

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. Additional information may be given by way of printed documents or written submissions.

Please write in black ink

I. Parish Information

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| 1(a) | Name of parish(es) to which this information relates: | Lofthouse |
| (b) | Name(s) of parish church(es): | Christ Church |
| 2. | Name(s) of other C of E church(es)/centres for public worship in the parish: | None |
| 3. | Cluster or group of parishes within which you work (formally or) informally: | The Rothwell, Lofthouse, Methley with Mickletown and Oulton with Woodlesford Team Ministry. |
| 4. | Deanery: | South Leeds |
| 5. | Population: <i>The 2011 census information gives the following figures. Please indicate how this might have changed since then.</i> | 9,686 (cf. https://cuf.org.uk/parish/460289) Further house building has taken since the last census in all four villages in the Parish. |

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| 6(a) | Number on Electoral Roll: | 36 |
| (b) | Date of APM when this number was declared: | To be declared 27 th May 2025 at the APM |

7. Attendance at worship in each church

Please provide details of average attendance at Sunday and weekday services

| Church/Service | Time | No. of communicants | Adult attendance | Under 16 |
|-----------------------------|--------|---------------------|------------------|----------|
| Sung Eucharist | 9.30am | 20 | 25 | 5 |
| Said Eucharist (Wednesdays) | 10am | 8 | 8 | 0 |
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8. Occasional offices

Number for last 12 months in each church

| Church | Baptisms | Confirmations | Weddings | Funerals in church | Funerals taken by clergy not in church |
|---------------|----------|---------------|----------|--------------------|--|
| Christ Church | 8 | 2 | 3 | 16 | 4 |
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9. Communications

Names, Addresses, Telephone Numbers and E-mail addresses for each church

| Church | Clergy | Readers | Lay staff eg Youth worker, Administrator | Churchwardens |
|-------------------------|-------------------|---------|---|-----------------|
| Christ Church Lofthouse | Revd Mandy Rhodes | | Mrs. Mary Liversedge Mrs Jayne Elliott Tracy Scholey (Parish Safeguarding Officer & Children's Ministry) | Mrs Chris Laird |

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| | | | Karen McLean (Children's Ministry) | |
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II. Parish/Community Information

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| 1(a) | Briefly describe the population mix of the(se) parish(es) in terms of its employment, cultural, ethnic, age and housing mix. | <p>The parish is comprised of 4 villages: Lofthouse, Carlton, Thorpe and Robin Hood, each with its own identity.</p> <p>This is a former mining area but now largely relies on farming and small businesses.</p> <p>It is popular with commuters working in Leeds and Wakefield because of the easy access to main roads and the M62 and M1 motorways.</p> <p>Housing is mainly owner occupied.</p> <p>The ethnic mix is predominantly white British.</p> <p>There are no other faith communities represented in the parish.</p> |
| (b) | Are there any special social problems (eg high unemployment)? | There is not a huge problem with social problems with the exception of the current financial crisis giving rise to more people making use of the foodbank. |
| 2. | <p>Please list for each</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local Schools: Youth centres: Hospitals: Nursing/elderly persons' homes: Places of worship of other faiths Local Businesses: | <p>Carlton Primary Robin Hood Primary Thorpe Primary Rodillian Academy</p> <p>Orchard Care Home – Lofthouse Lodge and Lofthouse Grange.</p> <p>No places of worship of other faiths represented in the parish; but other Christian denomination - Lofthouse Methodist Church.</p> <p>Thompson's Farm, Greenfield Produce, Rhubarb Triangle Farm Shop, Carlton Lane Pharmacy, Nisa general stores, One Stop Shop, Post Office in Robin Hood, various public houses, Robin Hood Fisheries, Chinese Restaurant & takeaway, Pizza takeaway,</p> |

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| | | Halfway Garage car sales and repairs, Filling station, hairdressers, beauty salon, small industrial estates at Lofthouse Hill and Rothwell Haigh, Lofthouse Security. |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Neighbourhood initiatives: | Police and Community Team (PACT) Lofthouse Children's Centre Carlton football and cricket clubs Community Centres Lofthouse Millennium Green |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Associations eg tourist group: | |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Describe any civic responsibilities which the clergy have: | Team Vicar, Revd Mandy Rhodes, is Chaplain to the Rothwell Branch of the Royal British Legion. |

III. Church Information

Please give details for each church

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| 1(a) | What percentage of the congregation lives outside the parish? | 33% |
| (b) | Describe the mix of the congregation in terms of age, employment, cultural, ethnicity, age and gender. | 60% over 70 10% under 10 1 teenager 70% retired 20% male 80% female Very little ethnic diversity |
| 2(a) | How would you describe the churchmanship tradition of each church and give details of robes and vestments worn by officiants? | The church tradition is Liberal catholic with full vestments worn for Eucharistic worship at the PCC's discretion. There is reserved sacrament. |
| (b) | What is the regular average weekly giving of those 16 years & over and what proportion of the giving is gift aided? | Regular average weekly giving £254 71% gift aided |

