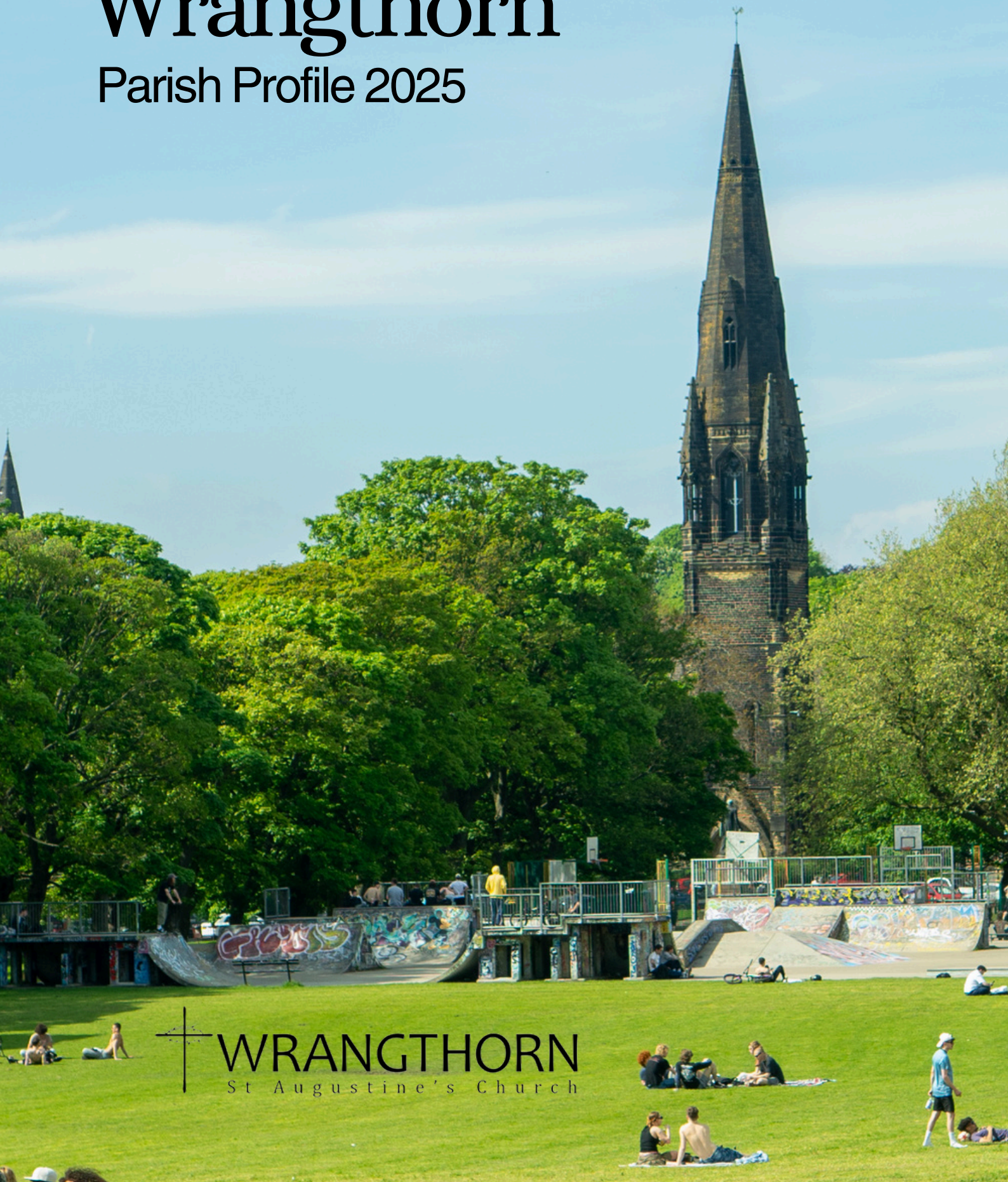


# St Augustine's Church Wrangthorn

Parish Profile 2025



 **WRANGTHORN**  
St Augustine's Church

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# Who we are

Hello, welcome, and thank you for your interest in St Augustine's Wrangthorn (known locally as Wrangthorn). We hope this profile gives you a sense of who we are and all that God is doing through us. Our website has more details: [wrangthorn.org.uk](http://wrangthorn.org.uk)

St Augustine's Wrangthorn is located on Hyde Park Corner, in the middle of the communities of Hyde Park, Wrangthorn and Woodhouse. We're proud to be part of the thriving and dynamic communities around us. Having a missional heart and a deep love for this community is at the very core of our ministry, and seeps into all we do. You can

read about our missional outreach later in this profile.

