

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):	Thurstonland: St Thomas												
1.b	Name(s) of parish church(es):	Thurstonland: St Thomas												
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):	Y												
3.b	If Y, please give the name(s) of linked parish(es):	Currently Christ Church, New Mill (potentially Holy Trinity, Hepworth as well)												
4.	Deanery:	Almondbury & Kirkburton												
5.	Population: <i>[Information as of 2021 census. Please indicate if and how this might have changed]</i>	<table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td colspan="2">Parish Population</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="width: 80%;">Under 20</td> <td style="text-align: right;">666</td> </tr> <tr> <td>20 to 64</td> <td style="text-align: right;">894</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Over 65</td> <td style="text-align: right;">287</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total</td> <td style="text-align: right;">1847</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Occupied Households</td> <td style="text-align: right;">492</td> </tr> </table> <p>The number of household is approximately correct but we have no way of checking the accuracy of the other information</p>	Parish Population		Under 20	666	20 to 64	894	Over 65	287	Total	1847	Occupied Households	492
Parish Population														
Under 20	666													
20 to 64	894													
Over 65	287													
Total	1847													
Occupied Households	492													

6.a	Electoral Roll Number:	33
6.b	Date of Declaration:	20 th June 2025

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
St Thomas	Sunday BCP/Holy Communion	9.30am	15-20	15-20	
St Thomas	Sunday Family Service	10am		20	4

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
St Thomas	3	0	2	4	2

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
St Thomas				Janet Wiltshire 07710588275 mrswilts@yahoo.co.uk
St Thomas				Lynda Booth 07742730591 lyndabooth19@gmail.com

2. Parish/Community Information

<p>1.a</p>	<p>Briefly describe the demographic composition of the parish(es) (eg employment status, population ages, ethnic groups, home ownership, cultural diversity).</p> <p>NB We have no way of verifying the accuracy of this information</p>	<p>Parish Ethnic Heritage Profile</p> <table border="0"> <tr><td>Asian</td><td>52</td></tr> <tr><td>Black</td><td>25</td></tr> <tr><td>Mixed</td><td>50</td></tr> <tr><td>White</td><td>1711</td></tr> <tr><td>Other</td><td>8</td></tr> </table> <p>Parish Religious Profile</p> <table border="0"> <tr><td>Christian</td><td>821</td></tr> <tr><td>Buddhist</td><td>4</td></tr> <tr><td>Hindu</td><td>8</td></tr> <tr><td>Jewish</td><td>4</td></tr> <tr><td>Muslim</td><td>30</td></tr> <tr><td>Sikh</td><td>1</td></tr> <tr><td>Other</td><td>12</td></tr> <tr><td>None</td><td>844</td></tr> </table>	Asian	52	Black	25	Mixed	50	White	1711	Other	8	Christian	821	Buddhist	4	Hindu	8	Jewish	4	Muslim	30	Sikh	1	Other	12	None	844
Asian	52																											
Black	25																											
Mixed	50																											
White	1711																											
Other	8																											
Christian	821																											
Buddhist	4																											
Hindu	8																											
Jewish	4																											
Muslim	30																											
Sikh	1																											
Other	12																											
None	844																											
<p>1. b</p>	<p>Are there any specific issues you wish to highlight in relation to the above description (eg high unemployment)?</p>	<p>Nothing</p>																										

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
<p>Schools (Primary and Secondary)</p>	<p>1</p>	<p>Thurstonland First School – 60 pupils (part of the Greenhill Federation of 3 first schools with Upper Denby & Farnley Tyas)</p> <p>There are good links between the church and the school with our previous priest visiting on a regular basis. Some of our parishioners volunteer at the school, are governors and are members of the PTA. The school use the church for their assemblies, for special occasions, leavers assemblies, Harvest Thanksgiving, Nativity etc, and reciprocally, the PCC use the school computer facilities for group DBS training. Our Parish Safeguarding Officer also acts as PSO for Christ Church and training sessions are shared.</p>

Youth Centres	0	
Hospitals	0	
Nursing/elderly care homes	0	
Local Businesses	Several including...	Rose & Crown Public House, Thurstonland Thurstonland Cricket Club Clothiers Arms, Stocksmoor
Neighbourhood initiatives (eg NWA)	1	Neighbourhood Watch
Local Associations (eg tourist groups, historic societies)	2	Thurstonland Village Association Stocksmoor Village Association
Other Christian Churches	0	
Other Places of Worship	0	
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>	
	Trustee of the Ludlam & Horsfall Trust in relation to Thurstonland First School	

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.

