



*Worshipping, Working & Growing Together to become
Confident Christians in a Growing Church that is Serving our community*

The Eldwick Church



www.eldwickchurch.org.uk

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Bishop's Statement for Eldwick

The Eldwick Church is a valued part of the Bradford Episcopal Area and the Diocese of Leeds, as well as the Airedale Methodist Circuit. The village of Eldwick, sitting on the ridge overlooking Bingley, has expanded over recent years with new build housing, and is now home to c2500 people.

The Eldwick Church is the result of an Anglican Church and a Methodist Church coming together in January 2011 to create a church for the local community, born out of the conviction that they can witness and serve this community better together. As Eldwick is largely within the parish of All Saints Bingley, a Bishop's Mission Order (BMO) was created in 2013 to enable the church to have its own distinct identity. This has worked well, and the BMO has been reviewed and renewed every five years since then.

The church has a high standard of lay leadership and associated structures. The finances and buildings are in very good order. After meeting some local resistance over a first set of plans, a new church hall complex was built in 2018, with major works then undertaken in the church in 2019. Since then solar panels have been fitted and the church car park re-surfaced. This has resulted in a very attractive building complex which is well used by community organisations and groups, as well as for events. It has also enabled the forging of better and stronger relationships with the local community, with large numbers of people using the church buildings during the week.

This appointment is on the basis of House for Duty (2 days a week plus Sundays) and is the Diocesan ministerial contribution to the LEP. The appointee will need to understand and value the ecumenical nature of the church. (S)he will work alongside a named minister from the Airedale Methodist Circuit, who will be providing presbyteral input to Eldwick alongside a number of other churches.

We are looking for an enabling leader who can work with the church's Trustees and the congregation to keep growing the church numerically and also in confident discipleship and leadership, develop the church's work with children, young people and families, and maximise the mission potential of the community's footfall in the church buildings. Especially as the role is part-time, we are seeking a person who can inspire and develop others into ministry, leadership and responsibility. (S)he will also be comfortable working with the governance structures of the church and enabling them to best support its mission and ministry.

From the perspective of the Episcopal Area, we see three particular priorities for the incoming minister:

- a) To foster an enabling leadership culture, working with the Trustees and congregation, to develop confident disciples and lay-leadership capacity which can grow the church numerically as well as spiritually and in service to their local community. Building on good work to date, including a Messy Church, this will involve reimagining ministry with a 'mixed ecology' of new forms of church and worship alongside traditional ones and developing lay discipleship and lay leadership on to the next level. (S)he will therefore need excellent teaching, team building and team leadership skills.

- b) To help to grow the church younger, including amongst those aged 40-60, but especially supporting and extending effective ministry with families, young adults and children to grow young people as Christians, including cultivating links with the local primary school, pre-school and other organisations.
- c) To develop active and visible relationships within the village of Eldwick and the town of Bingley in creative ways, personally as an individual and particularly through the congregation. S(he) should be able to engage strategically with the life of the community, contributing with others to a vision both for Eldwick within Bingley, and also for the Eldwick Church's place alongside the other churches in Bingley, especially the other Anglicans and Methodists in the town.

Our vision as the Diocese is about confident clergy equipping confident Christians to live and tell the good news of Jesus Christ. In appointing to this post, we are therefore looking for someone who is both visionary and enabling, with the capacity to lead into a new era of growth. The new minister will have a joyful and confident faith which has inspired a track record of church growth, both numerically and spiritually.

The Deanery of Aire and Worth is comprised of parishes, many with a similar demographic to Eldwick and many of whom are experimenting with new approaches to worship and mission alongside inherited patterns. The new minister will therefore find a group of creative and supportive colleagues in the Deanery chapter, all of whom will be familiar with the joys and challenges that each other faces. We expect the new post holder to work with a spirit of generosity in sharing wisdom and insights about ministry within the Deanery of Aire and Worth, and across the Episcopal Area.

+Toby Bradford
May 2026

Welcome from the Trustees of The Eldwick Church

Welcome to The Eldwick Church. We are on a journey. In this brochure we want to share with you a little about where we came from, our journey so far, and the direction in which we hope to go in the future. As you read, please ask yourself (and God) whether you might be called to walk with us, to help us to realise our vision of what the church in Eldwick can become.

When we faced the “Road Ahead Closed” notice that was Covid it was a shock, and initially it seemed a threat to everything we were doing. However, as time passed, we began to see it as a rare opportunity to step away from the familiar and explore new ways of being the church, evaluating and considering what was worth retaining and what might change long-term.

