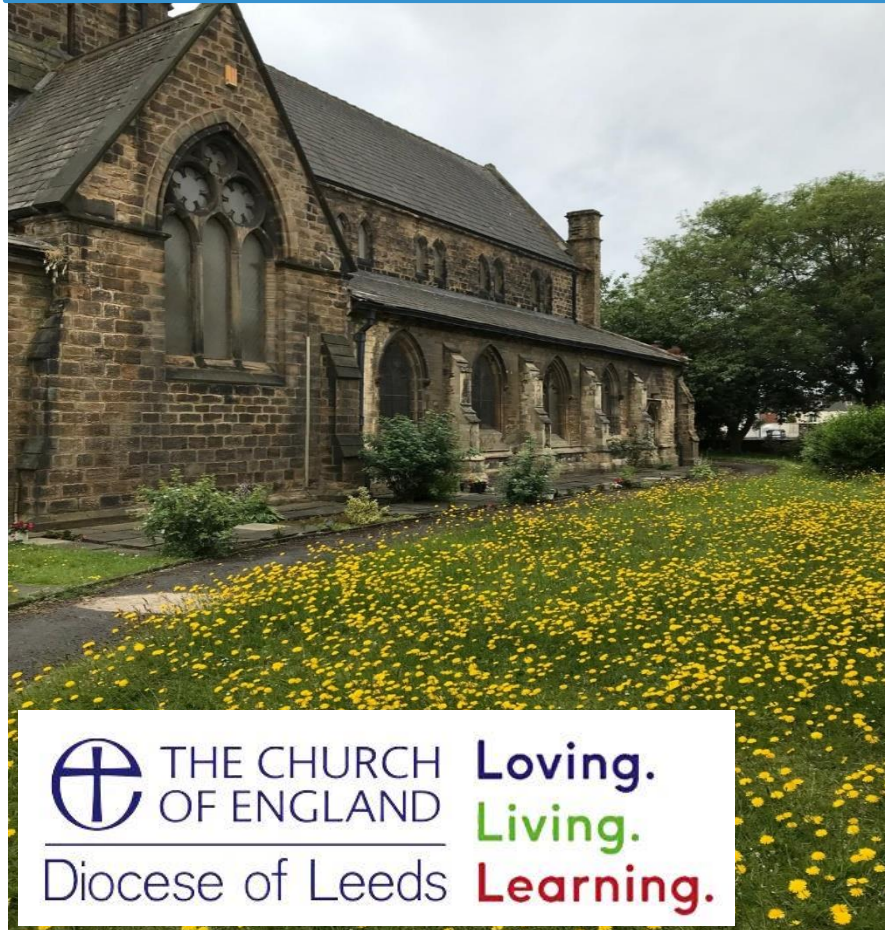


CASTLEFORD PARISH BROCHURE 2025
“Touching Lives for Good”





Welcome

We are a large urban Parish serving the town of Castleford and its suburbs. In recent years, Castleford Team Parish has undergone radical change and we are now at a pivotal point in our journey. We are now a single church Parish with potential for significant new investment and a PCC that is dedicated to growing the church. We are beginning to see green shoots of new growth emerging and we are now praying for, and seeking, a Rector who can help us nurture this potential.

Up for the Challenge? – An Exciting Future of Possibilities

The town of Castleford is changing and so are we. We see lots of possibilities for the future to make the most of our historic church in the centre of town.

We have a congregation that is up for something new and a pool of committed volunteers. We have a church and rooms with potential for remodelling and the prospect of funds to make this happen.

There are unmet needs in the community and potential to grow the church within the civic life of the church. All this offers an exciting opportunity for someone with enthusiasm, energy and ideas to help us 'touch lives for good'.

Please read our brochure to help you decide if you are that person.



The Journey of Castleford Team Parish

At the time of the creation of Castleford Team Parish in 2000 there were five Anglican Churches covering Castleford; All Saints Parish Church- Castleford, St Paul's – Glasshoughton, St Michael's – Smawthorne, All Saints- Hightown and St James – Whitwood Mere (Sister Church to Hightown).

