

# **Kirkdale Benefice - Parish Profile**

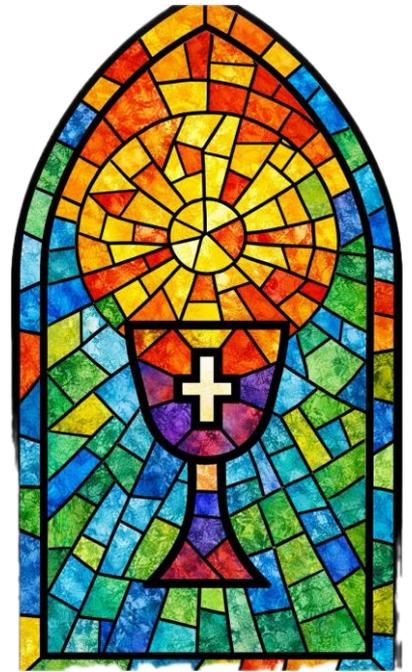
**St. Hilda's in Beadlam**

**St. Saviour's in Harome**

**St. Gregory's in Kirkdale**

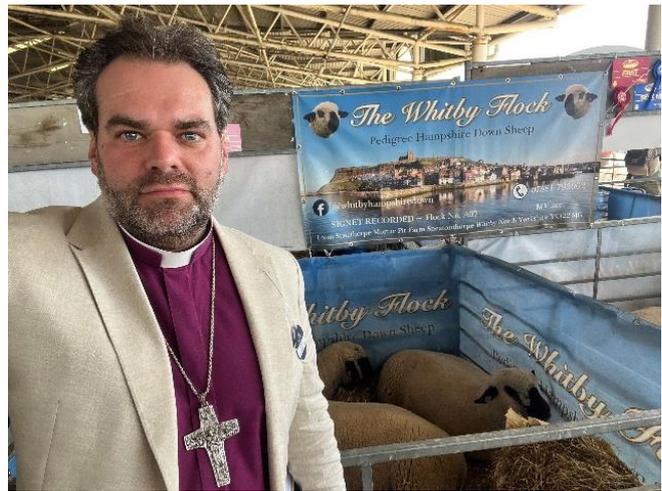
**All Saints & St. James in Nunnington**

**St. John the Baptist in Pockley**



## An introduction from Barry, the Bishop of Whitby

I am delighted you are exploring applying to be Priest-in-Charge of the Kirkdale Benefice, serving seven small villages, with five churches, in the beautiful Ryedale Valley on the edge of the North York Moors. Be assured of my prayers and those of Archdeacon Amanda and our colleagues as you do.



The Kirkdale benefice honours the unique character of each village, whilst being genuinely collaborative as a single benefice. Teamwork is a feature of the benefice, with a number of clergy with PTO, active lay leadership, a shared (paid) Children and Youth Worker and long established ecumenical links, especially with the Methodist District. The churches are all at the heart of the communities in which they are set, with strong links with local church and community schools. The benefice is known for its warmth and welcome.

The role, which at half a stipend and a house provided equates to four days ministry per a week, gives space for the new priest to envision and lead the benefice in worship and witness, care and support. We are in the process of purchasing a new house and once it has been purchased, we anticipate that the new priest will be licensed as vicar.

This is a post for a priest who is passionate about reaching beyond the walls of the church, inviting all in our communities to join in the story and know the hope and life of Jesus Christ. We seek a priest marinated in prayer, able to enable, inspire and encourage the saints, and who can help connect faith with our communities Monday through Sunday, without trying to do it all themselves.

The benefice joins with the parishes of the Diocese in seeking to invite the 1.5 million parishioners we serve to know the joy of Living Christ's Story. This means each church focusing on what it means to:

- Become more like Christ – knowing we are God's beloved children, that Jesus came to seek, serve and save;

- Reach people we currently don't - living and telling the story of God with cultural humility and faith-filled confidence, inviting our classmates and colleagues, neighbours and friends to know the love, purpose and hope which has blessed us;
- Grow as churches of missionary disciples which are younger and more diverse – knowing we are sent to every place and person to which we go, but being a 'community of the sent' is most effective and best reflects the Kingdom of God when everyone is known and needed, honoured and participating.

May you know the surrounding and upholding of the Spirit of God as you discern,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Barry Hill". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping tail that extends to the right.

