

Christ the King

Battyeford

 THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND
Diocese of Leeds



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Parish Brochure

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Welcome to Christ the King

Welcome to our parish brochure. Battyeford is a parish situated to the west of Mirfield, a small town in West Yorkshire. Conveniently situated with excellent motorway and rail links, it is within easy reach of Leeds and Manchester. There are direct trains to London. We are situated next door to The Community and College of the Resurrection. Walks within a nature reserve and along the well-kept canal are a short walk from our door.

We are located in the Diocese of Leeds, the largest diocese in England by area. It includes the cities of Leeds, Bradford, Wakefield and Ripon. Created in 2014, the diocese is led by the Bishop of Leeds, the Rt Reverend Nick Baines. There are three cathedrals of equal status: Ripon, Wakefield, and Bradford. There are five episcopal areas within the diocese, each led by an area bishop: Leeds, Ripon, Wakefield, Bradford and Huddersfield. The area Bishop of Huddersfield is Rt Reverend Smitha Prasadham.



C^tK
Battyeford

Loving, Living, Learning

The priest we would like...

- We hope you will be a warm, caring and experienced spiritual leader who will teach and inspire us. We are looking for a well-rounded person who is a great communicator, with a sense of humour, and with your own interests.
- We would like you to encourage us in prayer and spirituality and build on existing strengths and traditions.
- We trust that you will be able to exercise strong and effective leadership, tempered by a readiness to build on the collaborative ministry established at Christ the King over the years.
- We hope you can work with all age groups, but we attach particular importance to our efforts to engage with the wider community, families, children and young people.
- We want you to manage your time effectively and be willing to delegate; we will support you in this. We need a leader who will motivate us and minister to our strengths and also to our weaknesses.
- We wish to grow and seek nurturing, for ourselves and others new to faith, into deeper discipleship.
- Christ the King accept the priestly and episcopal ministry of women. In 2024 the PCC voted unanimously for the use of Prayers in Love and Faith during the time of divine service should any couple ask for this occasional pastoral office.



**Lead, teach and
inspire us!**

The Parish

Housing in Battysford is very mixed. Ranging from recently built high-end houses, older 60s and 70s developments, and many modernised smaller properties dating from late-19th century. There is a large council estate built in the mid-20th century. About two-thirds of property in the parish is owner occupied - slightly above the national average.



The area serves as a dormitory/commuter settlement for people working across West Yorkshire and beyond; excellent motorway access and well served by rail links to the whole country.



Located to the west of Mirfield town centre, there are a number of local suburban shopping areas in the parish with a range of independent businesses, a local Co-op, Post Office and a new Aldi. There are a range of small and medium sized businesses in industrial estates on the A62 and off the A644, some newly built and many in former textile mill conversions. The largest manufacturer in the parish is John Cotton producing bedding textiles.

The parish has a co-educational high school and sixth form college and 2 other primary schools, one of which is Battysford Church of England (Voluntary Controlled) Primary where the vicar is one of our three foundation governors.



The Church

We consider ourselves to be a welcoming church, which seeks to be a visible beacon of Christian faith in an increasingly secular world. Our modern multi-purpose building is well suited to this. We offer a warm and comfortable space for worship and many other events.

We have a mixed-age congregation. There are a few younger families, many of whom have been attracted by our Family@4 services. People seeking Baptism for themselves or children are encouraged to attend services. Couples who wish to be married at CtK, or in the monastery next door, often attend worship with us.

There are many confident and able individuals amongst us, with their own opinions, ideas and enthusiasms. There are also many who quietly work hard for the church behind the scenes and some whose talents are yet to be harnessed.

In addition to the 2 churchwardens, the PCC currently has 12 elected members, and 2 deanery synod reps. One LLM serves ex-officio. An unpaid parish administrator is PCC secretary.



Worship



Worship at Christ the King is gently catholic with the Eucharist at the centre of our two main services each week: Sunday at 10am (sung) and Wednesday (said service) also at 10am. Priests, LLMs and assistant ministers are robed. Vestments and altar hangings change with the liturgical season.



Each month, two All-Age services focus on ministry to families, children and others new to faith. Family@10 offers a relaxed celebration of the Eucharist. Family@4 is based around activities, a light meal, and a short non-eucharistic act of worship.

