

# Benefice Brochure for the Parishes of Harden, Wilsden, Cullingworth and Denholme



St Saviour's Church, Harden



St Matthew's Church, Wilsden

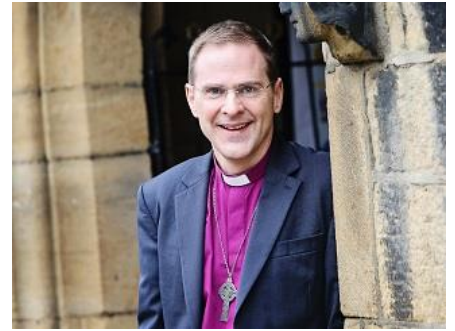


St John the Evangelist, Cullingworth



Denholme Shared Church

**Bishop's Statement for the United Benefice of  
Harden, Wilsden, Cullingworth & Denholme**



These four parishes form an important joint benefice within the Bradford Episcopal Area and the Diocese of Leeds. The joint benefice came into being four years ago and in that time there have been some positive developments which have helped the team ministry to become established. In particular, these include new forms of worship (Messy Church and Café Church at St Matthew's, the Jesus 4 All service at Denholme) and good Alpha courses held in Wilsden and Denholme. Relationships with the schools in each village, and links with the various community and uniformed organisations in the villages, are good and there to be built upon. In Denholme this is in the context of an encouraging local ecumenical partnership.

There are four particular priorities for the incoming incumbent:

- a) To work with the congregations of the four churches to grow them, particularly by developing outreach and ministry among families, children and young people, and by working a 'mixed economy' of new forms of church and worship alongside traditional ones.
- b) Working with the ministry team, to take lay discipleship and lay leadership to the next level. (S)he will therefore need excellent teaching, team building and team leadership skills.
- c) To develop relationships within the villages in entrepreneurial and creative ways, both personally as an individual and also with the congregations. S(he) should be able to engage strategically with the life of the communities, contributing to a vision both for the villages and for the place of the churches in the villages.
- d) To deepen the relationships between the four churches and their PCCs, enabling them to support and encourage each other more, and to realise more of the potential synergies between them.

Our vision as the Diocese is about confident clergy equipping confident Christians to live and tell the good news of Jesus Christ. In appointing to this post, we are therefore looking for someone who is a visionary and enabling leader for the next chapter in the life of the benefice, and has a joyful and confident faith which has inspired a track record of church growth, both numerically and spiritually.

The Deanery of Aire and Worth, now a year old, is comprised of parishes similar to those of this benefice, 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 the Deanery Chapter, all of whom will be deeply familiar with the joys and challenges that each other faces. The new post holder will therefore be expected to work with a spirit of generosity in sharing wisdom and insights about ministry within the Deanery of Aire and Worth and across the Episcopal Area.

+Toby Bradford

10 January 2018

## Introduction

In the Bradford Episcopal Area, set in the beautiful West Yorkshire Countryside, the Benefice of Harden, Wilsden, Cullingworth and Denholme in the Aire and Worth Deanery has excellent transport links to Keighley, Bradford, Leeds and Halifax. The Benefice was formed in 2014 and is made up of the 3 Church of England churches and Denholme Shared Church which is a Baptist/United Reformed Church/Church of England Local Ecumenical Partnership. All the churches are in good repair. The churches with their representative councils are starting to work more closely together and are keen to take this much further with their new incumbent.

The Ministry Team work to a rota sharing clergy and lay leaders across the four parishes, we come together for Benefice services and social events. We are benefitting from sharing resources and learning from each other. Whilst the churches share some services and social activities we are at the start of the journey of bringing more synergies to our benefice.

