



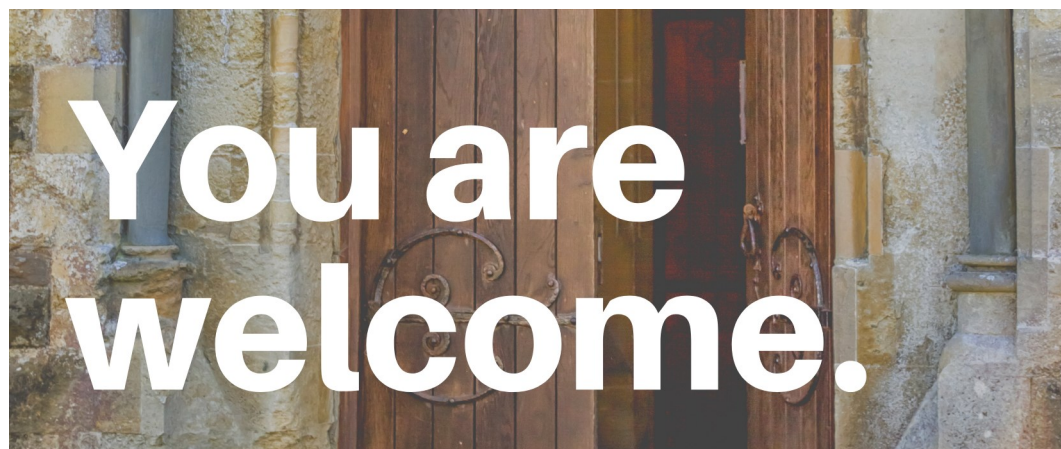
**You are Welcome**

**To the**

**PARISH OF**

**WORTLEY AND FARNLEY**

**Our Parish Brochure**



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 /wortleyandfarnley

 @stjohnswortley

Dixon Lane Road, Wortley, LS12 4RU

 'Wortley and Farnley Parish'

 @wortleyandfarnley

wortleyandfarnleychurch.org.uk

# 1 Welcome to the Parish of Wortley and Farnley

Wortley and Farnley is a large parish situated to the West of Leeds, in the Deanery of Armley and within the Leeds Episcopal Area of the Diocese of Leeds.

We have most recently been served by an Interim Priest whose job description included:

- To grow the church in numbers by spreading the gospel and making new disciples
- Grow the church in numbers by developing the faith of the congregation
- Grow the church in capacity by developing the building for worship and mission
- Prepare the church to plant back into Farnley

We embraced the last few years, and Covid enabled us to explore our creativity and grow in confidence. We are now at the stage of looking for a stipend Incumbent, who we hope will help us to cement the changes we have made and continue to help us discern the way forward as we seek to grow further,.

We thank you for your interest in the post of the Vicar of Wortley and Farnley and hope that you find within this document enough information to be given a good feel for who we are and what we hope and pray to offer and receive from our new vicar.

We are praying for a new leader who can join us for the next leg of our journey which we face with hope, anticipation and excitement.

For further information, contacts and how to apply, please see page **16**.





## 2 Parish of Wortley & Farnley: Boundary Map

- 3 Parks
- 5 Primary Schools
- 1 High School
- Semi rural area
- Pubs
- Cafes
- Local shops within walking distance
- Easy access to train stations
- Excellent Motorway links
- Supermarkets within 10 minutes drive
- Nurseries & Pre Schools

**St John's Church —  
Wortley**

**Vicarage—New  
Farnley**

The parish of Wortley & Farnley has a diverse mix of housing, industrial, open space and countryside. Covering a large area we have three main areas of population. Wortley, Upper Wortley and Lower Wortley all combine in the East of the parish to form the larger of the three with Old Farnley sprawling largely along the Ring Road and up the hill to the left and New Farnley sitting fairly contained to the east. Each area has its own 'feel' about it and own characteristics. Farnley Park neatly joins Old and New Farnley



# 3 Our City

Leeds has a population of approximately three quarters of a million people of diverse backgrounds.

