



The United Benefice of St Paul's Drighlington and St Peter's Gildersome



The Benefice congregation at a recent United Service hosted at St Paul's Drighlington



Contents:

- p2 How we arrived at this point
- p3 The gifts, qualities and skills we pray for and seek in our new priest
- p4 What we offer in return
- p5 Our Benefice and our villages
- p6 Our buildings and finances
- p7 The Living Stones—our people
- p8 Our services
- p9 What else goes on in our churches
- p10, 11 Our churches in their communities
- p12 The vicarages

Appendices:

1. Parish Profile: Drighlington St Paul's
2. Parish Profile: Gildersome St Peter's

HOW WE ARRIVED AT THIS POINT:

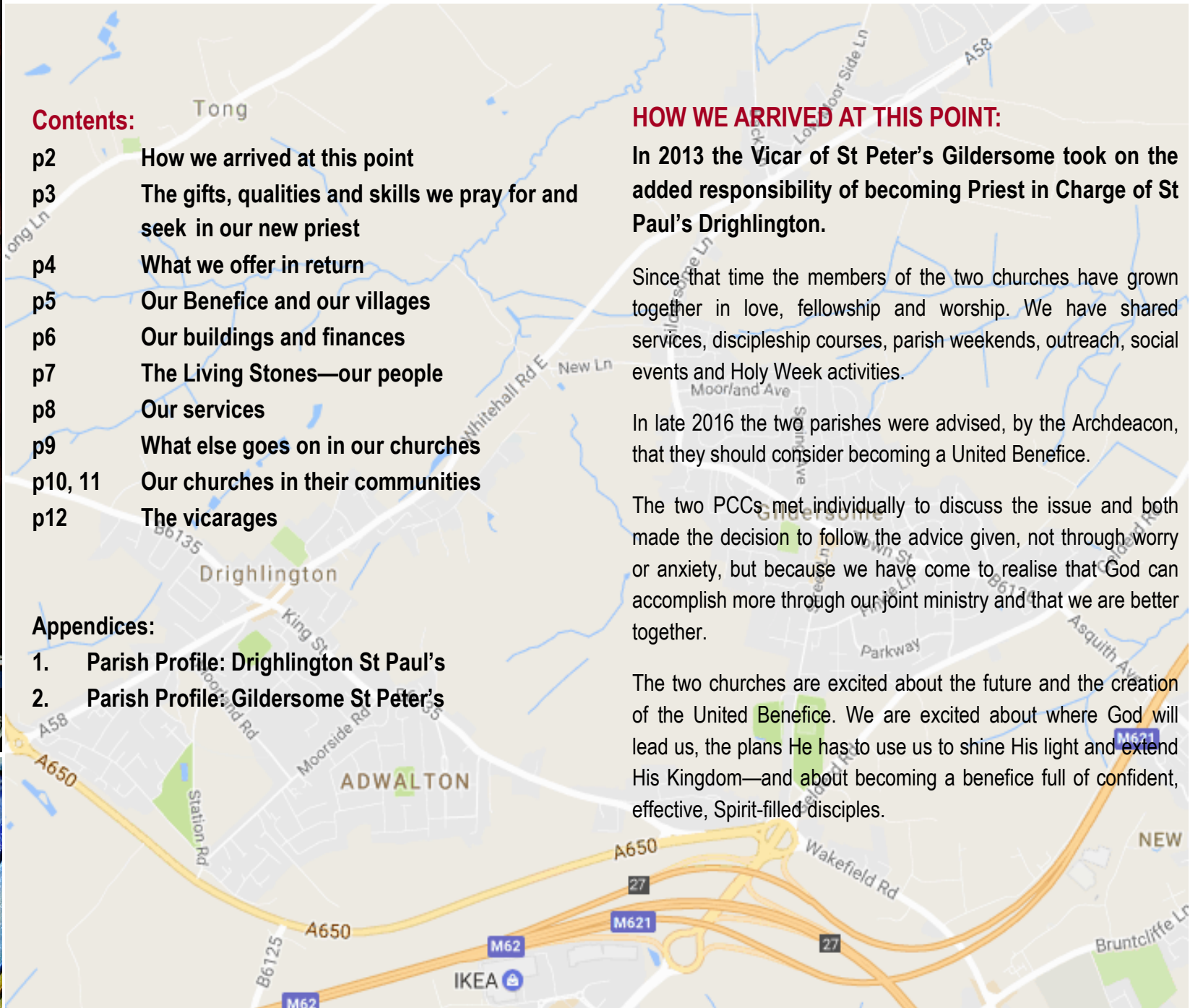
In 2013 the Vicar of St Peter's Gildersome took on the added responsibility of becoming Priest in Charge of St Paul's Drighlington.

