PARISH BROCHURE







A warm invitation from

The Parish of

Saint Robert of Knaresborough, Pannal

and

Saint Michael and All Angels, Beckwithshaw

One Parish. Two Churches. One Shared Future in Christ.

Formed 1 September 2026

AN INVITATION FROM OUR PARISH

Welcome





Welcome to our parish. We are delighted that you are taking time to discover more about our churches, our communities and the people who worship and serve here.

Thank you for considering whether God may be calling you to serve as the next incumbent of St Robert of Knaresborough, Pannal and St Michael and All Angels, Beckwithshaw.

We are two distinctive church communities, formally united as one parish on 1 September 2026. Each brings its own history, character and gifts. Together, we want to know Jesus Christ more deeply, worship God faithfully and make his transforming love known across our communities.

The retirement of our previous incumbent marks the end of a valued period of ministry and the beginning of an important new chapter. This is a genuine opportunity for a new priest to help us shape a shared culture and vision while honouring the identity and flourishing of both churches.

Strong foundations, hopeful opportunities

We are blessed with faithful congregations, committed volunteers, excellent schools, a rich musical tradition, extensive community relationships and a strong safeguarding culture. We want to deepen discipleship and prayer, grow generosity, strengthen our one-parish identity, develop ministry with teenagers and young adults, and create clearer pathways from community contact into lasting Christian belonging.

A HOPEFUL AND SUSTAINABLE FUTURE

Our Priorities for the Next Chapter

We begin this new chapter from strong foundations. These are the areas in which we most hope to grow together:

- Deepen prayer, discipleship and confidence in Christian faith.
- Strengthen our identity as one parish while cherishing the character of both churches.
- Develop ministry with teenagers and young adults, including collaboration with neighbouring parishes and the deanery.
- Build clearer pathways between schools, baptisms, community contact and continuing church belonging.
- Encourage and equip lay leadership and shared ministry.
- Grow in confident mission, hospitality and engagement with the wider community.
- Grow prayerful generosity and strengthen financial resilience alongside healthy governance, safeguarding and care of our buildings.

The opportunity: to lead two churches with deep roots and real strengths into a shared future—prayerful, outward-looking, collaborative, hospitable and confident in Christ.

CHRIST-CENTERED • COLLABORATIVE • COMPASSIONATE

The Priest We Are Praying For

Above all, we are praying for a priest who loves Jesus Christ and inspires others to follow him. We recognise that no person will possess every possible gift; the Role Description and Person Specification set out the formal requirements. Here we express the qualities that matter most to us.



A prayerful, Christ-centered priest

Someone rooted in prayer, Scripture and the sacramental life of the Church, whose faith is visible in worship, preaching, relationships and everyday leadership.

A faithful and engaging teacher

Someone who communicates the Gospel with clarity, warmth and relevance and encourages lifelong growth in faith.

A collaborative leader of two churches

Someone who listens well, builds trust and helps both congregations unite around a shared vision without overlooking their distinctive character.

A compassionate and visible pastor

Someone approachable and genuinely interested in people, able to walk alongside them through celebration, illness, grief, doubt and change.

A mission-minded enabler

Someone with a heart for people beyond the existing congregations who develops lay gifts, encourages prayerful generosity and builds constructive relationships across the deanery.

PARTNERS IN MINISTRY

What We Offer





- Faithful, warm and supportive congregations.
- Two distinctive churches with genuine potential to grow together.
- Committed churchwardens, PCC members, lay leaders and volunteers.
- Openness to thoughtful change and new possibilities.
- Strong schools and extensive community relationships.
- A beautiful and well-connected part of North Yorkshire in which to live and minister.
- A rich worshipping and musical tradition.
- A parish committed to sharing responsibility and supporting its incumbent.

You will not work alone

Our congregations, PCC, deanery colleagues and neighbouring parishes want to work alongside the new incumbent, building on what already exists and exploring together what may be possible.

A hopeful opportunity for mission

We want to help children and young people who already encounter the Church through schools, families and community life discover continuing Christian belonging and opportunities to grow in faith.

TWO COMMUNITIES • ONE SHARED MISSION

Our Parish at a Glance





- Diocese of Leeds • Ripon Episcopal Area • Archdeaconry of Richmond and Craven • Harrogate Deanery.
- One parish, formed on 1 September 2026, serving Pannal and Beckwithshaw through two churches.
- Schools: Pannal Community Primary School; Beckwithshaw Community Primary School; St Aidan's Church of England High School.
- Vicarage: 21 Crimple Meadows, Pannal, Harrogate, HG3 1EL.

Our Faith, Vision and Values

Jesus Christ is at the heart of everything we seek to be and do. Prayer underpins our ministry, and we want to become more attentive to the leading of the Holy Spirit and more confident in living as disciples of Jesus Christ in everyday life.