Castleford Team Parish was originally created by bringing together the Parish Church, Hightown Church, St James Church and St Paul's Church as one new Parish with one PCC, four church buildings, two halls and separate congregations. St James church was closed and sold in 2010.

St Michael's was incorporated into the Team Parish in 2010.

Between 2000 and 2018 the Team Parish gradually moved to a standard liturgy but continued with separate congregations and separate services with one joint service per month.

By 2019 the PCC was recognising that with an ageing and declining congregation, falling income, rising costs, growing backlog of expensive property repairs, reducing payment of Parish Share and too much demand on too few people the benefice needed radical change if it was to have a sustainable future.

Consequently, In February 2020 the PCC passed the following resolution:

"This meeting agrees to keep the Parish Church open and the other three churches will close and on the site of St Michael's a multi-purpose church centre to be built there. This would be taken forward by the Team Parish with the support of the Diocese."

This resolution was reviewed following the appointment of a new Rector in September 2020 and after much prayer, heart searching and intense discussion the PCC passed a further resolution in April 2021 that:

" After due consideration by the PCC, it is proposed that a new multi-purpose church centre will not be built on the site of St Michael's, but rather that the funds raised by closing the three sites in the benefice be used at the site of the Parish Church and adjacent rooms. This leaving the Parish Church as the only remaining Anglican worship centre in Castleford."

Following this resolution a formal process was instigated by The Diocese of Leeds and Church Commissioners to close for worship. All Saints – Hightown, St Paul's – Glasshoughton and St Michael's- Smawthorne.



After a period of consultation, the Church Commissioners issued formal notice in February 2024 that the churches would close for worship and custodianship transfer to the Diocese of Leeds and subsequently be disposed of with a significant proportion of any income received going to the Castleford Team Parish to fund investment in the Parish Church and Rooms. Final services of thanksgiving were conducted at the churches during July and August 2024 and immediately afterwards all contents were removed and are in storage in the Parish Church Rooms.

The closed church sites have just been placed on the property market.

Despite the pain and emotion that we have experienced in this journey and initial negative reactions to the proposals we are now united as one worshipping congregation.



What We Are Called To Do

In 2018 the Parochial Church Council agreed that we aspire to have:

- ☐ A strong and healthy Anglican Christian presence in Castleford –
- ☐ Having a place as a valued and valuable part of the Spiritual, Social and Economic Capital of Castleford
- ☐ Providing sustainable activities valued and used by the community of Castleford
- ☐ Having support from the community of Castleford and beyond
- ☐ A fit for purpose and supported liturgy
- ☐ Fit for purpose and sustainable premises
- ☐ A growing, self-developing congregation and fit for purpose governance structure

We believe that these continue to be relevant today and hope that you enjoy reading this brochure which sets out our journey towards this so far and how we want to continue to move forward in the future and whether you feel called to join us.

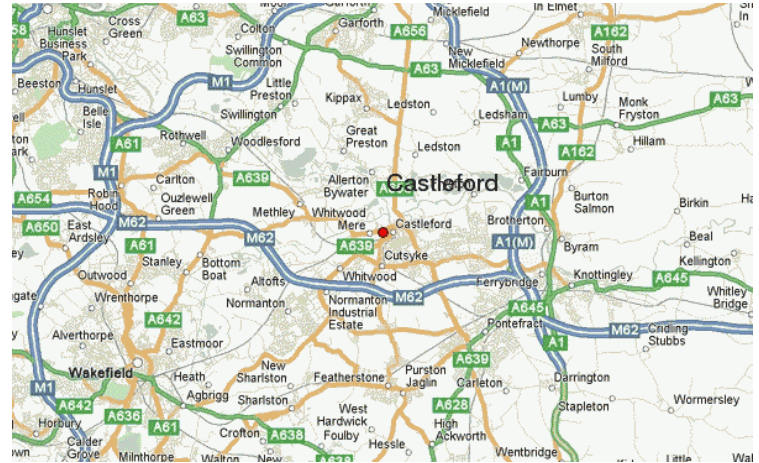
Location And the Town

The town of Castleford lies approximately 10 miles south of Leeds in West Yorkshire and is the largest township within the Wakefield Metropolitan District Council area. Although the Team Parish has a population of over 20,000, owing to the Church's location in the town centre, it actually serves a population in excess of 40,000 souls. The town is home to a sizeable community of people from Poland.

