

WELCOME TO THE BENEFICE OF MARSDEN AND SLAITHWAITE WITH EAST SCAMMONDEN



Seeking to love God and love our neighbours.

www.mses.org.uk

Hello and Welcome

Welcome to our Benefice of Marsden and Slaithwaite with East Scammonden. We hope you enjoy reading about our church families and pray our brochure informs and inspires you in helping to decide if God is calling you to join us in our Benefice. We hope it reflects our dedication to supporting our new vicar, our hard work, devotion to our churches and communities and gives you a sense of the exciting opportunities waiting for you here.

Our Benefice brochure has been written by a team of people from all three churches and verified by the PCC's and Shred Committee. Each congregation had the opportunity to share their personal thoughts.



(Some members of the 3 churches at a Joint Benefice Service)

Foreword by The Venerable Bill Braviner, Archdeacon of Halifax.

Marsden and Slaithwaite parishes offer a wonderful opportunity for a priest to lead and pastor its congregations amid wonderful communities, surrounded by beautiful scenery in Pennine Yorkshire. Building on the work done in the past six years of Interim Ministry, the parishes are focusing outward to their communities and growing in confidence and impact as God's people here. As the next vicar, you will bring passion and skill in community engagement and congregational growth, in developing and deepening discipleship, and in encouraging stewardship and outreach. You will work collaboratively with lay leaders in the parishes, and with schools and community organisations. You will be blessed with the support of congregations that have a willingness to grow and develop, with excellent deanery colleagues, and with diocesan resource teams who are ready and willing to help. You are in my prayers as you discern whether God is calling you to offer yourself to this ministry.

Foreword by Area Dean, Rachel Firth

What can I say as your potential new Area Dean to encourage you to continue in your application? Perhaps it would help to say that if I was looking for a new parish job right now, I would happily apply for this one. These are faithful and dedicated churches, who have been nurturing and developing great outward looking relationships in their communities. There is much which is good to embrace in all they are, and exciting possibilities as God continues to move in these valleys and villages. I believe this period of interim ministry they have engaged with has made them more open than ever to what God's next thing might be in Marsden, Slaithwaite and Shred. I hope you will feel the warmth of this community's faith as you read this brochure.

Huddersfield is a small but diverse and friendly Deanery. We're colleagues and friends and our clergy Chapter is supportive, affirming and prayerful. We are open to possibilities in working together, and we respect our differences in tradition as we all seek to serve Jesus in this place. We hope for a colleague who can consolidate and capitalise on the energy and growth which has come during this interim ministry, and whose voice and experience we can welcome and learn from.

Introduction

"Slaithwaite and Marsden are two places with a rich heritage and a great future", wrote the former Bishop of Huddersfield, Jonathan Gibbs in 2019. "The congregations of these churches are fairly small, yet together they have great potential to reach out, to serve their communities and to grow both numerically and spiritually."

Fast forward six years and we have three vibrant church communities who have grown in faith, in service to our community, and in the number of people who worship God with us. In a recent visit from the new Bishop of Huddersfield, Bishop Smitha, she committed to appointing a full-time permanent vicar without extending the size of the Benefice.

The Benefice of Marsden and Slaithwaite with East Scammonden is just six years old. We thank God for bringing us together, linked in purpose, and joined in Christ. We believe that our varied voices become a shared song of praise and different perspectives a source of deeper understanding. We think this is a fantastic time to be considering a post in our Benefice.

We are just concluding a period of interim ministry and seek an inspiring and enthusiastic man or woman who will love and nurture us for the foreseeable future. A vicar who will support us, help develop our growing churches and lead us forwards to be God's advocate in the wider community. Thus, further developing established relationships and seeking new ways in which to engage and connect with God.

Sunday morning begins at St Bartholomew's church in Marsden at 9.15am, for the Eucharist service, using Common Worship Order One, and hymns from the "Complete Anglican Hymns Old and New" led by the organ. The vicar wears robes or a chasuble, and the style of worship is fairly traditional. Sometimes a lay worship leader leads parts of the service or preaches, and congregation members read and lead the intercessions.

The vicar has time to say a quick hello during refreshments after the service, before going to Slaithwaite. At St James refreshments begin 45 minutes before the service so the vicar arrives to a relaxed informal gathering in the church lounge / cafe area at the front of the building. The congregation moves into the main church for an 11.15am start.

