

## Parish Profile

This form is designed to give an overview of a parish to be used in a vacancy for the appointment of a new parish priest. It will be accepted as the "statement describing the conditions, needs and traditions of the parish" required by the Patronage (Benefices) Measure 1986. Please check all pre-populated data carefully and provide any corrections if needed. Additional information may also be appended.

### 1. Parish Information

1.a	Name(s) of parish(es):	South Ossett
1.b	Name(s) of parish church(es):	South Ossett: Christ Church
2.	Name(s) of other C of E church(es)/centres for public worship in the parish(es):	None
3.a	Are you linked formally or informally with any other parishes in the benefice (Y/N):	No
3.b	If Y, please give the name(s) of linked parish(es):	
4.	Deanery:	Wakefield
5.	Population:  <i>[Information as of 2021 census. Please indicate if and how this might have changed]</i>	Parish Population Under 20                      1903 20 to 64                      4830 Over 65                      2132 Total                      8865 Occupied Households                      3938
6.a	Electoral Roll Number:	116

<b>6.b</b>	<b>Date of Declaration:</b>	20 <sup>th</sup> May 2025
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## 7. Worship Attendance

*Please provide details of average attendance at Sunday and weekday services. Add any additional rows as required or if hand-written continue on a separate sheet if necessary.*  
October count 2023

Church	Service	Time	Number of communicants	Adult attendance	Under 16 attendance
Christ Church	Sunday			64	15
	Weekday			27	0

## 8. Occasional Offices

*Please provide figures for the last 12 months. Add any additional rows as required or if hand-written continue on a separate sheet if necessary.*

Church	Baptisms	Confirmees	Weddings	Funerals in church	Funerals taken by clergy
Christ Church	4			9	15

## 9. Communications

*Please only include names and contact details that can be shared when this document becomes public. Add any additional rows as required or if hand-written continue on a separate sheet if necessary.*

Church	Clergy	Licenced Lay Ministers	Lay staff eg Youth worker, Administrator etc	Churchwardens
Christ Church		Jaqueline Searle		Janet Nash Heather Drayton

## 2. Parish/Community Information

1.a	Briefly describe the demographic composition of the parish(es) (eg employment status, population ages, ethnic groups, home ownership, cultural diversity).	<p>Parish Ethnic Heritage Profile</p> <table> <tr><td>Asian</td><td>80</td></tr> <tr><td>Black</td><td>45</td></tr> <tr><td>Mixed</td><td>109</td></tr> <tr><td>White</td><td>8619</td></tr> <tr><td>Other</td><td>13</td></tr> </table> <p>Parish Religious Profile</p> <table> <tr><td>Christian</td><td>4445</td></tr> <tr><td>Buddhist</td><td>19</td></tr> <tr><td>Hindu</td><td>11</td></tr> <tr><td>Jewish</td><td>5</td></tr> <tr><td>Muslim</td><td>49</td></tr> <tr><td>Sikh</td><td>5</td></tr> <tr><td>Other</td><td>22</td></tr> <tr><td>None</td><td>3895</td></tr> </table>	Asian	80	Black	45	Mixed	109	White	8619	Other	13	Christian	4445	Buddhist	19	Hindu	11	Jewish	5	Muslim	49	Sikh	5	Other	22	None	3895
Asian	80																											
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Sikh	5																											
Other	22																											
None	3895																											
1. b	Are there any specific issues you wish to highlight in relation to the above description (eg high unemployment)?																											