Here at Wrangthorn, we are a welcoming intergenerational church that is passionate about Jesus. We currently offer one Sunday service at 10.30 am that seeks to meet the needs of our congregation and our local area, with a focus on good biblical teaching, and a warm welcome and hospitality. We have a relaxed liturgical style, and appreciate the breadth of the Anglican tradition. We celebrate Holy Communion twice a month. Once a month we have a creative, interactive service, called All Together, which aims to be accessible to a wide range of ages and abilities, and once a month we have a Service of the Word. Recent sermon series have included 'We believe' exploring the Apostles Creed, 'Esther: when God seems silent', and '1 Thessalonians: Good News People'.



Our sung worship is a mixture of hymns and contemporary worship songs accompanied by a small music group. We project words and liturgy onto a screen.

Our weekly attendance at this service is about 45 - 50 with a growing number of students and young adults.

We have 2 midweek small groups, a daytime one attended by mainly over-60's and an evening one for young adults. We hope to start a third group soon.

We have strong lay participation in ministry, with congregation members leading and serving on Sundays and in every area of church life. We also have a paid staff team based at St Augustine's, consisting of a Team Vicar, Student Outreach Worker, and Assistant Ops Manager. Some years we also have an intern.



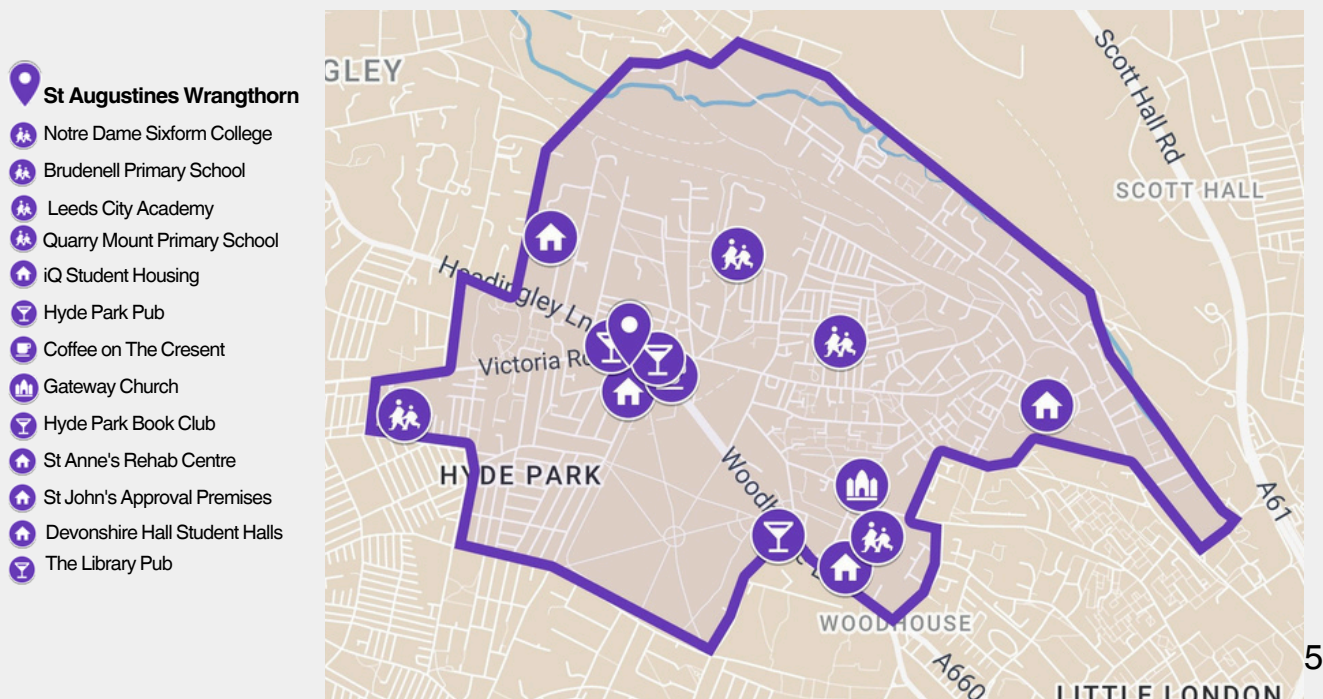
# Our City and Parish

Leeds is a thriving city, with a diverse population of about three-quarters of a million people. Leeds is considered the cultural, financial and commercial heart of the West Yorkshire Urban Area. It has one of the busiest train stations in the country, a good bus network, and is well-connected to major motorways. Our retail centre draws people from all around the North of England, with many restaurants, two theatres, art galleries, museums and First Direct Arena. Just outside the parish is Headingley Stadium, home to international and county cricket and Leeds Rhinos. There are two major hospitals, several universities and colleges, and many great schools. The Yorkshire Dales National Park is less than 20 miles from the city centre, and the city itself has many public parks.

St Augustine's parish is situated to the west of Leeds city centre, part of the St George's Team, in the North West Leeds Deanery, within the Leeds Episcopal Area of the Diocese of Leeds. We have a diverse, transient, multi-racial, multicultural urban parish. We rank 2368 out of 12,239, where 1 is the most deprived parish. Further stats can be found [here](#)

Our parish has one of the largest student populations in the country, with 28,000 students living, studying and socialising here. There are two student halls of residence in the parish, Devonshire Hall and iQ Student Housing. Devonshire Hall's choir has performed at our carol service, and the Dean often attends our seasonal services.

