



1. Overview

Elmete Trinity Benefice consists of three semi rural villages on the eastern side of Leeds, each within a 15 minute drive of one another. Each village is a distinct community, and each church has its own way of being church to that community. All the villages have a wide variety of community, social, sporting and cultural activities for all ages and each church engages with these in both traditional and new ways.

Worship styles vary across the three churches, with each recognising the importance of music in worship. Our licensed and authorised lay ministers have found ministering in the differing styles rewarding and enriching. Each church has developed its own way of helping people to, in the words of our vacancy prayer, 'grow in faith, love one another, care for those in need, reach out to others, and welcome newcomers.'

We can offer you a benefice which has used the time since our last incumbent left in August 2021 to work more closely together, address some of our more pressing needs, encourage more lay involvement and gradually recover much of the ground lost by the pandemic. We will support you with respect, love, care and prayer and welcome all that you will bring to us.

The clergy house is a relatively modern, well laid out home situated next to the church in Thorner with a private garden and good parking. Thorner village is in a rural setting with plenty of footpath walks whilst being situated close to the cultural and sporting facilities of Leeds, York and Harrogate. The North Yorkshire National Park, East Coast and Yorkshire Dales are all within an hour's drive. Each of our villages has a Primary School, those in Thorner and Barwick being Voluntary Controlled Church Schools. From Thorner excellent secondary schools are available at Tadcaster Grammar School and Boston Spa Academy and a little further away, St Aidan's, Harrogate, and others.

Our next rector will be assured of a warm and supportive welcome from both the church and village communities. They will work with a strong lay team including one retired priest, three LLM's and one nearing the end of her training, an authorised Lay Worship Leader and another nearing the end of his training, a group of people already leading home study groups, a part time benefice administrator and committed wardens, PCC members and officers.

The house.

The clergy housed consists of



Ground floor

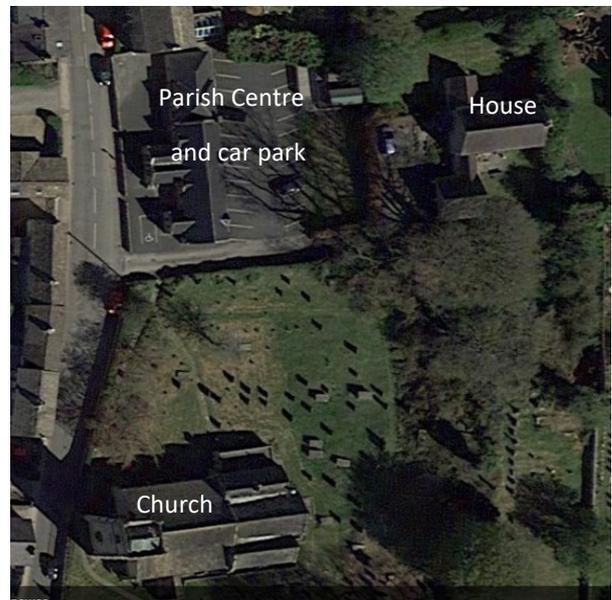
Outer hall with access to study and WC
Inner hall, fitted kitchen with cooker and utility room,
lounge with gas fire
dining room

