



THE DIOCESE OF
SHEFFIELD



INFORMATION PACK
Priest in Charge of Ardsley and Darfield
with Great Houghton
and Oversight Minister within the
Wath 2 Mission area
Including Area Dean responsibilities
for the Wath Deanery

Recruitment pack: what's inside:

3	• Letter from Bishop Pete
5	• Welcome to Ardsley and Darfield with Great Houghton
7	• Wath 2 Mission Area Map
8	• Parish of Christ Church Ardsley
25	• Parish of All Saints Darfield with St Michael and All Angels Great Houghton
36	• Oversight Minister: Role Description and Person Specification
41	• Area Dean: Role Description and Person Specification
49	• Mission Area Statistics
51	• Parish of St Helen's Thurnscoe - overview (other parish in Mission Area)
53	• Vicarage



Bishop's Statement for Parish Profiles

Dear friend,

For several reasons, 2025 feels like the start of a new chapter in the life of the Diocese of Sheffield.

First, it is the year in which we launch the refreshed version of our Diocesan Strategy, by which we seek to be 'renewed, released and rejuvenated, by God's grace and in Christ's service. The original seven-year strategy, launched in 2018, has served us well and (despite the very real ravages of the Covid-19 pandemic) there has been much fruitfulness in that time for which to give thanks to God: a new prayer community developed, new ministries begun, new congregations formed. A Diocesan-wide consultation over the refreshing of the strategy gave a clear message: increase the emphasis on seeking the welfare of local communities, of our neighbours and neighbourhoods, but retain the 3Rs and the Diocesan Vision Prayer. This we have sought to do.

Secondly, it is the year in which the Strategic Mission and Ministry Investment Board responded generously to our partnership funding request, committing £17.5 million for investment in the revitalisation of our Diocese with immediate effect and in principle committing a further £18.5 million for the period 2028-2031. We are hugely grateful for this resource and for all the exciting potential it brings, as we continue to seek to see the whole people of God mobilised in the whole mission of God, and every baptised person enabled to enter into the full dignity of their baptismal vocation to shine as a Light for Christ in the world to the glory of God the Father.

Thirdly, it is the year in which we will welcome a new Bishop of Doncaster and a new Archdeacon of Sheffield and Rotherham into post, to bring fresh energy and perspectives to the Bishop's Senior Staff Team.

In this context, the appointment of a new 'Oversight Minister' for the Wath 2 Mission Area in the Deanery of Wath is therefore all the more important. This appointment will involve taking responsibility for the parishes of Christ Church Ardsley and All Saints Darfield with St Michael's Great Houghton. In addition, the appointed Oversight Minister will also be the Area Dean of Wath. Therefore we are looking for an experienced and proven leader who will be able to lead the clergy and lay leaders in mission, promoting growth and good effective collaboration.

In this Gospel adventure for the sake of the coming kingdom of God, the leadership of these church families is going to be vital. It will require someone who is able to exercise an enabling oversight, with a passion for teamwork, for developing leaders and for empowering the whole

people of God for the whole mission of God. It will require someone able to raise up leaders to take on responsibilities as 'focal leaders' 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.

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.

With every blessing

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "+ Pete Sheffield". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

The Rt Revd Dr Pete Wilcox
Bishop of Sheffield

Welcome to the Parishes of Ardsley, and Darfield with Great Houghton

Our 2 parishes, along with Thurnscoe parish, make up the Wath 2 Mission Area in the Deanery of Wath and Diocese of Sheffield. Wath 2 Mission Area has an allocation of 2 Oversight Ministers to cover the 3 parishes (4 churches). Your role will be as one of these Oversight Ministers with responsibility for our 2 parishes of Ardsley and Darfield with Great Houghton.

We are neighbouring parishes in South Yorkshire, part of Barnsley Borough Council area, who have been working together with a longstanding partnership, each with our own unique communities but over the last few years have increasingly come together to work on a variety of joint ventures:

Café Church

This informal café style church meets every third Sunday afternoon in Darfield Church Hall and is a partnership between Ardsley and Darfield churches. There is always plenty of cake and coffee, activities on the tables, sung worship led from a keyboard plus some fun action songs that get everyone moving!

We share a short reflection with discussion questions that are easy to engage with.

Café Church attracts several families with kids that don't attend other services as well as church folk from Ardsley and Darfield who enjoy the alternative worship style.

Men's Breakfast

Full cooked brekkie and bottomless filter coffee & tea - that's the way to get guys together on a Saturday morning - well, that's what we've found! In January 2025 we started a men's breakfast in Darfield Church Hall led by Andrew from Darfield (the chef) and Robin from Ardsley (the host) - it has started strong with between 15-26 guys each month enjoying food, chat and building relationships as they share stories and find common interests.

Advertised as hosted by Christ Church and Darfield churches, it has interestingly drawn in men from a wide geographical area including churches in Thurnscoe and Barnsley. The aim is to build on the foundations the breakfast is creating and establish different interest groups and opportunities to do practical service in the community together.



Mission Area Courses

We have held several shared courses, some in-person and others online. In 2024 we had a Lenten Prayer Course, and an Advent course using the theme 'Women of the Bible'.

Salt and Light

Salt and Light is a venture for young Christians, aged 10 to 17, and is held monthly on a Sunday evening in the Rectory Cottage, Darfield. One of their highlights has been an annual trip to the Sheffield Diocesan 'Breathe Deep' event, which nine members attended this year. They have also held BBQ's, Games Nights, a narrowboat trip. Two of the members were confirmed last year.

The previous minister and her husband were key leaders and since their departure in March 2025 the group has not met as we have struggled to find replacement leaders

Companions in Daily Prayer

We started an online daily prayer during Covid, and our pattern of online Morning and Night Prayer 8.30am and 9pm Monday to Thursday via the Companions in Daily Prayer Facebook Page has continued.

In Advent we had a number of guest hosts from across the diocese and it has been and continues to benefit those in our own parishes and those further afield.

PCCs

We continue to operate as separate PCCs and have not done any shared business together. We have done some side-by-side training including the Leading Your Church into Growth LYCIG course.

Service Planning

Service leaders from both parishes meet together to work through the calendar of planning for worship services which has been a helpful foundation for our continued discussions as we entered our vacancy. People in key leadership roles in each parish also provide support and a 'listening ear' for their counterparts in the other parish including the Treasurers sharing tips on reporting finances to the PCC and the newly appointed Parish Safeguarding Officers in both churches meeting to share learning and support each other.



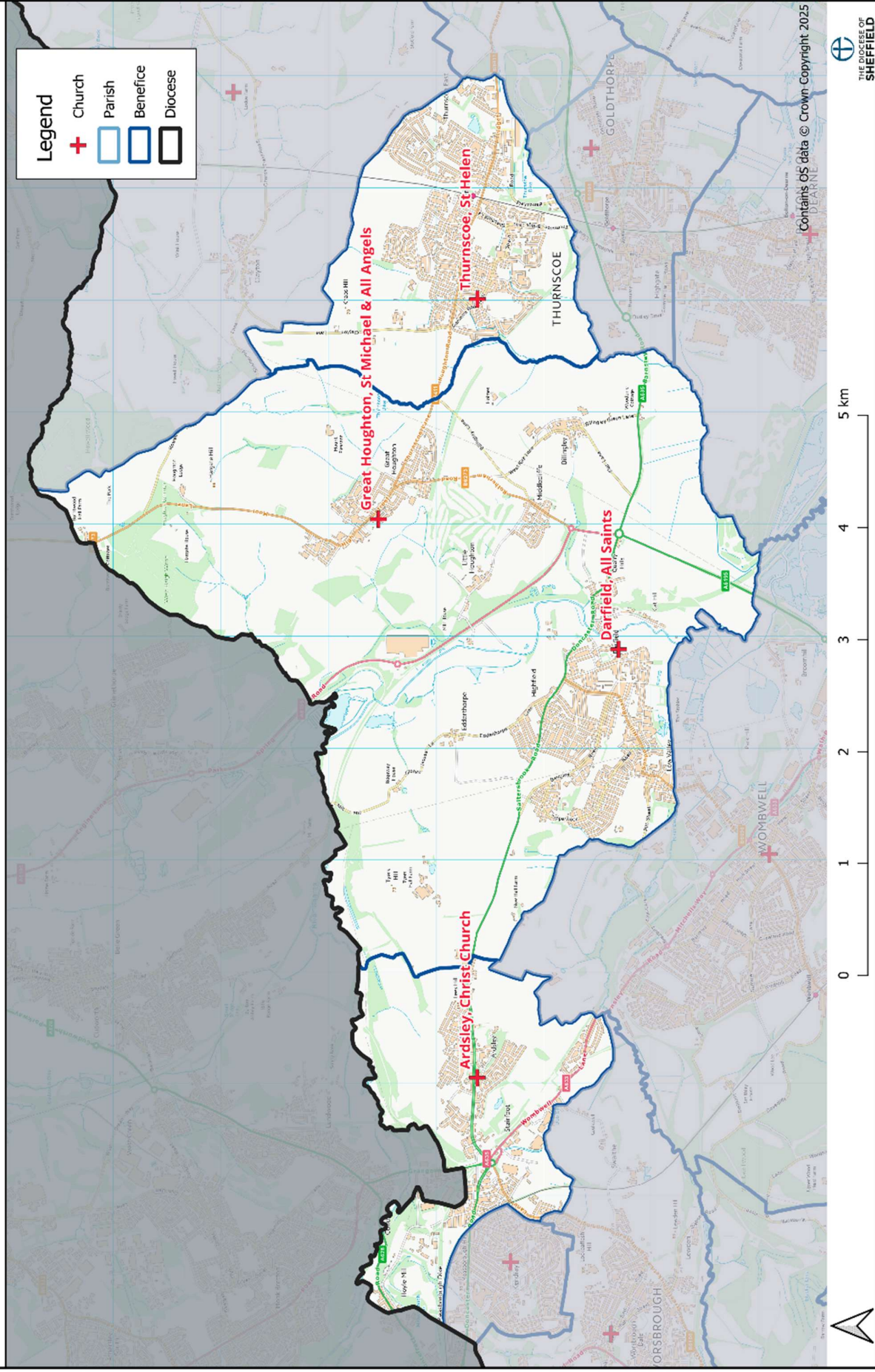
Confirmation

In November 2024, Ardsley Parish hosted the Deanery Confirmation Service - 4 people from Ardsley and 2 from Darfield were confirmed.

Calling

We pray that as you read more about each parish in our Profiles you will sense God's guiding hand and clear calling if this is an opportunity He is leading you to explore.

W2 Mission Area





Welcome to Christ Church Ardsley

Welcome to Christ Church Ardsley

Our core congregation is a faithful group of 35 folk, many of whom are aged 80 and over and have been members of Christ Church for many years.

We have a few younger folk but are very aware we need to Rejuvenate our church and draw in younger people and families in this coming season if we are to survive and thrive as a church as we seek to make Jesus' love known to our communities.

We are committed to serving our communities and creating new ways to engage with them and show them the love of Jesus.

We've planted some seeds and are already seeing them start to grow - are you the person God is calling to nurture these seeds and help us plant more in this coming season?



In December 2024 we employed one of our existing volunteers for one day a week as a

Families Worker

(through the Mission Enabler scheme) and she has recently started up Tots @ Christ Church which has been welcoming up to 14 adults and 20 children in its first few weeks, meeting an identified need in the local community (no other Toddler groups in the area).

We have tried to provide a group that fits in with timing of the local school for drop off and nursery pick up, we open the doors from 9am, offering toast and drinks for early arrivals (this is on offer through out). There is time to play and do craft. Each session there is a pause for story and song which includes Christian bible stories.