We have 2 primary schools and 1 secondary school in the parish. The previous Team Vicar was governor at Quarry Mount Primary school. Both Quarry Mount and Brudenell Primary School would be willing to strengthen relationships. We have also hosted a GCSE class for the past 2 years from Leeds City Academy and look to continue this relationship. West Oak SEN school has just moved into the parish and we hope to establish contact.



We have a significant Muslim population living within the parish, and one mosque on the edge of the parish, with whom we have a good relationship. Ecumenically there is an independent church 'Gateway', which also hosts our nearest Foodbank.

St John's Approved Premises (a probation hostel), and St Anne's (a residential rehab centre) are within the parish. Glengarth B&B is just outside the parish boundary, in St George's parish. There are also 4 care homes in the parish, of different sizes and types.

Within the parish we have Woodhouse Community Centre. Just outside the parish are Cardigan Road Community Centre and Rainbow Junktion (hosted by All Hallows church). We have a congregation member who sits on the North Hyde Park Neighbourhood Association, and another joining the Hyde Park Residents Association.

Coffee on the Crescent and Hyde Park Book Club are very close, and both are popular with students. 3 of the 17 pubs on the Otley Run (a fancy dress pub crawl) are in the parish, including Hyde Park Pub which is particularly popular. The Golden Beam is also a well-known student hangout, and a group of Wrangthorn congregation often have Sunday lunch here.

# A Missional Church

We love our local community, and have 4 main missional activities: HPC (see next section for details) Park Run Hospitality, Space, and Glengarth B&B.

**Park Run Hospitality** has now been going for 10 years, and is entirely lay-led by our own Wrangthorn Runners (made up of runners and other volunteers from the congregation). We host around 60-90 people from the local parkrun once a month in the Church for free refreshments. We hold an annual carol service for them and have invited speakers in the past. Wrangthorn Runners are part of the local parkrun community and sometimes organise church led social runs.



**Space** was originally set up in 2022 as part of the warm spaces initiative, as many in both our church and community are deeply affected by the cost of living crisis. We now open every Wednesday from 11.30am -2pm serving a warm lunch, with craft activities and space for community and welcome. We host about 30 people every week and provide sign-posting when needed. Some recent quotes from attendees are

*It's a safe space where I can just be myself*

*I'm unemployed - Wednesdays are a welcome meal and friendship in the middle of a stressful week*

*It's a welcoming and compassionate place to meet other people and chat.*



We have a great team of volunteers, our local PCSO comes monthly, and we sometimes invite outside organisations to run craft projects, or to provide other services. Our neighbouring One Stop shop provides us with milk and newspapers, and we have received grant funding from local charities and the warm spaces initiative. Space is preceded by a weekly Bible study at 10.30am.