First floor

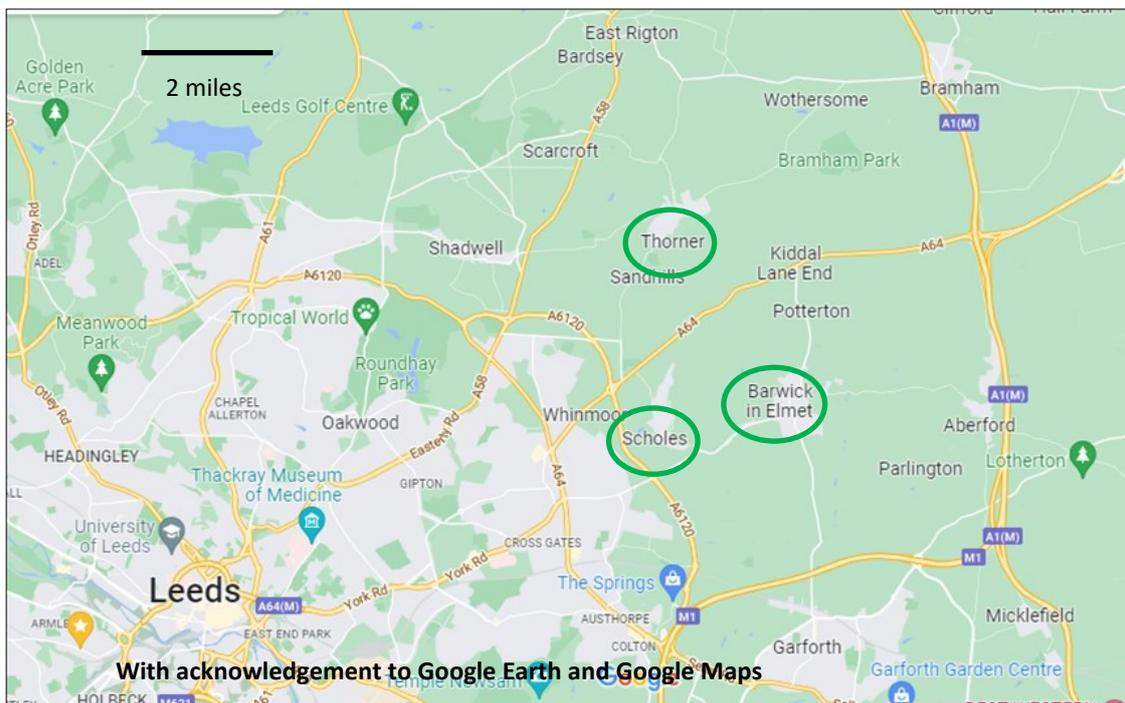
Landing with store cupboard, four bedrooms, bathroom,
separate WC

Outside

Large double garage with access from the house
ample car parking and gardens to four sides
Built mid-1990s, with gas central heating



The diocese is planning some upgrades. The fire detection system is being improved, the bathroom is being re-tiled, a new boiler system is being installed , and a new kitchen and utility room are planned before the next incumbent moves in.



With acknowledgement to Google Earth and Google Maps

2. The broader context

diocesan information

The Diocese of Leeds was formed at Easter 2014. It is one of the largest dioceses in the country covering an area of around 2425 square miles and a population of around 2642400 people. The diocese comprises five Episcopal areas, each served by a suffragan Bishop. Each Episcopal Area is coterminous with an Archdeaconry.

The Diocesan Vision is 'confident Christians, growing churches, transforming communities and so helping share the Good News of Jesus Christ across our Diocese'. This Vision is embedded into the Diocesan Strategy and Goals.

The Diocese is a mix of urban and rural. The area includes the major cities of Bradford, Leeds and Wakefield; the large industrial and post-industrial towns of Halifax, Huddersfield and Dewsbury; the market towns of Harrogate, Skipton, Ripon, Richmond and Wetherby; and the deeply rural area of the Yorkshire Dales.

The Diocese is unique in having three cathedrals; Bradford, Ripon and Wakefield. The Deans of the Cathedrals work together to provide key diocesan services.

Our vision as the Diocese is about confident clergy equipping confident Christians to live and tell the good news of Jesus Christ. For all of our appointments we are seeking clergy who have a joyful and confident faith which has inspired a track record of church growth.

These three churches are rich in able people with a wide range of gifts, including those who are or have been senior professionals with large responsibilities. They are at a point where they can develop every-member ministry and lay leadership. During the pandemic many have grown in confidence to take on spiritual ministries that they may not have done before, including leading on-line worship and reflections. This needs to be encouraged by a priest who is committed to the theory and practice of every-member ministry.

In the Episcopal Area/Archdeaconry we approach our mission with the whole of Leeds in view, and we encourage churches in these outlying villages to see themselves not in isolation but as interdependent with the rest of the city.