3.a	Please state any involvement in local Churches Together	N/A
3.b	Please state any formal covenants held with other denominations	N/A

3.c	Please state any informal ecumenical contacts held by the parish(es)	Christ Church, New Mill Holy Trinity, Hepworth It has become the custom for us to hold the 4 th Sunday as a joint service together with the congregation of Christ Church, New Mill. Our clergy also take communion to the homes of parishioners who are unable to attend church services. Since the Team Rector left, we have also fostered links with the congregation of Holy Trinity, Hepworth.
-----	---	--

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.

Church name: St Thomas, Thurstonland		
A. Congregation		
i	What percentage of the congregation lives outside the parish?	2%
ii	Briefly describe the demographic composition of the congregation (eg employment status, population ages, ethnic groups, home ownership, cultural diversity, gender).	It is a largely an older congregation. Many are retired but the younger congregation are working parents, some with children. The demographics are mainly white British, home-owners. There is very little unemployment in the parish. This is a very close-knit community who look out and care for each other
iii	How would you describe the worship tradition at the church?	Largely traditional but varied. Regular Services include Family Services, BCP Holy Communion & Family Communion Services, however our congregation are open to and welcome new ideas
B. Finance		
i	What is the average regular weekly giving by persons in the parish(es) 16 years & over?	£14.03
	What (if any) proportion of this giving is gift aided?	89.44%

ii	What is the date of the church's last stewardship campaign?	Over recent years we have not held a formal stewardship campaign. We have been reluctant to do so as we are mindful not to ask too much of our community as they have been very generous in their support for our appeal to raise the funds to restore the east window. We are, however, now looking to launch a "Friends of St Thomas" scheme and to begin to raise funds for the improvement of the church facilities.	
iii	How does the church supplement direct giving in order to meet its financial needs?	Fundraising events e.g. coffee mornings, community lunch club and social events	
iv	What was the amount of working expenses paid to the clergy in the last financial year? Were these needs met in full? (Y/N) <i>If N what was the estimated shortfall</i>	£758 Y	
v	Please provide details of the amount of share requested and paid: <ul style="list-style-type: none">in last financial year (2023)in the current year (2024)in the next financial year	Benefice Requested	Benefice Paid
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> £253,366 £225,450 This has not yet been advised. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> £171,200 £164,600
	<i>Please provide explanation for any discrepancy between requested and actual payments</i>	N.B. Share is assessed and paid at Benefice level, not Parish level	
	Do you anticipate meeting this year's requested payment in full? (Y/N) <i>If N provide explanation</i>	Y	
vi	Are there any ongoing capital projects? (Y/N) <i>If Y please give brief details of estimated costs and how these will be met</i>	Y We have recently had the east window (stained glass designed by William Wailes in 1870) completely renovated and stonework repaired at a cost of circa £120,000. This was met by local fundraising and grant funding. We intend to commence raising funds to re-order the back of the church to improve the kitchen, toilet & meeting room facilities, and church heating. No costs yet available. The funds will be from local fundraising and grant funding. We currently have £10,000 in our restricted funds from the Bishop's Development Fund for this purpose.	

vii	Please append a copy of the last PCC accounts.	Attached
viii	Please provide details of the any overseas work supported by the Church including the value of any annual donations	We support Kagwa (currently via the Upper Holme Valley Team)– funded by profits from local events.
ix	Please provide details of the any mission agencies and charities supported by the Church including the value of any annual donations	Christian Aid, Christian African Relief Trust, The Welcome Centre(a local food bank) & Macmillan Cancer Support- funded by profits and donations from local events. The Children’s Society - from donations taken at the Christingle Service
C. Buildings		
i	Please provide a general overview of the general state of repair of the church building and environs <i>This can usually be found in the ‘Executive Summary’ of the most recent Quinquennial Inspection report</i>	The building is generally in good repair. The vestry/organ chamber roof was replaced in 2024. The east window was fully renovated and supporting stonework repaired in July 2025. The ridge tiles need attention – estimate requested. The chimes to the church clock are awaiting repair and the turret needs attention as birds have gained access and have been nesting there. Electrics and heating etc are regularly serviced
ii	Please highlight any major maintenance requirements identified during the most recent Quinquennial Inspection	Our QI is now due – last was dated 2019. We are currently looking to appoint a new Church Architect.

4. Church Education and Social Provision

1.a	Name(s) of Church School(s) if applicable:	N/A
2.	How is the school governance structure organised? eg aided, controlled, foundation	

3.	Approximately how many pupils are currently enrolled?	
4.	What is the level of engagement between the church(es) and the school(s)?	