For an informal conversation about this post, contact the Bishop of Whitby, Barry Hill ([bishopofwhitby@yorkdiocese.org](mailto:bishopofwhitby@yorkdiocese.org) or 01642 593273) or the Archdeacon of Cleveland, Amanda Bloor ([adcl@yorkdiocese.org](mailto:adcl@yorkdiocese.org) or 01642 706095).

This post is open to Anglican priests who are eligible to work in the UK, subject to satisfactory episcopal reference and enhanced DBS.

Applications to the Bishop's Office: [Jacqui.Gunter@yorkdiocese.org.uk](mailto:Jacqui.Gunter@yorkdiocese.org.uk)

## **Introduction to our Benefice**

We are a welcoming and collaborative rural benefice set in the beautiful countryside between the market towns of Helmsley and Kirkbymoorside, on the edge of the North York Moors. Our five churches serve the villages of Harome, Nunnington, Pockley, Nawton, Beadlam, Wombleton and Welburn, each in close proximity, with its own character, and united by a shared commitment to prayer, hospitality and service to our communities.

We look forward with hope and enthusiasm to welcoming a new priest who will join us as we continue to grow in faith and serve the people of our villages. We hope to welcome a priest who will work alongside us in a spirit of partnership, encouraging our churches as we deepen our faith, strengthen our relationships with our communities, and explore new opportunities for mission and ministry across the benefice.

We are fortunate to live in an area of outstanding natural beauty, with the North York Moors on our doorstep, the Yorkshire coast with its wonderful sandy beaches within easy reach, and the historic city of York close by. Situated within the Ryedale Valley, the benefice is close to the market towns of Helmsley and Kirkbymoorside which offer a range of local services and community facilities. Primary schools are located nearby in Helmsley and Nawton/Beadlam, with secondary education available locally.

Each church has its own character and style of worship, supported by committed and welcoming congregations. Together, the churches of Kirkdale Benefice reflect the rich diversity and inclusivity of the Anglican tradition. Messy Church sits comfortably alongside more traditional liturgical practices such as the wearing of vestments and the Reserved Sacrament.

Our worship also reflects the benefits of ecumenical partnership, with Methodists and Anglicans worshipping together in some of our communities. At the same time, there is a strong respect for liturgical tradition, with services using the Book of Common Prayer as well as making full use of the rich resources offered through Common Worship.

The villages we serve are vibrant and supportive communities, with many local activities and a strong sense of care for one another. The benefice works collaboratively and has often been praised for the way we support each other and share responsibilities.

During our current vacancy we have been greatly supported by four retired priests, the Methodist Minister from Pickering and our shared Children and Youth Worker. Alongside them, a dedicated team of Churchwardens, PCC members, the Benefice Safeguarding Officer, our organists and choir members, and the Musical Director and Friends of St Gregory's Minster contribute their time and gifts to sustain the life of the benefice.

Much of the practical work of the benefice is supported by volunteers, including the preparation of service posters, printing and maintaining the website. We are also working towards appointing a paid treasurer and providing administrative support for the whole benefice, which we hope will free valuable time for both the vicar and PCC members.

We are open to exploring new ways of working together and to reviewing how our parishes organise themselves in order to best support the priest in their ministry.

While we value the traditions and rhythms of Anglican worship that shape our churches, we are also open to exploring new opportunities for mission, outreach and community engagement as we look to the future together.

The Diocesan Property Team is in the process of purchasing a new property which we hope to be able to show on interview day. Once it has been purchased, we anticipate that the new priest will be licensed as vicar.

We are excited about the future and remain committed to serving our communities and sharing the love of Jesus through prayer, hospitality and welcome.

The following pages provide a short profile written by each of our churches. Together they offer a fuller picture of the character of each parish, the communities we serve, and the ways in which we contribute to the life of the Kirkdale Benefice as a whole. We hope they give you a sense of the warmth, commitment and faith that shape our benefice, and we look forward to welcoming the priest who will share in this next chapter of our life together.

## **What We Offer:**

- A warm welcome and a spirit of partnership across the benefice, with committed congregations who value working together.
- Active lay leadership and volunteers who support the practical and spiritual life of our churches.