Since that time the members of the two churches have grown together in love, fellowship and worship. We have shared services, discipleship courses, parish weekends, outreach, social events and Holy Week activities.

In late 2016 the two parishes were advised, by the Archdeacon, that they should consider becoming a United Benefice.

The two PCCs met individually to discuss the issue and both made the decision to follow the advice given, not through worry or anxiety, but because we have come to realise that God can accomplish more through our joint ministry and that we are better together.

The two churches are excited about the future and the creation of the United Benefice. We are excited about where God will lead us, the plans He has to use us to shine His light and extend His Kingdom—and about becoming a benefice full of confident, effective, Spirit-filled disciples.





Following the retirement of our incumbent we are looking for someone to come and be excited with us, work with us, lead us and help us discern where God is leading us and the pace He is setting. We are looking for:

- Someone to help us become a Benefice full of confident and effective disciples of Jesus.
- Someone with a passion for Jesus and a desire to preach and share the Gospel in exciting and relevant ways.
- Someone with a pastoral heart.
- A leader who will help us discern, develop and realise our mission priorities.
- A leader of worship, comfortable with and able to embrace and value a range of worship styles.
- A good organiser and communicator.
- Someone to encourage us and nurture us in our Spiritual life and development.
- A priest committed to parish life, who will be a visible presence in both villages.
- Someone with energy, who can collaborate with us and enable us to reach out to the wider community, including local schools.
- Someone who is innovative and enthusiastic with a big sense of humour.

- Someone able to relate to, empathise with and be sensitive to the needs of families, children and young people.
- Someone who will help us use our gifts and talents effectively for God's work and glory.
- Someone with the skills and experience to develop the ministries of the laity and train and nurture curates as they journey from deacon to incumbent.
- Someone to help us plan and prioritise how we can make best use of the funding which will result from reduced Parish Shares.
- Someone to celebrate with us, laugh with us, cry with us, engage with us, go deeper in faith with us—and enjoy being part of our church family.





What we offer in return:

- A dedicated and gifted team with a wide range of ministries, skills and abilities; eager to share the load and work alongside you, our new priest.
- Your health, wellbeing and development is important to us and we will ensure that you take your days off and fully use your annual leave entitlement.
- We will encourage and support you to attend retreats, conferences and any events which will help you re-charge your batteries.
- We will commit to your personal and spiritual development by providing an annual budget to assist with costs.
- Buildings that are in a good state of repair (see page 6)
- A brilliant place to live (see page 5)
- We 'pull off', with integrity, having two vibrant churches one with an excellent robed choir and a team of campanologists and the other with a full worship band.
- A passion and desire to put the church at the heart of our community by getting outside the buildings.
- An appreciation and belief that ministry belongs to the whole church, the Living Stones, and not just the priest.





Our Benefice and our villages:

- **The Benefice has a population of about 11,000, which is split almost evenly between the two villages.**
- **The Benefice has a 2 vicarages, one in each village.**
- **Both churches in the Benefice operate with their own PCCs, own treasurers and own finances but have formed a Joint Standing Committee in order to discuss areas of common interest.**
- **The Benefice is a brilliant place to live and minister with amazing facilities and opportunities.**

Although historically villages in their own right, the expansion of Leeds and Bradford over the years now gives both Drighlington and Gildersome a feeling of being in the suburbs of both cities. Both are within a couple of miles of the historic market town of Morley.

The populations are steadily increasing as the villages have become popular commuter belt locations, with several new housing developments.

There are regular bus services to the main cities and towns of Leeds, Bradford, Wakefield, Huddersfield and Halifax. The M1, M62 and M621 motorways are right on the doorstep. Turn right for Lancashire and left for Humberside and the East coast. The beautiful surrounding countryside of the Yorkshire Dales is easily accessible by road in less than forty minutes. You're five minutes away from a Costa Coffee at Birstall Retail Park, where you can also eat in a variety of restaurants, or watch the latest film in the Showcase Luxe Cinema complex. Retail therapy is on hand in Next, M&S, Toys R Us or W H Smiths – all within the same complex. The White Rose Shopping Centre is only 3 miles and Leeds and Bradford Airport less than half an hour away.

Gildersome has two Primary schools – Gildersome Primary and Nursery (Ofsted 2013—Good), and Birchfield Primary School (Ofsted 2014—Good). Drighlington is served by Drighlington Primary School (Ofsted 2013—Good) All three schools welcome church contacts and attend

seasonal services during the year.

