

A photograph of a church interior. In the foreground, the backs of several people's heads are visible as they sit in pews. In the middle ground, a choir of about ten people, mostly women, are standing and singing from black hymnals. They are dressed in casual to semi-formal attire. The background features ornate church architecture, including a large, colorful stained glass window and decorative metalwork. The overall atmosphere is one of a formal church service.

The Garrowby Benefice

Our vision for our future

Seek First THE
Kingdom
OF GOD AND HIS
Righteousness



Welcome

Come and join God's people living and working in the Garrowby Hill benefice. We've made a video to introduce ourselves and show you our wonderful setting, situated on the edge of the Vale of York. ([See it here.](#))

We are committed, supportive and active in trying to live out "Christ's Story" and we want someone who will help us to grow further and develop deeper our faith and ministry in the places we live.

Ecumenically we are a mixed bunch and all the stronger for that, ranging from a reverent sacramental worship to vibrant evangelical congregations. This results not in conflict but rather in an understanding and appreciation of the strengths of different approaches to our joint faith.

We have a growing mission in children's work, both in our two Church of England primary schools and through family services in two of our parishes. There is also an opportunity to develop youth work across the benefice.

Pastoral care and community involvement are strong features of parish work within the benefice; we hope and pray that this can be extended and developed with a new leader.

In taking up a half-time post we want you to know that you would have support and encouragement from people across the benefice to make the ministry realistic and enjoyable.


Of course there are challenges of mission, pastoral care and finance but the parish leaders and the PCCs are active and supportive. The Garrowby Hill benefice comprises five rural parishes, all with listed buildings in very picturesque settings and includes the parishes of Bishop Wilton, Bugthorpe, Full Sutton, Kirby Underdale and Skirpenbeck and is situated 25 minutes east of York: close to the market towns of Pocklington and Malton and to the Yorkshire coast.

Bishop Wilton, the location of the Rectory, has recently been voted fifth in a list of 20 best secret villages to live in. "The Times".

A prayer for vacancy

God our father send us your Holy Spirit at this time of uncertainty and change, fill us with vision and energy, make us faithful in prayer and worship that we may bring new life to our community. Send to our five churches someone who will be our spiritual leader, teacher and friend as we live out Christ's Story in Garrowby.

If these challenges attract you, please read on.



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The opportunity - our vision and mission

As part of our discernment process, we have consulted our church communities. This has led to a wide range of comments which reflect the diversity within the group.

We understand that a half-time post will require energy and commitment from the laity teams.

We seek someone who has a vision and a calling, who ...

- feels they have a clear calling to minister in our group of rural parishes with commitment and love and to lead us into a deeper Christian understanding through “Living Christ’s Story”
- is open to new ideas and tolerant of the views of others
- is prepared to offer a range of service styles including BCP and Common Worship.

Of course, we are looking for the world (an archangel would be perfect).

However we will try and be realistic, our new incumbent won’t be able to do everything. We hope they will:

- be our teacher, preacher, leader and friend who will work with us to develop our vision for the next years and encourage us to move forward and grow in faith
- work to identify and encourage others to discern their calling to do God’s work in our parishes recognising individual skills and putting them to work for the benefit of all
- have the energy and enthusiasm to develop the Christian faith amongst those with young families ... continuing the work at Bishop Wilton and Skirpenbeck Family Services.
- work with the Church of England schools in Bishop Wilton and Bugthorpe.

- lead us in reaching new people by living and telling Christ’s story and encouraging those who are new to church
- have the energy to juggle different requirements, is pragmatic and understands how to delegate
- have the ability to take what we do seriously whilst not taking ourselves too seriously – and finally, has a sense of humour!
- work and share skills with other clergy in our Deanery

Of course, like everyone else... we are looking for a people person: someone who is pastoral, warm, approachable, relaxed and friendly and who understands community. It’s important.

Someone who will offer a prayerful presence and pastoral support, who will be the visible presence of the Church in our communities. We believe that adults in the community, churchgoers or not, want to know the benefice priest by seeing him or her around and about, in the street, in the shop, at the annual show, at village events, as well as at funerals, weddings and festival services.

The priest should be present and available, a friendly face, someone people can go to at times of need, who will encourage adults and children to feel that the church is relevant to their lives.

Building on work already taking place in the benefice, the new priest will make worship for young people meaningful, a positive experience they will want to repeat. We believe that the presence of a local priest in our schools, getting to know the children and involving them in worship has been extremely fruitful.

What we offer

The opportunity to develop mission throughout the benefice

- Opportunities for outreach to the non-church goers.
- People who are open to new ideas, inspiration and help.
- The opportunity to minister and live in a beautiful rural area.
- Support from people with expertise in a wide range of secular fields willing to offer their assistance.
- Parishes which are committed to ensuring the sustainability of their churches in their respective communities for both Church and secular needs.
- As parishes we are well organised and work together efficiently and effectively.
- In accepting this half-time post we would want you to know that you have the support and encouragement of people across the benefice to make the ministry realistic and enjoyable.

Our Strengths

The Garrowby Churches are set in the Yorkshire Wolds and consist of five parishes: Bishop Wilton, Bugthorpe, Kirby Underdale, Skirpenbeck and Full Sutton. As worshipping communities we aim to grow in our faith and discipleship, support and engage with our local communities and bring new people to Christ.

We are blessed with beautiful buildings and faithful commitment from our congregations. As we continue to grow together, we are being enabled to offer a variety of worship and outreach. Lay ministry and leadership is key to all we offer, and is to be encouraged as we endeavour to open the Kingdom and its values to all.

Traditions of Worship

There is some variation across the five parishes, but our tradition is broadly towards the catholic end of the Anglican spectrum. The Eucharists in Kirby Underdale and Bugthorpe follow the Book of Common Prayer, while those in Bishop Wilton, Full Sutton and Skirpenbeck are according to Common Worship.

There is a distinctive inheritance at Bugthorpe and Kirby Underdale, with their close links to the Halifax family and the Anglican-Roman Catholic conversations of the 1920s led by Cardinal Mercier of Malines and the 2nd Viscount Halifax. These conversations are continuing today.



Left and above: we try to publicise all important events, especially seasonal services, with posters and via our website.

The Harvest posters were aimed at each parish within the benefice, whereas the Easter and Christmas posters were generic so viewers could see what services were taking place where and when.