CtK Kids meet most weeks in the Community Hall during the 10am Sunday Eucharist and join in at Communion. There are crèche facilities in church during all services and refreshments are usually served after worship.



In addition, each month there is an 8 o'clock said service of Holy Communion and a Celtic-style service of Evening Prayer. Other services take place throughout the year including In Memory, All Souls', during Holy Week, and in Advent and at Christmas.

Through these services – in various styles and forms – CtK seeks to provide a welcoming, spiritual home where everyone can access a type of worship with which they can engage.



Music

Christ the King has a long tradition of music-making.

At the Sunday Eucharist our mixed voice, robed choir provides a varied repertoire ranging from traditional to gospel and much in between. The choir is led by an experienced choirmaster.

The talented choir and other accomplished musicians work together to create music for special services throughout the year: Holy Week and Easter, Mothering Sunday and at Christmas. Our annual 'Carols by Candlelight' has become something of a local highlight each year. Taizé services are held occasionally with the choir and accompanist taking part.

Our accompanist (who receives an annual honorarium) plays a Clavinova for the hymns and the sung sections of liturgy on Sunday morning. An organist accompanies worship once a month.

A group of instrumentalists form the Church Music Group. They play once a month, usually at all-age or family services.

Other local choirs and music groups use our church building.



Mission & Outreach

CtK sees the CofE's Five Marks of Mission as crucial to what we reflect as a parish church aiming to serve our community in the 21st century.

We seek to achieve these in the following ways...



View towards the parish

View towards the parish

1. To proclaim the Good News of the Kingdom

The good news of the Kingdom is preached regularly. In addition to the vicar, a number of retired clergy who are part of our congregations lead worship and preach. Currently we have two LLMs and an authorised occasional preacher. All these people are experienced and teach the faith, delivering sermons in accessible and relevant ways.

In the last two years we have been the sending church for three ordinands, who occasionally preach and lead alongside their employment and studies.

The vicar regularly visits our local C of E primary school to lead collective worship and take part in RE lessons. Groups from the school visit the church to learn about the faith and practice of worship. During the year the school also holds a number of services in church: Christmas, Easter, Harvest.



"We are fortunate to hear different voices preach at CtK. It means we get a variety of approach and styles as they share God's word with us."

Congregation Member

2. To teach, baptise and nurture new believers

CTK Kids is a teaching session for children held during main Sunday Eucharist.

CTK Youth is a space for young people of high school age to connect, with social activities such as bowling and BBQs.

Family@4 is monthly worship with activities and a light meal aimed at families, especially new-comers to church worship.

An **Introductory Course** for people new to faith runs as needed. Baptism and confirmation preparation is led by vicar and others.

House group/Bible study group meets fortnightly. A Lent study course runs every year – clergy and lay led.

During the last 9 years there have been three parish pilgrimages to Iona. Our first day pilgrimage around the Anglican churches of Mirfield took place in autumn 2024.



"Family@4 has been a brilliant place for us to worship as a family. It's very engaging and interactive, and we are having amazing conversations about God"

Family@4 Parent

3. To respond to human need by loving service

A group of pastoral visitors led by an authorised Lay Pastoral Minister visit the sick and housebound and take the reserved sacrament. A monthly service of Holy Communion is held in a local care home. A number of residents from another local care home regularly join us for the Sunday Eucharist.

Tuesday Café and the Thursday Drop-In provide opportunities for social engagement and gentle pastoral support. A weekly art group offers social contact to a small group of people.

Caterpillars is our Friday afternoon group (term-time) for under fives and their grown ups, to offer a supportive space to play, sing and make new friends.

Funeral ministry reaches the wider parish. This has seen a few members from bereaved families become regular worshippers.



'This is the only time I see people during the week. My daughter encouraged me to come. I am glad I came, they've made me so welcome.'

Tuesday Café Attendee

4. To transform unjust structures of society

CtK supports a number of charities and institutions including:

- The Children's Society
- 2 Food Banks: St Georges Crypt, Leeds and Mirfield Salvation Army: food, clothing and toys.
- Shoe Buddies – recycling children's footwear
- The Kirkwood and Forget Me Not Children's Hospice
- Christmas Shoebox Appeal through Teams4U
- Christian Aid
- CtK Knitters – support a local baby bank and birth centre
- Occasional Emergency Disaster appeals
- Long standing links with Issenye school and other Tanzanian projects

All of these are regularly included in prayers. We have been recognised as a church working towards being a Dementia Friendly space.



