Charge of the parishes and with the leaders and congregations of St Paul's, St Peter's and Christ Church, s/he will have particular responsibility for:

- Developing outreach and at least one new worshipping community for the less-reached parts of Shipley (eg Windhill, Wycliffe, Hirst Wood) – this could be aimed at families or those from more marginalised backgrounds;
- Leading on schools ministry in the parishes, and in particular at Christ Church Academy, Shipley CofE and Wycliffe schools;

In common with all our Interim Ministry appointments, a monitoring process will be put in place, involving a quarterly meeting with the Archdeacon and a review point at the end of two years at the latest. This will enable a decision to be taken as to whether the arrangement should be extended for up to three more years, made permanent, or the appointment reviewed and changed. The decision could then be implemented during the third year of the interim post. The criteria for the review would be based on the specific Interim Ministry priorities for this role.

The Deanery of Aire and Worth is comprised of parishes similar to these, many of whom are experimenting with mixing new approaches to worship and mission alongside inherited patterns. The new Interim 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. (S)he will therefore be expected to work with a spirit of generosity in sharing wisdom and insights about ministry within the Deanery of Aire and Worth and across the Episcopal Area.

+Toby 23 July 2026

OUR LEADERS...

INTERIM PRIEST-IN-CHARGE



REV NATASHA THOMAS

CHRISTCHURCH



**REV MALCOLM
HENDRY (PTO)**



**NEIL CROSSLEY
ECC SEC.**



**EUAN WOODWARD
ECC MEMBERS**



**LAURIE MANN
ECC MEMBERS**

**METHODIST
MINISTER**

**REV JANE
COOK**

ST PAUL'S



**SUSAN LAWRENCE
LAY MINISTER**



**ANN LUXTON -
CHURCHWARDEN**



**CHRIS CLOUGH
LAYMINISTER**



**ROB DOWNES
DEP. CHURCHWARDEN**

ST PETER'S



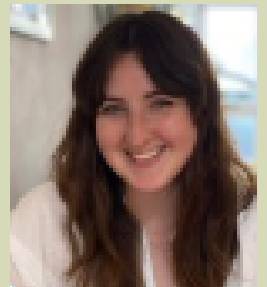
**VIV BREALEY
LAY MINISTER**



**JACKIE LOACH
CHURCHWARDEN**



**ALAN ARMITAGE
CHURCHWARDEN**



**SOPHIE ANTONOVA
YOUTH WORKER**

OUR MINISTRY TEAM

Licensed Staff

- 1 Interim Priest-in-charge
- 1 Interim Associate vicar (Currently vacant)
- 2 Retired clergy with PTO
- 3 Licensed leaders

Paid Staff

- Youth and family coordinator (30hrs)
- 1 School engagement worker (5hrs, currently vacant)
- 2 Administrators (both PT, with one working across all three churches)
- 1 Caretaker
- 1 Cleaner

Other Church Leaders

- 3 Safeguarding officers across the three churches
- 4 Churchwardens
- 2 Treasurers across the three churches
- 1 Toddler facilitator for See and Know
- 8 House group / Fellowship group leaders across the three churches

Then there are pastoral assistants, occasional preachers, worship leaders and musicians and a significant team of people who are willing to help and serve when needed.







OUR CHURCHES - CHRISTCHURCH, WINDHILL

Christchurch Windhill LEP was formed in 1998 with the coming together of the congregations of Windhill Methodist Church and Christchurch C of E. The partnership has been “seamless”, unless you are “in the know” you would not know who previously was an Anglican or a Methodist. We currently only have one service per week on Sunday at 10am in Christchurch, an Anglican building, which caters for all and we enjoy the variety of services taken by Methodist and Anglican Ministers and Lay Readers from both churches.

The foodbank is every Tuesday in the Church and is run by 9 volunteers. Welfare advice is also available then. Shipley Scout Group meet in the Church on Tuesday evenings. Being a successful Scout Group they need the Church and the school to provide space for a range of Groups from Squirrels to Explorers. We enjoy strong links with the community centre next door and Windhill Christchurch Primary school located in the next street. Sadly, the building is becoming unsustainable, and we are undergoing the closure process and looking for a temporary alternative accommodation so that the congregation can continue to meet, worship and serve the community.





