

Two Village Churches



PARISH BROCHURE

Of

St John the Baptist, Bishop Monkton

And

St Leonard's, Burton Leonard

WELCOME

A warm welcome led by our incumbent the Very Reverend John Dobson awaits the house-for-duty Priest who comes to share their ministry and mission with our communities in the parishes of Saint John the Baptist, Bishop Monkton and St. Leonards, Burton Leonard. These are two very picturesque rural villages that boast strong, thriving, communities. The villages are two miles away from each other, are strategically well placed to reach the Cathedral City of Ripon, the spa town of Harrogate and the cities of Leeds and York and are within easy access to the A1M motorway. Through farming heritage, active families, professional people and residents of all ages, both communities have a beating heart, and we are all looking forward to you getting to know us better.

The parishes of Burton Leonard and Bishop Monkton are two of the four parishes making up the Ripon Cathedral Benefice. This brochure has been prepared to assist the appointment of a house-for-duty (HfD) Priest to these two wonderful parishes. It reveals how much life and vitality there is both within the Churches and the communities they serve. This is a delightful area in which to live and a remarkably rewarding context in which to minister; many people of all ages are enthused and engaged.



It is important that we appoint a Priest who will help these Churches and communities to build on the flourishing work with the schools and all-age congregations, and to strengthen the outreach to all parts of the communities. Continuing to develop lay leadership and sustaining ministry within the schools will be clear priorities.

There is a good deal of autonomy for the person in this post but also an enviable amount of support from both the parishes and the wider benefice. The Cathedral's support often extends beyond that provided by me, to that of Cathedral canons and minor canons and the services of the Cathedral Office. The Area Bishop of Ripon and the Archdeacon of Richmond and Craven also provide valuable encouragement.

The other two parishes in the Cathedral benefice are the Cathedral Parish itself which also contains the village of Littlethorpe, and the Parish of Sharrow with Copt Hewick and Marton-le-Moor. The clergy and congregations of the whole benefice look forward to welcoming and working with the person who is appointed.

I would be delighted to have a conversation with anyone wishing to explore whether God is calling him or her to this role.

The Very Reverend John Dobson
The Dean of Ripon

THE DIOCESE

The Diocese of Leeds comprises five Episcopal areas each coterminous with an Archdeaconry. This is now one of the largest dioceses in the country and its creation is unprecedented in the history of the Church of England. It covers an area of around 2425 square miles, and a population of around 2,642,400 people.

The three former dioceses were created in the 19th and early 20th centuries to cater for massive population changes brought about by industrialisation and, later, mass immigration. The diocese comprises major cities (Bradford, Leeds, Wakefield), large industrial and post-industrial towns (Halifax, Huddersfield, Dewsbury), a spa town (Harrogate), market towns (Skipton, Ripon, Richmond, Wetherby), and deeply rural areas (the Dales). The whole of life is here, along with all the richness, diversity and complexities of a changing world.

The acting Diocesan Bishop, the Right Reverend Toby Howarth, is assisted by five Area Bishops (Bradford, Huddersfield, Kirkstall, Wakefield, Ripon) and five archdeacons (Bradford, Halifax, Leeds, Pontefract, Richmond and Craven). The Bishop of Ripon is the Right Reverend Anna Eltringham.

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

OUR COMMITMENT TO YOU

We think our two communities are wonderful places in which to live and we hope you will too. We will support you in meeting the needs of our parishes and sharing the love of God and Jesus Christ with those who live here. We will involve you in community events and be there when a name escapes you or a gentle distraction is required. We will provide you with committed PCCs with experienced and knowledgeable Churchwardens and proactive, helpful PCC members. We will continue to build our team of over 140 volunteers so that you have many hands to make the workload lighter. We promise you good-natured debate in meetings, a willingness to collaborate and an open mindedness to new ideas. We will ensure you take time out for family, for relaxation and for self-development. You will have our prayers, support and friendship.

The Local Community

Bishop Monkton is a vibrant community of around 875 people. Its population includes older retired people but also younger families with children, well established locals alongside 'incomers', farming people and professionals working in neighbouring urban centres. The population is likely to grow in the coming years thanks to a number of proposed new housing developments. The village is predominantly white, mainly middle class and relatively affluent. However, there are a number of people living alone and social isolation and poverty are not unknown.



The village has a pub, a village hall and sports facilities, children's playgrounds, 2 churches (a Methodist Church as well as our Church of England parish) and a primary school. Perhaps its most distinctive physical feature is a small beck running through the middle of the village.