**Glengarth** is a local B&B that hosts around 14 homeless men. In partnership with other local churches, we deliver a hot cooked meal to the B&B once a week and have been doing this since the start of Covid.

In addition to these regular activities, we also have a good relationship with the local council. We have run and hosted joint events such as an intergenerational tea party with local schools and the over 60's, Family Fun Days in the park, a free christmas craft day and joint trips, such as a trip to Scarborough in summer 2023. In 2024, we were invited to take part in a pilot Leeds City Interfaith trail, inviting local councillors, community members, police officers, and members of other faith groups into the building to talk about faith and how to strengthen community relationships. There are lots of opportunities to continue to develop these relationships, and to engage in other community events.



We also have 3 local mission partners who we support financially: Unity and Poverty Action, Kidz Klub and Transformation Leeds



# Church @ Hyde Park Corner

HPC is our student outreach - a space for any and all students to find community, and explore life and faith together. Our website shows more of what we do and who we are: [www.hydeparkcorner.church](http://www.hydeparkcorner.church) You can also find us on Instagram: @hpcchurch

St Augustine Wrangthorn's parish has 28,000 students living, studying and socialising here. Most have no contact with church. Recognising the strategic importance of reaching this demographic, Leeds Diocese was awarded £1.2 million from the national Church of England's Strategic Development Fund towards HPC in April 2021, enabling us to fund new staff posts over a 5 year period, and to progress plans to redevelop our buildings. This has accelerated HPC's development, and also brings governance and reporting requirements.

At HPC we seek to take students through the following journey: 1. Engage, 2. Nurture, 3. Disciple and 4. Lead. We feel confident that we are delivering the first 2 stages of this journey, and would value our new Team Vicar's experience in helping us to develop 'Disciple' and 'Lead'.


**Engage** we run regular 'Engage' events, seeking to connect with students where they are, such as our weekly coffee cart on Woodhouse Moor, where we see around 100 students every week. We also have seasonal 'Engage' events such as Freshers Week, Bonfire Night, and Pancake Day, and many students attend our monthly Parkrun Hospitality. Since September 2021, we have engaged with over a thousand unchurched students.

**Nurture** in 2023 we launched 'Eat', a weekly student Sunday lunch during term time. 'Eat' enables us to deepen relationships - we see around 40 students at a time, with a regular community of around 70.



These students span different year groups and courses, with many living in the houses around the church. Many of the students refer to this space as their church - there are frequent conversations around faith, and a growing sense of community and "doing life together". When we introduced an exam prayer board, around 40 students signed up to ask for prayer. We had 54 students at our Christmas meal in 2024.

# Student Feedback



*"Thank you for having us every Sunday, we really appreciate how welcoming and kind you have all been to us this year. As we come up to graduation - Sunday lunches at the Church are an event we will look back on fondly" - Clare & Rosie.*

*"It's been lovely every Sunday to know there will be good food and friendly faces at your Church. Some of my favourite moments this year have been at food on Sundays" - Marc*

*"Thanks for always being so generous, friendly and accommodating towards us, especially with all the gluten-free biscuits. The Church has been such an enjoyable environment to be in especially when we're all hungover" - Joe*

**Disciple** This stage is where we walk with students who are actively wrestling with questions of faith. We have found students have been reluctant to join a course (such as Alpha), but are much more willing to meet individually with our Student Worker. We also invite students to try church. 76 unchurched students attended our Carol Service in 2024.

**Lead** as a category is made up of two groups: students who move to university with a faith and want to get stuck into missional outreach, and students who have found faith at university and then step up to help others going on a similar journey. We had our first student baptism in 2024 and this person is now serving on our Eat team and at other church events. We have two students on our PCC, one student on our lay speaking/leading team, and another student who is part of our All Together team.





HPC has been a real learning journey. One key learning point is that as well as engaging with those of their own age and stage, students appreciate being part of a diverse, intergenerational community as they navigate life and faith. This has led to HPC becoming increasingly integrated into the life of St Augustine's as a whole, with around 10-15 students regularly attending our Sunday morning worship service, and a wider range of congregation members joining the team for student events. Rather than having student specific worship services, as originally planned and trialled, we are now convinced the way forward lies in integration.

