

# St Timothy's & The Vine Benefice Profile



# Contents

Bishops' Letter	3
Benefice Introduction	5
About you	10
St Timothy's	12
The Vine	31
The Benefice Vicarage	44



# Bishops' Letter

There is no denying it: these are challenging times in the Diocese of Sheffield. And yet, they are also deeply hopeful and exciting times. Few doubt that by 2029 the Church of England in South Yorkshire and the East Riding will look very different from how it does today. What that future will look like is not yet fully clear – but what is clear is our shared desire for renewal, change, and for God's kingdom.

Our diocesan vision and strategy is ambitious. We are asking courageous questions about our life and mission together. Will the whole people of God be mobilised for the whole mission of God? What will morale be like among lay and ordained leaders? Will church attendance decline, or will it grow in the way that we are seeing in some of our communities? Will there be more stipendiary incumbents or fewer? More congregations – or fewer? Will we raise up a dynamic and prayerful community of *Lights for Christ*?

In 2025 we launched a refreshed version of our Diocesan Strategy, seeking to be renewed, released and rejuvenated by God's grace and in Christ's service. A diocesan-wide consultation sent a clear message: we must increase our emphasis on seeking the welfare of our local communities – our neighbours and neighbourhoods – while retaining the heart of the 3Rs and the Diocesan Vision Prayer. This refreshed strategy reflects that calling.

The same year also marked significant moments of encouragement and investment. The Strategic Mission and Ministry Investment Board responded generously to our partnership funding request, committing £17.5 million for the revitalisation of the Diocese with immediate effect, and signalling a further £18.5 million in principle for the period 2028–2031. We also welcomed a new Bishop of Doncaster and a new Archdeacon of Sheffield and Rotherham, bringing fresh missional energy to the senior leadership of the Diocese.

With gratitude for all that God has already done, we now look forward with hope and expectation to all that God is calling us to become.

It is within this context that we are seeking to appoint a new Vicar and Oversight Minister for the Benefice of St. Timothy's, Crookes and The Vine, Upperthorpe and Netherthorpe in Sheffield. Though the two churches have different histories and character they have come together in the last few years to share one Oversight Minister. They also share a warmth of welcome, a depth of fellowship and a commitment to mission and their communities. The parishes are adjacent to each other and have a wide spread of socio-economic circumstances in a delightful part of urban Sheffield.

This appointment invites the parishes, together with the Diocese of Sheffield, to step forward into the Gospel adventure to which God is calling us. We are seeking a minister who can offer enabling and confident oversight: someone with a passion

for collaboration, for developing leaders, and for empowering the whole people of God for the whole mission of God. The role will require a person who can raise up leaders to serve as **Focal Ministers** in every congregation, and who understands that oversight of the Body of Christ does not mean doing everything personally, but faithfully releasing the gifts and ministries of others.

We are praying that God will call to us a person with a deep sense of vocation for this task at this time: someone rooted in faith, hope and love; someone who laughs easily and lives with a zest for life in Christ; someone with a spirit of adventure, unafraid of failure and deeply reliant on the grace and guidance of the Holy Spirit. If that might be you, we would love to explore together whether the Lord may be calling you to this role.

With every blessing



**The Rt Revd Dr Pete Wilcox**  
Bishop of Sheffield



**The Rt Revd Leah Vasey-Saunders**  
Bishop of Doncaster



# Benefice Introduction

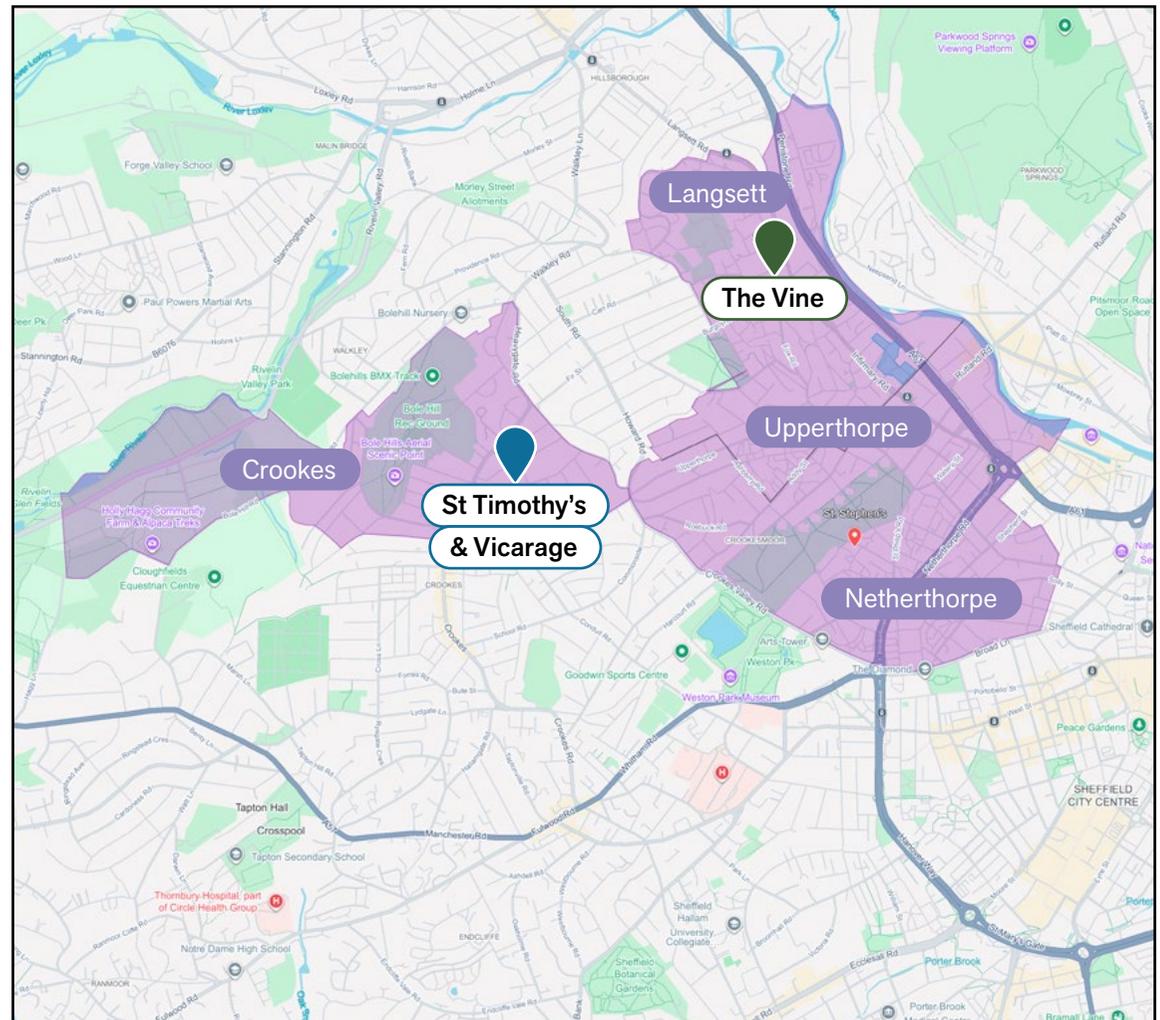
# An invitation to explore life and ministry as Oversight Minister of St Timothy's and The Vine, serving our churches through relational leadership.