Our Churches and their communities.

The Garrowby Benefice is fully committed to the Diocesan vision of **Living Christ's Story**.

To live Christ's story is to be part of God's mission of love in and for the world today and we need a flourishing and sustainable church of followers of Jesus for this to happen.

We want our churches to be places where the story of Christ is known and lived out, transforming the communities we serve. We try to achieve this in our everyday life: at work, in education, in our neighbourhoods or at leisure. We try to reach new people and grow in discipleship together, striving for greater diversity and attracting younger people.

But also through our worship, in celebrating with new parents, baptism; with couples, their marriage; with family and friends the memorial of those who have died.

To help us achieve these goals there have been Advent and Lent Lunches and study groups. There have also been Epiphany and Lent socials at the Rectory, open to everyone from all the villages, providing opportunities to bring together people who wouldn't normally meet.

A monthly meditation group is held at St Edith's on behalf of the whole benefice, a chance to explore silence and different approaches to contemplative prayer.



Above: A recent baptism at St Edith's, Bishop Wilton.



Above: a memorial service at St Edith's, Bishop Wilton..



Above: a wedding at St Edith's, Bishop Wilton.

St Edith, Bishop Wilton

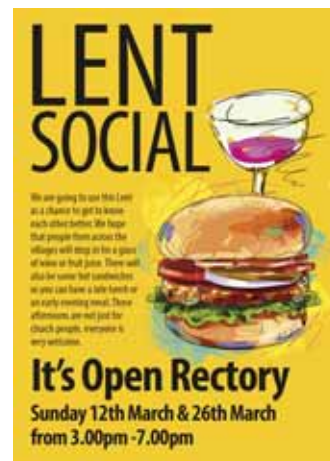
In recent years services have been established that suit the whole parish of St Edith's. On the first Sunday of the month, we have a said Holy Communion at 8am; on the second Sunday there is an 11.15am Holy Communion. Worship has been enhanced and developed to include a popular family service at 10.15am, usually on the last Sunday of the month. We recognise that this pattern could change in future but we would like family services to remain a regular feature of our worship.



Above: Bishop Wilton schoolchildren at a service in St Edith's church. The school holds at least one service a term in the church, to which parents and village residents are invited. The children's behaviour is always exemplary!



Above: What better way to teach children about the coronation than to stage our own during a Sunday family service? This was a truly exciting and memorable event.



Above: While Lent is a time for serious reflection, it can be punctuated by joyful moments too. Our Mothering Day services are occasions when the community comes together to thank God for our mothers.



Above: Beck and Bells was a year-long project featuring a heritage weekend, a book launch, the restoration of the church bells and participation by people of all ages.



Above: Posters advertising two major events. Pimms and Pudding was the main fundraiser for 2024. Held in Bishop Wilton Hall, and featuring entertainment by a local band, it was an enjoyable occasion.

The church hosts the annual Remembrance Day service and an Advent Procession. The church receives many visitors annually and we usually have two or three weddings a year.

Bishop Wilton is one of the larger parishes in the benefice. We are fortunate that the village is supportive of the church whether or not people attend services. We have a team of regular cleaners, gardeners and flower arrangers. PCC members are often involved in other groups, including the community shop, the WI, and the village hall.

St Edith's has two churchwardens and a thriving PCC. The church continually raises funds, both through regular activities, such as the annual Christmas bazaar, and special one-off events. In recent years the PCC has, under the leadership of the churchwardens, held an extremely successful flower festival and two well-attended socials at the village hall.

The PCC has created strong links to the community. The Beck & Bells project combined the restoration of the historically important church bells with a heritage weekend and the publication of A Local History of Bishop Wilton, a collection of articles first published by the Bishop Wilton Local History Group. The project encouraged children and adults to explore the heritage of the church and village, including the beck. To hear, see and ring the restored bells has brought great pleasure. We created an eye-catching permanent display in the church, with a screen for specially-made films that can also be seen on the Garrowby Churches website.

The project was funded by the National Lottery Heritage Fund, and Church Care supported the bells restoration.



Above: A garden party at the rectory was a great opportunity for the community to get to know each other better. Residents of the whole benefice were invited, new friendships created and relationships deepened.



Above: Confirmation: work with young people and children is one of our biggest priorities, with Confirmation being both an important step for young people and a chance for the church community to celebrate with them.



Above: Last year's flower festival was a resounding success, bringing hundreds of visitors and raising awareness of St Edith's. A Bishop Wilton resident at the flower festival with her beautiful display, which featured traditional equipment and natural materials.



Above: A competition to win a Christmas hamper has become an annual fixture on the village green. All the items in the hampers are donated, a very good sum is raised and the winners are always delighted.



St Andrew, Bugthorpe



Our usual worship pattern is a Book of Common Prayer service of Holy Communion at 9.15 am on the 2nd and 4th Sunday of every month. St Andrew's provides an important pastoral ministry to the community including home visiting and a full range of services from joyful baptisms and weddings to reflective and supportive funerals.

We work to foster strong links with the local primary school, hosting three annual services at Easter, Harvest and a carol service.

St Andrew's has one churchwarden, a very competent and enthusiastic PCC as well as a rota of flower arrangers and cleaners.

The Friends of Bugthorpe Church is a group that includes the wider community who offer tremendous support to their parish church. An annual social get-together helps to build relationships, promote knowledge and understanding of the church history and offers the chance to thank members in person for their generous giving.

***Opposite:** One of our services with the local Church of England Primary School*

***Above:** A benefice service held on the fifth Sunday encourages us to travel to the other Churches in the benefice.*



***Above:** A recent wedding at St Andrew's. Photo by permission ©Danny Cooper Photography.*



All Saints, Kirby Underdale

Kirby Underdale parish consists of the village itself as well as several hamlets and outlying farms.

Liturgically, All Saints' Church has a strong sacramental tradition. There are two communion services each month using the Book of Common Prayer, something we would wish to preserve. However, we are also looking to extend the range of services offered to enable the congregation to grow. Before the pandemic there was a well-attended harvest evensong followed by a supper in the village hall. We should like to add to this other services on special occasions such as Candlemas, for instance, or designated days of particular relevance to rural mission.