We host Craft and Chat

twice a month, a social space for anyone to bring a craft they are working on (from card making to crocheting) - again this is providing an opportunity to make friends and build community.



Warm Space

started in Nov 2022 and has run every week since providing a warm welcome to 20-25 people every week - it's a privilege to welcome people, to provide a friendly warm welcome, a hug, free food and drink, but most importantly to offer a sense of belonging, community and friendship.



Warm Space opens every Wednesday 10am-12noon offering a warm welcome, FREE filter coffee, tea, hot chocolate, toast, crumpets, cakes and biscuits to anyone who drops in. We continued running **Warm Space** throughout all of 2024, closing only on Christmas Day and New Year's Day and in November we celebrated our 2nd birthday with a party and more cake than usual!



We set up our Warm Space as part of the Warm Welcome campaign to provide a FREE warm space for local people to come so they didn't have to heat their homes over that winter. We quickly found that many people came as a result of social isolation and seeking company and the numerous stories we have heard have focused on how the Warm Space has improved the mental health and wellbeing of all of those who attend. Given its success and ongoing popularity among those attending we decided to continue running during the summer and it continues to meet every week.

During 2024 we welcomed 20-25 people every week in the community room just inside the church which is just about big enough to host this many – we'd love to welcome more people and hope to expand into the community lounge in the church hall in the summer of 2025.

Highlights of the year included:

- Hosting a soup lunch after Warm Space each week in Lent, before a course exploring prayer
- Our 2nd birthday party in November 2024
- Enjoying a full Christmas Dinner on 18 December

Warm Space relies on a team of 3 volunteers each week with an overall team of 6 volunteers giving their time during the year.

Funding

Stairfoot Ward Alliance (Barnsley Council) has provided grants covering almost all the costs of running Warm Space for the last 2 years - a further grant of **£1,600** was agreed in Nov 2024 to cover 2025. In awarding the grant, the Alliance recognised the immense value of the time contributed by volunteers to the project – **450 hours** across the previous year valued at **£6,165**. Another grant of **£1,260** was received to provide a range of Community Meals over the coming year – these will include lunches & evenings on different days, to welcome different people.

Messy Church

Action songs, videos, quizzes, crafts, games and interactive prayers - all reinforcing the theme for the session. Messy Church meets 4-5.15pm on the 2nd Sunday each month and we welcome a mix of families into this informal and accessible expression of church. Over the last year numbers have ranged from 10 to 30 children and adults. Led by the Families Worker we have a team of 5 volunteers that love engaging with the children and families that come.



Creating a Safer Church

Diane Webb, our Families Worker also took on the role of Parish Safeguarding Officer in February 2025 and has embraced the role with fresh eyes and a fresh passion to help us all create safe spaces within our church and in everything we do.

An in-person Safeguarding training morning (with breakfast!) is booked in for July 2025 with the Diocesan Safeguarding training lead coming to join Diane in leading a hands on session for people who volunteer or lead groups.



Men's Breakfast

full cooked brekkie and bottomless filter coffee & tea - that's the way to get guys together on a Saturday morning - well, that's what we've found! In January 2025 we started our men's breakfast in partnership with Darfield Church hosted in Darfield Church Hall, led by Andrew from Darfield (the chef) and Robin from Christ Church (the host) - it has started strong with 26 guys enjoying food, chat and building

relationships as they share stories and find common interests.

Advertised as hosted by Christ Church and Darfield churches, it has interestingly drawn in men from a wide geographical area including churches in Thurnscoe and Barnsley. The aim is to build on the foundations the breakfast is creating and establish different interest groups and opportunities to do practical service in the community together.

Oakhill Primary Academy

Christ Church has had a long connection with our local Primary school Oakhill. We enjoy welcoming all the children and their teachers to the Church for their Harvest, Christmas and Easter Church Service. Each key stage comes separately and shows us the wonderful work they have been learning about the season, sing/sign songs and we are able to link it all together with a Christian message. Parents and carers come along to these and for those who have children in different age groups there is always the kettle on for a quick cuppa as we wait for the next group.

Supporting RE

We also go into the school to support with RE lessons which have included, advent, church building and for the nursery children a wedding! We get invited to do specially assemblies for major events such as when the Queen died.

Supporting school events

We attend their summer and Christmas fetes, where we offer free craft - this gives us a wonderful opportunity to chat to local families and invite them to Messy Church, Tots and other activities.



Baptisms

We held six baptism services in 2024 - two during our usual services, two in separate services in Christ Church - and what was particularly joyful this year was the discovery of the local swimming pool at Broomhill who have graciously allowed us to hold full immersion baptisms - we held a baptism here on Palm Sunday for 1 person and then again on Pentecost for another 3 people.

Parents looking to get their children Baptised are invited to come along to our Messy Church or Tots group to have a chat and find out more about Baptism - this helps their little ones see the Church before their big day. The family then are invited back to either Messy Church or an all-age service to be welcomed by members of the Church



Confirmation Service

We welcomed Bishop Pete, the Bishop of Sheffield, to Christ Church in October for the Wath Deanery Confirmation service, where four people from our church family were confirmed.



Weddings

It was a delight to join in the celebrations of 2 church couples in 2024 as well as hosting 2 other weddings for local folk.



Sunday morning worship

We currently gather every Sunday at 10.45am and have a regular pattern across the month:

1st Sunday - All Age Communion

2nd Sunday - Morning worship

3rd Sunday - Holy Communion

4th Sunday - All age worship

5th Sunday - Brunch service (a shorter more informal service followed by bacon sandwiches!)



The liturgy for all of our services is shown on a large TV screen. Each week has a slightly different style - some weeks our sung worship is led from the (electric) church organ with a mix of traditional hymns and more modern choruses, other weeks use a mix of hymns, songs on screen using YouTube videos and occasionally worship songs led from a keyboard.

We have a committed team of volunteer service leaders including our Lay Reader, our Families Worker and several other volunteer leaders.

We have not adopted the Focal Ministry approach championed by Sheffield Diocese but do recognize the value of our lay leadership especially in these areas.

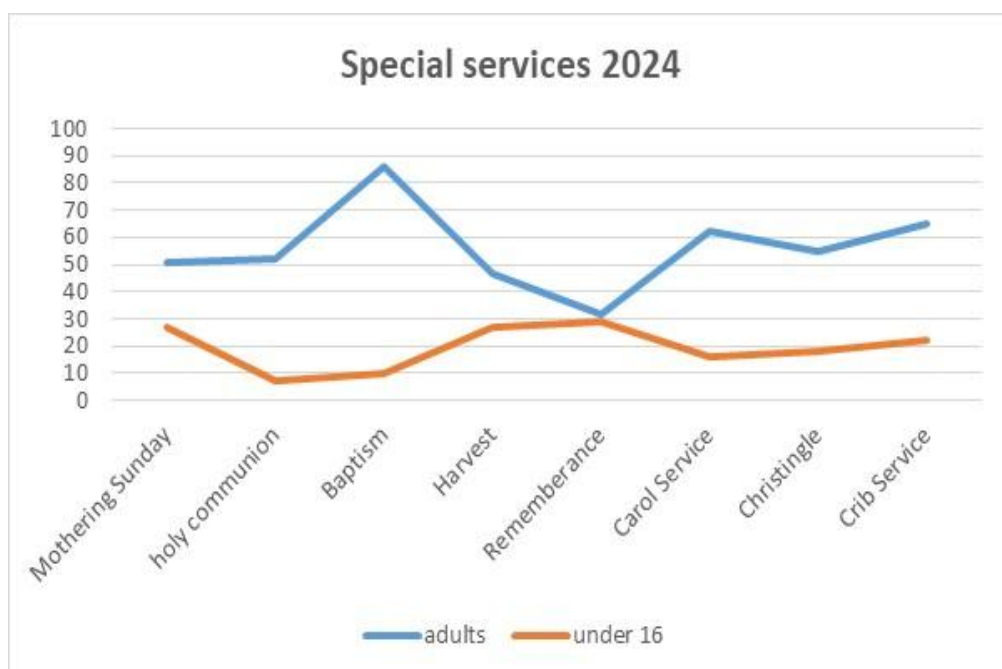
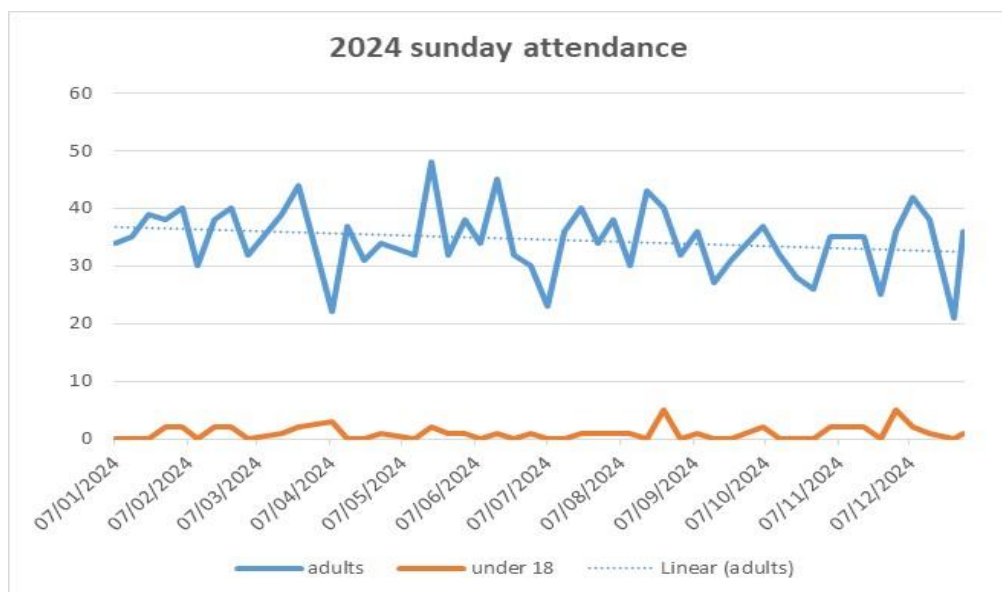
We are very grateful for the support of neighbouring oversight ministers and Julie Upton our Associate Archdeacon for their support in celebrating Holy Communion during our vacancy.

Church attendance

on regular Sundays is showing a slow decline..

....but numbers increase for 'special' services including 5th Sunday brunch and

Parade services when the scouts and their families join us, and for Harvest and Christmas.



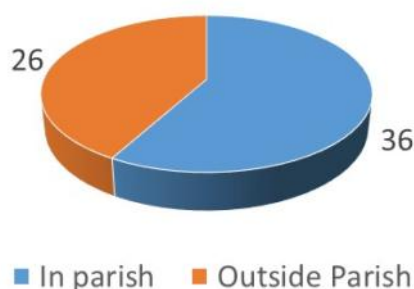
Coffee mornings

We hold 4 coffee mornings a year to welcome the community into the church and raise funds by selling plants, crafts, cakes and home made marmalade.

These are popular with the local community with 40-50 people attending and provide a great opportunity to build relationships as well as raise money for different projects.



Electoral Roll



In creating our new Electoral Roll for 2025, **22** names were removed
7 new people joined
giving us **62** names on the new roll.

Worshipping Community - Dec 2024

Total	79
Children aged 0 – 10	4
Young people aged 11 – 17	3
Adults aged 18 – 29	3
Adults aged 30 – 49	8
Adults aged 50 – 69	23
Adults aged 70+	38



Finance summary

Our income for 2024 was £69.2k and our expenditure £69.2k resulting in breakeven for the year. Expenditure included £24k contribution to the Diocese - we recognize this covers less than half of the costs of a minister.