St Timothy's in Crookes and The Vine in Netherthorpe, Upperthorpe and Langsett are two distinct but closely connected church communities. While each parish has its own history, character and calling, we are united by shared geography, longstanding links, and a growing relationship through working alongside each other as a joint benefice for five years.

Together, we are part of a wider mission context in west Sheffield, with established links with other churches, and a culture of collaboration rather than competition.

Each church is currently led by a team of Focal Ministers. These teams were formed almost two years ago and have helped the churches move securely into vacancy. Each team is excited to work with a new Oversight Minister with fresh ideas, and a desire to develop focal ministry, the leadership and direction of each church.

The Oversight Minister role offers the opportunity to serve in two established congregations with active ministries offering different strengths and a willingness to work in partnership. We want to welcome an Oversight Minister who will lead us forwards, encourage and discern with us how God is calling our churches to grow in faith, depth and outward-facing mission in the years ahead. We are committed to offering space, trust and practical support to enable that.



## St Timothy's and The Vine are two worshipping congregations, but strong organic links have developed between our two communities.

We currently share some ministries and key structures together.

- We have a strong and successful partnership between the youth ministries of both churches and the leadership team work closely to disciple youth across both parishes and congregations.
- For the last 3 years, our children's ministry staff have collaborated on weekday children's activities, holiday clubs and Sunday Kids Church, including a lunchtime club at a local school, which provides a safe space for children to have fun, build relationships and talk.
- There is a weekly benefice staff meeting to review the past week and plan ahead. This also ensures that the two congregations are aware of events at both churches and are invited to join in these.
- Our benefice shares areas of governance including two administrators one of whom is the Parish Safeguarding Officer (PSO)
- We have occasional benefice services most notably a yearly Ash Wednesday service and also more recently a visit from Bishop Pete who came to preach and preside in December last year.





Our logo is a harbour lighthouse: God has helped us to find a safe harbour which is welcoming, renewing and equipping, shining as the light of Christ into our parish and beyond.

We are a welcoming church that is generous and loving. Our strength is how we hold together a range of theological views and backgrounds from differing Christian traditions as we seek to be a place where people can be themselves. Our church has a broadly Open Evangelical perspective which is reflected in our Jesus centred, Bible-based teaching. God's mission is at work through our ministries, lay leadership and discipleship which continue to shape our church. As a congregation there is an openness to the work of the Holy Spirit as we live life together in the flow of God's love.

Prayer underpins and upholds all we look to do as a church as we seek to follow Jesus.





## the Vine Sheffield

We are a welcoming, intergenerational, intercultural church where people are known, valued and included. A strong sense of community and belonging shapes how we live out discipleship across the whole of life. Our Sunday worship is informal, centred on the Bible, prayer and accessible teaching so that faith can be explored together across families and generations. We have parallel provision for children, young people and adults, all following the same biblical theme. We value hearing a range of voices in worship and leadership, and encourage people to grow in their gifts.

Beyond Sundays, our life together is expressed through small groups, community-facing ministries and practical care. These include children's and youth work, a community Welcome Space, partnerships with local schools, environmental action through Eco Church, and a growing use of our church grounds as a place of hospitality and connection.

We are a church where everyone gets involved. Much of the day-to-day ministry is sustained by capable and committed lay leaders and we welcome a new vicar to join us in this and bring spiritual leadership, encouragement, and discernment. We are open about our challenges, hopeful about our future, and keen to grow in discipleship and prayerful dependence on God.

# About you

# Our new oversight minister

We are eager to welcome a new oversight minister to our benefice who nurtures their own faith, is open to the leading of God's Spirit and is able to lead our churches into the next phase of our faith journeys. We welcome either female or male applicants.

## We are looking for:

- A leader who can inspire us to be children of God and to live out our faith in our everyday lives
- A commitment to building up our church community and developing a culture of discipleship within our fellowship.
- A team builder with a vision for developing our lay leadership and nurturing the gifts of the whole congregation.
- A warm-hearted and listening shepherd who is relationally present in each congregation
- A teacher who values scripture highly and communicates its message clearly and accessibly
- A leader who can hold space for discussion and a variety of theological views
- A heart for mission and sharing God's love with the communities around us

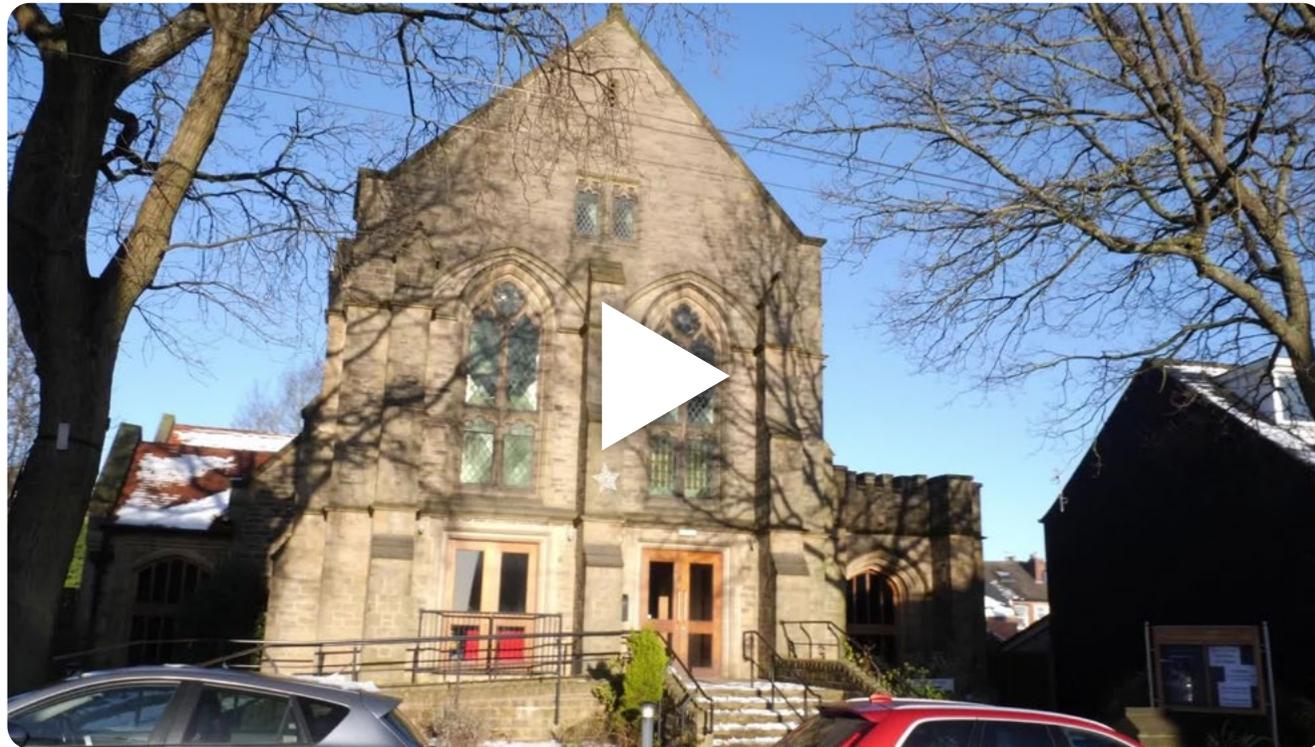




# St Timothy's

# St Timothy's

---



[Click to watch the video](#)

## Vision

We are a community centred on Jesus, transformed by God's love and empowered by the Holy Spirit to live out changed lives with authenticity and boldness.

