

Slaithwaite with East Scammonden Parish Profile

This form is designed to give an overview of a parish to be used in a vacancy for the appointment of a new parish priest. It will be accepted as the "statement describing the conditions, needs and traditions of the parish" required by the Patronage (Benefices) Measure 1986. Please check all pre-populated data carefully and provide any corrections if needed. Additional information may also be appended.

1. Parish Information

1.a	Name(s) of parish(es):	Slaithwaite with East Scammonden												
1.b	Name(s) of parish church(es):	St James, Slaithwaite												
2.	Name(s) of other C of E church(es)/centres for public worship in the parish(es):	Upper Slaithwaite Church (known as Shred Mission Church)												
3.a	Are you linked formally or informally with any other parishes in the benefice (Y/N):	Yes												
3.b	If Y, please give the name(s) of linked parish(es):	In benefice with St. Bartholomew's Marsden												
4.	Deanery:	Huddersfield												
5.	Population: <i>[Information as of 2021 census. Please indicate if and how this might have changed]</i>	<table> <tr> <td>Parish Population</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Under 20</td> <td>1265</td> </tr> <tr> <td>20 to 64</td> <td>3256</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Over 65</td> <td>1087</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total</td> <td>5608</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Occupied Households</td> <td>2456</td> </tr> </table>	Parish Population		Under 20	1265	20 to 64	3256	Over 65	1087	Total	5608	Occupied Households	2456
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6.a	Electoral Roll Number:	72												

6.b	Date of Declaration:	29 th April 2025
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7. Worship Attendance

Please provide details of average attendance at Sunday and weekday services. Add any additional rows as required or if hand-written continue on a separate sheet if necessary. As at Summer 2025.

Church	Service	Time	Number of communicants	Adult attendance	Under 16 attendances
St James	Sunday	11.15-12.30	28	32	4
Shred Mission Church – 3 or 4 times a month	Sunday	10.00 - 12.00		16	14
Shred Mission Church - monthly	Sunday	10.30 - 11.30 OR 16.00 - 17.00	14	16	14

8. Occasional Offices

Please provide figures for the last 12 months. Add any additional rows as required or if hand-written continue on a separate sheet if necessary.

Church	Baptisms	Confirmations	Weddings	Funerals in church	Funerals taken by clergy not in church
Shred: Mission Church	1	2	0	0	0
St. James	4	3	1	4	3

9. Communications

Please only include names and contact details that can be shared when this document becomes public. Add any additional rows as required or if hand-written continue on a separate sheet if necessary.

Church	Clergy	Licenced Lay Ministers	Lay staff eg Youth worker, Administrator etc	Churchwardens
St James		Connor Taylor – in training from Sept 2025 Pastoral lay	Lay worship leader and Occasional Preacher: Ali Baxter Website Admin:	Tim and Barbara Swift

		minister: Jennifer Smith-Wignall	Ali Baxter	
Shred Mission Church	PTO – Martin Lowles	Robert Haigh	Lay Leadership: Annis Mansaf	Annis Mansaf Shred Committee

2. Parish/Community Information

1.a	Briefly describe the demographic composition of the parish(es) (eg employment status, population ages, ethnic groups, home ownership, cultural diversity).	Parish Ethnic Heritage Profile <table><tr><td>Asian</td><td>43</td></tr><tr><td>Black</td><td>22</td></tr><tr><td>Mixed</td><td>126</td></tr><tr><td>White</td><td>5394</td></tr><tr><td>Other</td><td>23</td></tr></table> Parish Religious Profile <table><tr><td>Christian</td><td>2344</td></tr><tr><td>Buddhist</td><td>10</td></tr><tr><td>Hindu</td><td>2</td></tr><tr><td>Jewish</td><td>3</td></tr><tr><td>Muslim</td><td>34</td></tr><tr><td>Sikh</td><td>16</td></tr><tr><td>Other</td><td>23</td></tr><tr><td>None</td><td>2826</td></tr></table> Employment Status Full time employment 60% Part time employment 27% Unemployed 3% Home Ownership Own home outright or mortgaged 74% Rental private or via social landlord 26% (Info from 2021 Census)	Asian	43	Black	22	Mixed	126	White	5394	Other	23	Christian	2344	Buddhist	10	Hindu	2	Jewish	3	Muslim	34	Sikh	16	Other	23	None	2826
Asian	43																											
Black	22																											
Mixed	126																											
White	5394																											
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Jewish	3																											
Muslim	34																											
Sikh	16																											
Other	23																											
None	2826																											
1. b	Are there any specific issues you wish to highlight in relation to the above description (eg high unemployment)?	Little ethnic diversity. Increasing affluence as seen as a desirable place to live. Good road and rail links to Leeds and Manchester.																										