As a major centre of business and commerce Leeds is considered the cultural, financial and commercial heart of the West Yorkshire Urban Area and is served by four universities. It has one of the busiest train stations in the country, a good bus network, and is well connected to major motorways.

Over 65% of the Leeds district is green belt land and the constantly evolving city centre is less than twenty miles from the Yorkshire Dales National Park. The city itself has an array of public parks, including Roundhay Park, one of the biggest city parks in Europe.

Our retail centre draws people from all around the North, with an historic covered market and flagship stores such as Harvey Nichols and John Lewis. There is an array of restaurants and a busy night life, with national and independent names.

We are the home of international and county cricket, Leeds Rhino's and The Mighty Whites—Leeds United Football Club. (Other football clubs are available). Leeds hosts the Leeds World Triathlon each year and stages a number of other major sporting events.

It has two popular theatres, an art gallery and museums. First Direct Arena holds concerts and events that attract some of the biggest names in the music industry. We are also the home of two state of the art hospitals, Leeds Conservatoire and some great schools.

It is a fantastic place to live and work!



## 4 Our Parish.

The Parish of Wortley and Farnley is unusual in that it's boundary largely follows that of the electoral ward of Farnley and Wortley, one of the larger electoral Wards within Leeds City Council.

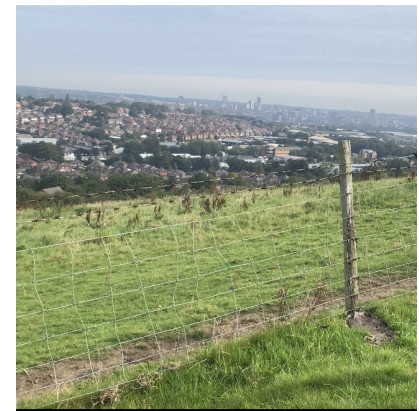
Originally three different churches within two separate parishes we are now one united and thriving Parish gathering in one church, St John's, the parish church situated in Wortley. Our boundary extends 21km and we have 11 adjoining neighbouring parishes,

The 2011 Census shows that there are 24,213 people living in the ward. The age breakdown shows there is a lower proportion of people in the 20-29 age bands and a slightly higher proportion of people in the age bands 30-59 than is average for the city. Children (aged 15 and under) account for 19.3% of the ward population, compared to the city average of 18.3%. This equates to a higher population density of people per hectare in the ward than that of the city of Leeds.

Despite being primarily an Inner City area, there are at least nine farms in the ward as well as large stretches of open countryside. There are 5 Primary Schools and one High School serving the parish. Within the community of Farnley and Wortley ward the 2011 Census informs us that 242 households declared that there were no residents who spoke English as a main language.

When asked about religion, 57.8% of people in the ward say they are Christian, while the proportion of people who say they have no religion is also higher than the city average. Across the city the number of people who stated that their religion was Christian has fallen, and this is reflected in the ward. 1.3% of the resident population declared that they are Muslim (compared to a city rate of 5.4%), and no other major faith group in the ward accounts for more than 0.8% of the population.

Within the community of Farnley and Wortley There are around 11,000 household spaces with the average household size being 2.2 persons. The type of accommodation across Farnley and Wortley is defined as "Whole houses" or bungalows accounting for 82.1% of all households in the ward. The ward has a lower proportion of households living in flats / maisonettes / apartments than is average for the city. Across the ward 62.8% of occupied households in the ward are "owner occupied" and overall the city has seen a decrease in owner occupation. 35.8% of occupied households in the ward are rented, lower than the city average, although the ward has a higher proportion of households renting from the local authority, The proportion renting from a private landlord or letting agency has more than trebled in recent years.