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| (c) | When did you last have a stewardship campaign? | There was initial discussion with Paul Winstanley prior to his retirement but unfortunately Covid 19 restrictions caused everything to be put on hold. |
| 3. | How does your Church supplement its direct giving in order to meet its financial needs? | Funds are raised through the TLC Community Café; Indoor Curling; raffles; fairs; fashion shows; church hall stall; church hall lettings to regular groups, children's parties and as a polling station. |
| 4(a) | What amount of working expenses were paid to the clergy in the last financial year? | £1,637(2024) |
| (b) | Were these met in full? | Yes |
| (c) | Is there an annual discussion about level of expenses as part of the PCC's budgeting process? | No, but finances are discussed at each bi-monthly PCC meetings. |

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| 5(a) | What amount of Share has (a) been requested; and (b) been paid from the parish in: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> last year? (2024) current year? (2025) next year ? (2026) | <u>Share requested</u> £37,503 £34,375 | <u>Share Paid</u> £29,503 £9,875 to April |
| (b) | Will this year's be met? | Possibly not in full, due to huge increases in expenditure, but will endeavour to pay as much as possible | |
| 6(a) | Is there any capital project in hand at the moment? | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Memory Garden 2. External paintwork including wood and metalwork. 3. South wall dampness external and internal | |
| (b) | Please give brief details with costs and state how they are to be met. | <p>There is still a lot to be done as the area needs a complete clean up. A small area has been completed funding shrubs etc. There is to be a seating area and a memory tree which are made bespoke according to requirements. Money has been raised by donations and raffles and is still ongoing.</p> <p>Quotes for the external woodwork, paintwork and metalwork as follows: £2,652. Metalwork £600. Church Front doors £1,100 External woodwork These quotes were received in 2023. We are still awaiting permission to proceed from the DAC and when we do new quotes will have to be obtained as everything will be much more expensive. The dampness project has yet to be tackled.</p> <p>The former will be funded from donations and the latter from a legacy.</p> | |
| 7. | Please attach a copy of the last PCC accounts. | See attached | |
| 8(a) | What is the general state of repair of: the Church(es) - <i>please list</i> | Reasonably good but with some maintenance required. (See 6a) | |

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| (b) | Please give details of major maintenance needed following the last quinquennial. | External re-painting. |

IV. Outreach and Mission

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| 1(a) | What are the regular mission and outreach activities of the parish? | TLC Community Café Foodbank Messy Tots G2H (Grief to Hope) support group Lighthouse Kids |
| (b) | What are you doing to help people find out about Jesus? | Lent Courses Advent Courses Messy Tots A new "Welcome " leaflet to be distributed around the parish. |
| (c) | What are you doing to help grow people in discipleship? | Lent courses Advent Courses |
| (d) | What are you doing to grow people in leadership? | One person currently training for ordained ministry after previously attending Lay theological training. Encouraging people to offer themselves for LEM and worship leadership. One person was commissioned last year 2024. Another is currently undergoing LPM training. Encouraging Lay service leadership. |
| 2(a) | Please give details of the support of the Church overseas: | Two children sponsored through Sponsorship Compassion UK. Water Aid |
| (b) | How much is given annually? | £968 |
| 3(a) | Give details of the support for home missions and charities: | Wakefield Hospice. Foodbank run in church, by church members. |
| (b) | How much is given annually? | £2,338.74 |
| 3(a) | Does the parish have an overseas link? | No |
| (b) | If so, please state where/who? | |
| 4(a) | Is there an organised system of outreach and welcome to new families? | Through the following activities: Messy Tots; TLC Café; Indoor Curling; G2H (bereavement support group). |

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| (b) | If so, please describe: | Through gentle welcome and invitation, building and nurturing relationships. Several people attending the above groups have joined in regular or occasional worship. Quite a few volunteer their help at social functions and also our TLC café. |
| 5. | What part does the church play in community care? | Foodbank. G2H – Grief to Hope bereavement support. TLC Community Café. |

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| 6(a) | Are there any Lay Eucharistic Assistants who take communion to the sick? | Yes 2 licensed LEM's plus 1 assistant for safeguarding purposes |
| (b) | If so, who are they? | Karen McLean Tracy Scholey Sylvia Green (assistant) |
| 7. | What work does the church undertake with young people, other than in church based organisations (eg open youth work)? | Nothing at the moment. |