Four years later, back on the road, we face different challenges and opportunities. We are all inevitably older but we still want to share God’s love in our community, bringing more into our church family.

We need to know how best to use our finite resources to lead us where God wants us to be, and a new joy and enthusiasm in our walk with the Lord. We are aware that we need to adjust our age profile to include more middle-aged and younger people.

As we describe in the succeeding pages, we have many strengths to build upon and great opportunities on which we can capitalise. There is a potentially exciting future ahead for The Eldwick Church.

In the light of this, we feel that our primary need is for a minister who can take time to understand our church, and, working with our Methodist partners, offer guidance, encouragement and support as we walk forward sharing the love of God with the people of Eldwick. Be assured that you would be working alongside a strong lay leadership team, including our two licensed lay ministers, who would deal with much of the day to day administration of a lively church. This would allow you to concentrate on your core calling to reach out into the community to bring them closer to God.

Do you think you could be that minister? If so, please come and see us. We would love to talk and explore the opportunities with you and as Chair of Trustees I personally would welcome you joining the trustees and becoming part of that leadership team.

Sharron Arnold
Chair of Trustees on behalf of The Eldwick Church

Part 1: An introduction to The Eldwick Church: our recent history

Eldwick is a semi-rural village on the outskirts of Bradford district on the edge of Ilkley Moor, with a lively post office/general store. The village is growing in size as new houses continue to be built, and the demographic is changing.

The Eldwick Church (TEC) is a single congregation, local ecumenical partnership (LEP) formed through a merger between the Eldwick Methodist and St. Lawrence's Church of England churches. Our constitution provides for a lead minister and a supporting minister, one Anglican and one Methodist, alternating roles when possible. **At this time (2026) we are looking for a lead Anglican minister and a supporting Methodist Minister.**

St. Lawrence's was formerly a district church in the Bingley All Saints parish. The Eldwick Church is now the subject of a Bishop's Mission Order (BMO) which is whole-heartedly supported by the Diocese.

The LEP was formed in October 2010, beginning to worship as one congregation from January 2011 in the (Anglican) St Lawrence's church building, which is situated on the main road at the heart of the old village. The church building is important to the community, containing two war memorials and being a non-designated heritage asset.

However, following the formation of the LEP, the church building was increasingly crowded and impeding our growth as a congregation. We could not accommodate large local funerals, and baptisms had to take place outside of Sunday services. At the same time, our unattached wooden church hall was in the final few years of its life and urgently needed to be replaced.

After much prayer and discussion over several years, an ambitious building project evolved. In September 2016 planning consent was granted for a new hall complex, which would then be linked physically to the church by opening up a side wall of the church, providing a larger worship area and a flexible café/meeting area. The current church would also be refurbished and reordered.

A fundraising campaign was launched for this project in September 2016. The eventual project cost was some £920k. Just over £300k of this was raised in donations from church members and related gift aid claims. In June 2019 we were able to hold a service of thanksgiving, both for the completion of the building work and also for being debt-free. We have achieved an A Rocha Silver award for being an eco-friendly church, and last year installed solar panels and batteries to assist with our energy efficiency.

As an LEP we fall outside the usual structures for church governance of both the Anglican (PCCs) and Methodist (Council) churches. Instead we are led by a group of 10 trustees with both the Anglican and Methodist priests being ex-officio members. The Chair is always a lay member of the trustees. The trustees developed an organisational structure, known as the Pillar Structure, through which decision-making and practical action could be devolved to members of the congregation. More details on this can be found in **Appendix A**.

Our Vision

In April 2018 the TEC trustees held an away day to consider how the new buildings might best be used to fulfil our vision, which is to:

- **Develop Discipleship and Evangelism** – filling our church with confident Christians who are willing and able to share their faith in their daily lives – a true Body of Christ in Eldwick.
- **Grow Our Church Younger** – addressing the current age profile which is weighted heavily towards older people. Outreach into the new housing estates will be an essential, ongoing part of this work.
- **Serve the Community** – become an influential and supportive hub in the local community, and be known as a place where people can come for practical & spiritual help and support.

In 2020 – with Diocesan help, we undertook a “community audit” to focus and refine tactics and plans for mission, in particular to “Grow the Church Younger”. However, the Covid period prevented the planned actions, and achievement fell short of our hopes and expectations.