## Finance and Governance

There are 8 lay members of the PCC, including one churchwarden, and our parish safeguarding officer.

Wrangthorn's annual operating budget is around £100,000. Our parish share request for 2025 is £25,133 and we have historically paid in full. Most of our staff salaries are covered by SDF funds until mid 2027, and will then be covered by a restricted donation for a further period. We held a very successful Gift Day in February 2025 (raising a total of £104,000), to enable us to balance the budget this year, and provide some security looking ahead. Our finances have become more complex in the last couple of years with grant funds and a building project, and we are working to strengthen our treasury team and financial systems accordingly. Full accounts are available on request.

The new Team Vicar will be an ex officio trustee of 2 small charities with funds for the relief of the poor in the area. Work is underway to merge these and charity commission submissions are up to date.

# The Building

St Augustine's Wrangthorn has a Grade II listed church building, plus a church hall with an office and meeting room attached. We value our church building, but like many historical buildings, there are a number of issues which need addressing. Our aim is to have a building for the future that will enhance our mission and ministry as we continue to serve the local community. The building project is managed by a small lay team. It focuses on access and participation (for example levelling the floor), improved facilities (installing toilets and kitchen), and refurbishment (for example heating and a re-ordering to enable more flexible use).

The SDF funds granted in 2021 included a significant amount towards this building project (about £800,000). Since then we have been navigating a lengthy approvals process for the building project.



In summer 2024 we finally received all the necessary permissions, which was a great answer to prayer. However, since our grant funding was awarded, building costs have escalated dramatically, and there have been changes to the Listed Places of Worship Grant Scheme. This means that although the grant money is significant, it will not cover everything we envisaged. The PCC therefore decided to scale back the amount of building work included in phase 1, focusing initially on heating and toilets. Our lay fundraising team has been successful in several significant additional grant applications, and we will shortly go out to tender for this work.



# A Team of 3 Churches

Wrangthorn is one of the three churches in the St George's Team, along with St Georges and Holy Trinity Boar Lane. The team is overseen by the Team Rector (Lizzy Woolf) and each church has its own Team Vicar (Eve Ridgeway for St George's, Josh Lees for Holy Trinity Boar Lane) and clear missional identity. The 3 churches are very different, but share values of relationship, generosity and creativity, and work together to support mission. The Rector meets regularly with the 3 Team Vicars together, often over lunch, and all the clergy value this mutual support and accountability.

In St George's Team, most operations staff work across all 3 churches, so our Assistant Ops Manager serves as Tech Manager across the team, and in return we are supported by an Operations Manager, Buildings Manager, and Finance Officer who are based at St George's. The staff of all 3 churches (about 20 people) meet together weekly, sharing news, and praying for each other.

Technically the St George's Team is a two parish benefice (St Augustine's Wrangthorn parish, and St George's parish which includes Holy Trinity Boar Lane), though we rarely use this formal Anglican terminology. There is a long history of collaboration between Wrangthorn and St George's. From 2013 there was a written Mission Partnership Agreement between the PCCs. The 2 parish benefice formally came into effect on 1 October 2021.

**St George's** is an evangelical charismatic church with a large, diverse, multi-generational community. St George's is a Resource Church in the Diocese of Leeds, and recent planting history has included two parish revitalisations: St Paul's Ireland Wood in 2018 and St Peter's Bramley in 2022. A further church plant is planned for East Leeds in 2026. You can see more at [www.stgs.org.uk](http://www.stgs.org.uk)



**Holy Trinity Boar Lane** is a midweek church for workers in Leeds, with a landmark building in the very centre of Leeds and a vision to reach non-Christian workers with the good news of Jesus. There is a small worshipping community, and we are in the process of launching Leeds Chaplaincy to provide social, emotional and spiritual support to workers across the city. You can see more at [boarlane.church](http://boarlane.church)

# Future Priorities

1. Grow Wrangthorn's Sunday service, building on its current strengths of strong Bible teaching, warm welcome, and significant lay participation
2. Continue to develop wider missional opportunities in the parish, particularly by developing the existing links with local schools.
3. Deliver & grow HPC, especially developing stages 3 and 4 (Disciple & Lead)