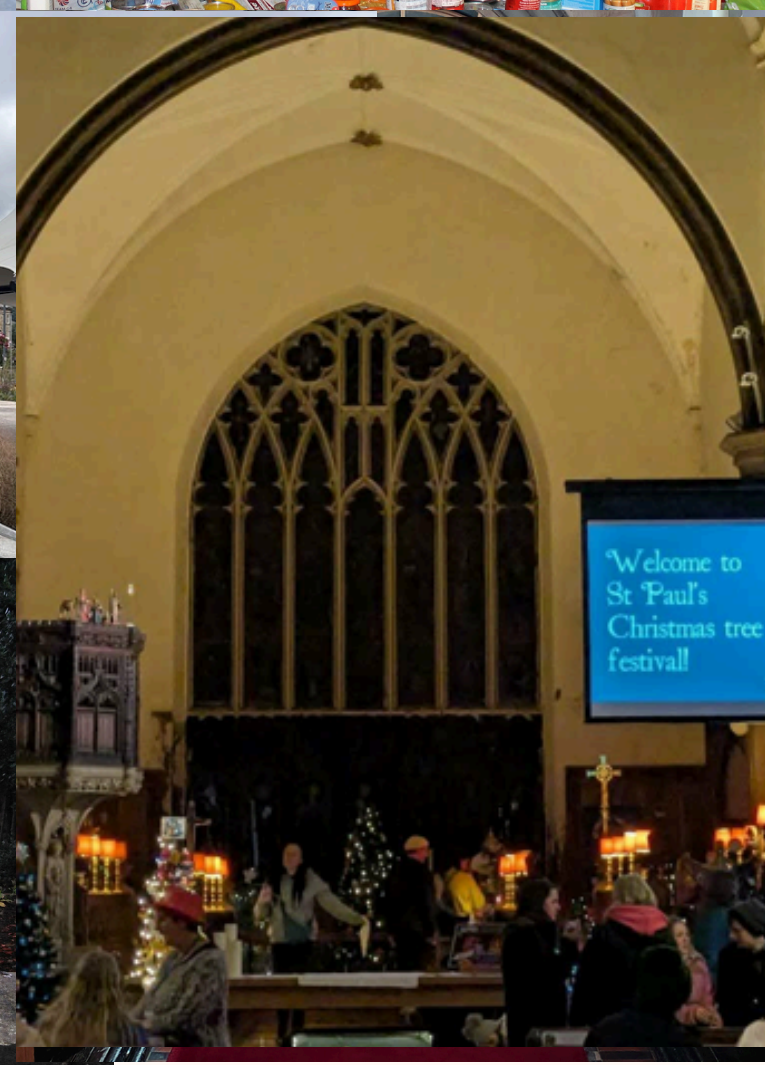
OUR CHURCHES - ST PAUL'S, SHIPLEY



Based adjacent to the town centre, St Pauls offers a 10am service every Sunday, which each month includes, 2x Holy Communion, 1x traditional Morning Worship, each with organist, and 1x Family Worship, a less formal, interactive all-age service, with a band. A mix of hymns and worship songs are used at most services. Families with children are welcome at all our services, activities to enable parents/carers to engage their children in worship and learning are provided in the Family Corner, reflecting the theme or message in the service.

Once a month there is an evening service of either Taize or Evensong. A short service of Holy Communion is held weekly on a Wednesday morning. On Mondays during termtime we have a popular Parent/Carer and Toddler Group; once a month the Thursday Lunch Club welcomes a variety of people for a cooked lunch; Saturday Cafe is open to all on the first and third Saturdays. We have good links with both C of E Primary schools in the parish and with our local Girl Guide groups, who use our premises as a base for their activities.



