

HELLO!
WELCOME TO CHRIST CHURCH

PARISH BROCHURE



**CHRIST CHURCH
SOUTH OSSETT**

Serving South Ossett in the Diocese of Leeds.
Vicar Lane, Ossett, WF5 0BE

www.ccsso.uk

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WELCOME

Are you being called to lead and grow our ministry?

Here at Christ Church, South Ossett, we are seeking a new Priest in Charge to lead our church community. *We are looking for someone who will inspire and motivate us to live Christ-centred lives, treasure the Bible, deepen our relationship with God and encourage us in our use of the gifts of the Holy Spirit.*

Part of the Leeds Diocese, Christ Church is located in the market town of Ossett, 4 miles from Wakefield in West Yorkshire. It has easy access to junction 40 of the M1 and is near to the M62.

We are a growing, lively and active evangelical church who are devoted to knowing and loving God and His Word. Our weekly services are a mixture of contemporary and traditional worship. We also meet during the week in our Home Church Groups, where we aim to encourage deeper faith and share life together.

Our church has experienced spiritual growth over the last few years, and we are excited to see what God has in store for us next.

Our aim is to reach out in love and faith into the communities in which we live, work and play. Our desire is to see God's love transform lives, so that all in the Ossett area would come to believe, trust and hope in Jesus Christ, as we move forward in accordance with God's will for us.

We are seeking for the person who will help us to discern His will and direction for His church. The person God calls will receive a warm welcome from this loving, Christ-centred and supportive church family. We have begun to see signs of growth in many areas of our church life and are excited to welcome someone who can help us, through the guidance of the Holy Spirit, to move into all that God has in store for us in the future. We firmly believe that God has much more planned for His church in South Ossett. It's an exciting time for someone with vision, enthusiasm and spiritual gifts to join us.

We hope you'll find this profile helpful in understanding who we are as a Church and where we feel God is leading us.

"Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock." – **Matthew 7:24**

Why we exist

Our Mission

We exist to be and to make disciples who **love Jesus** as their greatest treasure, **learn Jesus** as their way of life, and **live Jesus** for the renewal of the world.

Where we're going

Our Vision

With the help of God, our aim is to be a **Christ-centred worshipping family of radical disciples**, committed to **showing and telling the good news** of God's Kingdom in Ossett and beyond.

What does that mean?

Christ-centred

We want to be a church with Jesus and God's Word at the centre. In all things, we want to be led by Jesus, lead like Jesus and lead people to Jesus. Ultimately, we want to know Jesus and make Him known.

Radical Disciples

We want to live lives that are sold-out for Jesus, making him Lord in every area of our lives. We can only do this by being rooted in His love, His Word and committing ourselves to become lifelong apprentices of His way of life.

In Ossett and Beyond

We want to see God's Kingdom come in Ossett as in heaven, because we believe that God loves this place and its people. But we also want to play our part in taking the good news of Jesus to the nations.

Worshipping Family

We want to embody the truth that we are the family of God, gathered around Jesus, united by the Holy Spirit whose one great aim is to put His surpassing worth on display for all to see.

Showing and Telling

The good news that Jesus announced was that the life of God's Kingdom was available to all. We don't just want to announce God's love with our words, we want to be good news in our everyday lives.

How we do things

Our Values

Our values direct how we do things; they are the principles that we want to guide us as a church family. You might say that these seven values are the things that we hope will become our DNA.

We are committed to being a church that...

Worships Joyfully

We make it our first priority to know God, to enjoy His presence, and to express our love for Him with all that we are and all that we do.

Lives Radically

We want to be people who are all-in on Jesus, learning to live His way at all times, in all places, and in every area of our lives.

Thinks Biblically

We want to be people who think and speak and act distinctively because of who we are in Jesus—learning to live His story in our daily lives.

Witnesses Organically

We want our lives to speak of Jesus to the world—embodying His authentic, attractive and compelling vision of what it means to be human.

Prays Dependently

We want to be a people of prayer, who trust in God for everything and know that they can do nothing apart from Him.

Loves Extravagantly

We believe that to be church is to be part of God's family, therefore we want our life together to reflect His love for us and our unity in Jesus.

