

Welcome to the Parish and Benefice of Brayton

We are looking for a new Rector. Is this you?

Our 2024 Parish Profile might help you decide...



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Bishop of Selby's Letter of Introduction

Parish Profile for Post of Rector of Brayton and Area Dean of Selby 2024

Thank you for your interest in the post of Rector of the Benefice of Brayton and Area Dean of the Deanery of Selby. We are at a critical time in the life of this Diocese and if appointed you will be leading this Parish and Deanery through a period of significant change as both the Deanery and the Diocese seek with the help of the Holy Spirit to realise the Diocesan Vision of Living Christ's Story and embed the Selby Deanery Plan.

The Diocese is going through a time of change as we explore Living Christ's Story expressed in four strategic goals:

- Becoming more like Christ as we live his Story today.
- Reaching those who don't yet know Christ, particularly through our Multiply and Mustard Seed projects.
- Growing churches of missionary disciples who are younger and more diverse.
- Transforming our finances and structures so that we can support a presence in all our neighbourhoods and networks of the Diocese.

The challenge is to realise this vision and its strategic goals in the life of this Benefice and Deanery as well as to embrace the opportunities for mission which these settings afford.



As is clear from the Profile, St Wilfrid's Brayton and St Francis of Assisi, Thorpe Willoughby (LEP) want to share the Gospel with their communities especially among younger people, schools and families. They sense their energy levels returning after the Covid pandemic yet feel they need direction and focus as they offer their diverse gifts to serve God's mission in the Benefice. They also want to develop their worship, to build stronger links with their local communities, particularly through engagement with schools, and potentially to grow fresh expressions of church. There are Lay Ministry Teams which assist with pastoral care and as congregations they wish to grow younger, in size and in generosity. The LEP with the Methodist Church in Thorpe Willoughby has also been refreshed of late and their flexible building facilitates community outreach. In all of this these parishes seek an energetic, enthusiastic, tenacious priest who will be a facilitative leader affirming their journey so far also but able to stretch their horizons and guide them along new paths in mission. What makes this post attractive is that there is a supportive, enthusiastic and committed Ministry Team of lay and ordained colleagues in the parishes who want to work with the new priest in this mission.

The Deanery is also at a significant juncture in its life with a viable Deanery Plan which the current Area and Lay Deans and Deanery Leadership Team have worked up. Along with other deaneries, there are challenges around ministry capacity, financial viability and aging congregations which will need addressing. This will require collaborative leadership exercised in an adventurous and entrepreneurial manner across the Deanery. For someone seeking to be stretched and to discover God's grace in fresh ways, the role will certainly offer such experiences though with the reassurance you would be supported by Chapter colleagues, the Deanery Synod, Area and Lay Deans from other Deaneries and also by the Diocese. There will also be a review of the link between the parish and the role of Area Dean in five years.

The details of the appointments are contained in this application material. May the Spirit guide you as prayerfully you consider whether to apply for these roles.

+John Selby



A message from the Area Dean

Welcome to Selby Deanery

We look forward to welcoming and working with a new colleague in the Deanery as Rector of Brayton and Area Dean.

Selby Deanery is in the south-west corner of the Diocese of York, falling for the most part within the County of North Yorkshire. The Deanery is made up of two larger population centres – the town of Selby/village of Brayton in the east and the villages of Sherburn/South Milford in the west with approximately thirty other villages across the deanery with a growing population that is approaching 60,000. In recent years, significant housing development has taken place not only in and around these two larger population centres, but in a number of the other villages and looks likely to continue. Selby town and district is often ranked highly in national and regional polls of popular places to live, no doubt helped by relatively low house prices and good transport communications (by motorway and rail. Oh, and the canal!)

The deanery is served by six 'Ministry Units' with twenty-four Anglican Churches or Worship Centres, two of which are Local Ecumenical Projects with the Methodists. There are at least a dozen other churches across the deanery, including Methodist, Roman Catholic, Salvation Army and Independent and undoubtedly people resident in the deanery will also travel to worship in York, Leeds and other centres outside the deanery.

There are already a variety of good examples of the ways in which churches are encouraging worship and discipleship within their congregations and seeking to engage with and serve their local communities across the deanery both in more traditional ways (e.g. through occasional offices, collective worship and governance in schools, children's and youth groups, providing space and support for community activities) as well as in more innovative ways.

