THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND
Diocese of Leeds

# Parish Profile

**This form is designed to give an overview of a parish to be used in a vacancy for the appointment of a new parish priest. It will be accepted as the "statement describing the conditions, needs and traditions of the parish" required by the Patronage (Benefices) Measure 1986. Please check all pre-populated data carefully and provide any corrections if needed. Additional information may also be appended.**

## 1. Parish Information

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1.a | **Name(s) of parish(es):** | Batley: St Thomas |
| 1.b | **Name(s) of parish church(es):** | Batley: St Thomas |
| 2. | **Name(s) of other C of E church(es)/centres for public worship in the parish(es):** | |
| 3.a | **Are you linked formally or informally with any other parishes in the benefice (Y/N):** | Yes<br>Batley Benefice Council oversees certain aspects of church life |
| 3.b | **If Y, please give the name(s) of linked parish(es):** | All Saints, Batley<br>St Andrew's, Purlwell<br>St Paul's, Hanging Heaton |
| 4. | **Deanery:** | Dewsbury and Birstall |
| 5. | **Population:**<br><br>*[Information as of 2021 census. Please indicate if and how this might have changed]* | Parish Population<br>Under 20 1786<br>20 to 64 3519<br>Over 65 742<br>Total 6046<br>Occupied Households 2217 |
| 6.a | **Electoral Roll Number:**<br>*2026 data* | 34 |

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| **6.b** | **Date of Declaration:** | 22/04/2026 |

## 7. Worship Attendance

*Please provide details of average attendance at Sunday and weekday services. Add any additional rows as required or if hand-written continue on a separate sheet if necessary.*
*October count 2025*

| Church | Service | Time | Number of communicants | Adult attendance | Under 16 attendance |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| St Thomas | Sunday | | | 24 | 5 |
| | Weekday | | | 5 | |
| | | | | | |

## 8. Occasional Offices

*Please provide figures for the last 12 months. Add any additional rows as required or if hand-written continue on a separate sheet if necessary.*

| Church | Baptisms | Confirmees | Weddings | Funerals in church | Funerals taken by clergy |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| St Thomas | 1 | | 1 | 1 | |
| | | | | | |
| | | | | | |

## 9. Communications

*Please only include names and contact details that can be shared when this document becomes public. Add any additional rows as required or if hand-written continue on a separate sheet if necessary.*

| Church | Clergy | Licenced Lay Ministers | Lay staff *eg Youth worker, Administrator etc* | Churchwardens |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| St Thomas | N/A | N/A | N/A | Jeremy Parkinson<br>07791 261142<br>jparkinson.stthomas@gmail.com |
| St Thomas | N/A | N/A | N/A | Margaret Noble<br>07840 756629<br>noblemargaret75@gmail.com |
| | | | | |

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# 2. Parish/Community Information

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1.a | **Briefly describe the demographic composition of the parish(es) (eg employment status, population ages, ethnic groups, home ownership, cultural diversity).** | Parish Ethnic Heritage Profile<br>Asian 2914<br>Black 42<br>Mixed 147<br>White 2892<br>Other 52<br><br>Parish Religious Profile<br>Christian 1612<br>Buddhist 11<br>Hindu 9<br>Jewish 0<br>Muslim 2921<br>Sikh 6<br>Other 12<br>None 1193 |
| 1. b | **Are there any specific issues you wish to highlight in relation to the above description (eg high unemployment)?** | High social depravity across the area (Kirklees) |

**2. Other local institutions**

*Please provide information and details (if known) of other important local institutions. Add any additional rows as required or if hand-written continue on a separate sheet if necessary.*

| Institution | Quantity | Details |
|---|---|---|
| **Schools (Primary and Secondary)** | **2 Primary**<br><br>**1 Secondary** | Park Road JI & N School<br>Lydgate JI & N School<br>Upper Batley High School<br>(None are Church schools) |
| **Youth Centres** | | |
| **Hospitals** | | |
| **Nursing/elderly care homes** | **2** | Lydgate Lodge Care Home<br>Haven Hall Care Home |