This informality is reflected in a more relaxed flavour to the worship at St James, although Common Worship liturgy and robes are still used. Music is led by the organ or piano with the singing group once or twice a month, and hymns come from Mission Praise. On the first Sunday the service is a non-Eucharistic service.

Worship at Shred includes regular lay led open Sunday mornings and a monthly vicar led family service. This very child friendly service is prepared and led collaboratively with the Shred team and usually includes an agape meal or a communion service using a simplified version of Common Worship Order one, music is led by piano or organ. The vicar will lead a Sunday morning service at Shred when lay leaders are able to lead the morning services at St Bartholomew's and St James.

We regularly pray and worship together as a Benefice, holding joint services throughout the year, alternating between all three churches. Child Baptisms usually take place monthly alternating between St. Bartholomew's and St. James in an afternoon, though also with morning services.

We all agree that working together as a team is essential, and that by supporting our vicar in sharing the load and developing and promoting lay leadership, our God given gifts in ministry and participation will help us all to grow in faith, in confidence and skills.

How we will support our new vicar

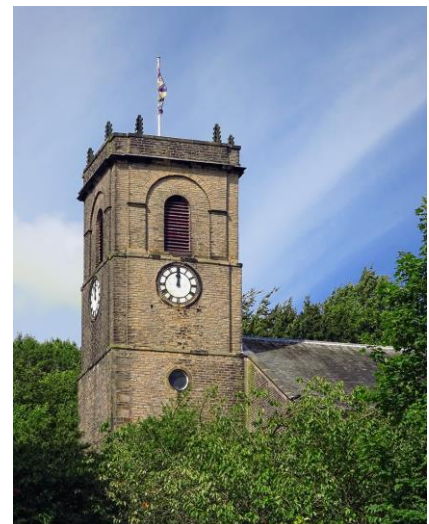
- ❖ Uphold in prayer you and your family.
- ❖ Pray for your ministry and your role as our spiritual leader.
- ❖ Support your training requirements, professional development and reading time.
- ❖ Assist you, via our Benefice Service Planning Group, in the planning and organising of Benefice wide services.
- ❖ Respect your need for time with family, friends and God.
- ❖ Explore ways in which to reduce the strain of administrative tasks.
- ❖ Be honest about our challenges but hopeful and proactive about how we face them together.

We invite you to consider whether this is the place where you could settle, make your new home and future with us, whilst serving God by faith, service and love.

Where we are situated



St. Bartholomew's in Marsden village.



St. James in Slithwaite

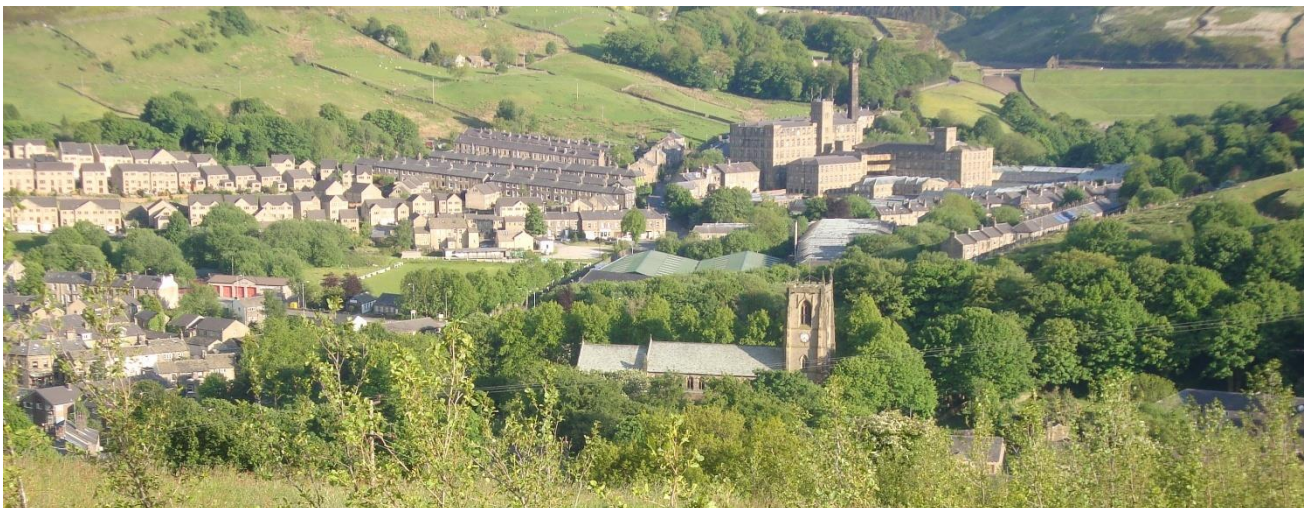


Upper Slithwaite Church, known locally as Shred Mission Church, up on the hillside above Slithwaite village, near Pole Moor.