- Worship God faithfully and joyfully, with prayer, Scripture and sacrament at the heart of parish life.
- Grow as disciples and help people of every age become confident in faith.
- Welcome people from every background and stage of belief.
- Share Christ's love through mission, service, hospitality and pastoral care.
- Nurture children, young people and families in Christian faith.
- Build one flourishing and sustainable parish while cherishing both churches.

DISTINCTIVE IDENTITIES • SHARED LIFE

One Parish, Two Churches





St Robert of Knaresborough and St Michael and All Angels have long histories and strong local identities. Their formal union on 1 September 2026 opens new possibilities for shared worship, mutual support, collaborative mission and the wiser use of gifts and resources.

We are not looking to make the two churches identical.

St Robert of Knaresborough, Pannal

A focal point for worship and community life, with a rich choral tradition, strong engagement with children and families, and creative community activity.

128 electoral roll • 80 average Sunday attendance • 208 worshipping community

St Michael and All Angels, Beckwithshaw

A close-knit village church known for warm hospitality, faithful worship, pastoral care, school relationships and seasonal events that draw in the wider community.

35 electoral roll • 12 average Sunday attendance • 25 Easter worship

A shared future

The next incumbent will help two faithful congregations grow together: developing a common vision, encouraging collaboration and ensuring that each church continues to flourish in its own setting.

AT THE HEART OF PARISH LIFE

Worship, Prayer and Music





Across both churches we value worship that is reverent, beautiful, welcoming and accessible. We are rooted in a broad church tradition, drawing appreciatively on different strands of Anglican worship. Preaching and teaching rooted in Scripture, the Eucharist, prayer and music are important parts of our shared life.

Can you help us grow in faith, hope and love of both God and neighbour?

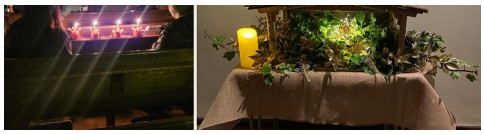
- Reverent and joyful sacramental worship.
- Faithful, engaging preaching and teaching.
- Prayer and reflection throughout the Christian year.
- A rich choral and musical tradition.
- Accessible worship for families and newcomers.
- Shared services that strengthen one-parish identity.

A rich rhythm

One of the great strengths of our parish is the rhythm of worship, discipleship, fellowship and community engagement throughout the year.

WORSHIP THROUGH THE SEASONS

The Parish Year





Advent, Christmas and Lent

- Advent services, reflections and parish Lent courses.
- Christmas Tree Festival and Christingle at St Michael's.
- Lighting St Robert's Christmas tree with Pannal Community Primary School.
- Crib and Carol Services, choral worship and Carols on the Green, a civil parish initiative we support.
- Weekly study, discussion and reflection, including learning after Thursday Communion.
- Shrove Tuesday Pancake Teas at St Michael's.

Holy Week, Easter and Beyond

- Joint Palm Sunday worship and the traditional donkey procession.
- Daily Holy Communion, Upper Room reflections, Tenebrae and Foot of the Cross.
- Story Trails, family activities, school visits and choral Easter celebrations.
- Sea Sunday, Environment Sunday, Safeguarding Sunday and Harvest Thanksgiving.
- Patronal Festivals, All Souls' Services and Christ the King celebrations.

Tradition and new possibilities

We value the traditions that shape our year while recognising opportunities for new forms of ministry and outreach.

GROWING FAITH ACROSS GENERATIONS

Children, Young People, Schools and Families

Children and families are already one of the strengths of our parish. We have strong relationships with local primary schools and significant engagement with younger children. One of our clearest opportunities is to strengthen discipleship pathways as young people move beyond primary-school age.

Looking beyond our parish

Our incumbent's primary responsibility will be the life, worship, mission and pastoral care of the parish. At the same time, we want to work constructively with neighbouring parishes and the wider deanery, particularly where shared approaches can create the relationships, capacity and critical mass needed for sustainable ministry with teenagers and young adults.

- Strengthen discipleship pathways.
- Support families in their faith journeys.
- Develop ministry beyond primary-school age.
- Build on strong school partnerships.
- Create new opportunities for family engagement.
- Encourage young people to play active roles in church life.

PRESENT THROUGHOUT THE WEEK

Community, Mission and Pastoral Care



We believe the Church is called not simply to exist within a community, but to be an active, visible and positive presence within it. Our relationships with schools, organisations, charities and community groups provide opportunities to share faith, offer support and serve our communities in practical ways.

We want people to know that the Church is present not only on Sundays, but throughout the week and every stage of life. We value our close working relationship with Pannal Methodist Church through Churches Together. We also make regular visits to local care homes to celebrate Holy Communion and lead hymn-singing sessions.

Our People and Shared Ministry

Across both churches we are blessed with faithful, committed and generous congregations. We have successfully welcomed curates and supported their formation, and we benefit from well-equipped parish offices and a parish administrator working three mornings a week.