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| **Local Businesses** | **1 Major**<br>**1 Outlet**<br>**Unknown number of minor businesses** | Tesco Supermarket<br>The Mill Outlet & Garden Centre |
| **Neighbourhood initiatives (eg NWA)** | | |
| **Local Associations (eg tourist groups, historic societies)** | **1** | Batley History Society |
| **Other Christian Churches** | | |
| **Other Places of Worship** | **Mosques** | Masjid Taqwa, Park Road, WF17 5LP<br>Dawatal Islam, W Acre Drive, WF17 6PE |

**2.b** **Do the clergy hold any civic responsibilities in relation to the above institutions or within the wider community? If so, please provide details.**
*Add any additional rows as required or if hand-written continue on a separate sheet if necessary.*

Vicar of Batley leads the town's Remembrance services on behalf of the Benefice

**3. Local religious partnerships**
*Please provide information on the parish(es) relationship with local religious groups. Expand the rows as required or if hand-written continue on a separate sheet if necessary.*

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **3.a** | **Please state any involvement in local Churches Together** | Vicar of Batley has normally been on the Batley Churches Together committee and has organised services at Easter and other occasions during the year |
| **3.b** | **Please state any formal covenants held with other denominations** | N/A |

| | | |
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| 3.c | **Please state any informal ecumenical contacts held by the parish(es)** | Catherine Lee in Taiwan (CMS) |

## 3. Church Information

*Please give details for each church individually by copy/pasting the table below or by repeating the information on a separate sheet.*

| **Church name:** | | |
|---|---|---|
| **A. Congregation** | | |
| i | **What percentage of the congregation lives outside the parish?** | 65% |
| ii | **Briefly describe the demographic composition of the congregation (eg employment status, population ages, ethnic groups, home ownership, cultural diversity, gender).** | 100% white British<br>Children (Age 0-10) 1<br>Adults (Age 30-49) 2<br>Adults (Age 50-69) 7<br>Adults (Age 70+) 14<br>17% still in employment<br>75% female; 25% male |
| iii | **How would you describe the worship tradition at the church?** | Low Church<br>Clergy usually wear a Cassock-Alb, stole possibly a chasuble |
| **B. Finance** | | |
| i | **What is the average regular weekly giving by persons in the parish(es) 16 years & over?**<br><br>**What (if any) proportion of this giving is gift aided?** | £17.59<br><br>90% |
| ii | **What is the date of the church's last stewardship campaign?** | September 2025 |
| iii | **How does the church supplement direct giving in order to meets its financial needs?** | Fundraising events, primarily a summer fair and Christmas Bazaar, plus annual gift day appeal |

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| iv | **What was the amount of working expenses paid to the clergy in the last financial year?**<br><br>**Were these needs met in full? (Y/N)**<br>*If N what was the estimated shortfall* | £901<br><br>Y | |
| v | **Please provide details of the amount of share requested and paid:** | Requested | Paid |
| | • **in last financial year (2024)**<br>• **in the current year (2025)**<br>• **in the next financial year** | • £25,253<br>• £20,442<br>• c£20,000 | • £12,000<br>• £5,000<br>• £10,000 (est) |
| | *Please provide explanation for any discrepancy between requested and actual payments* | Currently available funds are being channelled to consultant and architect fees relating to the sale of the church hall and associated changes to the church grounds re access and parking | |
| | **Do you anticipate meeting this year's requested payment in full? (Y/N)**<br>*If N provide explanation* | N – see above | |
| vi | **Are there any ongoing capital projects? (Y/N)**<br>*If Y please give brief details of estimated costs and how these will be met* | Y – sale of church hall. The cost of the work in the grounds will be met from the sale of the building<br><br><u>Not yet started but considered urgent:</u><br>Spire in need of repointing<br>South slope (nave) roof needs replacing<br>These projects will require huge grants to enable completion | |
| vii | **Please append a copy of the last PCC accounts.** | Attached | |
| viii | **Please provide details of the any overseas work supported by the Church including the value of any annual donations** | Church Mission Society<br>Christian Aid<br>Link Diocese in Tanzania | |
| ix | **Please provide details of the any mission agencies and charities supported by the Church including the value of any annual donations** | See B viii plus<br>Children's Society<br>British Legion | |

