



St Peter's, Askern

Following Jesus, Reflecting God's Love, Welcoming and Serving All



Oversight Minister and Priest in Charge
and Area Dean of Adwick le Street Deanery

Information Pack and Parish Profile



THE DIOCESE OF
SHEFFIELD

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Bishops' Statement

There is no denying it: these are challenging times in the Diocese of Sheffield. But by the same token, these are exciting times for us. No-one has any doubt that in 2029 the Church of England in South Yorkshire and the East Riding will look very different from the way it is now — but equally no-one is yet very clear about the shape it will take. Our plan is an ambitious one and we are hungry for change. We are asking tough questions. Will the whole people of God be mobilised for the whole mission of God? What will morale be like, among key lay and ordained leaders? Will attendance figures be in decline or growing? Will there be more stipendiary incumbents or fewer? Will there be more congregations or fewer? Will we raise up a dynamic community of [‘Lights for Christ’](#)? Will we grow a [praying community of 2025 by 2025](#)? These questions were already pressing ones for us before the recent pandemic: they will surely be even more urgent for us now.

In this context, the appointment of a new ‘Oversight Minister’ for the parish of St Peter’s Askern in the Spa Mission Area and Area Dean for the deanery of Adwick le Street is all the more important. The community of faith in the parish of St Peter’s are profoundly realistic about the missional challenges they face but are also excited about the huge opportunities open to them within their community. The deanery as a whole is growing in cooperation as they seek the kingdom of God and we share their longing to see the church of Christ flourish here – with every person who is baptised confident to shine as a light for Christ in the world to the glory of God the Father.

We are praying that the Lord will bring to us a person with a strong sense of vocation to this task at this time; a person of faith and hope and love in God; a person who laughs easily and has a zest for life in Christ; a person with a sense of adventure, unafraid of failure and reliant on the grace of the Holy Spirit. If that might be you, we would love to explore with you the possibility that the Lord is calling you to this role.

In this Gospel adventure for the sake of the coming kingdom of God, the leadership and oversight of this Church family is going to be vital. It will require someone able to raise people up to take on responsibilities as [Focal Ministers](#) in every congregation and someone who understands that overseeing the ministry of the body of Christ does not mean doing everything personally, but releasing the gifts and ministries of others, collaboratively empowering the whole people of God for the whole mission of God.

With every blessing,

+ P CW

The Rt Revd Dr Pete Wilcox



+ Sophie

The Rt Revd Sophie Jelley



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Opportunity and Vision



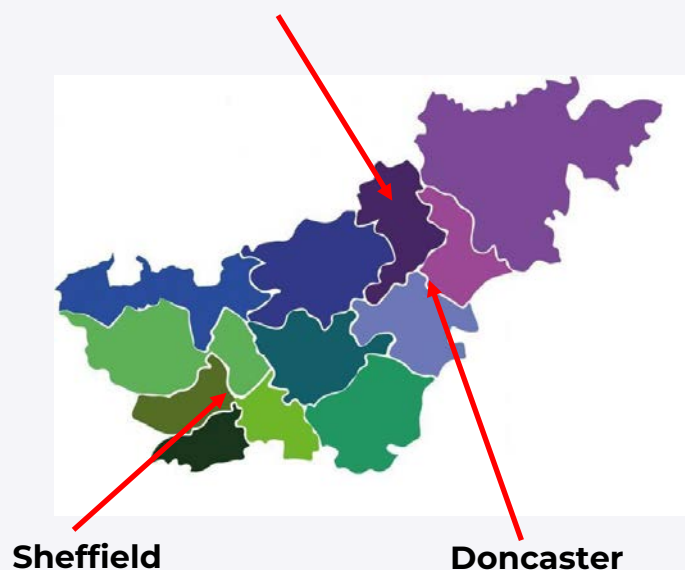
The Opportunity

The Diocese of Sheffield is made up of Church of England organisations located throughout South Yorkshire and the southern parts of the East Riding of Yorkshire. It comprises parishes, schools, chaplaincies, missional communities and other organisations all united by their common Christian faith.

It is an Anglican diocese that is made up of a diverse community of mission-focused people who are seeking to transform their lives, and the lives of others, by sharing the Christian faith. Since the creation of the diocese in 1914, the shape of the villages, towns and cities may have changed but the people are still vibrant, energetic and passionate about serving our Lord Jesus Christ.