In a fragmented world we invite everyone to come together to encounter the living God with us in praise, prayer and the everyday life of our community. We listen for God's voice and seek Him in Scripture together. We are open to His Spirit as we seek to actively honour Him in every area of our lives.

Our community's roots and physical home are in our church in Crookes, which is a sacred space of welcome, rest and renewal. When we meet, relationships are formed, God's love is shared and faith is nurtured. We recognise that God is at work in different ways in different people, as we are united in trusting Him to redeem and restore us, so we can serve as His faithful followers in the world around us.

We seek to share the riches of what God has given us through Jesus, inviting others into the love, light, justice and peace of His kingdom. We share in God's work to tell and show the reality of Jesus for us, our community and the wider world.

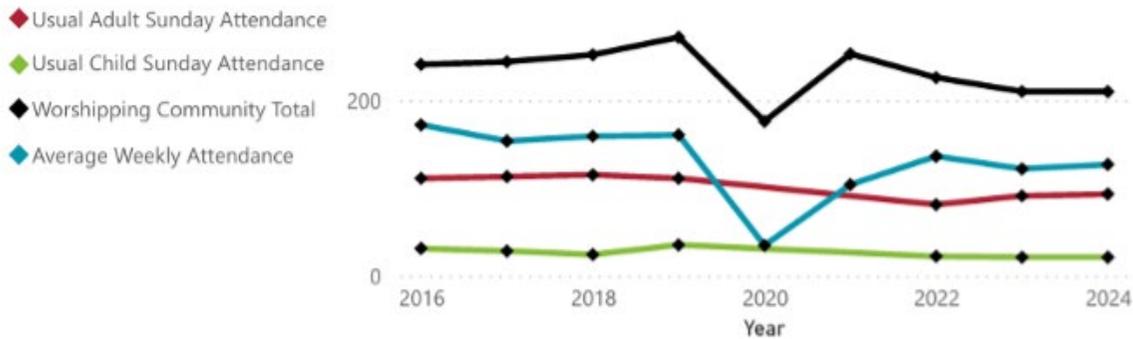


This has been constructed from a consultation with our congregation. Other comments have been incorporated into the parish profile.

## Who we are and what we are like

St Timothy's is one of the larger churches in the diocese with a church family of approximately 180 people with an average Sunday worship attendance of 112 (90 over 16s and 22 under 16s). There are 87 people on the electoral roll. We are an intergenerational church with a core of church members who have attended St Timothy's for many years worshipping alongside a cohort of young families. Our patrons are the Sheffield Church Burgesses Trust and Church Pastoral Aid Society.

Statistics For Mission (Based on data for churches with submitted Statistics for Mission Returns)



Worshipping Community Age Profile



## Worship

Coming together for worship, fellowship and teaching is a key part of our church life, and is a source of enormous encouragement in seeking to live as Christians. We celebrate diversity in many aspects of church life and, with a variety of styles of music and liturgy, most people find something helpful for them in what we do.

### Music

Depending on the style of service we use several instruments including guitars, keyboard, drums, and our cherished church organ. We have five authorised worship leaders. The character of our worship is broad ranging which has evolved over time in response to the congregation.



## Services

We have three regular weekly services

### 10.30am Sunday

An informal and relatively lively family service with a time of separate teaching and worship for younger people. Music and liturgy reflect modern as well as more traditional styles. This service is live streamed on YouTube.

- **Holy Communion:** alternate Sundays.
- **All Age Worship:** second Sunday of the month (The collection from this service is for a different designated charity each month)
- **Lego cafe church:** One Sunday in August.

Refreshments after the 10.30am service provide opportunity for fellowship, and during this time our prayer team is available. This is a much accessed provision with a particular focus on healing prayer once a month.

### 6.30pm Sunday ('The Harbour')

A service providing a space for time with God with extended periods of sung worship and also a focus on encouraging people to worship God through their daily lives. The worship is contemporary and free flowing. There is space for quiet prayer and reflection in response to the talk. We have Holy Communion once a month.

### Midday Wednesday

A midweek opportunity for a short, informal service in the Memorial Chapel is regularly attended by members of the Lunch Club. Holy Communion is twice a month.



# St Timothy's

## Other regular services:

### Taizé

Six times a year we have a Taizé service instead of The Harbour.

### Forest Church

Inclusive, all age, outdoor worship on the field behind the church building. Meeting to mark the Celtic holy days and meet our Creator together through the seasons.

A variety of people attend, many of whom do not attend other services at St Timothy's or struggle with more formal church settings.



## Annual services and events

An Ascension service, a Remembrance Sunday service and an Ash Wednesday joint benefice service.

### At Christmas we hold:

- A Christingle service
- A Carol service which usually follows a 'Nine Lessons and Carols' pattern.
- A children's Nativity service.
- An informal 'Festival Carol service' at the end of the Christmas Tree Festival.
- A Christmas Eve Crib Service.
- A Midnight Communion.
- A Christmas morning service.



## During Holy Week and Easter we:

- Share an Agape Meal on Maundy Thursday.
- Hold an hour-long led 'Reflection on the cross' at 2.00 pm and 7.00 pm on Good Friday.
- Celebrate the resurrection with an Easter Sunday dawn service on the local Bolehills park.

Some years during Holy Week we have held a meditation or Night Prayer each evening.

We have also in some years built a prayer room in the side chapel which has been open continuously from Good Friday to Easter Sunday with spaces, prayer stations and resources for personal reflection and prayer.



## Ministries

### Prayer

The prayer ministry at St Timothy's aims to support people spiritually and pastorally by:

- Providing prayer ministry after every morning and evening service with a particular focus on healing ministry every third Sunday.
- A prayer chain for crisis prayer that is largely used by non-Christians outside the church family.
- Holding monthly prayer meetings as a team to pray for church family members who have asked for prayer.
- Wednesday informal prayer meeting in the church open to the leading of the Holy Spirit.
- Following the Spirit's lead, for example by organising a 24 hour prayer vigil for people in life threatening situations.

### Contemplative prayer

We recognise that people value different approaches in prayer. We seek to make a contemplative expression of prayer part of the life of the church by exploring Ignatian contemplation, Lectio Divina and other traditions.

### Pastoral

A network of church members offers pastoral care. This includes home visits, communion for the housebound, meal rotas for individuals or families and the giving of flowers to express the church's love and concern, particularly at times of bereavement.