### 2. Other local institutions

*Please provide information and details (if known) of other important local institutions. Add any additional rows as required or if hand-written continue on a separate sheet if necessary.*

Institution	Quantity	Details
Schools (Primary and Secondary)	5	Southdale C of E (C) Junior School South Ossett Infant Academy Dimple Wells Infant School South Parade Primary School Ossett High School
Youth Centres		None
Hospitals		None

Nursing/elderly care homes		None
Local Businesses	2	Burmatex Carpets (Manufacturer) Wilkes (Commercial cleaning)
Neighbourhood initiatives (eg NWA)		None
Local Associations (eg tourist groups, historic societies)		None
Other Christian Churches	2	St Ignatius Catholic Church South Ossett Baptist Church
Other Places of Worship		None
2.b	Do the clergy hold any civic responsibilities in relation to the above institutions or within the wider community? If so, please provide details. <i>Add any additional rows as required or if hand-written continue on a separate sheet if necessary.</i>	

### 3. Local religious partnerships

*Please provide information on the parish(es) relationship with local religious groups. Expand the rows as required or if hand-written continue on a separate sheet if necessary.*

<b>3.a</b>	<b>Please state any involvement in local Churches Together</b>	There is an 'Ossett Churches Together' where local churches in Ossett collaborate occasionally and arrange special events such as at Easter and Christmas.
<b>3.b</b>	<b>Please state any formal covenants held with other denominations</b>	None
<b>3.c</b>	<b>Please state any informal ecumenical contacts held by the parish(es)</b>	Our previous Vicar held a prayer meeting for local church leaders once a month.

### 3. Church Information

Please give details for each church individually by copy/pasting the table below or by repeating the information on a separate sheet.

<b>Church name:</b>		
<b>A. Congregation</b>		
i	What percentage of the congregation lives outside the parish?	43% live in the parish 57% live outside the parish
ii	Briefly describe the demographic composition of the congregation (eg employment status, population ages, ethnic groups, home ownership, cultural diversity, gender).	Mainly White British with some Black African and one family from Iran
iii	How would you describe the worship tradition at the church?	Charismatic evangelical
<b>B. Finance</b>		
i	What is the average regular weekly giving by persons in the parish(es) 16 years & over?	£29.53
	What (if any) proportion of this giving is gift aided?	83%
ii	What is the date of the church's last stewardship campaign?	Historically the church family have provided for any needs that have arisen.
iii	How does the church supplement direct giving in order to meet its financial needs?	Our generous church family provides for the financial needs of the parish through their giving.
iv	What was the amount of working expenses paid to the clergy in the last financial year?	£356
	Were these needs met in full? (Y/N) <i>If N what was the estimated shortfall</i>	Yes
v	Please provide details of the amount of share	Requested      Paid

	<b>requested and paid:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• in last financial year 2023</li><li>• in the current year 2024</li><li>• in the next financial year</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• £66,051</li><li>• £65,473</li><li>•</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• £66,051</li><li>• £65,473</li><li>•</li></ul>
	<i>Please provide explanation for any discrepancy between requested and actual payments</i>	We have always believed it is important to pay our Parish Share and have done so for some years.	
	<b>Do you anticipate meeting this year’s requested payment in full? (Y/N)</b> <i>If N provide explanation</i>	We are expecting to do so.	
vi	<b>Are there any ongoing capital projects? (Y/N)</b> <i>If Y please give brief details of estimated costs and how these will be met</i>	We are currently upgrading the Parish Centre with new windows and a new heating system. We are also refurbishing several rooms using our own resources. We have received a grant towards repurposing one of our rooms for a dedicated Youth space.	
vii	<b>Please append a copy of the last PCC accounts.</b>	See Parish Brochure.	
viii	<b>Please provide details of the any overseas work supported by the Church including the value of any annual donations</b>	We are the Sending Church for our previous Vicar and his family, who are now working with OMF in Southeast Asia. We also support another OMF missionary working in Japan. This support comes from our Away Giving. In addition to this many church members have committed to being Prayer Partners.	
ix	<b>Please provide details of the any mission agencies and charities supported by the Church including the value of any annual donations</b>	See ‘Away Giving’ list.	
<b>C. Buildings</b>			
i	<b>Please provide a general overview of the general state of repair of the church building and environs</b> <i>This can usually be found in the ‘Executive</i>	The Church building is maintained in a good state; the grounds are open and well maintained by the Council and volunteers from the congregation.	