In 2024 and 2025 the Trustees held sessions to review and reassess our strategy – aiming to sharpen our short-to medium action plans. For various reasons these strategy review sessions were only partially successful so we are in danger of losing our strategic focus and vision. An investment of support and encouragement from the minister, providing wisdom and drawing on previous experience, could provide fresh energy for the hard-working members of the congregation.

Where we want to be in 3-5 years

Confident Christians: we will develop in a variety of relevant, accessible and uplifting ways of worshipping God. We need to cater both for those to whom traditional worship is precious, but also for those unfamiliar with church who will only feel comfortable with more accessible, contemporary forms of worship. People will feel a sense of God’s presence and will want to worship Him, as well as enjoying fellowship in church. There will be consistent, in-depth teaching of our faith and lay members will continue to play a significant role in developing and leading our worship.

Growing our church younger: the church will be growing in numbers, variety of age and lifestyle, and spiritual maturity. Younger people and families will be a sizeable part of our church family, which will also include people in their 40-60s alongside our current, mainly older members.

Serving the Community: The church will have a central role within the life of Eldwick village. It will be recognised as a generous, open and welcoming centre in the village; and a place to turn to for help and support. Outreach into the housing estates will be an important element of the church’s ministry. We will be sharing God’s love more widely with the community. Many of our hall users will be connected, actively and closely, with the church.

Part 2 – Where we are now

Confident Christians – Developing Discipleship and Evangelism

- Our lay readers and Methodist colleagues as well as our previous priests always relate their talks to everyday lives but we still feel uneasy talking about these matters with people who come to our café or drop their children off at the Pre-School which uses our building. For information on our current pattern of worship see **Appendix B**.
- It may be that we are frightened of saying the wrong thing and putting people off completely or it may be that our individual faith is personal and we don't think that it will help someone else. We don't know what to do and we recognise that we need help to flourish.

Growing Our Church Younger

- Our services are welcoming to those who are returning to church either as they move into the area to be closer to adult children or who feel a pull to come back after drifting away for many years.
- We have nothing to bring young people in. Indeed, some young families moved to other churches because their children were often the only ones there on a Sunday morning. So, a Catch-22 position developed – no children there, so none join. Messy Church has been only partially successful. The young ones come in and enjoy the craft but we have nothing to offer once they reach age 9–10; so they leave and we then have to start all over again.
- Our age profile is predominantly over 70 (see **Appendix C**). This means that there are fewer people with the energy to volunteer and, whilst in many cases, the spirit is willing the flesh is not so strong! Bringing in people in their 40s to 60s would help us relate to younger families as well as providing more energy. We have a membership of 100 and average Sunday attendance of 55, which has remained constant over the last 5 years. This reflects that as some members die we do replace them but with people in their 70s or older.

Serve the Community

- We are good at supporting our local community through our twice weekly café, with an average attendance of 50 each day, which appeals to both retired people and mothers with young children, and through the quality of our buildings for hirers who offer various activities. The Pre-School makes extensive use of our Church in the Garden which is a safe space across our car park where they can have adventures as well as learning basic gardening skills. Our monthly Repair café is well supported by others in the village who are not church members.
- ***Only about half of those attending café and few of the people attending Pilates and other classes are church members so the opportunity for evangelism is great.***

Financial position (for more detail, please refer to Appendix D)

Unlike many churches our finances are strong and we have reserves to support us in unforeseen circumstances.

Income

- We have a diverse mix of income streams which in 2025 totalled just under £120k. This is broken down into the following streams:
 - Stewardship giving 58% (including associated gift aid and GASD)
 - Lettings to hirers/users 28%
 - Café & general fundraising 12%
 - Other income 2%

Expenditure

- Costs have been managed tightly and spending has been contained within our means and cash flows. In 2025 this was £108k of which 50% was Share (split between the Anglican Diocese of Leeds and the Airedale Methodist Circuit). **We have always paid share in full.**
- It is also noteworthy that we have disbursed as much as possible in charitable donations over the last few years, believing strongly that as God has been generous to us, so we should be generous to others:

<i>Financial Year Ended:</i>	31-Dec-24	31-Dec-25
Mission giving & donations <i>(Unrestricted)</i>	4,977	6,636
Mission giving & donations <i>(Restricted)</i>	21,034	19,677
	26,011	26,313
<i>Proportion of Total Income</i>	16.3%	16.0%

Our Buildings and Equipment

- Our last quinquennial in Autumn 2021 showed that our buildings were in excellent shape.
- We continue to maintain them to a high standard and are mindful of our responsibilities as charity trustees to ensure that we test equipment regularly.