Reverend Suzy McCarter is Team Vicar, resides in Cullingworth and has pastoral oversight for St. John's church. She Chairs the PCC meetings for St. John's and works with children and young people across the Benefice, running an afterschool club with lay assistance in 3 of the four villages and taking school assemblies in those 3 village Primary schools regularly. Reverend Liz Moy is a self-supporting Priest licensed to the Benefice and has taken on pastoral oversight for St. Saviour's and St. Matthew's since the previous Team Rector left. She has a heart for ministry to the elderly including regular visits to Laurel Bank Nursing Home, Wilsden and Forrester Court, Denholme. Reverend Mavis Nevill is retired associate Priest with primary involvement in St. Saviour's church, Harden. Reverend Ian Slater is retired associate Priest with primary involvement in Café church in St. Matthew's, Wilsden and a heart for mission, supporting the Alpha course and Inn Churches week. Chris Wilcock is a Reader (Retired) based in Denholme Shared Church, who with a team organises the 9.30 Jesus for all service in Denholme Shared Church. Gordon Nevill is a Reader based at St Saviours. Malcolm Halliday is a Reader (Retired) based in St. John's Cullingworth where he preaches once a month. He is also a member of General Synod.

Each church has a regular organist. There is a strong Eucharistic tradition with regular all age worship. We have a full complement of Church Wardens and Treasurers and willing volunteers to support the clergy. There is a paid part-time administrator and technically able volunteer administrative assistance in each parish.

## The Vicarage

The Vicarage is situated in Harden and is a large stone-built, detached, five-bedroomed house, with an attached garage and a surrounding, well-maintained garden, two small ponds and a decked seating area.



## Our new Team Rector will be:

Flexible and able to work sensitively with the different congregations from the four villages, able to balance traditional and modern worship styles with an enthusiasm for communicating the Gospel to all age groups.

Able to lead and inspire all the varied churches, with a willingness to nurture our leadership teams so as to encourage and enable lay participation.

A person who has a deep faith and strong prayer life and is able to take us forward spiritually. Willing to be a visible and active presence in all the communities.



## St. Saviour's Church Harden

### Our Village:

The locality is a very popular and pleasant village in which to live and the population of 2,800 can be described as predominantly white middle class. There is a cross section of ages and occupations and most of the housing is owner occupied.



There is one school in the parish: Harden Primary. There are over 13 local businesses: butchers, newsagent and post office, hairdressers and beauticians, public house, pharmacy, coal merchant, garden centre, wellbeing clinic, general store, Indian takeaway, St Ives café, and St Ives golf club.

There are various associations in Harden village: Drama group, 2 Mother and Toddler groups, Luncheon club, Cricket club, Football club, WI, Horticultural society, Gala Committee and Parish Council.



The parish enjoys strong links with the Parish Council and the priest-in-charge has the civic responsibility of leading the remembrance service at the cenotaph.

### Our Church:

St Saviour's is well situated in the centre of the village of Harden, and is equipped with a church hall which we call The Family Room. The Church is in good repair and has recently been re-ordered with an underfloor heating system and chairs instead of pews. This provides a flexible space and venue, and includes a toddlers' zone.

It is installed with modern technology, a digital sound system with a projector and music group mixer.

The adjacent 'Family Room' is in good repair and the kitchen has a five-star hygiene rating.

The Electoral Roll stands at 54, with 35% of the congregation living outside the parish.

The age profile is predominantly over 65. The Churchmanship is liberal inclusive with a traditional mix.

The churches have a committed and strong group of clergy (stipendiary and non-stipendiary), readers and lay leaders.



**Finance:**

There is a planned giving scheme with an average total weekly giving of £645 (those over 16 years of age), 93% of which is gift aided. The Share for 2016 (£28,251) was paid in full and the Share for 2017 (£32,489) was paid in full. The Priest-in-charge's expenses for 2016 amounted to £853 and were paid in full.

The Church supplements its direct giving to meet its financial needs by church hall lettings, social and fund-raising events e.g. 100 club, coffee mornings and donations from its organisations: Chatterbox and Luncheon club.

The Hustwick Trust provides funds for maintenance, although this is restricted to the main church building only, i.e. not the Family Room.

**Outreach and Mission**

Overseas: In 2016, £1,238 was given to overseas missions to support the work of CMS, Christian Aid, Diocese Sudan Appeal, Leprosy Mission and other DEC (Disasters Emergency Committee) appeals.

We have links with a Parish in Western Virginia.

There is a regular stall selling a wide range of goods and Fair-Trade commodities.

Home Missions and Charities: In 2016, £1,021 was given, predominantly for the work of The Children's Society, Inn Churches, and Churches Together.

Weekly collections of food are taken to the foodbank in Bingley.

