



Elmete Trinity Benefice



St Peter's, Thorner with Scarcroft



All Saints', Barwick



St Philip's, Scholes

Welcome to Elmete Trinity Benefice

Introduction

Thank you for your interest in joining the Christian and wider communities in our Benefice.

We can only give a flavour of our Benefice in this brochure but hope that it will inspire you to join us in taking our Christian mission forward.

Each of the three parishes in the Benefice has its own unique style but we work well together and embrace new ideas from one another and the wider world. We are therefore excited to see what our new Rector will bring. We have regular Benefice-wide joint services and have shared provision for adult teaching in the way of Home and Prayer Groups in recent years. While the pandemic has caused us to make a number of changes, we are now looking forward to re-vitalising our activities.

We would like to improve our provision for teenagers. We have a Benefice Pathfinder Group which has been meeting via Zoom during the pandemic, and intend to expand this.

Each church has something for younger children. This has again been challenged during the pandemic and will be reinvigorated.

We have good connections with the Methodist ministers and congregations in Barwick and Scholes and are working to strengthen them. The Methodist chapel in Thorner has closed recently and St Peter's has extended a welcome to members of that congregation.

Our PA/Communications Officer sends out regular emails letting everyone know what is going on. For those without internet access, this is provided by hard copy.

Involvement with the two church primary schools is strong and we are cultivating our connection with the third school in the Benefice.

All the churches are involved in village life. The three churches have played key roles during the pandemic in supporting the more vulnerable members of our communities. We look forward to renewing our links and engagement with everyone in our communities as the COVID restrictions fall away.

The buildings and the churchyards are generally in good condition and are well kept, in some part by the local communities. The churchyards in Barwick and Thorner are open for burials; day to day administration is dealt with by church members. The churchyard in Scholes is closed.

The East Leeds Extension abuts the parishes of Scholes and Thorner with Scarcroft with a major new highway and plans for several housing developments. It seems likely that this will provide opportunities for growth for our churches over the next few years.

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Worship

We have a variety of styles of worship at different times to cater for all our congregations and village communities. There is a service each Sunday in each of the three churches and usually at least one mid-week service in Barwick and Thorner, with a twice monthly service in Scholes. The Rector normally leads the Sunday service in one of our churches each Sunday with the other services taken by Licensed Lay Ministers or worship leaders from the Benefice or by visiting clergy.

We started to broadcast services during the recent lockdowns and this is continuing in order to support people who are not able to get to church. A feature of the lockdown period has been the recorded video reflections which were broadcast four or five days each week for over a year. These were written and read by members of all three churches in the Benefice. The reflections and broadcast services can be viewed on the Benefice's YouTube channel at www.youtube.com/channel/UC2ID3IKIfaJisVxxttTBJJg.

During the pandemic, we also had a phone service each Sunday evening at 6pm with around 15 to 20 people.

We frequently have a Benefice Communion Service on the fifth Sunday of a month, rotating around the three churches.

Our new Rector

Our Benefice has been working and worshipping together for 12 years and we are looking for someone to lead us on our journey towards becoming closer, by nurturing Christian fellowship and adapting to the changing needs of the Church and those we serve in the 21st century. We believe there are many opportunities in our Benefice which we hope you will help us to build on, including more united working practices to reduce the burden and share the load, developing new practices following lessons learned during the pandemic, and increasing our use of technology to enable us to reach more people.

We would like you:

- to have good communication and listening skills, being able to communicate with all ages in our communities, and an easy way of sharing their faith
- to be committed to expanding Lay Leadership, encouraging team working and be a team leader
- to be willing to work with other community groups and by collaborating with them to make the life of the church more visible in the Benefice
- to be able to inspire young children and their families to know God in their lives
- to be open to a range of worshipping styles to attract all ages to our churches.

We recognise the importance of working with you as our Rector in a partnership. Our support for our Rector in this partnership means that we:

- take responsibility for various parts of the daily running of the parishes
- take responsibility where possible for the services in our Churches

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- listen and advise when asked
- remember you and our work together in our prayers
- pay your expenses in full.

Your new (or maybe not) diocese



The Diocese of Leeds comprises five Episcopal Areas, each coterminous with an Archdeaconry, and is one of the largest dioceses in the country. It covers an area of 2,425 square miles with a population of over 2.3 million people. The three preceding dioceses of Ripon & Leeds, Wakefield and Bradford were created in the 19th and early 20th centuries to cater for massive population changes brought about by industrialisation and, later, mass immigration. More information is available at www.leeds.anglican.org.