3. Our next rector

Alongside those key ministerial qualities of a love for God, a sense of calling to our benefice and a desire to share God's love widely, we are particularly looking for someone who:

- is rich in experience of serving God in both ordained ministry and in the lay life that preceded it.
- has a love for people and is comfortable in loving, caring for and pastoring people in a wide range of situations and is willing to be a visible presence in our three communities.
- has a proven record of working with a team of lay people and is able, through example and teaching, to equip all the saints for the work of ministry.
- is comfortable leading worship in both traditional and contemporary styles including placing a high value on All Age Worship.
- will work collaboratively to bring new ideas to our church communities.
- values and will encourage and support ministry across all ages
- is approachable, adaptable, has a genuine sense of fun and is hard working and careful to protect time off.
- is sympathetic to the history and tradition of our churches
- will walk with us as we seek to share responsibility, grow in faith, love one another, care for those in need, reach out to others, and welcome newcomers.

4. The benefice

The benefice was formed on 1st January 2016 by joining the three parishes of Barwick, Scholes and Thorner. These are three modest villages in outer East Leeds with populations respectively of approximately 2500, 2300 and 2800. The Thorner figure is made up of approximately 1800 in Thorner village and approximately 1000 in the neighbouring village of Scarcroft, giving a total benefice population of approximately 7500.



Our three villages have a slightly higher than average population over the age of 65 and are among the least deprived areas in the country. Villagers take a pride in the appearance of their neighbourhood and there are many active groups for all ages and interests. The three villages can boast seven pubs/ restaurants between them, some very active sports clubs, Royal British Legion branches and uniformed organisations.

Each village has a well subscribed and thriving Primary School, those in Barwick and Thorner being Church of England Voluntary Controlled schools. There are several secondary schools within an easy drive. The university cities of Leeds and York are close by. Although housing development is drawing closer to our communities, especially Scholes, our villages are still surrounded by green space with an extensive network of public footpaths.



Community is an important word in our villages. Each has a number of community events from film nights and beer festivals, to a community choir and apple pressing. The event with the largest attendance is the triennial Barwick Maypole celebration where the tallest Maypole in the country is raised surrounded by a festival, a parade, stalls and displays every third year.

We think that the Elmete Trinity Benefice is a great place in which to live and to minister. Despite its seeming tranquillity there are pockets of deep need, both emotionally and financially. Our churches are in good heart, are well known and respected in their communities and are looking forward in faith to the next stage of our joint life and ministry.

5. The churches

In this section we want to give you a flavour of what church life in our benefice looks and feels like.

Since our vacancy began we have been discovering more about our shared values and additional ways in which we can work more closely together. These include a monthly benefice service, membership of our various home groups being drawn from across the three churches and the distribution of seasonal Reflections and a weekly sermon text to the 150 strong benefice email list.

These are the highlights of our common life as discerned by our three PCCs :

- the centrality of worship, fellowship, the Bible and service.
- a deep commitment to lay ministry in all its variety.
- a desire to see our churches grow in numbers, spiritual commitment and service.
- the blessing of having a team of worship leaders and preachers who minister across the benefice.
- the use of our buildings for mission as well as worship.
- an appreciation in each church community of the gentle differences in emphasis of each of our churches in worship and outreach.
- all of our churches engage with under 11s, and would like to grow that engagement.
- since the pandemic all of our churches lack a ministry to teenagers and young adults and all feel the loss of that ministry.
- the blessing of a competent and hard working part time Benefice Administrator and Communications Officer
- active and efficient Parish Safeguarding Officers in each church with up to date checks and policies in place.
- an active benefice YouTube channel <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC2ID3IKifaJisVxxttTBJJg>

There is a Part Time Benefice Administrator
and Communications Officer, Hilary Marsden



Across the benefice in 2022 there were
23 Baptisms, 10 Weddings and 30 Funerals

What we can offer our new rector

Over many years our churches have experience of welcoming incumbents with different levels of ministerial experience. Some have been near the end of their parish ministry, and some have joined us straight from their education and curacy. This has given church officers and members an appreciation of the needs of a new incumbent, no matter what their background.

