



Parish of Middleton
St. Mary the Virgin | St. Cross
www.parishofmiddleton.co.uk



**We invite you to consider taking up ministry in Middleton
as Vicar of St. Mary the Virgin and St. Cross**



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Our History

The Parish of Middleton (Leeds) was created in May 2013, by the merging of two separate Parishes, St. Mary the Virgin Church and St. Cross Church, in close proximity.

St. Mary the Virgin Church

St. Mary the Virgin Church, constructed in 1846, is a Grade II listed, stone-built building with a functioning churchyard. It is situated on Town Street in the older part of Middleton, next to Middleton Park. Being built by miners, the Church has a rich history and has close links with Middleton St. Mary's CE (VC) school and is well loved by the local community.

St. Cross Church

St. Cross Church is constructed of brick and was built in 1933. It was built to serve the large council housing estate of Middleton, whose construction started in the 1920s. It is situated on Middleton Park Avenue. The Vicarage for the Parish is located next to St. Cross Church.

Both Churches are available to the local community for weddings, baptisms, and funerals. St. Cross Church has a 'Parish Room' at the rear of the church and is available for hire for small functions. It is also used by the local Foodbank and youth Club.

There is also 'The Parochial Hall' which is a large brick building, built in 1935 and refurbished in 1985. It is situated on North Lingwell Road and it stands on its own grounds with car parking to the rear of the building. There is a large hall, lounge and bar facilities, and a fully equipped stage, including sound system, video projection and lighting. The Hall is available for hire to local clubs and community groups. It is used by The Food Pantry, Brownies and Girl Guiding Groups and a Dance School. A Social Club is held on Friday and Sunday evenings.



**St. Mary the Virgin Church
Grade II | 1846**



**St. Cross Church
1933**

The Parish

The Parish lies on the southern edge of the city of Leeds, looking down to the city on one side and over the motorway towards Wakefield in the other direction.

Middleton was once a mining village, and the wish of the miners to have their own Church, resulted in St. Mary the Virgin Church being built in the centre of what is still known as the 'Old Village'.

Middleton covers a large area and is very mixed in its type of housing, from the much older cottages on the edges of Middleton Park and Woods, to a very large modern housing development on the edge of the Parish. Within the Parish are also different council run estates built in the 30s, 60s and 70s as well as new association properties. This results in a diverse mix of residents.

There are no large employers in Middleton, though in recent years, two large supermarkets have been built in the area. There are two small shopping precincts, with the rest being made up of local shops and small businesses.

Though once a predominantly white area, the population has become much more diverse in recent years and with a mixture of ages. The older population are well served by Middleton Elderly Aid who started in the rooms of St. Cross Church before securing their own property opposite, but still maintain strong links with the church.

A 2016 public health report on the ward reported 48% of the neighbourhoods were in the lowest 20% of deprivation in the UK, and parts of the area face challenges around the quality of housing and employment.



Middleton Broom Colliery



Old Middleton Church of England School on Town Street

The Churches

The two Churches are very different and, as such, fulfil different needs within the Parish.

St. Mary the Virgin Church is popular for weddings and funerals, owing to its traditional layout and the space at the rear of the Church has been used for small functions as it has a small kitchen. Local families like the connection that successive generations have been baptised, married, and finally buried there.

St. Cross has a larger function room at the rear of the Church, known as the Parish Room, as well as separate Lady Chapel, office, and smaller rooms. This lends itself to more community-based activities.

The Churches have two Churchwardens each, and the PCC is well served by a longstanding Treasurer and Secretary.

Since the creation of the Parish under one incumbent, Sunday services have consisted of Holy Communion at 9:30am at St. Cross Church and 11:00am at St. Mary the Virgin Church, both taken by the previous incumbent, and assisted by two retired

Priests who now reside in the Parish. Once a month we have a combined service, alternating between the Churches. The two Churches were totally separate until the formation of the joint Parish in 2013, so this has been a good way of creating a bond between them. We have also held services, when needed, in our Parochial Hall.

St. Mary the Virgin Church holds an 8:00am Sunday Service (BCP) which has been suspended due to COVID and has not yet restarted. We have recently resumed the midweek Holy Communion at St. Cross Church which was also halted due to COVID.