5. Outreach and Mission

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

1.a	Please provide details of any regular mission and outreach activities	Monthly Coffee mornings Monthly Community Lunch Club Mothers' Union Branch meetings Baptism visiting & Pastoral care Sharing use of the church facilities with the school as required.
1.b	How are you helping people find out about Jesus?	Bi- monthly Parish News. This is shared with the Community via email with hard copies as required. Thurstonland Village Association use email to promote local events in the parish and include our church services and events for us as requested. The church has an active Facebook page
1.c	How are you helping people to grow in discipleship?	Encouraging attendance at Team organised courses e.g Alpha/Bible Study groups, etc
1.d	How are you helping people to grow in leadership?	Encouraging congregational members to undertake extra responsibilities e.g. becoming Intercessors/readers, helping with maintenance and organising events, etc
2.a	Are there any overseas link(s) with the parish(es)? (Y/N)	Y
2.b	If Y, please give details:	Kagwa via the Upper Holme Valley Team
3.a	Do you have an organised system to provide outreach and welcome to new members of the community? (Y/N)	Y
3.b	If Y, please give details:	Links with the 2 Village Associations for making contact with people moving into the villages and sharing the Parish News via email. Introducing a "Friends of St Thomas" which is still in its infancy.

4.	What role do you play in meeting the needs of the local community?	<p>Ours is a small village community. The church provides pastoral care and support for members of the community as required, and supports them in times of ill health or adversity.</p> <p>We provide for baptisms, weddings and funerals and are generally a very well supported and welcoming presence in the community</p>
5.	How do you engage with young people outside of church-based organisations? <i>eg open youth work</i>	By our contacts with the school and joint events such as the annual village gala which raises funds for the school, church & cricket club

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"> Children (<i>eg Sunday School</i>) Young People (<i>eg Youth Projects</i>) Adults (<i>eg Alpha</i>) 	<p>Currently no Mustards Seeds Group</p> <p>Messy Church events</p> <p>None</p> <p>Alpha Course Lent Course Bible Study Group</p> <p>Mother's Union Branch</p>	<p>Numbers vary</p> <p>These vary (Team led)</p> <p>20</p>
2.a	Please give details of any house/prayer groups	Organised by a retired priest and held in New Mill. Extra courses run at particular times e.g. Lent	
2.b	Are these groups led by lay or clergy?	Retired clergy	

3.a	How would you rate the strength of lay leadership?	<p>Strong – assist clergy with readings and intercessions; organise events and fundraising</p> <p>Churchwardens have undertaken a greater lead role during the Interregnum</p>
3.b	What is the source of lay leadership strength or weakness?	<p>Strengths are :- Churchwardens PCC members Baptism Visitor Intercessors/Readers Chalice administrators</p> <p>Weakness- lack of leadership for children’s activities</p>

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.

1.	Which areas of church life do you feel would benefit from further development in future?	Engagement with families and children
2.	What are the main areas of mission that you would like your new priest to prioritise?	<p>The main issue which faces the church at present is the lack of engagement with families and young people. We have a small, loyal but aging congregation, and have been unable to regain the momentum with young families which we had before the Covid 19 pandemic. Before the pandemic, we had a thriving “Mustard Seeds” after school club which it has not been possible to restore, so this has been replaced by several Messy Church events during the year, however, the annual Christingle Service is always well attended.</p> <p>Focus on helping grow our congregation and attract a wider age range into the congregation possibly by widening the types of service and, if possible, changing service times to be more accommodating</p>
3.	What are the biggest potential challenges which you and the new priest will need to address? Name and elaborate on no more than	<p>Financial Increasing congregation size Aging congregation – attract more young</p>

three	families and children
-------	-----------------------

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.

St Thomas' is a Community Church serving the villages of Thurstonland and Stocksmoor. It is a focal point in the community and the only community space in Thurstonland. It is situated in a small hillside village immediately opposite Thurstonland Endowed School (now part of the Greenhill Federation). It is a Victorian Arts & Crafts building in the Gothic Revival style, is Grade II listed with an iconic spire. The foundation stone was laid in July 1869 and the church, which was consecrated by the Bishop of Ripon in October 1870, still retains many of its original features. The village of Thurstonland dates back to 1275 and was traditionally inhabited by agricultural and manufacturing /light industrial workers. Today, the village is designated Conservation Area and is home to the church, an Endowed First School, a Cricket Club and a Public House.

