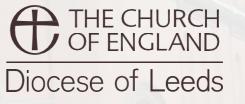


St Aidan's

Leeds -

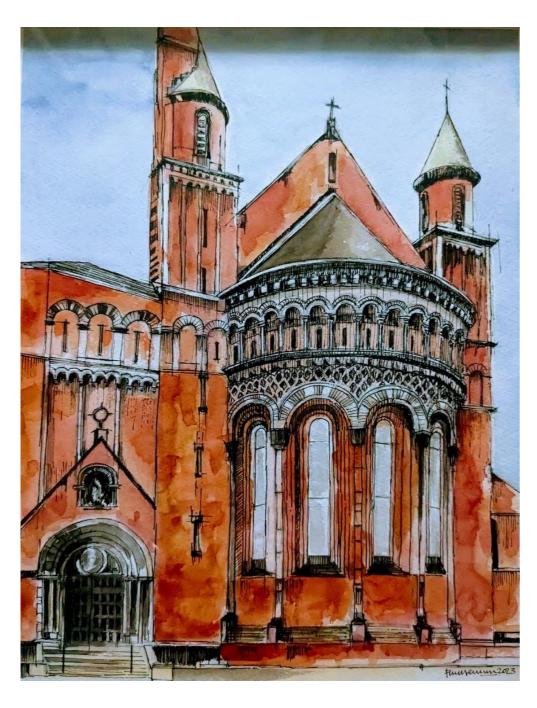
PARISH AND CHURCH BROCHURE

A worshipping, serving, sacrificing community, following the example of Christ.





Welcome to St Aidan's



WELCOME TO OUR WONDERFUL CHURCH WHERE WE CELEBRATE THE GOSPEL OF FAITH, HOPE AND CHARITY

Our magnificent Victorian church is situated in a dynamic multi-ethnic and multi-faith area of Leeds. We work prayerfully to serve our local community; to be a beacon of Christ's life and light in the heart of Harehills. We believe that the diversity of the parish and the opportunities provided by being part of the busy inner-city make St Aidan's a very special place of worship and service.

We would love to welcome a vicar who shares our values of inclusivity and social justice; will inspire our congregation to grow in faith and encourage new people into our church life to share our gospel message of faith, hope and charity.

We would love to welcome a vicar who will develop our vision to make our beautiful church building a flexible and functional place for meeting and learning for all, throughout the week, and help us raise the funds to make this possible.

We would love to welcome a vicar who is able to address and manage difficult situations that may arise with a supportive attitude and a sense of humour.

We would love to support our vicar in taking proper holidays and days off, as well as offering support for training, reading and wider personal development.







OUR PARISH IS IN A BUSY, VIBRANT, DIVERSE COMMUNITY OF AROUND 17,000 PEOPLE.

The demographic make-up of Harehills, of which our parish is situated, is diverse; with a higher than average number of Asian, Black, Middle Eastern and Gypsy Roma Traveller families living in the area. This is reflected in the diversity of the church membership on our electoral roll, which currently stands at just below 100. Most of the housing comprises of Victorian terraces and back to backs. The Vicarage is situated by the church and is a much more modern building.











OUT AND ABOUT IN THE COMMUNITY OF LS8 ...

Within in the parish there are churches of other denominations, with whom we have good links. HOPE, a Filipino church, meets in our church hall every Sunday morning.

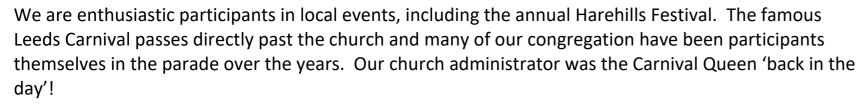
There are several mosques and Sikh gudwaras nearby; we enjoy living and working alongside their leaders and worshippers and share cordial community links with them.

Nearby is the wide open space of Roundhay Park: 700 acres of rolling parkland, lakes, woodlands, formal gardens, cafes, sport pitches, playgrounds and the Tropical World visitor attraction.



The bars, bistros, cafes and pubs of Oakwood are within a short walking distance and provide a wide range of culinary choices. Local Korean, Mediterranean, Greek, Persian and Indian restaurants all provide delicious dining options and are all recommended in the city Leeds Living food-guide.