Our Church Families

The Parish of Marsden - St Bartholomew's Church

On behalf of St Bartholomew's Church PCC and congregation, Church Wardens' Val France and Alison Gibson invite you to learn about our church family and beautiful village. Presiding over the village of Marsden is St Bartholomew's Church, affectionally known as the Cathedral of the Colne Valley due to its imposing size and striking architectural style. Set within the centre of the village this beloved landmark serves as both a spiritual home and symbol of unity for the people of Marsden. The foundation stone for the present church was laid in 1894 and by 1911 the magnificent building was completed. Funded by the local people and entrepreneurs, our church continues to be held in high esteem in our community.



We endeavour to be kind to our environment through low energy lighting and green energy from suppliers. Our graveyard is maintained by Kirklees council, volunteers and a part time gardener.

We invite you to take a breathtaking tour of our building by following the links below to the wonderful drone footage and photos taken by a local photographer.

<https://www.facebook.com/share/p/1JbSPRC2pk/>

<https://www.facebook.com/share/v/1ArEbqvEjH/>

However, a beautiful church building is nothing without the people inside to worship God. We currently have one active Lay Worship Leader and one lay leader who plays a key role in supporting worship and pastoral care. We have one church member who is beginning lay worship leader training, which will enhance the team's capacity over time. Whilst the lay leadership team is small there is an openness to encourage others in the congregation to undergo training. In addition, we have two dedicated Church Wardens, a PCC and a wonderful fundraising team.

Worship

In addition to our traditional Sunday morning service, we hold a midweek BCP morning prayer service, and a monthly mid-week BCP Holy Communion.

Our fortnightly Taizé service, which is lay led enriches our worship life, providing an alternative spiritual rhythm. Attendance is growing and we are exploring ways in which to invite wider engagement with this form of worship.

Our congregation is predominantly made up of older members, many of whom have been part of our church community for decades and contribute rich spiritual depth and continuity. In recent years however, we have seen a welcome increase in younger individuals and families joining us bringing new energy and perspectives into our worship and church life. They vary in age from tots to teenagers and we are looking for ways in which to encourage and develop these first steps into Gods family.

The yearly Pet Blessing Service recognises the importance of the relationship between people and their pets and is extremely popular, with members of the congregation and the wider community attending. Tortoises, rabbits, and dogs, making for a joyous and lively service. One year we even had a horse!



On Christmas Eve we hold two Christingle Services one at 4pm which is currently led by the vicar and supported by the music group. The other one at 6pm is currently lay led and supported by Marsden Band and a local choir. Both services are packed and have become a much-loved tradition in Marsden. We have also seen an increase in people attending midnight mass.

We have good relationships with Marsden Infant and Junior schools, who both hold their Harvest Festival and Christmas services in St Bartholomew's church. We support the British Legion on Remembrance Day and other occasions. There are also links with Scouting groups.

Outreach

Our outreach work aims to assist people predominantly from Marsden who may need our help and support. We are very fortunate to have the support of a dedicated team of volunteers. They help to organise our outreach work and fundraising events. The team is made up of church congregation members and non-congregation friends and supporters.

Food Share: Our established weekly food share reaches out to all and supports both families and lone people with no questions asked of their circumstances.

Community Café: We hold a weekly community café which welcomes everyone to enjoy hot food and good company, this is run on a donation only basis, so everyone can attend. Three times a year we organise trips to the seaside, shopping trips and have parties and use accessible transport so everyone can attend.



Community Singalong Group: The joyful weekly community singing group has been running for over three years now and is growing in numbers. It is open to all for fun and companionship and is cherished especially by our elderly and isolated residents.

Community Connections.

Marsden is a vibrant village with a strong sense of community. Whilst being a part of the Benefice each village is different, and Marsden has its own traditions and ways. Within the next few years there are plans to develop areas of the village and this will increase housing and business opportunities. 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 new commers to the village.