There is a Luncheon Club held weekly on St Saviour's premises, and 'Chatterbox' Mothers and Toddlers group meet twice weekly. The Family Room is used by other village groups.

The Inn churches project to shelter homeless people for a week is supported by St. Saviour's Church financially and with volunteers.

We are active members of the local 'Churches Together' Group and there have been joint services and events with Harden Congregational Church.

**Regular Mission and Outreach:**

Monthly coffee mornings: Luncheon Club: Chatterbox:

Thanksgiving for life services: After-school club:

Family Services: Christmas Services (Christingle, Carol

Service): Harden Primary School Services:

Gala activities: Village society events e.g. Christmas-tree lights switch-on: Remembrance service at the Cenotaph.

**Helping people to find out about Jesus:**

Enquires / Discipleship course: After school club: Pick n Mix – Baptism policy: School Assemblies:

Outside displays – Nativity, Easter cross.

**Helping people to grow in discipleship:**

Home Groups: Leading Your Church into Growth Course: Pastoral care training: Pastoral care Network: Volunteers help with Wilsden Inn Churches homeless shelter.

**Church Life in Need of Development:**

Young people and children:

Work with families.

**Our three main areas of mission are:**

- 1: Assist people to come to faith:
2. Deepen the faith and active commitment of the congregation:
3. Represent the church and be a visible presence in the community.

## St Matthew's Church Wilsden

### Our Village:

Wilsden is older than a first look at the village might suggest. It is listed in the Domesday survey. By the 17<sup>th</sup> century it was an agricultural settlement with land held by yeoman farmers. There are still working farms around the village and a few interesting and attractive 17<sup>th</sup> century buildings remain.

The Industrial Revolution gave the village its present shape, particularly with the development of steam power. The first mill in Main Street was built in 1810. This was when the first wave of incomers arrived from the dales to find work. The census of 1801 gives a population of 913, rising to 4354 by 1851. Housing for this influx gave Main Street its distinctive 19<sup>th</sup> century appearance. The last mill was built in 1884 but trade was already declining and it was not until the middle of the twentieth century that the population again reached and then exceeded the 1851 figure.

The post war years of the 20<sup>th</sup> century brought many new people. More houses were built and the village spread out from its long narrow central core. Wholesale demolition of older property by the local council was halted, largely due to the activity of Wilsden Village Society, a forerunner of the Parish Council. This has allowed the village to keep something of its original character. The Society was also responsible for the provision of the Village Hall, a much-used centre of activity. Currently, there are over 4900 residents.

The village has a good primary school, doctors and dental surgeries, community post office and a range of other thriving shops and services. Some mills have been demolished, some house different businesses and some have been converted into apartments. A mill owner's garden became a park with a bowling green and a children's playground. Many of the attractive walks in the locality owe their origins to workers' footpaths to various mills or quarries.

A writer at the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century sums up our village when he claims that a whiff of pure highland air on a ridge overlooking Wilsden is as exhilarating as a draught of champagne.

### Our Church:

St Matthews has a known reputation for being a friendly and welcoming Church. There has been a St Matthew's in Wilsden since 1826 and the present Church, opened in December 1975, is the 4<sup>th</sup> building. It is situated on the main street in Wilsden and is fronted by a large car park. It has a good-sized family room which is utilised by both the congregation and external organisations and has a 5-star hygiene rated kitchen. During a recent quinquennial inspection, no major structural problems were identified. We have appropriate policies in place for data protection, safeguarding of children and vulnerable adults, health and safety and the environment.

We provide a variety of worship style services in order to meet the needs of all our congregation, whether long standing or those just starting their journey of faith. We have a regular organist and a small robed choir sing at the traditional services.



Family room



Café Church congregation



## **Finance:**

There is planned giving scheme with an average weekly giving of £581. The share for 2017 - £28,043 of the requested £31,743 was paid and the working expenses paid to the clergy were £901. The Church supplements its direct giving by the letting of our family room and by staging various fund-raising events.

## **Outreach and Mission:**

We have an active outreach and mission support group and we engage with the local community by organising and participating in village activities to make the Church more visible in the local community and encourage attendance at Church services and outreach events. Many of our Church members are active in numerous village societies and clubs.



