

**Vicar**

**St John the Evangelist Church, Bierley  
Bradford**



**Proclaiming the love of God and serving the people of Bierley since 1766.**

 THE CHURCH  
OF ENGLAND  
Diocese of Leeds

## What we are seeking in our new Vicar.

Worship in the modern Anglo Catholic tradition;

Excited by a highly visible ministry in an outer estate community;

Joyfully confident in your own identity in Christ and with a track record of growing confident disciples;

Leading the church in outreach into the parish and engage with new housing developments;

Confident in supporting people in difficult pastoral situations;

Relishing the opportunities available in an outstanding church school.

## St John the Evangelist, Bierley, Bradford

### Bishop's Statement

I am committed to ensuring that we retain a strong and viable presence of the accessible Catholic tradition within the Anglican church in the Bradford Episcopal Area of the Diocese of Leeds. There have been two significant parishes from within that tradition in the city of Bradford, both of which have voted for extended episcopal oversight. One of these is St John's Bierley (and the other is St Chad's Toller Lane).

St John's Bierley is a great example of a Church of England church in the Catholic tradition that engages well with its parish and context alongside a commitment to playing a full part in Diocesan life. Great efforts have been made in recent years to refurbish St John's so that it is a both a fine place for worship and a community space where people can meet and feel at home when they come to Messy Church. There is a great resource in the thriving church charity shop which is a real help to members of the local community and also generates funds which support St John's. There is also an outstanding church school which is an impressive contribution to the wider community with several members of the congregation involved in it.

I am convinced that the future lies in churches working together more than ever before. As we look at the parishes across the city of Bradford and plan for a shared future within the new Diocese, I want St John's to play a full part in those conversations. How may we encourage one another and be accountable to one another as we grow in confidence in Christ and in our neighbouring churches?

We are allocating a full-time stipendiary post for those Anglicans in the Bradford Area who have sought Extended Episcopal Oversight and are not persuaded by the Church of England's decision to ordain women. After exploring possible ways of allocating the available stipendiary clergy resources for such parishes in the Episcopal Area, the decision has been made to seek a full-time vicar at St John's Bierley.

Our vision as a Diocese is about confident clergy equipping confident Christians to live and tell the good news of Jesus Christ.

The congregation includes members for whom it is important to have a male priest as incumbent. In an effort to maintain the unity of the church and charity toward them the PCC voted that the Parish should ask the Diocesan Bishop to provide for extended Episcopal oversight. St John's remains an active participant in the Bradford Episcopal area as well as the wider Diocese of Leeds.

In appointing to this post, we are therefore looking for someone who is a visionary and enabling leader, and has a joyful and confident faith which can inspire church growth, both numerically and spiritually.

However, a full-time post is a greater level of deployment than would normally be offered for a parish of the size of Bierley. In addition to the usual expectations of a parish priest, we are therefore expecting that the new vicar will provide a welcoming and flourishing home for those of the catholic tradition beyond the parish boundaries who would welcome Extended Episcopal Oversight. This must not be at the expense, however, of the many people at St John's who do support the Church of England's decision to ordain women.

St John's is located in the new Deanery of Outer Bradford. The Deanery is comprised of parishes similar in demographic context to St John's, many of whom are experimenting with mixing new approaches to worship and mission alongside inherited patterns. The new incumbent will therefore find a group of creative and supportive colleagues in Deanery chapter, all of whom will be deeply familiar with the joys and challenges that each other faces. Hence, the new post holder will be expected to play a full part in the life of the Deanery, the Episcopal Area and diocese, working with a spirit of generosity in sharing wisdom and insights about ministry and mission.

This is an exciting time to be a Church of England congregation in West Yorkshire. Let us pray for one another as we seek to follow where God leads. May God lead us to a priest rooted in prayer, imaginative in vision and committed to seeing God at work amongst us.

