

HOLY TRINITY

SKIPTON  THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND

OPEN DOORS,
OPEN SPACES,
OPEN MINDS



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 THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND
Diocese of Leeds

Loving.
Living.
Learning.



Welcome

We are looking for a Rector who can build on our recent growth and continue to maintain our presence as 'The Church at the Top of the High Street', playing a full part in civic life and working co-operatively throughout the town with community groups, businesses and other faiths and denominations.

We hope that you enjoy reading this brochure to learn a little more about us and about our parish.



The Diocese of Leeds

The Diocese of Leeds was formed at Easter 2014. It is one of the largest dioceses in the country covering an area of around 2,425 square miles, and a growing population of around 2,642,400 people. The diocese comprises five Episcopal areas, each served by a suffragan (area) bishop. Each Episcopal Area is coterminous with an Archdeaconry.

The Diocesan Vision, informed by the values of 'loving, living, learning' is: 'confident Christians, growing churches, transforming communities and so helping share the Good News of Jesus Christ across our Diocese'. This Vision is embedded into the Diocesan Strategy and Goals and expressed in meaningful ways across the episcopal areas.



Our goals

- ① Thriving as a distinctive diocese whose culture is shaped by a shared vision and values
- ② Re-Imagining ministry
- ③ Nurturing lay discipleship
- ④ Building leadership pathways
- ⑤ Growing young people as Christians

The Diocese is a blend of urban and rural in all their diversity. This includes the major cities of Bradford, Leeds and Wakefield; the large industrial and post-industrial towns of Halifax, Huddersfield and Dewsbury; the market towns of Harrogate, Skipton, Ripon (classed as a small city), Richmond and Wetherby; and the deeply rural area of the Yorkshire Dales. It covers several civic and parliamentary boundaries.

The Diocese is unique in having three cathedrals; Bradford, Ripon and Wakefield. The Deans of the Cathedrals work together and continue to look to fresh ways of sharing ideas and engaging in projects of mutual interest.

Aerial view of Skipton, looking southwards towards the Aire Valley





Holy Trinity, Skipton

Holy Trinity occupies an enviable position at the top of Skipton High Street and is well known and loved by locals and visitors.

We are a friendly, welcoming, relaxed church with which the local community feels comfortable to engage, our community being; the parish, the High Street, the market, schools, Craven College, Agricultural Auction Mart, community groups, forces and ex-forces organisations.

Holy Trinity is an ancient church with grade 1 listed status. There has been a place of worship on this spot since the 12th century. It is an architecturally significant building, containing a hammerbeam roof, 15th century wooden rood screen and the remains of a medieval anchorite cell. The building is in good condition and enjoys a generous endowment to maintain the fabric of the church.

We are currently undertaking a major heating and accessibility project that will make us carbon net-zero and meets the vision of the Church of England to be carbon-neutral by 2035.

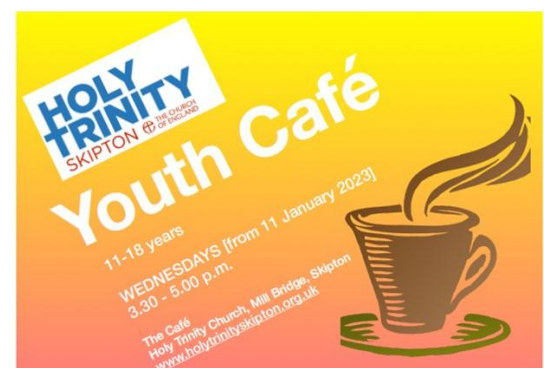
Skipton is a busy market town which hosts many festivals and ceremonies at which the church is pleased to play a major part; hosting many additional services during the year.

A wide range of music forms an important part of our worship and outreach. We have a small and enthusiastic group of musicians and we can call on players from the wider community for special events.

We have a well-supported and talented team of bell ringers.

Our café, youth café and warm welcome café are important outreach resources welcoming residents and visitors alike. For some these offer a safe place to spend time where they know they will be welcome and not judged.

We are a key parish that hosts diocesan events.





St Augustine's, Draughton

The Rector of Holy Trinity, Skipton also has responsibility for St Augustine's church, a small village church in the adjacent village of Draughton. St Augustine's holds two regular services each month plus additional services for festivals.