The city centre is an easy bus ride away.



We also play a role in the wider civic life of Leeds: as a polling station; as a place for council consultations; as a place for community mediation, on the occasions when Harehills requires 'a safe space to talk'.



There is a good choice of local primary schools judged good or outstanding in their most recent Ofsted reports. Both the local 'through' schools, Roundhay, and Trinity Dixons, provide outstanding provision in their secondary KS3, KS4 and sixth form departments.





We are proud of the sense of community that St Aidan's has nurtured over the years. We are looking for a priest to build on this history as well as developing mission and ministry with the newer family groups, from a range of cultural backgrounds, who are moving into our community.

Our Church

THE PARISH MASS ON SUNDAY IS AT THE CENTRE OF OUR WORSHIPPING LIFE.



We maintain the rich tradition of our anglocatholic roots. We believe that the ritual of our Sunday Mass enables all our congregation to participate in the communion of faith and to share the symbolism of worship, whether they speak English or not; whether they are new-

comers to the Christian faith or not.

The music of St Aidan's is part of this tradition of worship. The choir is led by a Director of Music affiliated to the RSCM.

We have long welcomed the ministry of women and are blessed to have an SSM, Mother Sally Osborn, as a key part of our church team and celebrant at our weekly masses. She is ably supported by our PTO, Father Paul Hunt. We have several members of laity who are regular preachers at Mass, as well those who are readers and intercessors.

The Sunday readings and gospel have been read in more than one language over the years. At present, members of our community give the first reading and gospel in Farsi, as well as in English.





We provide Lent and Advent Study Groups. We have baptism and confirmation preparation programmes. We hold a healing mass four times a year.

We have a New Christian
Nurture Group which meets
after mass for prayer and
teaching, in English and also in
Farsi, to support the spiritual
growth and Christian
understanding of our Iranian
congregants.

We are growing links with other churches in very different parish contexts across the deanery and diocese. We would welcome the guidance and direction of our new parish priest to nurture and develop these further.







A Church of faith, hope and charity; a worshipping, serving, sacrificing community, following the example of Christ.



OUR SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY THROUGH PARTNERSHIP AND HOSTING ARRANGEMENTS, IS CENTRAL TO OUR AIM.

St Aidan's FoodShare was set up 16 years ago to provide a weekly food distribution service and a hot lunch club in school holidays. It celebrates the ministry and mission of our Patron, St Aidan, whose work to feed and convert the people of the North-East is celebrated in the beautiful mosaic by Frank Brangwyn at the East end of the church.

Over the past four years we have seen weekly Foodshare attendance triple - to over 100 individuals collecting food to feed around 300-400 people each week. Those accessing the FoodShare include large families, couples and individuals; refugees and asylum seekers (especially those with failed applications and who are destitute); those unemployed due to the pandemic and job cuts; those affected by the cost of living crisis; those unable to find full-time employment; those under benefit sanctions, and those having little or no access to social funds.

We welcome self-referrals and referrals from agencies' crisis lines.

Our FoodShare has received a Leeds Black Achievers Wings Award for our service to the community.



ORGANISATIONS AND INITIATIVES IN OUR CHURCH HALL:







The Parish Hall adjoins the Church, and hosts a number of initiatives in service of the local community:

- o **PAFRAS** Positive Action For Refugees and Asylum Seekers
- o **HELP** Harehills English Language Project
- o IntoUniversity local learning centre where young people are inspired to achieve
- o Foodcycle community food Thursday Supper for all
- o Roma outreach group
- o Farsi speaker wellbeing group
- Romanian youth group
- o Senegalese community group
- o Sudanese women's group





THE ROLE OF THE LAITY AT ST AIDAN'S

Leadership and Management:

St Aidan's is supported by a strong PCC which delegates much of its strategic responsibility to the Church Standing Committee group.

This group comprises of the PCC lay chair, secretary, treasurer and lead for HR. The SSM, Mother Sally Osborn, is also part of the group, which was previously led by our parish priest. This group meets every month to focus on specific work and strategic planning around finance, HR, estate and community involvement. All of the members of this group are professionals from public and third sector organisations and have a high level of leadership and management in these areas, as well as direct experience of, and expertise in, fundraising, working with support from Diocesan Buildings and Fundraising Officers, and other professional colleagues.