There is a strong willingness in the congregations, leadership, and worship & teaching teams to work well and collaboratively with our next rector. All the churches have a sense that they have a lot of untapped potential which a new rector can release, and are open to trying new ways of being church in their community.

Each PCC has committed itself to providing our next rector with personal support, love and prayer. This will be seen practically in protected time off, protected time for reading and ministerial development and expenses paid fully and on time.

We understand the importance of spending time outside the benefice for personal and ministerial refreshment and growth. Our last rector was heavily involved with the Festival Angels team at the Leeds Festival, which is held at Bramham Park adjacent to the benefice. A previous rector was a member of the General Synod. We work closely with our next door parish which is the most deprived parish in the diocese. We will encourage you to make a regular retreat, and, should you wish it, help you to find a confidential prayer partner within the benefice.

It is important to us that our next rector, like their predecessors, enjoys their time with us. During our vacancy we have addressed many of the challenges facing us. Post-covid there are some which we need help with, but we do not have a backlog of work awaiting an appointment.

Our three village communities are all looking forward to welcoming a new rector.



On a personal level the clergy house is a purpose built home next to the church in Thorner, with a safe and private garden. Thorner is a village with an Ofsted rated 'Good' primary school and a wide variety of clubs and societies for all ages. It has excellent road links in all directions and is close to Leeds, Wetherby, Harrogate and York. The Yorkshire Dales and Coast are within an hours drive and Leeds and York have excellent rail links.

The Leadership Team



Carole Cassidy

&

Leslye Thomas

All Saints' Church Wardens



Simon Belcher

PCC Vice Chair

&

Chair of the Vacancy Committee

at St Peter's



Ann Riley

&

Peter Heyes

St Philip's Church Wardens

There is also a Benefice Advisory Group made up of the above and one licensed minister from each church. This group takes an over-view of worship and teaching across the benefice, co-ordinates events and meets regularly to share concerns and blessings.

The Worship & Teaching Team



Beckie Briggs
LLM in Training



Matt Briggs
Occasional Preacher



The Revd Kathryn Elliott
PTO



John Crouch
Reader without PTO



Ros Loach
LLM with PTO



Keith Langley
Occasional Preacher
and worship leader



Sarah Meredith
LLM



Alan Stanley
LLM with PTO
& P/T Chaplain HMP
Wealstun



Simon Smalley
Authorised Lay Worship Leader
(from June 2023)



Debra Wheeler
Authorised Lay
Worship Leader

The team meets roughly once a term as an informal peer support group. It looks at aspects of leading worship and preaching and provides a space for mutual support and learning.

The churches one by one

A look at how each church approaches worship and mission in its own setting.

All Saints, Barwick.

All Saints is the oldest church building in the benefice and its members value the combination of a deep sense of God's peace in a place where prayer has been offered for over 1000 years and the awareness of the need to maintain that space as a centre of witness and welcome to everyone in the village today. The combination of liturgical worship and worship offered by children in the village school is central to the life of the church, which prides itself on holding at least 10 services each month. Members value the friendliness of the congregants at each service.

Worship & teaching



Sunday services focus on a relaxed liturgy

10.30am services

1st Sunday All Age Worship

2nd Sunday Holy Communion

3rd Sunday All Age Holy Communion

4th Sunday Morning Worship

Music is provided by organ and robed choir

8am services

1st & 3rd Sundays Holy Communion by Extension

Wednesday Services at 10.30am alternate between Holy Communion and Morning Worship.

There is a regular Bible Study group and during Lent and Advent study groups are run with the Methodists which are highly valued



Reaching out

The ministry to the village school is a most important part of All Saints' outreach, as well as being a great joy!