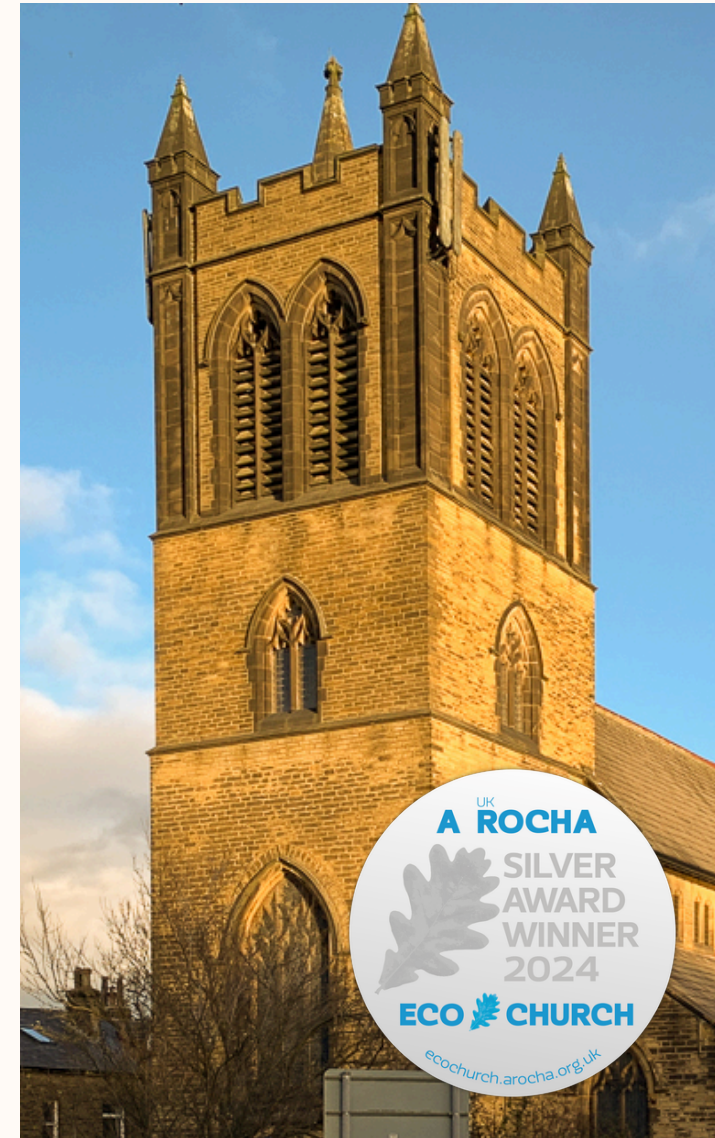




OUR CHURCHES - ST PETER'S, SHIPLEY

Based near Saltaire village, St Peter's offers 3 services each Sunday (9.30 All In; 11.15 Liturgical Morning Worship or Holy Communion; 6.30 Alternative worship or Communion). There are children's activities that run alongside some morning services and during the summer month of August we bring both morning services together. Each month there is a Messy Church, and Forest Church on Sunday afternoons, and then on the last Friday of the month there is Wrestling Church. Every Friday morning there is a buzz of activities at both See and Know, where over 40 parents and carers bring their little ones to play, and Welcome Space for soup and cake, where parents and toddlers join others from the parish and often over 100 people will attend. The worship style is evangelical with robes and vestments only appearing sometimes! We have several halls and meeting rooms that we rent out, as well as the church itself, and most evenings the whole building is buzzing with activities and people – particularly uniform groups! St Peters also has a recreation space nearby at Fern Hill Rd which hosts sociable community Tennis and Bowls Clubs as well as outdoor scouting and other activities.

As an Eco church Silver award holder we take our responsibility to creation care and the environment seriously in all areas of our church life.