Gives Sacrificially

As Jesus came among us as the Servant King, so we too want to joyfully, generously and sacrificially give ourselves away for the sake of others.

The Christ Church PCC have adopted the Church of England Evangelical Council's Basis of Faith (with additional declarations). This is to clarify the PCCs understanding of biblical teaching and safeguard this by requiring all ministers at the church to be able to affirm their agreement with this basis.

OUR FUTURE

As a church family we have continued to see much fruit, in the lives of individuals and as a community, in all the values that we have set out. However, we recognise that there is still much room for growth as we strive to be all that God would have us to be.

In our services we are enthusiastic in worship but we would love to be more open to the leading, empowering and sanctification of the Holy Spirit in all we do. We want our worship to be offered in Spirit and In Truth when we meet together. We are so thankful for our Music Teams, and we pray that soon we will be able to have live music in every Sunday service.

We are really blessed to have so many volunteers who work with dedication and excellence to support all areas of church life. But there remain a number of areas where we struggle to find enough help. It is our hope that in the future more church members would be willing to offer their time and talents in order that the workload could be more equally shared and to enable future growth in all areas of ministry.

Our last Vicar worked hard to lead people into a deeper personal walk with the Lord through spiritual disciplines. We would seek to continue with this discipleship through biblical teaching and our Home Church Groups. We don't want to be people who attend church on Sunday or Thursday but fail to engage with God throughout the rest of the week.

We believe in the power of the gospel to transform lives and we long to share that message with as many people in our community as possible. Our hope is that individuals would grow in confidence to share their story and their love for Jesus with those around them. The focus of our prayers is also that God would show us ways in which we can reach out to our community and our town to spread the Good News.

Our Children's, Youth and Families (CYF) team does an incredible job giving our kids and young people a firm grounding in their faith. God has – over many years – brought many families and younger individuals to Christ Church, and continues to do this (even when we least expect it!). We pray that we are able to see much more of this – and that God provides all we need to continue this ministry.



CHURCH LIFE

Christ Church is a busy community. On top of our **two weekly services** (Sunday and Thursday) and small **Home Church** groups, we have a number of regular activities - both *in* our church and *for* our wider community:

- Our food bank, **The Resource**;
- **Children's and youth groups** - **Explorers, Discoverers** and **CCSO Youth** during our services and **Game Changers**, our Sunday evening youth group;
- Our weekly prayer meeting, **Cornerstone**.
- Weekly activity-focused outreach groups, like **Table Tennis Club, Shared Craft**, and **Centrepont**, a social club for adults with learning disabilities.
- Engagement with **local schools**, particularly focused around school assemblies and events like our Easter and Christmas Story telling.
- Ad-hoc events, organised by our **Events Team** like Parish Weekends and summer BBQs.

We operate in a **team structure** - we believe that God gifts all His people for ministry and we encourage everyone to serve. This provides a structured way for all members of our church's wide-ranging ministry to meet, pray and plan. Teams are interconnected and aim to support all aspects of church life, both practically and spiritually.

Our PCC is an **active and supportive group**, committed to prayerfully making decisions that will nurture the growth and development of the church. We rely heavily on our hard-working teams of volunteers to support us in putting our ideas into action.

The PCC are also supported by our **Team Forum representatives** who meet with our Incumbent in advance of our PCC meetings to review and plan for major events in the church's calendar year.



How we work

Church Organisation

At Christ Church, we encourage everyone to be involved. This led to the establishment of our **team structure**, which helps with the day-to-day running of the church.

In addition to our serving Priest in Charge, we have a **licensed lay minister** and several others who are available to preach and help to lead services.

We have **two dedicated churchwardens**, who alongside our **treasurer** and **PCC**, play an important role in running, maintaining and developing the church - both in terms of its mission and its buildings.

We take safeguarding extremely seriously at Christ Church, and have **two Parish Safeguarding Officers**. These work across all our groups to ensure training is completed, relevant checks are made, and safer recruitment processes are followed. In addition, we have a **Data Protection Officer** who helps ensure we are compliant with regulations such as GDPR.