+Toby Howarth  
Area Bishop of Bradford

January 2018

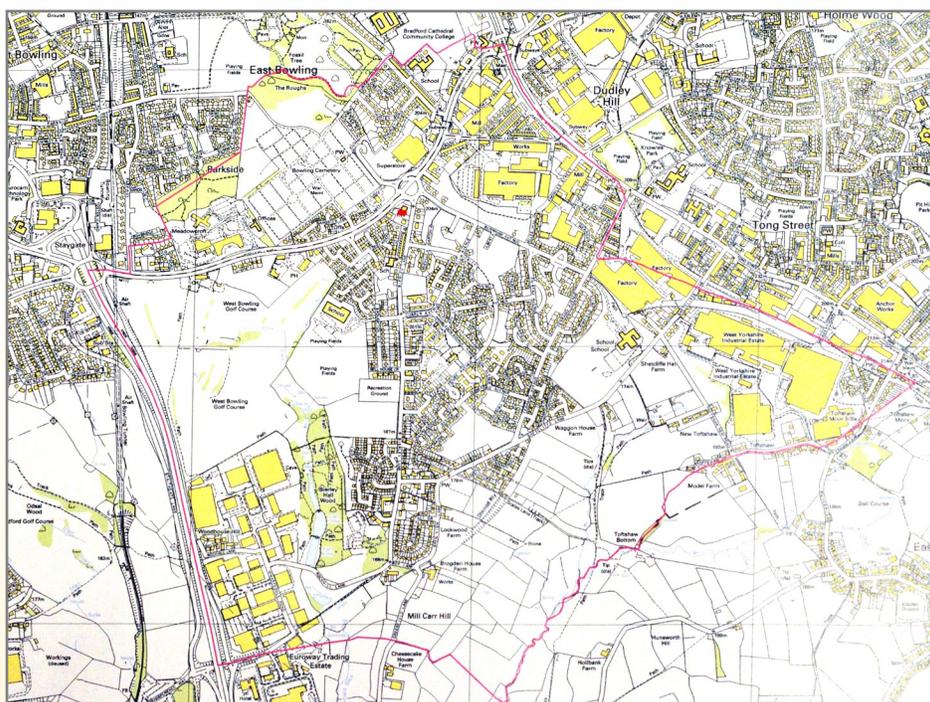
## The Parish of Bierley

The parish of Bierley lies 2 miles south of Bradford city centre and runs alongside the M606 motorway and the A650 Tong Street, which are the gateways to Bradford from the south and the M62 corridor.

## Demography

The parish is home to a diverse population of about 7000, single people, young families, and older people - from a variety of cultural and ethnic backgrounds.

The majority are white British (73%, *Census, 2011*) The age profile of the population is younger than average, with only 10% aged 65 or older.



There are several light industrial, commercial and distribution centres in the parish, and these, together with opportunities in nearby Leeds, Bradford, and Greater Manchester provide employment for residents.

The parish forms one of the six neighbourhoods in Tong Ward of Bradford MDC and has benefitted from an ambitious programme of regeneration. The old local authority housing stock from the 1930s has been almost entirely replaced with modern accommodation ranging from one-bedroom flats to five-bedroom detached properties.

The majority of property is owner occupied, however, there has been a recent increase in the proportion of homes being rented from private landlords.

Despite the major refurbishment of the housing stock the Church Urban Fund rates this parish as deprived (rated 11,808 out of 12,600 parishes nationally).

The ward plan recognises the importance of community and faith groups in promoting safer communities and addressing inequalities in health and well being.



## The opportunities:



There are many opportunities for mission and engagement with a variety of community groups. The parish includes a wide range of provision for the vulnerable, elderly and young families, this includes, the Cygnet Hospital, Listonshiels Resource Centre, two care homes and two primary schools, one of which is a Church school.

In the past the parish has benefitted from dynamic catholic leadership which has built strong foundations and committed lay participation and leadership. We look forward to working with a Vicar who has the vision and energy to re-invigorate the Church's presence in the parish.

We anticipate doing this through:

### Evangelism

sharing the Gospel message confidently and consistently so that we can establish spiritual and numerical growth in our Church,

### Discipleship

learning how to best express our broad catholic spirituality and faith so that we can be an inclusive and effective church in our community and beyond,

### Ministry

developing the gifts and talents of our existing, and future, church members so that they are able to benefit from, and contribute to, the life and work of the Church,

### Common Good

working ecumenically and across faith boundaries to build a safer and stronger locality in which everyone feels that they belong,

### Education

enhancing existing involvement in St John's Church of England Academy primary school and other schools within the community so that all children develop an understanding of the teachings, beliefs and practices of the Christian faith,

## Our strengths:



*This copy of 1843 OS map is based on data provided through [www.VisionofBritain.org.uk](http://www.VisionofBritain.org.uk) and is copyright of the GB Historical GIS Project and the University of Portsmouth.*

## Worship

Sunday 10 am

Sung family Eucharist

Wednesday 10 30 am

Said Eucharist

Morning Prayer is observed each day by a Reader

Seasonal additional services are observed.

Common Worship contemporary rite is used for celebration of the Eucharist. Full vestments are worn, and incense and bells are used at the Sunday Eucharist and on Feast Days. The PCC desires that this high standard of liturgy, with lay participation, will be maintained.

## A heritage of Christian presence

The church is a fine Georgian building, listed at Grade II\*, and the second oldest Anglican church in Bradford. The church was built in local sandstone ashlar as a private chapel in 1766 for the Richardson family at Bierley Hall (demolished 1968). John Carr of York (The Crescent, Buxton and Harewood House) designed the church. An extension was added to the north side in the 19th Century in keeping with the Georgian style of the original chapel. English Heritage has funded maintenance work on this 'little gem'.