Future Outlook

- However, the strong financial performance of recent years is at risk. The inevitable consequences of our Age Profile (**Appendix C**), is likely to result in heavy losses in both membership and the associated stewardship giving.
- Opportunities for growth in other income streams are becoming saturated and our cost base will remain largely fixed, but subject to inflationary increases. Hence, our medium-term forecasts (2026-2028) are for a decline in financial fortunes, resulting in net deficits
- We are beginning to consider how we can address these issues (again, see **Appendix D** for more detail)

Part 3: The role of the Minister:

Requisite attributes, experience & skills of the new minister

We feel very strongly that at this stage in our growth (we are just 15 years old as an LEP) we are still learning what this means for the church. We need a resident minister who will help us discern God's will and purpose for Eldwick and guide us patiently but firmly through the next few challenging years. He/she will be:

- Embedded in the church, worshipping regularly with us (both from the front and in the congregation when a Methodist preacher is present)
- Understanding and supportive of our status as an LEP, working with our licensed lay ministers and Methodist preachers to ensure continuity of teaching and deepening links with both the Methodist and Anglican churches
- Sympathetic and empathetic with our vision
- Teaching us and leading us in evangelism and outreach, especially with younger age groups
- Identifying lay members who possess relevant skills and desires and, then nurturing that talent to progress their development as lay leaders
- Encouraging and teaching us in worship and prayer, and especially willing to facilitate new styles of worship which is accessible to those who have no previous experience of church

Attributes and Experience

- Strongly grounded in their own faith with a desire to share it and to encourage others to do the same
- Firm but loving, outgoing and energetic with a clear sense of purpose
- Able to inspire and encourage the lay leadership in the church, positively and effectively.
- Able to mentor and guide the trustees, and able to deal with both strong personalities and those who need encouraging to take on responsibilities
- Have demonstrable experience of growing a church younger or an understanding of why their attempt at this did not succeed and a willingness to try again
- A good understanding of Safeguarding within a church context
- A good communicator within the church and in the community, across all ages, but particularly with younger people and families
- Comfortable speaking to those of faith and those with none, and confident using technology both in communication and to enhance worship
- Possibly have some musical gifts to offer to worship, especially the monthly Praise service

Part 4 – The Wider Context

As described in the Introduction, The Eldwick Church (TEC) is a local ecumenical partnership (LEP). The natural geographical boundaries for TEC are spread over the parish of Bingley All Saints and the neighbouring parish of Holy Trinity with St Wilfrid's. A Bishop's Mission Order (BMO) enables TEC to operate and minister across these parish boundaries.

Location & Demographics

The geographical boundaries of the Bishop's Mission Order (BMO) area/territory for TEC are outlined in the BMO document (see **Appendix E**). The population of the Bingley Ward, which includes Bingley town, Eldwick, Gilstead, Crossflatts and Micklethwaite, is a little over 18,000 people. Eldwick is an affluent area although we are aware there is some "hidden" debt. The Eldwick Church is situated in the centre of the village. The village area and housing are essentially suburban in nature, but there is a strong sense of community which gives a "village" feel to the districts of Eldwick and neighbouring Gilstead. The large new housing estates, which are spread across Eldwick and Gilstead are the most significant target areas for ministry, mission and growth.

Ecumenical Matters

There are local bi-monthly meetings of clergy and lay leaders from the Anglican, Baptist, Methodist, Catholic and United Reform churches, who collaborate to organise various outreach activities during the year. Joint activities include Christmas and Easter (e.g. Good Friday witness etc). In the past there has been a good, combined effort on supporting activities such as Christian Aid week though this has faded somewhat in recent years as volunteers have aged.

As an Anglican-Methodist LEP, we also participate in both Anglican (deanery) and Methodist (circuit & district) organisations, wherever possible. The church retains and maintains all former links and relationships with parent denominations, including the following:

- Anglican -within the parishes of All Saints (Bingley) and St Wilfrid's (Gilstead), in the Aire & Worth Deanery of the Diocese of Leeds
- Methodist – similarly, we continue to be part of the Airedale Circuit in the Methodist District of Yorkshire West
- We are represented on Deanery and Circuit Synods and in other relevant forums and bodies within the two denominations

Safeguarding

We are committed to providing as safe a space as possible for all who are connected with The Eldwick Church. We have chosen to follow the Methodist guidelines for safeguarding and are working to ensure that all our members receive appropriate training when required, and that the congregation are aware that safeguarding is everyone's responsibility. We have 2 volunteers who keep records and ensure people are enrolled on

training courses and/or receive DBS checks as necessary. For continuity of responsibility, we are expecting the supporting Methodist minister to take the lead on any notifiable safeguarding matters.