V. Ecumenical Relations

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| 1(a) | State involvement in local Council of Churches: | There is no local Council of Churches in the area. |
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| (b) | Is there a formal covenant with any other denomination? | No |
| 2. | What informal ecumenical contacts are there? | The Vicar is authorised to lead worship and preach at the local Methodist Church. |

VI. Church Education and Social Provision

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| 1(a) | Name of Church School(s) if applicable: | N/A |
| (b) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aided? • Controlled? • Foundation? | |
| (c) | Number of pupils on roll (approx)? | |
| (d) | If aided, does the PCC support the school? | |

VII. Lay Education and Participation

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| 1. | <p>What education and training work takes place in the Church for the following (give approx numbers):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children • Young People • Adults | <p>October 2024 Lighthouse Kids was launched on Sunday mornings to coincide with morning worship. There are currently 2/3 children who attend regularly, hopefully this will expand bit by bit.</p> <p>Approximately 25 children and their carers attend Messy Tots, which includes a Christian message and activity.</p> <p>Lent Course 10 attendees.</p> |
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| | | Advent Course 10 attendees. |
| 2(a) | Give details of house/prayer groups: | |
| (b) | Are the leaders clergy or lay? | The leaders in section 1 include lay and clergy leadership. |
| 3(a) | How do you rate the strength of lay leadership? | Committed, faithful and informed. |
| (b) | To what do you credit this strength, or lack of it? | An obvious willingness to constantly refresh individual faith learning and encourage others along on their own faith journey. |

VIII. Mission

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| 1. | List areas of Church life which you consider in need of development. | Youth work, enabling lay leadership of outreach projects to teenagers and young adults. |
| 2. | What are the main areas of mission that you think the new priest should prioritise in their ministry? | Identifying and encouraging gifts and resources and empowerment of further lay ministry. |
| 3. | In summary, what are the top three challenges with which you and the new priest need to | Support what our church is trying to achieve in terms of welcoming all on a basis of equality and inclusivity. |

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| | engage? | <p>Outreach to encourage church attendance</p> <p>Encourage continual ongoing ministry.</p> |
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IX. Additional Information

Please add here, or on another sheet, anything else which you would like the Patron and the Bishop to know about the conditions, needs and traditions of the parish.

Four distinct villages between Leeds and Wakefield - Lofthouse, Carlton, Robin Hood and Thorpe - make up the parish, with the church building in Lofthouse. There is a churchyard, with Garden of Remembrance for burial of cremated remains and also an offsite graveyard on Carlton Lane, which is not closed but is unsuitable for further burials. This is a former mining area but now largely relies on farming and small businesses. It is popular with commuters working in Leeds and Wakefield because of the easy access to the A61 and the M1 and M62 motorways. Housing is mainly owner-occupied.

There is a newly established pattern of worship:

- On the first & third Sundays of the month a Sung Eucharist at 09.30 with full vestments. The sacrament is reserved.
- On the fifth Sundays a Service of the Word, Lay Led.
- On the second Sunday of the month a Service of the Word, Lay Led
- On the fourth Sunday of the month an Intergenerational Service, Lay Led
- A midweek service of Said Eucharist is held every Wednesday morning at 10.00
- During term time there is a weekly Messy Tots for pre-school children and their carers.

We welcome all who are baptised to receive Holy Communion.

Christ Church is an established and strong Christian Community and lay workers play an important part in the life of the church, involved in providing support and leadership for Messy Tots, our TLC Community Café (including our Foodbank) and G2H our bereavement support group.

The church building dates from 1840 but a major re-ordering project in 1992 provided easy access to the church, the hall and WCs. This helped to facilitate the above activities and other social events such as Indoor Curling. The TLC Café and G2H bereavement café are also held in the hall and from these encounters, and the welcome received, some people have joined the congregation in regular and occasional worship.

X. The New Priest

List the qualities and skills you would like to see in the new priest

An outgoing, sociable person who enjoys working together with the different people and their strengths and weaknesses within the parishes. A good communicator and leader who is willing to listen; one who is a leader, not simply a delegator.

Someone to bring a fresh outlook on how a congregation can work for all involved.

A willingness to embrace and support ongoing projects whilst bringing new and fresh ideas.

A welcoming attitude, supporting and encouraging inclusivity.

Agreed by the PCC of

Christ Church Lofthouse

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7th May

on 2025.....

Signed:**Mrs Chris Laird**

Print Name:CHRIS LAIRD

Office Held:CHURCH WARDEN

This form, duly completed, should be sent to:

*The Mission and Pastoral Assistant
Deborah Thorley
Diocese of Leeds, Church House
17-19 York Place, Leeds, LS1 2EX
deborah.thorley@leeds.anglican.org*

She will circulate copies to the Patron and Bishop

Please also send a copy directly to the Archdeacon's office

*Please keep copies of this form
and ensure that all PCC members have a signed copy.*