

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):	Marsden: St Bartholomew
1.b	Name(s) of parish church(es):	Marsden: St Bartholomew
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):	Yes
3.b	If Y, please give the name(s) of linked parish(es):	Slaithwaite with East Scammonden
4.	Deanery:	Huddersfield
5.	Population: <i>[Information as of 2021 census. Please indicate if and how this might have changed]</i>	Parish Population Under 20 911 20 to 64 2456 Over 65 967 Total 4334 Occupied Households 1963
6.a	Electoral Roll Number:	79

6.b	Date of Declaration:	
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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
St Bartholomew	Sunday Parish Eucharist	9.15	20	43	4
	Weekday Thursday morning prayer and monthly Eucharist	9.30	4	6	
	Taizé Sunday every two weeks	4.30		6	

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 Bartholomew	10	1	8	7	7

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 <i>eg Youth worker, Administrator etc</i>	Churchwardens
St Bartholomew's		David Corps Lay worship Leader		Val France
		Geoffery Holroyd Licenced Reader		Alison Gibson

2. Parish/Community Information

1.a	<p>Briefly describe the demographic composition of the parish(es) (eg employment status, population ages, ethnic groups, home ownership, cultural diversity).</p>	<p>Parish Ethnic Heritage Profile</p> <table> <tbody> <tr><td>Asian</td><td>34</td></tr> <tr><td>Black</td><td>26</td></tr> <tr><td>Mixed</td><td>70</td></tr> <tr><td>White</td><td>4197</td></tr> <tr><td>Other</td><td>8</td></tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Parish Religious Profile</p> <table> <tbody> <tr><td>Christian</td><td>1780</td></tr> <tr><td>Buddhist</td><td>12</td></tr> <tr><td>Hindu</td><td>3</td></tr> <tr><td>Jewish</td><td>0</td></tr> <tr><td>Muslim</td><td>22</td></tr> <tr><td>Sikh</td><td>1</td></tr> <tr><td>Other</td><td>37</td></tr> <tr><td>None</td><td>2220</td></tr> </tbody> </table>	Asian	34	Black	26	Mixed	70	White	4197	Other	8	Christian	1780	Buddhist	12	Hindu	3	Jewish	0	Muslim	22	Sikh	1	Other	37	None	2220
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1. b	<p>Are there any specific issues you wish to highlight in relation to the above description (eg high unemployment)?</p>	<p>The population of Marsden in the 2021 Census is now estimated to be a little over 4000. This has been mainly due to an increase in new buildings with further plans to convert one of the old derelict mills.</p> <p>With this growth the role of a vicar could evolve to meet the changing needs of the community supporting families and fostering connections between long-time residents and newcomers to the village.</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
Schools (Primary and Secondary)	2 schools in the village Secondary 4 miles away	Marsden Infant School Marsden Junior School Colne Valley High School (Linthwaite)
Youth Centres		Youth club Scouting groups Tots group Pre play group
Hospitals		Huddersfield Infirmary Marsden Health Centre
Nursing/elderly care homes	2	Supported housing

Local Businesses	Numerous	Coop Post office Chiropodist Hairdressers Independent Music School and instrument repair shop Independent Butcher Independent Bakery Independent Florist Independent Art shop Independent baby shop Independent leather crafter Five local cafes Italian restaurant Fish shop Chinese takeaway Indian takeaway Pubs and social clubs Two charity shops Mikron Theatre Group
Neighbourhood initiatives (eg NWA)	Numerous	Friends of Marsden Park Marsden Jazz Committee Marsden Mechanics Hall volunteers Friends of Marsden Library Friends of Standedge Visitors Centre Cuckoo Day Committee
Local Associations (eg tourist groups, historic societies)	Numerous	Marsden Mechanic Hall British Legion WI Scouts Mountain Rescue Sliver Prize Band Operatic Society Historical Society Ladies choir Swing Band Ukulele band Crafting group Arts Groups Marsden is a home to a 9-hole golf course that offers a warm welcome to players at all levels. Marsden Tennis club set within the Hemplow sports complex the club boasts three courts and modern clubhouse and a friendly atmosphere with opportunities for both social and competitive play. Crown green bowling is also located at

		Hemplow, the bowling club is a cherished part of village life offering a relaxed and sociable way to stay active. These clubs, along with the nearby cricket ground and walking trails contribute to a lifestyle that's as healthy and connected as it is picturesque.
Transport links		Marsden enjoys excellent rail & road links to both Manchester and Leeds making it convenient location for commuters.
Other Christian Churches		none
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>	
No		