St Bartholomew's is keen to be a significant and relevant part of our community. Alongside our outreach work we hold lots of church fundraising events and regularly open the church to host and take part in community events such as art shows, and local festivals such as Cuckoo Day.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vxNDxO1KSOM&t=73s>

We are fortunate to have our own Parochial Hall, owned and managed by the church, which serves as a vibrant hub for both church life and wider outreach. The hall regularly hosts a variety of events — from friendship groups, coffee mornings, and seasonal fairs to concerts, theatre performances, and community meetings. It's a space where faith meets friendship, and where the church's presence extends beyond Sunday worship into the everyday life of Marsden. The hall also provides opportunities for creative outreach and collaboration with local organisations, helping us to build bridges and deepen relationships across the village. The hall is also available for hire and provides a much-needed income that supports the life of the parish.

Music:

- ❖ The Church building's wonderful acoustics are perfect for musical events and concerts ranging from Jazz to Folk and of course choirs and brass bands.
- ❖ For several years St Bartholomew's have supported the Jazz Festival hosting concerts and running refreshments and craft stalls.

<https://huddersfieldhub.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/10/Saxophonist-Xhosa-Cole-at-St-Bartholomews-Church-in-Marsden-as-part-of-Marsden-Jazz-Festival-2021.-Photo-by-Elizabeth-Baker.2-1536x864.jpg>

- ❖ For a few years we have hosted a Christmas concert performed by the internationally renowned folk singers, O'Hooley & Tiddow. Belinda and Heidi have become friends of St Bartholomew's.



- ❖ In addition, we have close links with Marsden Silver Prize Band, Colne Valley Male Voice Choir and Unity voices who perform regularly at St Bartholomew's.

The Parish of Slaithwaite with East Scammonden

St. James Church

The vicar who joins us will soon learn to pronounce the name of our village correctly. Slaithwaite is pronounced as 'slath-wait' or 'sla-wit'.

Our church building and vicarage are situated in the only 'town' with a canal (Huddersfield Narrow) running alongside the main high street.



Worship

In place of our regular traditional Sunday service, once a month we hold a less formal Service of the Word Celebration which is sometimes lay led. We welcome community members / groups to share what they do and in return we as a church pray for them. We are assisted by the St Bartholomew's music group, alongside our singing group and pianist.

Our service liturgy on PowerPoint is shown on a screen via a projector and linked computer. We have a newly installed decent sound system with microphones and a music system.



We have a mixed aged group adult congregation, which leans toward those in retirement. There is a growing group of younger adults. A few children attend St. James on a semi regular basis. There is a children's corner for use during services and currently no Sunday School provision. The uniformed groups attend once a year on Remembrance Sunday and our Christmas services attract many children with their families.

We value the lay leaders and others who are regularly involved in Sunday services, and the support they provide to the Vicar. It is wonderful to see their commitment, confidence and abilities increase. Our Lay Leader and Occasional Preacher are growing in confidence. She is very capable of leading Service of the Word services and is able to alter the content and style of the services to suit the occasion. She is preaching more often and will do so at both St Bartholomew's and St James Sunday Services.

Special services, particularly Remembrance Sunday and Christmas are very well attended by the local community and community leaders.



At Easter our Lay leader leads contemplative Maundy Thursday and Good Friday services, whilst the current vicar leads at St. Bartholomew's.



Creative Contemplation Group: This group is led by our Lay Worship Leader, and it meets twice a month, except in August. We enjoy silent meditation, music and developing and sharing our faith through creative discussion, based on the liturgical calendar. We respond by words, prayers and art.



Outreach

In all we do we are very inclusive to all who attend.

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1688062138100085>

Community Cafe: Our Wednesday community café run by volunteers provides hot drinks, warm meals, and fellowship. Everything is provided free of charge with those who are able giving a donation. The local Co-Op supermarket supports with food donations. The cafe is attended by 20-30 people generally older, retired or with health-related issues, and several younger people.

Bible Study: Our current Vicar or a lay person leads a Bible Study on a Wednesday early afternoon following the cafe. This is held in the church lounge and attended by church members and some cafe attendees. A few now joining us on a Sunday morning as a result.

Hallelujahs Singing Group: This follows on from the Bible Study. With support from the church pianist the group sing and learn Christian songs and hymns. Again, attended by church members and some cafe attendees, some who occasionally come to church services. A joyful time is always had.