St Augustine's has a small, yet dedicated congregation including a number of children. The Dales Family services is particularly popular with families in the village.

St Augustine's benefits from a hardworking core of volunteers who endeavour to maintain the fabric of the building and ensure that the church is open daily for visitors.





Life at Holy Trinity and St Augustine's

Services - Holy Trinity

8.30am Weekdays	Morning Prayer
5.00pm Weekdays	Evening Prayer
9.45am Sunday	Family Communion with Children's Club
4.00pm Sunday (last)	Sacred Space
10.45 Wednesday	BCP Holy Communion
12noon Wednesday	Midday Prayer
8.00am Friday	Contemplative Prayer
11.00am Friday (1 st)	Prayers for Healing and Wholeness

We have a dedicated children's club team providing activities for children during the 9.45am service. Children also engage in Godly Play approximately once a month. A children's corner with toys and games is available for families that visit while the church is open.

Last year we held 7 weddings and 10 baptisms at Holy Trinity.

Regular Occasional services: Archdeacon's Visitation service, Skipton Town Remembrance Day service, Martin House carol service, Ermysted's School Founders Day, local primary schools' leavers services, carol services and harvest festivals, Craven College Graduation Ceremony.

Services - St Augustine's

9.30 1 st Sunday	Dales Family Service
11.30 3 rd Sunday	BCP Holy Communion

Mission & Outreach

Community Outreach

In addition to services, the church organises community outreach groups and events during the week.

Both Holy Trinity and St Augustine's churches is open to visitors daily, available for quiet prayer and contemplation.

Clergy lead assemblies at the Parish Church primary school each week.

Youth Café is open to 11–16-year-olds each Wednesday afternoon in term-time. It is well attended by children from local schools.

Our Warm Welcome café provides a friendly and relaxed environment to share a cuppa and connect with others.

Holy Trinity enjoys a large, flexible space where we hold exhibitions of work from, amongst others, Craven College, Parish Church School and local artists.

Café

Our café and its importance in our church life cannot be overemphasised. It is a primary form of outreach and mission and provides much needed income for the church.

It employs young people on Saturdays and during the holidays, offering them an introduction to paid work with responsibilities.

It is coordinated by experienced volunteers.

Each volunteer is trained in food safety and hygiene and the café has a level 5 certificate for hygiene.

This is a vital part of life at Holy Trinity and a fabulous opportunity for the new Rector to be available to all the local community and Skipton's visitors.

Shop

Another key aspect of wider outreach our well stocked and popular shop, which sells high quality gifts and cards.

This is managed and staffed by volunteers who also act as welcomers and often provide a listening ear to customers.

Clergy lead assemblies at the Parish Church primary school each week.

Safeguarding

We have a strong safeguarding team, who meet regularly and are led by a dedicated Safeguarding Officer. The team utilises the Diocesan Safeguarding Hub and Dashboard.

All volunteers have completed safeguarding training.



What we hope for from the Rector

We are seeking an approachable and confident leader who can relate to people of all ages.

In practical terms they will be able to demonstrate that they;

- Can build a healthy, growing congregation bringing in new worshippers and provide spiritual leadership and counsel to the town of Skipton and the community of Draughton, working collaboratively with retired clergy of Holy Trinity and St Augustine's.
- Can communicate effectively in writing and verbally engage with diverse audiences.
- Can reach out and work cooperatively with individuals, community groups, other faiths and denominations to make, build and extend relationships, playing a full part in civic life.
- Have the ability to support and encourage growth in practical Christianity within Holy Trinity and the wider community, both individuals and groups, of all ages and backgrounds.
- Can lead by example, preaching the Gospel to the congregation, relating it to their lives and experiences thus encouraging their spirituality and prayer life.
- Recognise the need to develop the life of the parish by implementing and managing change with empathy whilst recognising the traditions that unite us.
- Value the contribution of volunteers.
- Possess good team building skills.
- Effectively engage with the administration of the parish.
- Ability to manage parish finances and resources effectively.
- Have an awareness of the needs of the rural community especially with reference to and support for St Augustine's Draughton.
- Can build on our recent growth and continue to maintain our presence as the church at the top of the High Street.



