

Vacancy in the Parish of Holy Trinity Skipton - Bishop's Letter – May 2025

Thank you for your interest in the post of Rector at Holy Trinity Church, Skipton (with St Augustine's, Draughton).

This is an exciting time to be in the Diocese of Leeds. This Diocese has recently celebrated its 10th birthday, marking its creation from the former dioceses of Ripon and Leeds, Bradford and Wakefield. There is a growing appreciation of the ways in which the breadth of vision and depth of resources of a large diocese can support the ministry of parishes in our various contexts. We have also embarked on the Barnabas programme, supported by central funding, to encourage and enable clergy and parishes to be confident in our mission, in our future, in our leadership and our witness. There is much more to be found on the diocesan website at [Barnabas](#).

I arrived in the Diocese in 2023 and personally I have found an incredibly warm welcome, supportive colleagues and an enabling culture. There is a sense of 'youthfulness' in the structures which encourages creativity and innovation and is not hampered by deep seated tradition which can limit openness to change. Further, the unsettling journey of establishing a new organisation is now complete. In the Ripon Episcopal Area, as is the case across the Diocese, clergy and ministers are deeply committed to mission and ministry and appreciate the collegiality they enjoy with one another, working together to overcome challenges, develop vision and implement plans. In my opinion, and based on my experience, this is a very positive and hopeful time for someone to consider joining the Diocese of Leeds (or moving within it).

Skipton is an important and thriving market town in the diocese and in the region. Its population is only slightly smaller than the small city of Ripon on the Eastern side of the Episcopal Area, and provides a vital hub on the Western side for local agriculture, business, civic life and tourism, including excellent links via train, road and even canal. There is a great deal of 'energy' and 'buzz' in relation to heritage, culture, leisure clubs, the arts and sport, all providing great opportunity for the church to engage and reach out with the Gospel.

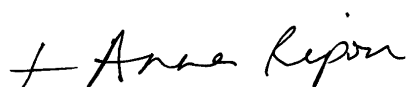
Holy Trinity church is one of two Anglican churches serving Skipton and surrounding areas and link with St Augustine's in the nearby village of Draughton is long established and works well. Holy Trinity has several distinctive gifts including a thriving café, gift shop and is about to start delivering its net zero heating and accessibility project – chosen as one of the Church of England 'demonstrator' projects. This has however been a long time in the making and the congregation have been incredibly committed and patient through a couple of cold winters!

The new rector will need to take stock of the journey so far and spend time caring for the faithful as well as continuing to reach out to the local community in the many creative ways already established. There may be time needed to consolidate, draw breath, reflect and pray and then begin to discern together how God is leading them into a new season and renewed heart for growing God's Kingdom, building on the strong foundations already in place.

Members of the congregation are committed and gifted in many areas of church-life and mission. They are warm hearted and will welcome a new incumbent to lead them in worship, preaching, teaching and prayer. One area they are keen to develop is their mission and ministry with children and young people, especially in local schools.

I hope that you will find in this brochure and other papers prepared by the parish a sense of the opportunities for growth in your ministry and your own discipleship, and that you will be able to perceive whether you are being called to take further this process of discernment. If you wish to have an informal conversation with me, I would be glad to hear from you.

With all good wishes and prayers,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Anne Ripon". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.