	<i>Summary' of the most recent Quinquennial Inspection report</i>	The Parish Centre is next door to the church and is maintained in a good condition. We are currently making further improvements please see 3.B Finance section vi.
ii	<b>Please highlight any major maintenance requirements identified during the most recent Quinquennial Inspection</b>	There are no major maintenance requirements. (Quinquennial report attached)

## 4. Church Education and Social Provision

1.a	<b>Name(s) of Church School(s) if applicable:</b>	Southdale C of E Junior School
2.	<b>How is the school governance structure organised?</b> <i>eg aided, controlled, foundation</i>	Controlled
3.	<b>Approximately how many pupils are currently enrolled?</b>	360
4.	<b>What is the level of engagement between the church(es) and the school(s)?</b>	We have strong links with Southdale CofE school. We have two church representatives on the board of Governors along with our Priest in Charge. Along with other schools in the Parish, they are invited to use the church for RE lessons and for Christmas and Easter services.

## 5. Outreach and Mission

*Expand the rows as required or if hand-written continue on a separate sheet if necessary.*

1.a	<b>Please provide details of any regular mission and outreach activities</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Gamechangers youth group</li> <li>• The Resource Food Bank</li> <li>• Shared Craft group</li> <li>• Table Tennis group</li> <li>• Centrepont, a social group for adults with learning difficulties</li> </ul>
1.b	<b>How are you helping people find out about Jesus?</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We have run an ALPHA course at the beginning of the last three years</li> <li>• This year we ran a Youth Alpha course</li> </ul>

		<p>for our Gamechangers youth group, which resulted in four of them being baptised</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We publicise special Church events and have a tradition of distributing invitational Christmas and Easter cards throughout the parish</li> </ul>
1.c	<b>How are you helping people to grow in discipleship?</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Through challenging biblical teaching in our Sunday and Thursday services</li> <li>• Through our children and youth ministry</li> <li>• We have a well-established 'Home Church' with groups meeting at various times throughout the week.</li> <li>• There are many opportunities for people to be involved in church life and develop their gifts</li> </ul>
1.d	<b>How are you helping people to grow in leadership?</b>	Through encouraging people to be involved in our various teams, which cover all areas of church life.
2.a	<b>Are there any overseas link(s) with the parish(es)? (Y/N)</b>	N
2.b	<b>If Y, please give details:</b>	
3.a	<b>Do you have an organised system to provide outreach and welcome to new members of the community? (Y/N)</b>	Y
3.b	<b>If Y, please give details:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We have a trained Welcome Team</li> <li>• Refreshments after the services</li> <li>• Welcome meal for newcomers, approximately twice a year</li> <li>• Visitor Welcome Cards</li> <li>• Child friendly environment</li> <li>• Visiting children actively encouraged to join groups</li> </ul>
4.	<b>What role do you play in meeting the needs of the local community?</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All activities mentioned in 5.1a are intended to meet the needs of the local community</li> <li>• Our Parish Centre rooms are also available for appropriate rental by the community</li> </ul>



5.	<p><b>How do you engage with young people outside of church-based organisations? <i>eg open youth work</i></b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We had a positive experience last summer through our involvement with the Destination 211 Bus. This is a children's and families outreach ministry run by the Dewsbury Team Parish using a converted double decker bus. We had lots of volunteers and were able to reach out to many disadvantaged families over two weeks of the summer holidays</li> <li>• This kind of outreach is something we would love to be involved with in the future</li> </ul>
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## 6. Lay Discipleship and Participation

*Expand the rows as required or if hand-written continue on a separate sheet if necessary.*