What Holy Trinity can offer to the Rector

- A large four bedroomed Victorian rectory, arranged over two floors with a kitchen, large living room with log burner, dining room, utility area and office. There is ample parking. The garden is spacious and secluded and has been cared for by the previous incumbent and during the vacancy.
- A parish office and a self-contained flat are attached to the Rectory via a link-passage, but both can also be accessed by an exterior entrance.
- An office administrator employed 14 hours a week.
- We currently have a Curate in his final year of training.
- The support of a Lay Worship Leader.
- A committed P.C.C with two Church Wardens, an experienced treasurer, a safeguarding officer and teams of volunteers covering all the main aspects of running the church.
- A congregation eager to move forward with the Diocesan strategy of transforming our church by clergy and people loving, living and learning in a dynamic partnership. Discovering how to do this and then implementing it with clear and agreed priorities.
- An experienced and skilled team of volunteers who help to run all aspects of church life including the café, shop, youth café, children's club, warm spaces, flower arranging and maintaining the fabric of the building.
- A church that is working hard to raise enough money to contribute to the Parish share whilst continuing its own commitment to maintain this ancient Major Church.

The living of Holy Trinity Skipton enjoys the patronage of the Dean and Chapter of Christ Church, Oxford who is in the happy position of being able to support the incumbents of its eighty livings through the revenues of the Dr South Trust, which is able to assist with grants for study, administration and holidays, as well as offering a biennial conference and loans for the purchase of a car.



The Parish and the town of Skipton

Skipton is a thriving market town with a population of roughly 16,000 with several new housing developments ongoing. It has two parishes; Holy Trinity parish has approximately 5,300 people and is focused on the historic centre of Skipton, the northern boundary and the village of Draughton. Christ Church contains the southern areas of Skipton and the village of Carleton with a population of 10400.

Skipton is a historic site which dates back to the 11th Century. It is the location of Skipton Castle, which is one of the best-preserved medieval castles in England.

Numerous public festivals are held in Skipton throughout the year that provide opportunity for outreach, engagement and fund raising with the local community. This includes the Christmas Markets, Sheep Day, Skipton Gala, Skipton Music Festival, Skipton Beer Festival, Armed Forces Week.

Local employment is dominated by those who work in agriculture, tourism and the financial sector (Skipton is the location of the headquarters of the Skipton Building Society). There are also a large number of people who commute to work in the local cities of Leeds and Bradford.

Education provision in Skipton is excellent, being the home of Skipton Academy, a comprehensive secondary school, Ermysted's Boys Grammar School and Skipton Girls' High School. It is pleasing to note that all of these are rated as Good by OFSTED.

Craven College provides further and higher education opportunities.

Skipton is also close to the notable public school of Giggleswick.

The parish has an official link with a local Church of England primary school. Parish Church Primary School is celebrating a glowing report following its SIAMS as a Church of England school.

Leisure time is well catered for with many specialist clubs including a thriving U3A, Rotary, Soroptimists, History Society, music society, uniformed organisations for children and young people.

The arts and entertainment are well catered for; the town boasts a cinema, the Craven Arts House, Skipton Little Theatre, some excellent restaurants and pubs, plus the highly rated Craven Museum.

There are numerous sporting opportunities and facilities for swimming, tennis, cricket, rugby, football, cycling, running plus a bowling alley and a golf club. There are numerous gyms and exercise classes for adults and children.

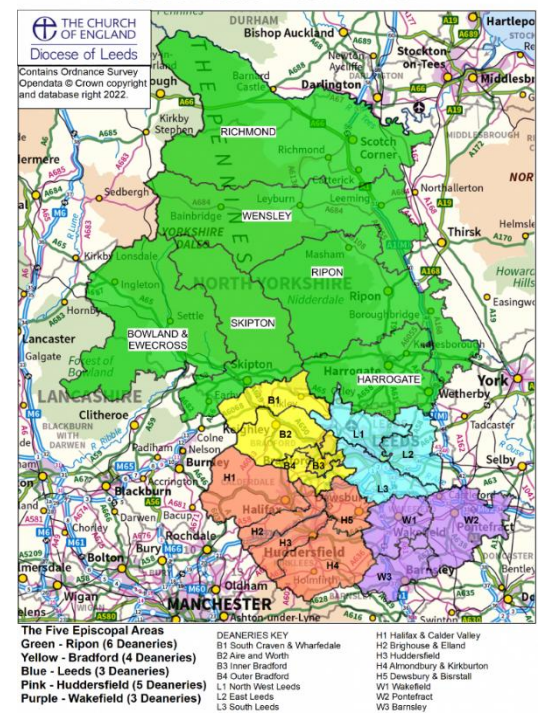


Further Afield

Skipton is situated strategically as the gateway to the Yorkshire Dales providing opportunities for exploring the beautiful area on our doorstep from towns such as Ripon, Settle, Harrogate, Leeds and York to small Dales' villages.

