

St Michael's Church, Westgate Common, Wakefield

Parish Brochure



Exterior of St Michael's Church

Welcome to St Michael's Church, Westgate.

This brochure offers an introduction to our parish, our worship, and the community we serve.

St Michael's stands within a diverse and lively part of Wakefield, close to the city centre and within easy reach of Wakefield Cathedral and the wider life of the city. We are a parish that values prayer, sacramental worship, pastoral care, and engagement with the local community.

The Church is around 170 years old and has an attached hall where Wakefield District City of Sanctuary, a charity supporting asylum seekers is based.

This brochure is intended to give potential applicants and visitors a sense of who we are as a church, the community we serve, and the opportunities for ministry here.

Contents

1.	Welcome to St Michael's	3
2.	The Church buildings	4
3.	The Vicarage	4
4.	Our Worship	4
5.	Our Community	5
6.	Our Vision	6
7.	The Priest We Are Seeking	6
8.	Opportunities for Mission	7
8.1.	Schools	7
8.2.	Local community spaces	8
8.3.	Walking the parish	8
8.4.	Refugees and asylum seekers	8
9.	About Wakefield	8
10.	Looking to the Future	10
11.	Appendix 1 Pictures of the Vicarage	11

1. Welcome to St Michael's

St Michael's is a historic parish church located close to the heart of Wakefield. Our parish reflects the character of the surrounding area: vibrant, diverse, and constantly evolving. Within a relatively small geographical area there are people from many different cultures, languages, and backgrounds.

This diversity is something we see not as a challenge but as a gift and opportunity. It allows the church to bear witness to the Gospel in a rich and varied community and to build relationships that cross cultural and social boundaries.

Our congregation is welcoming and committed to the life of the Church. We value prayer, faithful worship, pastoral care, and the steady work of building relationships with the community around us.

At the heart of our life together is a desire to be a church where:

- People can encounter the presence of Christ
- Faith can be nurtured and deepened
- The sacraments are celebrated with reverence and joy
- The Gospel is shared with compassion and confidence

We believe God continues to guide and shape the life of this parish. As we look to the future, we are praying for a priest who will walk alongside us, helping us grow in faith and strengthen our witness to Christ in the heart of Wakefield.



Outside service

2. The Church buildings

The last Quinquennial Inspection Report indicated that it is "generally in a good condition and it is clear that the buildings have been well cared for." It was re-ordered about 30 years ago and the pews have been replaced with comfortable chairs.

Attached to the Church is the Church Hall which comprises of two large Halls plus kitchen and toilet facilities [including disability facilities. These are used as a base for a charity.

Around the hall there is our own private car park.

3. The Vicarage

The vicarage is located in St Paul's Parish and is located approximately 1 mile from St Michaels church. The vicarage, which has recently been refurbished, is a spacious and light, detached four-bedroom house, with three reception rooms, a good sized office and large enclosed garden to the rear, within close proximity to local shops on a quiet suburban street. There is ample parking for two cars on the front driveway. Pictures of the exterior and interior of the vicarage are provided in Appendix 1.

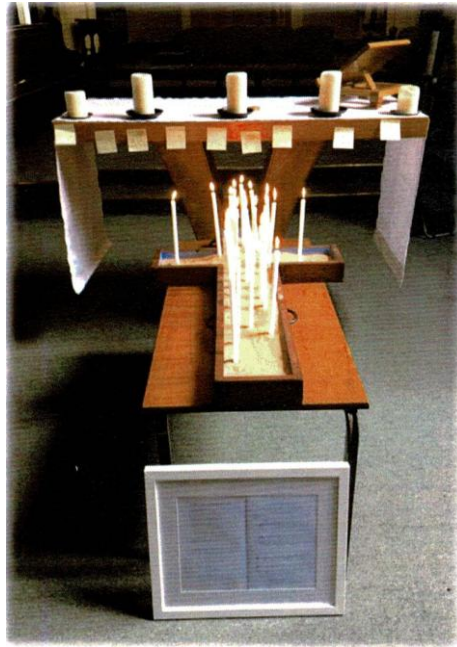
4. Our Worship

The Sunday Eucharist lies at the centre of our life together at St Michael's. Through word and sacrament we gather as the people of God, offering prayer, praise, and thanksgiving. Our worship is rooted in the Liberal Catholic tradition and reflects the richness of the Church's liturgical life. We value:

- Reverent and prayerful liturgy
- Thoughtful preaching grounded in scripture
- The beauty and depth of the Church's sacramental life
- A welcoming and hospitable atmosphere for all who attend
- A space where all ages, races, cultures and backgrounds can come together as one community.

The rhythm of the Church's year shapes our common life, from Advent and Christmas through Lent and Easter and into the great festivals of the Christian calendar. These seasons provide opportunities for reflection, teaching, and renewal.

Our services seek to hold together reverence and accessibility. We aim to create a space where those who have worshipped all their lives and those exploring faith for the first time can feel equally welcomed.



Altar during a service

5. Our Community

The parish of St Michael's lies close to the centre of Wakefield and reflects the diversity of the surrounding community.

People from a wide range of cultural, ethnic, and social backgrounds live within the parish. Many residents have long-standing roots in Wakefield, while others have come more recently from across the UK and from many parts of the world. This diversity enriches the life of the church and shapes the way we understand our mission.