Outdoor service

We tithe 3% of our income to home missions (including The Children's society, local food bank and Inn Churches, a charity for the homeless), and overseas charities (including the Leprosy Mission, CMS and the Church in Sudan).

## **Community Care:**

Home Communion is offered to those who cannot attend Church. The Parish Council has a volunteer car scheme in which members of the congregation participate. Visits are made fortnightly to the local residential Care home to share Holy Communion with the residents. We host a night shelter for the homeless one week each year and we are registered as a Fair-Trade Parish.

## **Ecumenical relations:**

We are active members of the local Churches Together group and hold regular joint services and Lent study groups. Together we have recently produced a welcome pack which is distributed to all new residents of the village.

## **Education and Training:**

An average of 12 children and 16 adults attend Messy Church each month, we run 2 house groups with good regular attendance. We run regular Alpha and Start courses and we have a small strong and committed group of lay leaders.



## **Church life in need of development:**

We would particularly like to explore further development of the following aspects of our Church life -

- Children and families
- Alternate forms of worship
- Healing ministry/prayer
- Technology & Social media

# St John the Evangelist Church Cullingworth

## Our village:

Cullingworth is a growing and upwardly mobile rural commuter village with a current population of approximately 3,000.

There are local businesses, farms, shops, medical centre and pharmacy within the parish. There are very well attended uniformed groups Explorers, Scouts, Cubs, Beavers and Guides, Brownies and Rainbows within the village. There is a hard 'court' for football/basketball and a crown green bowling green beside the Recreation Ground.

There are many clubs and associations which ensure the village still has a 'community heart' such as a History Society, Gardening Club, Art Group, Walking Groups, Exercise classes and many others. They will begin to break ground for the new Village Hall in 2018; this will be funded by a lottery grant, community fund raising and the moneys from the large new housing development.

We have good transport links to Bradford, Keighley, Halifax, Leeds and Manchester. There are few obvious community needs but some hidden ones caused by isolation and economic hardship. There are a few housing association properties in the village but no obvious areas of serious social deprivation.

Cullingworth is the site of the benefice vicarage for the Team Vicar which is a modern 4-bedroom home built in 2010.

## Our Church:

The church is a grade II listed building built in 1853 and located in an attractive conservation area. It was reordered in 1988 which created a community room with good facilities.

The church has recently replaced its central heating system. We also have a new projection and sound system in church with facility to connect to most modern technology and an inbuilt DVD/CD player. The church is in good order but needs some cosmetic decoration. The PCC contains people with good financial and administrative skills led by two capable church wardens.

Our tradition of churchmanship is central although we have a variety of Christian backgrounds in the congregation. Vestments including Chasubles are worn and Holy Communion is celebrated every Sunday. There is a traditional BCP Communion one Sunday evening a month. The PCC and congregation support the ordination of women, the inclusion of any Trinitarian believer considered to have understanding to receive communion

and we are welcoming to all people regardless of race, gender or sexuality. We have an open and welcoming Baptism practice although we do try to encourage church attendance. The church is still able to attract large numbers at major events throughout the year such as Christingle, Carol service, Easter services and Remembrance. We have a varied social calendar with a monthly fellowship lunch, film club and fund-raising events. We also run two regular house groups with an average of 8 members each and seasonal study groups which are well attended.





## **Finance:**

The parish is generous in giving and we have a good record of paying our parish share and maintaining our church building. There are no large capital expenses expected. In 2017 the parish share of £26,590 was paid in full, as it was in 2016. We will not be able to meet the share requested for 2018.



## **Outreach and Mission:**

Cullingworth needs to grow its congregation and extend its outreach to the community. Over time we have managed to maintain the number of people in our regular worshipping congregation, whilst losing a significant number of our elderly congregation and we have gained some young families and children. We now have an active and younger 'retired professional' congregation, enhanced by some very supportive newer younger members.

## **Community Care:**

We offer home visits and Holy Communion to any parishioner unable to attend church for any reason and have a few willing volunteers engaged in pastoral visiting.

## **Ecumenical Relations:**

We have a good social and working relationship with the Methodist Church in Cullingworth and Denholme Shared Church and have just agreed to respond positively to an invitation to join the Churches Together group for Harden and Wilsden which would make it a Benefice Ecumenical group.