### Small Groups

There are currently seven Small Groups at St Timothy's with approximately 60 members between them. Groups can pursue their own programme of study, follow a sermon series or sometimes all the groups follow the same thing. In 2025 all the groups followed the Practicing the Way course during Lent and a sermon series on our church vision statement in September/October. Group leaders encourage group members to take part in leading, praying and supporting each other, as well as providing pastoral support to their groups.

Group leaders meet every two months to pray, encourage each other and share what they have or will be doing in their groups. Experiences, particularly with resources, are shared for everyone's benefit.

## Mission

Our outreach ministries are integral to who we are as a church and we invest time and resources into making them as effective as we can in sharing the Gospel and helping others to discover the love of God.

### Youth ministry

Youth ministry The vision of St Timothy's Youth is to: Be centred on God, rooted in his Word and led by his Spirit; Support each other as a true family who grow in faith together; Shine brightly for Jesus as we serve the Church and help build God's Kingdom.

We have a thriving youth ministry at St Timothy's attended by over 30 regular members aged between 10 and 18, supported by our Youth Minister and several committed volunteer youth leaders who are passionate about helping young people to meet with God, grow in their faith and be equipped to share the light of Jesus with others. We have two midweek groups for younger (Quest) and older youth (Venture), which we aim to make as accessible as possible for those who aren't Christians.

There is a strong and successful partnership between the youth ministries of St Timothy's and The Vine which officially began in 2021. Almost all of the Vine youth attend the midweek youth clubs run by St Timothy's, and also join in with the various trips, residentials and events that take place throughout the year. Both Churches greatly value the opportunity to work together in mission to reach young people in our local community with the Gospel and help them to grow in their faith.

There is also a group that meets on Sundays during the morning service. We regularly host a diocesan event – the Sheffield Youth Hub – which focuses on worship and testimony and gathers youth groups from across the city to encounter God. We also run residentials which include weekends away and summer festivals. These trips facilitate some of the most significant steps forward in faith that our young people make during their time in St Timothy's Youth.



# St Timothy's

---

## Children

We are eager for our children to get to know God, knowing they are loved and that they are never alone. Children are an integral part of the church family and often make their presence known, as we like all children and their families to feel welcome.

During our Sunday services our children separate into two age groups and follow a rolling three year curriculum.

Our monthly Kids' Church is currently being rethought to allow for changes in our young congregation and opportunities for new ideas

Midweek we have a baby group and also a toddler group which are vital services for local parents and an opportunity to be part of and support our local community.

As a benefice, we run a weekly lunchtime club in a local school.

We also like working with our local Methodist Church to put on holiday clubs and fun days.



# St Timothy's

## Lunch Club

St Timothy's Lunch Club meets in the church each Wednesday with 17-20 members currently attending regularly. We offer a space for the over-60s to experience the love of Jesus in our activities, service and communication, whether it's a listening ear or playing bingo. We are a community within our community.

The majority of the members enjoy and find spiritual fulfilment in our midweek service.

## Tuesday Social Club

The Tuesday Social Club is a drop in style outreach ministry for adults with a weekly attendance of 18-25. Our ethos is to 'be with' our members and to create a safe space in a fragmented world where they can gather, spend time together, make new friendships and build relationships. Although we have many members who live locally, others travel across Sheffield to join us. We have Space4Faith once or twice a month after lunch to spend some time together in worship and prayer for those members who want to join us.

## Alpha

Evangelism is very important to us at St Timothy's and is at the forefront of our mission. We have used Alpha on numerous occasions to introduce people to Christianity, helping them to begin to develop a personal relationship with Jesus through which we have seen many people come to faith.

## Uniformed Organisations

Several Uniformed Organisations, including Brownies, Guides, Beavers, Cubs and Scouts, meet weekly in the Scout Hut behind our church building. Whilst these groups are not explicitly Christian, some of our church members are involved with running the groups, and the children from these groups attend our family services from time to time.



# Community engagement

We hold annual events that open the church up to the local community, enhance our life together and seek to share the joy and blessings that we know with our wider local area highlighting the strength of community life at St Timothy's and utilising the wonderful range of gifts and talents present in the church family. These events include:

## **The Summer Fair**

A church fundraising event held on a Saturday during the summertime when we invite our parish to join us for a fair with stalls, fun games, a bouncy castle, BBQ, prayer spaces, bunting and much more.

## **Light Party**

We hold this every year to give families a meaningful and fun alternative to Halloween.

## **Christmas Tree Festival**

In early December the church is transformed for a weekend by church and local community groups into a beautiful space of quirkily decorated trees, a cafe and Father Christmas' grotto. This is a fundraising event for the Tuesday Social Club. Prizes are awarded at the festival carol service.



# St Timothy's

## **The Pantomime**

Every January we write, choreograph, rehearse and perform to sell-out audiences, all within the month. A testament to God's grace and provision each year! The panto has included people from the local community as well as St Timothy's family members and is an opportunity to share fun and fellowship with non-Christians. A large proportion of the profits goes to designated charities.

## **Mark Drama**

We have also performed the 'Mark Drama' theatre-in-the-round in 2014, 2018 and 2024 which tells the entire gospel story in 90 minutes and is acted out by members of our congregation. It captures the attention of the audience whilst uncovering Jesus.

## **Reverse Advent Calendar**

Throughout November for those who wish to participate we suggest daily items to donate to the local S6 Foodbank along with a prayer, Bible passage or inspirational quotation.

Other recent activities include hosting a local choir for their annual concert (we hope to develop this in future) and opening the church for CPR and defibrillator training for anyone interested in learning how to use the defibrillator outside church.



## Governance and leadership

Our PCC oversees all aspects of governance, compliance, statutory obligations and risk management. It oversees three principal areas of governance and accountability: our church programme team oversees ministry, mission, discipleship and the development of people. This is led by our Focal Ministers with PCC oversight. Our estates and development team is responsible for fabric and operations and is led by our churchwardens. These report regularly to PCC. Our core functions and other strategic matters, such as safeguarding and finances, are monitored by our standing committee, and are standing items on our full PCC agenda.

Each ministry area has a 'link group' which has a designated churchwarden, Focal Minister and PCC representative which enables representation and engagement with our leadership structures.

### **Focal Ministers**

Four focal ministers were authorised in May 2024. They meet monthly and work together to manage various aspects of church life. They do not have rigidly defined responsibilities, but between them do:

- Some preaching and leading services
- Pastoral and small group support
- Communications
- Children and youth support
- Baptism visits and point of connection for the wider community
- Eco Church and care for creation

They also aim to be a 'focal' point - as per the job title - and support and encourage others at St Timothy's to participate fully in the life of the church. They worked together with the previous incumbent to develop the vision and during vacancy are responsible for planning the sermon series.

### **Committees**

We have a full PCC and a standing committee that functions well.