Tweet

Thanks again to Messy Church for a wonderful storytelling experience on the Prodigal Son! 🙌



15:16 · 03/05/2022 · [Twitter Web App](#)

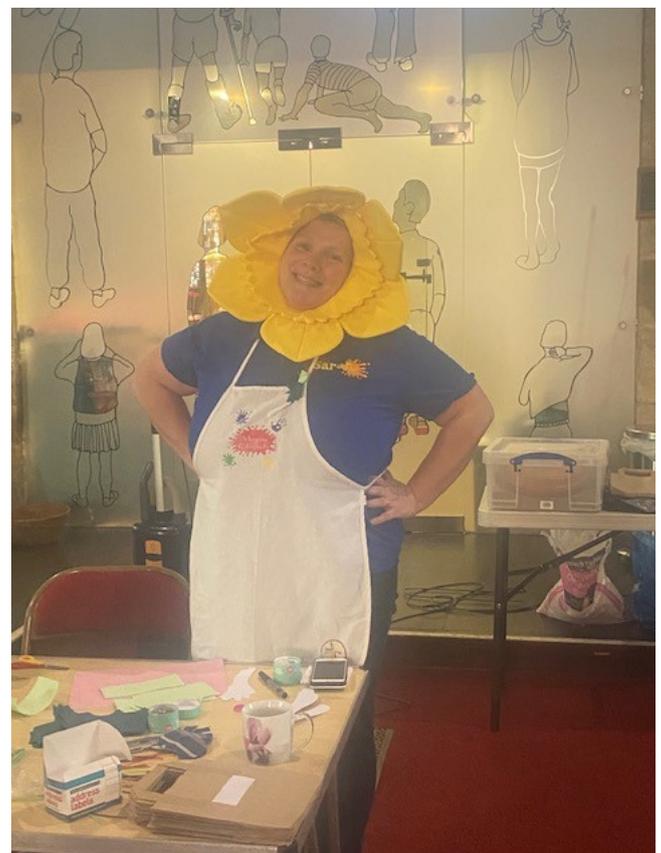
3 Likes



sarah drury @sarahdru... · 03/05/2022

Replying to [@Barwick_CE_Primary](#)

What a pleasure it is to have such wonderful children love messy church and love Barwick primary school xx





All Saints is blessed with a dedicated group who keep the grounds in great shape.



Charity Christmas Card Sale
and
Christmas Tree Festival



Remembrance Sunday is always a special date in the calendar .



Social evenings are seen as opportunities to invite friends into the church.

All Saints sees its strengths as (in no particular order)

- Having a confident and committed core despite the many challenges it continues to face.
- Its lay leaders
- The amount of good will there is towards the church in the village
- Its Family Fun and Messy Church events.
- The services which engage with the wider community, principally the Service of Light and Remembrance Sunday observances.
- Its engagement with the community shown in the number of baptisms and funerals; the fact that people feel welcome to come for these life events.
- The fact that, despite financial constraints, it continues to maintain its outward giving at 10% of unrestricted income and contribute to, and work with, a local Food Bank

All Saints sees its challenges as

- Addressing its difficult financial situation.
- The fact that it has an ageing congregation and lacks children and young families at its Sunday and mid week services.
- Some aspects of its building—the fixed pews, which result in a lack of flexibility and storage, and the fact that the lighting is in need of renewal.

Website <https://www.barwickcofechurch.co.uk/>

St Peter, Thorner.

St Peter's sees itself as a community which offers a strong welcome to everyone, young children and families being especially welcome. It values the spread of type of services it now provides, having made a change from solely Eucharistic services at the start of the vacancy to more Services of The Word now. It is a church which runs on a team work model, the PCC having a number of task specific sub groups and, in the absence of any Church wardens, a highly effective Vacancy Committee. St Peter's has strong links to the village school and is particularly proud of being instrumental in forming 'Thorner Cares' which has created a legacy post covid. The church is linked with a parish in Sri Lanka.

Although there is mention of St Peter's in the Domesday Book the church was substantially rebuilt in the mid 15th century and almost completely rebuilt in 1885. A significant re-ordering of the chancel and sanctuary was carried out approximately 25 years ago.