Four High schools serve both communities: Bruntcliffe School (Ofsted 2014 - Requires Improvement); The Morley Academy (Ofsted 2013 – Outstanding); Woodkirk High School (Ofsted 2013 – Good) and The Farnley Academy (Ofsted 2014—Outstanding)

Medical facilities are good in both parishes, with a Health Centre and pharmacy in each village. Leeds General Infirmary and St James' Hospital are within easy reach as are Bradford Royal Infirmary, Dewsbury General Hospital and Pinderfields Hospital.

Active Parish Councils exist in both villages and three members of St Peter's are councillors. Both villages have a central Meeting Hall, and a Library, with St Paul's members actively volunteering in theirs. Both villages have active sports clubs. Football, rugby league, rugby union and cricket are well represented in the area, with the clubs having junior teams.

Drighlington has excellent golfing amenities, including both an 18 and a 6 hole course – The Manor Golf Club – where good food is served. Local pubs are a-plenty in both villages, some serving food. Both Asian and Chinese cuisine is also available in the villages, along with brilliant traditional fish and chip shops. A local farm shop, ice cream parlour and garden centre border both communities.

Good parochial relationships exist in Drighlington with the Methodist Church and an independent evangelical church, whilst Gildersome has the oldest established Baptist community in Yorkshire, as well as a Methodist Church, and Quaker Meeting House.

Both villages are mentioned in the Domesday Book and Drighlington is famous as the site of the English Civil War Battle of Adwalton Moor fought on 30 June 1643.





Our buildings:

Both buildings (St Paul's and St Peter's) are in an excellent state of repair and décor. Both buildings are used flexibly and have various rooms of different sizes and capacities. Both are available for community use and host a wide range of events. Both buildings have good toilets, including disabled facilities.

- **St Paul's**

The Church was fully re-ordered to a very high standard in 2009 at a cost of £320,000 and extensive remedial work to the roof, stonework and windows, funded by English Heritage and other smaller grant awarding bodies, was completed recently at a cost of £250,000.

The Church has a maintenance plan and a Maintenance Fund which are overseen by the wardens and PCC.

- **St Peter's**

The Church has just celebrated the 25th Anniversary of the consecration of the 'new' St Peter's building.

Completed in 1992 and winning the Leeds Award for Architecture, the building complex represents an encampment of tents, with the largest—used as our main worship area—being octagonal, as was St Peter's home on the shores of Lake Galilee. This space has a baptistery.

Major roof renovation and repairs were completed very recently at a cost of £72,000 funded by WREN, small grants and direct giving.

There are costed plans to refurbish the toilets, office and hall during the Summer.

The Church has a Buildings Manager, a maintenance group and a maintenance budget.

Our finances:

Both parishes undertook stewardship campaigns in 2015. St Paul's under the title 'GIFT' and St Peter's 'Living Stones TOGETHER'



- **St Paul's:** The outcome of 'GIFT' was a tremendous success. The campaign was based on the giving of time, talent and treasure. Many people came forward with offers of ministry and help and an increase in giving. A large number of our congregation signed up for regular giving by standing order and enrolled for gift aid. We are planning a further revised 'GIFT' campaign in the autumn of 2017 in order to ensure that the mission and work at St Paul's is fully funded and that our contribution to the Diocese in terms of our parish share can continue to be met in full.



Living Stones
TOGETHER

- **St Peter's:** In 2015 we ran a highly successful stewardship initiative which focused on what it means to belong. The initiative included the children and young people who each received a specially designed 'Living Stones' brochure and response forms, in just the same way as the adults did.

The outcome of 'Living Stones TOGETHER' saw over 400 offers of ministry and help and an increase of 26% (£14,000) in giving.

Regular weekly giving comes to approximately £1,300 per week or £68,000 per year, with 83% being Gift Aided. The total annual income from regular giving is approximately £80,000.

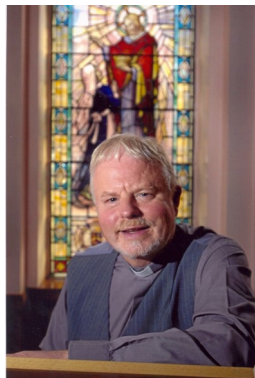
Our Parish Share has always been paid in full.

St Peter's tithes its annual income from free will offerings.



The Living Stones—our people:

- **Supporting Clergy:**



Reverend Brian Duxbury: Non-Stipendiary Priest

Brian has been a member of St Peter's for over 30 years and was called to the ministry in 2008. He was ordained Deacon in 2013 and Priest in 2014.