We spent £13.5k on preliminary works with architects to produce plans for the new accessible access to the church - £4.5k of this came from unrestricted funds and £9k from restricted.

We also spent £4.5k installing a new accessible toilet in the church hall - this was paid for with a grant from the South Yorkshire Community Foundation and a generous donation.

Our new Families Worker started in post in Dec 2024 and her salary for the first year is fully funded by a £7k grant from the Diocese through their Mission Enabler scheme.

Café Church

This informal café style church meets every third Sunday afternoon in Darfield Church Hall and is a partnership between Ardsley and Darfield churches. There is always plenty of cake and coffee, activities on the tables, sung worship led from a keyboard plus some fun action songs that get everyone moving!

We share a short reflection with discussion questions that are easy to engage with. Café Church attracts several families with kids that don't attend other services as well as church folk from Ardsley and Darfield who enjoy the alternative worship style.



Companions in Daily prayer

We started an online daily prayer during Covid, and our pattern of online Morning and Night Prayer 8.30am and 9pm Monday to Thursday via the Companions in Daily Prayer Facebook Page has continued.

In Advent we had a number of guest hosts from across the diocese and it has been and continues to benefit those in our own parishes and those further afield.

Funerals

During 2024 we held 13 funerals – 7 of which were in church and another 6 were held at the Crematorium alone.

COME PRAY WITH US!


Would you like to pray with others online?

Come join us everyday
Monday - Thursday
at **08.30am & 09.00pm.**
Online on Facebook!


Everyone is welcome.

Search for us on Facebook
- Companions in Daily Prayer.

Or scan the QR code below!



PRAY WITH OTHERS



Join us as the New Oversight Minister at Christ Church Ardsley

Christ Church Ardsley is seeking a dedicated and inspiring leader to lead our church community as we enter a new chapter in our journey of faith. We are seeking someone grounded in biblical teachings but is also passionate about fostering spiritual growth and engagement within our congregation.

We are looking for an oversight minister who possesses strong communication skills, allowing them to connect with all ages and backgrounds. A heart for pastoral care is essential, as we believe in nurturing relationships and supporting one another through life's challenges.

Our Mission is to present Christ's Message and by our example:

Share His love in service to the parish and wherever God calls

To grow through prayer, worship, teaching and friendship

To bring people closer to God and to each other

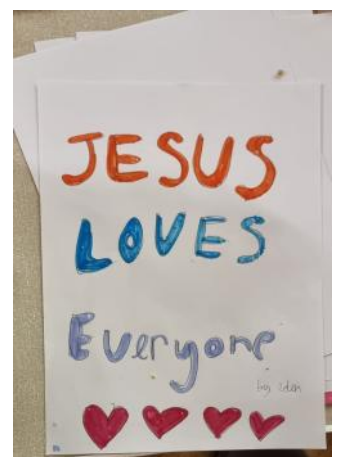
The ability to inspire and lead meaningful services, alongside innovative programming, will help us reach out to our local community and attract new members.

The ideal candidate will have a vision for outreach and ministry to families and youth, as we continue to work together to share the love of Jesus with people across our community. They will be committed to teamwork, enabling, empowering and collaborating with lay leaders and volunteers to encourage a shared mission and to empower church members to actively live out their faith.

If you have a heart for ministry, a commitment to spiritual leadership, and a vision for growth, we invite you to consider joining us at Christ Church Ardsley.



Together, let's build a future filled with hope, community, connection, and faith.



The Church building

Built in 1841 as a daughter church to Darfield, Ardsley served the local mining community in the village. A dual carriage way now runs through the middle of the parish and our car park is accessed from this road.

The Church building is stone built and currently retains its wooden pews, although we have plans to remove these and replace with chairs to create a more flexible space as part of a significant re-ordering of the church. These plans have been put on hold due to total project costs and the current vacancy and we have instead focused our efforts into refurbishing the Church Hall and bringing this back into use for church and community activities. We have also recently obtained a faculty to install an entrance ramp from the pavement alongside the car park and around the church leading to a ramp and new steps into church to make the building accessible - we are in the process of identifying grant funders to make this happen. We've recently replaced our projector with a 75 inch TV on which we display all of our services and this has been very well received being much brighter and easier to see.

We have a community room at the entrance to the church, along with a fully fitted kitchen and a toilet in the church entrance lobby—the community room is currently used for a range of activities from tea and coffee after services, our weekly Warm Space, Craft and Chat, and meetings - the Scouts and Rainbows

have also been using this room while we refurbished the Hall.

Our new Toddlers group has used the Community room and spaces at the front of church in its first few months before it moves into the hall in September.

There is a closed graveyard which the council maintains.



The Church Hall

..is adjacent to the church and has just been brought back into use in the summer of 2025 following significant internal refurbishments including new flooring, redecoration, a new accessible toilet and new kitchen

For 30+ years the hall had been leased to the local scouts who had exclusive use of the building with the church using it only occasionally. The lease expired just before COVID and the scouts stopped meeting during lockdown - the church then took back responsibility and main use of the hall

During the refurbishment of the hall we have continued to

facilitate the scouts to meet in the church community room and main church worship space as we have been keen to continue our relationship with this key community group— they were delighted to start using the hall again in June 2025 and we will be starting a new Chair Based Yoga class in the late summer and

moving our weekly Warm Space into the Hall as this will give us space to welcome more people.

Our new Toddler Group will move into the Hall from September, again enabling them to welcome more children and carers.

This year we've been delighted to host a new **Rainbows** (young brownies) group which started in the church Community room but will move into the hall in the summer.

There are further refurbishments we plan to do (new windows, new heating system and further equipment in the kitchen) and plan to apply for grant funding over the summer to enable these improvements later in 2025.



David Beck

Admin

All-star contributor · 5 June at 07:10 · 🌐

We were delighted to be back in the church hall (aka The Scout Hut) this week following the renovations. We were also massively delighted to invest some new Scouts into the Troop. Cameron was also invested as an adult leader into the group, having been with us since he was a Beaver 🐻. A huge welcome to them all 🙌🏻.

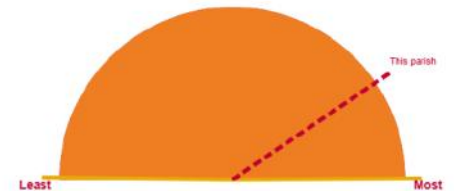


Demographics

Parish profile: Christ Church Ardsley June 2025

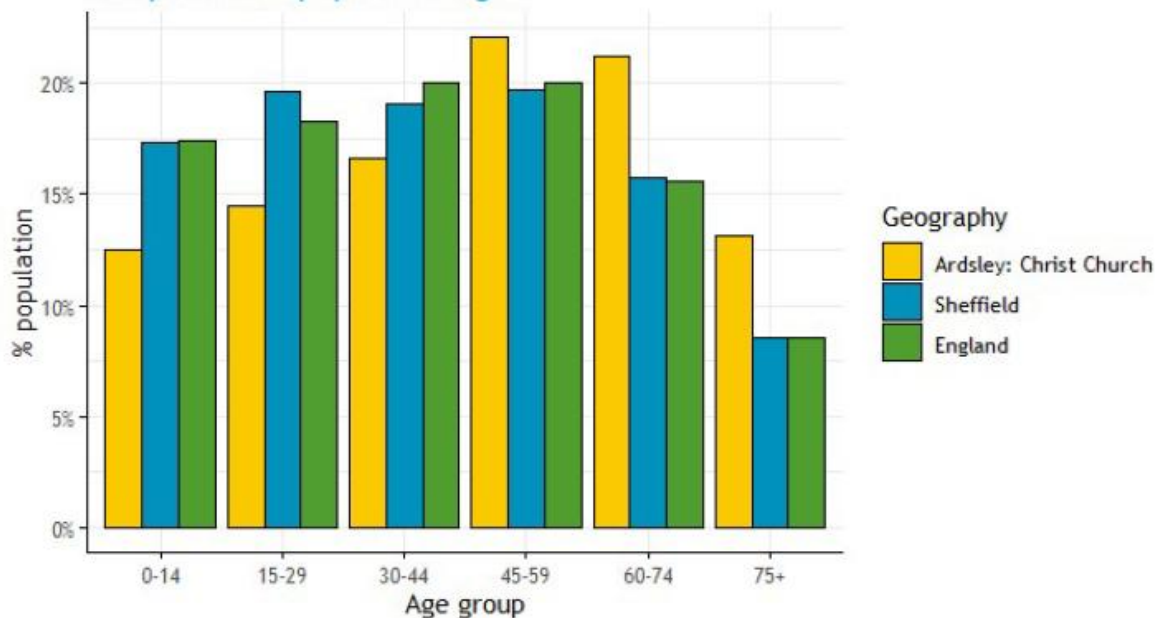
Overview

Deprivation rank (1=most deprived, 12,178=least deprived)	2,315
Parish population (2021 census)	4,503
Parish number of occupied households	2,096
Area (square miles)	1.7
Population density (people per square mile)	2,703



Age

Comparison of population ages

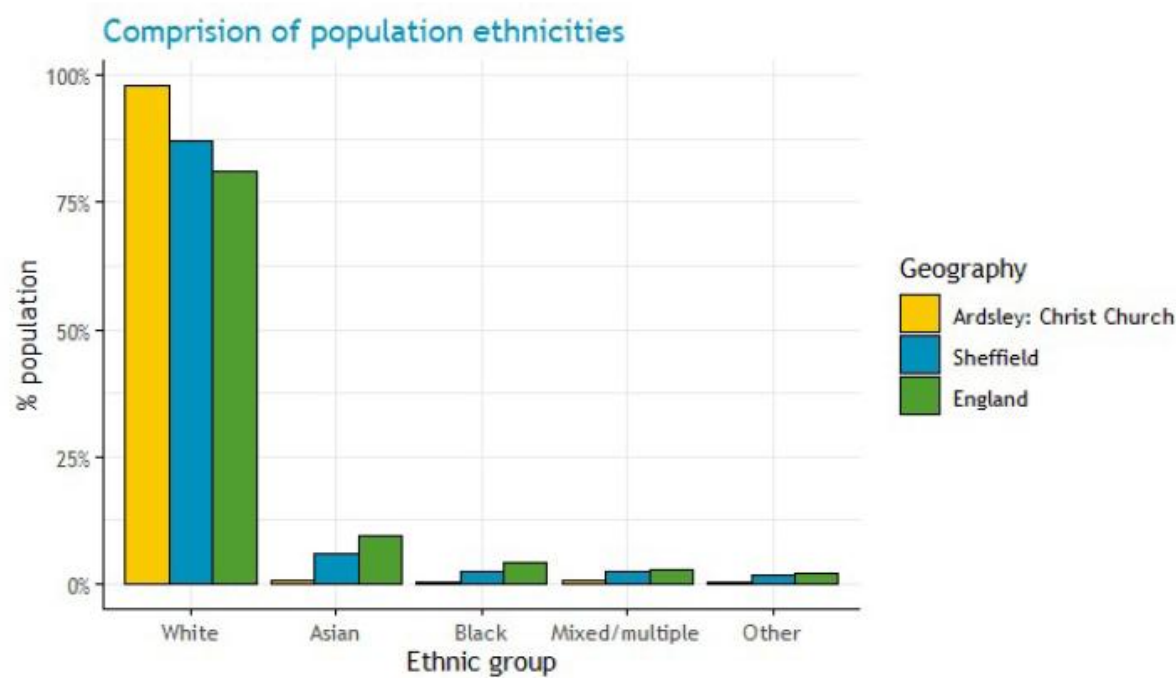


age	Sheffield	England	Ardsley: Christ Church	
0-14	17%	17%	12%	540
15-29	20%	18%	15%	675
30-44	19%	20%	17%	766
45-59	20%	20%	22%	991
60-74	16%	16%	21%	946
75+	9%	9%	13%	585
				4,503