Our disability group monitors all aspects of building, procedures, signage, etc. to ensure accessibility and inclusion remain priorities.

In recent years, the church welcomed refugees and asylum seekers living in a local hotel. We provided space in the building for socialising and the opportunity for other third sector agencies who were offering them support.

5. Safeguard the integrity of creation

We are committed to the A Rocha UK ecology movement. Currently we hold the Silver award and we are going for Gold!

The parish environment officer reports regularly to PCC and projects and actions are shared via weekly newsletter and on social media with the wider church and community.

Some examples include:

- Church funds ethically invested
- Reducing use of single use cups and similar items
- Use of Fairtrade products (and a registered Fairtrade Church)
- Switched to LED low energy bulbs
- Feasibility study on solar panels
- Rewilding areas in the churchyard
- Helping the children build wildlife boxes
- Use of recycled paper and eco-friendly cleaning products



***“Ecochurch has really taken off in the last few years. We are working hard to be innovative and help the congregation join in with the greening of our church and our day-to-day lives.*”**

Parish Environmental Officer

Safeguarding



We have a Parish Safeguarding Officer assisted by a deputy. As it says in the C of E Safeguarding Policy Statement, *'The care and protection of children, young people and vulnerable adults involved in church activities is the responsibility of everyone who participates in the life of the church'*.

The PCC of Christ the King Church complies with the duty to have 'due regard' to the House of Bishops guidance on safeguarding.

Policies and procedures regarding safeguarding are reviewed annually.

Information and contact details are displayed prominently in the church building and are easily accessible on the church website.

Our Community

We have a social committee who organise events throughout the year. This group of willing volunteers help bring the community together organising a Christmas Market, Harvest Supper, Afternoon Tea and other events.

In 2023 we had a week of celebrations to mark the 50th anniversary of Christ the King which included public events, a flower festival and an exhibition, which included artwork, artifacts and photographs.

Our weekly, well attended, Tuesday Café provides a warm space and light refreshments. The Thursday Drop-in is supported by a small group of the congregation who meet for coffee and cake whilst also providing help with computer problems and crafts. On Fridays during term time, our Caterpillars group meets offering a supportive space for under fives and their grown ups.

Many groups hire the building throughout the week including GirlGuiding and Scouting groups, Slimming World, MJ Acting, yoga classes, keep fit and tap dancing. The hall is also hired for private parties.



The Church Building & Grounds



Christ the King was built in 1973 and replaced former Christ Church destroyed by fire in 1971. The church is a modern open plan building that lends itself to many activities and is used by different organisations on a daily basis. Income generated by lettings is essential for our finances.



As well as the church itself, there is a community hall and a small meeting room. We also have a fully fitted kitchen. Everywhere is Disability friendly with access arrangements. The building is kept to a high standard, due to the maintenance afforded by skilled volunteers and professional trades.

There is a large open space in front of church and an enclosed garden at the rear, both these spaces are used for community events.



The graveyard is closed to new burials, only ashes can be interred. It is well-maintained, as are all the church grounds, by volunteers and professionals when needed.

In 2023 we marked the 50th anniversary of the new church and looked back over its first half-century. It was a time of nostalgia and hopes for renewal.



Communication & Publicity

Christ the King recognises the importance of reaching out to people within the congregation and also those in our wider community. Since 2020 most of our main services are live-streamed. We believe that having a presence on social media is an important means of outreach. We are actively investing in the technology to enhance this. The church has an active Facebook presence, where the live-streamed services, videos, photos and invitations to services and events can be found. These are also shared into other local Facebook groups to reach those we may not see on a Sunday. Photos are also shared on Instagram.

The Weekly News is sent out electronically (via a GDPR compliant system) and uploaded to our website. It is also sent out to all of the parents/carers at Battysford Primary.

We also have a mailing list for children and families contacts, who we email at least once a month. All of our contact databases and our electronic mailings are currently being moved over to Churchsuite to streamline our systems.

We have our own well maintained website, and also have information on 'A Church Near You'.