Christmas Tree Festival:

We hold an annual Christmas Tree Festival in the lead up to our Christmas Services. Many local businesses, all the local schools and some individuals contribute a decorated tree. The quality and

effort increase year on year. The Tree Festival open days are very well attended. It is a very popular village event and coincides with the village Christmas Lights switch on event held close by.

Community Connections:

As a church we support local events like the Annual Scout organised Duck Race which draws in huge crowds. Pictured are our Church Wardens! (Helping with advertisement).



- We try to have a 'church' stall at local community events, when there are volunteers available.
- We hold regular coffee mornings throughout the year either as fundraisers for ongoing building works or for local / national charities which take place in our church lounge.
- A hold a monthly Saturday afternoon film show followed by a faith tea in collaboration with the Methodist Fellowship. This is open to all.

Music:

Music plays a large part in the life of the village and at St. James church our building is used for concerts by:

Slaithwaite Brass Band – <https://slaithwaiteband.org.uk/>

Colne Valley Male Voice choir – www.colnevalleymvc.org.uk

Colne Valley Boys – www.colnevalleyboys.com

& Piano music festival – <https://andpiano.co.uk/>

Plus, other ad-hoc concerts. These joyous events are well-supported by the community and provide some income to the church.



Creation Care:

the PCC have appointed a Parish Environmental Officer and small team, adopted a Parish Environmental Plan and signed up to the ARocha Eco Church Survey. Through research, grant application and advice we are adapting St. James to lower its ecological impact, and hopefully save expense. on the 11th of October St. James were awarded the Eco Church Bronze Certificate and are now working towards Silver.

The Churchyard is looked after by a group of village volunteers and Kirklees Council.

School Interaction:

Our current vicar has developed a good relationship with all our local schools. He supports the teaching of Christianity in the RE curriculum and leads corporate worship at the local Slaithwaite Junior and Infant CE School. We would like our new vicar to develop a closer relationship with our CE school and encourage much more involvement from the school in the full life our church.

Upper Slaithwaite Church – Shred



Upper Slaithwaite Church (locally known as “Shred”) is a Mission church situated on the hillside above Slaithwaite with stunning, far-reaching views around the whole valley.

For one hundred and eighty years, Shred has continually provided a space for all ages to join in the worship of God. In unity together, people of all ages continue to gather, share, laugh, celebrate, care and love in our flourishing church.

On three Sundays a month, the church community meets from 10:00-12:00 for ‘Sundays at Shred’ run by lay leaders and assisted by retired Rev Martin Lowles, at Shred People arrive and leave whenever they want, and we welcome a wide variety of ages ranging from babies and children of primary school age to adults in their early 20s up to 90 years old.



‘Sundays at Shred’ resembles a ‘Messy Church’ style where craft activities for everyone are enjoyed based on forthcoming special Sundays. Our meeting room is surrounded by attractive displays of craft work, with clear reference to the spiritual source. We also spend time in the church worship space to sing, rehearse re-enactments of bible stories and pray.

Once a month there is a service led by the Vicar. The scheduling and timings vary to accommodate the Vicar in delivering services at other churches within the benefice. Some of our services have communion and others have an Agape. When the Vicar is unable to attend, lay leaders step in.

Music and singing have always been at the heart of ‘Shred’. We have our own organists and pianist and have close links to Slaithwaite Band. Shred has its own distinctive contributions to make in worship, service and mission within the benefice. We hope above all to continue to build disciples, moving everyone to a closer walk with Jesus and,

‘In union with Him, being built together into a place where God lives through His Spirit.’ Eph 2:22

What Shred Means to Us



“I always like to help when there are events on, but my favorite thing about Shred is the trips we go on. They are fun and a good chance to catch up with your friends” **Florence (age 11)**



“Shred is a constant in my life. I have worshipped and socialized there for over 75 years. After my confirmation I became a Sunday School teacher and I still play piano for the songs, although we have some wonderful new talent coming up. Our daughter was christened there and like generations before worshipped and socialized there all her life. Sadly, is no longer with us but always remembered. We’ve all had very happy times there and I still love to go and be amongst it all. Long live Shred!” **Margaret (Sunday School Teacher)**

“Shred is one of my special places for worship and social. It is the hub of the hillsides of Slaithwaite where people are welcome and feel at home.” **John (Committee member)**