Historically the town is the site of a significant Roman Settlement but its main growth occurred during the 19th Century as a major centre for pottery, coal mining, glass making, clothing, confectionery and chemical manufacturing. This growth saw the town population grow from under 1,000 to over 14,000 by the mid 1860's.

As is the case with many old industrial towns these traditional industries have closed down to be replaced by employment in small businesses, service and distribution industries although the international clothing brand Burberry still have their main factory in Castleford and Haribo have a major plant here too.

The legacy of physical dereliction left by industrial decline continues to be dealt with by the Local Authority who have recently adopted plans for regeneration of the Town Centre. Industrial decline has also left a legacy in the local population of poor health, outdated skills, unemployment, poverty and anti-social behaviour in areas of the town.



The area is also experiencing a significant amount of new housebuilding, creating a growing the population, often from outside the area as it is becoming a popular location for commuting to the nearby cities of Leeds and Wakefield.

Castleford was the birth place of the renowned 20th Century Sculptor Henry Moore, is home to Rugby League Super League team Castleford Tigers and at Junction 32 on the M62 is the North of England's unique indoor real snow ski slope at Xscape entertainment centre.



The Parish Church and Its Buildings

Parish Church

Located on Church Street, Castleford, the current church of All Saints is the third known building to stand on the site. It was built between 1866 and 1868 and was funded by public subscription together with the Church Rate levied on the parishioners.

It is Grade II listed. The first record of a church on the site was in 1178 under the patronage of Henry de Lacey, Baron of Pontefract. Around 1370 it was rebuilt by John of Gaunt, Duke of Lancaster. The patronage has remained with the Dukes of Lancaster since those times, the current Duke being His Majesty King Charles.

The building is basically structurally sound but the latest Quinquennial Inspection summary states 'It will come as little surprise to the PCC that All Saints, Castleford does require some significant works to make it wind and watertight and secure it for the future. The PCC is also aware that a degree of internal remodelling is needed to make it fit for purpose in the 21st Century.'



Parish Rooms

Immediately adjacent to the Parish Church building is the Parish Rooms. This is a two-storey building comprising a ground floor room previously used as a children's day nursery and a large first floor room with a sprung dance floor and stage area which was previously used by now disbanded youth uniform groups, mums and toddler group and two dancing schools.

In addition, there are small offices and storage rooms. At present the Parish Rooms are not available for church or community use as they are being used to store the furniture and artefacts removed from the three closed churches, prior to disposal



St Michael's Hall

The PCC is fortunate in that a Hall in the grounds of the now closed St Michael's church is owned by the PCC. This is a single storey, single room hall with kitchen located at St Michael's Close, Castleford. The hall is a valuable resource, well used by the local community and a valuable source of income to Parish Funds. The hall is in use six days a week, by youth uniformed groups, a dancing school, a substance misuse support group, a keep fit class, a Sugar Craft group and two church-run outreach groups. The hall is also used for Church social activities and fundraising events.



The Church and Its People

The benefice currently has 57 people on the electoral roll. Our regular worshipping congregation comprises predominantly retired persons but at least 33% are younger working people or children. We have an average Sunday morning attendance of 35. The Annual Civic Act of Remembrance Service is held in the church and attendance is in excess of 350.

Our traditional worship is centred on the Eucharist with catholic ceremonial using vestments and incense. Liturgical seasons are carefully observed.

We hold a said service on a Wednesday morning, A Mass on a Saturday morning and an alternative form of worship on the first Sunday of each month. In addition, our former, now retired, Parish Priest who is Polish currently conducts mass for the Polish community on the first Sunday of each month.