In December 2020 the Diocese of Sheffield was awarded a grant of £4.92 million from the Church of England's Strategic Investment Board to support our ambitious transformation strategy over the next 5 years. This has enabled us to recruit and deploy a number of parish-facing roles who will support the work of our Oversight and Focal Ministers as they Renew, Release and Rejuvenate the parishes of the Diocese. Included in those roles alongside our Associate Archdeacon Transition Enablers are teams supporting parish finance and care of our buildings. There is also enhanced support for the nurture and development of Focal Ministers. As we seek to mobilise the whole people of God for the whole mission of God our Lights for Christ programme will help churches develop their members' discipleship so that every baptised person shines as a Light for Christ in the world to the glory of God the Father.

Adwick le Street Deanery



Our Vision

As a diocese we have been “called to grow a sustainable network of Christ-like, lively and diverse Christian communities in every place which are effective in making disciples and in seeking to transform our society and God’s world”. Every day around the diocese, dedicated, creative and passionate people are working together in the mission of God, who long to see the Body of Christ grow in depth and in numbers. We long to see every disciple and the whole Church serving our wider society as salt and light.



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The Parish

Askern is an ex-mining town situated on the A19 seven miles north of Doncaster with a population of 5,570 at the 2011 Census. Askern lies five miles south of the M62 and three miles from the A1 giving direct connections to a number of major towns and cities in the North, including Leeds, York and Hull.

Askern does not have a train station although there is a campaign to reopen the one closed in the 1940s but does have excellent bus links with Doncaster and local villages. In Victorian times Askern was known as a spa town but the sinking of a coal pit in the early 1900s changed the demographics of the town. New homes for miners were built on the west side of the A19 ("up village") whereas the majority residents before lived on the east side ("Askern Village").

The closing of the coal pit and its associated coke works in the 1980s had a large and long-lasting impact on Askern with level of high unemployment and substance use that the town is still recovering from. However there have also been a number of new housing developments aimed at families and retired people in the town and a new supermarket is being built on the A19.



The 'jewel in the crown' of Askern is the lake in the centre of the town of which local people are justifiably proud. The lake is maintained by a group called FOAL ("Friends of Askern Lake") to ensure the upkeep and development of the area and a number of shops and facilities (café, medical centre, Askern day-care centre, a small market) are situated around the lake and it has an excellent reputation for fishing. Annually, Askern Gala takes place around the lake and on the adjacent playing fields as have a number of national celebrations (Queen's Diamond Jubilee). The church plays an active role in all these events.

The site of the colliery and coke plant has been turned into open parkland and playing fields, known as Warren House Park, and pathways connect this space with Campsall Park, a mile away.

The nearby villages of Sutton, Campsall and Norton draw on the facilities of Askern. There are two infant and one junior school in Askern. The local secondary school, Campsmount Academy, is located in Campsall, two miles away, and was rated "Good" in Ofsted's 2022 report.

Askern is in the parliamentary constituency of Doncaster North which has returned Labour MPs since 1983, when the constituency was created. The preceding constituencies had returned Labour MPs at every general election since 1935. The current MP is Ed Miliband.

Askern Parish is in the Adwick-le-Street Deanery within the diocese of Sheffield.



The Deanery

Situated to the west and the north of the city of Doncaster, this small deanery comprises twelve parishes organised into four mission areas. There are currently six stipendiary oversight minister posts with one of these made possible by time-limited funding through the Strategic

Development Fund, and several self-supporting and retired priests offering active ministry. There are also a growing number of "focal ministers" authorised within the deanery.

The geography is primarily rural with both agricultural settlements and former mining communities making up the bulk of the population. With both the A1(M) and the A19 running through the deanery and the M18 and M62 nearby as well as a good train service to Doncaster, Leeds and York, the deanery is well connected. The deanery (along with its



neighbour to the east, Snaith and Hatfield) is supported by an Associate Archdeacon, Clive

Hogger, who works closely with the area dean to support parishes in vacancy as well as offering support, training and coaching to the clergy across the area.



The Spa Mission Area

There are two further parishes in the Spa Mission Area, St Helen, Burghwallis and St Mary Magdalene, Campsall. These have a self-supporting priest-in-charge, Chris Herbert, who works as the Diocesan Safeguarding Trainer during the week.



St Helen Burghwallis is a Grade II Church, and is likely to have been either standing or under construction at the time of the Domesday book. Holy Communion is celebrated weekly: 8.00 am first Sunday in month, 9.00 am the remainder.

Within the parish there is an open air chapel in Squirrel Wood Scout Camp available to use.