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	None
3.b	Please state any formal covenants held with other denominations	None
3.c	Please state any informal ecumenical contacts held by the parish(es)	None

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:

A. Congregation

i	What percentage of the congregation lives outside the parish?	Approx. 20%
ii	Briefly describe the demographic composition of the congregation (eg employment status, population ages, ethnic groups, home ownership, cultural diversity, gender).	60.3% Employed 72.9% work full time 96.9% born in the UK Predominantly British. Mixture of homeowners and rented accommodation. Predominantly 40+
iii	How would you describe the worship tradition at the church?	We are a traditional church which uses the common order worship service books and have a Holy Communion service every Sunday where the vicar robes.

B. Finance

i	What is the average regular weekly giving by persons in the parish(es) 16 years & over? What (if any) proportion of this giving is gift aided?	£8.48 30.62%
ii	What is the date of the church's last stewardship campaign?	Sermon in 2025 Annual gift day letter to the village
iii	How does the church supplement direct giving in order to meets its financial needs?	Fund raising 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>	£556 Yes

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 • in the next financial year 	Requested	Paid	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • £28,658 • £29,840 • 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • £28,658 • £29,840 • 	
	<i>Please provide explanation for any discrepancy between requested and actual payments</i>			
	Do you anticipate meeting this year's requested payment in full? (Y/N) <i>If N provide explanation</i>	Yes		
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>	<p>We have architects' plans drawn up to build a small extension in a space between the tower and the north porch which will be accessed through the porch, this will contain 3 toilets and a small storage area.</p> <p>Plans are also drawn up for a refreshment station which will be constructed at the rear of the north aisle. Currently our building committee and PCC have submitted preliminary faculty application.</p> <p>The estimated cost of the projects is £25000</p> <p>This will be met by grants and fundraising</p> <p>There is significant damage to the mosaic floor which at the present time we are consulting with specialist to decide on the way forward.</p>		
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	None		
ix	Please provide details of the any mission agencies and charities supported by the Church including the value of any annual donations	<p>We support ad-hoc disaster appeals</p> <p>Our donation to the Children's Society from Christingle services from last year was £900</p> <p>Donations from other Christmas services go to Christian Aid</p>		

		We have supported the toilet twinning programme.
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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>	<p>The general condition of the church building is good.</p> <p>The roof has been inspected there are no defects noted</p> <p>Since our last inspection we have completed work to the drains</p> <p>With a generous donation we have restored the bells. Work continues to restore the tower clock</p> <p>Gale breaker mesh has been fitted to the belfry louvers to reduce rainwater ingress, and the tower is drying out.</p> <p>Improved security/ lighting around the church and hall and CCTV fitted.</p> <p>Repaired damaged to the lych gate</p>
ii	Please highlight any major maintenance requirements identified during the most recent Quinquennial Inspection	<p>The mosaic floor between the altar rail and altar steps is badly damaged and lifting. We are seeking a cost-effective way forward with either repairing or replacing this section of flooring.</p>

4. Church Education and Social Provision

1.a	Name(s) of Church School(s) if applicable:	No church schools
2.	How is the school governance structure organised? eg aided, controlled, foundation	N/A
3.	Approximately how many pupils are currently enrolled?	N/A
4.	What is the level of engagement between the church(es) and the school(s)?	We enjoy a warm and collaborative relationship with the village infant and Junior Schools. Their pupils participate in special services throughout the year including harvest festival, Christmas & easter, which are often held within the parish church.

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	Morning Prayer Taizé Service Annual Pet service Christingle services Café Church Food Share Community Singing Group
1.b	How are you helping people find out about Jesus?	Regular prayer Bible study after Thursday morning prayer Ad-hoc Enquirers courses Ad-hoc Baptism courses Ad-hoc Confirmation courses Information regularly given on Daily prayer apps. Social outreach through weekly Café Church and food share has prompted a number of enquirers 'conversations and involvement with more formal church services.
1.c	How are you helping people to grow in discipleship?	Joint services Taizé services Joining in community events being a presence in the community Outreach work
1.d	How are you helping people to grow in leadership?	Congregation encouraged to: read the Sunday morning bible passage prepare and lead intercessions people are encouraged and made aware of available formal leadership courses.
2.a	Are there any overseas link(s) with the parish(es)? (Y/N)	No
2.b	If Y, please give details:	
3.a	Do you have an organised system to provide outreach and welcome to new members of the community? (Y/N)	No
3.b	If Y, please give details:	

