

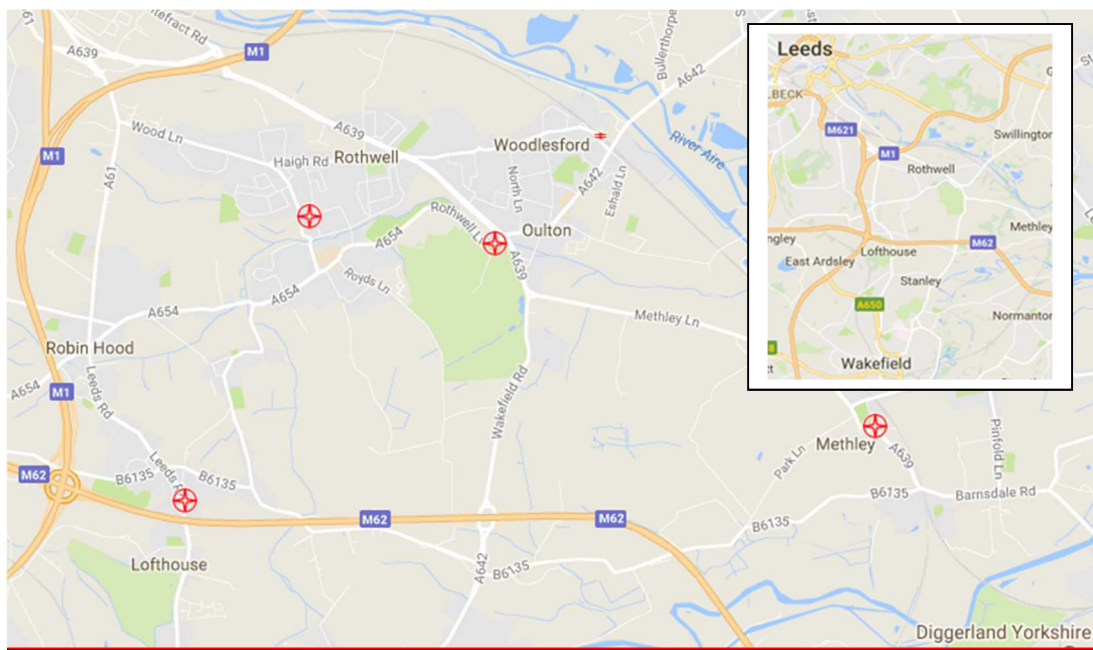
THE ROTHWELL, LOFTHOUSE,
OULTON WITH WOODLESFORD
and
METHLEY WITH MICKLETOWN
TEAM BROCHURE

January 2018

THE OPPORTUNITY

We are looking and praying for a Team Rector who will lead us, and bring new energy to support us in collaborating our Mission & Ministry across our four parishes.

THE TEAM, ITS PARISHES AND THE AREA



TEAM LOCATION

All four parishes cluster around the M1/M62 intersection in easy reach of both Leeds and Wakefield. Many of our people have coal mining in their blood and the Benefice encompasses the world-famous Rhubarb Triangle.

DIVERSITY ACROSS THE TEAM

For all our geographical closeness, each community has a distinct character. Rothwell was a large mining village which has grown into a significant suburban centre and feels like a small town. Lofthouse is a ribbon development of mining and agricultural communities along a main road where in recent decades many housing estates have grown up. Oulton with Woodlesford combines historic housing of the wealthy with some challenging estates and has a good selection of shops and other facilities. Methley is a large village set amidst the estate of its aristocratic lords of the manor which is joined with the mining centre of Mickletown where most people live.

TEAM HISTORY

Two parishes are in the Domesday Book, but all owe their population growth to coal mining and associated industries. They all now attract commuters into the cities and so all communities within the Team continue to grow.

TEAM CHURCHMANSHIP

There is a wide diversity in our style of worship, but are all respectful of each other's traditions.

TEAM FORMATION

The intention to form the Team was declared in 2014 and it was constituted in January 2015.