The Malines Conversations, commemorated by a window in the north aisle, has provided the impetus both for special services and for group visits to the church. On Advent Sunday, 2022, Archbishop Stephen Cottrell led Eucharistic worship at All Saints' Church and took as his theme the importance of church unity. More recently, parishioners from Whitkirk, Leeds, visited Kirby Underdale and, after a talk in the church, enjoyed refreshments in the village hall. Visits such as these are something we should like to continue and develop.

All Saints' Church has a long and rich history. People are drawn to the church for many different reasons. Some come for the peace and tranquillity within the church. This, and the sense of God's presence, is a common theme of comments in the Visitors' Book. Others come in search of ancestral connections. Visitors can purchase ***A Brief History of Kirby Underdale Church*** which, along with its companion volume, ***A Brief History of Kirby Underdale Churchyard***, shows and celebrates the unbroken community of faith with All Saints' Church at its heart.

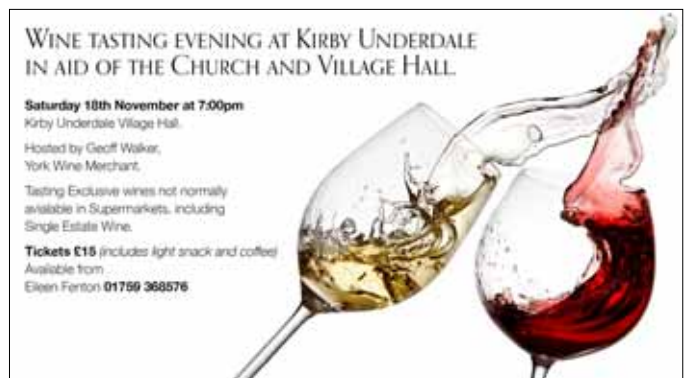
The churchyard at Kirby Underdale is a wildflower haven, from snowdrops in Spring to meadowsweet and meadow cranesbill later in the year. This, combined with the recent history of the churchyard, has made it ideal for the Church of England 'Churches Count on Nature' and 'Love Your Burial Ground' initiatives.



Above: The visit of Archbishop Stephen Cottrell to Kirby Underdale on Advent Sunday, 2022.



Above: Garden parties offer opportunities for socialising as well as fundraising.

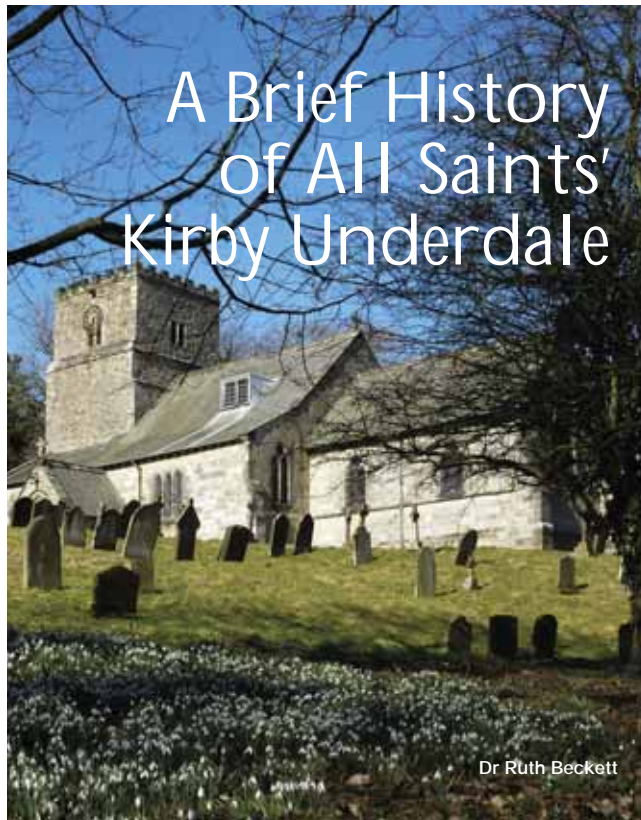


Above: This event proved so popular that it is going to be back for a second consecutive year.

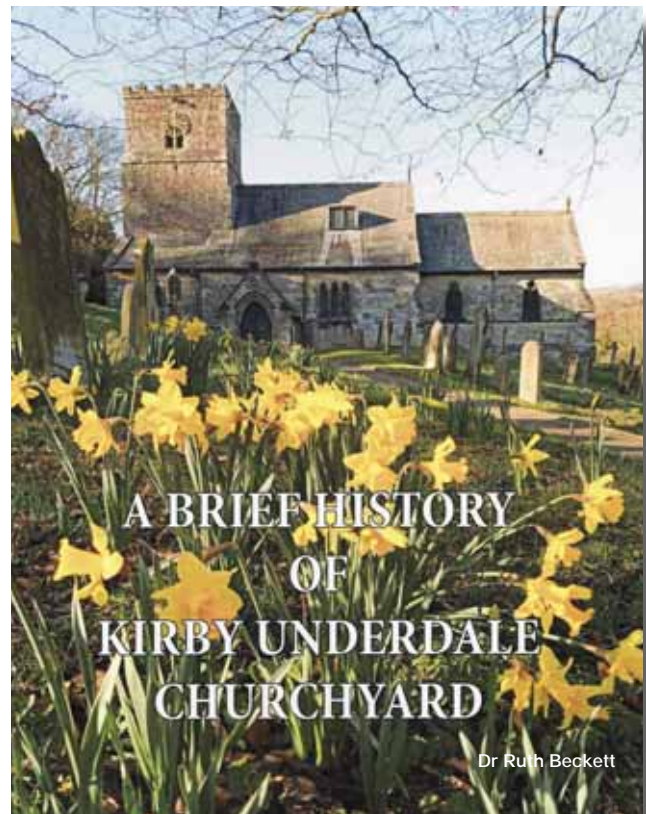
All Saints' Church has an active PCC. The two churchwardens, like the treasurer, are new to their roles. Some members of the PCC are involved in other aspects of community life, not least of all the village hall. The church has a regular team of cleaners and flower arrangers as well as people willing to help at special events.

Congregations may be small – this is an area where growth is needed – but support for

the church within the community is strong. Fundraising activities are well-supported. In recent years there have been garden parties, wine-tasting evenings as well as heritage talks and guided tours. There is ample scope for development here. Church meetings are held in the newly refurbished village hall which is also used for refreshments as well as fund-raising activities.



Above: This richly illustrated book takes the reader on a historical tour around Kirby Underdale Church and introduces some of the people who have played a part in a story which spans more than a thousand years.



