THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND
Diocese of Leeds

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. Please check all pre-populated data carefully and provide any corrections if needed. Additional information may also be appended.

1. Parish Information

1.a	**Name(s) of parish(es):**	Askrigg
1.b	**Name(s) of parish church(es):**	Askrigg: St Oswald
2.	**Name(s) of other C of E church(es)/centres for public worship in the parish(es):**	-
3.a	**Are you linked formally or informally with any other parishes in the benefice (Y/N):**	Yes – in a benefice of 4 churches for over 10 years
3.b	**If Y, please give the name(s) of linked parish(es):**	St Margaret's, Hawes St Matthew's, Stalling Busk St Mary & St John's, Hardraw
4.	**Deanery:**	Wensley
5.	**Population:** *[Information as of 2021 census. Please indicate if and how this might have changed]*	Parish Population Under 20 136 20 to 64 491 Over 65 286 Total 912 Occupied Households 436
6.a	**Electoral Roll Number:** *2026 data*	51
6.b	**Date of Declaration:**	6 May 2026

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7. Worship Attendance

Please provide details of average attendance at Sunday and weekday services. Add any additional rows as required or if hand-written continue on a separate sheet if necessary.
October count 2025

Church	Service	Time	Number of communicants	Adult attendance	Under 16 attendance
St Oswald	Sunday			28	3
	Weekday			2	

8. Occasional Offices

Please provide figures for the last 12 months. Add any additional rows as required or if hand-written continue on a separate sheet if necessary.

Church	Baptisms	Confirmees	Weddings	Funerals in church	Funerals taken by clergy
St Oswald	3	-0	4	7	

9. Communications

Please only include names and contact details that can be shared when this document becomes public. Add any additional rows as required or if hand-written continue on a separate sheet if necessary.

Church:	St Oswald's Askrigg	
Clergy	Rev William Hulse, retired vicar with PTO	
Licenced Lay Ministers	Stephanie Durrant Authorised Lay Minister	office@upperwenben.org
	MaryRose Kearney Lay Worship Leader	MaryRoseKearney@proton.me
	Elizabeth Fawcett Lay Worship Leader	Elizabethfawcett1965@gmail.com
Lay staff	Stephanie Durrant Benefice Administrator (paid)	office@upperwenben.org

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Churchwardens	Liz Hayle	Churchwarden.askrigg@upperwenben.org
	Stephanie Durrant	office@upperwenben.org

2. Parish/Community Information

1.a	**Briefly describe the demographic composition of the parish(es) (eg employment status, population ages, ethnic groups, home ownership, cultural diversity).**	Parish Population Under 20 136 20 to 64 491 Over 65 286 Total 912 Occupied Households 436 Parish Religious Profile Christian 529 Buddhist 1 Hindu 0 Jewish 0 Muslim 0 Sikh 0 Other 2 None 311
1. b	**Are there any specific issues you wish to highlight in relation to the above description (eg high unemployment)?**	The parish of Askrigg covers 15 square miles and includes two reasonably sized villages, Askrigg and Bainbridge and various small villages and hamlets. It is a tourist area and up to 50% of the houses are holiday or second homes, meaning that the censuses do not give a true picture of permanent occupation. For the most part, employment is either farming or tourism and can be seasonal. There is a lack of public transport within the parish, meaning that it is almost impossible to get from Askrigg to Bainbridge or vice versa without your own transport.

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2. Other local institutions

Please provide information and details (if known) of other important local institutions. Add any additional rows as required or if hand-written continue on a separate sheet if necessary.

Institution	Quantity	Details
Schools (Primary and Secondary)	**1**	Yoredale School – with campuses in Askrigg (Y3-Y6) and Bainbridge (reception to Y2)
Youth Centres	**1**	Low Mill Residential Activity Centre
Hospitals	**0**	
Nursing/elderly care homes	**1**	Sycamore Hall in Bainbridge – 42 apartment residential home
Local Businesses		2 cafes – 1 Askrigg & 1 Bainbridge 4 shops – 2 Askrigg & 2 Bainbridge 2 Hairdressers – 1 Askrigg & 1 Bainbridge 1 Garage with petrol – Bainbridge 1 Brewery with off sales – Askrigg 1 Vet practice – Askrigg 3 Hotels – 2 Askrigg, 1 Bainbridge 1 pub – Askrigg (1 Bainbridge currently closed) Numerous self catering premises Numerous farms A number of sole trader businesses
Neighbourhood initiatives (eg NWA)		Askrigg Friendly Society Askrigg Foundation
Local Associations (eg tourist groups, historic societies)		TAPAS (The Askrigg Port and Snuff Society) Yorebridge Gym and Sports Association Yorkshire Dales National Parth Authority, whose HQ is in Bainbridge
Other Christian Churches		Quakers
Other Places of Worship		--

2.b	**Do the clergy hold any civic responsibilities in relation to the above institutions or within the wider community? If so, please provide details.** *Add any additional rows as required or if hand-written continue on a separate sheet if necessary.*

Askrigg Foundation
Askrigg Friendly Society
Governor at School

3. Local religious partnerships

Please provide information on the parish(es) relationship with local religious groups. Expand the rows as required or if hand-written continue on a separate sheet if necessary.