- A supportive ministry team including retired clergy and a shared Children and Youth Worker.
- A comfortable house appropriately in easy reach of our communities
- Strong relationships with our local communities, schools and village organisations.
- A beautiful rural setting within the Ryedale Valley, close to the market towns of Helmsley and Kirkbymoorside.

## St Hilda's Church, Beadlam

St. Hilda's is the daughter church to St. Gregory's Minster, it is set on the main road between Nawton and Beadlam. It was built in Victorian times and is in very good repair, with no outstanding issues identified in the Quinquennial inspection.

We have an active, official Ecumenical Agreement with the Methodist Church, which was put in place about 30 years ago, it was a ground breaking development at the time.



Our pattern of services currently is: Church of England the first, third and fifth Sundays and the second and fourth Sundays are Methodist led. As a congregation we see ourselves as Christians rather than one denomination or the other. We enjoy a variety of different styles of worship, including occasional Taize and Iona services and we use the modern liturgy.

We have an established Bible study group which has 8 members at present which meets fortnightly throughout the year, it has been running for about 25 years. It's a friendly, relaxed group where we feel confident asking questions and exploring the Bible together.

We also ran an Alpha group in 2024/5, led by the church warden and two others from the Benefice and this group has gone on to do the Bible society's Bible Course and we are currently doing a Lent course together. We all feel it has been an inspiring time and a place to grow our faith.

St Hilda's has a Prayer Tree at the back of the church; it gets many



requests for prayer from both the congregation, village residents and visitors. A small group meet once a week to faithfully pray through all the requests.

St. Hilda's serves the villages of Nawton, Beadlam, Wombleton and Welburn and the outlying properties and farms. We have a good relationship with the Primary school in Nawton, offering Messy Church during the school holidays. The attendance averages about 12 - 15 children and occasionally the numbers have been up to 24.



We are fortunate to have a shared Youth Leader, who is taking our monthly All Age worship service during the vacancy. She also goes into Nawton Community Primary School and Welburn Hall School (situated a mile down the road) to take a school assembly each week. She has started a lunchtime group in Ryedale School, the Secondary School in Nawton. We would love to keep expanding our connections with local families.



We are able to offer the Millennium Room to village organisations, such as the Nawton Crafters, the Parish Council and the Mother and Toddler group. We are also building on the Community Carols event in partnership with the Parish Council and the Primary School, which involves the switching on of the Christmas Tree lights and the purple lights illuminating the church for the Christmas season, followed by Carols, mince pies and mulled wine.

The Millennium Room is an extension built with the proceeds of the sale of Wombleton and Nawton Methodist Chapels. It gives us a good-sized Meeting Room, disabled Toilet and a well-

equipped kitchen. It has good Disabled Access, which leads into the church.

We are a very friendly, supportive and loving community with many different talents to offer. Our age range is from little children upwards. Our regular



congregation numbers are around 12 - 15 weekly.

## **St Saviour's Church, Harome**

Harome is set in a conservation area a few miles south of the A170 between Helmsley and Kirkbymoorside. With stone cottages, some of them thatched, a mill pond and a wide main street it is an attractive place to live. Traditionally Harome has been a farming community surrounded by lush farming land. There is a mixed population within Harome of approx. 250 people. There has been an influx of newcomers to the village more recently including some young families.

Sport and community plays an important part in village life with a bowls, cricket and snooker/billiards teams. The new village hall and sports field host many community events. This thriving village boasts two wonderful hotels, The Pheasant and the Michelin starred Star Inn. Harome is a desirable place to live with a low crime rate.



St Saviour's Church is a distinctive landmark building in the village literally being at the centre of village life, it is deeply loved and cherished, with the clock marking 'Harome Time' and the ringing of the bell calling people to worship. St Saviour's Church is a Grade II listed parish church. It was designed by the renowned architect Charles Barry and construction completed in 1862. The church building is set within a peaceful tranquil cemetery with an additional cemetery nearby.

St Saviour's is well cared for and well-maintained meeting all standards required. Our last project saw the restoration of the church steeple and bell tower, with generous donations from villagers. We are currently looking to introduce a fully automated clock system and we are continually looking to improve and enhance the building and comfort of the congregation. There is available wheelchair access and, in collaboration with our parish council, we have installed a potential lifesaving defibrillator. The defibrillator has been dispatched four times in the village but returned unused on each occasion.