(Continued)



Deanery Priorities for 'Living Christ's Story' include the following:

- Create a wider range of opportunities for people to come together in parishes, Ministry Units and across the Deanery to study, pray and worship together within and outside current service times to develop the faith and discipleship of existing church members and to engage with others, including children and younger adults.
- Encourage every church to address its engagement with the community/communities it serves (including the newer estates/residents) through its pattern and style of worship, its opportunities for evangelism, its methods of communication, the use and usefulness of its building(s), its partnerships with local groups, identifying local needs and the innovations required to make the most of the particular opportunities each local context affords.
- Build on the contacts we already have (e.g. through schools, toddlers' groups, occasional offices, seasonal services, etc.) to develop relationships and opportunities that will help people to find faith and grow in commitment to Christ.
- Provide training and support for lay people in the parishes, both for those in existing roles and in developing new ministries by offering training that is as local, contextual and adaptable (to the needs, availability and experience of the individuals concerned) as possible, including those focused on evangelism and faith development.
- Streamline structures and provide more effective support for one another within and across parishes through pastoral re-organisation that reduces the number of PCCs and statutory roles and creates more opportunities for sharing ministries and training in discipleship.
- Explore together and with the knowledge and expertise of those outside the deanery, how the particular needs, opportunities and challenges of ministry in a Rural context can be addressed to enable smaller churches in smaller communities to flourish.

These are just some of the ways in which we hope to support and encourage one another in mission across the Deanery. We hope you would like to join us and be part of our mission together in this area and to help to lead us forward as a Deanery in addressing our 'Priorities' for the mission we share together in this area.

John Weetman (Area Dean)

Karen Banks (Lay Dean)

Our Mission Statement

We are committed to enabling as many people as possible to discover and learn about the love of God by reaching into the community through evangelism and Christian service and by ensuring our church community is a welcoming place for all.



Where we are now and our view of the future:

Like all church communities, we were constrained by the Covid pandemic restrictions. We've also been challenged by the long-term illness of our previous incumbent which, together with a period of vacancy, has impacted several initiatives and development plans.

Thankfully, we are blessed with a wonderful team of retired clergy, one Lay Reader and several lay worship leaders and have benefited from the spiritual leadership of a Curate in Charge over the last 12 months. St Wilfrid's dedicated Sacristan supports our clergy by preparing the vessels and vestments for the liturgies and worship of the church.

Therefore, we have been able to retain our pattern of services in both our churches. Our Pastoral Teams have continued to reach into our church community to provide support and care for our vulnerable and elderly members and to give communion to people who are housebound. Our Young Families Team continued our 'Fresh Expressions' with young families until December 2023, but with the departure of our previous Rector this team now needs refreshing.

(Continued)



St Wilfrid's has a small but loyal choir who sing at our Sunday Morning Prayer and most of the sung Eucharist and festival services, but we currently have a vacancy for a new organist/pianist. Our church has a strong tradition of music, and we enjoy both traditional and contemporary hymns and worship songs.

The Churchwarden, Stewards, PCC, and Lay teams have worked with our incumbent to promote the whole mission of our church, pastoral, evangelistic, social, and ecumenical. The PCC have recently carried out a consultation with our church community to learn their views on ways that we can lead our church into growth.

They believe the time is right to reach out to the community we serve and to spread the word and teachings of Christ in new ways, enabling our church to grow and flourish in God's name. They want to grow significantly the ministry amongst young families, children, and young adults, while ensuring that the needs of our existing congregations are maintained.



We are:

One church on two sites and would consider ourselves to be 'middle of the road' in terms of our worshipping life.

A congregation of various ages, with mostly older people worshipping on a Sunday morning.

A friendly, inclusive congregation, welcoming all to our services.



We want to:

Reaffirm our mission to the parish.

Grow the presence of young families.

Inspire fresh thinking and new ideas to attract the local community.

Create flexibility in the church interior.

Develop our use of newly-installed technology.