The Church building is surrounded by a closed churchyard and burial ground, with a memorial lawn used for the burial of ashes and to provide a green tranquil area outside the church.

Inside the church there is an arch braced hammer and beam roof structure and en-caustic tiles personally designed by William Swinden Barber. The stained glass window, designed by William Wailes one of the 19th Century most noted stained glass designers in 1870, depicts the parable of the Good Samaritan. The supporting stonework and tracery has recently been repaired and the window fully renovated at a cost of circa £120,000. The organ, which has been recently been fully overhauled, was made by WF Jardine for Kirtland & Jardine in 1870 and has hand painted pipes. The original carved pews and decorative choir stalls are of stained deal and were also designed by Mallinson & Barber. The carved oak pulpit, on its stone plinth, stands in its original position. However, the original carved marble font was replaced in the 1980's when the church room was installed at the back of the nave. The stone font from St Andrew's Church, Thongsbridge now sits at the front of the church and was relocated to St Thomas' Church when St Andrew's Church closed several years ago.

The parish serves the villages of Thurstonland & Stocksmoor together with small hamlet areas which surround the villages. The village of Stocksmoor has changed considerably in recent years with more housing being built on the outskirts. So far, Thurstonland has escaped this expansion and is mainly surrounded by pastoral farmland although land in the village is allocated for development on the Local Plan. The two villages are different but thriving. Thurstonland is an archetypal traditional village having the St Thomas' Church, first school with an excellent Ofsted rating, an active cricket club and a village pub. Stocksmoor offers a contrast having a village hall, a village pub railway station linking Huddersfield with Barnsley & Sheffield.

There is a mix of housing types in the villages - some old terraced weavers cottages and some new build, all surrounded by green fields used as pastoral farmland and views to the Pennines to the west. The age profile of the villages comprises a largely commuter based population, young families and a good proportion of senior citizens, some of whose families have lived here for generations. The ethnicity of the area is largely white British.

The church acts as a collection point for goods for the Welcome Centre (a local food bank) and hosts the meetings of the Community Cards Group who re-cycle used greetings cards for sale in aid of The Welcome Centre. The Welcome Centre is the charity supported by our Harvest Thanksgiving Service together with Christian Aid for which we also hold a local collection during Christian Aid week in May each year. Over the year, the parish also supports

the current Team link Diocese of Kagwa in Tanzania, Macmillan Cancer Support and The Children's Society.

9. The New Priest

OUR NEXT INCUMBENT - PRIEST QUALITIES

Ideally, any new incumbent would embrace living in a rural community, have a friendly, outgoing and enthusiastic personality with the ability to engage with all ages (especially children and young families), who can deliver a sermon in a meaningful way and has a good sense of humour.

The following additional qualities are also important to us. A priest who:-

- would be able to lead us in worship and provide spiritual and pastoral care and comfort, not only to the regular congregation but to all members of the church family and the wider community;
- would help us to encourage families with children to return to the church and engage with other events which appeal to children and young people;
- would be active and visible in the community and happy to participate in community events;
- would chair meetings of the PCC and offer guidance as required;
- have an interest in promoting musical content during worship and in other areas of church life;
- have the willingness to help the parish to develop community facing facilities to provide a warm and comfortable environment.

WHAT WE CAN OFFER

- A warm welcome
- Our full co-operation and support
- Our prayers
- Our help in running the parish
- Our local knowledge
- A church family who are welcoming and have a willingness to try new ideas.
- Housing for the incumbent

The vicarage was originally the home of the New Mill baker, and was acquired by the diocese in the late 1970s. Downstairs there is an office, toilet, cloak room, roomy hall, kitchen, utility room, dining room, lounge. A sun room gives access directly to the rear garden with well-maintained lawns and beds. Upstairs there are five large bedrooms, a toilet and bath room with bath and shower. There is storage in the loft. To the front there are gardens and a large driveway with a garage with space for one car. The property is fenced and has security lighting and has been a well loved family home for many years.

**Agreed by the PCC of St Thomas' Church, Thurstonland
on 11th November 2025**

Signed: *Janet Wiltshire*

Print Name: Janet Wiltshire

Office Held: Churchwarden & Secretary to the PCC

Once completed and signed as agreed by the PCC, this form should be sent directly to the Archdeacon's office and to Gemma Shearwood:

Gemma Shearwood
Diocese of Leeds, Church House
17-19 York Place, Leeds, LS1 2EX
gemma.shearwood@leeds.anglican.org

Copies will be circulated by the office to the Patron and Bishop

Please make sure copies all PCC members retain a signed copy of this form for their records.