Clergy Housing – Winston Grange

The property, which is situated next to the church, is a brick built, double fronted, detached house, standing in its own gardens. It was built approximately 80 years ago. A major refurbishment of the property was carried out in 2017. This included replacement double-glazed windows, additional insulation to the attic and a new kitchen and bathroom and condenser boiler. Some carpets were also replaced.



View of front of the house



View from the back of the house



Rear of house

- The two-storey property offers 4 bedrooms and 1 dressing room upstairs, and a family bathroom with bath, shower and separate toilet.
- There is a garage and parking for up to 4 cars on the drive, plus parking in the back garden.
- There is easy access from the landing to the attic which is boarded and has lighting.
- Downstairs there is a large study, dining room, sitting room and breakfast kitchen together with a toilet and cloakroom area and separate utility room.
- The sitting room and study each have a gas fire, in addition to thermostatically controlled radiators.

Terms and Conditions:

- The Post is on a House for Duty basis with the expectation of working Sundays plus 2 other days. Provision of the house includes water rates and Council Tax. All expenses are paid. Removal costs and a resettlement grant are available.

- The appointment is made under Common Tenure and is subject to a satisfactory Enhanced Disclosure from the DBS.
- There are six weeks holiday per annum pro rata plus Bank Holidays
- Participation in an annual Ministerial Development Review and in-service training is required and an annual retreat is strongly encouraged.

Additional Information:

Useful Information Sources

All of the following may provide useful background information:

- [The Eldwick Church](#)
- [Anglican Diocese of Leeds](#)
- [Bradford & the surrounding areas](#)
- [Airedale Methodist Circuit](#)
- [Yorkshire West Methodist District](#)
- [City of Bradford Metropolitan District Council](#)



Quotes from some of our hirers:

Jane: owner/manager of the Nursery which uses our premises 51 weeks of the year: “We are so grateful to the church for being welcoming, supportive and responsive to our needs and those of the families we support. We appreciate the church providing both a room tailored to

our needs and the wonderful Church in the Garden where we can play and learn about nature. We enjoy coming into café where we learn to sit and talk to one another”.

Adele: *“Everyone is so friendly and helpful. Where else would I find a James who guided me through the tech, or a Julie who swept snow from the car park whilst I hunted for keys I had dropped? This is the nicest place I have ever taught in”.*

Barnabas: Encouraging Confidence

The Diocese of Leeds is committed to building **confident Christians** who are part of **growing churches** and helping to **transform communities**. As followers of Jesus, we are called to **share the Good News**, serve others and make a positive difference in our communities. To help us do this, we need to be **confident** in our faith, in our churches and in the future.

Over the next 10 years, we are focusing on four key areas:

- **Confidence in our Mission** – Helping churches understand their purpose and make the best use of their buildings, time, and resources.
- **Confidence in our Future** – Ensuring the diocese remains sustainable, effective, and well-prepared for the years ahead.
- **Confidence in our Leadership** – Supporting and equipping everyone who serves in our churches.
- **Confidence in our Witness** – Encouraging and empowering people to share the Good News of Jesus, especially with children and young people.

These **four pillars will guide everything we do from Church House**, helping us work together and support the diocese more effectively.

What is Barnabas: Encouraging Confidence?

Barnabas: Encouraging Confidence is a strategy designed to **support churches in their mission**.

Diocesan teams (and we hope Churches across the diocese) are focused on ensuring their work supports increasing confidence in the 4 areas of mission, future, leadership and witness.

It goes even further through seeking and using additional funding from the national church to provide resources and targeted initiatives which can help churches to **grow, adapt, and thrive**. A dedicated **Barnabas Programme** team will oversee this, working with wider diocesan teams to ensure we get alongside parishes, offering guidance and practical support.

The name **Barnabas** is inspired by the early church leader who encouraged and strengthened others in their faith. In the same way, this strategy aims to **build up** and **equip** churches so they can move forward with confidence.

As we step forward, we do so with a shared commitment to seeing our churches and communities flourish.