Our PCC meets at least six times a year, plus holding the APCM.

Key members of the PCC are:



John Ladley – Lay Chair,
Safeguarding Officer and
Church Warden



Dawn Heyworth – PCC
Treasurer



Judith Ladley – PCC Secretary



Beth Thompson – Electoral
Roll and Youth Ministry



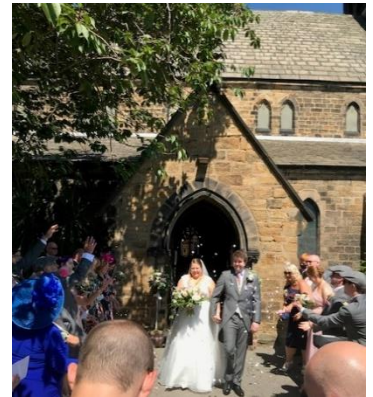
Karen Ferrier – Church Warden

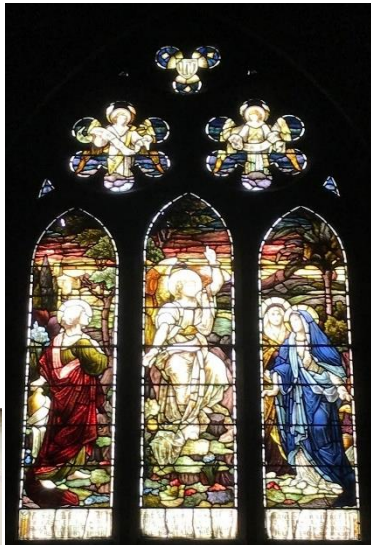
Over the past four years we have developed lay leadership in the Parish. Whilst we have no qualified lay ministers, members of the congregation make significant contributions to the running of the church and various aspects of services and occasional offices including playing recorded music, intercessions, reading, administering the chalice and acting as Sub Deacon for Baptisms.

Mission And Outreach – The Church and the Community

We try to deliver our Mission Statement of 'Touching Lives for Good' in a number of ways:

- ❑ Hosting a number of Weddings, Baptisms and Funerals throughout the year
- ❑ Interment of cremated remains in our garden of remembrance in the church grounds
- ❑ Running occasional Community events such as a Teddy Bears Picnic and Messy Church
- ❑ Social activities including a well-attended weekly Knit and Natter group, a weekly dementia friendly space providing "Time 4 U" and one-off events such as the Harvest Pie and Pea Supper
- ❑ The church is the venue for the annual Civic Remembrance Service
- ❑ We hold an annual All Souls Service
- ❑ The church hosts school assemblies and services
- ❑ We hold services in local care homes, principally at Easter and Christmas
- ❑ The Rector regularly visits local primary schools and leads assemblies
- ❑ We undertake charitable giving supporting our two local food banks, the Children's Society, ACTS 345, Christian Aid and the Yorkshire Air Ambulance





Our Strengths and Weaknesses

Within the limits of our resources, we are a busy benefice. We undertake weekly masses, occasional offices, home visits, school assemblies and visits, Care home services, community outreach initiatives. In the past 12 months there have been 17 funerals, 17 baptisms, 4 weddings and 6 school visits held in the church.

What are our main strengths?

- ☐ We have a faithful core of worshippers
- ☐ Our church is welcoming and inclusive
- ☐ We have a pool of dedicated and willing volunteers
- ☐ We have a well-run Parochial Church Council
- ☐ We are open to new initiatives whilst maintaining our traditions
- ☐ We have good relations with our local schools and care homes
- ☐ We have a good relationship with our local Councillors
- ☐ We have potential significant Capital income in the future
- ☐ We have a balanced age range from young to elderly congregation
- ☐ We are part of the heritage of the town with a grade 2 listed historic building in the centre of town

What are our weaknesses?