“Family services could be daunting, having to perform in front of everyone but over the years I gathered confidence. Later, at high school I was chosen to speak to a group of over 300 parents. Afterwards a person I did not know said you could tell I was a “Shreddie” by the way I could speak to a group with confidence. I am now a teacher and still utilize what I learned at Sunday School. I feel so lucky to be a “Shreddie” and love being part of the special work that Shred is doing in the community.” **Alicia (Sunday School Teacher)**



It’s lovely that my children attend Shred like I did, and they look forward to the Christmas party every year, playing traditional party games. The Nativity service is always a special one, with the children acting out the nativity story and the prize giving tradition still going strong”. **Lucy (Committee Member)**



“Shred is a wonderful place with activities, functions and worship open to everyone. Truly all inclusive. When I see mixed generations socializing together, I recognize life as it should be. It gives me great hope for the future.” **Sue (Former Headteacher Wilberlee J and I School)**

“Catherine and I enjoy playing the organ at Shred. Since 2023, she’s had lessons from David Pipe, the organist at Huddersfield Town Hall. In support of her application for a music scholarship, he wrote “Catherine has demonstrated great dedication in preparing hymns to play for her local church. It’s unusual for someone so young to show such a level of commitment for this complex instrument,” If we hadn't had the organ to practice at Shred we wouldn't have asked David for lessons. We have just found out Catherine gained the scholarship! Her performance confidence has increased massively over the last year, and playing at Shred has been a big part of this” **Anna (Organist and Lead Cornet in Slaithwaite Brass Band)**



The “Shred Family” has wrapped its arms around me in times of distress, offered me genuine friendship in my daily life, filled my soul with fun and laughter and guided me along life’s pathway with my faith. It is a very special place. **Susan (Committee Member)**



“Shred has provided a welcoming place for me to be outdoors with people of all ages. Helping to transform the tranquil outdoor space of the church grounds has provided me with opportunities to engage with nature, learn practical skills, gain a sense of accomplishment but most of all to connect and make new friendships. It is so uplifting to be able to help create a welcoming space for the community and to see all ages enjoying it.” **Katrina (Gardening volunteer)**

We enjoy holding Joint Benefice services at Shred. We recently had a picnic lunch afterwards and enjoyed the company and views.



Where we live



Our Benefice is situated in the Upper Colne Valley on the edge of the South Pennine Moors and the border with Greater Manchester.

The nearest town is Huddersfield, with Halifax and Oldham nearby.

We are surrounded by beautiful countryside, and our villages are vibrant with many community events and traditions in which our churches take a leading role.

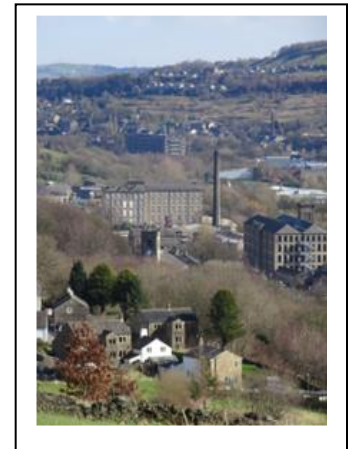
Please see below the link to the Church of England online Sunday service which can show you in more than any words our churches and the wonderful area in which they are situated.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DLaOLa5q41w&list=RDDLlaOLa5q41w&start_radio=1&t=1074s

It is a semi-rural location with large farms, fields and moorland above the valley bottom. There are several small hamlets dotted about on the valley sides and tops.

Whilst once famed for its large textile mills, light engineering has taken over, and the mills have been or are being developed for varied business uses.

Both Marsden and Slaithwaite are part commuter villages for Leeds and Manchester, the M62 is 15 minutes' drive away. There are train stations at Marsden and Slaithwaite with direct services to Manchester, Liverpool and the Northwest and York, Hull and the Northeast. There are connecting services to Leeds during peak times. The upgrade of the TransPennine rail line should be completed by 2027.



The two bustling and thriving village centres have a good range of independent shops, small Co-op supermarkets, cafes, restaurants and pubs / bars. They are supported well by the communities they serve.

Slaithwaite was voted Best Place to Live in the North and Northeast by the Sunday Times in 2022. Marsden has been mentioned on other similar lists.

Small terraced mill housing is prevalent in the area, with a mix of larger older properties and a few modern estates. Traditional weavers' cottages remain particularly on the hill sides. There are council estates in both Marsden and Slaithwaite.