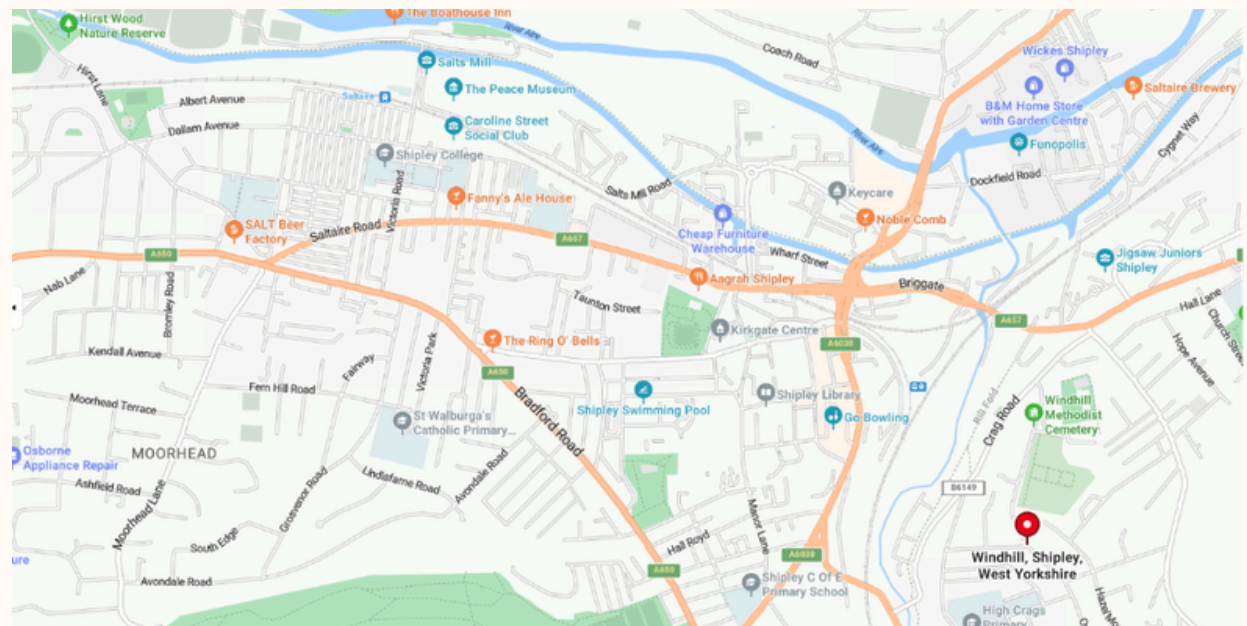


OUR PARISHES

We are at the beginning of the journey of pastoral reorganisation, looking to discern how we can best grow, disciple and serve the town of Shipley and Windhill. As three churches, we each have our distinct flavour; whether it is serving the heritage village of Saltaire with its David Hockney gallery, canal and cafes, Shipley town centre with its iconic clock tower and newly renovated market place or looking to serve the people living in Windhill which national statistics (<https://cuf.org.uk/parish/460462>) show as among the most deprived parishes in the country. That said, the top reasons why people love living in Windhill are: community, its convenience, family friendly, that its quiet, it feels safe, and so close to transport (<https://nextdoor.co.uk>)

Each church has a desire to reach out and serve their community. Whether that is through warm spaces, toddler groups or food banks, we are clear about one thing: all people deserve and need to know about the love of Christ. The joy of each church is that we bring different traditions and therefore there is the opportunity to experience God and worship Him in different ways. This can also be done in creative ways - for example, the monthly Wrestling Church taking place at St Peter's.

The opportunity of learning from such richness and diversity is great and you would be joining a strong team of committed and faithful people who are ready to start working closely together in new ways to bring God's love and peace to Shipley.



PARISH STATISTICS

Christchurch

Parish Religious Profile

Ethnicity

Asian - 632
Black - 116
Mixed - 273
White - 7404
Other - 109

Christian - 3163
Buddhist - 18
Hindu - 53
Jewish - 2
Muslim - 461
Sikh - 117
Other - 72
None - 4222

The population of the parish is 8533 and ranks 335 out of 12178, where 1 is the most deprived parish. The parish is in the lowest 1% in the country in respect of crime, according to the 2025 IMD.

The parish has a very wide age distribution with the greater percentage being under 65. Poverty is relatively high across the age ranges and unemployment is high, there are many lone parents and people living alone.