Team Structure

As previously mentioned, our teams are fundamental to everything we do at Christ Church. We have teams covering a wide range of areas:

The Office Team

The team currently consists of four regular members and two support members. These volunteers handle **all areas of church administration**, this includes lettings and dealing with members of the public. An important part of their role is preparing the church Notice Sheet and the presentation of the Sunday services. They provide general **support to the Priest in Charge** and all the church teams, enabling the smooth running of the church and Parish Centre.

Children's Youth and Families (CYF) Team

The CYF team help our children and young people continue to grow and develop. We have a fantastic team of 16 safely recruited individuals who work with our children. Currently the groups we provide during services are:

- **Explorers** – for children from reception to year 2 (approx. 5-7 years)
- **Discoverers** – for year 3 to year 6 aged children (approx. 8-11 years)
- **CCSO Youth** – for high school aged children (approx. 11-16 years)

In addition, we have **Game Changers** which is a Sunday evening group for high school aged children (approx. 11-16 years).

Our children and young people are growing in number – but also in their faith in Jesus – with **4 of our young people deciding to be baptised** on Easter Sunday 2025.



Home Church Team

As of January 2025, we had **96 members** in our Home Church groups. Our HCGs are an important part of Christ Church, and all members are encouraged to be part of a group. We have various groups throughout the week, led by our Home Church Pastors, to help facilitate this. The aim is to **encourage our membership to grow in spiritual depth**, as well as to foster a caring community environment while still developing their **personal walk with Jesus** and being able to offer them **spiritual and pastoral support**.

The Home Church team provides support and guidance to the Home Church Pastors and meets periodically with the Priest in Charge to discuss any concerns raised by them.

Music Team

At Christ Church we are blessed to have a number of musicians which enables us to offer live music at services at least twice a month. We currently have a number of guitarists, one bass player, a flautist, two drummers, vocalists and two keyboard players. We have a professional sound desk with a number of operators, along with volunteers who operate the laptop and screen presentation for our Sunday services, using SongPro.

Pastoral Team

The Pastoral Team support and reach out to people in a number of ways, including:

- **Home Communions** for those who cannot attend church for any reason;
- **Pastoral care** for those in need, whether due to illness or other circumstances.
- The **Ministry Team** which are available to pray with anyone in the Prayer Chapel on Sundays, during or after the service

Maintenance Team

Our maintenance team help to look after our buildings and grounds, whether through regular inspections and service work or exceptional project work - all with the aim of keeping the buildings in good order and fit to further God's kingdom and to do His work.

Thursday Service Team

This team plans and delivers the well-attended, informal, Thursday morning service. We are blessed to have so many gifted people who participate, meaning our Priest in Charge does not need to attend every week.

Events Team

The events team plan and facilitate events outside of normal church life, for example, we enjoyed a Passover meal, Easter breakfast and BBQs and picnics over the summer. They also planned our recent Parish Weekend at Home.

Communications Team

The role of the communications team is to share Christ Church ministry, news and information with church family, the parish and the wider community. This is done through the website, sermon podcasts, social media and ad-hoc materials like flyers and notice boards.

Finance Team

We have an excellent Treasurer who is well supported by 2 volunteers, one taking responsibility for Gift Aid, the other taking responsibility for data production.

Health and Safety

We have a dedicated Health and Safety Officer who ensures we comply with all areas of Health and Safety regulations including provision of First Aid materials and training, risk assessments, fire safety and GDPR.



How we gather together

Sunday Services

We meet at **10am on a Sunday morning** for a multi-generational, informal and contemporary service of worship and teaching. The service usually lasts between 75-90 minutes.

During the service

Whilst we encourage all of our church family to be welcoming, we have a dedicated **Welcome Team** to greet visitors, newcomers and regulars before and after the services. This includes dedicated people to identify families and register children to their appropriate group.

Our children's and youth groups – **Explorers, Discoverers** and **CCSO Youth** meet during the service, except for the first Sunday of the month when we all come together for **All-In Worship**. On the weeks that we do have groups, the children remain with the adults at the start of the service before heading over to the Parish Centre - but they will always rejoin us for communion.

In addition to our children's and youth groups, we have a dedicated area in church for babies and toddlers, with a sofa and toys. This intends to illustrate that we welcome and encourage families to be with us.