These demographics show we have an older population than the average in the Diocese of Sheffield with 34% of Ardsley folk aged over 60 compared with 25% for Sheffield which is also the average across England

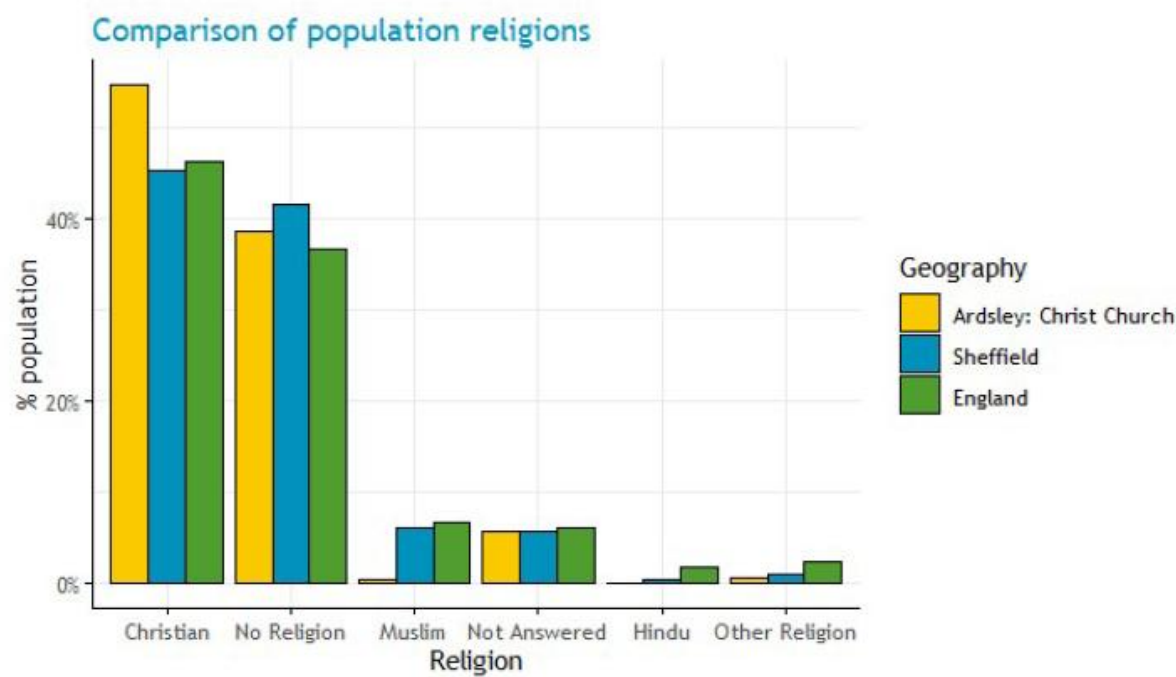
We also have less younger people with 27% aged under 29 cf 37% in Sheffield and 35% across England

Ethnicity



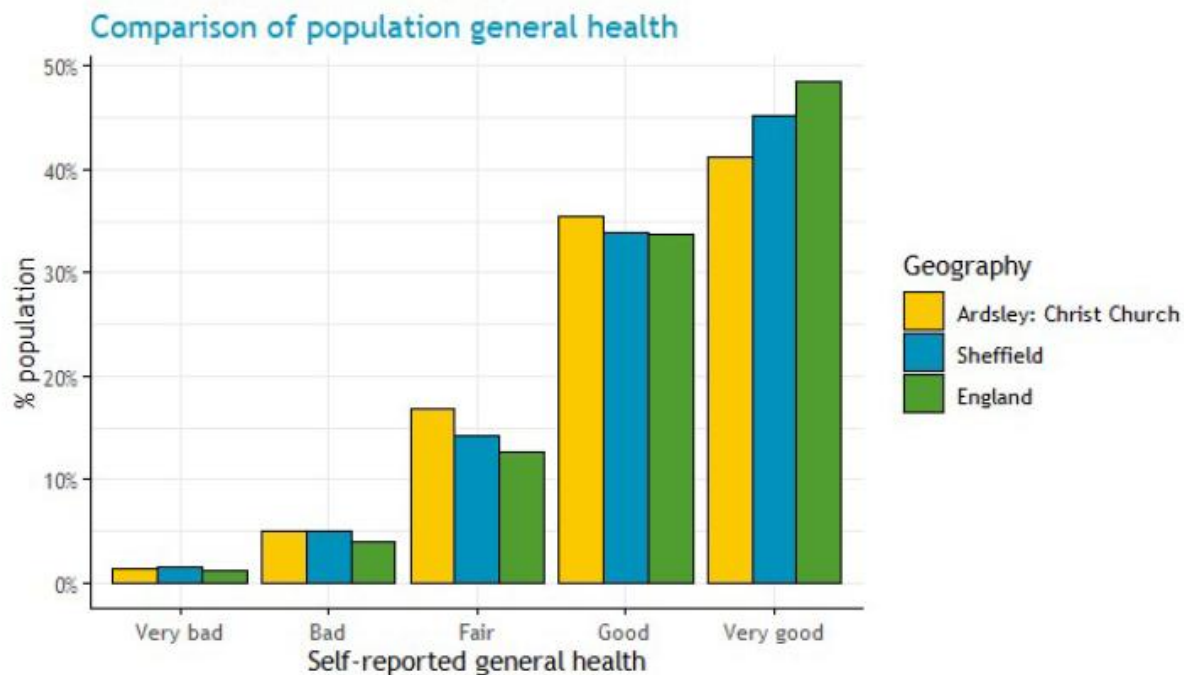
Ethnicity	Ardsley: Christ Church	Sheffield	England
White	98%	87%	81%
Asian	1%	6%	10%
Black	0%	3%	4%
Mixed/multiple	1%	2%	3%
Other	0%	2%	2%

Religion



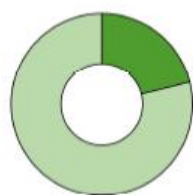
Religion	Ardsley: Christ Church	Sheffield	England
Christian	55%	45%	46%
No Religion	39%	42%	37%
Not Answered	6%	6%	6%
Other Religion	1%	1%	2%
Muslim	0%	6%	7%
Hindu	0%	0%	2%

General Health

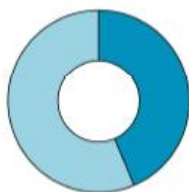


Geography	Very bad	Bad	Fair	Good	Very good
Ardsley: Christ Church	1%	5%	17%	35%	41%
Sheffield	2%	5%	14%	34%	45%
England	1%	4%	13%	34%	48%

Household composition

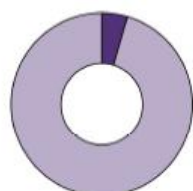


21% of households
are home to
dependent children



44% of households
are occupied by
couples (with or
without children)

*cohabiting, married and civil-partnered couples



5% of households
are occupied by
single parents
with dependent
children



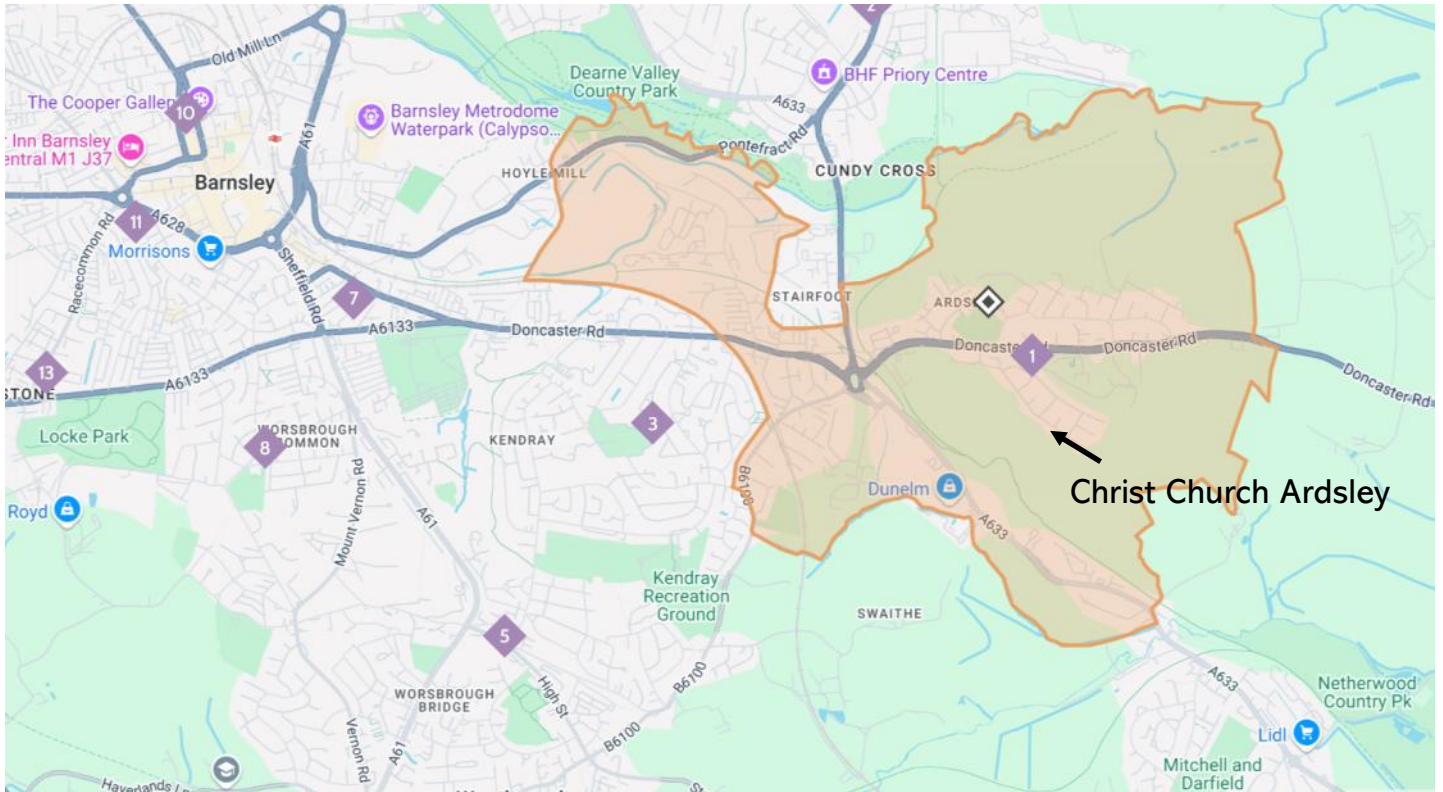
31% of households
are occupied by
individuals

Appendix 1: Table of households by composition

Name	Ardsley: Christ Church	Sheffield	England
One person household: aged 66 years and over	15%	13%	13%
One person household: other	16%	18%	17%
Single family household: all aged 66 years and over	14%	9%	9%
Single family household: married or civil partnership couple no children	14%	11%	10%
Single family household: married or civil partnership couple dependent children	10%	12%	14%
Single family household: married or civil partnership couple all children non dependent	7%	5%	6%
Single family household: cohabiting couple family no children	7%	7%	6%
Single family household: cohabiting couple family with dependent children	5%	6%	4%
Single family household: cohabiting couple family all children non dependent	1%	1%	1%
Single family household: lone parent family with dependent children	5%	8%	7%
Single family household: lone parent family all children non dependent	3%	4%	4%
Single family household: other single family household	0%	1%	1%
Other household types with dependent children	1%	2%	3%
Other household types other including all full time students and all aged 66 years and over	2%	3%	4%