# St Timothy's

## **Paid Staff**

St Timothy's currently funds the following posts (in some cases more than one post is held by the same person):

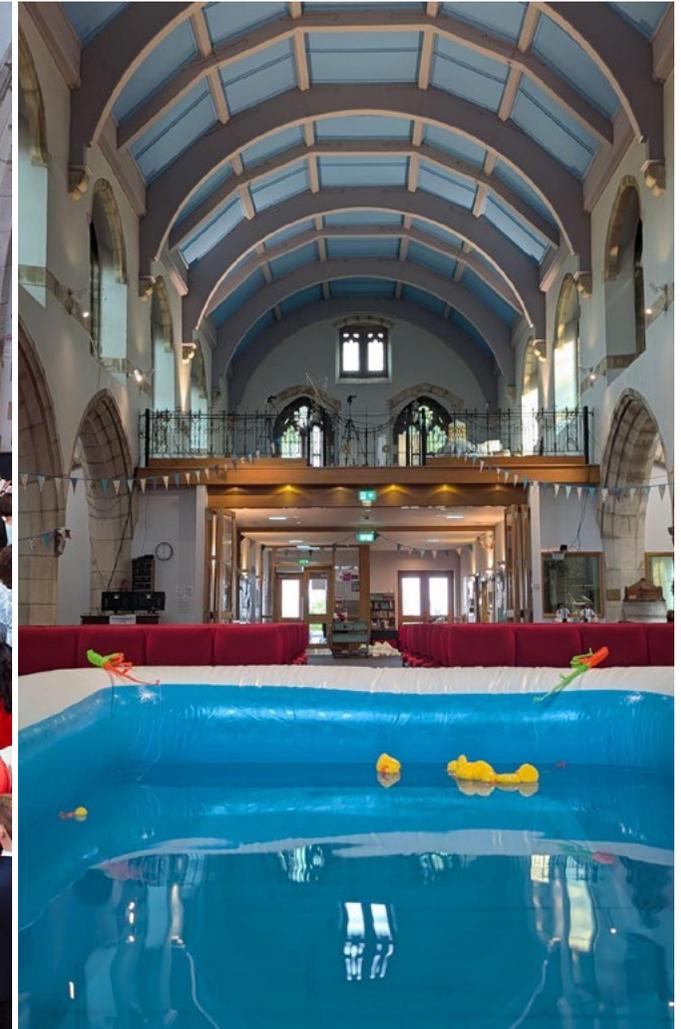
- 14 hrs per week Administrator and PSO
- 6 hrs per week Youth Minister
- 22 hrs per week Children's Minister
- 13 hrs per week Cleaners (split between two people)
- 6 hrs per week Lunch Club Cook
- 4 hrs per week Hall Manager
- 2 hrs per week Estates Manager

## **Safeguarding**

Our PSO ensures our safeguarding requirements and policies are robust and kept up to date. An elected member of our PCC acts as cover for our PSO when they are on annual leave or unavailable due to illness. Our church leadership and ministries follow the diocese 'safer recruitment' policy.

## **Life Events**

In the last 12 months we have held eight funerals, one wedding, one marriage blessing and five baptisms.



## Finances

The PCC aims to be a fully contributing parish to the Common Fund, as it has been historically, but recent shifts in the church's financial position have meant that our offering to the Fund has now been reduced by nearly 50%. While we have seen growth in the congregation, this hasn't always been reflected in an increase in giving that would have been expected. The church budget is spent in three areas - salaries (around 35-40%), church ministry and maintenance (35-40%), and Common Fund (20-25%). All the church's recent financial accounts are available via the Charities Commission website.

### Forecast for 2025

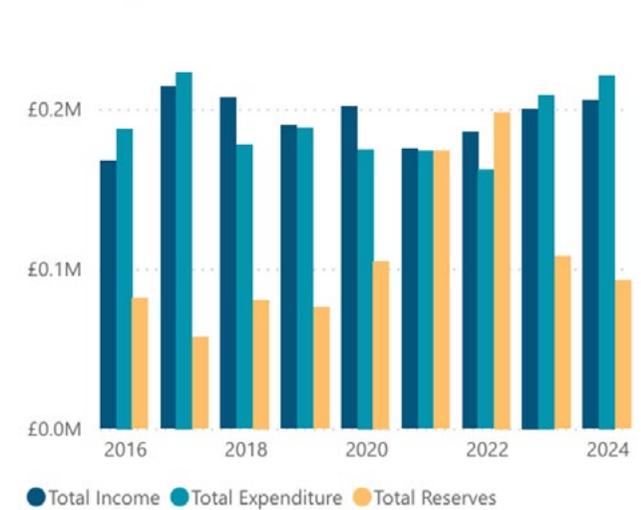
At the time of writing, the final accounts are yet to be produced but predicted end of year accounts suggest a break-even position for 2025 or a small net saving. This has largely been achieved by a reduction in Common Fund giving and reductions or non-spends within individual ministry budgets.

### Highlights and Lowlights

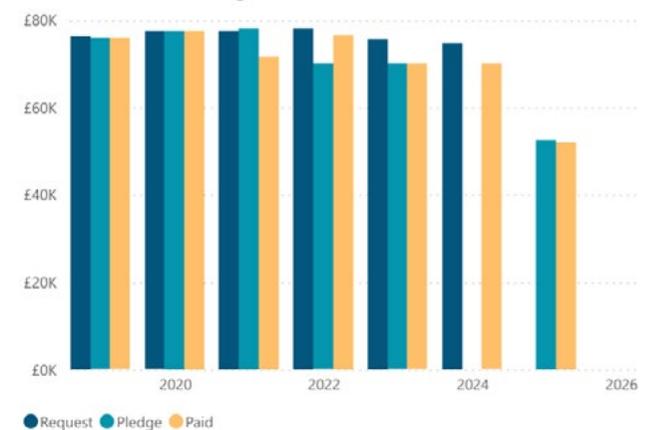
- The church has regular income from the majority of the church family, leading to a total income of over £150,000 a year although this isn't spread equally across the congregation and therefore is not sustainable.
- The church has excellent utilisation of its community hall which has an income of over £25,000 a year with low requirements for maintenance and spend.
- Major expenditures are expected on church maintenance with work identified as part of the Quinquennial inspections not actioned in recent times due to a lack of finance.

Church accounts are overseen by a Treasurer with the day to day running undertaken by administrative support shared across the benefice alongside a privately contracted Finance Officer.

Parish Finance (Based on data for churches with submitted Parish Finance Returns or Transcribed Accounts)



Common Fund (Excluding Donations)



## Buildings

St Timothy's started as a church plant from St Thomas, Crookes that worshipped in a tin building at the north edge of the parish. The present building dates from November 1910 and was modified in 2007 to become the open, family-friendly church it is today.

There is a large welcome area, easily seen from the street, leading to the main worship area. This has seating which can be arranged to suit the type of service or event taking place and which, in its usual arrangement, has a maximum capacity of 196.

There is a small creche (St Nicholas Room), church office, well-equipped kitchen, toilets and a small prayer/meeting room (Cherith Room) off the welcome area. At the far end of the church are the vicar's vestry and choir vestry.

There is a mezzanine floor which is mostly used for storage.