# 5 Who we are

We have worked hard over the past few years to build a strong team although—other than our clergy, we have no paid staff. This has meant that we have enjoyed and encouraged a high lay involvement drawn from a committed team. However, as for many churches, the pool that we pull from is limited and we are seeking to expand that as we grow.

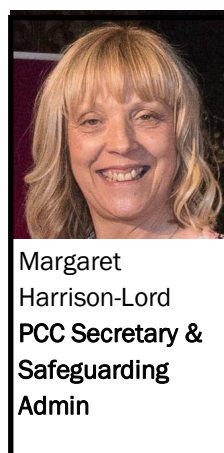
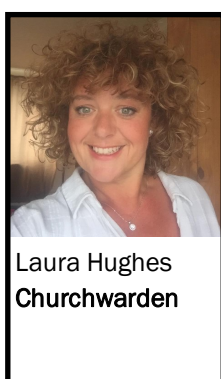
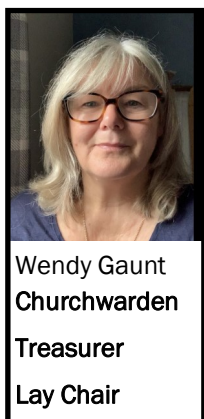
We work hard to build relationships outside of our own church and parish— forming very good relationships with our neighbouring churches. For two years we have led the production of a very well received Drive in Carol Service joined by a number of neighbouring churches generating a lot of interest from local news and radio.

We are successfully developing relationships with other key groups in the local community, schools, community centres, other community groups and local businesses.

We have good links with the Diocese Intern Programme and work hard to recruit an Intern each year and also have an Ordinand with us from the regional theological training college St Hild and this is something that we are very keen to continue.

We have also been hugely blessed by our curate, and want to continue to be seen as a good Training Parish in the future.

Currently key office holders are:



## 6 Our Sunday Services

There is an average of around 60 people across our Sunday services, with around 85 who we would consider to be our regular attendees, but we are happy that many more people consider us to be 'their' church. This includes the many children who are baptised here each year, the people who have been married here over the years and those coming to us for funerals.

In the past we would have considered ourselves to be a central, Eucharistic church but we have deliberately sought to have a 'mixed economy' and have three services each Sunday—all are viewed equally with no one service being prioritised over the other:

- **9am Classic**—is our traditional, liturgical and robed service
- **10am Online**—a 'bitesized' service serving both a small and committed congregation and providing a 'shop front' to our community
- **10:30 Relaxed Service**— an Intergenerational 'soft New Wine' service aimed specifically at local families. This is a developing service served by a strong team and set up after Covid.



**Our Sunday Church Services are open for you.**

**9am | 10am | 10.30am**

Dixon Lane Road, Wortley, LS12 4RU

[wortleyandfarnleychurch.org.uk](http://wortleyandfarnleychurch.org.uk)

### **9AM The Classic One**

A service of Holy Communion with robes, liturgy, hymns, prayers, Bible readings, a sermon, and communion. Ideal for those who like structure and tradition.

### **10AM The Online One**

Join us live on Facebook or Youtube for our short, sharp 30 min service. Songs, prayers, a Bible reading, a thought for the day, and a wonderful online community. Perfect for those who can't get out, or those who anonymously want to see what church is like.

### **10:30AM The Relaxed One**

An informal service that incorporates more contemporary songs and teaching from the Bible. With children's groups and a structured creche this service is just right for young families and those who don't mind a bit of madness.



# 7 Our other Services

## Mid-Week Communion

We hold our mid-week communion every Wednesday, at 11 but rather than just replicate what we have done in the past, this time we've made it more community focused by following it with a simple lunch and chance to talk.

## Evening Prayers

We have a very committed lay team who started Facebook online Evening Prayers whilst in vacancy at the very start of lockdown—they have prayed every night since and have built up a strong, and loyal community around them.