St Mary Magdalene Campsall is arguably the most significant building in the region. Its origins are lost in the depth of antiquity although there is reasonable evidence to believe that the original church was founded in Romano-British times. Holy Communion is celebrated weekly at 11.00 am with an All Age Service on the first Sunday of the month. There is also a Messy Church Service at Norton Community Hall on the Saturday before the All Age Service.

The parishes have been considering areas of overlap and co-operation and already have plans to work together to run Messy Church goes Wild services. It is anticipated that the Oversight Ministers will continue to work together to explore further opportunities for collaboration and mission.



While there is no current expectation that it will occur, the Diocesan budget at present only allows for one stipendiary minister in the Mission Area so if Chris were to leave it may become necessary in future for the postholder to become priest-in-charge of the other two parishes.



St Peter's Church

Owing to the expanding popularity of Askern as a spa town and the influence of the railways the visitor numbers to Askern increased and local infrastructure started to be built to support the growing town, albeit with a population of only 382 (1851 census). The need for a parish church was recognised and St Peter's was commissioned as "The Askern New District Church" in 1849 and archives indicate that services started in 1852.

Designed by WB Moffatt and built of stone in the Early English style at a cost of £3,287, St Peter's has an impressive, raised pulpit dating from its inception. The original organ has been removed although the pipes remain for decorative reasons and there is a smaller organ used during weddings and funerals.

Architecturally the building is sound although some limited plasterwork is required in the church itself.



Unusually, in the main church building the Communion Table is not central so the right-hand half of the church that faces it is used for services with comfortable seating and the font at the rear. The north aisle is used for overflow seating and children's activities and has been used as a stage and music area with 4 spotlights.

There is a door that leads through to the vestry and the old kitchen and toilets which are still in use.

There is some excellent stained glass on the east and west windows, depicting St Peter and some stories of the New Testament.



We have quite a good technology setup in the church with a 24-channel sound desk, 8 radio microphones plus further cabled mics, a large screen, 4 monitors and projector.

As with a lot of Victorian churches, the main church building is difficult and expensive to heat. The main church boiler will require replacing in the next two years.

Connected to the main church is a new corridor, the glass of which acts as our memorial window. It leads to a second entrance, to more toilets and baby-changing facilities and to the church hall.





Our church hall with its fully equipped kitchen was only built in 2011 and is great asset to the church and the community and is hired out for local events and organisations.

Sunday school and church meetings are held in the hall. There is a door from the hall to the courtyard which has been designated as our eco garden.



St Peter's Vicarage

Askern Vicarage is a four-bedroom, modern detached house situated on the main A19 road leading into the town. It is next-but-one to the main church (and next to the original vicarage which is now a private dwelling). The Vicarage and the church are highlighted in red on the diagram below.

The vicarage has gas central heating with a combi boiler and is double-glazed throughout. At the front of the vicarage is a small garden. an enclosed drive suitable for four cars and a charging point for an electric vehicle.

To the rear is a large garden, including a patio area, a lawn and a shed.

The Diocese of Sheffield takes the wellbeing of its clergy and their households seriously and will ensure that all necessary works are undertaken to a high standard prior to a new postholder taking occupancy.



Inside, the ground floor includes an entrance hall, a sizeable study, a downstairs lavatory, a kitchen/breakfast room, a dining room (with hatch access to the kitchen), a sitting room and small utility room.



On the first floor there are four double-bedrooms with built-in wardrobes, and a family bathroom including toilet, shower and bath.



Who we are...

Our Worship Life:

We aim to be a people that give everyone a really warm welcome to our church and make them want to come again and to participate more fully. To that end we want the worship in our church to be attractive, inspiring and inclusive and bring a sense of belonging to all who come here.

Our current Services are:

Sunday 8:30am: A said BCP service with Holy Communion twice a month

Sunday 10:30am LIGHT Service.: An informal service of the word with songs, and Sunday School during term-time. Holy Communion is usually celebrated once or twice per month.

Wednesday Night prayer (online) started during the pandemic and is now established as a regular part of the worshipping life of the church. Messy Church is held on the third Saturday of the month)

We anticipate partnering with the churches in the Mission Area to run Messy Church goes Wild termly.



...and who we want to be.

Every year we hold a Walk of Witness with the cross around the lake on Good Friday. Services for Harvest, Christmas and Christingle (which we celebrate at Candlemas) are highlights of the year however numbers for these have dropped in recent years.