The Church of England primary school in the village has 109 pupils as well as a thriving nursery. The school, which was rated 'good' by OFSTED in 2023, attracts children from outside as well as within the village. The HfD priest is very actively involved running weekly school assemblies, teaching on a variety of topics as required by the curriculum and an annual Year 6 open question and answer session; as well as participating in the collective worship during Friday celebration assemblies in school.

There is an annual community service jointly held with the Methodist Chapel in the school grounds in July.

There are more than 30 sports and social clubs and societies catering for a wide range of interests including bowling, books, bridge, cricket, croquet, keep fit, history, singing, tennis, table tennis, WI and walking.





Community events include a Hog Roast, quiz nights and an annual 'Beck Busters' 10K and fun run.

Bishop Monkton has its own Parish Council, and a monthly parish magazine, which is widely distributed, is a useful source of information. There is also a very informative and regularly updated website

www.bishopmonktontoday.org.uk



The Church

The Church's Mission Statement is: 'Through faithful worship and humble service, to strive to embrace Christ's love and compassion, and to share the Gospel message with all people with a welcoming and friendly community of faith.'

There are currently 50 people on the Church electoral roll with a high percentage attending regularly. Our worshipping life centres on the Eucharist, although we are a generally broad parish which enjoys a variety of different service types.

Our current pattern of services is an 11am service of Sung Holy Communion (or occasionally Mattins) on the first and second Sundays of the month, a 9:30am Said Holy Communion on the third Sunday of the month and a children-led service at 9:30am on the fourth Sunday of the month. On months with a fifth Sunday, we have a joint service with our 'sister parish' in Burton Leonard as well as a regular joint evensong service.



We also have occasional family communion services and united services with the local Methodist congregation. Attendance generally ranges from 15 to 30 people, although the children-led services are very well attended with upwards of 70 children and young families attending. In the children led service the children are responsible for the selection of music, writing prayers and leading the liturgy and our termly Café Church is very popular with lots of smiles and butties. Continuing to grow and nurture this young congregation is one of our top priorities for our new associate priest. There is a joint junior and adult choir with Burton Leonard led by a newly recruited choirmaster, a professional organist and a number of others who can step in to play the organ when needed.

Congregational participation in services is strong: reading, serving the chalice, and leading intercessions.

The management of the church is led by two Churchwardens, a team of deputy wardens and an active Parochial Church Council. The PCC has subgroups looking after finance, fund raising and the church fabric.

The fabric of the Church is in generally good condition, and we are currently replacing our heating system. The Church will celebrate the 150th anniversary of the current building in 2029, which we hope to celebrate and perhaps use as a springboard to raise funds for ongoing maintenance work.



The Church in the Community



The Church is open most days for visitors. A rota of churchgoers and other villagers looks after the Church and churchyard.

In an average year, there are one or two weddings, three baptisms, occasional confirmations and five or six funerals. There is a wedding coordinator and the HfD Priest works closely with the Churchwardens to make arrangements for baptisms and funerals.

The village school has an end of term service in the Church, as well as Harvest, Christingle and Christmas celebrations. The Church elects two foundation governors to the school's Board.

On the first Friday of every month, Coffee and Cake mornings, run by a team of volunteers, are held using the 'kitchen in a cupboard facility' built in the church, with an average attendance of around fifty. These events provide an important meeting place for the village community and also raise money for charity and Church funds. The Church currently supports the Children's Society, Harrogate Homeless Project, Christian Aid and the Salvation Army.



The church is used for community events, for example concerts and talks and we are always interested in offering the space for more community events.

BURTON LEONARD

Local Community

With a population of approximately 800 and with a high proportion of young families, Burton Leonard is a hive of activity catering for all ages.

There are many well established groups which are run from our Village Hall, including Keep Fit, Yoga, History, WI, Brownies, Amateur Dramatics, Leisure, Art and Gardening clubs. Outdoor activities for juniors and adults alike include tennis, football, cricket and bowls, all using purpose-built facilities located on the edge of Burton Leonard, where there is also a fantastic playground. St. Leonards Hall (the Church Hall) is used for Yoga and Pilates, Spanish classes, Bridge Club, coffee mornings and village meetings. It is fully accessible with modern facilities.

We have a monthly village magazine which keeps everyone updated on activities as well as future events. It is circulated to over 400 households. Two events that you won't want to miss each year are the Village Feast: food music and laughter - a great combination, and the Village 10k Fun Run. The



village also boasts a thriving and friendly village shop and post office, a lovely pub, a B&B, self-catering cottages and an abundance of places to walk and enjoy the picturesque countryside.