With the Huddersfield Narrow Canal connecting Marsden and Slaithwaite, we benefit from tourists who visit the area for day trips. There is holiday accommodation for those choosing to stay longer. We have visits from the popular TransPennine Ale Trail route.

Every two years the Slaithwaite Moonraking Festival takes place in and around the village centre. Lots of organisations are involved in the run up to the event and on the day. [Slaithwaite Moonraking](#) The next event is in 2027. People throughout the Colne Valley are involved in story telling events, music

workshops and crafting the paper and willow structures. A huge parade takes place around the village centre, with a grand finale finishing everything off. This pulls in local crowds and those from much further afield.



Link to Slaithwaite village website produced by the Scouts. www.slaithwaite.info

Community involvement:

- ❖ Our Benefice churches foster inclusivity, friendship, and networking through events like coffee mornings, film shows and festival services (e.g., Remembrance Sunday, Christingle), which are well-attended. They are recognized for the warm welcome given to new people from across areas like Huddersfield.
- ❖ Our Benefice excels in engaging with the community through initiatives like community cafes, pastoral care, supporting events (including fundraising), and fostering kindness, faith, and a sense of community.
- ❖ There is pride in strong links with villages, schools, and community groups, as well as visiting the housebound.
- ❖ As a Benefice we use our church buildings for church and faith related activities and community outreach and fundraising events. The buildings are made available for use by community groups and organisations.

Where you will live

The Vicarage

The vicarage is a modern 4 bedroomed detached house with gardens, located close to St James church and in the heart of the village in Slaithwaite. It has a study and guest toilet situated off the main hallway with the rest of the house separated by an internal door. It has a bathroom and separate shower room. There is an integral garage plus an off-road parking space. The large, enclosed garden is at the back and there is a semi wildlife garden to the front. The house was renovated 6 years ago and is in a good state of repair.



Slaithwaite CE Junior and Infant School, known locally as Two Gates

As a benefice we would like to appoint a new Vicar who is able to build upon the already established links with local schools, this would involve:

Extending an open and honest approach to supporting local schools

Working alongside the school communities to develop and enrich their ethos and their teaching of the Christian Faith

Building a reciprocal relationship with all schools, especially Slaithwaite C.E J. I school to enrich the church community and its teaching

Promote and involve the schools to participate in and lead services in the Benefice, services which encourage and grow the congregations and widen the church family

The schools use the church buildings for their Harvest Festivals, Christmas concerts and Easter celebrations. The Vicar traditionally is involved in some of these. There is currently a good working relationship between the Vicar and the school Leadership team.

A Statement from Caroline Fowler, Headteacher of Slaithwaite CE J&I School

As Headteacher of Slaithwaite CE J&I School, I am proud to lead a vibrant school community grounded in the values of our Church of England ethos. Our school is more than a place of academic learning— it is a family that lives out Christian values every day.

We are delighted to support the church in appointing a new Vicar who will play a vital role in inspiring worship, celebrating key school events, and contributing to the governance and spiritual development of our school.

Our Vision for the New Vicar

We seek a compassionate and committed individual who will:

Lead and Support Collective Worship

Regularly attend and lead our daily acts of collective worship, helping our school family to grow spiritually and live out our core values of Respect, Resilience, Relationships, Reflection, and Responsibility.

Celebrate School and Community Events

Join us in marking important occasions such as Harvest, Christmas, Easter, the Moonraker Festival, and other special church services. Your presence will strengthen the bonds between our children, families, and the wider parish community.

Contribute to Governance and Ethos Development

Become a valued member of our governing body, supporting the distinctiveness of our church school. Your active participation in governors' meetings will help reinforce our Christian vision and ethos.

Enhance Religious Education

Collaborate with us to develop an engaging and relevant Religious Education curriculum that inspires our children to explore their faith and appreciate diverse beliefs, fostering respect and dialogue.

Be Part of Our Two Gates School Family

Engage with parents, parishioners, and local organisations to build strong relationships that enrich the educational experience and nurture every child in our care.

In return, we promise to welcome you warmly into our school family, offering support, friendship, and a shared commitment to nurturing the spiritual and personal growth of our children.

We are excited about the opportunity to welcome a new Vicar who will inspire and uplift our community, shaping the spiritual lives of our children and enriching our school ethos.