The annual memorial service to remember those who have died (1st Sunday of November) and the annual Remembrance Service (Sunday nearest 11th Nov) are held and well attended.

With the exception of the BCP and a few 'set-piece' services most of the content is displayed to the congregation via projector to a central large screen and on monitors at the front. We try to vary the worship songs in the 10:30 service, balancing the modern and traditional. Before the young people leave the main church service one of the songs is aimed at a younger audience with words and actions as appropriate. We have used puppets in the main services at times, both in worship and supporting the sermon and a number of the congregation are

talented puppeteers. We have a dedicated sound and video technician who looks after all things AV in church.

We are not a 'set-in-our-ways' parish and are keen to explore new expressions of worship. During the vacancy we have kept a consistent service format as we are reliant on a number of visiting priests, but we are quite used to variations. We would like to revisit the way in which services at St Peter's are created and presented to the congregation and any musical ability and inspiration would be very welcome.



Who we are...

Our Missional Life:

As with many parish churches St Peter's did not have an easy lockdown. We kept going with weekly online services but have found that attendance has dropped since we restarted services in the church, in particular with family groups and we wish to see this trend reversed.

Average

attendance is approximately:

8:30am 4 adults

10:30am 16 adults, 3 children

In addition to the weekly services, we have a well-attended Tuesday Coffee Morning and a number of charity events and meals such as the

Christmas Fayre and we take our part in the Askern summer gala. Sunday school is very positive with Christian teaching and craft activities and the team with the young people regularly lead services such as Christingle and Mothering Sunday. We want to be good at making children and young families feel welcome and included.



...and who we want to be.

We have a small pastoral team who phone vulnerable parishioners if they have not been to church and arrange visits where they can and operate a St Peter's Prayer Chain, praying for

local people in need of God's help.

We have been given a Silver award for our Eco church. Our dedicated eco church member, along with the young people, has turned the courtyard into an eco garden, growing fruit and vegetables and attracting wildlife.

We have strong links with CRY, an Askern-based addiction support charity and the local foodbank who both operate from the Hall.

Our Finances

We wish St Peter's to be a place of generosity with sound finances. The parish is a relatively poor one, but we employ imaginative ways to fundraise.



St Peter's finances have been stable for the last few years even accounting for Covid but this is not expected to continue and so we make a reduced contribution to the Common Fund. Like a lot of parishes, we are under pressure but have cut our cloth accordingly.

The most recent accounts are available on request.



Role Description

This strategic role of Area Dean and Oversight Minister has four primary aspects:

1. To oversee mission and ministry in the Mission Area:

- Sharing in the cure of souls across the whole Mission Area, developing strategies for connecting with, serving and witnessing to those who are resident in the area.
- Providing oversight, guidance and leadership, fostering a culture and practice of collaboration and teamwork and enabling the discernment, development and implementation of vision in the form of a Mission Action Plan.
- Helping the congregation to reflect and uphold the mission statement of the church: Following Jesus, Reflecting God's Love, Welcoming and Serving All.
- Exploring ways that technology can better help us in our preaching and worship.

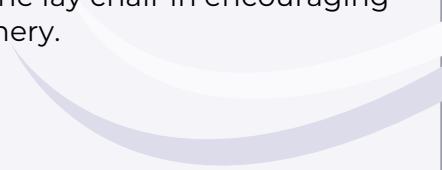
2. To resource the whole people of God for the whole mission of God:

- Enabling every church member to discern, develop and grow in the exercise of their God-given gifts.
- Facilitating all God's people to grow in their understanding of the mission of God and in confidence in their own calling as full participants in the outworking of that mission.
- Establishing functional structures which enable the flourishing of properly collaborative leadership and which give value to the contributions of all those holding responsibility.
- Bringing insight and energy to the regular services in the parish, wit and imagination to the festival services and to explore small group provision.
- Providing strategic oversight and pastoral support for the parishes across the deanery, liaising with the Associate Archdeacon, Archdeacon and Bishops as required.