TEAM STRUCTURE

We unanimously chose the format of four separate parishes within one benefice, so that our PCCs have primacy over the Team Council. The PCCs delegate to the Team, not the other way round. This format is up for review after five years.

TEAM RECORD

As a Shadow Team we performed well and learned a lot. Since the Team was formed there has been a lack of energy and leadership. We have met infrequently.

TEAM SUCCESSES

In the process of forming the team and appointing a Team Vicar in 2014 and since then we have:

- got to know, trust and even love each other
- negotiated a timetable for Sunday which has made it possible to cover holidays and absences without recourse to external clergy
- benefited from a rotation of priests around our churches.
- introduced Team Services and so got to know each other's worship practices
- added some joint social events to our calendar
- shared the resources of our talented and committed Team Vicars to launch fresh expressions, notably our ARK BUS ministry to young people
- made significant progress on a major structural project in one church building which is currently closed.

TEAM STRENGTHS

We share faith, hope and love – and the greatest of these is love!

We feel blessed with the Vicars in place within the Team. Rev. Mandy has a broad brief encompassing children's ministry, whilst Rev. Sarah has experience in Youth Ministry. Our Team Rector will need to complement these strengths and harness them to build a stronger Family Ministry across the Benefice.

TEAM CHALLENGES

We face:

- one major restoration project in a Grade II* listed church currently closed due to lead theft and flooding.
- another Grade II church requiring major expenditure on a new roof.
- A third church also Grade I, eager to improve access and facilities so as to encourage wider usage and appreciation of its heritage.

Against the background of declining, ageing congregations with few young families, a shortage of active lay members.

TEAM NEEDS AND WANTS

We are an embryonic team and we will welcome fresh leadership, once the new incumbent has listened to us and understood us.

We want to be more active and effective as lay members of our churches.

We want to maintain, improve or restore our historic and beloved buildings without their taking over all our energies and funds.

There is plenty for a Team Rector to do to support, **energise and enthuse us in all aspects** of our work, especially outreach.

OUR CLERGY TEAM

The Reverend Mandy Rhodes

Team Vicar

Christ Church, Lofthouse



I am the Team Vicar at Christ Church, Lofthouse and I hold a brief for Children's Ministry and the development of Cursillo within the team area. Before Ordination, I enjoyed other roles in life, namely as a Dispenser, self-employed Painter and Decorator; along with ongoing roles as wife to Chris and mother to Kris (Kit) and Hayley, aged 27 and 25 respectively. Born in Leeds, I trained for ministry with the Northern Ordination Course whilst living and worshipping in York Diocese. After ordination in 2007, I served my Title at Kippax and Allerton Bywater in Ripon and Leeds Diocese, initiating a flourishing Messy Church ministry there. I am the Diocesan Spiritual Director for Leeds Anglican Cursillo and very much believe that the Movement has much to offer as a potential tool for mission and encouragement of lay ministry in any parish. I am also Chaplain to the Rothwell branch of the Royal British Legion and head up the Team initiative for mission and outreach, the ARK Bus Ministry, which uses a double-decker bus to meet and interact with young people across the Team area.

The Reverend Sarah Hancox

Team Vicar

St John's, Oulton with Woodlesford

Team Vicar

St Oswald's, Methley with Mickletown

I'm the Team Vicar for both St John the Evangelist Oulton with Woodlesford and St Oswald's Methley with Mickletown. I've been here since September 2014 and before this I served my curacy in Doncaster, part of Sheffield Diocese. I'm from Wigan originally, but we don't talk about the other side of the Pennines! I live in Methley Rectory with my Civil Partner, Anthea (also ordained and a chaplain at Sheffield University), a badly behaved terrier and two long-suffering cats. I do my best to share my time between both parishes. I'm a member of OneBodyOneFaith and WATCH and am involved in national campaigning efforts. When I have some spare time I enjoy sci-fi films, walking the dog, or stargazing in the Rectory garden with my telescope, and I'm also learning to ski at the local XScape.