1.	What are your education and training provisions for:	Details	Approximate numbers
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Children (<i>eg Sunday School</i>)</li> </ul>	Most training is done in-house; in most areas this is informal on the job training.	10
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Young People (<i>eg Youth Projects</i>)</li> </ul>	Its only recently that's our children's work has begun to grow after a few years of decline. We have people working with children who are very experienced, and we use published materials. Everybody who works with children have completed Safeguarding training. If numbers continue to grow, we can foresee the need for some formal training to encourage more people to become involved.	10
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Adults (<i>eg Alpha</i>)</li> </ul>	Home Church Pastors received training from our previous Priest in Charge.	25
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pastoral Team</li> </ul>	All have received formal training through the Diocese	8
2.a	Please give details of any house/prayer groups	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Weekly Cornerstone prayer meeting</li> <li>• Home Church groups</li> <li>• Open invitation for pre-service prayer</li> </ul>	

<b>2.b</b>	<b>Are these groups led by lay or clergy?</b>	All Lay led (Cornerstone was previously led by our Priest in Charge)
<b>3.a</b>	<b>How would you rate the strength of lay leadership?</b>	We have many experienced and gifted people involved in all our teams.
<b>3.b</b>	<b>What is the source of lay leadership strength or weakness?</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Experience and training in the work environment</li> <li>• Spiritual gifting</li> <li>• Working alongside other gifted individuals</li> <li>• Close personal walk with Jesus</li> <li>• Dedication and servant heart</li> </ul>

## 7. Mission

*In this section you are encouraged to consider your future priorities and aspirations. You are invited to contemplate areas you feel need addressing, evaluate any limitations which may prevent you from addressing them, and envision what your new priest's role could be to help you achieve your ambitions. Expand the rows as required or if hand-written continue on a separate sheet if necessary.*

<b>1</b>	<b>Which areas of church life do you feel would benefit from further development in future?</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Grow children's ministry and encourage more leaders</li> <li>• Extend youth ministry</li> <li>• Identify and encourage people to use their gifts</li> <li>• Following up on people who we don't see after a period of time</li> <li>• Encourage more engagement in spirit led worship</li> <li>• To help every member of the church family to experience a vibrant, living faith</li> <li>• To find effect ways of reaching our community with the Gospel</li> </ul>
<b>2.</b>	<b>What are the main areas of mission that you would like your new priest to prioritise?</b>	Although we feel all the above are areas for us to work on, we want someone inspirational who will seek the Lord for a vision for the future of our church. Someone who will enthuse and lead us with a fresh passion for reaching every area of our community with the Gospel.

3	<b>What are the biggest potential challenges which you and the new priest will need to address? Name and elaborate on no more than three</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Our location is on the fringe of Ossett</li> <li>• Some members of our church are reluctant to be involved beyond attending their chosen service</li> <li>• Some members of the church may be initially resistant to change</li> </ul>
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## 8. Additional Information

*Use this space to record any other information which you would like the Patron and the Bishop to be aware of regarding the conditions, needs, or traditions of the parish(es). Continue on a separate sheet if necessary.*

- The PCC adopted the Church of England Evangelical Council's 'Basis of faith' with additional declarations (in July 2024) as a standard by which it would hold ministers, both ordained and lay, officiating at the church to be able to affirm.
- The PCC have asked all those in positions of lay leadership (eg. Home Church Pastors, CYF leaders and lay Pastoral Ministers) to affirm their agreement with the Evangelical Alliance 'Basis of faith' and to commit to not promoting anything that would go against the church's biblical teaching.
- In addition to our Sunday service, we have a thriving congregation who meet in the Parish Centre on a Thursday morning. This is Lay led but the communion services are led by Ordained Ministers including our Priest in Charge.
- As a church, in addition to baptising infants, we also believe in full immersion baptism and as such have purchased a baptism pool.
- After appropriate teaching from our Priest in Charge, and guidance from parents, our children are encouraged to participate in taking communion.
- We want everything that we do to be in obedience to God's word, even if that means being counter cultural.
- We believe in the infilling, empowering and gifting of the Holy Spirit.
- We believe that all things should be done in reverence and order.

## 9. The New Priest

*Use this space to identify and list the qualities and skills you would like to see in the new priest. Continue on a separate sheet if necessary.*

1. **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.
2. **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.
3. **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.
4. **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.
5. **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.
6. **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.
7. **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.