Above: A churchyard is not just about the dead but is about the living too. This book explores the history of Kirby Underdale Churchyard through the lives of some of the people buried within its consecrated ground.



Above: The churchyard is a haven for wild flowers, especially in summer.



Above: Parishioners from Whitkirk Church, Leeds, enjoy a talk about the history of the church given by churchwarden and local historian, Dr Ruth Beckett.

St Mary, Skirpenbeck

Recent years have seen a resurgence in worship at St. Mary's. All members of our diverse community are welcomed and encouraged to attend. We are blessed to have a number of young children as members of our village community, many of whom attend church regularly. Young people play an active role in services through playing instruments, reading lessons and leading prayers. The 'family feel' to services is further facilitated by the provision of refreshments at the end of services. In a village where the church is the only public building, this represents a wonderful opportunity for members of the community to spend time together.

St. Mary's has strong links with the Skirpenbeck Village Group. This was established to support the church and encourage engagement in communal events. Events include Easter egg trails, 'cake and a cuppa' events, quizzes, summer fêtes and craft events. The PCC plays a significant role in organising and supporting them. Events are incredibly well supported by the community. We have been able to raise additional funds for the church and, perhaps most significantly, have been thrilled by the sense of community engendered through organisation of and attendance at these events. St. Mary's is also used as a meeting place for groups including the Skirpenbeck Village Group and the local Parish Council. Ongoing links with a local heritage group have also been established.

Willing volunteers support the churchwarden in the maintenance of the large church yard. The PCC is aware that the building itself requires significant attention. Recent steps include completion of the QI report, inspection and report of the bells, inspection of the organ and completion of an electric survey with recommendations subsequently carried out. Fundraising and grant applications are seen as integral to next steps to improve the fabric of the building.

The congregation at St. Mary's continues to grow. The PCC and Church Warden are keen for this to continue, and view the welcoming nature of our services and community events as central to this. St. Mary's is a family, characterised by warmth, inclusivity and acceptance



Children are made very welcome at St Mary's and take part enthusiastically in family services, such as this Nativity Play.



People from the village come together for events in the church and churchyard, helping to raise funds and strengthen the community.

St Mary, Full Sutton

For many years Full Sutton was a small farming community of around thirty houses situated around a small village green, with an airfield nearby that operated as RAF Full Sutton up until 1959. With strong ties to the neighbouring village of Skirpenbeck and a thriving Sunday school, regular annual events such as seaside visits and sports days took place.

Full Sutton is no longer a typical East Riding village. The airfield is now an industrial estate. In the late 1980s, HMP Full Sutton was built at the far end of the village, with a new housing estate to accommodate prison officers and their families. In the year 2000, a further twenty seven houses were built, creating a second village green. The number of houses in the village now stands at around 160 with a population of around 500. As the population has grown in a short space of time, the average age is fairly low compared to similar sized villages in the area.

The church has struggled financially over the past few years with a dwindling congregation, and structural issues forced the church to close its doors for several months in 2022. Throughout this difficult period, the churchwarden/treasurer and a small number of dedicated worshippers have kept the church spirit alive with regular monthly communion services.

Following a recent crisis meeting with residents of Full Sutton, several villagers have come forward to offer help and support to ensure the future of St Mary's will be far brighter than it has seemed possible for many years, with plans to form a 'friends' society to raise funds, help with general maintenance and to apply for maintenance and improvement grants. Full Sutton has no other publicly accessible building so there is a desire within the community to improve facilities and to build a greater sense of community based around the church. The sense of purpose that many villagers now see has grown out of the threat of closure, and is beginning to form the foundations to be built on over the coming years.



Above: A service of Holy Communion

Below: Our Christingle service



Above: Palm Sunday and a donkey procession around the village.

Schools

There are two primary schools in our benefice, Bishop Wilton and Bugthorpe, and both have close links with the church. The present Rector and Curate take weekly collective worship in both schools on a Wednesday.

Bishop Wilton CoE Primary School

Our Christian vision and values root Bishop Wilton School at the centre of the village and the children take a very active part in all the village activities. Visiting St Edith's is part of this and is fundamental to celebrating the rhythm of the church's year and so we take part in church services at Easter and on St Edith's Day in particular, as well as solemnly placing our poppies by the war memorial in the churchyard on Remembrance Day. There is also a candlelit Christingle service, and all our seasonal services are well supported by parents.

We hope that our new priest will be able to lead collective worship on a regular basis, as well as special services in church. We very much look forward to welcoming you to our parish and to our school.

Head of School



Bugthorpe CofE Primary School

Inspired by Matthew, and the Parable of the Sower, we grow in the good soil at Bugthorpe.

We treat all children as unique individuals made in God's image, and passionately want our children to 'follow their pathway' in life and to 'grow with confidence', whilst in our loving school families. Proverbs teaches us that if you guide a child down the right path, they will continue to follow it when they are older, and will contribute positively to society. Matthew shows us that the seeds will only grow and flourish in the correct environment, with God's help. This too links to the right 'pathway' in life – the best place to grow and develop. We recently had a very encouraging SIAMS inspection and report.

The school is smaller than average yet plays a central role in the community. We are excited about the opportunity of welcoming our new parish priest to school and strengthening community links in this way. We are thriving as a federated school with Sutton upon Derwent; sharing best practice, resources and staffing.

We hope that our priest will be able to lead school worship regularly as an important part of our relationship with the church, helping further to develop spirituality among the families in our community. We would also welcome any contribution you feel able to make to school leadership, perhaps by joining the governing body. However, the most important thing for us is that you feel welcomed and at home.

Head of School

Music



The Garrowby Singers is the Benefice church choir. The choir is well established, having been in existence for over 20 years. Members are drawn from all five parishes, and beyond. These members share a love of singing – and for each other. Practices are held weekly, at Bugthorpe CofE Primary School.

The choir sings at the main festivals of the church year, and more besides – including the York Community Choir Festival. When invited, the choir also sings at baptisms, weddings and funerals. In addition, the choir performs two fundraising concerts each year – one at Christmas and one in the summer. A local charity is identified to benefit from fundraising efforts at each summer concert and the funds raised at the Christmas concert are donated to the Benefice. Such a range of events allows the choir to perform a wide variety of pieces.