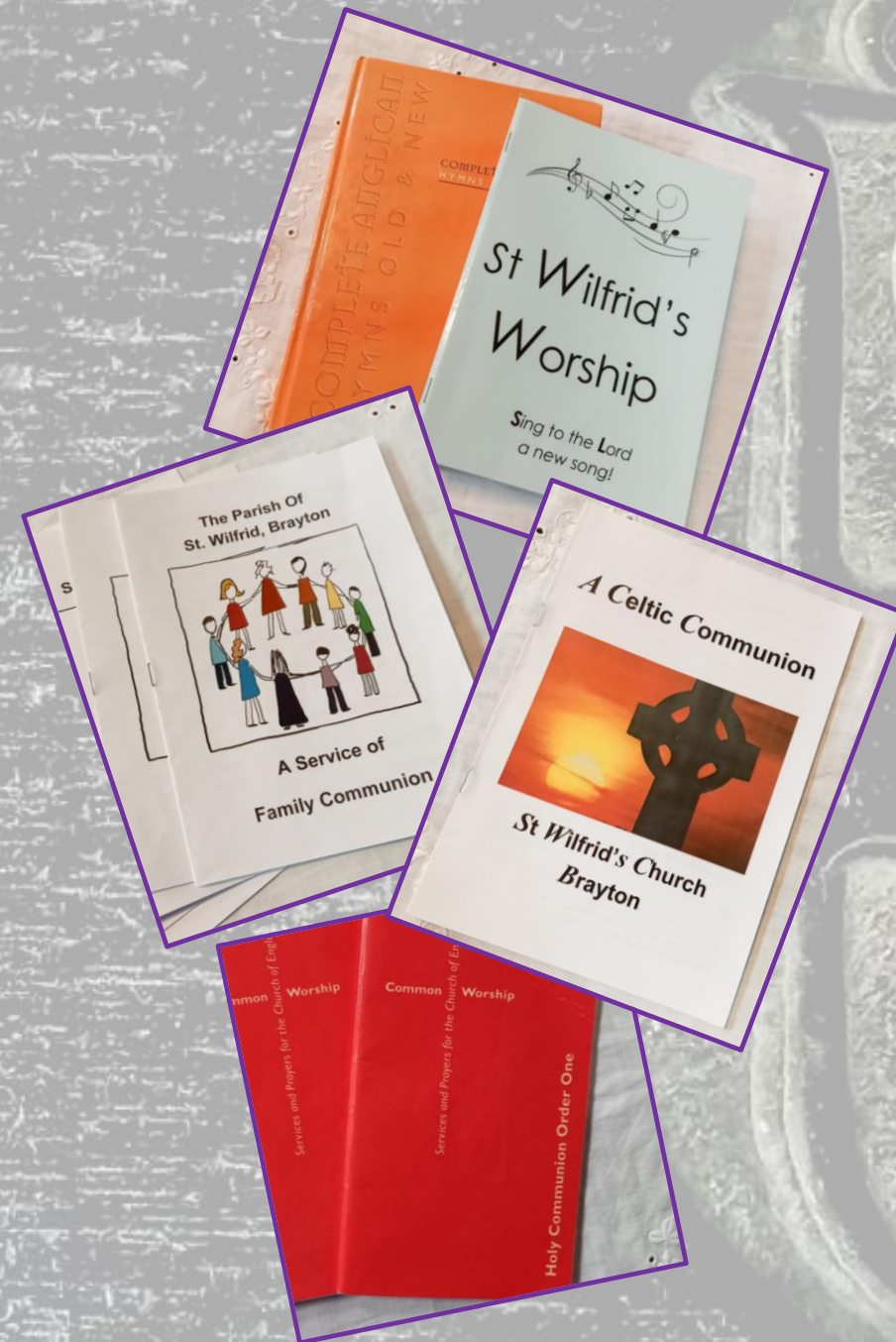


The things that are important to us are:

Developing missional opportunities within the community, including the local schools.

Having a balance of traditional and contemporary approaches to worship, with a range of musical provision and styles.

Making the interior of St Wilfrid's warmer, more welcoming and flexible.



We want you to help us to:

Inspire young families with the gospel.

Rejuvenate and create new fresh expressions of church.

Find an appropriate balance of traditional and informal worship

Bring the generations together in church.

Reconsider the church interior of St Wilfrid's.



Children and Young Families

A key area of our mission and outreach at St Wilfrid's is our work with children, young people, and families. Many of the families moving into our expanding villages have no tradition or experience of church going so exploring ways to reach these children and young families through 'Fresh Expressions' is a key part of our mission.

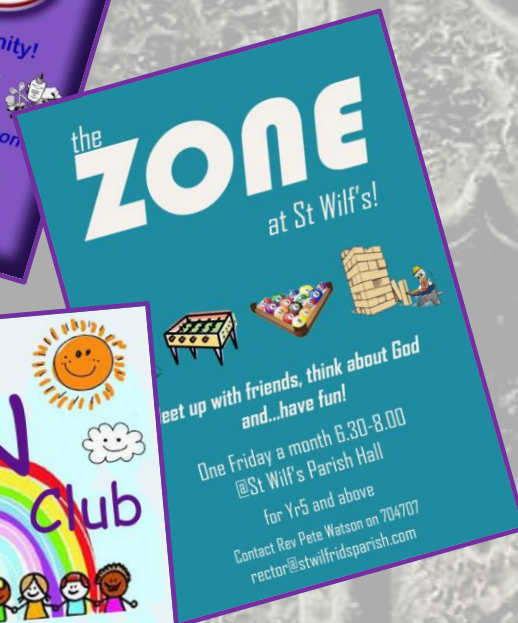
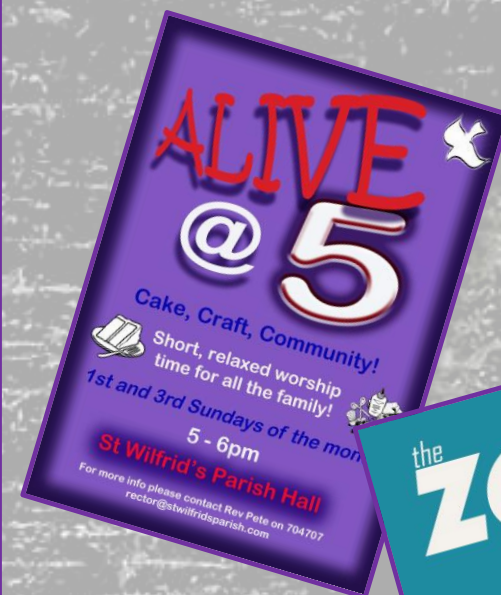
Alive@5 The very informal Alive@5 service for families is an important opportunity to invite families with little or no prior links with church, including baptism families and wedding couples/families. These families have an opportunity to connect with the church community in a warm, welcoming, and relaxed context. The young families have met in the Parish Hall for a short, relaxed form of worship with the strapline of 'Craft, Cake, Community' and attendance has varied from 20 to more than 30. Our aim is to create an inviting flexible space in the church to accommodate the activities of Alive@5.