## Messy Church & Messy Vintage

We have restarted Messy Church which is incredibly popular, and, recently started to hold it monthly. We also have Messy Vintage led by our Ordinand once a month as part of That Friday Feeling which has proved a surprising hit.

## Taize

During lockdown, we had an online Taize service each month. We are now having an onsite, in person service once each half term, aiming to build that up as we gather together a bigger team.

## Connect Group

Our telephone Connect Group—run by our Ordinand, was set up during Covid for those who aren't able to access services via the Internet, and was so well received that we have kept it going!

## Telephone Service

This service has the Online Sermon added to it each week.

WORTLEY  
& FARNLEY

Do be part of

## Evening Prayers

Every Night  
7pm



## Connect

WORTLEY  
& FARNLEY

Via Telephone Conferencing!

*A relaxed & enjoyable way to connect with others without worry about social distancing!*

Do join us:  
**Tuesday** - 2.30pm  
**Thursday** - 10am

Contact us for information, or see the newsletter for details.





## 8 Our Church Buildings:

Our Parish Church was built in 1898, and it is not without it's challenges!

The roof has various issues, but a solution has been found and work is due to commence that will both fix it, and provide the basis for our plans to re-order. We want to make the main church a useable and welcoming space to all the community.

However, the acoustics are amazing, for choirs and the playing of a well maintained organ, and a talented and good natured organist.

It is the perfect size for a Parish church—big enough to handle large events and services, but small enough not to feel lost in.

Wortley and Farnley lacks an obvious 'centre'. Since Covid, it has been noticeable that many in the community are now beginning to describe us as the 'hub' of the community—this is something that we are very keen to build on.

We also have a well maintained church hall adjacent to the church which is well used by an assortment of church and community groups. We hold two Toddlers groups each week, and also have 'That Friday Feeling' - a carousel of coffee mornings, knit and natter and Messy Vintage. This has formed a really strong, relaxed environment for people of all generations to make new friends and meet with old ones,

On top of church use, the church hall is available for rent and is a valuable asset bringing in a regular, good income.

Much of the day to day maintenance is done by members of our own congregation and our grounds are maintained by a small band of willing volunteers.



## 9 Our Online Presence:

Covid caused many churches to shrink. For us, we had a very different experience, and during Covid we really rediscovered our confidence and place and thoroughly enjoyed exploring and experiment with life online.

We do not claim to be particularly polished or overly skilled, but instead aim for relaxed and comfortable which leaves us proud of what we do, whilst not trying to achieve professional standards.

We started our Online Church during lockdown and have continued with it since. It has encouraged a number of people onto our Onsite Services who have journeyed with us online, before then making the step onsite. But it has become much more than a step up; our Online Church has a small, committed core, many of whom give financially to the church.

Using our Online space creatively has proven a fantastic way of widening the group of people involved in church life. Whether that is from simply doing a reading in our Sunday Service, or perhaps by leading Evening Prayers on Facebook it has significantly developed our sense of community and identity.

We mark Festival Services online—often trying to film ‘on tour’ in various places around the Parish.



We also use it as a space to try out different things. For example, we tried to do Messy Church Online—it didn't quite reach the children we were aiming it at, so after six months we called it a day, but it taught us lots and we had great fun in the process. More successful have been our 'Lent Videos' and a series of

'Conversations' where we interview different guests on different topics. Such places build up a large audience over time, and have proved a lot more successful than for example, a traditional Lent Course.



Live on Facebook and YouTube at 7.30pm

### Holy Week Conversations

Mon 11th April	Tues 12th April	Wed 13th April
Eve Ridgeway Holy Saturday	Erricson Mapfumo Good Friday	Thea Colledge Maundy Thursday

WORTLEY & FARNLEY  
St John's Church, Dixon Lane Road, Wortley, LS22 4RU





# 10 Our Parish Events & Festival Services

We are a small church who work hard to punch above our weight and reach out to our community as creatively and as well as we can.