Significant services in which the choir participates include an Advent procession, based on that in York Minster, the Good Friday 'Cross of Christ' and Remembrance Sunday. The choir feels privileged to offer additional music to further enhance services.

A variety of hymn books are used across the Benefice including Hymns Old and New, Hymns Ancient and Modern, English Hymnal and Hundred Hymns for Today. We are fortunate to have an organist to accompany all services and one of the congregation plays the guitar and sings devotional songs during communion as well as supporting Family Service worship. Family worship also includes the children by way of tambourines, triangles and so on, which they enjoy and adds to the joy of worship.



Daphne Smithson - Organist St Mary's Full Sutton and St Andrew's Bugthorpe.



Ruth Beckett - Organist at All Saints, Kirby Underdale



Anna Sargeant - Musician - St Edith's and St Mary's Skirpenbeck

Our Church Wardens



Lisa Cardy - Church Warden at All Saints, Kirby Underdale



Adam Findlay. Church Warden/Treasurer, St Mary's Full Sutton.



Susan Frost - Church Warden, St Edith's, Bishop Willton.



Jan Danby - Church Warden, St Edith's, Bishop Willton.



Verity Fergusson - Church Warden, St Andrew's, Bugthorpe



Penny Beard - Church Warden, St Mary's Skirpendeck and Garrowby Singers Choir Master and organist.

A description of our current service patterns



GARROWBY BENEFICE CHURCHES ~ SERVICE ROTA JULY ~ AUGUST 2025

	St Edith's Bishop Wilton	St Andrew's Bugthorpe	St Mary's Skirpenbeck	St Mary's Full Sutton	All Saints Kirby Underdale
22nd June Trinity 1	10.30 am Service for All	09.15 am Holy Communion			
29nd June Trinity 2			10:30 am Benefice Service Holy Communion		
6th July Trinity 3					11.15am Holy Communion
13th July Trinity 4	10.30 am Holy Communion	09.15 am Holy Communion			
20th July Trinity 5					11.15am Holy Communion
27th July Trinity 6	10.30 am Service for All	09.15 am Holy Communion			
3rd August Trinity 7			10:00 am Family Service / Service for All		11.15am Holy Communion
10th August Trinity 8	10.30 am Holy Communion	09.15 am Holy Communion			
17th August Trinity 9					11.15am Holy Communion
24th August Trinity 10		09.15 am Holy Communion			

Church services are taken from the Book of Common Prayer (BCP) or Common Worship (CW) according to the preference of the individual PCCs in consultation with the Rector.

As we are a group of rural communities, Harvest Festivals are particularly important and greatly valued.

When there is a fifth Sunday in the month, there is a single Eucharist for the whole benefice, held in each church by rotation.

Special Seasonal Services

There are a number of special seasonal services within the group including:

- Advent/Christmas
- Easter
- Harvest
- Remembrance Sunday

There is diversity in the group from a liberal catholic theology to an evangelical outlook with Biblical teaching interpreted for the modern day. It is usual for priests to wear vestments for services. The rural nature of our communities

tends to lead to a very "hands on" kind of ministry. We are open to exploring new ways of doing things!

Occasional Offices

In the last three years the number of occasional offices in the group has been as follows:

- Baptisms 8 per annum
- Funerals 10 per annum
- Weddings 7 per annum

Most funerals take place in the churches, the nearest crematoria being East Riding Crematorium, Octon and York Crematorium, Bishopthorpe Road, York.

Home communion and other pastoral visits are offered to those who are unable to attend church services. Bible Study and Lent Courses are offered and there is a 'Meditation' group.

The provision of services is regularly reviewed and adjustments made according to need and the Ministry resources available at any particular time. A typical monthly service rota is shown above.

Website, Social Media & Broadcast Services

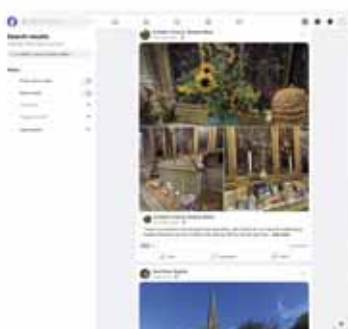
We created a website so that we were accessible to a wider audience.

The main function of the site is to disseminate information about the parishes' current and near-future activities, as well as showing important past events.

Information about our "in church" and broadcast services is the primary visual, followed by other important information.

The site offers links to "safeguarding", gives our mission statement and what we believe to be fundamental Christian beliefs.

The benefice has an Instagram page and St Edith's Bishop Wilton has a Facebook page, which is regularly updated with church news, and shares its posts with the Bishop Wilton News and Chat Facebook group.





Our broadcast services started during the pandemic, when all the services were broadcast live. It became clear that a number of people found these services essential in maintaining their faith. So, from the end of restrictions we aimed to provide a broadcast service via YouTube every week. It has not always proved possible to achieve this but we have broadcast over 125 services.

Each service is publicised via email and on our website. We produce an order of service for each broadcast service so that participants can follow the worship. All orders of service are downloadable if required.

The service is made available through “YouTube Premiere” and a graphic is produced to tell people of the service, the date and the start time.

In the past year we have broadcast 34 services with an average congregation of 17.



Benefice Finances

In November 2022 **Living Christ's Story** York Diocese Strategic Plan 2021-2031 was accepted by the Diocesan Synod. It sets out the drivers for change and proposes the development of a strategy for revitalised growth and key milestones for 2026 and 2031 including the achievement of each Ministry Unit meeting the direct costs of ministry and where possible contributing to the shared costs. The programme of work was proposed as projects under two distinct work streams: "Reimagining Mission and Ministry" and "Transforming Finances and Structures".

The Garrowby Benefice is fully committed to this aim and is preparing a planned structure to reach an interim target in 2026 and reaching the goal of fully meeting the costs of ministry in our benefice. This target is currently £32,000 per annum.

"We aim to do this by reaching new people and growing in discipleship as a whole church, striving to be younger and more diverse, and to move towards becoming a mixed ecology church, sustaining and developing church life in the many different places in which we live our lives: in church and online; at work or in education; in places of leisure as well as in neighbourhoods. We want our churches to be places where the story of Christ is known and lived out, transforming the communities we serve."*

**Taken from Archbishop Stephen's Diocesan Synod address on 28th November 2020.*

We aim to maintain our buildings, cover our running costs and carry out repairs as necessary from our income. It should be noted that four of our five churches (*All Saints, St Andrew's, St Mary's Skirpenbeck and St Edith's*) have Grade One Listed status, which carries significant financial implications for their PCCs.