Friday Fun Club has met weekly with activities and a service for pre-schoolers and carers. It is a very relaxed introduction to "church" and an opportunity for young parents to become part of the church community. Recently there had been encouraging signs of Friday Fun Club families moving to join Alive@5 to develop their understanding of faith.

The Zone: The Zone is a monthly youth group aimed at young people from Year 5 and above, linked with our and a neighbouring parish. The format includes a wide range of activities, as well as faith reflection and Bible study.

Refresh is a fortnightly women's Bible Study which meets in participants' homes. Members are mostly young mums involved with Alive@5 and Friday Fun Club.

Numbers attending these Fresh Expressions, were thriving prior to the pandemic after which numbers had dropped. Alive@5 was beginning to grow again but then dipped with the absence of our Rector and Zone had to be suspended. We were then disappointed to temporarily suspend all these groups from December 2023 when our last incumbent and his wife left our Parish and a key member of our Young Families team also moved to another post.



The Parish and Benefice of Brayton

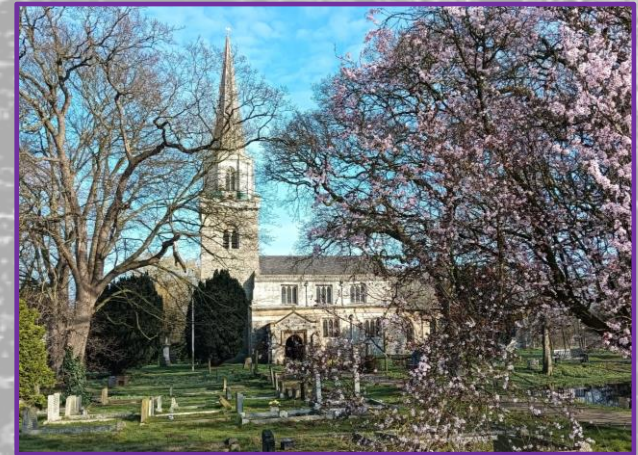
We are a large parish covering the villages of Brayton, Thorpe Willoughby, Barlow, Burn and south-west Selby. The Parish has two Anglican churches; the Parish Church of St Wilfrid's, Brayton, and the church of St Francis of Assisi in the adjacent village of Thorpe Willoughby. St Francis has a Local Ecumenical Partnership with the Methodist Church. Within the parish are the two Methodist churches of Brayton, and Burn.

We benefit from the ministry of several retired clergy who regularly lead both Sunday and mid-week services with a shared licensed Lay Reader and Lay Service Leading teams in both churches. We have monthly Joint Parish services that alternate between our two churches.

In previous years we have benefited from a curate and a 20-40 Minister. Until recently we had a strong young family's team at St Wilfrid's, but with the departure of our previous Rector and family, together with the departure of another team member young families team needs renewing. St Wilfrid's currently has one churchwarden and a Parochial Church Council and treasurer and St Francis two church stewards and an Ecumenical Council. We are part of Churches Together in Selby and enjoy links with the methodist churches and schools in our Parish.

About the Local Ecumenical Partnership

The Reverend Christine Gillespie is our Methodist minister, and we also benefit from Methodist Lay Preachers from the circuit. The chairing of the meetings of our Local Ecumenical Council are shared between our Rector and Reverend Gillespie. St Francis contributes £3000, a third of its giving to the Methodist Circuit. The church has 32 members on its electoral role and a small but committed regular congregation of 18 with up to 28 attending services at Easter and Christmas.

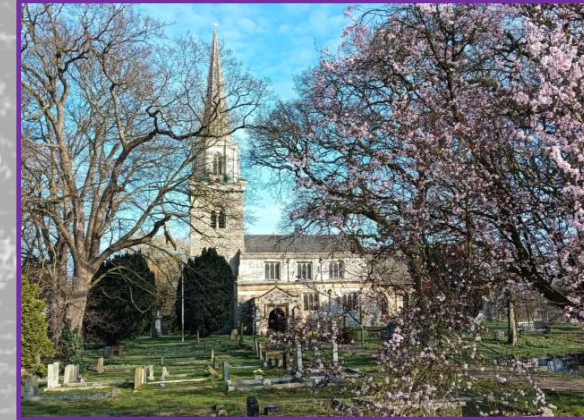


About St Wilfrid's

St Wilfrid's is the oldest and most significant building in Brayton and is second in Selby only to Selby Abbey. The church dates from the 12th to 15th century with 19th century additions. It is of high architectural and historic national interest and its building traces the phases of architecture in England from Norman times with even earlier influences in the south doorway.