Worship & teaching



Photograph taken at a special service a few years ago

Sunday services are from a printed liturgy

9.15 am services

1st Sunday Holy Communion

2nd Sunday All Age Worship

3rd Sunday Holy Communion

4th Sunday Morning Worship

Music is recorded and supported by a robed choir

There are robed servers for the Holy Communion services

Children are an important part of the Sunday worship at St Peter's. The 18-20 strong Junior Choir which sings at the AAW services is a particular church growth point.



There is an occasional weekday Bible Study group and in the past Lent and Advent groups have been reasonably well attended.

Reaching out

Close connections with the school and the village ensure that services like the Harvest Festival are well attended. 96 adults and children attended the 2022 service



Reaching out and deepening fellowship through social events is an important part of life at St Peter's



.... as is providing a welcoming space for those important life events like weddings, christenings and funerals.....

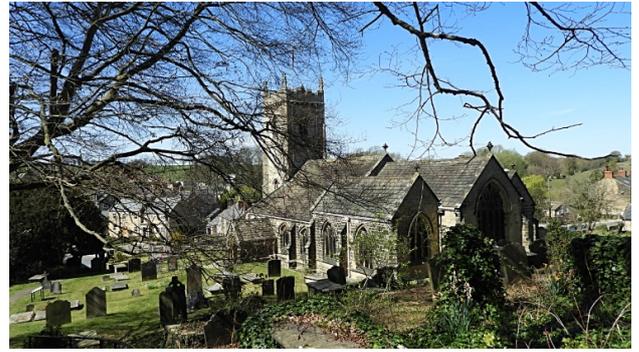


... and Remembrance Sunday.





St Peter's has links with the Church of St John the Baptist St John's Boys Home, Kegalle, Sri Lanka.



St Peter's PCC resolved to support efforts to reduce negative environmental impact of the activities of the church. The substance of implementing it is work in progress.



St Peter's is looking forward to resuming its printed magazine. This has been distributed as a PDF copy since 2020 and has a wide circulation throughout the village.



The school in church for Easter 2022



Thorner Parish Centre next to the Church is an independently run great resource for the church and community.

St Peter's sees its strengths as (in no particular order)

- Welcoming families, and all ages.
- Offering a spread of type of services.
- Embracing the change from solely Eucharistic services to a range of services.
- Possessing a strong and committed choir – including frequent children's contributions.
- Growing a number of effective teams which work very well 'up front' and 'behind the scenes'.
- Being a community which helps people to feel like they belong.
- Having strong links with the school.
- Developing lay leadership.
- Strongly supporting the organisation of Thorner Cares which has created a legacy post covid.
- Having sound finances, building and grounds.
- Contributing to, and working with, a local Food Bank.

St Peter's sees its challenges as

- Connecting with all parts of the parish.
- Encouraging fringe members to move to the centre, particularly those who visit occasionally to become more regular worshippers.
- Having an ageing population.
- Having a gap in its youth ministry and worship.
- Reversing its modest financial deficit over the past two years and continuing its policy of outward giving to a wide variety of causes in this country and abroad.

Website <https://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/3303/>

St Philip, Scholes.

St Philip's describes itself as an inclusive and fellowship oriented church with a strong sense of God's call to serve and make disciples. It has a good supply of active members, is open to new ideas and demonstrates a 'can do' attitude. There is an appreciation of 'every member ministry' which enables its very versatile building to be used for many midweek activities as well as lending itself to a variety of worship styles.

The church was built in 1966 and the original church turned into the church hall. The pews were removed and replaced with chairs some years ago and new liturgical furniture was installed four years ago.



Sunday services focus on informality and fellowship.