- ☐ Resistance to change in some of the congregation
- ☐ Limited number of active volunteers
- ☐ Significant backlog of maintenance and repairs
- ☐ Lack of progress on developing building refurbishment plans
- ☐ Lack of clarity over timescale for capital receipts
- ☐ Potential to be overambitious
- ☐ Insufficient income generation
- ☐ Lack visibility in the community
- ☐ Inadequate environmental measures
- ☐ Outdated facilities



What We Hope Our Rector Will Bring

- ☐ An ability to inspire our congregation, help us grow in faith, and encourage new people into our church life, encouraging new members whilst having regard to existing members of our congregation
- ☐ Open, approachable and a good communicator with good people and pastoral skills
- ☐ Respectful of our traditions and adaptable to the needs of this church community, whilst bringing and pursuing new ideas and forms of worship which reflect modern society
- ☐ Willing to encourage and enable laity in planning and leading worship
- ☐ Willing to work with us to build on and further develop our connection to, and mission in, Castleford
- ☐ Ability to address and manage difficult situations with a supportive attitude and a sense of humour
- ☐ Ability to reach out and work co-operatively with individuals, groups, other faiths and denominations to build and extend relationships playing a full part in civic life
- ☐ Lead by example, preaching the Gospel to congregations, relating it to their lives and experiences to encourage spirituality and prayer life
- ☐ Recognise the need to develop the life of the parish by implementing and managing change with empathy whilst respecting the traditions that unite us.
- ☐ Value and encourage the contribution of volunteers.
- ☐ Effectively engage with the administration of the parish
- ☐ Ability to manage parish finances and resources effectively
- ☐ Experience of church remodelling
- ☐ Experience of grant funding



What Do We Offer Our Rector

- The Rectory - A spacious, modern 4- Bedroomed detached Rectory centrally positioned within the Parish within walking distance of The Parish Church and St Michael's Hall. A study is provided off the entrance hall with a WC located opposite, access to the main accommodation is through a second entrance door. The ground floor accommodation comprises a Lounge, separate Dining Room, Kitchen and separate Utility Room. Upstairs are four Bedrooms and a family Bathroom. A reasonably sized private garden to the rear of the property is mainly laid to lawn
- A committed and experienced PCC with two Church Wardens, experienced Treasurer, PCC Secretary and Safeguarding Officer and a group of keen volunteers
- A PCC and Congregation that respects our traditions but open to new ideas and initiatives
- A church that is working closely with the Diocese to realise the capital value of the closed churches for re-investment in The Parish Church and Rooms
- A church that is working hard to raise enough money to make progress towards meeting its full Parish Share



The Church and Its Finances.

The majority of our income comes from regular giving through the Parish Giving Scheme with most people preferring to use weekly envelopes and standing orders. Several years ago, the PCC voted to invest in a card reader, which is slowly becoming more popular. We hold our annual gift day at the end of October, which over the past few years has been our main fundraising event.

Whilst our total receipts, through planned giving, reduced during the Covid pandemic we have seen a steady increase over the past 3 years, which is remarkable considering we decided to close 3 churches in 2024.

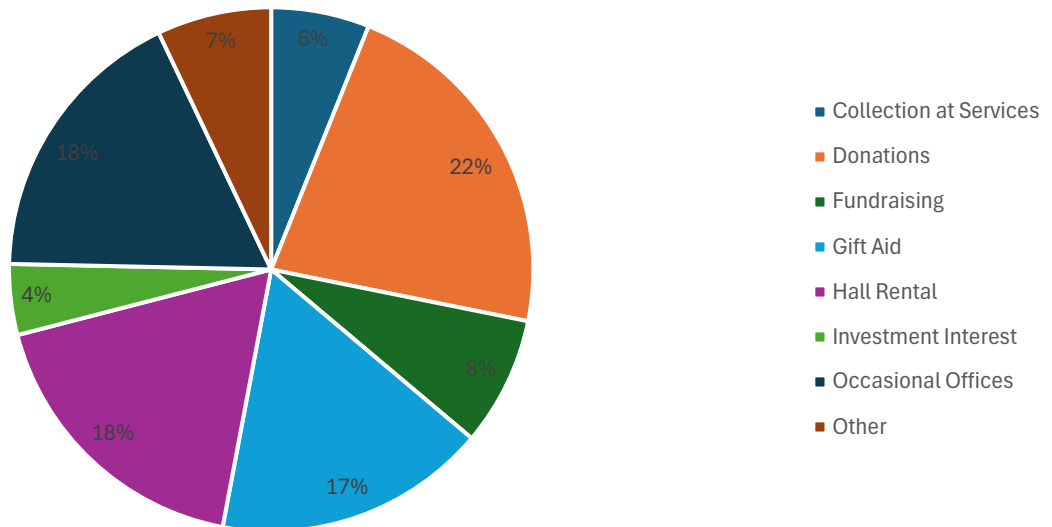
St. Michael's church hall is available for letting to local community groups and businesses and is used 6 or 7 days each week. In 2024 the income from hiring of the hall was over £12,000.