Reverend Chris Johnson: Retired Priest

Chris retired from his position as Chaplain at Bradford Royal Infirmary in 2013 and formerly spent many years as a parish priest.

Officers:

- **Lay Readers**

Eric Bancroft (St Peter's) Emeritus
Muriel Kotsifakis (St Paul's) Emeritus
Elizabeth Silver (St Peter's)
Ann Walls (St Peter's)
Philip Walls (St Peter's)



- **Churchwardens**

Sue Shaw and Barry Wainwright (St Pauls)
Liz Pearce and Maggie Smith (St Peter's)

- **Treasurers**

George Russell (St Paul's)
Philip Walls (St Peter's)

- **Lay Pastoral Ministers**

Alma Aveyard (St Paul's)
Maureen Buckley (St Peter's)
Ken Farnhill (St Peter's)
Barbara Lumb (St Peter's)
Jean Wood (St Peter's)

- **Admin Officers**

Susan Mann (St Paul's)
Pat Pearson (St Peter's)

- **PCCs**

Both churches have active and supportive PCC's.
There is a joint PCC Standing Group with representation from both churches which discusses issues relating specifically to the United Benefice.

- **Music in Worship**

Choir Master Marlon Mann (St Paul's)
Worship Group Leader Steve Smith (St Peter's)





Services:

First Sunday of the month	Second Sunday	Third Sunday	Fourth Sunday	Fifth Sunday
8am Holy Communion, Gildersome St Peter's (average attendance 11)	8am Holy Communion, Gildersome St Peter's (11)	8am Holy Communion, Gildersome St Peter's (11)	8am Holy Communion, Gildersome St Peter's (11)	8am Holy Communion, Gildersome St Peter's (11)
10am Holy Communion, Gildersome St Peter's with Children's Church (108)	10am Family Service, Gildersome St Peter's (Lay led) (80)	10am Holy Communion, Gildersome St Peter's with Children's Church (108)	10am Holy Communion, Gildersome St Peter's with Children's Church (108)	10am United Benefice Service, Holy Communion hosted alternately at Drighlington and Gildersome with Children's Church (143)
10am Holy Communion, Drighlington St Paul's with Children's Church (55)	10am Holy Communion, Drighlington St Paul's with Children's Church (55)	10am Holy Communion, Drighlington St Paul's with Children's Church (55)	10am Holy Communion, Drighlington St Paul's with Children's Church (55)	
4pm 'Families@4', Gildersome St Peter's (Lay led) (46)	4pm 'Families@4', Drighlington St Paul's (Lay led) (38)		7pm 'Refresh' Informal service, Gildersome St Peter's (Lay led) (19)	
6pm Choral Evensong, Drighlington St Paul's (28)	6pm Holy Communion, Gildersome St Peter's (6)			
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
	9am Morning Prayer, at Gildersome St Peter's (4)	10am Holy Communion, Gildersome St Peter's (12)	9am Morning Prayer at Drighlington St Paul's (7)	
	7:30pm Holy Communion, Gildersome St Peter's (8)			



What else goes on in our churches:

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
9:15—11:15am 'Little Angels' Toddlers Group Drighlington St Paul's	11am—1pm FOODBANK Gildersome St Peter's	10:30am The Day Centre and Lunch Club Gildersome St Peter's	10am ART GROUP And COFFEE MORNING Gildersome St Peter's	9:15am 'TODDLERS GROUP' Gildersome St Peter's	10am—4pm (3rd Saturday) BETHANY DAYS Gildersome St Peter's
6pm 'RAINBOWS' Gildersome St Peter's	7pm INDOOR BOWLS Gildersome St Peter's	2—4pm 'Open Church' (Walk-in session with refreshments) Drighlington St Paul's	6:15—7:30pm 'ROCKS' Youth Club 6—11 y.o. Drighlington St Paul's	10am (2nd Friday) THE FRIENDSHIP GROUP Gildersome St Peter's	
House / Cell Groups <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A House Group meets for Bible Study once a month at Drighlington St Pauls Six Cell Groups meet each week on Mondays and Tuesdays at various times and venues. Gildersome St Peter's 'Saints Alive!' and 'Freedom in Christ' courses run regularly and are offered to both churches. 		6pm 'BROWNIES' Gildersome St Peter's	6:45pm (1st Thurs) ADVENTURERS Open Youth Club 10—16 y.o. Gildersome St Peter's	12—1:30pm 'Food Friday' LUNCH Drighlington St Paul's	Sunday 6pm (3rd Sunday) 'ABLAZE!' Young People's Meeting Gildersome St Peter's
		6:15pm 'RAINBOWS' Gildersome St Peter's	7:30pm WORSHIP GROUP Gildersome St Peter's	7:30—9:00pm Senior Youth Club 10—16 y.o. Drighlington	