In addition we contribute to Diocese by our "Freewill Offering". Our aim is to reach our goal of "self-funding" a half time post by 2026. To do this we are investigating ways of being courageous in our outlook, exploring ...

- asking regular givers to give a small additional amount to allow us to fund our new rector by increasing our Freewill Offering;
- to ensure all regular givers (who are eligible) are signed up to be able to gift aid their contributions;
- the viability of contactless giving at all churches, especially All Saints, Kirby Underdale to make the most of walkers and visitors;
- the possibility of launching a "Friends of" for the churches who do not have this source of income;
- new ways of fundraising within each Parish and trusting in God's grace to move us forward in our mission to "Live Christ's Story" in the communities where we live and work.

Note: Our Church Buildings

Within the Garrowby benefice four of our buildings are Grade 1 listed, St Edith's, Bishop Wilton; St Andrew's, Bugthorpe, All Saints, Kirby Underdale and St Mary's, Skirpenbeck. This status allows us to worship in splendid surroundings however the financial reality of being responsible for such buildings can be onerous. (Insurance, maintenance, heating and lighting have increased exponentially over the past 4 years.) Some of our parishes are not meeting their annual overhead costs and have been using reserves to meet the shortfall. We hope to end this cycle. As well as increasing our freewill offer to diocese to meet the cost of placing an incumbent in the benefice we aim to reduce any deficits to zero as quickly as we can by implementing the fund raising campaigns outlined above.

Whilst St Mary's Full Sutton does not have the same status it needs extensive work in maintenance to make it a safe and comfortable place to worship.

The Rectory



The Rectory for the Garrowby Benefice is situated in Worsedale Road, Bishop Willton.

The house stands in a lovely garden mainly set to lawns. It is a converted dorma bungalow which in addition to the main body of the house has an attached annexe. This has an en suite bedroom, a sitting room and has underfloor heating on separate thermostats to the main house which makes it a flexible space.

The main part of the house has four bedrooms. The “master” upstairs is en suite and there is also a family WC and shower room for the second upstairs bedroom. Downstairs there are two further rooms that could be bedrooms. One is used as a study as at present. There is also a bath/shower and WC. There is a sizable kitchen with built in “white goods”, a large dining room, and a comfortable lounge with wood burner. There is also a utility room which links the main house and annexe.

The heating is oil fired and the boiler was replaced quite recently, and an extra radiator added in the lounge. The wiring is modern and has been inspected.



Although there is no garage there is a summer house and three sheds, one of which has been used as a wood store. There is generous off-road parking.



St Edith, Bishop Wilton

St Edith's is dedicated to the Anglo-Saxon royal saint, Edith of Wilton in Wiltshire (961-984). The church dates from the Norman period and contains some remarkable early carvings above the south door and in the chancel arch. The two aisles, spire and porch were added over subsequent centuries. The church was sympathetically restored in 1858-9 by Sir Tatton Sykes of Sledmere and boasts

a beautiful painted roof decorated with gold leaf. Among the many points of interest is the stunning mosaic floor, copied from the Vatican. The tower clock is of great interest and the three bells, which have recently been restored, are historically important. St Edith's is a Grade 1 listed building and is justly known as the *Queen of the Wolds*.



Seating Capacity: 150
Graveyard: Open
Lay participation: Lesson readers; intercessions (at Family Services)
Services per month: 3
Attendance: 8:00 am Holy Communion: 9
10:15 Family Service: 20
11:15 Holy Communion: 12
Approx Civil Population 550



St Andrew, Bugthorpe

St. Andrew's church is a Grade 1 listed building with a long tradition of Christian witness and ministry. The original nave was pulled down and rebuilt in 1859, but much remains of the original Norman building. The three stone sedilia on the south side of the chancel give weight to the belief that a small colony of monks once lived in cells on the north of the church and served within it. The Early English chancel arch retains earlier capitals and the present choir would

have been the original chancel in the Norman church. The gilt and oak High Altar was installed in 1927 and the central stone altar, with its tester above, was commissioned in 1937 by the 1st Earl of Halifax in memory of his father, the 2nd Viscount. The church has undergone considerable restoration in the twenty first century with extensive stone repairs, work on the nave roof, re-plastering and decoration.



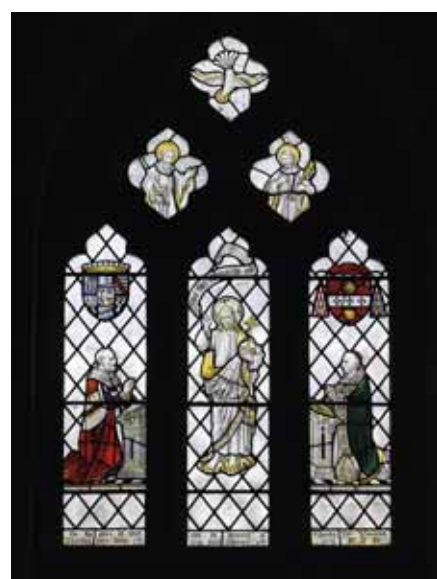
Seating Capacity: 60
Graveyard: Open
Lay participation: Lesson readers
Services per month: 2
Attendance: 16
Approx Civil Population 181



All Saints, Kirby Underdale

Of the original Norman church, the lower part of the tower and the nave remain. The chancel was re-built in the 19th century and a vestry and porch added. Lines of yew bushes frame two sets of steep parallel steps, one leading into the village and the other directly from the west door up to the garden of the old Rectory. Viewed from above, the top of the tower lies level with this garden. The churchyard, running down to the Hundle Beck, is a mass of snow-drops in spring.

The floor of the nave slopes west to east, following the level of the ground. A scratch dial, its original purpose to indicate the hour for Mass, sits in the vestry wall. The Rood over the chancel arch was commissioned by the 1st Viscount Halifax and a stained glass window in the north wall commemorates the Malines Anglican-Roman Catholic Conversations of the 1920s, depicting the leading participants, Cardinal Mercier and the 2nd Viscount Halifax. Christ is shown in the attitude of blessing, below the words 'That they may all be one'.