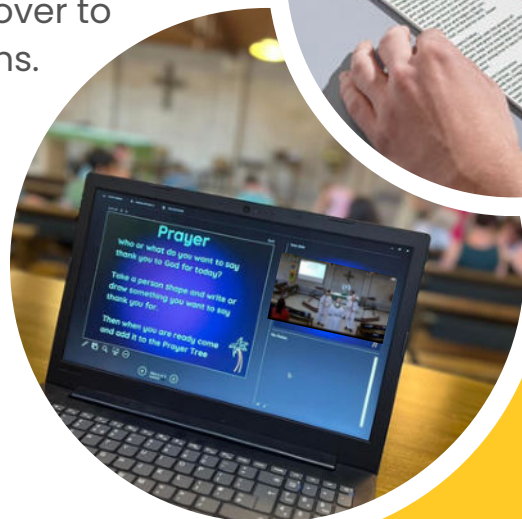
www.christ-the-king.co.uk



fb.com/ctkbattysford



instagram.com/ctkbattysford





The Vicarage

The vicarage is a modern four bed detached home (wheelchair accessible), set back from the road in a peaceful location, immediately behind the church building. It is within easy reach of local amenities and on a number of bus routes. There are several good schools in the Mirfield area, and the town centre is a short distance away where many independent businesses still remain. There are pleasant walking routes only minutes from the doorstep, including down to the Greenway and the well kept canal paths.

Downstairs has a large kitchen/diner, utility room, dining room and lounge. Patio doors lead out to a private garden, that adjoins the monastery wall, with views across the Community of the Resurrection's cricket field and the hills beyond.

The study and downstairs WC are separated from the rest of the house by a connecting door.

Upstairs has four bedrooms (one en-suite shower room) and family bathroom.

There is parking for around six vehicles outside the property and a good sized double garage.





Finances

A summary of the financial accounts presented at the last Annual General Meeting (6 April 2025)

Christ the King, Battyeftord has net current assets of £97,409 (as of 31 December 2024). There was a net increase (surplus) of £2,199 in 2024. This compares with a net loss of £13,309 in 2023. *Note: during the period 2021-2023 the PCC invested £30,000 to fund the salary of a part-time children and families' worker.*

The church also currently manages two major restricted funds: the Rev B Wilson fund (£8,246) and the Environmental fund (£6,250). It has previously managed targeted funding from the Bishops Fund, the last grant having been spent in 2023/24.

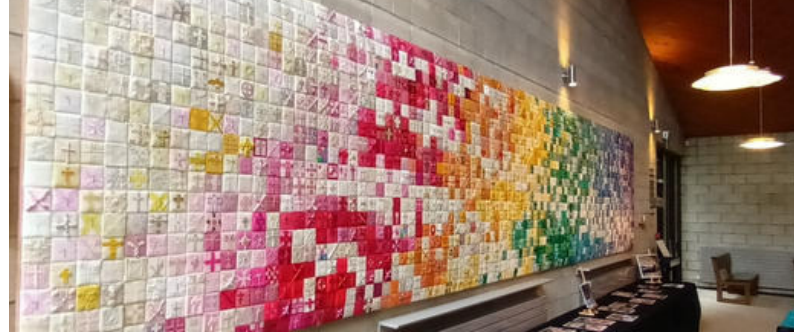
Total income in 2024 was £100,791 (no significant change as compared with 2023). This included: voluntary giving of £57,727 (after £11,468 of tax was recovered via Gift Aid); fundraising (£15,006); letting income (£16,358); and interest (£4,587).

Total expenditure in 2024 was £98,592. This included costs of £34,084 for running and maintaining the church and churchyard. A stipend of £2,880 was paid in 2024 to support music leadership within the church.

Christ the King, Battyeftord has always paid the Parish Share in full. In 2024 this was £52,290. *Note: In 2025 the Parish Share requested is £51,827 (the 3% budget increase being off-set by a 4% decrease in the Church Attendance Factor).*

All high priority actions from the last quinquennial inspection have been addressed. Maintaining/replacing the heating system within the building is the major area of anticipated additional (non-operational) expenditure in 2025.

Christ the King is a registered charity (charity number 1177854)



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Battyeford

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OF ENGLAND
Diocese of Leeds



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**We hope you will
prayerfully consider if God
is calling you to Ctk.**

Informal conversation about the post can be
arranged with the Archdeacon, Ven Bill Braviner.

To arrange this, please email
archdeacon.halifax@leeds.anglican.org