Your new environment

The Benefice is located to the east of Leeds and is made up of three parishes: All Saints', Barwick; St Philip's, Scholes (these two parishes were one until recently); and St Peter's, Thorner with Scarcroft. Our villages have a semi-rural environment, having historically been made up largely of farming communities, while also allowing easy access to Leeds, York and other local towns where there is a wide range of cultural, business and employment opportunities.

The housing is mainly owner-occupied with some property for rent and some sheltered housing for the elderly and infirm.

There is a regional airport in Leeds, and Manchester Airport is easily accessible by road or rail. Leeds train and coach stations are nearby and offers links to all parts of the country. The M1, A1 and M62 are all close by, offering effective road connections locally, regionally and nationally. There are bus links through all three villages to Leeds and nearby towns. Opportunities for cycling (as a commuter or for leisure) are many in the area, and there are many bridleways and footpaths criss-crossing the Benefice, offering health and leisure opportunities.

There are numerous options for social, cultural and sporting or outdoor activities in and around the area. The Benefice is well situated for a range of excellent shopping facilities, both in local market towns and also in the larger towns and cities in the area.

Health care is well covered not only by local GP practices but by major hospitals in Leeds and Harrogate.

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There is a primary school, with nursery provision, in each village, those in Thorner and Barwick being Church of England schools. Older children travel by bus to a variety of high schools in nearby towns.

There are a significant number of retired people who are active in many organisations across the villages, both secular and church based.

Your new home

The vicarage is next door to St Peter's Church in Thorner. Built in the mid-1990s, it consists of:

- Outer hall with access to study and WC
- Inner hall
- Kitchen (including cooker if required) and utility room
- Lounge with gas fire
- Dining room
- Landing with store cupboard
- Four bedrooms
- Bathroom
- Separate WC
- Large double garage
- Mature garden



The vicarage has gas central heating.

The vicarage has a quiet location, being set back from the road behind the Parish Centre. The village primary school is a few minutes' walk away, and scheduled and school buses pick up high school children outside the Parish Centre.

There is a small delicatessen in Thorner which supplies fresh bread and milk amongst other things. There are a couple of pubs, which also serve food, and a restaurant. Other shops and convenience stores and several supermarkets are within a short drive or bus ride.

People who are here to help you

The Rector and the three PCCs are assisted by the Rector's PA who is heavily involved in ensuring that clergy and other service leaders are available as required, and in organising occasional offices. She publicises details of services that are taking place in the three churches and prepares cards to mark the anniversaries of funerals and baptisms. During lockdown the PA has coordinated preparation and publication of the daily reflections.

We have two Licensed Lay Ministers, a retired priest, and others in the Benefice who are willing and able to take services, but we would like to encourage more people to get involved.

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One benefice family

We feel that we have grown together as one Benefice family during the past 12 years. The three parishes all work to reach out into their communities. We would expect our new Rector to have his or her own ideas for outreach, and there is no expectation or requirement that the new appointee should be involved in future in activities that we have already developed. However, set out below are details of two projects which are substantial activities, supported by people from across the Benefice, including regular attenders at church and others in the community. These are examples of where we have happily and beneficially worked together to the glory of God.

WYDAN (wydan.org)

Representatives of the Anglican and Methodist communities in our three villages met following a Holy Week presentation on the West Yorkshire Destitute Asylum Seekers Network (WYDAN) to identify ways in which we could provide support for the network.

At the time WYDAN were providing night shelters throughout the year in different churches, where destitute asylum seekers could find a bed, food and company. We agreed with WYDAN that we could set up a shelter in Scholes Church Hall, with volunteers from across the Benefice providing food, company and prayer.

Matthew 25:34-40 asks that we feed the hungry, shelter the homeless and provide clothes for those who need them. This, in small part, is what we are trying to do. All those involved in providing the support have found that the work has been a blessing for them as well as for the individuals who we are supporting.

Festival Angels (leedsfestivalangels.org.uk)

Festival Angels is a project that began 11 years ago as a prayer tent at Leeds Festival, initiated by a Methodist lay member under the auspices of Churches Together in Thorner. It has grown over the past 10 years from 24 volunteers to 170 volunteers, who attend the Festival to work in various sections sharing the love of God in service of the festival goers and those who work at the Festival. Festival Angels have volunteers from all denominations and none, believers and those willing to work within the Christian ethos. A management structure is in place to provide stability for Festival Angels going forward.