We benefit from a small paid staff – comprising of a highly competent and committed Parish Administrator; a Buildings Caretaker; a FoodShare Coordinator, and the Director of Music.

St Aidan's congregation has a significant number of people who "commute" into the parish, many of them bringing skills and enthusiasm to work of the church.

Diversity and inclusion are in our DNA. The congregation and PCC warmly accept and welcome people in same sex relationships and would want our new parish priest to support and encourage this acceptance.

We look forward to our new parish priest helping to support, deepen and broaden the development of lay leadership at St Aidan's.

Finances:



We depend upon the giving of those who attend for worship - about a third of our unrestricted income derives from congregational donations. The majority of our income is from rent and leases generated through the community hall, for parties, community events and celebrations, as well as the regular rent from the community group users. It is also supplemented by the rent from a telecom mast sited on church property. Unrestricted income in total in 2023 was just over £90,000.

Our last Stewardship Campaign was in 2017. The make-up of the congregation has changed significantly since then, especially after Covid. We would welcome the initiative of our new parish priest in leading the stewardship of our money, time and talents.

We would welcome the guidance and leadership of our new parish priest to develop the fund-raising and grant applications, for maintaining and developing the fabric of the church and to create a plan to develop its use and outreach potential.

We reimburse clergy expenses in full.

Buildings

ST AIDAN'S CHURCH IS A GRADE 2* BUILDING.

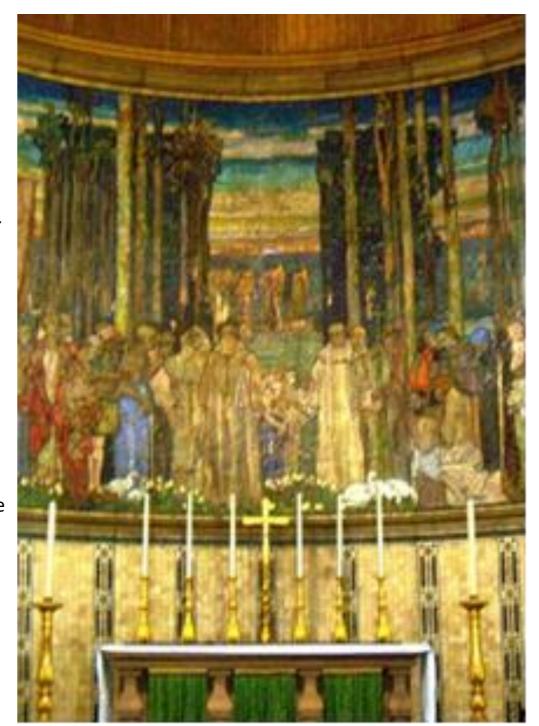
We are proud participants in the Leeds annual Heritage Open days. The sense of space in our 19th century church, built in an unusual basilica style and dominated by the magnificent Brangwyn mosaic at the high altar, is commented upon by both worshippers and visitors.

We welcome regular groups of visiting academics and history buffs who come to admire Brangwyn's wonderful work — which portrays scenes from the life of St Aidan and is the largest of its type in Northern Europe. We would like to work with our new parish priest to develop opportunities to share our heritage with a wider audience, as a means of promoting its gospel message and generating more income for the church.

Our newly appointed (2023) Inspecting Architect has a track record of working with churches on major restoration projects, including with churches in areas within West Yorkshire that are very similar to our parish. Our architect writes: "The church of St Aidan is a significant listed building within the community of Harehills and provides a large congregational space for community events in a densely populated area in Leeds."

Developing the fabric and structure of the church to support the social mission, Christian ministry and community outreach of St Aidan's is a key priority for the PCC. Our architect's Quinquennial Report, received in January 2024, identifies that major works are required, which the PCC recognises as being an important project in coming years.

Our hope is that, as we undertake this work, we will also be able to consider adaptations to the church - to develop the space for our worshipping congregation and as a more accessible and 'multi-functional' community space. This will grow rich and fruitful connections with the neighbourhood around us and allow us to invite more people into our church to experience the love of God at first hand.