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| **C. Buildings** | | |
| i | **Please provide a general overview of the general state of repair of the church building and environs**<br>*This can usually be found in the 'Executive Summary' of the most recent Quinquennial Inspection report* | As a result of the repair and reordering projects undertaken, much of the building is now in very good order. However, there are a number of significant areas that still need attention. Most important of these in the need to renew the slating on the south slope of the Nave roof and the South Aisle and repointing work to the spire. The PCC is encouraged to submit an application for grant aid toward the cost of these works and to include, if possible, the restoration of the Great West Window, the Chancel East window and other glazing works. |
| ii | **Please highlight any major maintenance requirements identified during the most recent Quinquennial Inspection** | Spire in need of repointing inside and out with further associated remedial work being identified - £150,000<br>South slope (nave) roof needs replacing - £125,000<br>East window glazing - £80,000<br><br>These projects will require substantial grants to enable completion |

## 4. Church Education and Social Provision

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1.a | **Name(s) of Church School(s) if applicable:** | No church schools |
| 2. | **How is the school governance structure organised?** *eg aided, controlled, foundation* | |
| 3. | **Approximately how many pupils are currently enrolled?** | |
| 4. | **What is the level of engagement between the church(es) and the school(s)?** | |

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# 5. Outreach and Mission

*Expand the rows as required or if hand-written continue on a separate sheet if necessary.*

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **1.a** | **Please provide details of any regular mission and outreach activities** | Destination 211 Bus Ministry - Children's after-school activities held in the benefice once a week. Although currently suspended due to funding issues further afield, we are actively working on restarting this project (Benefice Project).<br><br>Roses for Peace – distribution of roses to the community once/year with our Muslim friends |
| **1.b** | **How are you helping people find out about Jesus?** | By drawing them in through events held in church |
| **1.c** | **How are you helping people to grow in discipleship?** | Lent Courses, Bible Study, Benefice Together |
| **1.d** | **How are you helping people to grow in leadership?** | Congregations are made aware of opportunities for lay ministry training |
| **2.a** | **Are there any overseas link(s) with the parish(es)? (Y/N)** | Y |
| **2.b** | **If Y, please give details:** | Tarime Diocese in Tanzania |
| **3.a** | **Do you have an organised system to provide outreach and welcome to new members of the community? (Y/N)** | N |
| **3.b** | **If Y, please give details:** | |

| | | |
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| 4. | **What role do you play in meeting the needs of the local community?** | Our church, along with the others in the Benefice, have played a huge part in community care in recent years, especially since the death of our local MP Jo Cox. We came together with local mosques to be a focal point for healing which spawned new and stronger ties with people of other faiths which continues to this day. |
| 5. | **How do you engage with young people outside of church-based organisations?** *eg open youth work* | Through school visits and engagement with the Guiding and Scouting groups |

## 6. Lay Discipleship and Participation

*Expand the rows as required or if hand-written continue on a separate sheet if necessary.*

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1. | What are your education and training provisions for:<br>• Children (*eg Sunday School*)<br>• Young People (*eg Youth Projects*)<br>• Adults (*eg Alpha*) | Details | Approximate numbers |
| | | None | |
| 2.a | **Please give details of any house/prayer groups** | Prayer Group meets in church every week | |
| 2.b | **Are these groups led by lay or clergy?** | Lay led | |
| 3.a | **How would you rate the strength of lay leadership?** | We receive support and ministry from the 2 lay readers within the benefice and we feel this to be very strong. | |
| 3.b | **What is the source of lay leadership strength or weakness?** | Years of training and experience coupled with a deep sense of spirituality | |

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## 7. Mission

*In this section you are encouraged to consider your future priorities and aspirations. You are invited to contemplate areas you feel need addressing, evaluate any limitations which may prevent you from addressing them, and envision what your new priest's role could be to help you achieve your ambitions. Expand the rows as required or if hand-written continue on a separate sheet if necessary.*