With the departure of Rev. Sue Binks, we currently hold 2 services a month alternating between evening and morning. There are many special services held though the year. We hold a Mothering Sunday service, together with

services at Easter, Remembrance commemorations, Harvest Festival, Benefice services, Advent and Christmas services.

For over 20 years the church has partnered with the local Star Inn to offer the village Carol Service and Supper which sees a congregation of around 140 people. We enjoy and nurture a thriving wedding ministry and are privileged to again have a strong relationship with the two hotels in the village. Baptisms, confirmations, weddings, blessings and funerals continue to hold great meaning to the parish.



We encourage development in our Christian faith where our PCC members write and take intercessions for services. Although we are a small dedicated team (6 PCC members) we have welcomers and readers, a server, bell ringers and organist who always support the clergy during services. We currently don't have a churchwarden but as a united team we work collaboratively, with the Diocese and other agencies. One of our PCC members is the Benefice Safeguarding Officer who arranges in person group training for PCC members when needed, and has formed links with neighbouring parishes PSO's.

We are a welcoming and inclusive church and try to make provision for all. After the services we often provide refreshments and hospitality, facilitating a place to chat and enjoy each others company and we offer a friendly welcoming environment. We extend our welcome to the village by providing and delivering a parish magazine, hand delivering invitations round the village to services and the church's open doors offer a place of prayer, reflection and spiritual nourishment. We endeavour to put the church at the heart of village and parish life. We hold community events in the church. As an example over the last two years we have had the joy of the Harome Community choir who rehearse in the church and have performed musical events there to raise funds for St Saviour's and other charities.

Future plans include an open café, pop up café and local photography exhibition in the church. We'd like to be able to offer hospitality to families, the farming community, those who may be socially isolated as well as visitors to Harome who may not usually visit a church.

Our church members and PCC members have run Alpha courses, Lent groups, pilgrim courses, bible studies and are involved in the Benefice Messy Church. We have close links with the village hall and a PCC member helped set up a Chatty cafe which runs once a month which is very popular. We have run a pop up soup lunch event for the village to raise funds for the Farming Community Network. We have collected for Christian Aid, raised funds for the EDC, collect for the local food bank and raise money for the Poppy Appeal.

We endeavour to be a living church, being salt and light in Jesus's name. Our vision for the future is to continue developing the current action plan and goals for the church. To multiply our numbers who attend church and to develop pastoral care within the community. We want to continue developing our ministry through our services and through promoting the living Christ in all that we do. We would like our newly appointed priest to help and support our vision for a vibrant welcoming church for all.



## St Gregory's, Kirkdale

St Gregory's Minster occupies its own secluded valley at the extreme East end of the benefice, about a mile from the town of Kirkbymoorside. Though far from any habitation, it nevertheless attracts a loyal congregation from surrounding farms and villages and from further afield, many from families who have worshipped here for generations.



There is a well-established rota of helpers to act as sides-people, to dress the altar, and to read the lessons, and newcomers experience a warm welcome and encouragement to become



involved.



Services at the Minster are supported by a committed choir of 12 to 15 adult amateurs with a paid director of music. With the help of retired clergy, we currently put on an average of two choral Sunday services each month, and another Eucharist without the choir, all following the Book of Common Prayer. The congregation is typically around 25 to 30, including the choir. The church is full for our annual Advent and Christmas carol services and at Easter. There are no services during the week, but volunteers ensure that the church is open for visitors every day.



The building dates from the 11th century, and occupies the site of a still older church, built close to a now abandoned ford on what was a main east-west route to the South of the moors. An active group of Friends of St Gregory's Minster organises an annual archaeological lecture and concert as part of the Friends' Weekend, and provides financial support for conservation of the building, helping to keep it in very good

order.

Current challenges for the building are to replace and improve the worn-out electric heating system, and to improve access by providing a handrail to the rather steep path down from the road to the church.

The Minster and St Hilda's Beadlam are the two churches in the Kirkdale parish, forming a Local Ecumenical Project with the Methodist Church, with a single Joint Church Council to cover the parish. In practice, Methodist services are held at St Hilda's, with the Methodist minister preaching only occasionally at the Minster. Our aim is to have one churchwarden each from St Hilda's and from the Minster.