We are blessed to have a number of musicians in our **Worship Team**, who provide live music at least twice a month, with videos used at other services. We enjoy times of extended worship which incorporates a mixture of new and more traditional songs and hymns. We aim to be more spirit-led and open to Him leading us.

Twice a month we celebrate **Holy Communion** and invite all who welcome Jesus into their hearts to share this with us, regardless of age or denomination.

We often have extended **sermon series** during our services, allowing us to dig deep into God's Word over a period of weeks or months. These often feed into our **Home Church** discussions, too.

We offer **prayer ministry** during our services in our **prayer chapel** within the church building - thanks to members from our **Pastoral Team** who are trained to offer this support.

After the service, we meet together in the Parish Centre for refreshments. There is a lively and friendly buzz where we are able to chat together and welcome and get to know new people. We again have a great team of volunteers to cater for this.

Attendance

The number of people that attend regularly and are members on the **electoral roll is 116**, with an average attendance of around **80** in the Sunday service. We have a wide age range in attendance, from birth to 90+. We have people from a wide range of backgrounds and origins attending Christ Church.

As one would expect Christmas and Easter services are much better attended, and we see this as a huge opportunity to welcome in more of the community and spread the Word.



Our Outreach

Community and Mission

We are sent out to “make disciples of all nations” and we have a number of areas in which outreach happens.

The Resource Food Bank

The Resource has run for well over 20 years and aims to support those in our community in most need. We operate as a referral food bank, and in 2024 over 1500 food parcels were distributed. At the centre of everything we do is our desire to make Christ known. Our philosophy is to serve all clients equally, with respect and dignity and to provide and distribute the highest quality food and toiletry packages possible.



Alpha

We regularly hold **Alpha courses** to help those exploring Christianity to ask difficult questions and explore our faith. We've seen real impact in people's lives through this.

Mission Partners

We support **overseas missionaries** in Adam Young - on mission in Japan, and Steve & Angie Harvey and family in South East Asia. Steve was our previous vicar, and we're proud to be his sending church, supporting the family in their important work. We also support a **number of other charities** and commit to giving at least 10% of our income away.



Community Groups

Our members run a number of community groups, such as **Centrepoint**, a social club for adults with learning disabilities, **Table Tennis Club** and **Shared Craft**. These offer members opportunities to talk about their faith, and invite those in the community to church services and events - often organised by our **Events Team**.

Engagement with local schools

We feel that engagement with schools is a huge opportunity to plant a seed and share the Good News. We have a team that regularly visit four local schools to deliver assemblies to the children. This includes our church school, Southdale.

In addition to this, every other year we transform church into the atmospheric scenes of the last week of Jesus' life and his resurrection, so we can welcome children from our local schools and uniform groups and tell them the Easter story from Mark's gospel. Church members tell the story in a dramatic and interactive way to approximately 600 children and their teachers.



Ossett Christians Together

Ossett Christians Together is a local group from all denominations whose vision is to see the churches in Ossett working together and supporting each other and to reach out into our community with God's love. They have arranged activities such as:

- Prayer walks / prayer buses
- Easter Walk of Witness on Good Friday, and Easter sunrise service in the town centre
- A presence at the annual Ossett Gala
- Carol singing on the Town Hall steps

OUR NEW VICAR

We've had an amazing few years of incredible teaching and spiritual growth, and we're looking to move forward according to God's will. Based on prayerful consideration of our future, we are looking to discern the person God has planned for us; someone who can challenge us to further God's Kingdom. We prayerfully believe our next Priest in Charge should:

- 01 Be a strong spiritual leader.** One of the main aims of this church is to make true disciples. We are looking for someone whose Christ-centred, spirit-filled life and personal walk with Jesus will be an example to all, and who will inspire and lead people of all ages to grow in their love for and obedience to Jesus. Someone who can discern the gifts of individuals and encourage us to make greater use of them.
- 02 Uphold the Word of God.** Our growth has been grounded in solid, Bible-based teaching. We believe God speaks and works through His infallible Word. We're seeking someone who can rightly handle Scripture with reverence and clarity - someone led by the Holy Spirit to teach, encourage, and challenge us through God's Word in a way that's both faithful and relevant.
- 03 Have a pastoral heart.** As our church grows, which we believe it will, the number of people needing support will increase, it's easy for people to feel overlooked. So, we are looking for someone who is able to come alongside people with care and compassion in a way that makes an impact and draws individuals more closely into their faith journey and would help us grow and strengthen our Pastoral work.
- 04 Have good communication skills.** We are a church with a diverse congregation representing people of all ages, backgrounds and at varying stages in their Christian walk. Because of this we are looking for someone who has good communication skills and will enjoy engaging and building relationships with the whole church family. Someone who is able to present God's word in a variety of settings.
- 05 Be passionate about outreach.** Although we want to share the gospel as a church, we have struggled to find effective ways of reaching out to our community. We are hoping to find someone with a vibrant faith and passion for outreach, who can lead us forward with creative ideas and equip us to spread the gospel.

- 06 Have a passion to see children and young people come to faith.** Our new Priest in Charge should be able to share the Gospel in ways that are engaging, creative and relevant to young hearts and minds, helping them grow in faith and feel at home in the church family. As part of this, they will serve as a Governor at Southdale CofE Primary School, take part in assemblies, and welcome school groups into church - continuing the strong relationships already built between church and our local schools.
- 07 Have a good sense of humour.** Last but not least, here at Christ Church we like to have fun, and we hope that our new Priest in Charge will too.



WHAT WE OFFER

There are a lot of wonderful opportunities at Christ Church, and we believe God has an exciting future in store for us. We know there will be challenges and recognise the importance of a strong support network for our new Priest in Charge. We can already offer the following:

- A loving, welcoming and committed church family
- Prayerful, spiritual and practical support
- An experienced, supportive and faithful PCC who are prepared to take on responsibilities
- Two hardworking and dedicated churchwardens
- One LLM and other willing contributors
- Two Parish Safeguarding Officers, who work very hard to maintain safety for all
- A committed Office Team who work hard to assist in admin
- A network of teams and volunteers across church life to share the load



PRACTICAL INFO

Ossett and surrounding areas

Ossett is a **historic market town** in West Yorkshire, with a total population of around 22,000. It is 4 miles from Wakefield, and 10 miles from Leeds. Ossett is just off Junction 40 of the M1, and lies very close to the M62 - meaning it's a popular commuter town, and very easy to travel to and from.



Ossett has **several annual events**, including the Ossett Gala, the Ossett Beercart Festival and the World Coal Carrying Championship.

In terms of education, Ossett is home to **Ossett Academy and Sixth Form College** – which has a good reputation – as well as numerous primary schools.

Ossett is home to a number of parks, shops, restaurants, pubs and other local businesses – one notable example being the award-winning Ossett Brewery. There is a health centre, and a town hall which hosts a library. There are a number of sports clubs and other community groups.

Ossett has a number of nearby attractions like the Yorkshire Sculpture Park, the Hepworth Gallery and the National Coal Mining Museum to name just a few.

South Ossett is one of two Anglican parishes in the town and it is almost entirely residential. The population is approximately 8,800. There is one **Church primary school** in the parish – Southdale school – and three other primary schools, where we have established good links over the years.

The other local parish – Ossett and Gawthorpe – is home to Trinity Church. Working as a United Benefice has recently been explored, but it has been agreed with the Bishop that this is not something that will be pursued in the short term.

Church buildings

The church was consecrated in 1851 and around 1993 the church was re-ordered, creating a modern space. In recent years further improvements have been made with a new dedicated prayer chapel, heating system, better lighting, new carpets and re-decoration. The Church is currently well maintained, in very good condition and requires very little repair work.

The **Parish Centre** is located adjacent the Church and was formerly the vicarage. It was extended in 1997 to add a large hall with kitchen and toilet facilities. In recent years the garden area has been improved making it ideal for outdoor events. Further alteration and refurbishment works have created a **Parish Office** and a suite of rooms of various sizes. Our Thursday 10.15am service meet every week in our Main Hall, which lends itself well to a more informal style and has proven very popular for people with accessibility issues. Many **community activities** take place within the Parish Centre throughout the week. The Church-led **Resource Food Bank** is based in the Parish Centre. It is well maintained and in a good state; windows have been replaced, new heating units added recently, and rooms redecorated in the last few months. There are no major maintenance requirements.