The Reverend Sheena McMain

Curate Holy Trinity, Rothwell (in vacancy)



I've been Curate in the Team, based at Holy Trinity, Rothwell for four years.

I've been covering the early part of the vacancy. I'm beginning to look for an incumbent position, so I expect I won't be here for too long!

I enjoy being creative, and enjoy the outdoors.

I'm an Associate member of the Iona Community.

Rob Harper

OUR LAY READERS

Dr. Ann Whitfield

Lay reader

St Oswald's, Methley



I have been Reader since 2002 when I retired from General Practice. I moved from Nottingham to Methley in 2011 and have learned to love Yorkshire. Peter and I have been married for over 50 years and we have a son, a daughter and seven grandchildren.

Joyce Blakey

Lay Reader

Holy Trinity, Rothwell



I am a retired widow with a grown-up family and four grandchildren. I came to Holy Trinity thirty-one years ago and was made very welcome. My children and I joined the choir three years later and I still enjoy singing with the choir. I became a Reader in 2002 after three years training. My past roles within the Church have included setting up the Parish Office and working there for two years. I then became PCC Secretary for ten years. I hope to continue my ministry at Holy Trinity while ever I am able. My faith and my Church family are very important to me.

Chris Singh

Lay Reader

Holy Trinity, Rothwell



I am a Communications Trainer with over 35 years of broadcasting experience in India, Seychelles, Sudan and the UK. I have run regular training courses in the UK, Africa and other parts of the world. Completed my MA in Communications Studies from Oxford Centre, University of Wales in the UK and Post Graduate Certificate in Education and Training from Huddersfield University (UK). Recently, I completed an assignment with United Nations as Chief of Training in Sudan for the UN Radio Miraya FM, preparing for the Independence of South Sudan, the newest country in the world. I have been a Reader with Church of North India (CNI) since 1981 and I am now Reader at Holy Trinity, Rothwell.

Simon Smalley

Lay Reader (in Training)

Christ Church, Lofthouse



I am an electronics engineer, working in medical services. Born in Worcester, I lived in Gloucestershire until 1988, when I became a CMS Mission partner, serving as a Medical Service Engineer in Uganda. On my return, my work brought me to Yorkshire and I eventually settled in Lofthouse and into the congregation of Christ Church. Having previously explored training for Ordained Ministry, in 2008 I began training for Lay Readership, but put this on hold in 2010 to become Church Warden during a vacancy. In 2015 I decided to reapply to become a Reader and am now in the second year of my training.

THE MISSION FOR OUR TEAM RECTOR

The Parish Profile Proforma asks the questions in the attached table. At our Team Council we have discussed this and agreed that these Mission Statements are held in common across the team.

1.	List areas of Church life which you consider in need of development.	Outreach through an increasingly visible presence of the Church in our community. Strengthening of lay ministry.
2.	What are the main areas of mission that you think the new Team Rector should prioritise in their ministry?	Strengthening of bonds between clergy, PCCs and laity in the four parishes. Sharing of gifts and resources.
3.	In summary, what are the top three challenges with which you and the Team Rector need to engage?	To help our Priests in ways which will <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Make the Gospel more visible in the community 2. Halt the decline in the Adult Worshipping Community – or even preside over growth! 3. Reach out to and engage with young people

OUR TEAM RECTOR

In the same way each PCC has developed its own wish list for an ideal candidate (we do not expect anyone to fulfill them all!). We have condensed the key words into the following person specification to which all parishes in the Team subscribe:

TEAM RECTOR PROFILES – A COMPILATION

SKILLS

- a LISTENER who LEARNS
- a UNIFIER
- a TEAM STRATEGIST
- a SPIRITUAL LEADER
- a PRACTICAL MANAGER of projects and resources
- an ENABLER of the priests and PCCs in their care
- a TEACHER and COACH, encouraging LAY MINISTRY