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1. | **Which areas of church life do you feel would benefit from further development in future?** | **Deepening the faith of the congregation:**<br>• More people in small groups, possible house groups<br>• More prayer ministry<br>• Quiet days or mornings<br>**Developing the use of the building for community and congregation:**<br>• Having the building in use for more of the time<br>• Increasing number of weddings/baptisms<br>• More social events for all<br>**Developing relationships with children and young families:**<br>• Possibly through Messy Church and the uniformed organisations which may then lead to greater interest of the parents<br>• Stronger contact/communication with parents during events who may then bring children to suitable groups/events |
| 2. | **What are the main areas of mission that you would like your new priest to prioritise?** | **Outreach to the community:**<br>• Further develop the work with schools, possibly with lay support<br>• Offering more support to young families and the bereaved<br>• Developing a relationship with Lydgate Lodge<br>• Making more of the link with Tesco<br>• Develop greater relationships with the people in Soothill area of our parish<br>• Build grassroots relationships with potential Christians, perhaps creating community hubs, eg regular coffee mornings and craft sessions etc |
| 3. | **What are the biggest potential challenges which you and the new priest will need to address?** *Name and elaborate on no more than three* | • Church growth, especially younger people<br>• Contact/engagement with existing and potential new congregants across the whole parish<br>• Finance/maintenance buildings |

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## 8. Additional Information

*Use this space to record any other information which you would like the Patron and the Bishop to be aware of regarding the conditions, needs, or traditions of the parish(es). Continue on a separate sheet if necessary.*

St Thomas' remains at a critical time in its existence. There has been a slow decline in congregation numbers over the last decade or so, partly because of the increasing number of people from non-Christian backgrounds moving into this area.

Several of our long-standing members have passed away or moved away in recent years but these haven't been fully replaced by new congregants (it is worth noting that 4 new congregants have joined in the last 2-3 years and attend on a regular basis). We find that children reach a certain age and stop attending church as there is nothing to hold their interest, which in turn has led to the decline and suspension of our Sunday School. On the positive side, the people of St Thomas' are welcoming, good-natured and hard-working.

Our last incumbent did a good job for us, but once again we need to breathe new life into the Parish, engage the community wherever possible whilst accepting that not everyone is going to start coming to church services.

Once again, strong leadership is required, particularly at grass roots level, to guide us towards a bright future. As a church and as a benefice, we have excellent connections with the wider community and with other faiths. However, we need to expand our church community with both [more] new congregants and also with people accessing the church for community and secular activities. Since reordering in 2005, we have a very flexible space where chairs can be moved to open up the floor space for a variety of uses and this should be further exploited.

We have a good relationship across the benefice and feel generally that we support each other very well; the Messy Church is held at St Thomas' and we have involvement from people from all four churches. We support each other at Patronal Festivals and in the general decision making via the Benefice Council

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## 9. The New Priest

*Use this space to identify and list the qualities and skills you would like to see in the new priest. Continue on a separate sheet if necessary.*

Organised
Engaging (with both parishioners and community)
Personable (can relate to all ages)
Outgoing
Charismatic (holds the attention of the congregation)
Spiritual
Kind, caring and understanding (a good listener)
Sincere
Good networking skills (relationship building) and experience in working at 'grassroots' level to building those relationships
Good communicator
Good sense of humour!

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**Agreed by the PCC of** ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE BARLEY.

**On the (date)** 27 **(month)** OCT **(year) 20** 26

**Signed:** .....

**Print Name:** JEREMY PARKINSON

**Office Held:** VICE CHAIR / WARDEN.

**Once completed and signed as agreed by the PCC, this form should be sent directly to the Archdeacon's office and to Gemma Shearwood:**
Gemma Shearwood
Diocese of Leeds, Church House
17-19 York Place, Leeds, LS1 2EX
gemma.shearwood@leeds.anglican.org

**Copies will be circulated by the office to the Patron and Bishop**

**Please make sure copies all PCC members retain a signed copy of this form for their records.**