2. Other local institutions

Please provide information and details (if known) of other important local institutions. Add any additional rows as required or if hand-written continue on a separate sheet if necessary.

Institution	Quantity	Details
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Schools (Primary and Secondary)	3 primary One secondary	• Slaithwaite Junior and Infant (C of E) • Nields Academy • Wilberlee Junior and Infant • Colne Valley High School in nearby Linthwaite, is out of the Parish Boundary but serves the whole valley. [There are other high schools that serve the valley and has bus transport available]
Youth Centres After School Club Toddler Groups	1 1 Numerous	Slaithwaite Junior Youth Club Slaithwaite After School and Holiday Club
Hospitals	2	Huddersfield Royal Infirmary - Huddersfield Calderdale Royal Hospital - Halifax
Health Centres	2	Slaithwaite Health Centre Colne Valley Doctors
Nursing/elderly care homes	1 residential home 1 day centre	Meadow Court residential home Waves – for disabled adults
Local Businesses	Numerous	• A significant number of farms. • Textile, chemical, engineering, fabrication, furniture making. • Arts Organisations. • Council Run Leisure Centre and Swimming Pool. • Independent Shops. • Aldi, Co-op. • Restaurants, cafes, breweries, bakeries, pubs.
Neighbourhood initiatives (eg NWA)	Numerous	• Friends of Slaithwaite Spa Park • Slaithwaite Community centre • Canal and River Trust • Colne Valley Tree Society • Slaithwaite Horticultural Society • Library groups • Slaithwaite Mill Pond trust
Local Associations (eg tourist groups, historic societies)	Numerous	• Womans Institute • Slaithwaite Philharmonic Orchestra • Colne Valley Male Voice Choir and Boys Choir • Slaithwaite Brass Band • Cricket, Bowling and Croquet Clubs • Slaithwaite Saracens Rugby League • 2 Running Clubs • Colne Valley Masonic Lodge
Other Christian Churches	1	Holy Family Catholic A Methodist Fellowship meets twice a month in a

		local building on a Sunday morning - following the recent closure of their church building Ark Church Slaithwaite meets on a Sunday morning twice monthly in the Civic Hall for either Cafe Church or Slawit Praise.
Other Places of Worship	None	
2.b	Do the clergy hold any civic responsibilities in relation to the above institutions or within the wider community? If so, please provide details. <i>Add any additional rows as required or if hand-written continue on a separate sheet if necessary.</i>	
NO		

3. Local religious partnerships

Please provide information on the parish(es) relationship with local religious groups. Expand the rows as required or if hand-written continue on a separate sheet if necessary.

3.a	Please state any involvement in local Churches Together	None at present – there has been in the past.
3.b	Please state any formal covenants held with other denominations	None
3.c	Please state any informal ecumenical contacts held by the parish(es)	None

3. Church Information

Please give details for each church individually by copy/pasting the table below or by repeating the information on a separate sheet.