## **All Saints and St James, Nunnington**

Nunnington Parish lies on the southern side of Kirkdale Benefice, and principally comprises two large estates of Nunnington, largely farmed by five tenant farmers, and Ness, farmed in hand. Nunnington Hall was ceded to the National Trust about 50 years



ago, and draws many visitors, many of whom walk the several and varied public paths around the estate. The village has around 95 other houses and cottages, with several outlying farms, and two hamlets of Ness and Muscoates about 2 miles to the East, with a population of around 251 in total. All Saints and St James Church stands at the top of the village,

halfway up the hill, overlooking the whole village, the River Rye, Ryedale and with views to the North York Moors.



There is no longer a pub, which closed about five years ago, but the estate has let some old redundant farm buildings where there are three or four independent small businesses, one of which is a popular coffee shop with both indoor and outdoor seating, which

also benefits from visitors to the Hall. Most of the houses are privately owned but a number are owned and let by the estate, and a few are holiday lets. There are more children living in the village now than 30 or so years ago, some come to church but the parents of others need more encouragement to bring them, although at Christmas, the Carols and Crib service were better attended than normally. There is no longer a school in the village, but the only Primary school in the Benefice is in Nawton, with others nearby at Kirkbymoorside, Helmsley and Slingsby. The Secondary school is Ryedale, also in Nawton and rated Outstanding by Ofsted. Some children attend Ampleforth, five miles to the West.

The Church is a 13th Century (1287) Grade 1 Listed building, well looked after and in good repair. The building underwent a major refurbishment in 1884/5 overseen by the then Priest who recorded in his own handwriting the complete work and finances in a fine leather-bound book. Over the last 25 years, it has been redecorated throughout, especially the East wall with stars to imagine Dawn, the path to the porch relaid, two large monuments cleaned and the shields repainted, the bells rehung with an automatic ringing system, under-pew heating installed to reduce the carbon footprint, 10 window jambs replaced, and four



frosted glass glazed windows replaced with plain glass with a stained glass surround. There are plans to provide an outside toilet in the near future. All this cost a lot of money, but much was raised from several Charities and Trusts, Legacies and the village itself, who donated £13000 towards the bells. The Church is in a sound financial position, and contributes £6000 in Freewill offer, having just agreed to increase this by annual inflation in future.

We have a service every Sunday at 11am, normally three services of Holy Communion and one of Matins each month, following the Book of Common Prayer. Fifth Sunday services are shared around the Benefice. Remembrance Sunday service begins at the War Memorial, a three minute walk from the church, when we remember the 11 Nunnington men killed in the 1st World War, and two in the Second. We are blessed by having three retired clergy who each officiate once a month and also have two organists to play on two Sundays in the month. The congregation averages about 15, but expands to around 50 at Easter, and 75 to 100 at Christmas. Harvest Festival attendance increased during the pandemic when the service was held in a cattle barn, allowing many more people from the village to attend. More recently we have continued to build on this by holding the service outdoors in the yard at the village coffee shop. At this year's service, instead of a sermon, one of the local farmers spoke about the challenges farming communities face in responding to changing weather patterns.

The Church has two Church Wardens, and a PCC of eight. The Electoral Roll is 34. Safeguarding is taken seriously within the parish and all required safeguarding policies and training are in place.

A Public Footpath runs through the churchyard and we see around 200 visitors each year.

The average age of the congregation is about 58, but we have a wedding roughly every other year, baptisms much the same, and two or three funerals per annum. For the latter, the church seats, using the choir stalls, 158, which number is sometimes achieved particularly for farmers who have lived here all their lives, and whose parents, grandparents and great grandparents are in the churchyard. One farmer can trace his family back to the 13th Century, and they all lived within three miles of the church! The churchyard is approximately an acre in size, and about a third of which is allowed to grow wild flowers, and some garden escapees, to encourage the birds and bees. This area is strimmed in the autumn, and we hold a village gardening party to achieve that and remove ivy from the walls and the church walls, and trim the hedges that run along the North wall, all organised by the Treasurer who acts as Head Gardener. Several people