The Churchyard

Christ Church has the only open churchyard in Ossett, located 1 mile from church. The regular maintenance of the churchyard is appreciated by relatives and the community. The churchyard is now almost full.



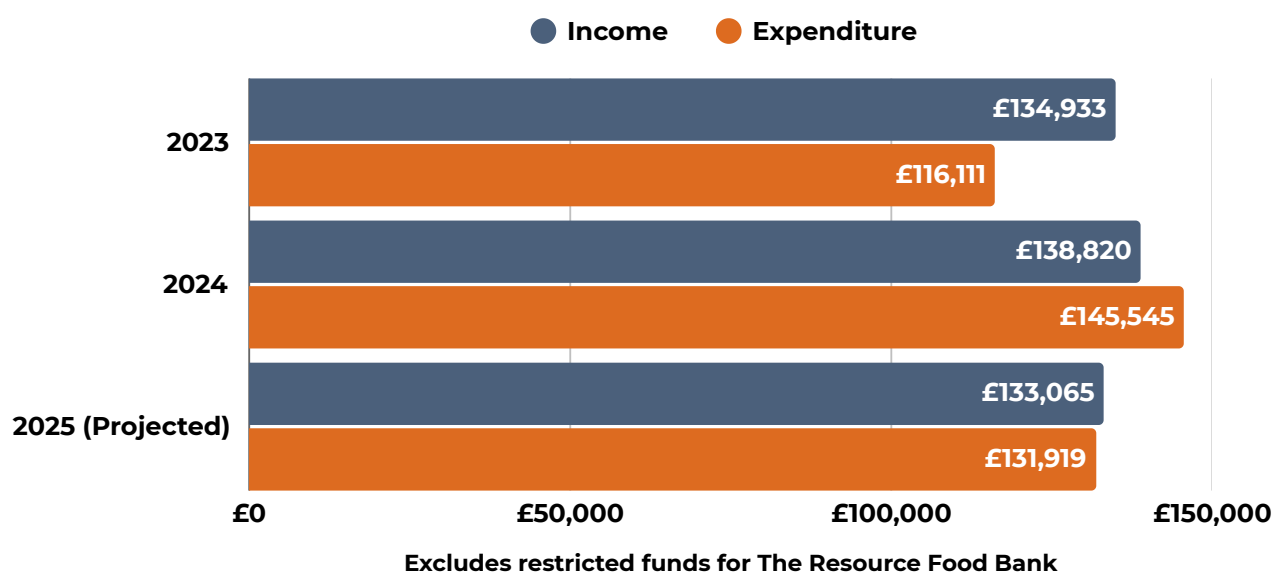
THE VICARAGE

The vicarage is a large, 4 bedroom detached house, with a spacious lounge, separate dining room, office and a garage. It has a garden to the front and rear. The house is in a very good state of repair and is a warm, welcoming house for visitors and those who live there.



FINANCES

Christ Church is blessed to be in a good financial position, with our financial needs fulfilled by the giving of our congregation. This is supplemented through hiring of our buildings to the community, although this is a small element of our income.



We did have a small deficit in 2024 due to some exceptional works such as a significant repair to an outside stone wall and installation of heat pumps in parts of the Parish Centre. We do also have a healthy bank balance in reserve.

Christ Church has paid its full Parish Share for a number of years and believe this is an important contribution to the wider church and a reflection of our faithfulness to God's work.

We have a number of maintenance projects underway, such as replacing the heating and windows in the Parish Centre, all of which come from the projected budgets. We don't often need to raise additional funds for projects – one example of when we did was to replace the church heating system, where £40,000 was raised.



JOIN US

We firmly believe that God has a plan for His church in South Ossett.