3. To ensure mission and ministry in the Mission Area reflects the Christian faith as understood in the Church of England:

- Fostering a working understanding of Christian faith and practice in the Church of England.
- Having regard to the calling and responsibilities of the clergy as described in the Canons, the Ordinal, the Guidelines for the Professional Conduct of Clergy, and other relevant legislation and guidance.
- Being ministers of both word and sacrament.
- Ensuring excellence in safeguarding and care for all God's people, and full compliance with Diocesan and national safeguarding guidelines, policy and procedures.
- Overseeing the working of effective governance and procedures with regard to the Church Representation Rules and other relevant legislation and guidance.
- Encouraging and facilitating healthy and effective working relationships within and between the congregations, parishes, Mission Area, deanery and diocese to help realise the Diocesan strategy of becoming a flourishing and generous Diocese of Sheffield: Renewed, Released and Rejuvenated!
- Modelling generosity and encouraging the best allocation of resources in each mission area in the deanery.
- Fulfilling all statutory duties of the Area Dean and carrying out parish visitations on behalf of the Archdeacon.

4. To identify, nurture and develop leaders of the Mission Area:

- Taking responsibility for the support and development of Focal Ministers and all church leaders, encouraging and actively participating in the diocesan programmes of learning, coaching and reflective practice.
 - Promoting and modelling healthy practices of self-care, attending to self-understanding, rest and recreation, prayer and spirituality.
 - Convening and chairing deanery chapter and synod and working with the lay chair in encouraging and equipping colleagues, both lay and ordained, across the whole deanery.
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Person Specification

An experienced ordained woman or man who is:

		essential	desirable
Qualifications and personal attributes	· Recommended by their Bishop as suitable for Common Tenure Primary Responsibility.	Y	
	· Shows capacity to foster collaboration between lay and ordained ministers (licensed, commissioned and authorised) and lay leaders.	Y	
	· Committed to mutual flourishing envisaged in the Five Guiding Principles.	Y	
	· In Holy Orders for not less than three years.	Y	
	· Experienced in leadership.	Y	
	· Able to demonstrate the calling, character, gifts and skills to oversee a number of local churches and ecclesial communities in a range of parishes, institutions and networks.	Y	
Character	· <i>Models leadership on the example of Christ.</i>	Y	
	· <i>Collaborative.</i>	Y	
	· <i>Excited about mission and the diocesan vision and strategy.</i>	Y	
	· <i>Committed to the breadth of tradition in the Church of England and mutual flourishing.</i>	Y	
	· <i>Strong and mature personal faith, nourished by well-established patterns of prayer, worship, reflection and study.</i>	Y	
	· <i>Accountable.</i>	Y	
	· <i>Open to lifelong learning and development.</i>	Y	
	· <i>Recognised as resilient, stable and trustworthy.</i>	Y	
	· <i>Self-aware and self-accepting.</i>	Y	
	· <i>Cares for self and for key personal relationships.</i>	Y	



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Experience	· Building and facilitating teams, shared decision-making.	Y	
	· Energising and enabling others in forming vision and in strategic planning	Y	
	· Working collaboratively, exercising accountability and delegation.	Y	
	· Encouraging trust in God.	Y	
	· Discerning, nurturing and developing the skills of others.	Y	
	· Helping others shape and engage in mission and evangelism appropriate to the local context.	Y	
	· Knowledge, understanding and experience of diocesan and church structures, policies, and practices including Safeguarding, finance and governance	Y	
	· Taking responsibility for personal well-being and nurture.	Y	
	· Enabling others in their practice of self-care and personal development	Y	
	· Leading, managing and consolidating change.		Y
	· Conflict management.		Y
	· Entrepreneurial skills, including responsible risk-taking.		Y
	· Holding the big picture.	Y	
	· Enabling others in reflection, review and developing the mission and ministry of the church.	Y	
	· Building community through relationships of trust.		Y
	· Inter-personal skills, including listening, communication, and exercising emotional intelligence.		Y
	· Organisational skills and administration.		Y
	· Working with different generations and inter-generationally.		Y
	· Pastoral supervision and reflective practice.		Y



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The Diocese of Sheffield supports equal opportunities and opposes all forms of unlawful and unfair discrimination. Our aim is to ensure that post applicants are treated equally and fairly and are selected and trained on the basis of the role description, person specification and by Ministry Development Review.

We will also ensure that individuals are not disadvantaged by conditions or requirements which cannot be shown to be justified as being necessary for the safe and effective performance of their role, and particularly welcome applications from under-represented groups within the Diocese such as those with disabilities or with global majority heritage. Candidates with caring responsibilities are encouraged to make contact for an informal discussion.



For further information please contact The Archdeacon of Doncaster:

The Venerable Javaid Iqbal

javid.iqbal@Sheffield.anglican.org

Tel: (01709) 309110 | Mob: 07469 850723

Web: www.sheffield.anglican.org | Post: 95-99 Effingham Street, Rotherham, S65 1BL