EXPERIENCE

- in a TEAM/CLUSTER
- or
- ONE LARGE DIVERSE PARISH

with a proven track record of

- managing CHURCH GROWTH
- OUTREACH to young families, teenagers and children

PERSONAL QUALITIES

- ENERGETIC
- HONEST, OPEN, INCLUSIVE
- OF INTEGRITY
- OPEN MINDED TO DIVERSITY IN PEOPLE, COMMUNITIES and WORSHIP
- OUTGOING
- DIPLOMATIC
- DISCREET
- COMPASSIONATE
- SENSITIVE
- WITH A GOOD SENSE OF HUMOUR

*Combining a repair man/woman, Bob the Builder, Superman/woman and Jesus Christ
to be*

OUR TEAM RECTOR

We now turn in detail to the home parish of Rothwell and the role of Team Vicar there.

Holy Trinity Church, Rothwell



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Section 1 – Introduction

In this Parish Brochure and in the Parish Profile which follows, we describe our community, set out where we currently are as a Church, what we offer to our parishioners and what we aim to do in the future. We then describe what kind of person we are seeking as our Team Rector and Parish Priest to lead us on this journey of discipleship and mission.

We have gathered information from as many people as possible, using a number of different methods. We have incorporated as much of this feedback as possible to give an honest and true reflection of what we expect, want and need from applicants and, ultimately, the person who is called to be our Team Rector.



The post box/suggestions box



The vacancy notice board

A brief message from the Churchwardens (Kim and Wendy – below left and right respectively)



“We hope that what you read appeals to you and that you find your way to us because Rothwell has prayed fervently about this period of vacancy and will continue to do so until the appointment.”



A PRAYER FOR HOLY TRINITY ROTHWELL

Father God,

We ask that you guard and grow this church in this period of vacancy.

We pray that you will help us to share responsibility, work together, love one another, reach out to others, welcome newcomers and move forward in faith and trust in your plan and vision for us.

We ask that you speak to the heart and mind of all applicants who are seeking a new church for their ministry. Lead the right person towards Rothwell and guide those who are responsible for placing them to make a fair decision for the benefit of all so that together we may discover your way for the future and see your kingdom grow.

We ask this through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

The Rothwell, Lofthouse, Oulton with Woodlesford and Methley with Mickletown Team

Section 2 – About Us

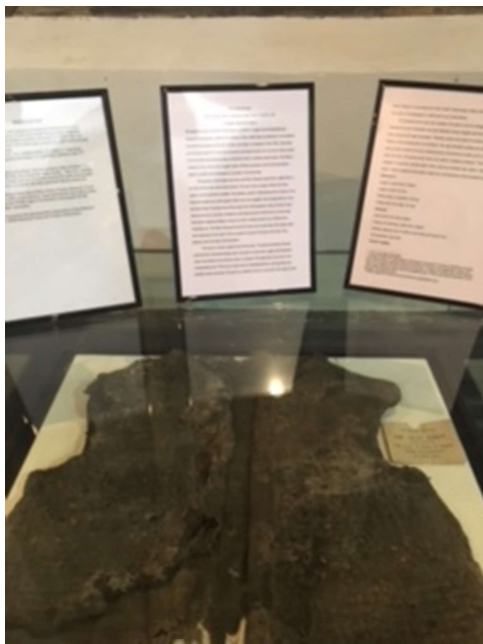
a. Rothwell and its History

The Saxon village of 'Rothwell' is first mentioned in the Domesday Book. With a value of £8.00 it held far more value than its near neighbour Leeds, which was valued at £5.00. Following on from the Norman invasion of 1066 the lands around Rothwell eventually



came under the control of John of Gaunt, 1st Duke of Lancaster who had a Royal Hunting Lodge in the centre of the town. It is recorded that King John came to hunt in Rothwell in the 13th Century and King Edward III in the 14th. The town was granted a Market Charter in the 15th century.

In the nineteenth century Rothwell developed into a mining community; with 6 Pits in the area most people were employed in the mining industry. Since the closure of the last pit in the 1980's, Rothwell has matured into a bustling commuter town, within the boundary of its much larger neighbour, the City of Leeds. It is also close to The City of Wakefield and within easy reach of motorways.