## Care for Creation and Eco Church

We take our responsibility to look after God's creation and live in harmony with it seriously. Our PCC has declared a climate emergency and we are committed to reaching net zero by 2030 in line with the Church of England's wider policy. We have a Care for Creation group that meets monthly and looks at how care for the environment and climate action are embedded in our church. We use the A Rocha Eco Church framework to do this and have a silver award. We are working towards gold. We also work with environmental groups in other local churches to put on events related to caring for creation.

## Other buildings

The St Timothy's estate also includes the community hall (used for outreach ministries, the annual pantomime and by a range of external community groups and businesses) and scout hut (used by all Uniformed Organisations of which St Timothy's is patron)

## Building project

As part of our commitment to God's creation, when it was clear that our ancient gas boilers were long overdue renewal, we set about a project to replace them with a greener alternative. After prayerful research and fact finding trips we settled on heat pumps as the solution. Wanting this project to be about more than heating and about continuing to make the church a place for community in Christ, we decided to expand the project to include more of the developments that had been envisioned as part of the original reordering and building project over 18 years ago. Having completed much research, and garnered a variety of quotes, we are now well into fundraising and have a grant application team. We have engaged an architect to begin the planning and design process. We believe in a church for now and for the future and with God's blessing this project will help us to be so.

## Parish description

St Timothy's parish church is on Slinn Street in Crookes, a suburb in Sheffield about 1.5 miles west of the city centre.

The Crookes and Crosspool Ward had a total population of 17,306 (2024, ONS data). The area is popular with students and professionals who work at local hospitals and the universities, but there is also a stable population of people born and brought up in Crookes which gives the area village-like qualities. Sheffield has a high retention rate of graduates from the universities in part due to the friendliness of the city and its proximity to the Peak District.

Crookes is a well-resourced neighbourhood with a good range of shops, businesses, cafes and restaurants. Crookes has an excellent bus service to the centre of Sheffield via Broomhill, passing the hospitals and university and in the opposite direction to Hillsborough, home of Sheffield Wednesday Football Club and a busy, comprehensive shopping centre.

St Timothy's works hard at being connected with local churches including STC and Wesley Hall Methodist Church on Crookes, St Vincent's Roman Catholic Church, and neighbouring St Mary's Church in Walkley.



### Parish Population Age Profile (2021 Census)



# The Vine



## Sunday mornings

Sunday morning services at St Bart's are an important focal point in the life of our church community, encountering God together in worship, prayer, confession, Bible teaching and testimony.

The services are structured but informal and relaxed, not following a set liturgy. On a typical Sunday, we gather together for all-age worship led by a small team of singers and musicians. We then break into parallel groups, with tailored provision for children, young people and adults. As we seek to be equipped and disciplined as the family of God, all groups follow the same teaching programme and focus on the same Bible text. This is usually delivered in the form of a sermon and response time for adults, while our younger members engage in an age-appropriate learning and discipleship.

We try to celebrate Holy Communion together at least once a month. We do this as family, encouraging the children and young people to come back from their groups to join their families.

On several occasions throughout the year, we have an all-age gathering instead of the usual model of separate groups. These enable us to hear from



God in different and more creative ways. In this setting, we often use facilitated group discussion to explore God's word to us rather than preaching from the front.

It is important to us as a church to hear different voices on a Sunday and to allow opportunity for each other to use and develop our gifts. We have many different people leading services, preaching, leading worship, reading the Bible, leading prayers,

leading the youth and children's provision and serving in other ways.

Accessibility is a key value for us. All our Sunday services are livestreamed so that people who are unable to attend in person can still feel part of our Sunday morning community. You may want to follow us on YouTube to see for yourself what our Sunday mornings are like. [www.youtube.com/@TheVineSheffield](http://www.youtube.com/@TheVineSheffield).

## Children's Church

In the children's work at The Vine we are helping children to explore their faith and discover what it means to them to have a Christian faith and to follow Jesus in their day to day. We explain and learn key Christian beliefs and biblical concepts and always have a time of investigation and reflection where we challenge them to think about what it really means to them.

We make the sessions accessible and try to support children who have a wide variety of interests, needs and skills. We have 3 children's groups on a Sunday with currently upward of 15 children aged 0-11 regularly attending children's church. Our numbers are growing as our active and inclusive style has appealed to new families. We also have regular all-age services to enable people of all ages to learn together and to connect and get to know each other in this journey of faith and following Jesus.

The children's work follows the same plan as the adults so that families can continue to explore together. Families also meet together monthly for food and other fun activities as a way of deepening connections and share in each other's lives.

We are also enjoying working with a local school through a lunchtime club, reading support and doing regular 'open the book' assemblies. This is a great opportunity to get to know some of the children in our school and community in a different way and offer them friendship and community and introduce them to the Bible in exciting and fun ways.

Each Christmas and Easter the whole infant and junior schools come to St Barts to experience an interactive assembly which is written and performed by members of 3 or 4 local churches.

We love creating opportunities through the year to invite the local community to attend family-focussed events put on by the church and these are great times when it's a chance to share the love of God with our community and invite them into church and get to know them better.





## Youth

We have 11 Vine Youth (VY), attendance fluctuates week by week, depending on other commitments; family events, sport, etc.

VY meet in the former Vestry, now the Youth Snug. Each week we meet to share how things are going and consider how to apply our Christian faith in our own lives, especially within the family, and at school and other places. We share thoughts about Christianity and life through discussion, reading the Bible and watching video clips. We learn memory verses to help equip, strengthen and encourage ourselves as we go about our daily living.

In preparation for moving on from VY we stay in for the sermon at least once every couple of months, we then retire to the Snug to discuss it further.

The majority of VY also attend either Quest or Venture, the St Tim's after school youth groups, where Vicki is also part of the St Tim's youth leadership.

9 VY attended the St Tim's annual Thornbridge Youth weekend away in May, with leaders from both The Vine and St Timothy's.

## Small Groups

Here at the Vine we have several small groups. The groups are a mixture of daytime and evening meetings some getting together weekly and some fortnightly.

Groups can pursue their own programme of study, follow a sermon series or sometimes all groups follow the same resources.

The church family are strongly encouraged to become members of one of our groups.



## Arabic Fellowship

Two members from The Vine have been pioneering a new ministry since October 2024: a fledgling Arabic-speaking Fellowship, which meets once a month on Saturdays

It's a gathering of Arabic-speaking believers from various backgrounds, who encourage one another and are seeking to become a missional community, which serves as a welcoming space for seekers. Inter-denominational, drawn together by the love of God in Jesus Christ, belief in The Creed and the use of the Arabic language.

The Vine have recently committed to support the fellowship in various ways. In particular to pray for the cohesive growth of the group and encourage the emerging Arab leadership. Three members of the Vine Church attend to support the meetings, and several others regularly bless the work by providing childcare and activities alongside the service.



## Eco Church

We put our faith into action by caring for God's world, prayerfully and practically. We achieved Eco Church Bronze Award at the start of 2025 and a working group meets every 3-4 months to take positive action to increase equity, promote justice and reduce harm, both on a local and global scale.