4.	What role do you play in meeting the needs of the local community?	Weekly Food Share Weekly Church Café Weekly community Singing group Occasional Jumble sales Joining in with Community events
5.	How do you engage with young people outside of church-based organisations? eg open youth work	The youth club and tots group meet in our church hall

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: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Children (eg <i>Sunday School</i>)• Young People (eg <i>Youth Projects</i>)• Adults (eg <i>Alpha</i>)	Details	Approximate numbers
	• Children (eg <i>Sunday School</i>)	None at present time	
	• Young People (eg <i>Youth Projects</i>)	None at present time	
	• Adults (eg <i>Alpha</i>)	Benefice Ad-hoc Enquirers courses	5
		Benefice Ad-hoc Baptism courses	2-3
		Benefice Ad-hoc Confirmation courses	4-6
2.a	Please give details of any house/prayer groups	None	
2.b	Are these groups led by lay or clergy?		

3.a	How would you rate the strength of lay leadership?	<p>We have currently two lay leaders who play a key role in supporting worship. We have an additional church member who is undergoing training which will enhance the teams' capacity over time</p>
3.b	What is the source of lay leadership strength or weakness?	<p>Whilst lay leadership is limited in numbers there is an openness to encourage future development within the congregation. Lay leadership is limited by time available and formal services being predominantly Eucharistic.</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?	<p>Nurturing the present congregation and encouraging all ages but especially the younger members of our church family to develop and grow in faith through inter church bible studies prayer groups etc</p> <p>Support our congregations in the potential growth areas including whole-church outreach, mission ideas, social events, imaginative and innovative worship times and themes, and more structured enquirer courses.</p>
2.	What are the main areas of mission that you would like your new priest to prioritise?	<p>Support and minister to those seeking and needing discipleship, including more opportunities for evening or weekend Bible studies, prayer meetings, and enquirers courses and similar.</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 three	<p>Finding a balance between respecting traditions and moving forward in faith</p> <p>Being an equal presence in our churches and communities</p> <p>Engaging with those who do not already attend church. Building relationships will need time to earn trust and connect with people from all walks of life</p>
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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.

Our church family has seen changes in recent years; we have a number of people who have attended St Bartholomew's for many years but we are also welcoming younger people and people who are new to faith. We would like to see our older/ regular worshipers nurtured and supported in their faith whilst fostering and growing the faith of our younger and newer members.

Growth in recent months is reflected that whilst Sunday attendance has returned to near pre-Covid levels, a significant proportion of attendees are new, non-Communicant members.

St Bartholomew's Church has followed the more traditional style of worship. We wish to continue to hold a Holy Eucharist Service in our church most Sunday morning

When we began this process, we invited our congregation to complete a questionnaire, several people mention the importance of reverence and tradition but alongside this spoke of an inclusive and accessible approach to worship.

We hope for a vicar who embraces inclusivity at the heart of their ministry—someone who welcomes all people, regardless of background, age, ability, gender identity, or sexual orientation. Our church values a spirit of openness and compassion, and we seek a leader who fosters a community where everyone feels safe, seen, and valued. We believe that the love of Christ is for all, and we want that to be reflected in both word and action.

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.

We are searching for inspiring and dedicated individual who will lead and support our welcoming congregations.

An enthusiastic individual who is approachable, and a good communicator and listener.

A resilient individual who gives wise council in matters of faith and has the courage to take on the difficulties of ministry

Someone who is a compassionate and understanding.

An individual who is interested in and can engage with people of all ages and backgrounds.

Leading worship services:

- An inspiring leader who can deliver uplifting services and sermons to accommodate different styles / congregations / age groups, within our benefice.

Discipleship:

- Developing faith by delivering creative ways to grow and nurture our Benefice through discipleship groups, to enrich and complement the work our lay leaders already do.
- Encouraging new people into church through evangelism and hospitality while fostering a welcoming and inclusive environment for everyone.
- A vicar who will engage with our church communities, groups and events and be a visible presence in our villages, encouraging people to see God and the Church as relevant in their lives.
- Building on existing links with schools in the area and promote church life and mission to young people and young adults in the area

Lay Leadership:

- To work collaboratively with and develop and encourage Lay Leadership.

Parish administration:

- Work collaboratively with the two PCCs, and Shred Committee as we maintain our churches fabric, finances, ministry, and service to our village communities.

Agreed by the PCC of St Bartholomew's Marsden

On the 22th October 2025

Signed:

Print Name:

Office Held:

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.