We are currently installing a new audio-visual system to improve our sound and hearing loop and to facilitate projection and live streaming. We have plans to create a more flexible space and better storage within the interior as soon as we can, along with other more major projects in the future.

A small modern Parish Hall sits behind the north side of the church together with the old rectory and converted barns.



About St Francis

St Francis is a modern church opened in 1978. It was a joint venture with our Methodist friends with both denominations contributing to the cost.

It hosts four services a month, including one Methodist communion or worship, one lay-led and two Anglican communion. The first Sunday in the month includes prayers for healing and the third Sunday is a Celtic communion and alternates between ourselves and St. Wilfrid's.

In addition, we have regular Thursday morning communion which is either Methodist or Anglican depending on clergy availability. This has a good regular attendance.



Our pattern of services at St Wilfrid's currently looks like this:

1st Sunday 10.30am Lay-led Morning Prayer
5pm Alive@5* (café style 'Fresh Expression')

2nd Sunday 8am Holy Communion
10.30am Family Communion

3rd Sunday 10.30am Joint Parish Celtic Communion
(at St Wilfrid / St Francis)
5pm Alive@5* (café style 'Fresh Expression')

4th Sunday 8am Holy Communion
10.30am Holy Communion with prayer and anointing for healing

5th Sunday 10.30am Joint Parish Holy Communion at St Wilfrid's / St Francis

Last Sunday in the month Inspire, contemporary, relaxed café-style worship*

Every Wednesday 9.30am Holy Communion ('traditional language')

Every Friday Fun Club (play, craft and worship for pre-schoolers) *

Currently on hold*



The pattern of services at St Francis currently looks like this:

1st Sunday 10.30am Holy Communion with Prayer for Healing

2nd Sunday 10.30am Holy Communion or Worship (Methodist Service)

3rd Sunday 10.30am Celtic Communion alternating St Wilfrid / St Francis

4th Sunday 10.30am Lay Led Morning Prayer

5th Sunday 10.30am Joint Parish Holy Communion at St Wilfrid's / St Francis

Every Thursday 10am Holy Communion Methodist or Anglican

Once a half-term: Messy Church



Church Attendance

Attendance at both of our churches has dropped after the pandemic years. Our live streaming of services continued when St Wilfrid's reopened, but numbers never reached those of pre-covid. Our sound system let us down, but with our new technology, we hope to reinstate the live streaming and grow our attendance. An average Sunday morning congregation numbers 45.

Covid and the extended absence of our Rector in 2023 have had a big impact on numbers attending both our churches in the last five years. Numbers attending our 'Fresh Expressions' were especially affected in 2023 after having begun to return in 2022. Again, we want to grow here.

As an example of our special services, the numbers attending St Wilfrid's over Christmas 2023 were: Christingle 33, Nine Lessons and Carols 71, Crib Service 94, Midnight Service 44, Christmas Day 20.

In 2023 we had 32 baptisms, 5 weddings and 43 funerals. We call on many of our retired clergy friends in the area to cover funerals as necessary.

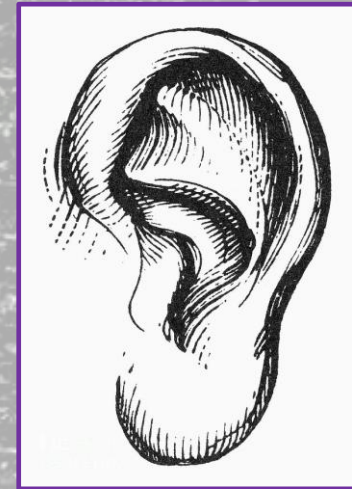
At St Francis', the average Sunday morning congregation numbers 18. Other statistics include; number on electoral role – 32, number at Easter Day service – 27, number at Christmas Eve and Christmas Day – 18. There were 5 funerals in the last year.



Pastoral Care

This is shared between our clergy and members of our congregation, particularly the Lay Ministry Teams who visit people's homes and take communion to those who are housebound. They also help in preparation for Baptisms.

Members of the teams give pastoral and spiritual support to bereaved families and residents of the two residential homes for older people in the Parish, where monthly Holy Communion services are held. Two members of the congregation are on the Chaplaincy Rota for Selby Hospital and make monthly visits to the wards.



Local schoolchildren describe the new Rector:

is kind, polite, caring,
thoughtful and helpful.

has time to talk to us or has
time to answer our questions.
We want someone who enjoys
being around children.

Acts out the stories they tell, using
different accents. Has a sense of humour
and is funny. Is confident and not shy.
Plays games as part to their worship.

kind and knowledgeable
about bible stories and
helps us to understand the
stories as some are
complicated.

Warm, loving and caring.

Is confident and not shy. Plays
games as part to their worship.
Is comedic and energetic.

Someone who will help
us find out things about
God



The Schools within our Parish. (Each logo is a website link.)