Parish boundaries

The map below shows a rough outline of the parish boundaries for Christ Church Ardsley



Overview of Ardsley Parish

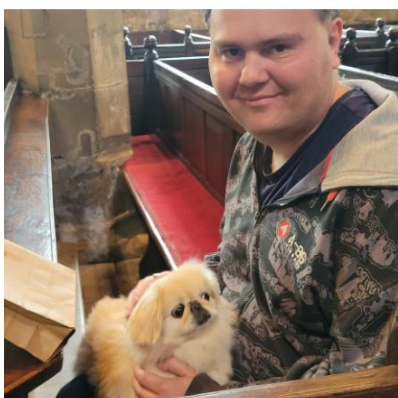
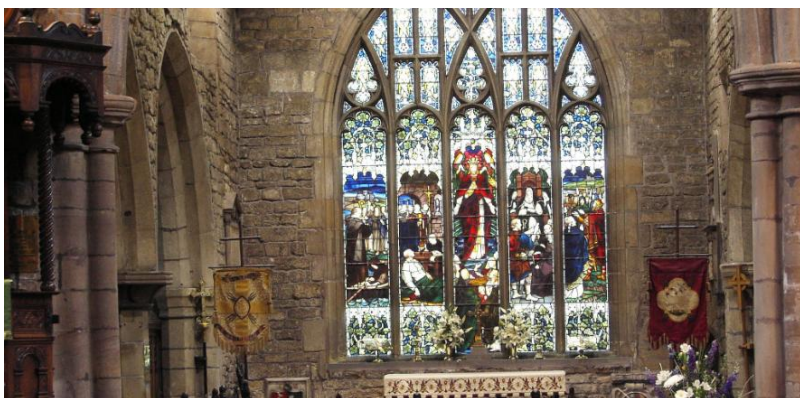
Located approximately two miles east of Barnsley along the main A635 road, Ardsley is a vibrant parish including diverse communities at Hoyle Mill, Aldham, and Stairfoot with rich local amenities. Covering around two square miles, the parish of Ardsley is intersected by the Trans-Pennine Trail, a popular route for walkers, cyclists, and outdoor enthusiasts that traverses across the Pennines, offering picturesque views and access to natural landscapes.

Ardsley boasts an eclectic mix of residents, including families and older individuals, which contributes to a welcoming and inclusive atmosphere within the community. The Parish serves as a hub for over 300 businesses, providing essential services and a variety of shopping options for local people. Notable retail outlets include well-known chains such as McDonald's, Dunelm Mill, and Tesco, ensuring that residents have access to both convenience and choice.

In addition to these larger retailers, Ardsley parish features numerous convenience stores catering to day-to-day needs and supporting the community's convenience. The blend of larger retail establishments and independent shops creates a dynamic commercial environment that fosters local economic growth and sustains community spirit.

Overall, Ardsley as a parish is well-connected offering a blend of urban conveniences within a friendly, residential setting, making it a desirable location for both current residents and potential newcomers. The parish has a range of demographics, ample business opportunities, and access to outdoor activities through the Trans-Pennine Trail combining to create a unique and thriving community.

Welcome to the Parish of All Saints Darfield and St Michael & All Angels Great Houghton.

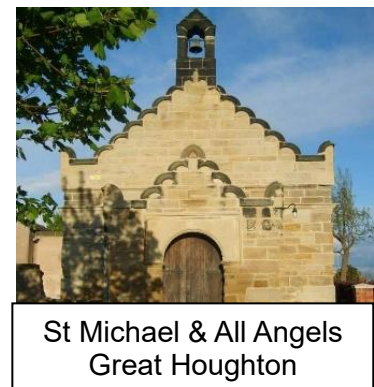
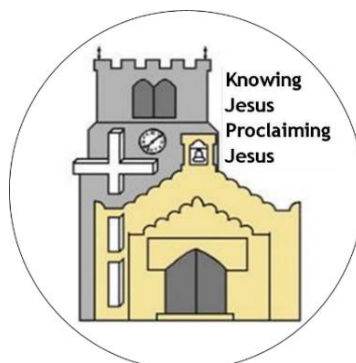
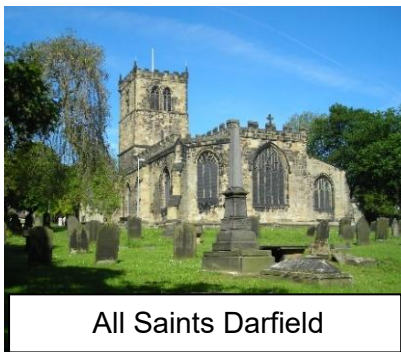


Welcome to the Parish of All Saints Darfield and St Michael & All Angels Great Houghton.

We are one parish, two churches - All Saints at Darfield and St Michael & All Angels at Great Houghton. This parish covers the villages of Darfield, Great Houghton, Little Houghton, Middlecliffe and Billingley and has a population of 11,781.

Our Vision Statement

We aim to be a visible spiritual presence in our communities as we strive to make Jesus known to all.



Opportunities

We recently carried out a mini-survey with our congregations and local community and this revealed that people consider us to be friendly and welcoming churches, with comments such as, *'friendly people'*, *'a loving church family'*, *'people of the church are welcoming'*.

- We would love to extend this welcome into the wider community to include everyone, whatever age or background. At All Saints, we are currently in the process of agreeing architect's plans for toilets, kitchenette and improved accessibility in church so that we can provide this extended welcome and future-proof our building. [We are looking for an Oversight Minister who will join us on this adventure, a strong leader who loves God and loves people, who will inspire, encourage and empower us.](#)
- We currently have good relationships with most of our local primary schools but there is opportunity for additional, missional activity in all the schools. [We are looking for an Oversight Minister who is fun, with a talent for engaging with children and young people.](#)
- There is also opportunity to grow our current pattern of Sunday Worship, especially at St Michael & All Angels, possibly with new services and missional opportunities such as Warm Welcoming Space. [We are looking for an Oversight Minister who is innovative, with good communication skills and a heart for outreach.](#)

- New housing estates continue to be built in our villages, creating the opportunity of reaching out to more young families. [We are looking for an Oversight Minister who will help us reach out, build relationships and fulfil our mission of making Jesus known to all.](#)

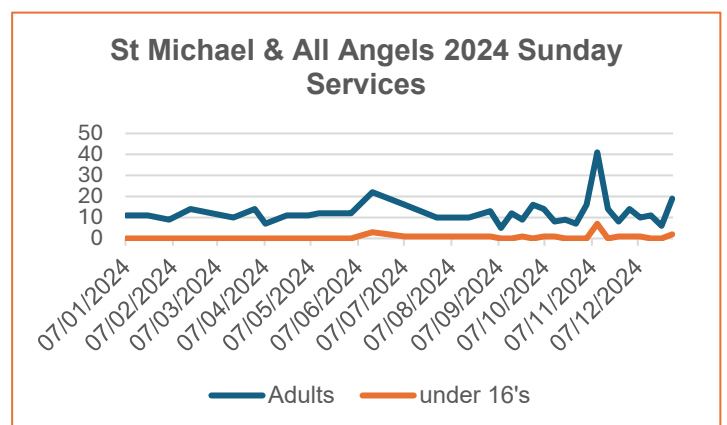
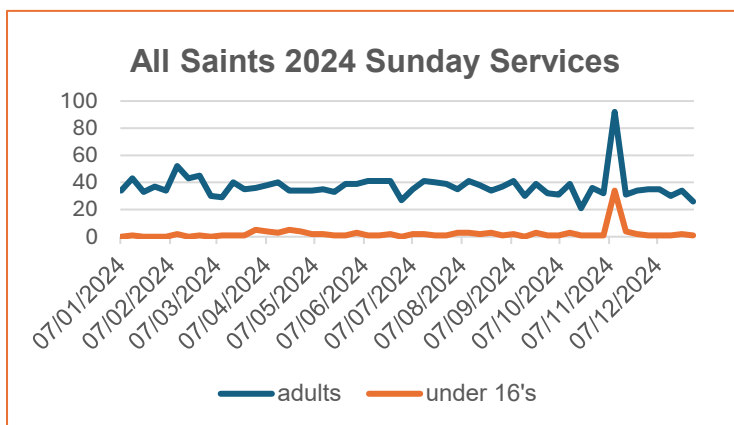
Our Current Worship Patterns and Outreach

We currently meet for worship every Sunday morning with a regular pattern of services.

	All Saints Darfield, 10.45am	St Michael & All Angels Great Houghton, 9.00am
1 st Sunday	All Age Morning Worship	Holy Communion
2 nd Sunday	All Age Holy Communion	
3 rd Sunday	Morning Worship	Holy Communion
4 th Sunday	Holy Communion	
5 th Sunday	Breakfast Service	Informal Service



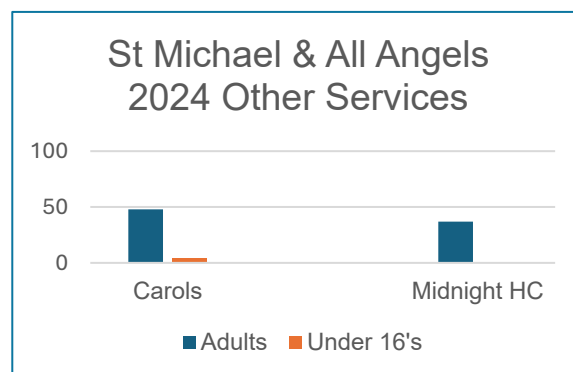
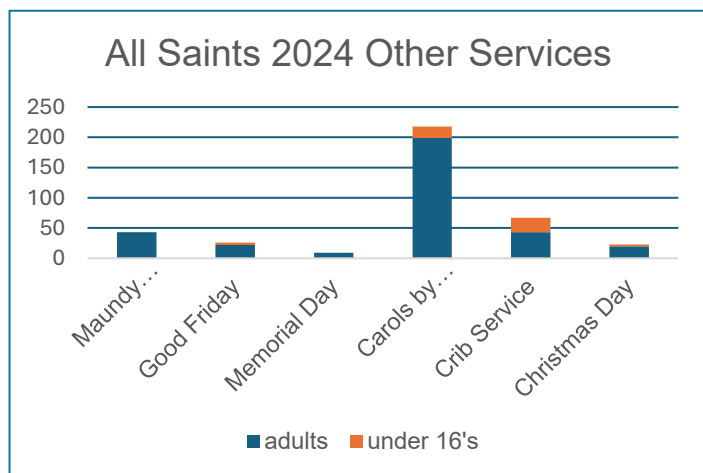
We have a committed team of Worship Leaders, including Readers and other volunteers. Usual attendance at Sunday Services is between 30 and 40 at All Saints and between 8 and 12 at St Michael & All Angels, as shown on the graphs below.



The spike in November reflects the 94 adults and 34 children who attended Remembrance Sunday service at Darfield and 41 adults and 7 children at Great Houghton.



The above graphs do not include our special services such as Carols by Candlelight, Crib Service, etc which are shown in the bar charts here.



We offer a variety of styles of worship including, on certain church festivals, a midweek morning, 'Book of Common Prayer', Holy Communion with an average attendance of 17.