Seating Capacity: 80
Graveyard: Open
Lay participation: Lesson readers, Intercessions
Services per month: 2
Attendance: 14
Approx Civil Population 125



St Mary, Skirpenbeck

Skirpenbeck lies just north of the A166 road, some two miles to the north-west of Stamford Bridge, where King Harold of England defeated Harald Hardrada, King of Norway, on 25th September 1066. Less than three weeks later, King Harold would lose his life at Hastings in the defeat by the Norman invaders.

The parish church of St Mary's is a Grade II* listed building, sitting at the eastern end of the long winding village street. The list of rectors starts in 1274 and there was a settlement around the church before that. Markings near the bell tower appear to be Saxon runes. Skirpenbeck's first baron was the Norman Sir William de Chauncey and it is entirely reasonable to suppose that the church dates from that period.

The church is fortunate to have a very beautiful baptismal font, originally sited outside the building and carved with overlapping Romanesque arches, which dates it to the transition between Norman and Early English styles. Unusually, an original 12th century 'arrow-slit' window remains in the north wall (such windows were almost always enlarged). The organ was built in 1848 by Joseph Bell of York – one of the only two he made – and important for being in its original state, not electrified. Clear glass panes in the East window give onto trees beyond and at the centre of the window is a stained glass Trinity, designed in 1967 by Harry Harvey (1922-2011). The combination of seeing through the window and gazing at the central image makes a valued contribution to the worship of God here.



Seating Capacity: 70
Graveyard: Open
Lay participation: Lesson readers, Intercessions
Services per month: 1
Attendance: 22
Approx Civil Population 145



St Mary, Full Sutton

The church, a grade II listed building, is set back from the road in the oldest part of the village. Dating from 1845, and built using stone from a much earlier mediaeval building, the church contains the original pews but lacks running water or toilet facilities. The church bells used to ring each Sunday morning but have been removed due to safety concerns and are on display in the church. One of these bells dates from around 1370.

We have plans to develop the activity in Full Sutton. To this end we have investigated the possibility of removing some of the pews at the rear of the church to create a small meeting place, have explored the feasibility of adding running water and toilet facilities, and would dearly love to see the church bells restored to their rightful place.



Seating Capacity: 70
Graveyard: Open
Lay participation:
Lesson readers,
Services per month:
1
Attendance: 5
Approx Civil
Population 512

The Deanery

A message from The Lay Dean, David Millican



The Deanery of South Wold sits at the foot of the Yorkshire Wolds has 31 parishes formed into six benefices. The main centres of the population are Market Weighton, Pocklington and Holme on Spalding Moor, with Stamford Bridge as an added main population centre. Each of them is experiencing significant increases to their population (c.30 per cent).

The focus of the Deanery is in the following areas:

- **Rural** - Resourcing small rural churches in communities particularly where the local church is the only community facility.
- **Living Christ's Story** - The Deanery is developing ways we can encourage and overcome real challenges to enable the small congregations to reach out and grow

- **As a Deanery**, our priorities are we believe our small rural churches have much to offer, and that our schools offer great mission and ministry opportunities as we build upon the good relationships our churches have with their local school.
- **The Deanery Leadership Team and Chapter** work together to support and encourage one another. Chapter meets bi-monthly and has a good attendance including our Prison and School Chaplains. At Deanery Synod we are now meeting as an "Open Synod" model as we invite speakers to help us in our mission and ministry.

We are excited by the prospective a new colleague to become a part of the Deanery team.

Our Patron

A message from Lord Halifax



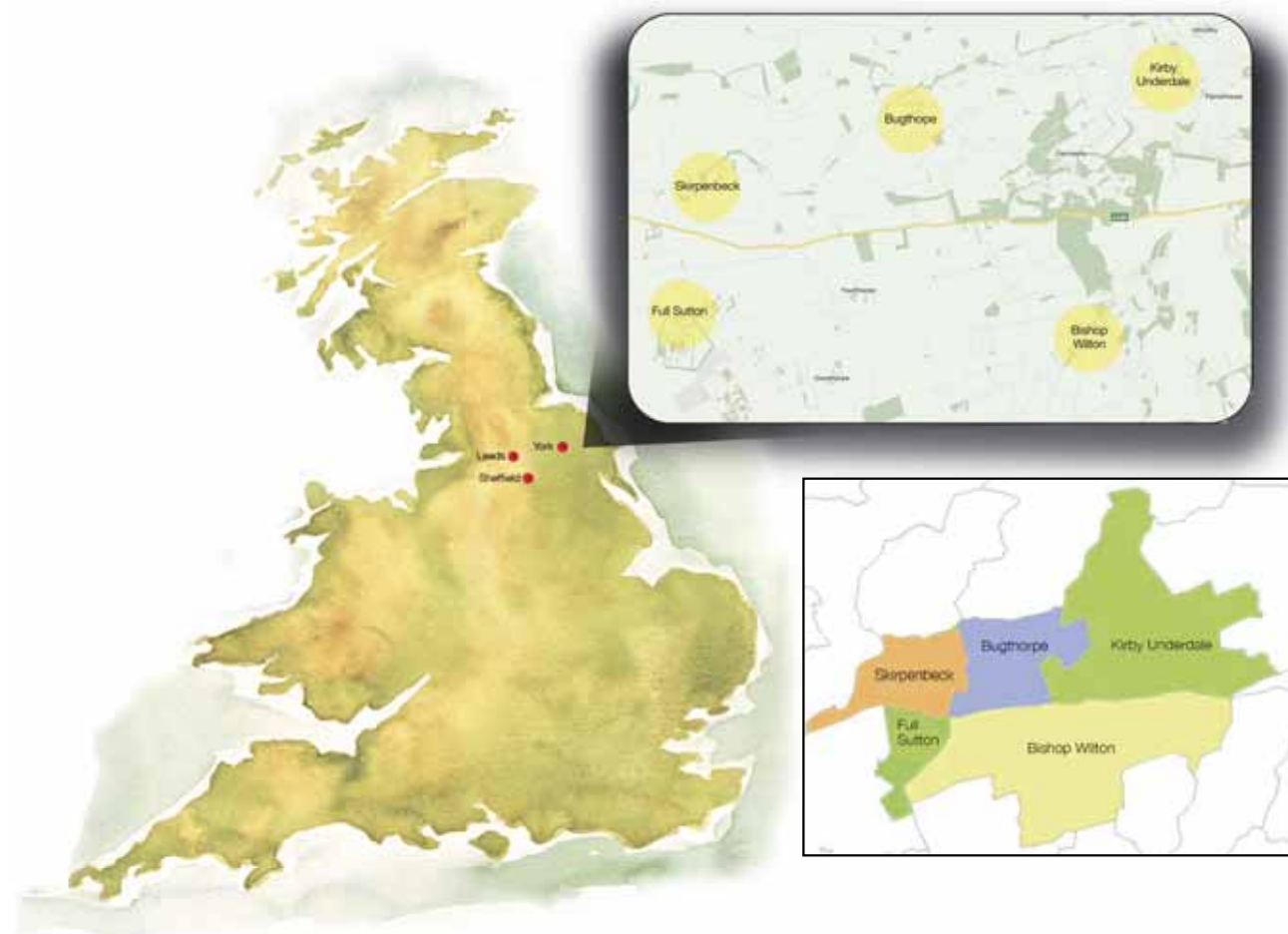
Garrowby is a benefice which has community at its heart. In each of the five villages the church is there for everybody, regardless of whether they attend services regularly. Both through worship, through offering time and opportunities for prayer and reflection, offering pastoral support and providing the impetus for social activities which bring people together, the church is at the centre of the local community. This provides a perfect opportunity for the church itself to grow as well as fostering a commitment to giving, to helping and supporting others.