Brayton Church of England VC Primary School

Brayton is a Church of England Primary Academy catering for children from Nursery to Year 6 – (3 – 11 years). The school is a member of the STAR Multi Academy Trust where academies retain their own individual identities, creating an inclusive learning environment where all the children in each of their communities can shine. Serving the village of Brayton and surrounding areas Brayton Academy has over 370 children on roll.

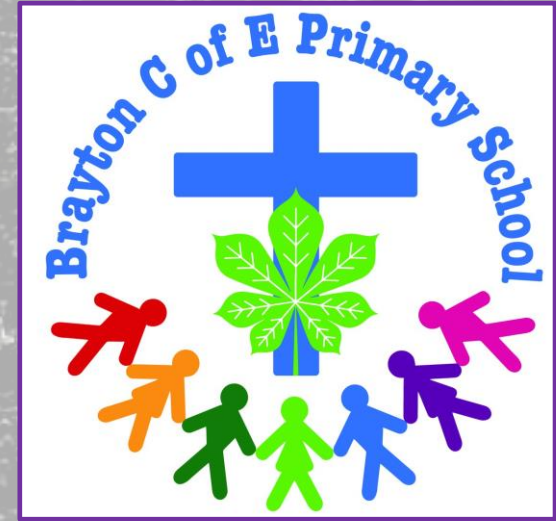
The headteacher says of the school, “We feel that Brayton is a happy and friendly place to be. We want our children to enjoy learning in a safe and supportive environment. We put a lot of emphasis on our school values and having fun as well as working hard and helping every child to achieve in all aspects of school life.”

The school has a strongly Christian ethos with the mission statement: **‘Let our light shine’**

“Let your light shine before others, so that they may see the good things you do and praise our Father in Heaven” (Matthew 5:16)

The school's values of compassion, courage, forgiveness and thankfulness are upheld by the children who can articulate them well.

Their vision is for everyone to flourish and grow into the unique person God created them to be, in the school community and the wider world.





Barlow C of E Primary School, which is part of the White Rose Federation, is in the small village of Barlow near Brayton, and has a nursery and three classes.

In her introduction to the school the headteacher says “At Barlow, each child is valued for their individuality, nurtured to ensure they achieve their best, given every opportunity to grow in confidence, enabling them to contribute positively to the school family. The school is proud of their church school status and endeavours to live out their core values of friendship, endurance, and peace each day. They underpin all that the school does, being supported by the Diocese of York and our dedicated team of staff, governors, parents and carers. The school sees education as a partnership between home and school providing an exciting and inclusive, happy, and caring school in which we have high expectations for all our pupils.”

The vision of the federation and Barlow school is to be

“One family branching out together”

‘For just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, so in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others’ Romans 12 verse 4-5



Longman's Hill Primary School

Longman's Hill is a one form entry, community primary school in south-west Selby and part of the school's catchment area lies within the Parish of Brayton. The school is a non-faith school but has always welcomed their links with St Wilfrid's. Our Rector has been a regular visitor to the school to lead assemblies and have lunch with the children who say they would like our new Rector to be approachable, friendly and chatty. The whole school, together with staff and parents come to St Wilfrid's each Christmas for their Carol Service and it is a joyous occasion.

The school's mission statement **"Growing hearts and minds together"** underpins the caring, positive ethos and 'lovely feel' of the school which is commented on by visitors. The school is ambitious in seeking to ensure all children are successful and feel strongly that success comes in many forms, not just academic.

Within the curriculum, the school believes that RE provides a reminder that education concerns the whole person – body, mind and spirit, and enables pupils to explore meaning and purpose in their lives. The school wants their children to understand and respect different religions and to be tolerant of those with different faiths and of those with none.



Thorpe Willoughby Primary School

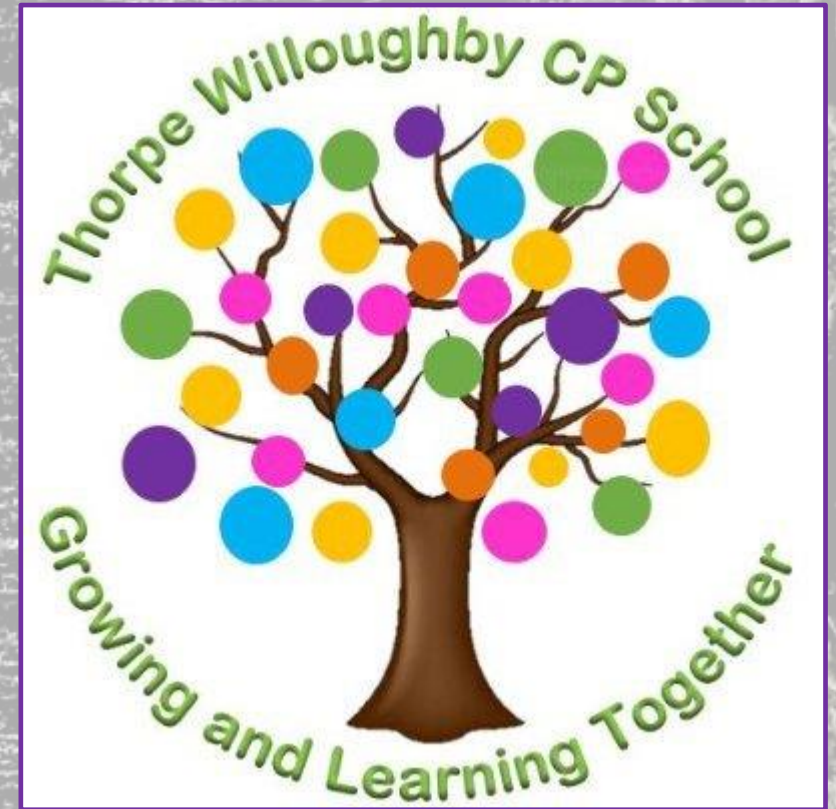
Thorpe Willoughby Primary is a large community primary school with twelve classes.