Our thriving high street boasts a large supermarket, a wide range of national and independent retailers, pubs and service businesses, which means that Rothwell can supply most of the day to day needs of its residents. It offers excellent facilities for recreation with a large and beautiful park and a nearby Sports Centre with swimming pool and gym.

The majority of our 12,000 residents work in administrative, managerial and professional jobs. Yet there are pockets of urban deprivation with 10% of residents reliant on state benefits.

The present church was founded by the Monks of Nostell Priory at around 1130 AD on the site of a previous church. It was extensively restored and extended in the Victorian era and is Grade II* listed.

Its situation on a small hill just behind the main street means that it has been a highly visible and a welcoming Christian presence in the heart of Rothwell ever since.

The Rothwell, Lofthouse, Oulton with Woodlesford and Methley with Mickletown Team

b. Congregation

Rothwell's congregation is dedicated, hardworking, friendly and tight-knit. The pews are filled with committed, reliable and lifelong Christians who gladly volunteer in the running of the Church and our worship.

There are a number of strong characters and natural leaders in Church and Rothwell is blessed with an able congregation whose members all have different talents and abilities. We work well as a team and come together when it matters the most, but often it is the same volunteers who help with events time after time. We can improve our teamwork. Sometimes logistical problems do arise and we could improve our teamwork if we were all ready to trust each other more and share what we each know.

Our volunteers are enthusiastic and able, even though the congregation is aging and reducing in numbers. This list is just a very small selection of the events which our lay members team make possible. The pictures show the lively fellowship we enjoy.

- Barn dance;
- Annual Autumn Fayre;
- Queen's 90th Birthday Tea;
- 40's Night; and
- Hymns and Fish and Chip Supper.

c. Services and Worship

Rothwell's style of worship is broadly Anglo-Catholic. We want to make our worship as attractive, accessible and engaging to everyone as possible so that we can worship God, share our faith and continue to serve God by helping the community.

To do this, we offer a variety of services during the week and at different times of the day to fit in with a range of personal commitments and busy lifestyles and so meet the needs of as many people as possible.

Each service is slightly different. The 8am said Eucharist is a short, quiet and peaceful service, whereas the 11am Parish Eucharist is more traditional with processions and music led by our organist and choir. Attendance at the Sunday Parish Eucharist is the largest in a normal week.

The Rothwell, Lofthouse, Oulton with Woodlesford and Methley with Mickletown Team

All Age Services cater for children and are much more energetic and interactive with more modern hymns and musical instruments. Some of these services are held in the Parish Centre, where more space and a more relaxed atmosphere encourages a more informal style of worship.



Harvest Festival 2017 – ‘Animals’

We also draw large numbers to special services throughout the year. The clergy at Rothwell Holy Trinity lead the Remembrance Day service with the Royal British Legion. The main service is held in church followed by a parade to the Cenotaph with the local uniformed groups and the Rothwell Temperance Band. Over 100 people attended the service in church in 2016 and hundreds more attended the short service and Act of Remembrance at the cenotaph. A considerable amount of effort goes into this service from a number of different angles. For example, the local police assist with the crowds and road closures.

The major Christian Festivals, which attract a larger congregation include Easter Sunday (approximately 100 people), Harvest Festival, Shoe Box Sunday, the Carol Service with the Rothwell Temperance Band (300 people) and Christmas services such as the Crib Service (with real animals and approximately 400 attendees) and Midnight Mass (over 100 people/communicants). Later in the year we invite bereaved families to join us for a Service of Commemoration for their loved ones.