The numbers for services are small at both Churches but have a regular and faithful congregation which is just starting to increase, following the COVID restrictions. Special services, such as Christmas, Easter and Remembrance Day are well supported by the local community.



**St. Mary the Virgin Church
Wedding August 2021**



**St. Cross Church
Christmas Fair 2021**

Attendance at Worship in Each Church

Please note: figures are from 2019, pre-lockdown, to provide a more accurate record

Church / Service	Time	No. of Communicants	Adult Attendance	Under 16
St. Mary the Virgin Church	8:00am	225	264	31
	11:00am	1239	1298	22
St. Cross Church	9:30am	1262	1286	116
St. Cross Church Mid-week Service	10:00am	356	356	Nil

Occasional Offices

Please note: figures are for 2019, pre-lockdown, to provide a more accurate record

Church	Baptisms	Confirmees	Weddings	Funerals in Church	Funerals taken by Clergy
St. Mary the Virgin Church	35	Nil	16	13	No Records
St. Cross Church	5	Nil	Nil	1	No Records

Growing Together

We have held a popular annual Pet Service for several years at St. Mary the Virgin Church, which is always well attended and has opened up services to the wider community who know that they, and their pets are always welcome.



We have a growing Mother's Union group who have started to meet again in the Parochial Hall, following COVID restrictions. This has been a long-standing group who have served the community and wider faith for many years.

We have a growing Guides / Brownies / Rainbow group that have been running for many years, first at St. Cross Church, and have now moved to meeting in the Parochial Hall, due to increasing numbers. They have a strong and well organised leadership team who plan games, trips and many badges for all to enjoy, as seen in their Charity Danceathon!



There has always been a youth Club run from St. Cross Church, and our present, independently run 'St. Cross Amazing Youth Club' is a popular place to be each Monday evening. They have just received funding to maintain this for another year and is run by a good team of paid workers and volunteers who arrange a variety of activities and trips for the children.

Prior to COVID, the Trussell Trust ran a Foodbank at St. Cross Church, which gave much needed help, particularly to that part of the Parish. Changes due to lockdown meant that an independent Foodbank, supported by the incumbent and volunteers was able to keep that help going through lockdown and continues to do so.



PAROCHIAL FOOD PANTRY

Parochial Food Pantry will provide local families and individuals with extra fresh, frozen and tinned food.

WHERE: Middleton Parochial Hall, North Lingwell Rd. LS10 3SR
OPEN: Fridays 11:00am-3:00pm from 28th May
MEMBERSHIP: £3.50 per weekly visit
REGISTER TODAY ON 07495174461 or 07495172982
Alternatively you can email- admin@healthforall.org.uk

healthforall power to change COMMUNITY 1926 FareShare

One of the local partners, South Leeds Health For All, set up a weekly Food Pantry in the local Parochial Hall, which gives ‘members’ a choice from a range of food for their small membership fee.

We have close links with our local Middleton St. Mary’s Church School, which has, at present approximately 400 pupils, and previous Vicars have taken part in weekly worship as well as services such as Christmas, Easter, Christingle, and Leavers services held for all the children in St. Mary the Virgin Church. Previous Vicars have also been part of the school’s Governing Board, as is one of our present Churchwardens, to represent the Church. They hold a strong faith, with their school values of ‘Honesty – Learning – Respect – Faith – Responsibility’ and often have classes visit the Church to learn more about a particular faith topic.



Our New Priest in Charge

We're a mixed sort of a Parish, from the ends of the spectrum as far as housing, income, ages, and race is concerned, and what we'd love to see is someone who can bring us all together.

Someone who can help us use the resources and talents that we have to build strong bonds with the people of our Parish and outreach programmes and help us all grow in love, faith, and learning. Something we feel has been missing for some while now.

Someone who will love our congregations and our community, being supportive, healing and restoring. To show that each other's spiritual gifts are enabled, respected, appreciated, and encouraged. Cross generational with good interaction with the mix of the very young and the elderly.

Someone who has an ability to lead and communicate with diverse groups of people across all age groups and to find ways of bringing them closer together as part of a single, vibrant Church community.

Whilst it is not quite right to say, one with the patience of a saint, but the sense of humour of the Vicar of Dibley. Well, actually, that's just what we need!