They are an inclusive caring school with strong values:

Value Respect Caring Resilience Challenge Aspiration Community

Their values underpin everything they do. They shape their actions, decisions, and behaviour. They believe that by living our values we are preparing our pupils for life in modern Britain.

The school aims to ensure that pupils receive a well-rounded education that prepares them for the next stage of their life. They want their pupils to leave the school as confident, independent individuals, who will be life-long learners and valuable members of their community.



Brayton Academy

Brayton Academy serves the communities of Brayton, Selby and villages directly south of Brayton with pupils from year seven to year eleven.

The academy is part of the Rodillian Multi Academy Trust who are committed to providing opportunities where traditional values of discipline, behaviour and respect are held in the highest regard. Alongside this we have the most innovative, differentiated, and state-of-the-art curriculum available.

The Academy has exceptionally high expectations of all its students and staff but with that comes a high level of support and encouragement. They are committed to making a difference to young people's lives in an excellent, innovative, and contemporary Academy whereby the student's leave as self-confident, very well qualified young people who can contribute positively to the communities in which they live.



Brayton
Academy

Community Activities at St Wilfrid's

Our community outreach in St Wilfrid's, includes, monthly Community Lunches, Craft Group Coffee Mornings, St Wilfrid's Stitchers, Craft Group and Mother's Union. The monthly community lunches, 'tea at two' and coffee mornings are well attended in the Parish Hall. St Wilfrid's Craft Group meets monthly to enjoy company and a cuppa whilst they stitch, knit and crochet, making many things to sell at our fundraising fairs. St Wilfrid's Stitchers also meets monthly, enjoying patchwork, embroidery, cross stitch, and any type of sewing whilst they chat.

Our monthly book club is well attended and discusses the merits of a wide range of novels and a regular play reading group is great fun. All these activities provide significant opportunities for mostly senior citizens to engage with church and create community by offering a warm space, activity, and fellowship.

In 2023 Brayton Mothers Union celebrated its 85th anniversary and continues to meet monthly in the parish Hall. To raise funds for the work of the Mother's Union, cakes are sold after the Mothering Sunday service, a cream tea is held in June and a coffee morning in September. The group has strong links with the Deanery and Diocesan Mother's Union. When the Annual Gathering for the whole of the Mothers' Union was held in York this year, several members attended at the Barbican, followed by Evensong at York Minster.

Annual Spring and Autumn Fairs are held in the Parish Hall, the church, and church grounds. They create a focus for both the community and fund raising with lots of stalls, a café, games, activities for children and entertainment by groups of young local performers and musicians. Similarly, flower festivals have brought many visitors to our church.

(Continued)



The Parish Hall is also a regular focus for groups in the community including Yoga, Pilates, Brayton Women's Institute and Selby Soroptimists. It is regularly hired and used for children's and family parties. St Wilfrid's is used for organ recitals, and we hold concerts where a popular local community choir has performed and been enjoyed by a large audience from the community. Our Parish magazine Connected, available online, and in printed form, is an important and effective missional tool published and distributed monthly. 'St Wilfrids Parish' website is updated regularly to provide information about our church, our services, and important contacts, as does our page on a 'A Church Near You.'

St Wilfrid's is seen as a focus for families at important times in their family's lives and at significant times nationally. Many young families with no other connection to church contact us for their children's baptisms and we try to maintain contact with them. We hold many funerals each year and keep a memorial book, holding a Memorial Service at All Saints Day to which many of the bereaved return. At the death of our late Queen, we mounted a commemorative display and opened a condolence book which many families from the village came to sign. Our attractive graveyard, with its mature trees, dell, wildlife area and flowers, benches, and pathways, is walked frequently by villagers and people who come for a quiet time of reflection.



Community Activities at St Francis

The building provides a very flexible space that can be used for a range of purposes and is a very active church running the following:

Seated exercise, drop-in coffee and chat, Knit and Natter.

In addition, they hold a dementia friendly soup and a song once a month, and monthly coffee mornings. A recent addition is a cinema showing films once a month on the third Friday morning. We hold a Messy Church every half term where children do crafts, have a time of simple worship then sit down together for tea, all based around a Bible story.