1st Sunday Either Morning Worship or A Service of Communion by Extension sometimes with prayer for healing

2nd Sunday All Age Worship led by the AAW Team

3rd Sunday Morning Worship

4th Sunday Holy Communion

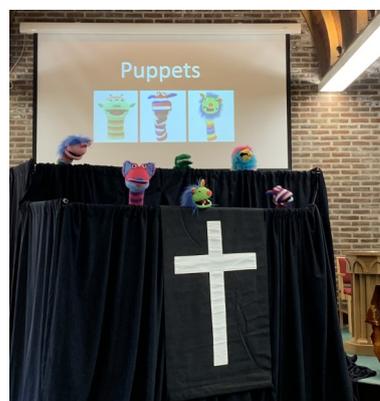
Music is provided by a small worship group

Puppets are an important part of AAW services and puppeteers meet regularly as a club to plan and practise.

AAW frequently uses learning or prayer stations and is run by a team of all ages.

There is a small but committed children's group on Sunday mornings called IMPACT.

This meets in the church hall.



The after service fellowship is an important part of the more traditional Holy Communion service on the 1st and 3rd Friday afternoons of each month

An open air service for the Queen's Jubilee was a joint event with the Methodist Church and was resourced by the Gawthorpe Brass band. The same band play for the Carols by Candlelight Service



St Philip's hosts the Barwick & Scholes branch of the Mothers Union



There is a long tradition of Bible Study and Fellowship groups in St Philips.

The current one meets every two weeks in the Church Hall and has around a dozen members.

This is a picture of an Alpha style Christian Basics course.

Reaching out



St Philip's is a significant collection centre for the Seacroft Food Bank. A car boot full of essential donations is taken every week



Little Fishes is a great Tuesday morning church run time for tots and carers



Elmete Elderberries is a church initiated group fighting social exclusion. It meets in the church every Monday afternoon.



The St Philip's Community Café is open every Friday morning and on the last Saturday of each month. It attracts around 50 –60 people at each opening and has become a real village meeting point. Local groups, like a book club, use it as their own meeting point. Profits from the café are shared between the church and good causes.

No Trick—Our Treat is an important part of St Philip's outreach. Every year two hundred or more people of all ages are welcomed to free food and soft drinks. At Halloween the church is set up with craft tables with a Christian theme. This has become a must go to event for many village families.



The Live Stream of our services regularly reaches 30-40 views whilst special services, like the service of Commemoration for Queen Elizabeth, can reach 60+. We know that these services are really appreciated by our housebound members across the benefice.

St Philip's sees its strengths as (in no particular order)

- Welcoming and using a diversity of talents.
- Being a collaborative and united church with no divisions.
- Providing a safe place where new and difficult ideas can be faced.
- Having a good IT team enabling the church to embrace how the world has changed post pandemic.
- Its Community Café, Little Fishes group and being involved in and hosting many community events.
- Being financially sound and having well maintained buildings (church and hall) and grounds.
- Contributing to, and working with, a local Food Bank.
- Seeking to join in with the mission of God in Scholes and beyond by praying each Sunday to “grow in faith, love one another, care for those in need, reach out to others, and welcome newcomers”.

St Philip's sees its challenges as

- Continually discovering where God is leading and following God there.
- Becoming a more inclusive, diverse and engaged Christian community.
- Developing stewardship and pastoral care.
- Turning contacts into disciples by developing new ways of growing the worshipping community, which may not mean only on Sundays.
- Developing contact with the school.
- Maintaining its finances so as to be able to continue its policy of giving away 10% of income each year to charities and mission agencies, including £1000 annually to the Lighthouse Church in Leeds.

Website <https://www.stphilips-scholes.org/>



Elmete Trinity Benefice

In the next five years all our churches would like to be more confident in naming our faith; more responsive to discerning where God is leading us; more involved with our village communities and more financially secure.

We are praying that God will send the right person to make the journey with us.

Prayer during our vacancy

Heavenly Father, during this vacancy,
guard and grow this Benefice as we serve you together in this period
without a rector.

Lord Jesus, we know that you have plans for us
and that these plans are good.
We ask now that you will help us to share responsibility,
grow in faith, love one another, care for those in need,
reach out to others, and welcome newcomers.

Holy Spirit, please guide those who are seeking
the right person for us,
and those who are seeking the right place for their ministry,
that together we may discover your way for the future
and see your kingdom grow.

Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen