

Priest in Charge of Christ Church South Ossett

I am delighted that you are considering the possibility of serving as the next Priest in Charge of South Ossett. Christ Church is a lively, growing evangelical church with an experienced and committed leadership team and volunteers, and with a heart for evangelism and mission to the town of Ossett.

Christ Church South Ossett is a single-church urban parish, one of two serving the market town of Ossett, within the Wakefield Episcopal Area of the Diocese of Leeds, being part of the Deanery of Wakefield.

The church's congregation is keen to move forward into its next season, keen to embrace the leading and empowerment of the Holy Spirit in worship and in their lives. They are hoping that the new Priest in Charge will lead on encouraging more volunteers to get involved in the church's worship and mission. They seek to become more confident in sharing their faith and the power of God to transform lives in Ossett.

The finances are healthy and the PCC are committed to paying full share to the Diocese each year, as an important contribution to the wider church and a reflection of their faithfulness to God's work across the Diocese of Leeds. There are a number of maintenance projects underway, but the church building and the parish centre are essentially in good repair, and are good resources for Christ Church's mission.

Churchmanship is Charismatic Evangelical, with worship led most Sundays by a music group. There is a committed Children's, Youth and Families Team, and ongoing exciting work with local schools. There is also a well-attended, informal service on Thursdays which is led by an able and gifted team.

While Ossett is a prosperous market town, it faces the same social issues as many communities. Christ Church has run a food bank, The Resource, for 20 years, and also runs groups for adults with learning disabilities, and for local people facing loneliness and social isolation.

There are five schools in the parish, offering huge potential for outreach to young people and their families, and it will be important for the new Priest in Charge to maintain and continue to develop excellent relationships with these schools, as well as with the local businesses, and other churches. There is a Churches Together in Ossett group, which organises special events at key times of year.

Our Diocesan Vision is to nurture and equip confident followers of Jesus who will tell and live out the good news of Christ, grow the church and transform their communities. In appointing to this post, we are looking for someone who has a joyful and confident faith with a track record of enabling the ministries of all baptised followers of Jesus, effective ministry among children and young people, growing churches and positive community engagement. They will ideally have experience of post-industrial urban ministry and will be an inspiring leader who can work with the congregation of Christ Church to develop new missional opportunities and foster whole-life discipleship.

Our particular priorities for the new Vicar are:

- continuing to grow the congregation, spiritually and numerically,
- creatively reaching out to the community in mission and evangelism,
- leading and developing Christ Church's pastoral support to its congregation and the wider community,
- growing children's and youth ministry,
- developing and empowering lay leaders,
- working together with other church leaders in the town, particularly the Priest in Charge of Holy Trinity Ossett and Gawthorpe, to develop collaborative mission and evangelism opportunities.

The new Priest in Charge will find colleagues in the deanery and in the wider episcopal area to be friendly, enthusiastic and supportive in sharing the joys and challenges of ministry. Although I may not know you by name at this point, please be assured of my prayers for all exploring this opportunity and for the discernment process to appoint the next Priest in Charge of Christ Church South Ossett.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, starting with a cross symbol followed by the name 'Malcolm' in a cursive script. A horizontal line is drawn underneath the signature.

Bishop of Wakefield

?? August 2025