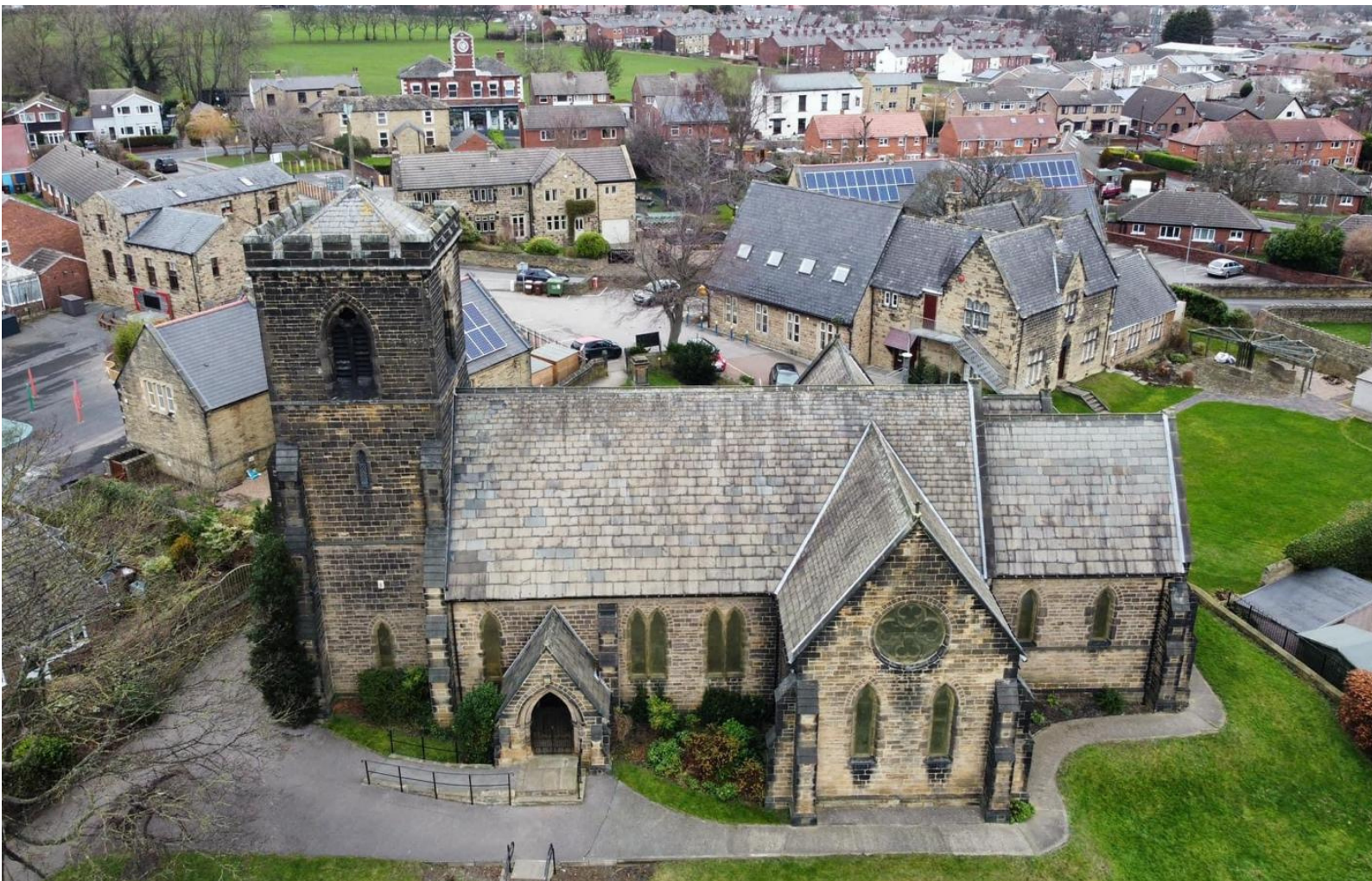
Over the last few months we have come to understand the areas in which we need to grow as a church. Our prayer is that our new Priest in Charge will help us to continue on that journey, working with us to shape our vision as we strive to become the church God intends us to be. We're at an exciting point in our development and can't wait to see what God has in store for us and for the town of Ossett.

If, after prayerful reflection, you believe that God is calling you to join us, we would be delighted to hear from you. To enquire, please contact Ven Cat Thatcher, Archdeacon of Pontefract.

t: 07902 102513

e: cat.thatcher@leeds.anglican.org

w: www.leeds.anglican.org



**LOVE JESUS.
LEARN JESUS.
LIVE JESUS.**



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