Disaffected children & youth represent a significant challenge and a multi-agency approach is being taken to seek to address this.



PARISH STATISTICS

St Paul's

Ethnicity

White: 4603, Asian: 858, Mixed: 185, Black: 74; Other: 40

Family Households

People living alone: 48% (11% 66+)

Social housing 13%; Private rental 34%; Owner outright 25.5%;

Owner with mortgage 24%

In addition, we are aware of a considerable number of Victorian houses converted to multiple occupancy, some of which are supervised hostels for single homeless people; ex-prisoners; people in recovery from addiction and those experiencing mental health issues. St Paul's Church is adjacent to large estate, which is mainly social housing.

Religious belief

None: 2495; Christian: 2057; Muslim: 740; Hindu: 73; Sikh: 29

Index Multiple Deprivation: overall 11% (CUF rank - among most deprived, being 1396/12154)

Poverty ratios: Child 35%; Working Age 24%; Pensioner 21%

Unemployment 6.4%



PARISH STATISTICS

St Peter's

Ethnicity in the Parish, according to the 2021 Census figures, is 74.5% white British. 4.4% are white non-British and 21.1% non-white, with a range of ethnic groups of which Pakistani – 12.9% - is the largest.

Family households, with married or civil partnership couples, are the largest group in the parish at 29% of households, with co-habiting households making up 12.7% of households and lone parent families with dependent children 5.4%. Pensioner households make up 25.4% of the total and 19.6% are one person households aged under 66.

Religious belief: 39.3% of people in the parish describe themselves as Christian, 38.9% as having no religion and 14.5% as Muslim.

Both unemployment benefit claimants (2.3%) and working age workless benefit claimants (6.1%) in the parish are below the England averages, while youth (18-24) unemployment is the same as the England average at 4.9%.

The number of children living in both relative and absolute low-income families in the parish is significantly below both the England and diocesan averages.



OUR SCHOOLS

We are fortunate in that we support a local charity called the Zephaniah Trust who take music and story into each of the schools. We will always aim to support them when they run Rewind and Fast Forward programmes. They help to coordinate assembly work and when we can we also support these.



A member of the
bdat
family

Wycliffe Primary CofE

St Paul's has had a close relationship with Wycliffe Primary, with the primary school coming into church for main festival days and end of term celebrations. A team of volunteers run a programme of 'Tell me the Story' to a couple of year groups. During the past accademic year a relational 'Listening project' was piloted with children from key stage 2, facilitated by a youth worker. This has temporarily been paused due to the youth worker being unable to continue. St Paul's commitment to this developing remains.



'Do Everything in Love'

(1 Corinthians 16:14)

Learning Together in Love

Shipley Primary CofE

A member of St Peter's has been leading a monthly prayer group for both parents and children.

OUR SCHOOLS



A member of the
bdot
family

Christchurch CofE

Rev Malcolm Hendry is a member of the governing body



Saltaire Primary School
Enjoy Achieve Thrive

Saltaire Primary

This is one of the schools that is not CofE and we currently have limited engagement with them. That said when we personally hand out fliers to the parents and children at the end of the day promoting events, we have found very good engagement – particularly for our Pancake and Easter events (over 70 non-church families attending!)

STRATEGY FOR SHIPLEY

There has long been a vision and a desire for the Shipley Anglican churches to work more closely together to serve the whole of Shipley. The interim roles have been introduced to enable the churches to explore ways of working together and how pastoral reorganisation might support them to build God's kingdom and to serve the town of Shipley.

The Interim Priest-in-Charge came into post at St Peter's in July 2024 and has been working towards the following objectives with the congregation since then. In 2026, the Priest-in-Charge at St Paul's and Christchurch moved to another post. The Interim Priest-in-Charge was then licensed to lead all three churches in July 2026. The objectives are now being introduced and worked through with the congregations of both St Paul's and Christchurch whilst taking into account their distinct needs. The new Interim Associate Priest-in-Charge will join this new exciting work in growing the kingdom of God.