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All Saints' Church, Barwick-in-Elmet

The church in Barwick dates from pre-Norman times. The congregation are proud of their heritage and the people who over the years have worshipped at All Saints'. However, they are not stuck in the past and are now looking to the future.

Barwick is an active village yet the parish extends further afield. There are over 25 leisure and other activities for adults and children in the local and nearby area.

During the pandemic Barwick residents joined together to provide shopping and other support for those who could not go out, and collected food for a local food bank. A group of parishioners have provided pastoral care by phone during recent months.



There are two services each Sunday in All Saints', being different combinations of Holy Communion, Morning Worship and an All Age service. A said communion service takes place on a Wednesday morning.

There is an excellent relationship between All Saints' and the church school where (in the absence of pandemic restrictions) the children regularly come into church for services. There is also a Messy Church, run with the Methodist minister.

Barwick has a team of excellent bell ringers and a strong choir with dedicated organist. The churchyard team work very hard keeping the grounds in immaculate condition.

The Church and Rector take part in Barwick's annual Festival of Remembrance along with the British Legion, and a parade to the village war memorial is followed by a service in church.

Before the pandemic, the events team held various themed evenings in church, usually consisting of a two-course meal for anyone in the village to attend. There is a Ladies' Fellowship group which meets once a month to hear a speaker. This is open to all and not restricted to church members.



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Once people feel safe once again, there will be a need to expand our role in the community, enabling more people to learn of the love of God and Christian fellowship.

St Philip's Church, Scholes

Scholes is mainly a commuter village, with a population of just over 2,000, with people working in Leeds or other local towns. Since the pandemic some people are working from home. It is largely white, professional or semi-professional, although there are several working farms in the parish. Housing is mainly owner-occupied with some sheltered housing. There is also a residential home run by the Brain Injury Rehabilitation Trust, called Osman House. The village has a doctor's practice, a dental surgery, a hairdresser, a beauty salon and two pubs, one of which serves food, but unfortunately there is no shop.

Scholes has a strong community/village feel, with a Village Show, a well-patronised village hall, and many local clubs and lessons in, for example, bagpipes, dancing and archery.

St Philip's is a very informal church, where children are seen and frequently heard. It was built in 1966 and has carpet and chairs rather than pews. People are encouraged to use the church and hall buildings while maintaining a sense of spirituality and God with us by keeping the liturgical furniture out and on display but separate.



The number on the Electoral Roll is 62, and there are many more people who have some involvement with the church through various outreach activities.

Before the pandemic St Philip's ran a Community Café twice a week using the servery, which attracted a lot of people, both for coffee and as helpers. This was also open once a month on a Saturday morning when we encouraged local groups to meet and be seen.



A monthly Dad's Club would meet on a Saturday morning and Little Fishes (carer and toddler group) on a Tuesday morning, which would usually include some Christian input. Elderberries, a self-run group for older people, met on a Monday afternoon and other community groups were encouraged to use the church or hall buildings. Other outreach events take place throughout the year such as Pop in for a

Pancake; No Trick, Our Treat (an alternative Halloween event); Good Friday Activity Morning and, of course, the very popular Christmas services.

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Worship at St Philip's is generally quite informal on Sundays, with Holy Communion once a month, celebrated in the round. All Age Services are also held once a month and are taken by their own worship team. These usually involve the children and, quite often, puppets.



The other two services are Morning Worship, taken by a Licensed Lay Minister or a lay worship leader.



Music is led by a Music Group: guitar, drums and two or three singers, with help from a local brass band on occasion. We do have an electric organ, which is mainly used for the twice-monthly Friday communion, a more formal service in which the priest robes.

St Philip's finances are in a good position: clergy expenses and the parish share are paid in full. Ten per cent of annual income is given to good causes, and we try to provide continuity of income for some local charities, while keeping money in reserve for emergencies.

There are no regular fundraising events. God has told us that when we need something we should ask for it. So we do! And He has not failed us.

St Philip's has adopted the Diocesan Mission Prayer as its own:

God of Mission
Who alone brings growth to Your Church
Send Your Holy Spirit to
Give vision to our planning
Wisdom to our actions and
Power to our witness.
Help St Philip's to grow in numbers,
In spiritual commitment to You, and
In service to our local community.
Through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

St Peter's Church, Thorner with Scarcroft

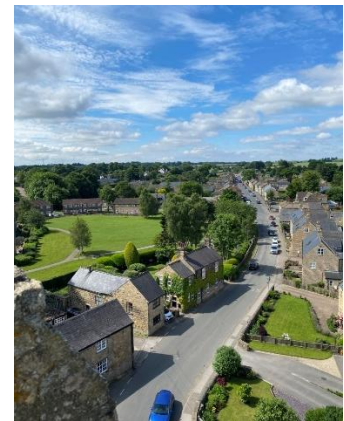
The parish of Thorner with Scarcroft includes the village of Thorner and most of the village of Scarcroft. The population is just under 3,000 and 110 people are currently on our church electoral roll. The area is predominantly rural, home to many people who work in Leeds, Harrogate, York and surrounding areas.