## **Education and Training:**

We have a Community Primary school in the village, where we maintain good links and Cullingworth is the site for the main high school used by all the villages of the benefice (Parkside High School). Both schools have been rated as good by Ofsted. We also have a preschool that meets in the village hall which is rated as outstanding by Ofsted.

## **Church life in need of development:**

- building upon the work with children and families to grow our congregation
- building an informal 'gateway' form of worship and engaging with the 'fringe' more
- improving teaching at all levels to deepen knowledge about God and understanding of ways to worship, developing the spiritual life and discipleship of church members
- strengthening our pastoral care and fellowship



## Denholme Shared Church

### Our Village:

Denholme is a rural village surrounded by moorland and situated seven miles from Bradford. It has a population of 2550, and numbers are rising with further construction of new housing. Previously village life centred around the local textile mill, however changing factors now mean a daily commute to nearby towns for employment. It is of mixed age and social groupings. The village also has an elderly population of approximately 20%, and has a sheltered housing complex along with Council flats and bungalows. The village has some social problems but there is also a strong local community spirit. Denholme has a parish council and numerous community groups. There is one school in the village, Denholme Primary School.

### Our Church:

St Paul's and Denholme Edge URC/Baptist Church came together in 2008 to form the Shared Church. An LEP was subsequently established and the church meets, worships and operates as one single congregation. The building is owned by the United Reformed Church.

Denholme Shared Church is the only sacred space for Christian worship and outreach within the community of Denholme



- We are a small church with a heart for mission, our vision is to serve by demonstrating the love of Christ, caring for the lost and marginalised, proclaiming the Good News;
- We encourage lay leadership by supporting people's gifts and talents;
- We count ourselves as blessed to have different backgrounds to draw upon on and have found richness through diversity.



There are two services each Sunday; a family oriented service at 9.30 am led by our Worship Team and a more conventional service at 11.15 am led by either ordained or licensed Lay Anglican ministry or Free Church worship leaders, sometimes from within the Shared church. As far as possible, we maintain an open approach in our response to requests for baptisms, weddings or funerals, respecting the various traditions within our three denominations.

## **Finance:**

Denholme Shared Church has paid the Parish Share in full for the last five years, in 2017 it was £4923. We also pay contributions to both the URC and Baptist Church and payment is proportionate to ministry received with the largest payment to the Parish Share

There is a planned giving scheme with average annual giving of £300 per person. Our total unrestricted income in 2016 was £21,295 and we had an excess of receipts over payments of £2,348. Support is given to a number of charities and overseas mission through donations and special collections. Payments in 2016 amounted to £2,000.

The clergy in the Benefice team are fully reimbursed for all reasonable day to day expenses incurred.

## **Outreach and Mission:**

Babes and Tots (weekly Parent and Toddler Group)

Times and Seasons (a fellowship group held in the sheltered housing complex, approximately every six weeks)

Christian Club (weekly term time after school club held at the primary school)

Alpha – September to December 2017

Church Diary – delivered to each house in village

Stall at the local gala

Leaflet in a new homes pack produced by the Parish Council



## **Community Care:**

The church operates a Pastoral Care Scheme run for and by church members. Church members are involved with most of the community groups and provide a once a month worship and friendship group at the sheltered housing complex.

## **Ecumenical Relations:**

As a Local Ecumenical Partnership, we maintain close links with the three denominations with representation on Synods and other statutory bodies.

## **Education and Training:**

There is a need for Lay training in several areas including: - Spirituality, leading worship, safeguarding and mission. Work with young people and children.

## **Church life in need of development:**

Provision for opportunities to further spiritual growth.

Not all our members have captured a vision for the future of Christian witness in Denholme.

Ministry to young people and children.