Church name:
A. Congregation

i	What percentage of the congregation lives outside the parish?	About 5%
ii	Briefly describe the demographic composition of the congregation (eg employment status, population ages, ethnic groups, home ownership, cultural diversity, gender).	St. James: Most 50+, majority homeowners. Some younger people. Shred: A lot of young families at Shred. Both are predominantly white with little ethnic or cultural diversity.
iii	How would you describe the worship tradition at the church?	St. James: Traditional Holy Communion Sunday morning service with members of the congregation involved in the service, leading prayers, reading the Bible and assisting with communion. First service in the month is a “celebration” Service of the Word, where members of our local community groups are asked to share what they do and in turn we pray for them. Shred: Sundays at Shred is a ‘Messy Church’ style gathering for 2 hours most Sunday mornings and includes all ages of the congregation. Once a month a family Service of the Word is held, led by the Vicar or one of the Licensed Lay Leaders. The Sunday School leader supports the children in taking part, based on their activities during Sundays at Shred in the weeks prior. Holy Communion or an agape style ‘meal’ is served.

B. Finance

i	What is the average regular weekly giving by persons in the parish(es) 16 years & over?	£13
	What (if any) proportion of this giving is gift aided?	8%
ii	What is the date of the church’s last stewardship campaign?	A sermon in relation to giving preached in 2025.
iii	How does the church supplement direct giving in order to meet its financial needs?	Fundraising
iv	What was the amount of working expenses paid to the clergy in the last financial year?	£617 (The current Interim vicar cycles to most destinations)
	Were these needs met in full? (Y/N) If N what was the estimated shortfall	Yes

v	Please provide details of the amount of share requested and paid:	Requested	Paid
	- in last financial year (2024) - in the current year (2025)	29,989 £30,889	£29,989 £30,889 will be paid in full
	in the next financial year (2026)	£31,816 approx.	
	<i>Please provide explanation for any discrepancy between requested and actual payments</i>		
	Do you anticipate meeting this year's requested payment in full? (Y/N) <i>If N provide explanation</i>	Yes	
vi	Are there any ongoing capital projects? (Y/N) <i>If Y please give brief details of estimated costs and how these will be met</i>	No	
vii	Please append a copy of the last PCC accounts.	OK	
viii	Please provide details of any overseas work supported by the Church including the value of any annual donations	None	
ix	Please provide details of any mission agencies and charities supported by the Church including the value of any annual donations	St. James Christian Aid: £527.85 Children's society: £150.88 Shred Christian Aid: £400	

C. Buildings

i	Please provide a general overview of the general state of repair of the church building and environs <i>This can usually be found in the 'Executive Summary' of the most recent Quinquennial Inspection report</i>	St. James: A considerable number of improvements have been made. The Tower is in a fair condition and stable in the short term. The flat roof and floors need reconstructing as funds allow. Reroofing of the Nave and kitchen roofs should be planned within the next five years. The south windows are in poor condition. Safety of stone steps and condition of retaining walls a cause for concern. Shred: The church is in remarkably good condition considering age and height above sea level. Timber windows have been refurbished. A programme of repointing has started, and the attached caretaker's cottage has been refurbished internally. Re-roofing of dual and mono pitch roofs when funds allow, with
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		consideration to improving insulation. Also to commission an access audit to explore ways of improving access for the infirm and disabled.
ii	Please highlight any major maintenance requirements identified during the most recent Quinquennial Inspection	St. James: • Repoint lintel of first stage window in tower. • Repair and redecorate window frames and replace with polycarbonate coverings. • Repair west bearing in belfry floor. • Infill gap between tower and nave masonry. Shred: • Carry out roof repointing of flashings and renew mortar flaunching were noted before winter. • Paint open timber shelves in kitchen to allow easy cleaning. • Replace sealant between worktops and tile upstand in kitchen and investigate and resolve running overflow pipe. <i>All completed.</i>

4. Church Education and Social Provision

1.a	Name(s) of Church School(s) if applicable:	Slaithwaite Church of England Junior and Infant School (known locally as 'Two Gates')
2.	How is the school governance structure organised? <i>eg aided, controlled, foundation</i>	Foundation
3.	Approximately how many pupils are currently enrolled?	180
4.	What is the level of engagement between the church(es) and the school(s)?	Two Gates School holds some of their own services for significant events in St. James church. The vicar regularly attends Two Gates school to help in religious education and assemblies. The Vicar is an ex-Officio Governor. Two lay members of St. James are Governors.