The interior of the church was tastefully refurbished in 2005 and makes a very useful multi-purpose space for worship in the catholic tradition within the Church of England and also for activities during the week. The church is well heated and comfortable, and the fabric is sound. We are fortunate to have the benefit of the service of a talented organist who is able to play the church's fine organ. An organ fund is in place to maintain the organ and charitable match funding is being sought.

## A commitment to a high standard of Christian worship



St John the Evangelist Bierley: bringing Christ to His people.



## Church lay leadership

There is a strong core of lay leadership in the Church which includes:

- three Readers (one licensed and two with permission to officiate),
- communion assistants, servers and leaders of intercession
- two experienced and committed Sunday club leaders
- a strong team of youth club leaders
- the Manager and volunteers at our New to U shop

The Church benefits from a strong financial team and a very committed PCC.



## Outreach in the community

### New-2 U

St John's New -2 U Shop, situated in the old school building close to the Church, is central to evangelism and out-reach. Since opening in 2010 has grown from strength to strength. Not only does it generate a healthy surplus,(2014 £15000) which contributes a significant part of the parish share, it has also proved to be a wonderful means of outreach into the wider community.

Under the leadership of a committed and caring manager the shop has been able to respond to the changing needs of the community by providing practical support through a local food and resources bank.

The management of the nearby Cygnet Hospital recognise the shop as being a welcoming place for patients to develop confidence and re-integrate into the community as customers and volunteers. Patients and carers join us in Sunday worship.

### Children and families

Little Gems, mother and toddler group is held in Church twice weekly. The group is run by an employee of the Church and supported by volunteers.

Sunday Club is available to all children over the age of 3 during Sunday worship. They follow the liturgical theme for the week and contribute the conclusion of the service.

At Easter and Christmas there is lay led worship for children through Good Friday activities and the Christingle service. Both are consistently well attended. This year there were 58 adults and children at the Christingle Service.

A monthly '4 Praise' family service of contemporary worship was discontinued through lack of consistent support.



## St Johns CE Academy Primary School

St John's C of E Academy Primary school (475 pupils) which is shared between St John's Bierley and the neighbouring parish of Tong and Laisterdyke, was rated by OFSTED as outstanding (Ofsted May 2010). The last SIAMS inspection also found the school to be outstanding. An excellent working relationship exists between both churches and school. The incumbent is an ex officio member of the governing body. The PCC nominates a Foundation Governor who takes an active interest in the school's distinctive Christian character. St John's school on its website says:

*As with all relationships, those worth keeping need continual two-way effort and encouragement. We know that much of the true Christian ethos of our school originates in the influence which our churches have on the daily life in school. In this way we continue to work closely with our two parishes to ensure that this church influence is as strong and effective as it possibly can be.*

The school has now converted to an academy within the Bradford Diocesan Academies Trust.

The church has strong historic links with Newhall Park Community Primary school which is situated nearby.

There are no high schools in the parish, but within walking distance are Tong High School (11-18) and Bradford Academy (3-18), sponsored by the Diocese. Both are just over the parish boundary, as is a new Diocesan sponsored Bradford Forster Academy which opened in September 2015.

The PCC is conscious that over a prolonged interregnum attendance at Sunday Eucharist, particularly by families, has declined. There remains a strong core of Church members who are committed to see the Church's presence in the community strengthen and grow. The church has developed social media to promote worship and social events.

### Areas for development:

In 2017 we have, for the first time in many years, operated a deficit budget of £7000. As well as paying the Parish Share in full and meeting increased utility bills there has been considerable capital investment in the New-2 U shop in recognition of its invaluable role in parish outreach.

## Parish Share



## Finance

The PCC aims to operate a balanced budget. Income for 2017 was £54,000 with expenditure of £60,000. Reserves are £15,000. The parish share for 2017 was £26,576 and was met in full.

In 2018 the share will be £25,247. Capital projects are being planned to the churchyard (c£150k) as well as the organ (c£150k). The PCC has been promised a significant donation toward the organ restoration and is presently investigating grant aid for the shortfall. The churchyard project is currently on hold pending an appointment.

Average net personal weekly giving is £9 with 78% gift aided. GADS is reclaimed on the open plate collections.

St John's supports home and overseas missions. In 2017 £1,164 was given to missions and charities. These include The Children's Society, Mission to Seafarers, The Leprosy Mission, Save the Children. The Little Gems leader is also paid from PCC funds.

Year	2015	2016	2017	2018
Requested	28390	29703	26576	25247
Paid	23658	25310	26576	

## The Vicarage

St. John's Vicarage is a detached 1960s house, on Bierley Lane adjacent to the church and churchyard and comprising 4 bedrooms, house bathroom, shower room, study, lounge and dining room. It has a low maintenance, manageable private garden to the rear. The property has benefited from improvements over recent years. The Diocese will undertake a programme of works before the new incumbent moves in.