This year we have:

- Installed solar panels on the roof of St Barts
- Run several clothes swaps and a stall for Fairtrade fortnight
- Harvested and shared crops from our community garden, and put on occasional outdoor services and monthly 'garden church' group activities
- Financially supported TASTE, a charity working in Nigeria to provide clean water, and Tearfund's Annual Big Quiz
- Prayed about the impact of the climate crisis globally and locally. We partner with St Tims and others across the Diocese towards shared goals and recently joined the Nature Recovery Sheffield network.

## St Bart's Community Garden

The church grounds around St Barts are an important space for serving and connecting with the wider community. Since 2021, we have hosted monthly garden gatherings after the Sunday service, and with help from the Welcome Space group and various one-off teams, we've made significant progress—especially in the front and side gardens.

With funding from Westhill and additional applications underway, we're planning major development work to make the garden more accessible for everyone. This will not only create opportunities for church events to take place outdoors but give us new ways to share our faith and meet the needs of the local community. An open day at St Barts in September 2025 showed strong support from local residents for increased community use, such as social gardening groups. By supporting wildlife and biodiversity through the choices we're making in the garden, we're also making progress toward our Eco Church objectives.





## Welcome Space

Welcome Space originally opened as part of the Warm Spaces initiative in 2022. There was a regular weekly attendance of up to 24, so we continued passed the cold winter months, changing the name to Welcome Space.

Over time numbers have diminished, but we have committed members who also attend Vine fellowship activities from time to time, including coming on the Church Weekend Away.

We provide free refreshments and fresh homemade vegetarian soup, bread and cheese, along with a warm and friendly welcome. We are always ready to pray with people and sometimes tell the Christian story in a Godly Play style, which has always been received well with plenty of discussion and questioning.

We also have a growing relationship with local services: Primrose Family Hub, Langsett and Walkley Residents Association, Zest and Walkley Events Collective. We mentored 2 medical students via Walkley Events Collective on Thursday 4th December.

## Operations

The life and ministry of The Vine is sustained through a combination of paid staff and committed volunteers.

Administrative support is provided on a paid part-time basis and is shared across the benefice.

We have a part time Children's and Family Worker, also shared across the benefice. This role focuses on nurturing faith among children and families and strengthening links with the local families and schools.

The parish is served by two Churchwardens, who play a key role in governance and buildings. They work closely with the wider Focal Ministry team and are actively engaged in supporting the church through the vacancy.

Safeguarding is taken seriously and is embedded within parish life. Responsibility is shared between a benefice safeguarding lead and a deputy safeguarding officer, ensuring clear accountability, good communication, and continuity of oversight.

## PCC

Our PCC is made up of 12 members, including:

- Churchwardens
- Treasurer
- Assistant treasurer
- Lay vice chair
- Secretary
- Parish Safeguarding Officer

Our church wardens are automatically members of PCC, and our licensed lay reader is a member of PCC by the agreement of the church membership. The other 9 members are elected annually at our APCM. The oversight minister would be part of the PCC. The PCC meets 5 times a year and acts as trustees of the church, making governorship decisions. As a PCC we strongly believe in enabling and supporting the mission of the church, which we achieve through positive and honest conversations in our meetings.

Many of the day-to-day decisions, particularly around the maintenance of the church buildings are delegated to our Standing Committee, which consists of 6 members of PCC (including wardens, treasurers and chair) and meets monthly (as well as communicating regularly in between). All decisions and recommendations are reported back to the PCC.



## Parish description

Our parish serves a population of approximately 15,000 residents and is ranked 1,195th on the Church Urban Fund deprivation index, placing it among the more deprived parishes nationally.

The parish of The Vine covers three distinct but closely connected neighbourhoods: Netherthorpe, Upperthorpe, and Langsett.

Netherthorpe is characterised by a mix of council and private housing and is centred around the Ponderosa, a large public park. The area includes Bethany Christian School and sits close to the city

centre, separated by a dual carriageway and tram route. Local amenities include a Tesco store and a mosque operating from a converted house.

Across the Ponderosa lies Upperthorpe, which has a stronger local centre, including independent shops and Zest, a combined library, sports, and community facility.

Westward, the hillside becomes Langsett, where St Bart's church building is located. This area is predominantly home to lower-income White British households and is also served by the tram network.

A defining feature of the parish is its long-standing ethnic and cultural diversity. Since the 1950s, Yemeni families arriving to work in Sheffield's steel industry have settled alongside Afro-Caribbean communities. Further diversity came in the 1980s with the arrival of Somali refugees. More recently, a significant student population linked to the University of Sheffield has added to this mix. Netherthorpe Primary School reflects this diversity, with pupils speaking over 20 languages and experiencing high annual turnover. Alongside this change, many long-term White British residents remain, with deep family ties to the area.



## The road ahead: discerning together

It's been a few years since we sat down as a church to discern our vision and direction. Whilst it might have felt traditional to dust off and update or vision statement, we wanted to be real and be clear about where we are. We're therefore not inviting a vicar into a church with a fully formed or tightly defined vision statement. This is a conscious decision to leave space for the next vicar to help us discern, shape, and articulate a shared sense of direction together.

As part of this process we have engaged extensively with the church and we have a strong sense of who we are. Our church is widely experienced as warm, welcoming and relationally including. People value it as a place of belonging, safety, and mutual care. This culture of "family" is something we are deeply committed to preserving and building upon.

At the same time, the church is expressing that forward momentum is welcome. We are open to being led forward by a vicar who can help us discern priorities, encourage momentum, and bring greater coherence to what already exists. We are particularly keen to grow in discipleship, helping people deepen their day-to-day faith

journey, understanding that this involves intentionality and discipline, whilst remaining genuine and organic.

We believe that The Vine is ready for a season where we grow in depth, confidence, and outward engagement, and we are excited to explore what that might look like.



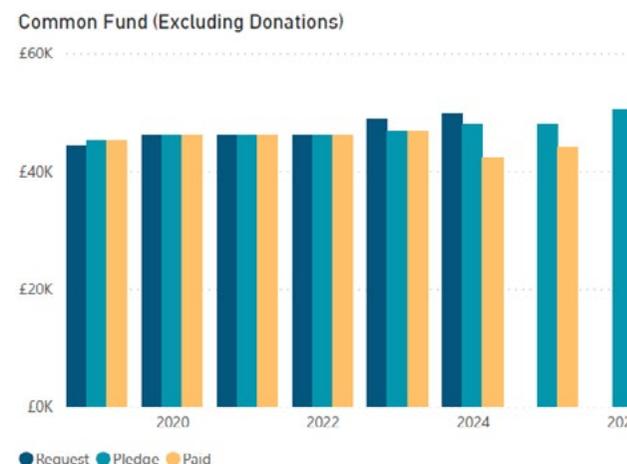
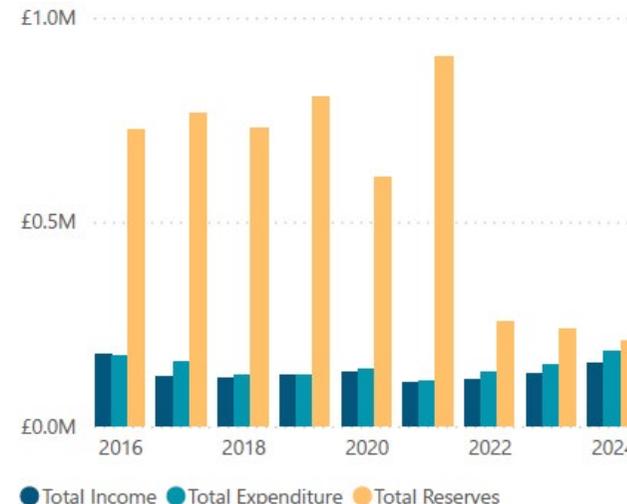
## Finance