5. Outreach and Mission

Expand the rows as required or if hand-written continue on a separate sheet if necessary.

1.a	Please provide details of any regular mission and outreach activities	St. James: A free café every week which provides food and fellowship. A weekly Bible study, singing group and crochet class which are open to all, plus table games and fellowship. Shred: Weekly toddler group which is well attended by local families.
1.b	How are you helping people find out about Jesus?	• Weekly bible study • Creative Contemplation group – a nurture group. • Ad-hoc Enquirers courses • Ad-hoc Baptism courses • Ad-hoc Confirmation courses • At the Shred Toddler group, the session ends with a Bible Story and prayer.
1.c	How are you helping people to grow in discipleship?	Bible study Creative Contemplation
1.d	How are you helping people to grow in leadership?	Congregation encouraged to: • read the Sunday morning bible passage • lead singing, • prepare and lead intercessions • take part in ‘celebration services’
2.a	Are there any overseas link(s) with the parish(es)? (Y/N)	No Dormant link with Tanzania
2.b	If Y, please give details:	
3.a	Do you have an organised system to provide outreach and welcome to new members of the community? (Y/N)	No
3.b	If Y, please give details:	
4.	What role do you play in meeting the needs of the local community?	• Weekly ‘free’ café • Monthly film show • Concerts • Special services • Jumble Sales • Toddler Group

5.	How do you engage with young people outside of church-based organisations? <i>eg open youth work</i>	St. James: Uniformed groups attend the annual Remembrance Day service. Shred: The weekly toddler group.
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6. Lay Discipleship and Participation

Expand the rows as required or if hand-written continue on a separate sheet if necessary.

1.	What are your education and training provisions for: • Children (<i>eg Sunday School</i>) • Young People (<i>eg Youth Projects</i>) • Adults (<i>eg Alpha</i>)	Details Sundays at Shred None • Benefice Ad-hoc Enquirers courses • Benefice Ad-hoc Baptism courses • Benefice Ad-hoc Confirmation courses	Approximate numbers 14 children 5 2 – 3 4 - 6
2.a	Please give details of any house/prayer groups	Creative Contemplation – discussion, prayer, contemplation, response in writing or art.	
2.b	Are these groups led by lay or clergy?	Lay	
3.a	How would you rate the strength of lay leadership?	A few very committed people, some work across the parish and / or benefice.	
3.b	What is the source of lay leadership strength or weakness?	Committed and willing. Diligent. Additional volunteers always welcomed and encouraged.	

7. Mission

In this section you are encouraged to consider your future priorities and aspirations. You are invited to contemplate areas you feel need addressing, evaluate any limitations which may

prevent you from addressing them, and envision what your new priest's role could be to help you achieve your ambitions. Expand the rows as required or if hand-written continue on a separate sheet if necessary.

1.	Which areas of church life do you feel would benefit from further development in future?	• Supporting and ministering to those seeking and needing discipleship, including more opportunities for evening or weekend Bible Studies, prayer meetings and enquirers courses and similar. • Supporting the main parish churches, who have struggled to attract and retain families and young people. • Reviewing the 'family friendly' services at St. James Church • Seeking opportunities to engage with, encourage and strengthen relationships with local Uniformed groups and families to attend more Sunday services. • Developing pastoral teams at Shred and St. Bartholomew's.
2.	What are the main areas of mission that you would like your new priest to prioritise?	• Support our congregations in whole-church outreach including social events, imaginative and innovative worship, review of service times and themes, and more structured enquirer courses. • Review our overseas mission giving and support and raise awareness within the churches, whilst supporting us in finding ways of giving more financial support. • Seek opportunities to reach out to the poorer families in the Benefice who cannot afford to pay for baby / child groups and would value support as parents.
3.	What are the biggest potential challenges which you and the new priest will need to address? <i>Name and elaborate on no more than three</i>	• Encouraging and supporting more volunteers, especially for roles like church wardens, cleaning, maintenance, grant applications, and youth work. • Review opportunities to develop and enhance youth work. Look at the creation of family and child centred space. Develop more opportunities for parish personnel to visit schools and