This sense of community goes beyond the immediate locality of the five parishes.

We welcome visits from other church or special interest groups, taking seriously the impetus embodied in the Malines Conversations of bringing people together. There are social initiatives too such as Food Bank Collections to offer practical support to those suffering financial hardship.

This is the vision we should like a new incumbent to share, a vision which offers scope for growth both within and beyond the churches themselves, a vision which will bring us closer as we strive together to 'Live Christ's Story' in a world which has never felt in greater need of God's healing presence.

Our location - & local life



The Diocese of York: The Deanery of South Wold 'A network of churches serving Rural communities'

Although agriculture is at the heart of most of our communities, the number of people directly employed in the sector is relatively few. Those in employment generally travel to nearby towns. The city of York is close, a vibrant festival city with Roman roots and a Viking past and a magnificent Minster. Ancient walls surround local businesses, attractions, shops, and eateries. York offers a wide range of employment opportunities and has two well established Universities.

Pocklington is the nearest town. It is a classic English market town located at the foot of the Yorkshire Wolds, and has an array of shops, places to visit and eat, all surrounded by glorious countryside. A star attraction is Burnby Hall Gardens. Other highlights include the Pocklington Canal, a hidden gem and wildlife haven, and Pocklington Arts Centre which is an award-winning multi-arts venue with a diverse programme of events.

Stamford Bridge is a charming village located in the heart of East Yorkshire. This historic location is renowned for its significant role in the Battle of Stamford Bridge in 1066, marking a pivotal moment in British history. With its picturesque landscapes, quaint local shops, it offers a unique blend of history and natural beauty.



Our Villages

Bishop Wilton

Nestled in the heart of East Yorkshire, Bishop Wilton is a charming, picturesque village that offers a unique blend of tranquillity and history. It has stunning landscapes, historic landmarks, and a warm, welcoming community. The village is situated approximately 6 miles north-west from the market town of Pocklington and about 16 miles east of York. It is mentioned in the Domesday Book as 'Wilton'. The village has a primary school and the Bishop Wilton Show, a traditional agricultural show, is held annually in the village.

Bugthorpe

Bugthorpe Village is situated 13 miles east of York, 8 miles north of Pocklington. It lies in the county of East Yorkshire, south of the border with North Yorkshire where the Vale of York meets the Yorkshire Wolds. Bugthorpe has a long and ancient past having a Saxon church, rebuilt in the Norman times, and is mentioned in the Domesday Book. Today the village is part of the Halifax Estates and maintains not only its church but a school, village hall and post office with shop. It is a small but thriving rural community.

Kirby Underdale

Nestled in the heart of East Yorkshire, Kirby Underdale is a charming, picturesque village. This hidden gem is surrounded by rolling hills, lush green landscapes, and a wealth of historical landmarks. The village is situated approximately 20 miles east of York and 10 miles north-west of Pocklington. The village is in a valley, which is where it gets its name 'Underdale'. It is part of the Yorkshire Wolds Way National Trail, a long-distance footpath. Despite its small size, Kirby Underdale has a strong sense of community with various events and activities taking place throughout the year.

Skirpenbeck

Situated in the heart of East Yorkshire, Skirpenbeck is a charming, picturesque village. It is a haven for nature lovers, boasting lush green landscapes, serene walking trails, and an abundance of wildlife. The village is situated approximately 11 miles east of York and 9 miles north-west of Pocklington. The village is mentioned in the Domesday Book.

Full Sutton

Full Sutton is a village in the East Riding of Yorkshire. It is situated approximately 2 miles east of Stamford Bridge and 5 miles from the market town of Pocklington. The village is located on the Pocklington Canal and is surrounded by beautiful countryside. Full Sutton is known for its prison, HMP Full Sutton, one of the high-security prisons in the UK.

Links

Church & Diocese

- [Garrowby Benefice](#)
- [Diocese of York](#)

Local Amenities

- [Bishop Wllton Shop](#)
- [Bishop Wllton Village Hall](#)
- [Bishop Wllton Show](#)
- [Yoga](#)
- [Table Tennis](#)
- [Cricket](#)
- [Shopping York](#)
- [Pocklington Market](#)
- [York Designer Outlet](#)

Nuseries

- [Blue Sky Nursery, Pocklington](#)
- [St John's Nursery, Pocklington](#)
- [Lyndhurst Private Pre-School Day Nursery Pocklington](#)
- [Muddy Boots, Stamford Bridge](#)

Schools

- [Woldgate School](#)
- [Pocklington School \(Independent School\)](#)
- [Pocklington Junior School](#)
- [Bugthorpe Primary School \(CofE\)](#)
- [Bishop Wllton Primary School \(CofE\)](#)

Healthcare

- [Pocklington Surgery](#)
- [Stamford Bridge Surgery](#)
- [My Dentist Pocklington](#)
- [Regent Street Dental, Pocklington](#)
- [Stamford Bridge Dental](#)
- [Pocklington Dental](#)

General Interest

- [Halifax Estates](#)



All Saints, Kirby Underdale