3.a	**Please state any involvement in local Churches Together**	The Benefice (rather than parish) has an involvement with the methodist church.
3.b	**Please state any formal covenants held with other denominations**	None
3.c	**Please state any informal ecumenical contacts held by the parish(es)**	None

3. Church Information

Please give details for each church individually by copy/pasting the table below or by repeating the information on a separate sheet.

Church name: St Oswalds		
A. Congregation		
i	**What percentage of the congregation lives outside the parish?**	Of the electoral roll – 8/51 (16%) live outside the parish. Of the total congregation of 34 on one Sunday last month, 17 were visitors, a further 4 were regulars that lived outside the parish giving a percentage of 61% from outside. This is not uncommon in the summer months. This figure can vary greatly however, from week to week.

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Ii	**Briefly describe the demographic composition of the congregation (eg employment status, population ages, ethnic groups, home ownership, cultural diversity, gender).**	• White British • Majority retired • Mainly female • Own Occupiers
iii	**How would you describe the worship tradition at the church?**	Middle of the road. We have been known to have a BCP service but also have regular café style services, traditional 9 lessons and carols, and also Christingle – so a variety. The clergy are generally not robed for regular services.

B. Finance

i	**What is the average regular weekly giving by persons in the parish(es) 16 years & over?** **What (if any) proportion of this giving is gift aided?**	£7.99 Most
ii	**What is the date of the church's last stewardship campaign?**	October 2025 sermons September 2025 – letter to the community July 2026 – St Oswald's gift day
iii	**How does the church supplement direct giving in order to meets its financial needs?**	By holding additional fund raising activities: • Coffee mornings • Concerts • Gift Day • Christmas Tree Festival
iv	**What was the amount of working expenses paid to the clergy in the last financial year?** **Were these needs met in full? (Y/N)** *If N what was the estimated shortfall*	£1,380 Yes

v	**Please provide details of the amount of share requested and paid:**	Requested	Paid
	• **in 2024** • **in 2025** • **in 2026**	• £19,109 • £21,019 • 14,000	• £14,331 • £12,612 • **9,000 so far**
	Please provide explanation for any discrepancy between requested and actual payments	We have recently had a meeting with the Diocese and agreed a lower Parish Share. We believe that we are able to achieve this figure with a stretch.	

	Do you anticipate meeting this year's requested payment in full? (Y/N) *If N provide explanation*	Yes– see above
vi	**Are there any ongoing capital projects? (Y/N)** *If Y please give brief details of estimated costs and how these will be met*	Yes. The completion of the works to the tower. The main work was carried out in 2024/2025 and we have to wait for the tower to dry out before completing the rest of the work. The money has been raised and is held in restricted funds to complete this. We have a semi urgent small roof repair to fit in, as discovered at our recent QI. Our Hearse House (used as a boiler room and a separate building close to the church) is in need of repairs and we are currently having investigations done into what is required
vii	**Please append a copy of the last PCC accounts.**	Attached
viii	**Please provide details of the any overseas work supported by the Church including the value of any annual donations**	None
ix	**Please provide details of the any mission agencies and charities supported by the Church including the value of any annual donations**	The church supports local, national and international charities through specific events. These include in the last 12 months: • A concert for bursaries for child singers • Coffee Morning for Horatio's Garden • Coffee Morning for Askrigg Playground
C. Buildings		
i	**Please provide a general overview of the general state of repair of the church building and environs** *This can usually be found in the 'Executive Summary' of the most recent Quinquennial Inspection report*	**Executive summary from the 2021 QI states:** *A small to medium size parish church, set in a walled churchyard within the centre of the village with panoramic views to the south. A simple layout of aisled nave and chancel, with west tower and south porch. Very good oak roofs and certainly one of the best in Yorkshire.* *A good set of stainless steel covered roofs, dating from the early 1970's appear to holding up well to*

		the sometimes vicious weather which can occur on this exposed side of the Dales valley. Some damp staining on roof timbers internally may date from before repairs, although there is some thought that they may be the result of condensation from the underside of the steel roof covering. Ideally this should be investigated further. Some work to roof perimeters has been undertaken within the Quinquennium, e.g north aisle head flashing. *During the Quinquennium, the water ingress within the tower was investigated further and following consultation with stonemason Matthias Garn, and experts from English Heritage, a project was devised to re-point and re-render the tower for which Planning Permission was sought and obtained. The project is awaiting funding to be taken forward as soon as possible.* *Elsewhere most of the walls show past cement re-pointing and in places this is cracked and falling off leaving open joints (but also evidence of original lime pointing (& render)). A phased project of mortar replacement should ideally be planned. In conjunction, some of the high-level stones may need to be replaced where they have become shattered by frost due to water retention in the wall caused by the cement mortar.* *An inspection of the window glazing by a suitable specialist is recommended to establish condition, particularly of the stained glass. This would allow assessment and prioritising of any repairs.* *The interior is spotless and clearly well-cared for and a credit to the PCC.* **It should be noted that the 2026 QI was carried out in October 2026 and the report is awaited. The tower work mentioned has been completed.**
ii	**Please highlight any major maintenance requirements identified during the most recent Quinquennial Inspection**	Tower water ingress which has been completed. All items lists as priority 2 and 3 have been completed. 95% of those listed as Priority 1 have been completed.