The priest we are seeking

St Aidan's is a happy, vibrant church, situated in the heart of inner-city Leeds. We are looking for a priest who will guide and serve us; who has experience of leading a busy parish and the skills to develop warm and caring relationships – with those who worship in our church as well as the many community partners who work with us.



The PCC would like our new parish priest to:

Grow our culturally diverse church in discipleship, faith and numbers

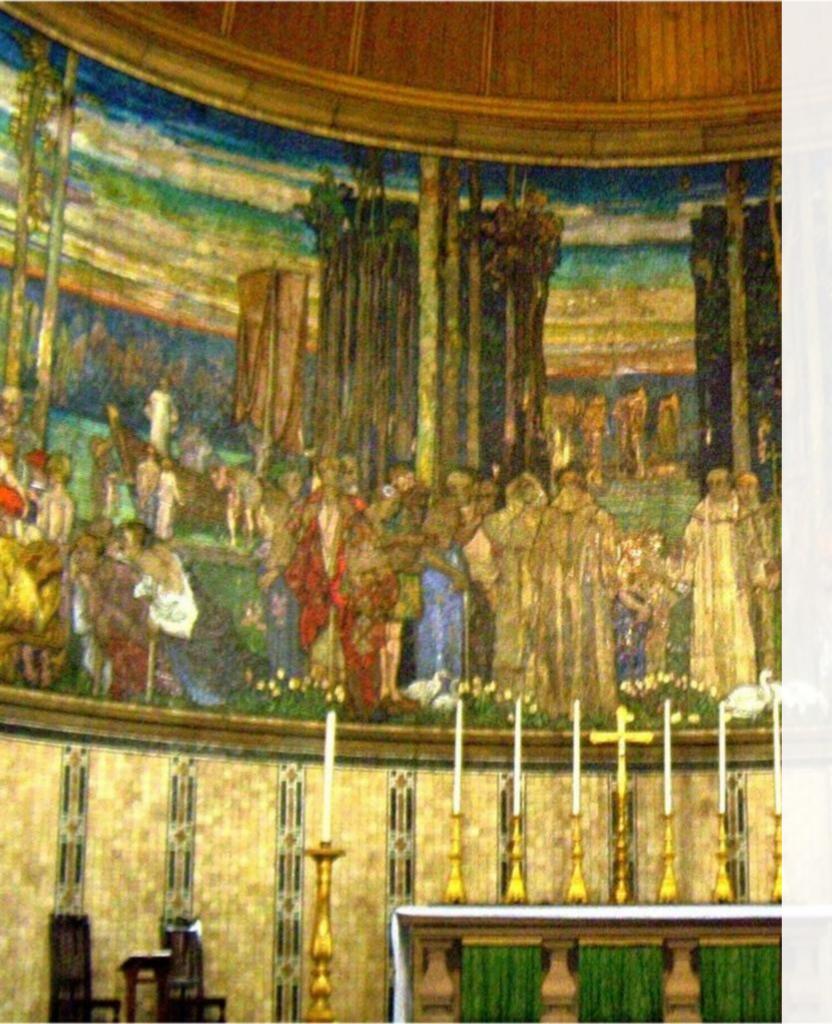
Develop lay leadership to build our church as a place of worship and faith

Create space for community learning, cohesion and growth

Celebrate and develop our city-wide reputation and practice of inclusion and welcome

St Aidan's is committed to being a worshipping, serving, sacrificing community following the gospel and example of Jesus Christ. We are proud of our rich tradition of liturgy and practice, with Parish Mass at the centre of our weekly worship. We are proud of our mission and ministry to promote social justice, to feed the hungry and to welcome those most in need of support and compassion.

We hope that you will share our pride and our ambition to grow the parish of St Aidan's to be the best it can be; to be the beating heart of Christ in the inner city of Leeds and feel called to lead, guide and serve us.



St Aidan's Leeds

Address

St Aidan's Church
Elford Place West
Leeds
LS8 5QD
Location only – not for post

St Aidan's enquiries

enquiries@staidan-leeds.org.uk 07754 450967