The Rothwell, Lofthouse, Oulton with Woodlesford and Methley with Mickletown Team

Here are the individual patterns and preferences of worship formats :-

How often people attend	%
Once a week	57
Less than once a week to every two weeks	14
About once a month	14
Two or more times a week	6
Other	10

Favourite Service	%
8 AM Said Eucharist	18
11 AM Parish Eucharist	37
9:30 AM Service (first Sunday of the Month)	4
11 AM All Age Service (first Sunday of the Month)	8
Specific Services (e.g.: Midnight Mass, Carol Service, Harvest Festival, Easter Day etc)	33

In our differing worship formats, we aim to strike a balance between some services with a more modern and popular style and others which preserve and respect those time-honoured traditions and values which are important to the core congregation. However, there are plenty of times during the year when we all come together and celebrate and worship as one Body of Christ.



Operation Christmas Child
Shoe boxes 2017



The Rothwell, Lofthouse, Oulton with Woodlesford and Methley with Mickletown Team

Section 3 – Mission and Outreach

a. Our Mission

In 1998 Holy Trinity Church put together a 'Mission Statement'.

"Our mission is to proclaim the love of God for all people through our faith and hope in His Son Jesus Christ."

Today our assessment is that we are a welcoming church who do a lot during the year on a weekly, monthly and annual basis. We endeavour to offer something for everyone, as can be seen from the variety of groups and services that run during the week.

Yet we do all this without a updated mission plan. Our model is very much 'we are in here, why not come in?' rather than a proactive approach of 'we will go out and find you'. The Parochial Church Council recognises the urgent need to discuss, develop and implement a positive discipleship programme, nurturing the whole congregation to be more confident in talking about their faith and in sharing the Gospel with others in the community.

We hope that a new Vicar will guide us to revisit and update our mission, devise a strategy for our future and refocus our efforts in a plan of action which will be at the very heart of everything we do at Rothwell in the future.

b. Outreach

Our congregation are engaged in many activities to engage with and attract members of the local community. Here are some current ones and others we have tried in the past.

Monthly

- + Messy Café
- + Coffee and Communion
- + Tea Cosy Café
- + Buggy Praise

Annually

- + Rothwell Beer Festival
- + Men's Group (Rugby Trip)
- + Community Magazine (seasonal)
- + Autumn Fare
- + Shoe Box Appeal
- + Carol singing in local care homes and seasonal services
- + Host school events/services in Church and at School

Weekly

- + Food bank collection
- + Girls Friendly Society
- + Youth Club (no longer running)
- + Ladies Club
- + Weekly Pew Sheet/Newsletter
- + Bell ringing
- + Choir Practice
- + Parish Centre is hired out (daily)
- + Website and presence on social media

The Rothwell, Lofthouse, Oulton with Woodlesford and Methley with Mickletown Team



Holy Trinity clearly does a lot to reach out to the local community and attract people to Church, share our faith, spread the good news of the Gospel and to see those far from God raised to a life in Christ. However, we cannot yet claim either increase in the worshipping community or in committed regular giving as measurable results for all this hard work.



Charitable giving is an important part of outreach, but other commitments mean that we do not have the funds to devote to the causes we would like to support. However we do respond to emergencies via special collections and by supporting Christian Aid. At Christmas we run a Shoe Box appeal and collect a selected local, national and international charity. The South & East Leeds has a Food Bank centre in Rothwell to which members of Holy Trinity donate time, goods and money in an area of increasing need.

The Rothwell, Lofthouse, Oulton with Woodlesford and Methley with Mickletown Team

Our strongest hope is that we can reach the hearts and minds of our young children, and several of our activities are aimed at them. During Parish Eucharists we offer a Sunday School, using materials linked to the Lectionary. One Sunday a month we run Buggy Praise for mothers and carers of babies and toddlers and teaching bible stories using songs and props. Worship is led by a retired school teacher from our congregation. Families come and go, as parents return to work. In September four families attended.

Messy Cafe takes place on one Saturday towards the end of every month. Children have the choice of a variety of toys and art activities, whilst parents can relax with a drink and a selection of snacks. Bible story books are available and we are planning to introduce a Messy Church element in the art activities. In the summer holidays the Café opens every Friday, and attendance reaches 40 adults and children.