The parish is also home to a growing number of refugees and asylum seekers, many of whom are supported by local organisations such as Wakefield City of Sanctuary. The work of City of Sanctuary is valued within the parish, and there is a desire to strengthen the relationship between the church and this important initiative.

Members of the congregation recognise that the church can play an important role in offering welcome, hospitality, and friendship to those who have come to Wakefield seeking safety and a new beginning. Opportunities exist to build relationships, offer practical support, and create spaces where people can gather, learn, and share their stories.

St Michael's seeks to be a church where the love of Christ is shown not only through worship but through presence, friendship, and practical care. The church building itself stands as a visible reminder that faith continues to have a place within the life of the community.

Through everyday encounters, pastoral ministry, and community engagement, we hope to reflect something of Christ's love to those around us.



Interior of the Church during a service

6. Our Vision

We believe that God continues to call St Michael's to be a living and growing Christian community in this part of Wakefield.

Our vision is for St Michael's to be a church where:

- People encounter the love of God through worship, prayer, and the sacraments
- The Sunday Eucharist remains the spiritual centre of parish life
- The Gospel is proclaimed clearly and faithfully
- The church is connected with the life of the surrounding community
- People of all ages are encouraged to grow as disciples of Jesus Christ
- Faith is nurtured through teaching, fellowship, and pastoral care

We believe there is significant potential for continued spiritual and numerical growth within the parish as relationships deepen and new opportunities for mission develop.

7. The Priest We Are Seeking

The congregation of St Michael's places great importance on pastoral ministry and relationships.

We are praying for a priest who will take time to know the people of the parish, share in their lives, and walk alongside them in faith. We hope for someone who will be

present among us not only as a leader in worship but also as a shepherd and companion in the life of the community.

We hope to welcome a priest who will:

- Provide faithful pastoral and spiritual leadership
- Value the central place of the Eucharist and sacramental life
- Preach the Gospel clearly and thoughtfully
- Build relationships with the congregation and wider community
- Encourage and nurture the gifts and ministries of the congregation
- Help develop new opportunities for mission and outreach

Our congregation is deeply supportive of its clergy. We hope to welcome a priest who will feel at home among us - someone who will love and care for the people of the parish, and who will in turn be loved, supported, and prayed for by the congregation.

We are also looking for someone who values the importance of being a visible and approachable priest within the neighbourhood, sharing in the everyday life of the parish and building relationships beyond the walls of the church.

8. Opportunities for Mission

St Michael's sits within a parish where there are many opportunities for mission and outreach.

These opportunities arise not only through organised activities but through presence and relationship-building within the local community.

Some of the opportunities that exist within the parish include:

8.1. Schools

Local schools provide important opportunities for engagement with children, families, and staff. Through assemblies, visits, and events connected to the Christian year, the church has opportunities to share the story of the Gospel and support the spiritual life of local schools.



Schools Experience Easter at the Church

8.2. Local community spaces

The pubs, cafés, and other gathering places within the parish form an important part of the social life of the neighbourhood. These spaces provide natural opportunities for conversation, listening, and building relationships with people who might never initially consider entering a church building.

8.3. Walking the parish

Simply being present within the neighbourhood can be a powerful form of ministry. Walking the streets, visiting local estates, and meeting residents allows the priest to become a familiar and trusted presence within the community.

This kind of ministry helps the church remain connected to the everyday lives of the people it serves.

8.4. Refugees and asylum seekers

The parish includes many people who have come to Wakefield seeking refuge and a new start. Through partnerships with organisations such as Wakefield City of Sanctuary, there is considerable opportunity for the church to offer welcome, friendship, and pastoral support.

A priest who is willing to be visible, approachable, and engaged in the life of the neighbourhood will find many opportunities to share the love of Christ in practical and meaningful ways.

9. About Wakefield

Wakefield is a historic Yorkshire city with a strong sense of identity and community. Its history stretches back centuries, and the city continues to combine historic architecture with modern development.

At the heart of the city stands Wakefield Cathedral, which plays an important role in the spiritual and civic life of the area.

Wakefield offers a wide range of amenities including:

- Schools and educational institutions
- Listed parks and green spaces
- Cultural attractions and museums
- Shops, cafés, and local businesses

The city is well connected by road and rail, with easy access to Leeds, Sheffield, other major Yorkshire centres, and London making it an accessible and attractive place to live and work.

For clergy and families alike, Wakefield provides a setting that combines urban ministry with a strong sense of local community.



Overview of the city centre showing the County Hall, Town Hall and Wakefield Cathedral



Wakefield shopping centre

(By Mike Kirby, CC BY-SA 2.0, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=33390153>)

10.Looking to the Future

We believe God continues to call St Michael's to be a place of prayer, welcome, and mission in the heart of Wakefield.

As we look to the future, we hope to deepen our relationships within the community and to strengthen our engagement with those who live around us. This includes developing closer partnerships with local organisations, schools, and community groups, and continuing to build connections with people from many different backgrounds.

We believe that faithful worship, pastoral care, and a visible Christian presence within the parish will enable St Michael's to grow as a place where people encounter Christ and experience the love of God.

We look forward to welcoming a priest who will join us in this calling and help us continue the work of sharing Christ's love with the people of Wakefield.

Appendix 1 Pictures of the Vicarage