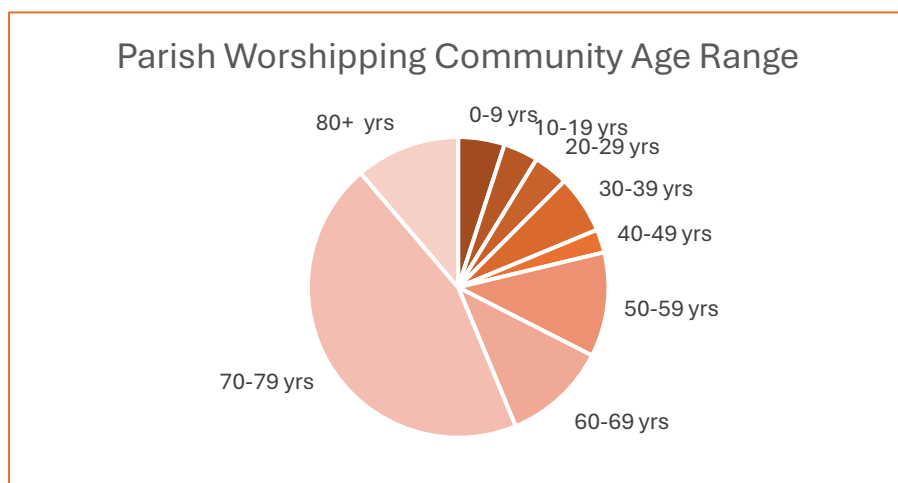
A monthly joint-parish Café Church takes place in Darfield Church Hall (previously mentioned).

Short prayer services are provided online under the name of 'Companions in Daily Prayer' (previously mentioned).

Holy Communion in people's homes is available

All Saints has also hosted the monthly 'Salt and Light' venture for young Christians in both Parishes (age 10 – 17) in the Rectory Cottage (previously mentioned).

Our Electoral Roll for the parish is 73, which is a drop of 16% on the previous roll.



Our parish 'worshipping community' numbers 80 with an age range from 17 to over 90, but more than three quarters aged over 50.

We also have families and children on a less regular basis and are keen to attract and encourage more families and younger people.

We held a number of baptisms, weddings and funerals in our two churches throughout 2024 as follows -

Event	All Saints, Darfield	St Michael & All Angels, Great Houghton
Baptisms	7 infants 1 adult	2 infants
Weddings and Blessings	3 Weddings 1 Blessing	1 Blessing
Funerals	11	2



All Saints has a dedicated prayer team who offer prayer ministry at our Holy Communion services and respond at other times to all prayer requests as well as meeting regularly to pray for the church and the world. Members of the team help to organise and lead our annual Memorial Day service.



Outreach at St Michael & All Angels, Great Houghton



St Michael & All Angels hosts Heritage Events and Christmas Services plus regular Craft and Chat sessions and a weekly open hour for quiet prayer and contemplation. We also held a café church here monthly for a while in 2024 - 2025.



Outreach at All Saints, Darfield



We host a weekly 'Warm Welcoming Space' in the Church Hall which is open to anyone, is planned and run by our own volunteers and subsidised by grants. We offer free warm drinks, toasted crumpets and teacakes etc. Games, books and free WiFi are available. Since it started at the end of 2023, it has grown in popularity with over 50 visitors in the weeks when the fortnightly

'Community Shop on the Go' is also there, and between 20 to 32 visitors on the alternate, quieter, weeks. Our customers like Warm Space as it gives them a meaningful reason to go out and have a good chat with people they have never met before. The room is full of noise, talk and laughter for the full two hours. We even get two or three dogs (with their owners!) It also often hosts a separate 'Digital Skills Awareness' course which is run by Barnsley Council, where people can learn to use their mobile phones and other technology to book appointments, find information and correspond with others.

Feedback from people attending the 'Warm Welcoming Space' is always very heart-warming –



'I haven't laughed so much in months',

'It's so lovely to get out of the house and talk',

'I love my hour here with all my new friends – and the crumpets are delicious too'.



All Saints also has regular outreach events, including a bi-monthly Board Games Night,



..... the annual Snowdrop Trail (run in conjunction with the Darfield Museum)

..... Church Explorer Days (run in conjunction with Sheffield Diocese)



..... Garden Parties,



..... Teddies parachuting off the tower



the

..... pet blessing services, Heritage weekends (run in conjunction with the National Heritage Open Days), Memorial Days, Remembrance Day exhibitions,



..... Christmas Fairs,

..... Candlelight Carol Services, Crib Services, Angel Bombing, Posada,

.... and we also have a presence at the annual village gala.





Darfield Church Hall is currently a good source for outreach but is in need of work to maintain it. We use it often ourselves but also rent it out on a weekly basis to Slimming World, DanceFit, Scouts and The Exodus Project (www.exodusproject.org.uk), who run a youth group and a toddler group. By giving Scouts and Exodus a reduced rent, we are contributing to a much-needed community outreach.

Our work with local schools

We have a very good relationship with three of the four primary schools in our villages, one of which is a Church School. We take 'Open the Book' into two of the schools (one at Darfield and one at Houghton) with the hope of expanding this provision in the future. Two of the Darfield schools make regular visits to the church, either to study the heritage as part of their curriculum or for special services. In 2024 the Church School held three services in our church with an average attendance of 179 children and 68 parents and teachers. Our previous ministers have been invited to take assemblies on a regular basis in the Church School.



Our Local Area



The villages in our parish are ex-mining villages. Since the coal mines closed no large industry or source of employment has taken their place in the villages and most residents travel to nearby towns and cities for work. However, there is still a strong sense of community and a village

atmosphere in both Darfield and Great Houghton. Both villages enjoy a variety of local shops and small businesses, with GP surgeries and a number of residential homes. Darfield also has dentists, a library, a community centre and a village museum as well as a park with a bowling club and children's play area. Great Houghton has a community centre and a skate park. We have three primary schools in Darfield and one in Great Houghton. The local Secondary Academy is in Wombwell, just on our parish border, and caters for pupils from both Wombwell and Darfield parishes. Post 16 provision is mostly provided in nearby Barnsley.

Darfield has a Cricket Club, with several teams and a clubhouse. Great Houghton has a Golf Course with clubhouse. Both villages have a number of clubs, pubs and takeaways plus a few restaurants. We are surrounded by beautiful countryside and

nearby attractions include the 'Wetlands' RSPB nature reserve, Manvers Park and Lake, with boating club, Elsecar Heritage Centre and Cannon Hall Farm.

Nearby shopping centres include the market towns of Barnsley, Wombwell and Doncaster plus the Meadowhall Shopping Centre in Sheffield. Both our main villages have good transport links and access to both the A1 and M1 motorways.

There is a Methodist Church in both Darfield and Great Houghton and a Roman Catholic church in nearby Wombwell which covers the parochial area. New housing estates have been built in recent years with more in the planning stage.

Both our churches have good links with local councillors and local Ward Alliances.

Our Church Buildings, other buildings and Finance

There are two church buildings, both extremely interesting from a historical perspective.



All Saints Church, Darfield, is a large, beautiful, ancient, grade I listed building with parts of it dating back to Norman times but predominantly Medieval.

St Michael & All Angels Church, Great Houghton, is a small and charming grade II* listed building and one of the very few built in Cromwell's time. Both buildings attract visitors for their architecture and history, which is useful as an initial means of outreach.



All Saints, Darfield has eight ringable bells and a keen team of bellringers who ring for Sunday morning services, other important events and practices.

It also has a large churchyard which is still open for burials. We are fortunate to have 'Friends of Darfield Churchyard' taking on the work of upkeep and maintenance of the churchyard. It is a peaceful place with a variety of flora and fauna and is an attraction to local walkers, especially when the spring bulbs are flowering.





The Church Hall at Darfield is a separate building, situated across the car park. It is large and was built as a cinema in 1914, but is now in need of loving care! As previously mentioned, it has a number of maintenance issues.

There is also a Rectory Cottage next to All Saints which is used as a Parish Office and a meeting place. It will be ideal for helping our Oversight Minister to maintain their visible presence in our village and at village events.



At Great Houghton the St Michael & All Angels church building includes a small hall with toilet and kitchen. Outside is a small, enclosed, well-maintained lawn area.

Darfield Parish is a registered charity (number 1185316) with the Charity Commission and all past year accounts can be viewed on their website at [Charity Commission](#). Income for the parish for 2024 was £68,971 (including £12,657 for Restricted and Designated Funds) and expenditure was £56,369. We have a number of worshippers who are regular givers, many of whom also gift-aid. Every year we tithe the income from the planned giving and share the resulting amount between our five chosen charities.

We are currently in the process of recruiting a new parish administrator who is expected to provide administrative support to the PCC and Oversight Minister, particularly with the running of the buildings. This will initially be a part time post of seven hours per week.

How do we see our future?

When we asked in our recent questionnaire what people would like the future of our church to look like, there was a consensus of opinion in them that could be summed up in this response,

“A spirit-filled, welcoming, lively church which would appeal to all ages and overflowing with the love of God and filled to the rafters”

We at All Saints and St Michaels feel it essential that our new Oversight Minister is accessible and has a consistent visible presence in our community.

- Are you a strong leader who will inspire, encourage and empower us?
- Are you innovative, with good communication skills and rooted in the Bible?
- Have you a talent for engaging with children and young people as well as a mature congregation?
- Do you have a pastoral heart with a passion for reaching out into the community, building relationships and helping us fulfil our vision of making Jesus known to all?

Thank you for reading this profile.

As you continue exploring and discerning whether God is calling you to serve among us, we are holding you in our prayers. If you were to be appointed, then we would assure you of our support, friendship and good humour. We have faced challenges aplenty and we look forward to welcoming a spiritual leader to guide us, recognise opportunities and encourage us on our journey along God's path, as we seek to know Jesus and proclaim Jesus.

Our Parish Website, Facebook and other online links

<https://darfieldallsaintschurch.org.uk/>

<https://www.achurchnearyou.com/benefice/35-037J>

<https://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/17598>

<https://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/17599>

<https://www.facebook.com/darfieldallsaints>

<https://www.facebook.com/stmichaelandallangelschurchgreathoughton>



THE DIOCESE OF SHEFFIELD

Church House
95-99 Effingham Street
Rotherham, S65 1BL

Role Description

Details of Post

Role Title: Priest in Charge of Christ Church Ardsley and All Saints Darfield with St Michaels Great Houghton and Oversight Minister for the Mission Area of Wath 2

Name of Benefices: Darfield with Great Houghton and Ardsley

Deanery: Wath

Archdeaconry: Doncaster

Context

This is a mission area of 3 parishes with 2 Oversight Ministers.

The role of Oversight Minister is to work in partnership with the Bishop, fellow Clergy, Focal Ministers and Lay Leaders, and all the baptised members of the diocese of Sheffield, to help realise the Diocesan strategy to be a flourishing and generous Diocese of Sheffield by 2025: Renewed, Released and Rejuvenated!

We seek to be a Diocese Renewed in the grace and power of God, by a constant reliance on the Holy Spirit. We seek to be a Diocese Released from the constraints which hold us back from mission, and released, as the whole people of God for the whole mission of God. We seek to be a Diocese Rejuvenated — partly through a dedicated and sustained programme of outreach to families, children and young people, and partly through the creation of 75 new congregations, including 25 in our church schools.