We use Festival Services as a chance to invite people to them—this can be from a ‘Blessing of the Bags’ at the start of the Autumn Term, to Harvest, Remembrance, Memorial, a pop-Up Nativity alongside Carols by Candlelight and a Christingle at Advent. We have all the usual Easter Services, and a Pet Service and will make use of others things too such as Godparent Sunday.

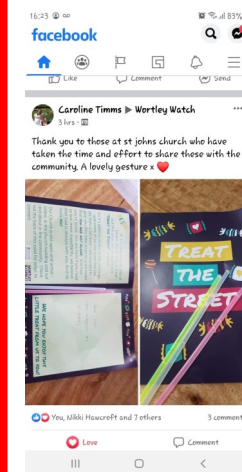
We also mark Thy Kingdom Come, encouraging members of our congregation to make prayer stations that people can use and prayer walk around our Parish.

Our Prayer Tree comes out in our grounds at key moments of the year—Remembrance being an obvious one, but also at Easter and during Thy Kingdom Come. It has been well received and well used.

Alongside our services, we also do a number of events that are designed to bless the community we live in and allow us to connect to people outside of our church. So this includes events such as Treat the Street, Light Stop, Pancake Parties and events that link into what is happening that year, such as the Queen’s Platinum Jubilee.

We are very aware that not all our congregation has been able to return after Covid and not all are able to access our online offerings so we try to ensure they do not lose contact via such things as the weekly newsletter and our popular Advent bags.

A few years ago, there was a good chance the church would close. Although that is no-longer on any agendas, we have worked hard with our publicity to make sure that people know who we are and what it is that we do. So our social media is very important to us and we use a variety of flyers to hand out, including a whole Parish delivery of flyers during Advent.





# 11 Our Discipleship

We have run a range of small groups in the past few years.

Building on our online presence, our initial courses aim to be holistic and a gentle introduction to the relevance of faith, Courses such as the 'Wellbeing Journey' and 'Resolve' tend to be run in the New Year.

More specific enquirer courses such as Start! proved popular and something we intend to run again. More obvious discipleship courses have also been run, such as The Bible Course and The Prayer Course.

For all our short courses, although uptake has been pleasing, we've struggled to form small groups that have been sustained over time. As such, during Easter 2022, we tried a new approach and did our 'Lent Course' as a series of daily 'Lent Videos'. Although they lacked the immediate face to face discussion, the uptake was significantly better, and conversations both online and informally on a Sunday felt much better.

We have other regular chances for discipleship and have found our Tuesday Morning Prayer for growth, Wednesday Communion and Messy Vintage have bolstered our opportunities for discipleship and we really want to continue and develop looking at things creatively.



<b>Palm Sunday</b> Sun, 10th April 9am, 10:30am Onsite 10am Online	<b>Easter 2022</b>	<b>Messy Maundy</b> Thurs 14th April 14th April, 3.30-5pm Onsite
<b>In Conversation</b> Mon-Weds, 11th, 12th, 13th March 7:30pm, Online	<b>#LiveLent</b> <b>#LiveFully</b>	<b>Good Friday</b> 15th April, 2pm Onsite & Online
<b>Maundy Thursday</b> Thurs 14th March 7pm Onsite & Online	<b>WORTLEY &amp; FARNLEY</b>	<b>Easter Eve</b> 16th April, 7pm Onsite & Online
<b>Sunday Onsite</b> 9am & 10:30am	<b>Sunday Online</b> 10am	<b>Easter Day</b> 16th April, 10am Onsite & Online
		<b>Evening Prayers Online</b> 7pm, Every night



# 12 Our Needs:

## What We Do Well:

- We are a relatively small church aiming high - we are a lively, busy church who enjoy each other's company and have significantly grown in confidence in our faith and what we have to offer over the last few years
- We are missional and constantly seek out opportunities to connect with our community
- We are prayerful
- Mixed Economy Services
- Celebrating Festivals and using them as invitational opportunities
- Our Online presence is strong and connects with people outside of our church walls
- We connect well with the community through one-off events and services
- Our mid-week offering to the community is stabilising and growing
- We are increasingly being seen as the 'hub' of our community and want to develop this
- We have started to rebuild our schools work, and have been warmly received
- Our Home Communion are growing, and we are once again returning to our local residential homes

# Where We Need Help & Support:

We've grown, and we want to continue growing.