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St Peter's is in the centre of Thorner, occupying a prominent site on the main street with a large and well-maintained churchyard surrounding the church. The former Church of England school lies adjacent to the church and now serves as the Parish Centre. Following a recent extensive refurbishment, the Parish Centre is used to serve refreshments after services and for church social events, as well as being hired out for use by community groups and for private social events. A car park behind the Parish Centre is for church use and the vicarage is located beyond the car park,



also alongside the church.



While residents in Thorner and Scarcroft rely on neighbouring towns and cities for employment and many services, the villages are served by many community groups for all ages and interests, with tennis, badminton and bowls clubs, cricket and football clubs, an over-60s association, an art group and a community choir. Thorner and Scarcroft also have a number of uniformed organisations, and an active Royal British Legion branch. Young children are not forgotten, with a Mums and Tots group and a dedicated playground. Many of these groups come together when there is an occasion of local or national celebration to organise events for the village to join in, and St Peter's regularly plays a key role in these events. In addition to the Parish Centre in Thorner, both Thorner and Scarcroft have a village hall which is used by community groups and for social gatherings.



Worship at St Peter's generally includes a Eucharistic service on Sunday and Tuesday mornings. One Sunday service each month is an All Ages Worship service with involvement of young children in music and drama elements. A Sunday School is available on other Sundays. More recently, we have included Matins and Morning Prayer



services. The service liturgies are set out in service booklets which have been prepared for the different church seasons.

For many years, music has played an important part in services at St Peter's. The choir has led the worship on Sunday mornings and sung evensong on festival days, and the annual service of Christmas Lessons and Carols has been a highlight each year. An

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instrumental group has participated in some All Ages Worship services. There is also a group of enthusiastic and talented bell ringers who support the worship.

St Peter's has a history of meeting all of its Parish Share commitment. The parish has operated with a surplus in many years (although that has not been possible most recently), helped by an active social programme which has attracted many people in the community who do not all attend church services regularly. The church benefits from some reserved investments which help to offset the costs of maintaining the churchyard.

The PCC see the worship and witness of St Peter's as being underpinned by these values:

- Respect: speaks to the church in the village in the Benefice - the diversity across these domains and the respect needed for this diversity
- Collaboration and inclusion: speaks to the sense of team and team work that is needed to fulfil the role of the church in the community
- Hope: speaks to the potential that is still to be untapped - in the school, in the wider community and in the lay leadership that needs nurture and support
- Strengths-based assets: speaks to the various strong elements of the church, church community and village and the need to recognise these as the building blocks of the future.

While St Peter's provides the 'traditional' services expected of a village church, it reaches out into the wider community of the villages in many ways. Some of these are obviously church-based, such as the choir leading carol singing in The Fox public house in Thorner. Others are less obvious: for example ThornerCares (thornercares.co.uk) was established during the first lockdown to support those in need in Thorner. While ThornerCares was not a church organisation and drew upon the support and goodwill of many villagers, it was notable that the majority of those who lead ThornerCares came from St Peter's. The role of church members in many other local activities is similarly notable.

A challenge for St Peter's mission is that while it reaches out into Thorner village and has a clear profile, it does not actively extend into Scarcroft. Nor is it so successful in drawing new worshippers into its congregation. In the future, we need to find ways of making the value of the Word more obviously relevant to our villages' communities and strengthen St Peter's place in the lives of the villages and villagers still further.

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And finally ...

Thank you again for thinking about joining our Christian family and wider communities here in the Elmete Trinity Benefice.

We hope our brochure has given you an encouraging sense of what we have to offer you, and what we would like to gain from you.

If you would like to speak further about the Benefice, please do email one of the following:

All Saints', Barwick barwickcofechurch.co.uk

Pauline Robson probsonis@gmail.com

St Philip's, Scholes stphilips-scholes.org

Ann Riley annl.riley@btinternet.com

St Peter's, Thorner with Scarcroft thornerchurch.org.uk

Shane Hayward-Giles shanehaywardgiles@hotmail.com