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4. Church Education and Social Provision

1.a	**Name(s) of Church School(s) if applicable:**	The Bainbridge campus of the Yoredale School is Church of England
2.	**How is the school governance structure organised?** *eg aided, controlled, foundation*	Voluntary controlled
3.	**Approximately how many pupils are currently enrolled?**	37
4.	**What is the level of engagement between the church(es) and the school(s)?**	Very good. Regular contact

5. Outreach and Mission

Expand the rows as required or if hand-written continue on a separate sheet if necessary.

1.a	**Please provide details of any regular mission and outreach activities**	• Regular visits into the schools to take assembly and visits from the school to the church • Monthly coffee mornings • Monthly service in Sycamore Hall • Christmas Tree Festival and carol singing • All Hallow Eve children's activities
1.b	**How are you helping people find out about Jesus?**	See above • Explore Christianity course • Start course • Try Praying and Why Jesus booklet In church • Pilgrim cards • Invitation to Christmas Events sent to all houses in Parish
1.c	**How are you helping people to grow in discipleship?**	• Shape Course • Alive in Christ Course • Encouragement and Fellowship • Prayer meetings and House group • Teaching in church
1.d	**How are you helping people to grow in leadership?**	By giving them opportunities to take the lead in safe spaces.

2.a	**Are there any overseas link(s) with the parish(es)? (Y/N)**	No
2.b	**If Y, please give details:**	
3.a	**Do you have an organised system to provide outreach and welcome to new members of the community? (Y/N)**	No but we would very much like to develop one, together with a welcome pack
3.b	**If Y, please give details:**	
4.	**What role do you play in meeting the needs of the local community?**	• We host the Open Pantry in our church • We have a community fund to help out anyone who is struggling financially • We carry out home visits to the housebound, bereaved or sick. • We respond to local needs and issues ie helping out with searches for missing people, helping to raise money for local initiatives (Askrigg Playground)
5.	**How do you engage with young people outside of church-based organisations?** *eg open youth work*	None

6. Lay Discipleship and Participation

Expand the rows as required or if hand-written continue on a separate sheet if necessary.

1.	What are your education and training provisions for: • Children (*eg Sunday School*) • Young People (*eg Youth Projects*) • Adults (*eg Alpha*)	Details The Gathering Service Explorers (Benefice) Pathfinders (Benefice) Various courses	Approximate numbers 5-7 6 4-6
2.a	**Please give details of any house/prayer groups**	Prayer meeting (1 hour) alternate weeks House group held in blocks for bible study	

2.b	**Are these groups led by lay or clergy?**	Lay usually
3.a	**How would you rate the strength of lay leadership?**	Strong
3.b	**What is the source of lay leadership strength or weakness?**	Strength • Support and fellowship • Good training through Diocese • Strong local lay leadership forum in the Deanery Weakness • at the current time - no priest for guidance and oversight

7. Mission

In this section you are encouraged to consider your future priorities and aspirations. You are invited to contemplate areas you feel need addressing, evaluate any limitations which may prevent you from addressing them, and envision what your new priest's role could be to help you achieve your ambitions. Expand the rows as required or if hand-written continue on a separate sheet if necessary.

1.	**Which areas of church life do you feel would benefit from further development in future?**	Future development has been considered as a benefice. Please see the parish brochure.	
2.	**What are the main areas of mission that you would like your new priest to prioritise?**	Mission has been considered as a benefice. Please see the parish brochure.	
3.	**What are the biggest potential challenges which you and the new priest will need to address?** *Name and elaborate on no more than three*	The competing attractions of modern life, and lack of interest in organised religion. Also considered as part of benefice, referred to in the parish brochure.	

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8. Additional Information

Use this space to record any other information which you would like the Patron and the Bishop to be aware of regarding the conditions, needs, or traditions of the parish(es). Continue on a separate sheet if necessary.

We feel that Bishop Anna and Archdeacon James have a very good grasp of both rural ministry and our own situation in the Upper Dale.

9. The New Priest

Use this space to identify and list the qualities and skills you would like to see in the new priest. Continue on a separate sheet if necessary.

Qualities and skills were considered at our summer PCC away day as summarised in the Benefice Brochure.

Agreed by the PCC ofSt Oswald's, Askrigg

On the 11th day of October 2026

Signed: *Elizabeth Hayle*

Print Name: Liz Hayle

Office Held: Churchwarden

Once completed and signed as agreed by the PCC, this form should be sent directly to the Archdeacon's office and to Gemma Shearwood:
Gemma Shearwood
Diocese of Leeds, Church House
17-19 York Place, Leeds, LS1 2EX
gemma.shearwood@leeds.anglican.org

Copies will be circulated by the office to the Patron and Bishop

Please make sure copies all PCC members retain a signed copy of this form for their records.