The locality is well served by public transport and is close to the M606 and M62.

Bradford is able to offer a wide range of cultural and leisure activities and the countryside of the Yorkshire Dales is easily accessible.

## Terms of Appointment and Accommodation

The Post is a full time incumbency appointed under Common Tenure. Provision of the house includes water rates and Council Tax. All expenses are paid. Removal costs and a resettlement grant are available.

The appointment is made under Common Tenure and is subject to a satisfactory Enhanced Disclosure from the DBS.

There are six weeks holiday per annum plus Bank Holidays (or time in lieu) and a full day off each week.

Participation in annual Ministerial Development Review and in-service training is required and an annual retreat is strongly encouraged.

## Is God calling you to this post?

To arrange a visit or conversation, contact:

Archdeacon of Bradford, Ven Dr Andy Jolley,  
[andy.jolley@leeds.anglican.org](mailto:andy.jolley@leeds.anglican.org) , 01274 405720; 07973 458403 or

Parish Representatives:

Jeremy Shoesmith      01924 402405 or 07921 782819  
Robert Smith            01274 683942 or 07847 465453

Lay Reader:

Geraldine Cooper      01274 670307 or 07527 287672

Application packs are available from Carmel Dylak:  
[carmel.dylak@leeds.anglican.org](mailto:carmel.dylak@leeds.anglican.org) (0113 353 0290) or  
<http://leeds.anglican.org/vacancies-bradford>

Closing Date: Send completed application forms to  
[carmel.dylak@leeds.anglican.org](mailto:carmel.dylak@leeds.anglican.org) by **noon on Monday 5<sup>th</sup> March**

Interviews will be held on **Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> March** followed by a further meeting with the Diocesan Bishop prior to a final offer of the post. An enhanced DBS will be required.

## The Diocese of Leeds

In this new diocese, now nearly four years old, we are working with three core objectives

### **Confident Christians:**

Encouraging personal spiritual renewal with the aim of producing clergy and laity who are confident in God and in the Gospel.

### **Growing Churches:**

Numerically, spiritually and in their mission to the wider world.

### **Changing communities:**

For the better, through our partnership with other churches and faith communities, as well as government and third sector agencies

The Diocese came into being at Easter 2014 following the dissolution of the historic dioceses of Bradford, Ripon & Leeds and Wakefield. This followed a three-year process of debate and consultation driven by the Diocese's Commission. It covers a region whose economy is greater than that of Wales. Background papers to the reorganisation process can be read at [www.wyadtransformation.org](http://www.wyadtransformation.org).

The Diocese comprises five Episcopal Areas, each coterminous with an Archdeaconry. This is now one of the largest dioceses in the country and its creation is unprecedented in the history of the Church of England. It covers an area of around 2,425 square miles, and a population of around 2,642,400 people.

The three former dioceses were created in the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries to cater for massive population changes brought about by industrialisation and, later, mass immigration. The diocese comprises major cities (Bradford, Leeds, Wakefield), large industrial and post-industrial towns (Halifax, Huddersfield, Dewsbury), market towns (Harrogate, Skipton, Ripon, Richmond and Wetherby), and deeply rural areas (the Dales). The whole of life is here, along with all the richness, diversity and complexities of a changing world.

The diocese is dissected by major motorways (M1, A1M, M62) and major trunk roads (such as the A650, A59), making road and rail communications good. Access to airports is also good, with Leeds-Bradford in easy reach and Manchester only an hour away.

The Diocesan Bishop is assisted by four Area Bishops (Bradford, Huddersfield, Ripon and Wakefield) and five archdeacons (Bradford, Halifax, Leeds, Pontefract, Richmond & Craven). In addition, the dormant See of Richmond has been revived and the new Suffragan Bishop is now taking responsibility for the Leeds Episcopal Area on behalf of the Diocesan Bishop who remains the Area Bishop for Leeds.

There are 323 stipendiary clergy, 165 self-supporting clergy and 398 clergy with PTO along with 408 Readers, 125 lay pastoral ministers and 52 chaplains in 656 churches with 256 church schools. In the Bradford Episcopal Area there are 53.6 stipendiary posts serving 68 parishes with an average weekly attendance of 5,949 from a population of over half a million.

The Diocese is unique in having three cathedrals: Bradford, Ripon and Wakefield and over the past year the cathedrals have begun to work together on the key Diocesan services as well as developing three strands that they will offer to the diocese – pilgrimage, civic engagement and apologetics. This new diocese, led by the bishops, is working out how best to create a diocese with more than one cathedral, and to develop the ministry and outreach of these cathedrals in a way that secures their future and recognises their distinctiveness.