Sunday Worship

**BENEFICE STATISTICS**

	<b>Harden</b>	<b>Wilsden</b>	<b>Cullingworth</b>	<b>Denholme</b>
Week 1	11.15 Holy Communion	9.30 Holy Communion 11.00 Café Church	10.00 Holy Communion	9.30 Jesus for All 11.15 Morning Worship (Anglican)
Week 2	11.15 Pick n Mix	9.30 Pick n Mix 18.30 Evening Prayer	10.00 Family Communion 18.00 Holy Communion	9.30 Jesus for All 11.15 Morning Worship or Communion (URC/Bap)
Week 3	11.15 Holy Communion	9.30 Holy Communion 11.00 Café Church	10.00 Holy Communion	9.30 Jesus for All 11.15 Morning Worship or Communion (URC/Bap)
Week 4	11.15 Morning Worship	9.30 Morning Worship 11.00 Café Church with Holy Communion 18.30 Holy Communion	10.00 Holy Communion	9.30 Jesus for All 11.15 Morning Worship or Communion (Anglican)
Week 5	11.15 Holy Communion	9.30 Holy Communion 11.00 Café church	10.00 Holy communion	9.30 Jesus for All 11.15 Morning Worship or Communion (Anglican)

Wednesday Worship

	<b>Harden</b>	<b>Wilsden</b>	<b>Cullingworth</b>	<b>Denholme</b>
Week 1		10.00 Holy Communion	10.00 Holy Communion	
Week 2	14.30 Prayer and Cake	10.45 Holy Communion (Nursing Home) 15.30 Messy Church	10.00 Holy Communion	
Week 3		10.00 Holy Communion	10.00 Holy Communion	
Week 4	14.30 Prayer and Cake	10.45 Holy Communion (Nursing Home)	10.00 Holy Communion	
Week 5		10.00 Holy Communion	10.00 Holy Communion	

Occasional Offices in 2016

	<b>Harden</b>	<b>Wilsden</b>	<b>Cullingworth</b>	<b>Denholme</b>
Baptisms	9	9	9	1
Weddings	4	0	7	0
Funerals in Church	8	5	8	2
Funerals taken by clergy not in Church	4	10	7	2

Numbers

	<b>Harden</b>	<b>Wilsden</b>	<b>Cullingworth</b>	<b>Denholme</b>
Electoral Roll	54	49	46	13 (36 for LEP)

Average attendance

Holy Communion	35	28	30	24
Family Communion			35	
Morning Worship		30		
Pick n Mix / Jesus for all	53	67		25
Café Church		14		
Evensong		16		
Wed Communion	6	9	8	
Messy Church		28		

Age Profile

Under 18	17%	18%	17%	5%
18 - 64 years	34%	54%	64%	20%
65+ years	49%	28%	19%	75%
Live outside Parish	35%	20%	17%	24%
Village Population	2,800	4,900	3,000	2,550

Finance

	<b>Harden</b>	<b>Wilsden</b>	<b>Cullingworth</b>	<b>Denholme</b>
Share 2016	£28,250	£27,600	£22,720	£4,281
Share 2017	£32,490	£31,740	£26,600	£4,923
Share 2018	£35,740	£31,466	£29,250	£5,415
Share Paid 2016	100%	100%	100%	100%
Total charity giving 2016	£2,260	£3,150	£3,050	£1,944



[www.stsavioursharden.org.uk](http://www.stsavioursharden.org.uk)

[www.stmatthewswilsden.org.uk](http://www.stmatthewswilsden.org.uk)

[www.stjohnscullingworth.org.uk](http://www.stjohnscullingworth.org.uk)

[www.denholmechurch.org.uk](http://www.denholmechurch.org.uk)



@Stsavioursharden

@stmatthewswilsden

@stjohnscullingworth

Denholme Shared Church

CHURCHES TOGETHER (Wilsden Harden Denholme Cullingworth)

## 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:

Deborah Allwood (Harden) [d.allwood@hotmail.com](mailto:d.allwood@hotmail.com)

Helen Ludkin (Wilsden) [pahardenwilsden@gmail.com](mailto:pahardenwilsden@gmail.com)

Chris Wilcock (Denholme) [c.j.wilcock@sky.com](mailto:c.j.wilcock@sky.com)

Judy Mason (Cullingworth) [judybmason@live.co.uk](mailto:judybmason@live.co.uk)

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 **Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> and Friday 16<sup>th</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.

The diocese has inherited strong partnership links with Sudan, Sri Lanka, Tanzania, Southwest Virginia, Skara (Sweden) and Erfurt (Germany).