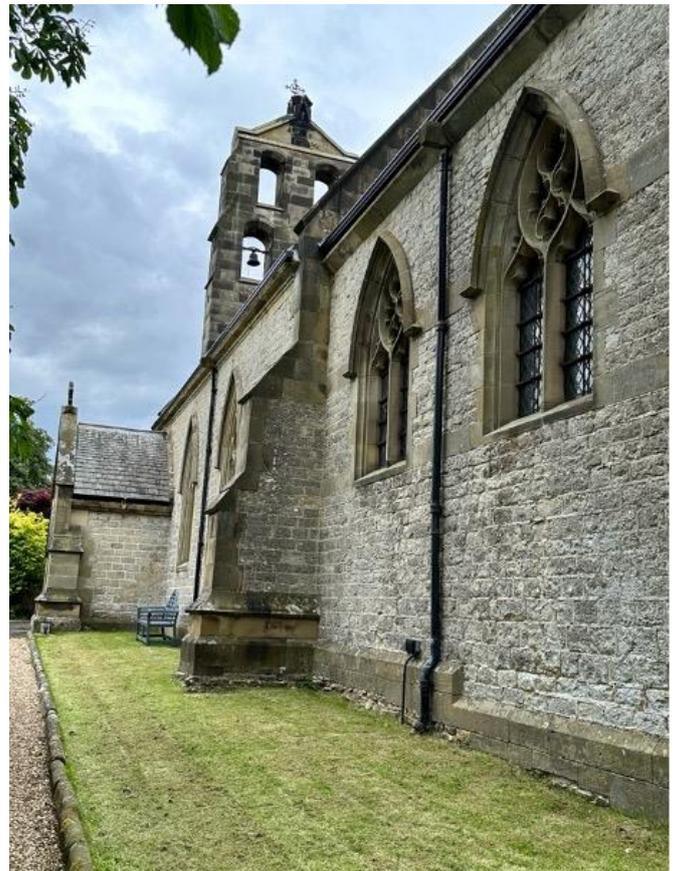
come to help who do not come to church, but like to make their contribution.

We would encourage any prospective applicant to become our Priest to look at the village website to get a feel for the village and its character. [www.Nunnington.net](http://www.Nunnington.net) We look forward to meeting you.

## **St John the Baptist, Pockley**

St John the Baptist Church is the parish church of Pockley, a village nestled in the beautiful North Yorkshire countryside a stone's throw (1 mile) from Helmsley. Until the late 19th century, residents of Pockley worshipped at All Saints' Church, Helmsley. On the instructions of the then Earl of Feversham, in 1870, a church was built to a design credited to George Gilbert Scott and George Gilbert Scott Jr. The building became Grade II listed in 1985.

A small rural village church it is built of limestone with sandstone dressings and a Westmorland slate roof. It consists of a nave, a south porch, and a chancel with a north vestry. At the west end is a central buttress carrying a bellcote with



four openings. Inside, there is a 13th-century font which was moved from All Saints in Helmsley.



The chancel screen and other furnishings were provided by Temple Moore in 1898-99 and rood beam figures by Lang of Oberammergau. The church's unusual heating system was based on a Roman hypocaust. Warm air came through underfloor ducts from a coke-fired stove beneath the church. Originally the fuel for the stove was carried through a 25-foot brick-lined tunnel on a miniature railway, which is still in existence

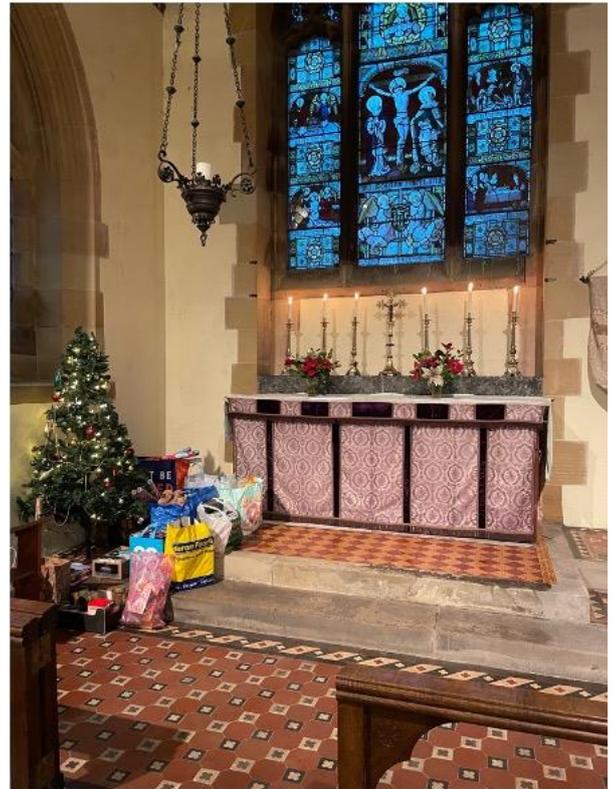
but is rarely used. The hot air heating system was restored in 2012, sadly it is no longer able to be used for health and safety reasons.