Our annual fayres (Summer and Autumn) and Pie and Pea supper around Harvest time create a great opportunity for outreach within the community. These are well supported events and contributed just over £2,000 last year towards church funds.

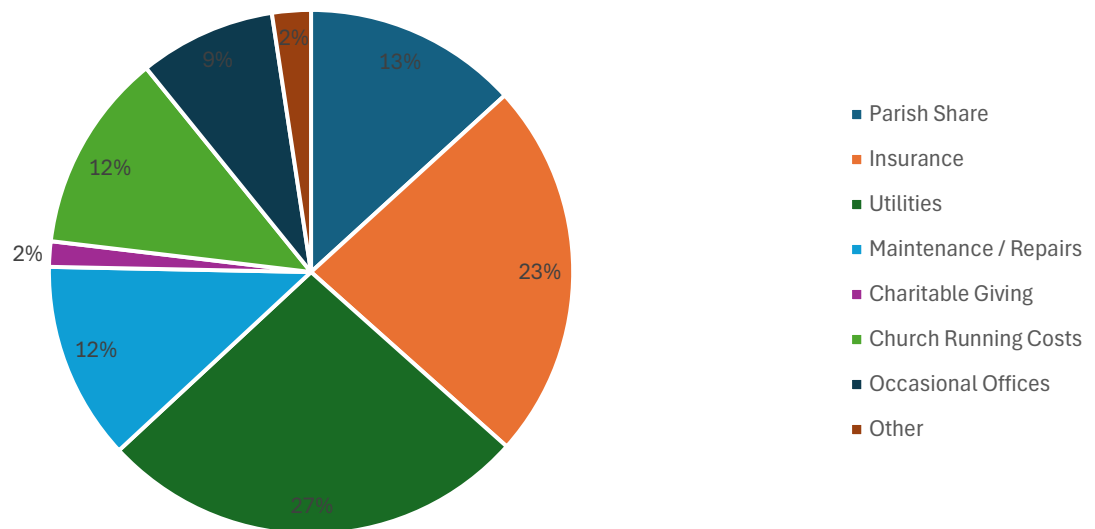
We are currently saving in a restoration fund for extensive repairs and improvements to both the Parish Church and Parish Hall. All funds from items sold or transferred from the closed churches goes towards this project. Currently we have over £26,000.

Collections at Services	£4,337.00	Parish Share	£8,200.00
Donations	£15,805.00	Insurance	£14,476.00
Fundraising	£5,700.00	Utilities	£16,425.00
Gift Aid	£12,035.00	Maintenance / Repairs	£7,577.00
Hall Rental	£12,878.00	Charitable Giving	£970.00
Investment Interest	£3,122.00	Church Running Costs	£7,623.00
Occasional Offices	£12,586.00	Occasional Offices	£5,221.00
Other	£5,049.00	Other	£1,484.00
Total Income 2024	£71,512.00	Total Expenditure 2024	£61,976.00

Income 2024



Expenditure 2024



Communication

Website – www.castlefordteamparish.co.uk

Facebook – www.facebook.com/castlefordteamparish

Instagram – www.instagram.com/casteamparish

Telephone: 07395 011955



Thanks for reading our parish brochure