



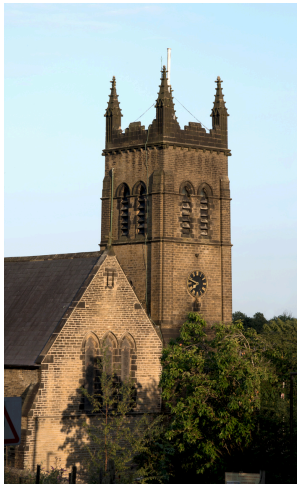
St John and St Hilda Warley











THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND
Diocese of Leeds

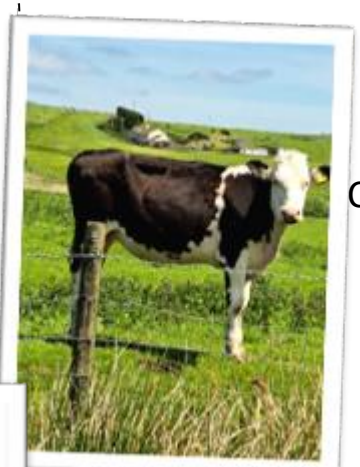
2. Our Communitites...



Halifax is an historic Victorian town within West Yorkshire, in the Diocese of Leeds.
Central to the industrial revolution with its then thriving textile industry, it has evolved over the years into a friendly and welcoming corner of Yorkshire, packed with culture and heritage, home to iconic and world-famous sites, and truly offering something for everyone!
At the heart of the town sits the magnificent Grade I listed Georgian cloth hall, Piece Hall, with its atmospheric cafes and bars, local independent shops and creative spaces, which transforms in the summer into a concert venue hosting some of the biggest names in the industry.
In its shadow lies the beautiful 900yr old Halifax Minster, locally known as The Parish Church and the birthplace of many of the churches across the town.









The surrounding countryside of Calderdale and beyond offers endless hours of strolls, hikes, rambling, running
and cycling, from the quaint and picturesque villages to the wild and rugged moorland.

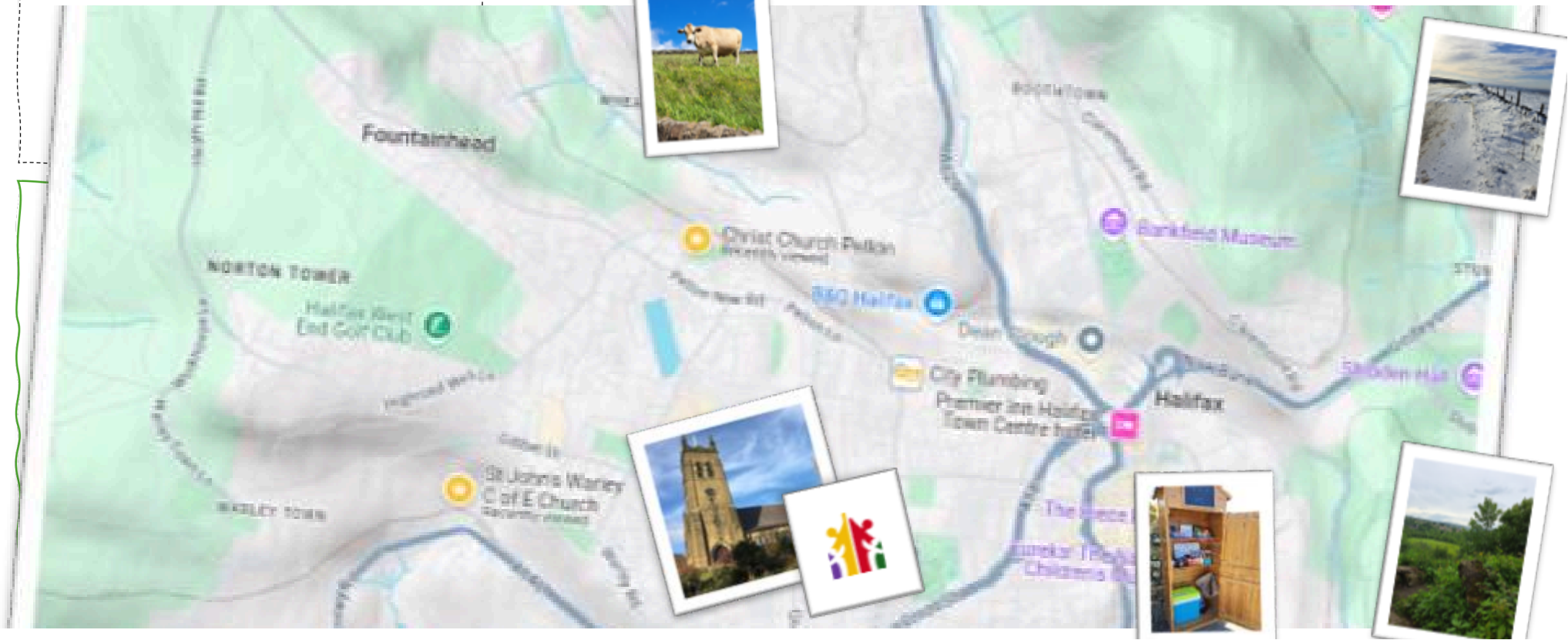
For those preferring a warmer and drier view of our region, sit down with a cuppa in front of one of the many dramas filmed locally,including Last Tango in Halifax, Gentleman Jack and Happy Valley

Geography of our Parish

Our parish covers much of the West of urban Halifax, spreading out to stunning countryside and spectacular views across the moors.

With a population of just over 20,000 people and a very multicultural and diverse demographic, including large Asian and Muslim communities. Several schools lie within the Parish with whom we've developed and nurtured relationships. Local amenities include supermarkets, post offices, small businesses and places to eat. Regular and reliable bus services connect the Parish with central Halifax from where there are direct connections to Leeds, Manchester and London.

The Parish Church building of Warley St John the Evangelist and St Hilda was consecrated in 1878. The Parish consists of mainly private/residential housing, with a small amount of housing association and Sheltered Housing property.
Since St Hilda's church building closed in 2023, the building has been taken fully over for the provision of a Preschool and to provide community rooms but not for religious purposes.The whole of the former St Hilda's parish has transferred to form part of the new St John's and St Hilda parish.
Following the recent closure of a neighbouring church building, Christ Church Mount Pellon, the parish of Warley St John's & St Hilda's is to be extended to include approximately 6000 households which made up the former parish of Christ Church.



4. Our Church Family...



Our Church Family comes from all areas of the parish and outside as well.

Children : Come through Uniformed Organisation groups. Preschool, Mums & Toddlers, Messy Church and Schools Work.

Others: From a wide section of the many communities we seek to serve and come through Parents, Grandparents, Older family members and Single parents/persons attending the church or associated groups.
Our church family has been extended and strengthened through our collaborative working alongside Preschool, Uniformed groups, Mothers Union, Warley Community Association and The Chatty Cafe. This has resulted in a blended church which learns and lives and grows together.
An example of total family involvement arises annually at the local Sowerby Bridge Rushbearing Festival, when Warley is the first Church to Bless the Rushcart and hold an outreach service before the cart moves up the Calder Valley.

Mon - Mums & toddlers, home groups

Tues - Morning Prayer, Chatty Cafe, Uniformed Groups

Wed - Schools work

Thurs - Mums & toddlers, singers together

Fri - Uniformed groups

<u>Some more details</u>:

Leadership: Using the many gifts and skills of the leadership team, other members of the PCC and other church members we seek to work collaboratively in supporting the whole body of the church.

Building: We are blessed with a reordered church building (consecrated in 1878) providing an adaptable space for both worship and other activities. In addition at the side of the church is a church hall and meeting rooms (built in 1856) which are in regular daily use.
Both buildings have had new boilers installed recently to improve our carbon foot print.

Style: We see ourselves as having a strong Evangelical tradition which encompasses both contemporary and traditional worship.

5. Mission and Vision...

We are committed to sharing the gospel and serving our communities, and already have established links with schools where we support initiatives through CICS (Christians in Calderdale Schools) and Bible stories in schools, as well as care homes and toddler groups. We also have regular coffee mornings and lunch groups aimed at older members of our communities, and support the work of Diocesan link Parishes overseas.



"Through Faith, Hope and Love, to know Christ better and make Christ better known"

Our mission and outreach work takes place with Children and families through Messy Church, links with Uniformed Organisation groups, links with parent and toddler groups as well as the Preschool together with the Bible story tellers group in schools

There are also outreach services held with three residential/nursing homes each month.

Home groups are held weekly in three locations.

Going forward we would hope to strengthen and extend common links within the parish communities and church.

Currently we are looking to find a leader of the 'Singers Together' group with appropriate skills for music/singing in church and on other occasions.

6.

In order to move forward, we need to recognise our strengths and weaknesses, to focus our skills on where they are most needed. We're reflecting on these and sharing them with you so you have an honest and open idea of what to expect and how you could walk alongside us on this next phase of our journey.

The Next Stage

STRENGTHS...

- Strong pastoral awareness
- Commitment to ensuring a legacy for future generations
- Being informed by our history to inspire our ongoing journey
- A willingness to accept people where they are and not where we think they should be

WEAKNESSES

- Extend our musical leadership and support for weekly Worship and Evangelism
- Extend our skills to improve the quality of our technical presentations
- On going support and teaching for our Worship & Leadership team
- Extend the different ways of being able to Evangelise and make Christianity known among 30 to 50 year olds within our parish

7. Who are we looking for?

Someone who -

- Walks closely with God, whose spiritual life and relationship with Christ is first and foremost
- Has a heart for mission and growth, who is willing to get stuck in and work collaboratively with us towards the vision
- Is a team worker, enabler, encourager
- Is able to recognise the skills and gifts we each have, as well as our weaknesses and gaps, and who will walk alongside us as we nurture, support, and encourage each other
- Is willing to challenge us and prepared to have constructive conversations with us
- Recognises and values lay leadership













8. Further details...

Formore information, please follow the links below, and contact The Ven Bill Braviner, Archdeacon of Halifax
archdeacon.halifax@leeds.anglican.org

https://www.facebook.com/stjohnwarleysthilda

A Church Near You - St John and St Hilda

http://stjohnschurchwarley/wixsite.com