A lot has happened in the last two years for which we give lots of thanks but we now need to root all those changes and cement what has been done so that we can continue to grow in confidence and faith.

We need someone who will champion us—we have lots of ideas and a deep seated faith, but need someone who will both build and develop that creatively, whilst also encouraging us to be brave and step out

We need someone who is comfortable in a variety of styles, and is able to promote all of them—from our robed 9am, to our informal 10:30 to our hive of activity at Messy Church.

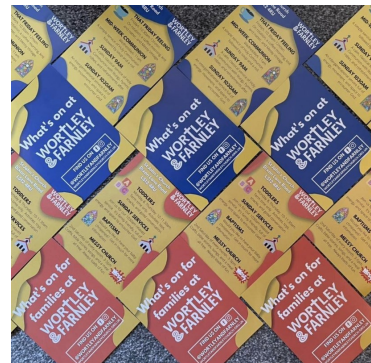
We need someone willing to think outside of the box—small groups are often not well attended, so we need someone who will approach discipleship in different ways.

We are looking at someone who will help us develop the way we draw people into the spiritual life of the church, So, for example, we are starting to think about which groups are social groups, which groups are warmer with some spiritual input, and which groups are clearly designed to connect people into church.

# 13 Who We Would Welcome :

We are looking for someone who is:

- Missional
- Comfortable in a mixed economy church
- Encouraging, positive with a good sense of humour
- Prayerful
- Able to grasp where we are, and help us cement what we are doing and then take us ever forward
- Collaborative in their leadership style—able to build a team both from within and from wider sources
- Willing to take risks... and allowing people to have (well planned and well attempted) failures





# 14The Vicarage

The vicarage for Wortley and Farnley will be in New Farnley.

A stone faced property built in 1997, it comprises of two reception rooms, study, four bedrooms and three bathrooms (one en suite).

There is a mature garden to three sides, off street parking and an attached single garage

New Farnley has a distinct village feel about it with a Co-op and Post Office, local community centre, a hairdressers, garage and car sales. New Farnley Cricket Club with a café and bar a short walk down the lane. Still within walking distance is a pub.



# 15 For further information

Please feel free to contact any of the following:

The Venerable Paul Ayres—Archdeacon of Leeds

- 07539 873 940
- Paul.Ayers@leeds.anglican.org

Rev Phil Harris – Area Dean

- 07709451661
- phil@stpetersmorley.org

Wendy Gaunt – Churchwarden

- 07793 732 404
- wendygaunt@msn.com

Laura Hughes —Churchwarden

- 07749 128 261
- Warden,laura@wortleyandfarnleychurch.org.uk

We look forward to receiving your application soon.

 /wortleyandfarnely

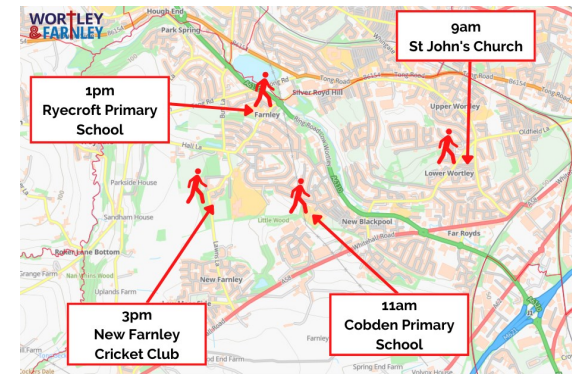
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 PRAYER WALK