Skipton has good road and rail links to London, Leeds, Bradford and onwards to all major U.K towns.

Leeds/Bradford Airport and Manchester airport are within easy reach.



Ripon

A beautiful cathedral city with a rich history stretching back over 1300 years, set around a large market square that fills with stalls every Thursday.

The smallest city in Yorkshire it is right on the edge of the Nidderdale Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and close to the World Heritage Site of Fountains Abbey and Studley Royal Water Gardens.

Home to Ripon Cathedral a beautiful and ancient church with a history reaching back to the 7th century. It is one of three co-equal Cathedrals for the Bishop of Leeds along with Bradford & Wakefield.



Leeds

The unofficial capital of Yorkshire!

A vibrant, modern city with a rich industrial past.

Whether you're looking for culture, history, shopping or just to wander and enjoy the vibrant atmosphere, there's so much to experience in Leeds. It is the proud home to world-class theatres, performance, music and dance, award-winning restaurants, a wealth of attractions and breath-taking architecture.

The shopping on offer is unrivalled and the independent scene is thriving.

Host to major international sporting events, colourful carnivals and festivals.

Leeds is home to five universities.

It is the seat of the Anglican Diocese of Leeds, although Leeds Cathedral is Roman Catholic and Leeds Minster is the largest Anglican church.

Bradford – The UK City of Culture 2025

Bradford is a cultural city with a flourishing arts scene, fascinating exhibitions and beautiful theatres.

There are attractions such as the National Science and Media Museum, Cartwright Hall and Impressions Gallery, one of the UK's most celebrated photography venues.

Bradford has an impressive history and this is reflected in the striking architecture found throughout the city.

Bradford was once considered to be the wool capital of the world and is now proud to be the first ever UNESCO City of Film.

The Anglican Cathedral is near the centre of town.

In 2016 Bradford retained the Curry Capital of Britain title for a record sixth year in a row!



The Yorkshire Dales

The Yorkshire Dales has many moods; it can be wild and windswept or quietly tranquil.

It includes some of the finest limestone scenery in the UK, from crags and pavements to an underground labyrinth of caves. Each valley or 'dale' has its own distinct character, set against expansive heather moorland tops.

Stone-built villages sit amongst traditional farming landscapes of field barns, drystone walls and flower-rich hay meadows, and show how the area has been shaped over thousands of years by the people who have lived and worked here.

Spectacular waterfalls and ancient broadleaved woodland contrast with the scattered remains of former mine workings and other rural industries which are reminders of the area's rich industrial heritage.

Together, nature and people have created a special landscape of immense beauty and character. Providing excellent walking, cycling or pot holing opportunities.

Railway enthusiasts will enjoy the famous Settle-Carlisle railway line which is a major feature of the area, with regular sightings of steam locomotives. One mile north of Skipton is Embsay Station which is on the Embsay & Bolton Abbey Steam Railway line.



Finances

A copy of the accounts is available separately.

We have a stable financial position. We paid a healthy contribution of £86,000 to the parish share in 2024 and plan to give a similar amount this year. In the longer term, we aspire to continue to improve our contributions.

Income comes from planned giving, café and shop, visitor donations and fund raising.

Clergy expenses are met in full.

We are in the advanced stages of a major capital project. The aim of this project is to replace the currently non-functioning heating system at Holy Trinity with a new carbon neutral heating system fit for the 21st century and to conform with the Church of England's Net-Zero vision. The project has a further aim of improving accessibility to our ancient church in line with our mission to have open doors, open spaces and open minds.

Communication

Website

www.holytrinityskipton.org.uk

Facebook

facebook.com/holytrinityskipton

A very professional website that covers all aspects of life at Holy Trinity and St Augustine's. Additionally, we have a Facebook page which contains more immediate information.

The website and Facebook page are wholly maintained by the church office.



*Could You Be Our
New Rector?*