The churches in their communities:

- **Weddings , baptisms and funerals**

St Paul's Jan - Dec 2016

Baptisms	39
Marriages	12
Funerals	12 (plus 13 at the crematorium)

- **St Peter's**

Baptisms	17
Marriages	0
Funerals	9 (plus 8 at the Crematorium)

- The two churches have good relationships with the three primary schools in the two villages. The schools attend seasonal services (Easter, Harvest and Christmas) in the churches and there is an open invitation from the head teachers of all three schools for the churches to be involved in leading assemblies and contributing to the curriculum.
- Groups from the Uniformed Organisations meet St Peter's which hosts Rainbows and Brownies with seven church members in local and regional leadership roles.
- St Peter's has an active Overseas Mission Group and supports several charities: The Parish of Butiama in the Diocese of Mara in Tanzania; the Funzi and Bodo Trust which was founded by two members and has five

members as trustees; St George's Crypt, the CEO being a very good friend of St Peter's and occasional attendee; and Christian Aid.

St Paul's supports The Yorkshire Air Ambulance, Martin House Hospice, Wheatfields Hospice, Marie Curie Nurses, Caring for Life and St George's Crypt

- St Peter's is a distribution point for the South and East Leeds Foodbank with a team of church members trained to operate the Centre. It opens each Tuesday.
- Members of both churches and clergy visit two residential homes for the elderly in the two Villages and offer communion to residents. A co-ordinated team of 5 Lay Pastoral Ministers from both churches and individuals from the congregations are engaged in home and hospital visiting.





The churches in their communities (continued):

- Both churches are actively involved in outreach—where possible in partnership. We have hosted several Beer&Hymns events in our churches and in community venues; we recently hosted an event in a local pub, supported by Bishop Chris Edmundson, brought all who attended a drink, provided supper and gave an opportunity for customers in the pub to ask questions. Both churches hosted 'Pray One for Me' events outside their respective Co-ops and run toddler groups which signpost young families to 'Families@4' outreach services. St Peter's publishes a high quality monthly magazine for adults and one for children. There is monthly outreach to the lonely, bereaved and those in need of support in the form of the Bethany Group and the Friendship Group. St Peter's hosts a day centre and lunch club for the elderly. We have a passion for outreach and are committed to taking our worship outside the church building.
- Both churches host annual memorial services, just before Christmas, in partnership with local funeral directors, to support bereaved families who have lost loved ones during the year.
- There are good relationships in both villages with other churches. In Drighlington there is a Methodist and a Free Methodist Church; in Gildersome a Methodist Church, a Baptist Church and a Quaker Meeting House. The churches work together for events like The Women's World day of Prayer.



- Both churches host community Christingle and Carol Services.
- St Paul's hosts very popular concerts with the Drighlington Brass Band.
- St Paul's hosts an annual Garden Party for the community on the vicarage lawn.
- St Peter's hosts 'The Big Get Together' as part of the Gildersome Scarecrow Festival
- The St Paul's Choir regularly take their music outside the Church.
- The St Peter's Worship Band regularly plays at outside venues and has been used several times to lead Diocesan events and services.





The Vicarages:



St Peter's (Benefice House for the use of the Vicar)

The vicarage at St Peter's is located on the same site as the Church and was built in 1988. It is situated very close to the centre of the Village.

It is a detached four bedroomed family house with good sized rooms, including, on the ground floor, a lounge, dining room, kitchen, utility room, cloakroom and office/study. The house has an integral garage.

There are gardens and lawned areas to 3 sides of the property and private parking spaces. The front lawn and the area in front of the vicarage are used for outdoor community events.



St Paul's (for the use of a curate)

The vicarage in Drighlington is a detached, four bedroomed family house with good sized rooms and a single garage, situated on Back Lane, a sought-after area of Drighlington and adjacent to St Paul's church. The rear of the property overlooks The Manor Golf Club, an 18-hole course; but the garden is protected and private with the planting of shrubs and trees.

In recent months work has been undertaken on the house and it was completely re-roofed. The house has gardens to the front and back; the back is quite a large lawned area, but easily maintained using the ride on mower owned by the church.

Historically the church has successfully hosted a vicarage garden party during the summer months to bring the community together for a great afternoon of fun and enjoyment, to make people aware of our presence and raise money for church funds.