The objectives we will be working together on are:

1. To develop outreach and worship which will attract a younger demographic into the different worshipping communities (in particular more families and young people);
2. To devise and implement a strategy for disciple-making which provides ways for people to consider Jesus, opens new approaches to discipling beyond existing home groups, and fosters a culture of disciples who make disciples and leaders who grow leaders;
3. To bring the parishes of St Peter's, St Paul's Shipley and Christ Church, Windhill to work closely with each other, and together to reimagine mission and ministry for the whole town of Shipley. Exploring possible structural changes, including pastoral re-organisation.
4. Working with the different congregations, to develop outreach and new worshipping communities for less-reached parts of Shipley, eg Hirstwood; Wycliffe; Windhill

ST PETER'S GOVERNANCE

St Peter's is led by the Parochial Church Council (PCC) with 5 strategic groups that meet to oversee key areas of our ministry, each with a coordinator who sits on the PCC to ensure communication is clear.

St Peter's currently employs:

- 1 Administrator (18hrs) to oversee the community hub and buildings
- 1 Administrator (26hrs) who works for the three churches
- 1 Youth and Family Coordinator (30hrs)
- 1 Caretaker (15hrs) & 1 Cleaner (15hrs)



ST PAUL'S GOVERNANCE

Parochial Church Council

Standing Committee: Clergy, Wardens, Treasurer, Secretary and Lay Member

Clergy & Wardens will attend additional stream meetings as required

Buildings & Grounds
(inc. Hirst Wood Burial Board)

Finance & Funding

**Prayer,
Pastoral & Discipleship**

Worship & Music

**Pathways
Growth & Mission**

Church Administrator: supporting Clergy/Wardens (inc. Comms mtg) & PCC streams

CHRISTCHURCH GOVERNANCE

The Parochial Church Council is a corporate body established by the Church of England. The PCC operates under the Parochial Church Council Powers Measure. The PCC is excepted by order from registering with the Charity Commission since its gross annual income is less than £100,000.

As an LEP, we also have representatives of the Methodist Church who stand for election to the Methodist Council. The ECC is comprised of representatives from the PCC and the Methodist Council. The ECC members are responsible for making decisions on all matters of general concern and importance to the parish including deciding on how the funds of the ECC are to be spent.

Due to the relatively small size of the Church, formal committees are not in place, but task groups are established as and when needed relating to worship, mission and outreach and fabric and finance. These task groups are all responsible to the ECC and report back to it regularly with communication of their decisions being received by the full ECC and discussed, as necessary.

WHO WE ARE LOOKING FOR

We are looking for someone who will work across the three churches supporting them to progress mission and ministry. Through consultation we have discerned that we are looking for someone with the following skills and characteristics:

Spirituality

- Someone who understands and prioritises the need for the presence, power, leading and guiding of the Holy Spirit.
- Someone who will preach and teach Biblically-based truth in a way that is clear, gracious and easy to understand.
- Someone with a strong belief in the power of prayer who will develop the churches' prayer life and support and encourage prayer ministry for healing and other issues.

Pastoral

- Someone who has a heart for supporting families and young people
- Someone with a heart for pastoral care, who values all people the way God does and who has warm interpersonal, communication, listening and pastoral skills.
- Someone who will walk the walk with people across the communities of Shipley and who is willing to walk alongside people in their difficulties

WHO WE ARE LOOKING FOR

Mission and Ministry

- Someone who will model Jesus' ministry
- Someone who is motivational and inspiring, who understands the importance of empowering others to share God's love.
- Someone who can encourage worship to flourish in our different traditions
- Someone who is committed to 'Fresh Expressions' of church
- Someone who will work with the three Church primary schools in Shipley

Discipleship

- Someone who, with the Priest-in-charge, can develop and deliver a strategy for disciple-making for those who are new to church
- Someone who will help the different congregations to work alongside each other more fully and effectively.
- Someone who can envision and encourage active discipleship reaching out to the community