Fortunately many families in Rothwell hold to the tradition of Baptism. We welcome them, visiting their homes, holding preparation classes and ensuring that they attend church as part of their preparation. We also offer a more informal Messy Baptism for those who prefer that. We recognise that these contacts are an opportunity if contact could be maintained by further visits or invitations to church events.

Our Church is actively involved on our Church primary school, Holy Trinity Rothwell C of E Academy.

For older children the main initiative is the Girls Friendly Society. This very popular group is involved in fundraising events and major festivals in church. For example, they decorated cans as part of the Noah's Ark display at Harvest Festival, sing carols at the Carol Service every year and run "The Gingham Café" at the Autumn Fayre.

There is a need for youth work as there are instances of delinquency among the teenagers of Rothwell. As the church has no youth club, we give financial support to the Team initiative THE ARK BUS and look forward to the its first visit to our area.

Overall, our volunteers invest much time and effort in welcoming new families and providing for their children. This takes faith, as the numbers are small.



The Rothwell, Lofthouse, Oulton with Woodlesford and Methley with Mickletown Team

Section 4 – Strengths and Weaknesses

Strengths	Weaknesses
Friendly, especially our welcoming team.	Declining congregation numbers
Committed, loyal and caring parishioners	Elderly but able congregation A lack of pastoral care to the wider community
Strong culture of volunteering	Difficulty coping with change The congregation must be empowered with better training on how things work in the church.
Variety of services	No meetings for prayer in the week
Heritage	No up to date mission statement or strategy for growth
Location and a landmark	Our outreach needs to be better. Too focused on the building because it is expensive to maintain and drains our resources and funds
Popular for weddings and baptisms	Poor follow-through after bereavements, weddings or baptisms
Good music with a choir, a permanent organist and other instrumentalists	
Parish Hall with good facilities and wide usage	Needs major re-roofing and modernising. Reducing income and increasing maintenance costs.
Parking	
Fundraising activities (Autumn Fayre, 100 Club) and rental income	Financial uncertainty

Opportunities	Threats
Popularity of major Festivals and life events	Increasingly secular society
Contact with community via use of the Parish Centre	Indifference and apathy towards organised religion
Attendance at Rothwell Beer Festivals	Wealth of rival attractions to young people
Families reliant on benefits and food bank	
Closer links with Church Primary School	

The Rothwell, Lofthouse, Oulton with Woodlesford and Methley with Mickletown Team

Social and health needs in society eg Alzheimers	
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Section 5 – Buildings

a. The Church Building

Our beautiful building, Holy Trinity, Rothwell is over 800 years old and the largest church in the Team. Our congregation are immensely attached to, and proud of, the place in which we worship. We attach some pictures of the interior and exterior.

The current church building dates from 1130AD and has a tower which dates back to 1480, is over 70 feet high, has a spiral staircase of 94 steps and houses the eight bells which can be heard across the town.

Inside, the church is spacious and impressive. Its heritage and most ancient stonework are displayed in a dedicated area in the North aisle. Elsewhere sculptures and plaques illustrate the history of the church. Perhaps the most notable feature of the nave are the 126 pews with their oak “poppy head” pew ends. Carved in 1858 by the Leeds based picture framer Edmund Bates, assisted by Charles Gibson, the 19-year-old son of the church clerk, they are fine examples of the Gothic Revival movement with images of animals, flowers and foliage.

The Rothwell, Lofthouse, Oulton with Woodlesford and Methley with Mickletown Team



As can be expected with any building of such age, the Church now shows signs of wear and tear. Amongst the many issues needing urgent attention – drains, guttering and weathering of the masonry -our Quinquennial Inspection highlighted the need for substantial roof repairs and in the last two years there have been leaks in bad weather. We have to leave this unsightly damage until the stone dries

out. There have since been a fault, not noted in the report, which has caused unforeseen water ingress to the Organ Loft. Permanent solutions to these problems are expected to involve substantial investments of time and cost. In the meantime we make temporary repairs and wait for something else to pop up – or drip down!