Role Purpose

The role of the stipendiary incumbent is defined 'semi-episcopally' as an 'Oversight Minister', to grow healthy local churches by working collaboratively with others in four interrelated ways:

- 1) To oversee mission and ministry in the Mission Area.
- 2) To resource the whole people of God for the whole mission of God.
- 3) To ensure mission and ministry in the Mission Area reflects the Christian faith as understood in the Church of England.
- 4) To identify, nurture and develop leaders of the Mission Area.

The General responsibilities for Oversight Ministers can be found on the Diocesan website and the Person Specification for Oversight Ministers are Found in Appendix 1.

The aim of this role description is to clarify expectations and parameters, to ensure that the role holder has the best possible chance to flourish. The specific responsibilities will be reviewed and refreshed regularly as part of the MDR process.

Specific Responsibilities

- 1) To oversee mission and ministry in the Mission Area.
 - To share 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.
 - To provide 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.
- 2) To resource the whole people of God for the whole mission of God.
 - To enable every church member to discern, develop and grow in the exercise of the gifts given them by God;
 - To enable 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;
 - To work with others to ensure a flourishing children and youth ministry within reach of every young person in the Mission Area;
 - To establish functional leadership structures which enable the flourishing of properly collaborative leadership and which give value to the contributions of all those holding responsibility.
- 3) To ensure mission and ministry in the Mission Area reflects the Christian faith as understood in the Church of England.
 - To foster a working understanding of Christian faith and practice in the Church of England.
 - To have 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.
 - To be ministers of both word and sacrament.
 - To ensure excellence in safeguarding and care for all God's people, and full compliance with Diocesan and national safeguarding guidelines, policy and procedures.
 - To ensure the flourishing of all in their vocation and ministry, irrespective of theological tradition and gender.
 - To oversee the working of effective governance and procedures with regard to the Church Representation Rules and other relevant legislation and guidance.
 - To encourage and facilitate healthy and effective working relationships within and between the congregations, parishes, Mission Area, deanery and diocese.
- 4) To identify, nurture and develop leaders of the Mission Area.
 - To take 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.
 - To model and promote healthy practices of self-care, attending to self-understanding, rest and recreation, prayer and spirituality

Signed:

Print name: Priest in Charge and Oversight Minister On behalf of PCC On behalf of Archdeacon

Date:



THE DIOCESE OF SHEFFIELD

Appendix 1.

Church House
95-99 Effingham Street
Rotherham, S65 1BL

Person Specification-

An Ordained Minister

		essential	desirable
Qualifications and personal attributes	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Recommended by their Bishop as suitable for Common Tenure Primary Responsibility.	Y	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Shows capacity to foster collaboration between lay and ordained ministers (licensed, commissioned and authorised) and lay leaders.	Y	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Committed to mutual flourishing envisaged in the Five Guiding Principles.	Y	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">In Holy Orders for not less than three years.	Y	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Experienced in leadership.	Y	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">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	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Models leadership on the example of Christ.	Y	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Collaborative.	Y	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Excited about mission and the diocesan vision and strategy.	Y	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Committed to the breadth of tradition in the Church of England and mutual flourishing.	Y	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Strong and mature personal faith, nourished by well-established patterns of prayer, worship, reflection and study.	Y	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Accountable.	Y	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>A commitment to being a visible presence in our villages. "A Priest to dwell among us".</i> 	Y	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Open to lifelong learning and development.</i> 	Y	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Recognised as resilient, stable and trustworthy.</i> 	Y	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Self-aware and self-accepting.</i> 	Y	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Cares for self and for key personal relationships.</i> 	Y	
Experience	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Building and facilitating teams, shared decision-making.</i> 	Y	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Energising and enabling others in forming vision and in strategic planning</i> 	Y	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Working collaboratively, exercising accountability and delegation.</i> 	Y	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Encouraging trust in God.</i> 	Y	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Discerning, nurturing and developing the skills of others.</i> 	Y	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Helping others shape and engage in mission and evangelism appropriate to the local context.</i> 	Y	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Knowledge, understanding and experience of diocesan and church structures, policies, and practices including Safeguarding, finance and governance</i> 	Y	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Taking responsibility for personal well-being and nurture.</i> 	Y	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Enabling others in their practice of self-care and personal development</i> 	Y	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Leading, managing and consolidating change.</i> 	Y	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Conflict management.</i> 	Y	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Entrepreneurial skills, including responsible risk-taking.</i> 		Y
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Holding the big picture.</i> 		Y

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enabling others in reflection, review and developing the mission and ministry of the church. 	Y	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Building community through relationships of trust. 	Y	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Inter-personal skills, including listening, communication, and exercising emotional intelligence. 	Y	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Organisational skills and administration. 	Y	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Working with different generations and inter-generationally. 	Y	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pastoral supervision and reflective practice. 	Y	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Coaching and mentoring. 		Y
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Working with different theological perspectives, church tradition, culture and life experience. 	Y	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Initiating and enabling working relationships between church, Mission Area, deanery and diocese. 		Y
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Handling a complex workload, prioritising and balancing competing demands. 	Y	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Making appropriate pastoral provision for leaders. 	Y	



Area Dean Role Description

The Diocese of Sheffield is 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.

Details of Post:

Role Title: Area Dean for the Deanery of Wath

Archdeaconry: Doncaster

Context

The role of the Area Dean is to work in partnership with the Bishops, Archdeacons, Associate Archdeacon Transition-Enabler (AA-TE), Oversight Ministers, Mission Area Leadership Teams, Lay Leaders, and all the baptised members of the Diocese of Sheffield, to further the Diocesan strategy of realising a flourishing and generous Diocese of Sheffield by 2031: Renewed, Released and Rejuvenated! The role can be shared between two suitably experienced priests.

We seek to be a Diocese Renewed in the grace and power of God, by a constant reliance on the Holy Spirit. We seek to be a Diocese Released from the constraints which hold us back from mission, and released, as the whole people of God for the whole mission of God. We seek to be a Diocese Rejuvenated — partly through a dedicated and sustained programme of outreach to families, children and young people, and partly through the creation of 75 new congregations, including 25 in our church schools.

The role of Area Dean, whilst having many points of overlap with AA-TEs, is a distinct role and calling and is vital to the health and well-being of clergy and the good functioning of deaneries as both a place for collegiality and support as well as synodical governance.

Whereas AA-TEs have a specific role in coaching and supporting Oversight Ministers in developing mission and ministry in their mission areas, Area Deans have particular responsibility for supporting the well-being of the clergy and their families and ensuring that prayer, shared learning and mutual support are at the heart of deanery life. Area Deans are to be the first point of contact for clergy who seek support, whether emotionally, practically or financially, confidentially reporting matters of concern to the Archdeacon.

The role of Area Dean is therefore primarily a relational one and the ability to related across church traditions and contexts is vital to any holder of the post.

Role Purpose & Hours

Deaneries are twinned together in pairs to encourage mutual support and to encourage sharing of resources in mission and ministry. The Area Dean will have responsibility for one Deanery and will work closely with their AA-TE and the Area Dean of their paired deanery.

Area Deans will pay particular attention to the pastoral care of clergy and lay leaders, the life of prayer, learning and collegiality of Deanery Chapter and the governance of the deanery through Deanery Synod and through the Deanery Mission and Pastoral Committee.

This is a notional one day a week additional responsibility, and, in order to sustain this, Area Deans should identify (in agreement with the Archdeacon) an assistant, with whom to share the workload. Where appropriate and the Bishop is in agreement, the responsibility may be shared between two co-Area Deans.

General Responsibilities

1. To fulfil the statutory duties of Area Deans with care and enthusiasm (see Appendix A).
2. To work with the Archdeacon, AA-TE and Lay Chair in developing the mission and ministry of the parishes and mission areas in the Deanery.
3. To work with the Oversight Ministers, Churchwardens, PCCs and other relevant bodies to develop the mission and ministry of the local church.
4. Be a channel of communication between those in their Deaneries and the Bishops, Archdeacons, AA-TE and Central Services staff resourcing parishes, chaplaincies and schools. This will include attending regular meetings with the AA-TEs and the Bishops, Archdeacons and other senior staff.
5. Receive papers for the Diocesan Mission and Pastoral Committee (DMPC), which meets six times a year, and prioritise attendance at meetings where agenda items and/or proposals relate to parishes in the Deanery.
6. Liaise with the Archdeacon for advice and support on day-to-day matters concerning the running of a parish.

7. Work collaboratively with the Deanery Lay Chair and the Deanery Mission & Pastoral Committee (sometimes called 'Deanery Council' or 'Deanery Synod Standing Committee'), convening regular meetings to maintain an overview of mission and ministry in the Deanery.

Specific Responsibilities

1. Combine the Area Dean role with an Oversight Minister responsibility; allowing approximately one day per week to deanery responsibilities.
2. Attend Bishop's Extended Staff Meetings (twice a year).
3. To meet regularly with the Archdeacon, members of the Resourcing Mission and Ministry team, other AA-TEs and Area Deans for prayer, planning and review. Some of these meetings will be held jointly across both Archdeaconries.
4. Give close attention to the pastoral care and well-being of Deanery clergy, their families and lay leaders. A budget for reasonable expenses for travel and hospitality is set aside for this.
5. Ensure a positive, collegial commitment to the Deanery Chapter on the part of all ordained clergy and, where appropriate, key lay leaders..
6. Organise and lead a transformative, strategic approach to Deanery Synod, ensuring purposeful, developmental agendas, and chairing the meeting in tandem or alternately with the Lay Chair.
7. Be ready to support and advise parishes in practical ways relating to mission and ministry, signposting relevant diocesan support where helpful.
8. Work across traditions to promote mutual flourishing in accordance with the Five Guiding Principles, ensuring that these principles are evident in the manner of conduct of clergy at Deanery Chapter.
9. Help parishes to find holiday cover and occasional offices support.
10. Carry out Parish Visitations on behalf of the Archdeacon on an annual basis, ensuring pastoral and strategic as well as functional issues are discussed with the Churchwardens. Update and advise the AA-TE and Archdeacon as appropriate.
11. Share in the recruitment process for new Oversight Ministers by agreement with the Archdeacon and AA-TE.
12. Raise matters of concern regarding the wellbeing of leaders (clergy and lay) with the Bishops, Archdeacons, AA-TE or others as appropriate, especially in cases of significant illness.
13. Support new clergy, licensed ministers and other leaders taking up posts in the Deanery.
14. Promote and model good practice in ministry.
15. Provide signposting to resources and facilities to help clergy and other leaders to develop resilience and self-care.

Administration

16. During a vacancy, act as a Sequestrator along with the Churchwardens and any other person the Bishop may appoint, supporting the Churchwardens in organising cover for services and fulfilling the role of the Incumbent in relation to churchyards where relevant.
17. If a parish fails to keep an electoral roll, maintain a parochial church council or hold an annual parochial church meeting, verify the facts and then report the cause to the Archdeacon and Bishops.
18. Have an understanding of relevant aspects of church law, most particularly the Canons, as they relate to the good ordering of worship and the responsibilities of Area Deans, and the Church Representation Rules..

Key colleagues within the church and partners in the local community

Area Deans will work collaboratively in mission with a number of inter-related ministries and mission communities:

Within the Diocese

- Diocesan Bishop and Suffragan Bishop
- Archdeacons
- Mission Area Support Team
- 6 Deanery Areas
- Resourcing Mission and Ministry

Team Within each Deanery

- Associate Archdeacon Transition Enabler
- Area Dean of paired deanery
- Lay Chair
- Deanery Council (Standing Committee/Pastoral Committee)
- Deanery Clergy Chapter
- Oversight Ministers and Focal Ministers (lay or ordained)
- Leadership Teams comprising ordained & authorised lay ministers
- Existing and new church congregations
- Churchschools

Self care

The Bishops are committed to the health and wellbeing of all lay and ordained leaders in the Diocese.