OUR CURRENT OUTREACH PROVISION

Children and Youth

- Uniform groups (Rainbows, Brownies, Guides, Rangers, Beavers, Cubs and Scouts)
- Weekly toddler groups
- Fortnightly youth club (St Peter's)
- Messy Church
- Forest Church
- All-in services
- Craft corners

Life Events

- Baptisms
- Weddings
- Funerals

Civic

- Civic carol services
- Christmas tree festivals
- Civic remembrance service
- Inter-faith projects

Faith

- Three weekly Sunday worship services at St Peter's
- One weekly Sunday morning worship service at St Paul's and one monthly evening service.
- One weekly Sunday worship service at Christchurch
- Monthly joint service shared by the parishes
- Weekday morning and evening prayer at St Peter's
- Saturday prayer gathering (online)
- Mid-week Eucharist at St Paul's
- Home groups

Community Support

- St Peter's halls useage enables us to engage with nearly 1000 people who use the building during the week
- Welcome Space
- St Paul's Lunch Club and Saturday Cafe
- Baby Bank served from St Peter's across Shipley

SHIPLEY CHRISTIANS TOGETHER

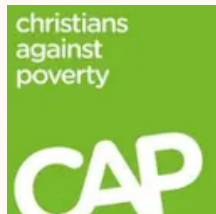


Our parishes are actively involved in Shipley Christians Together, the local branch of the national organisation Churches Together in England. In our area this includes Shipley Baptist Church, St Peter's, St Paul's, Saltaire Methodist, Christchurch, St Margaret's Frizinghall, Shipley Salvation Army, Christian Life Church, Westcliffe Road Christian Church, City Valley, St Walburga's Catholic Church and Saltaire URC.

Recent events have included:

- The bible stall (every fortnight)
- Supporting CAP Debt Centre
- Ukranian housing
- Monthly Avondale Worship time
- Walk of Witness
- Lent Groups
- Advent Groups
- Pulpit Swap

CAP Centre Team



THE VICARAGE

The 4-bedroomed detached vicarage with enclosed garden in the parish of St Peter's, and is a 10 minute walk to St Paul's church, and St Peter's and a 10 minute drive to Christchurch Windhill.

It is situated very close to Northcliffe Park a beautiful space of ancient trees and fields. It is also just 10min walk to the train station for travel to Leeds or Bradford or out to Skipton for walks out into the Dales.



DIOCESE OF LEEDS



The Diocese of Leeds includes the five Episcopal Areas of Bradford, Huddersfield, Leeds, Ripon and Wakefield. Geographically, it covers the whole of West Yorkshire, the western part of North Yorkshire, and small parts of South Yorkshire, Lancashire, and County Durham. The diocese has over 430 parishes, around 600 church buildings and more than 230 church schools.

Since its formation in 2014 from the former dioceses of Bradford, Ripon and Leeds and Wakefield, the diocese has aimed to ensure long-term sustainability and financial stability. A key vehicle for delivering its strategy is the Barnabas Programme: Encouraging Confidence - programmes which support churches to move forward in mission, ministry and sustainability. The diocese has received significant national investment funding for this work, which means churches are offered the opportunity to access resources and support at different levels according to their existing strengths and needs.

Our Values

Four pillars guide everything we do as a diocesan team, helping us work together and support the diocese more effectively.:

- *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.

In addition, we encourage equality, diversity and inclusion in our workplace by aiming to:

Love God, the world and one another.

Live in the world as it is, but, drawn by a vision of something better, we want to help individuals and communities flourish,
Learn when we get things wrong, by listening and growing together.

Terms of Appointment and Accommodation

This is a part-time (half stipend) incumbent status post under Common Tenure; Sundays plus 3 other days. Provision of the house includes water rates and Council Tax. All expenses are paid. Removal costs and a resettlement grant are available.

The appointment is subject to a satisfactory Enhanced Disclosure from the DBS.
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

Is God calling you to this post?

To arrange a visit or conversation, contact:

Archdeacon of Bradford, Ven Dr Andy Jolley, andy.jolley@leeds.anglican.org , 07973 458403 or
The Parish Representative: Rev Natasha Thomas, natasha.thomas@stpetes.org.uk, 07887707909