- Churchwardens, PCC members and deanery representatives.
- Choir members, musicians, bell ringers, sidespeople and verger support.
- Open the Book, children's ministry and school volunteers.
- Pastoral visitors and baptism, wedding and funeral coordinators.
- Safeguarding and DBS officers.
- Hospitality, Lunch Club, flower, maintenance and grounds teams.

Enabling the whole people of God

We hope our next incumbent will broaden participation, support existing volunteers and develop new lay leaders—enabling others rather than carrying every responsibility personally.

LIFE BEYOND SUNDAY

Fellowship, Hospitality and Community



The parish benefits from a wide range of groups and activities that create friendship, learning, hospitality and mutual support.

- Mothers' Union.
- Lunch Club.
- Pannal Wives.
- Music Circle.
- Women in Fellowship.

A generous welcome

Hospitality and community engagement are important aspects of parish life. These include:

- St Robert's Beer Festival.
- St Michael's Angel Festival and afternoon teas.
- Community celebrations and seasonal events.
- Open Church initiatives.
- Hosting Armley Meeting Point and supporting refugee communities.
- Carols on the Green, a civil parish initiative which we support.
- Flower and Music Festival.

Children and families woven through parish life

- Crumpet Church.
- Family Services.
- School engagement.
- Seasonal celebrations.
- Baptism preparation.
- Confirmation programmes.

Worshipping • welcoming • growing • serving

The breadth of parish life reflects our desire to be a church that is worshipping, welcoming, growing and serving.

A CULTURE OF DIGNITY, CARE AND PROTECTION

Safeguarding

Everyone is nurtured, valued, respected and protected.

Our Safeguarding Mission Statement

Within our church community we are committed to providing and promoting a happy, welcoming, compassionate, safe and secure environment and culture, where everyone is nurtured, valued, respected and protected, whilst practising fully and positively Christ's ministry to love and care for each other.

Safeguarding is central to our understanding of Christian ministry. We want every child, young person and adult to know that they are valued, listened to and protected. We believe that every person is created in the image of God and deserves dignity, respect and care.

The parish has a designated Parish Safeguarding Officer and DBS Officer; mandatory training is kept current and safeguarding updates are presented regularly to the PCC.

A recognised commitment

We are proud of the safeguarding culture developed across the parish. The parish is recognised by the Diocese as outstanding in its commitment to and delivery of best safeguarding practice. This reflects the dedication of volunteers, church officers and clergy who have created a culture in which safeguarding is taken seriously and best practice is consistently maintained.



TREASURED PLACES • SHARED RESPONSIBILITY

Buildings, Vicarage, Resources and Finances

Our church buildings are treasured places of worship, memory and community belonging. St Robert's is Grade II listed. St Michael and All Angels, built in the late nineteenth century in the Gothic Revival style, is also Grade II listed, as are its associated railings and pillars.

A more welcoming St Michael's

A project is underway to improve the kitchenette and toilet facilities at St Michael's. Planning permission has been granted and the proposal has been submitted to the Diocesan Advisory Committee for approval. A legacy fund will support some of the costs. The improvements will help create a more welcoming and hospitable environment where people can meet, share fellowship and be brought together.

The vicarage





The vicarage at 21 Crimple Meadows is a detached stone-built house in Pannal with a generous garden, driveway and garage. It provides a welcoming home within easy reach of St Robert's, local schools, rail and road connections and village amenities.

Resources and finances

Our finances are carefully managed, but we recognise vulnerabilities in meeting parish share and strengthening longer-term resilience. We have identified realistic opportunities to grow generosity and hope our next incumbent will help inspire prayerful giving and turn those opportunities into sustainable income.

ROOTED LOCALLY • CONNECTED WIDELY

The Wider Church and Local Area

The parish is part of the Diocese of Leeds, Ripon Episcopal Area, Archdeaconry of Richmond and Craven and Harrogate Deanery. We value relationships with neighbouring churches, clergy colleagues and diocesan officers. With PCC support, the incumbent role includes a proactive contribution to the Resourcing Deanery and collaborative mission, particularly where shared approaches can strengthen ministry with children, young people and families.

Pannal and Beckwithshaw offer village life, attractive countryside and easy access to Harrogate, Leeds, York and the wider region. Pannal has rail and road connections and access to local services, schools, clubs and businesses; Beckwithshaw offers a more rural setting with a close-knit village community.

Please pray for our parish and for all who are discerning God's call.

Could this be your next chapter?

We invite you to explore the formal Role Description and Person Specification alongside this brochure, and to discern whether God may be calling you to share in the next chapter of Pannal and Beckwithshaw.

THE PARISH OF SAINT ROBERT OF KNARESBOROUGH, PANNAL AND SAINT MICHAEL AND ALL ANGELS, BECKWITHSHAW

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Saint Robert of Knaresborough, Pannal



Saint Michael and All Angels, Beckwithshaw