This is a demanding role and the post holder is encouraged to work within the pastoral guidelines issued by the Bishops on holiday entitlement and time off. You are encouraged to take your full allocation of annual leave and to take a double rest day in any month in which you are due no annual leave.

Term of office

Initially 5 years renewable for a further 3 years.

Work will be regularly reviewed with the Archdeacon.

Expenses

Out of pocket working expenses of up to £1,500 a year and up to an additional £2,500 a year to pay for modest administrative support. Both aspects must be supported by receipts/invoices and be authorised by the Archdeacon. In agreement with the Archdeacon, Area Deans are encouraged to make use of working expenses to entertain deanery clergy (individually and as a chapter) through meals or other social events, although alcoholic beverages are not normally covered by expenses.

Person Specification

An Ordained Minister who	<p>Is a priest in the Church of England, in good standing with the Diocese and with at least three years in holy orders.</p> <p>Has proven ability to build good working relationships.</p> <p>Has strong knowledge and experience of safeguarding practices for children and vulnerable adults.</p> <p>Shows capacity to foster collaboration between lay and ordained ministers (licensed, commissioned and authorised) and lay leaders.</p> <p>Has proven commitment to mutual flourishing</p>
Character	<p>A strong personal faith and Christian maturity.</p> <p>A desire to reflect the love of God and grow closer to God.</p> <p>Humble and servant hearted.</p> <p>Approachable and eager to help.</p> <p>Demonstrates integrity.</p> <p>Resilient, stable and trustworthy.</p> <p>A natural president of the people of God at the Lord's Table.</p> <p>Curious.</p> <p>A life Long Learner.</p> <p>Prayerful and Spirit led.</p> <p>Demonstrates a trust in God and a capacity to encourage others to trust God.</p> <p>A capacity to energise others.</p> <p>Willing to be accountable and to accept support.</p>

**Skills –
demonstrates
evidence of**

- Pastorally concerned and aware, able to draw alongside others.
- Able to help others through the pains and joys of change and transition.
- Collaborative and enabling leadership style.
- Coaching/mentoring skills.
- Decision making.
- Excellent organisational skills, competent in the routine practicalities of deanery life.
- A theological reflector.
- Able to discern, nurture and release gifts in others.
- Able to work inter-generationally.
- Good team builder, leader and team member.
- Good communicator and listening skills.
- Able to understand and hold different traditions together.
- Care for self, including key personal relationships and time off.
- Knowledge and understanding of good safeguarding practice.
- Well organised in combining a busy Oversight Minister's diary with a responsible Deanery role.
- Able to co-lead with the Associate Archdeacon-Transition Enabler.

Appendix A – Canon C23

For information Canon C23 ('Of Rural Deans') states the following (substituting Area deans for Rural Deans):

1. Every Area Dean shall report to the Bishop any matter in any parish within the Deanery which it may be necessary or useful for the Bishop to know, particularly any case of serious illness or other form of distress amongst the clergy, the vacancy of any cure of souls and the measures taken by the sequestrators to secure the ministration of the word and sacraments and other rites of the Church during the said vacancy, and any case of a minister from another diocese officiating in any place otherwise than as provided in Canon C8 [Of minister exercising their ministry].
2. In the case of any omission in any parish to prepare and maintain a church electoral roll or to form or maintain a parochial church council or to hold the annual parochial church meeting, the Area Dean on such omission being brought to their notice shall ascertain and report to the Bishop the cause thereof.
3. If at any time the Area Dean has reason to believe that there is any serious defect in the fabric, ornament and furniture of any church of chapel, or that the buildings of any benefice are in a state of disrepair, they shall report the matter to the Archdeacon.

The Area Dean shall be a joint chair (with a member of the House of Laity) of the Deanery Synod.

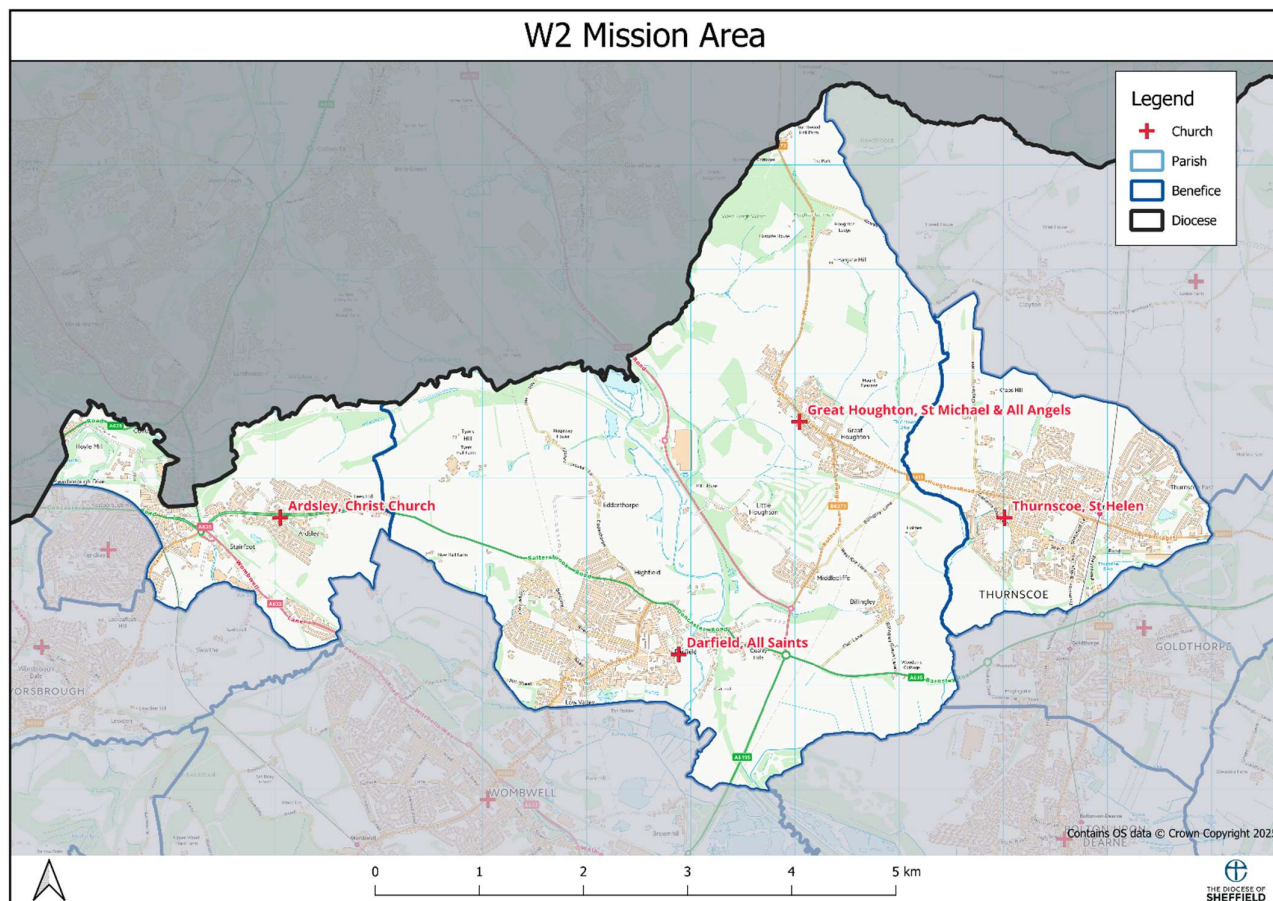
Review Date:

Signature of Office Holder:

Date:

Signature of Archdeacon:

Date:



Parish Population

Parish Name	Age 0-4	Age 5-17	Age 18-64	Age 65+	Total Population
Ardsley, Christ Church	175	465	2,660	1,203	4,503
Darfield, All Saints	625	1,614	6,873	2,671	11,781
Thurnscoe, St Helen	656	1,379	5,792	1,691	9,517
Mission Area Total	1,456	3,458	15,325	5,565	25,801

Source: 2021 Census.

Parish Demographics

Parish Name	Ethnicity: % White	Religion: % Christian	Religion: % Other Religion	Religion: % No Religion or Not Stated
Ardsley, Christ Church	97.9%	54.7%	0.7%	44.3%
Darfield, All Saints	97.6%	51.9%	0.9%	46.8%
Thurnscoe, St Helen	97.0%	49.1%	0.7%	49.8%
Mission Area	97.4%	51.4%	0.8%	47.4%

Source: 2021 Census.

Parish Deprivation

Parish Name	National IMD Rank / 12,307 (1 is Most Deprived)	National IMD % Most Deprived	Diocese IMD Rank /171 (1 is Most Deprived)
Ardsley, Christ Church	2,329	19%	83
Darfield, All Saints	984	8%	51
Thurnscoe, St Helen	250	2%	18

Source: Indices of Multiple Deprivation 2019.

Parish Statistics for Mission

Parish Name	Worshipping Community		Average Weekly Attendance		Funerals	Weddings	Baptisms
	Adult	Child	Adult	Children			
Ardsley, Christ Church	72	7	36	2	13	4	6
Darfield, All Saints	71	4	48	3	14	5	10
Thurnscoe, St Helen	60	21	113	23	27	2	25
Mission Area Total	203	32	197	28	54	11	41

Source: Statistics for Mission 2024.

St. Helen's Thurnscoe

At St. Helen's Thurnscoe, our vision is to reach people of all ages in our community with the love and hope found in Jesus Christ. We are located in Thurnscoe, a former mining village facing high levels of deprivation. St. Helen's is the only church in the area, and we see it as our mission and privilege to serve this community in both spiritual and practical ways.

Over the past three years, our Sunday worship has grown significantly. Our 9:00 am traditional Holy Communion service continues to flourish, drawing those who value a more formal expression of faith. In addition, we introduced an 11:00 am informal service aimed at individuals and families who may be new to church, have been away for a while, or are exploring faith for the first time. This service has grown rapidly and is now home to many new families, individuals, and seekers.

To help people explore faith in a relaxed setting, we also offer Cafe Church once a month in our church hall. It serves as a welcoming, low-pressure space for anyone interested in learning more about Christianity.

For our young people we run a monthly youth group giving a safe space for fellowship and exploration of their faith.

Our mission extends beyond Sundays. Every Monday, we open our doors for a Warm Welcome



Space and a Good Food Pantry. These initiatives have become a vital support for many, with up to 90 people attending weekly. They provide not just food and warmth, but community, dignity, and hope.

We are also blessed to be a part of life's key moments through regular baptisms, weddings, and funerals, with many in the community choosing to hold these services at St. Helen's.



Yet challenges remain. Many in our community struggle with mental health and economic hardship, and we remain committed to reaching those in the hardest-to-reach places. As we grow in our mission, we are determined to bring the love of Christ to all, especially those who feel forgotten or unseen.



We are blessed with a dedicated, passionate team who are eager to serve and share the good news. Our hope and prayer is to see lives transformed, hearts healed, and this community renewed by the love of Jesus.

Ardsley Vicarage

Address: Christ Church Vicarage, Doncaster Road, Ardsley, Barnsley S71 5EF

The clergy accommodation will initially be in Ardsley Vicarage. Bishops' Senior Staff are supportive of selling the Darfield old Rectory and purchasing a replacement in Darfield Parish with the proceeds. This parsonage would become Darfield Rectory. This would allow both Ardsley Vicarage and Darfield Rectory to be used by a Curate and Oversight Minister or vice versa.