The Vine is blessed with healthy financial assets thanks to the generosity of previous generations. We have been drawing down these assets significantly in recent years as we have felt led to invest financially in what God is doing in our church and local community. This has included substantial investment in our building and gardens as we seek to make St Bart's a viable and welcoming hub for the community. We have also used our available funds to employ with St Tim's a children and families' worker, host outreach events, subsidise our recent church weekend away and offer financial support to members of our congregation in need.

Alongside funding our own initiatives, we seek to be generous towards the wider work of God's kingdom. We give over a third of our annual income to the Common Fund and a further 8% to charities and missionaries that we support.

Giving from church members, mainly through the Parish Giving Scheme, accounts for more than half of our income but we also earn substantial income from building hire and interest from our investments. We have a good track record of accessing grant funding and have recently won grants to install solar panels at St Bart's, invest in accessibility projects and improve our garden.

Nevertheless, we have been running large deficits over recent years. We aim to address this going forward by continuing to improve the energy efficiency of the St Bart's building, securing a long term lease of our St Stephen's building and broadening our giving base.



## Our building



A brick built modern building of unusual design, completed in 1990 as a church centre, built on the grounds of St. Bart's old church. Arches from the original building still remain in the grounds. This building has two floors, the ground floor consists of a large hall space with a snooker room and toilet beyond. A hatch at the other end of this hall makes way to a large and spacious kitchen with store room. The downstairs common area has a covered under-floor baptistry. The upper floor consists of an octagonal worship area which is light and airy as floor to ceiling windows surround; a meeting room, a vestry and a toilet are beyond. There is a seating area and a small kitchen, a disabled toilet and three offices down a corridor to the right. This building is in a reasonable state of repair for its age however its internal fixtures, chairs and décor are rather tired and in need of renewal. The heating system is overdue for replacement and draft plans for extensive refurbishment have been drawn up with the architect.

We also retain responsibility for another building (St Stephen's), following the merger of two parishes over a decade ago to form The Vine. Since the 2021 worship has been centred at St Bart's, with St Stephen's used for events and

to support other ministries. In recent years, St Stephen's has been predominantly rented to other church congregations. The PCC is currently exploring the possibility of a church graft from a larger local church, which would see that congregation take fuller responsibility for the building and its ongoing maintenance.





# The Benefice Vicarage

## The Benefice Vicarage

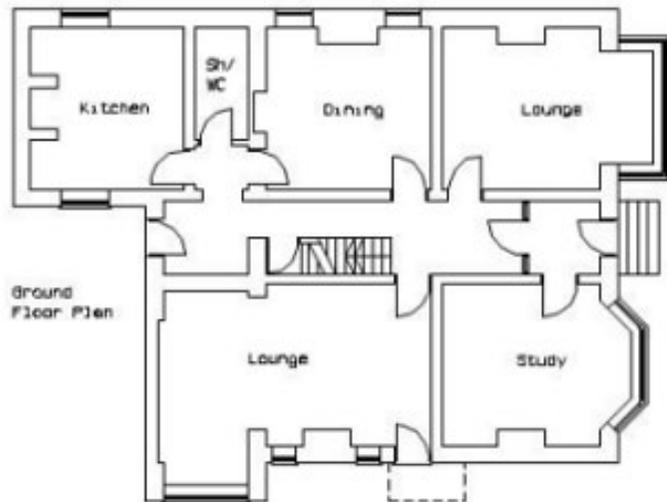
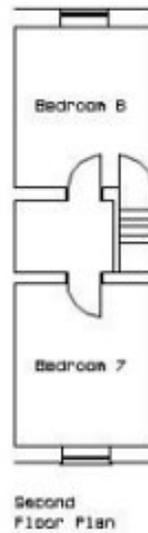
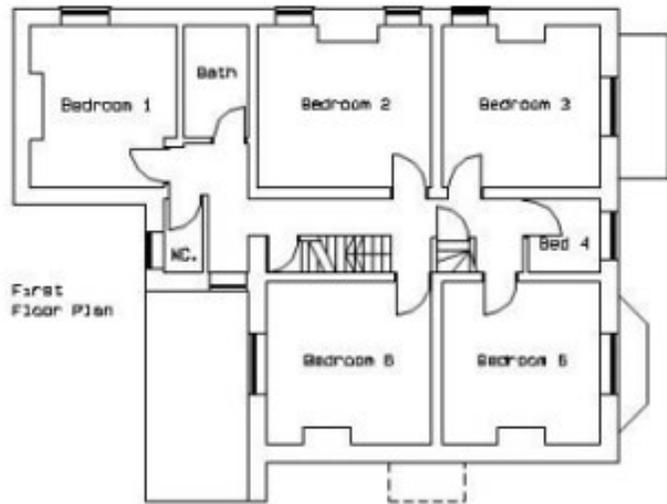
---

Next door to St Timothy's church is the vicarage, a large stone-built house with garden, a driveway with car-parking space and garage to the rear of the property. There is a room which leads off from the vestibule (between the front door and the rest of the house) to a self-contained room which a previous incumbent used as their church office. There are two reception rooms, a separate dining room, a good-sized kitchen and cloakroom. There are five main bedrooms on the first floor, with one further smaller room. There are also two rooms on the second floor that have previously been used for storage. There is access to the church via a short path from the vicarage.



# The Benefice Vicarage

## FLOOR PLANS



Design **Byjohnloyd.co.uk**



## Role Description

### Details of Post

**Role Title:** **Vicar and Oversight Minister of the Benefice of St. Timothy's, Crookes and The Vine, Netherthorpe and Uppertorpe**

**Deanery:** **Hallam**

**Archdeaconry:** **Sheffield and Rotherham**

### Context

This is a mission area of 2 parishes

St. Timothy's Crookes is a parish with one church building in urban Sheffield with a population of 3791 and a National Multiple Deprivation rank of 10194.

The Vine is a separate parish in the same Benefice that has two church buildings, St. Bartholomew's and St. Stephen's. St. Bartholomew's is where The Vine worship whilst St. Stephen's is primarily used by other churches. The Vine parish has a population of 15083 and a National Multiple Deprivation rank of 1195.

The two parishes are adjacent to one another.

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: 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.





**Appendix 1.**

**Person Specification-**

**An Ordained Minister**

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

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

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