The last Quinquennial Review noted a few issues with water ingress, nothing significant and steps are underway to make good these minor issues. There simply is not enough funds available to contemplate any major structural work. The church insurance covers full rebuild in the event of a serious issue. All PCC members are Safeguarding qualified.

The church has no running water or toilet, however, easy access to the village hall some 50 metres distant is no issue. The cemetery is a short walk, across the road and down a track through the field. It is a very peaceful location, fenced on all sides and is tended by the 'Cemetery Boys', a small group of the willing and able who keep it in great shape. A new burial register and cemetery map has been completed (2025), which is fully indexed to the original registers still housed in the safe in the vestry. Freewill offering is the

smallest of the wider Benefice at £1560/annum, which is still a challenge for us.

**Pockley** itself is a small village and civil parish in North Yorkshire, which boasts several beautiful thatched cottages. It has a mixed population with some residents having farmed and lived within the local area all their lives. The village has an active Village Hall Committee who oversee the pre-WW1 village hall, an old wooden and galvanised clad structure. To keep up with the endless repairs there is an active schedule of events, which is ably run by the Pockley Bake Off Group. Pockley has never been short on hospitality and there is always lots of food and cake to go around. Pockley is perhaps the smallest of the benefices, however, what it lacks in size it makes up for in commitment. Our PCC is fully manned even though our congregation is small. Although we only have one service a month, we actively support the local and wider communities. We are happy keeping to our one, dedicated service a month, currently the last Sunday of the month at 4pm in the winter and 6pm in spring and summer and special services such as Easter, Harvest and Christmas when congregations are higher in number. Every year the church holds a 'Gift Service' and all of the village collect presents which are then sent to Brambles Farm in Middlesbrough.



We took the decision to close during January and February for 2026, and are looking forward to our 'first' service of the year on Mothering Sunday, which will be a shared service with St Saviours in Harome. Blessed with beautiful countryside we have an open church policy, the church is opened everyday and the visitors book gives a lovely record of visitors who pop in and enjoy the peaceful tranquillity of our church. Foot paths crisscross the surroundings and the bluebells in Riccal Dale a short walk away are a must see in the spring.

This really is a blessed location to live and we very much look forward to filling our vacancy as soon as possible.

## **Welcome from the Area and Lay Deans and the Assistant Area Dean**

We could tell you...

...the Anglican Deanery of [Northern Ryedale](#), is a *family* of 51 churches linked by the A170, from Upper Ryedale in the West to Upper Derwent in the East. The deanery is a smaller local grouping within the Archdeaconry of Cleveland under the care of the Bishop of Whitby, who has oversight of the outreach, mission, and worship of approximately 150 parishes. Together with

the Archdeaonries of the East Riding and York, we are in the [Diocese of York](#), 579 churches and 122 schools in 442 parishes.

But, in reality what you need to know...

...is that the truly important message you should take from the text above can be summed up in just one word, 'Family. 'We are not just a big Deanery with lots of churches, hardworking clergy and laity. We are a family who live together, work together and worship together. We are a growing family filled with the Holy Spirit and one that is eager to share the good news with others. We are a diverse family offering a wide variety of worshipping styles and traditions ensuring All really are Welcome.

And equally important for you to know...

...as people of Yorkshire, it would be remiss of us not to point out that Yorkshire is God's own County and God is at work in this place.

The three of us, our colleagues and the whole family are looking forward to working with you to further God's Mission in this incredibly special place as we together strive to live out Christ's Story.

Our prayers go with you as you discern where God is calling you.

**Revd Joe Kinsella, Area Dean**

**Alison Holmes, Area Lay Dean**

**Revd Paul Sunderland, Assistant Area Dean**