You may find some more information on the village website www.burtonleonard.org.uk although we are currently looking for a new webmaster to keep it more up to date.

The village Church of England primary school, with 84 pupils, has close links with the Church and enjoys services in the Church each Friday morning plus the Harvest Festival, Christingle, Christmas Carols and the tear-jerking Leavers' Service in July. The children also enjoy helping to serve villagers at the annual Harvest lunch where soup and puddings are made from the donated



harvest produce. The school has achieved excellent ratings from OFSTED and SIAMS inspections and is looking forward to working with our new Priest.

Please have a look at the school website www.burtonleonard.n-yorks.uk

In the last five years the HfD Priest has visited weekly and built a great relationship with the school.



The Church



Our much-loved St. Leonards Church, situated in the heart of the village and built in 1878, is the third church to be built on this site. As we will be celebrating 150 years of the current Church building in 2028, we are hoping to organise some celebratory activities. The Church is in a very sound condition. It is open daily for all to enjoy its peaceful character. The Church is surrounded by a closed churchyard and separate cemetery to the north of the site. We celebrate four to five weddings and baptisms each year, and sadly say

farewell with a similar number of funerals. We have 53 people on the Church electoral roll.

The church has a seating capacity for 120 people, choir stalls, portable ramped disabled access, a looped hearing system with Bluetooth, a piped organ and a piano. There is a team of three volunteer organists. The newly appointed choirmaster runs the junior and adults' choir practices weekly in our Church. We work closely with St John's Church, and we offer a mixed pattern of worship from Common Worship, theme-led services, including a monthly traditional language communion service. We involve all ages of our congregation in the delivery of all services and run monthly popular children-led services in which the children delight in taking part. Average attendance is between 10 and 25 people, with more for the children-led services and other special services.



With Dean John closely supporting us as our incumbent in this house-for-duty arrangement, we enjoy good contact and support from the Cathedral Office. We also value the support given by the diocesan officers. We look forward to building on all these contacts with our new Priest.

In addition to support from the Cathedral and our highly experienced Churchwarden Lesley and her three Deputy Churchwardens, our Priest can rely on our active PCC. Comprised of eight members the PCC prides itself on maintaining a financially stable Church with carefully managed income. The members are a friendly, proactive and approachable team who meet four times a year and collaborate well with the PCC members of Bishop Monkton.

Our annual Church Gift Day is usually held in September in one of our parishioner's gardens and raises valuable funds for our Church. It is well supported by the whole village.



The Church in the Community

The importance of St. Leonards to the community is reflected in the list of 82 volunteers who give up their time to help with flower arranging, cleaning the church, reading, providing refreshments and maintaining the cemetery. Some are regular churchgoers and others only attend on special occasions. All support and value the Church.



Each year we donate £1000 to a named charity, alternating between local and overseas projects. Other local charities we support are the Harrogate Homeless Project, Ripon Food Bank and the Salvation Army.

We enjoy sharing our Church and Church Hall with the community and we have an active social programme throughout the year, from the laughter filled coffee mornings to highly enjoyable barn dances. We have hosted art and history exhibitions, Christmas fairs, quiz nights, afternoon teas, Hymns and Pimms and a wide range of

uplifting musical concerts. We have also recently introduced a Potato Challenge which has proved to be a popular and successful fundraiser for the parishes.

We look forward to welcoming our new Priest and introducing him or her to our community.



THE VICARAGE



The Vicarage for both parishes is situated a short walk away from Saint John the Baptist Church in Bishop Monkton. It is a well-proportioned, 4 bedroomed family home with a study that is home to the Church photocopier. The house is in a good state of repair and has an easily maintained garden.



OUR WORSHIP SCHEDULE

1ST Sunday	2nd Sunday	3rd Sunday	4th Sunday	5th Sunday
9.30am Burton Leonard Said Holy Communion	9.30am Burton Leonard Children-led Service	9.30am Bishop Monkton Said Holy Communion	9.30am Bishop Monkton Children-led Service	
11.00am Bishop Monkton Sung Holy Communion	11.00am Bishop Monkton Sung Holy Communion	11.00am Burton Leonard Sung Holy Communion	11am Burton Leonard Sung Holy Communion	11am Alternate village Joint Parish Sung Holy Communion
			6pm Alternate Churches Joint Choral Evensong	

SOCIAL MEDIA

We have a joint Facebook page which is a great source of information about our parishes and an easy way to keep updated on the many activities going on across our two communities. It is called Two Village Churches.