The building also needs some basic improvements in its access and facilities. It meets minimum statutory requirements, but it is not wheelchair or pram friendly.

To that end, Rothwell commissioned an architect to draw up plans to improve the church. Out of a more wide-ranging proposal on how the church could be remodelled, it became clear that the immediate priorities are better access with fewer steps and a wheelchair friendly toilet with baby changing facilities within the church. These need to be done sensitively without disrupting the historic interior. We will welcome the experience and leadership of our new Team Rector in the design and funding of this project, a first stage in improving our church.



The Rothwell, Lofthouse, Oulton with Woodlesford and Methley with Mickletown Team

b. The Parish Centre

Within the churchyard is a Parish Centre with a large working kitchen, a fully stocked bar, an office, an upstairs meeting room, a large hall with a stage and toilets including a wheelchair friendly toilet with baby changing facilities. It was recently cosmetically refurbished with new carpets, curtains and paint, thanks to contributions from hall users and volunteers from the congregation.

The Parish Centre is an important source of income for the Church, as it is hired by local businesses, groups and charities, and the local community use it to host parties and events throughout the year. The diary is often fully booked and never more so than in April when the Parish Centre is used for the Rothwell Beer Festival. The festival attracts



hundreds of locals and visiting beer and cider lovers alike!

The Parish Centre holds a special place in the congregation's hearts as it was inspired by, built during the time of, and is dedicated to, a previous incumbent who sadly died in post. However, the building is now nearly 40 years old and has a flat roof which is well passed its life expectancy. The roof alone is a very expensive liability for Rothwell. In the past year heavy downpours have caused leaks and the attempted repairs have had a serious impact on our funds.

When the architect drew up plans for the Church, he also created proposals to renovate and modernise the Parish Centre. The plans are impressive and allow Rothwell the potential to offer better facilities to the local community which would in turn increase our income. However, the plans for development of both the Parish Centre and the church are currently on hold, because of other priorities which require funding. These bold plans have, however, inspired us to visualise how both church and hall can be made fit for purpose in the future. We trust that in time and under the right leadership, these bold plans can be realised, so that we can fulfil our mission by reaching out to more people.

c. The Vicarage

The vicarage has 4 bedrooms, 2 reception rooms, a modest kitchen, a garage, 2 bathrooms and a large, fairly easy-to-maintain garden. This charming family home was not originally

The Rothwell, Lofthouse, Oulton with Woodlesford and Methley with Mickletown Team designed as a vicarage and therefore has some features, for example bay windows at the front and the back, not usually found in a clergy house.

d. Other Property

Lastly, Rothwell owns two properties in the local community which were bequeathed to the Church some time ago.

The properties are a pair of a semi-detached homes, each with two bedrooms, a spacious living area, a kitchen, a garden to the rear and a driveway which offers off-street parking.

These properties, which are let privately have been very expensive to maintain in the last year. However, they are on balance an asset to the Church, as a steady source of monthly income.

e. Buildings, Finance and Outreach

The deterioration in the structural condition of church and parish hall in the last few years is a major source of concern and a significant drain on our energies and on our finances. We are concerned that this distracts us from the spiritual and caring priorities in which we feel called to engage. With our attentions focused on financial matters, it is very difficult, even for the lions amongst the congregation, to drum up enthusiasm and momentum for the existing projects and activities.

Even if money ceased to be a problem and the buildings could be restored, new initiatives would not easy to introduce, as our culture is one of caution towards, and even resistance to, change. This is why we are hoping and praying for a Team Leader with the qualities and experience to energise and guide us through both the practical and spiritual challenges we face.

We have mentioned throughout this document that we do not have an up to date mission statement. The second challenge is therefore to develop a strategy and then design, publish and implement a mission plan of action which we live and breathe so that our outreach is stronger and more effective.

The third challenge relates to our buildings; we must upgrade them so that they are fit for purpose, legally compliant, safe, efficient, attractive to the local community so that they can be used for a variety of events to ensure that they are also a source of income themselves.