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| | | engage with young people. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bringing our Benefice closer together in sharing the workload, worshipping together and having shared groups open to all. Developing more collaboration with our PCC's and Shred committee. |
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8. Additional Information

Use this space to record any other information which you would like the Patron and the Bishop to be aware of regarding the conditions, needs, or traditions of the parish(es). Continue on a separate sheet if necessary.

We hope for a vicar who embraces inclusivity at the heart of their ministry—someone who welcomes all people, regardless of background, age, ability, gender identity, or sexual orientation. Our church values a spirit of openness and compassion, and we seek a leader who fosters a community where everyone feels safe, seen, and valued. We believe that the love of Christ is for all, and we want that to be reflected in both word and action.

Role Expectations

Discipleship:

- ❖ Develop faith by delivering creative ways to grow and nurture our Benefice through discipleship groups. enrich and complement the work our lay leaders already do.
- ❖ Encourage new people into church through evangelism and hospitality while fostering a welcoming and inclusive environment for everyone.
- ❖ Engage with our church communities, groups and events and be a visible presence in our villages, encouraging people to see God and the Church as relevant in their lives.
- ❖ Build on existing links with schools in the area and promote church life and mission to young people and young adults in the area

Church growth:

- ❖ Lead the church in growth in number and faith by encouraging new membership through evangelism and hospitality while fostering a welcoming and inclusive environment for everyone.

9. The New Priest

Use this space to identify and list the qualities and skills you would like to see in the new priest. Continue on a separate sheet if necessary.

Qualities

- ❖ An inspiring and dedicated individual who will lead and support our welcoming congregations.
- ❖ An enthusiastic individual who is approachable, a good communicator and listener.
- ❖ A resilient individual who gives wise council in matters of faith and has the courage to take on the difficulties of ministry
- ❖ A compassionate and understanding individual.
- ❖ An individual who is interested in and can engage with people of all ages and backgrounds.

Skills

Leading worship services:

- ❖ Ability to deliver uplifting services and sermons to accommodate different styles / congregations / age groups, at our individual church services.

Organisational:

- ❖ Effective time management,
- ❖ Task prioritisation and delegation.
- ❖ Flexible in adjusting to changing priorities and tasks.

Leadership:

- ❖ Leading PCC and other meetings, in the role of Chair.
- ❖ Collaborating with various and intermixed groups, with good communication, mediation and strong decision-making skills. ability to lead meetings across the Benefice
- ❖ Work collaboratively with and develop and encourage Lay Leadership.

Pastoral care:

- ❖ Offering spiritual support, counselling, and prayer to parishioners during personal crises, illnesses, or times of bereavement.
- ❖ Working in collaboration with our Pastoral Lay visitor and Minister at St. James, and key people in our other churches.

Community outreach:

- ❖ Connecting with the wider community through local events, festivals and weekly group activities in our villages.
- ❖ Promote social cohesion and service, from our churches to our local communities and vice – versa.

Parish administration:

- ❖ Work collaboratively with the two PCCs and Shred Committee as we maintain our churches fabric, finances, ministry and service to our village communities.
- ❖ Work in conjunction with the Benefice Website administrator, to keep all information up to date and with our Communications team to enhance our social media presence in the Benefice.

Agreed by the PCC of St James, Slaithwaite

On the 23rd of October 2025

Signed:

Print Name:

Office Held:

Once completed and signed as agreed by the PCC, this form should be sent directly to the Archdeacon's office and to Gemma Shearwood:

Gemma Shearwood
Diocese of Leeds, Church House
17-19 York Place, Leeds, LS1 2EX
gemma.shearwood@leeds.anglican.org

Copies will be circulated by the office to the Patron and Bishop

Please make sure copies all PCC members retain a signed copy of this form for their records.