They hold several fund-raising activities and events where the proceeds go to various charities. The church is also used by the over 55's group who meet weekly on Tuesday afternoons and the W.I. meeting monthly on Thursday evenings.



Finances – St Wilfrid's

In 2023 our Freewill Offering increased to £44,500. Planned giving in 2023 increased by about £1800 to £29,675 thanks to a generous new standing order giver. We are very grateful to our congregation for their regular giving. By the end of the year the number of households giving by standing order had dropped to 35, and 7 households gave by weekly envelopes. We were fortunate to receive two large unrestricted legacies totalling £25,001 and this money has been carried forward to 2024.

Due to the large number of funerals in 2023, total PCC fees for funerals and weddings increased from £15,069 to £20,972, gift aid tax was recovered for 4 quarters to give a total of £10,053, donations at baptisms, weddings and funerals totalled £7,001 and fundraising £6,143. Fundraising events included the Spring and Autumn Fairs, a concert by the Fairburn Singers, Selby Music Centre Concert, Mince Pies and Mulled Wine and the monthly community lunches and Coffeemates.



Total unrestricted expenditure for 2023 was £86,231 compared to £65,950 in 2022. This included the increase in our Freewill Offering and doubling of our energy costs to almost £10,000. By the end of 2023 we had over £55,000 in our unrestricted accounts. From this we have budgeted £20,000 for our new audio-visual system, (installation April,) and in 2024 our planned giving will probably fall due to several households moving away.

The balance in our fabric fund is approximately £80,000, however our Quinquennial Inspection is imminent, and we expect the report to highlight some expensive repairs to the fabric of our church. In addition, we have hopes and plans to refresh the interior of the church soon if we can.

Therefore, whilst our bank balances are healthy at the present time, we are aware that with reduced contributions from our planned giving and many demands on our income in 2024, we will need to focus on increasing our income.



St Wilfrid's Parish Hall is self-financing and reliant on income from the hire of the hall to community groups and private events which in 2023 was £5,213. In 2023 the hall had a small deficit of £278 but still had a healthy balance of £3808 at the year end. The hall had no income at all during the pandemic when it was closed, and bookings have still not fully recovered since then.

Finances - St Francis

Total income in 2023 was £22,664 (£23,732 in 2022) of which £5,225 was from stewardship and £5,722.41 from church collections. Other income was from donations and the energy grant together with extensive fund-raising including fairs, quiz's, coffee mornings, hall hire from community groups and other sources.

Expenditure in 2023 totalled £19,842.52 (£16,033 in 2022) included £6000 towards the Parish Free Will Offering and £3,000 to the Methodist circuit. At the close of 2023 funds in the general account were £28,523 (£25,700 in 2022) and in the restricted building account £6,068.00. (£15,320 in 2022)



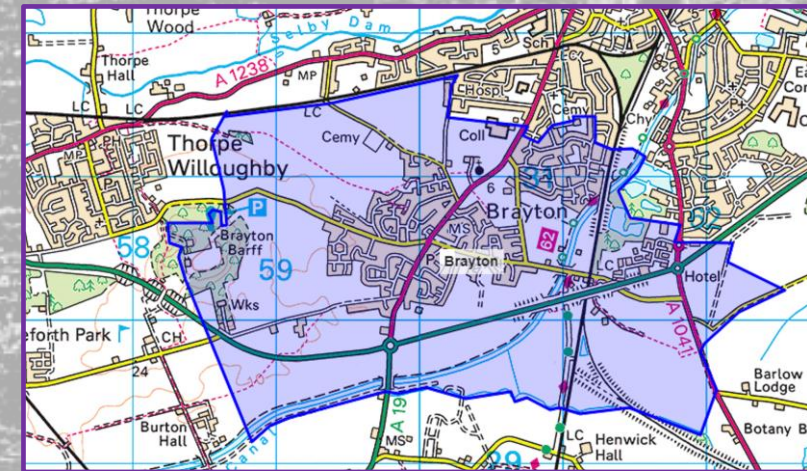
The villages of Brayton and Thorpe Willoughby

Brayton, and Thorpe Willoughby are both large semi-rural villages adjacent to each other to the south of Selby. Barlow is a smaller village just to the south-east of Brayton. Brayton is the larger and older village. Traditionally it was a farming village, but by the turn of the twentieth century the population had diversified. In recent decades, all three villages have grown significantly and continue to grow. The 2021 census shows the population of Brayton and Barlow at 6,300 (5,514 in 2001), in Thorpe Willoughby it was 3,485 (2,822 in 2001)

All three villages are popular with young families; houses being more affordable than in many areas. Brayton has two primary schools, one C of E and one County school, and a High School with a Tertiary College close by. Thorpe Willoughby has one County Primary School; Barlow has one C of E Primary School.

Brayton and Thorpe Willoughby have good transport links, being on the A19 and A63 (by-pass) and are close to the M62 and A1/M1 making both convenient villages for commuting to Leeds, York, and Hull.

(Continued)



The villages of Brayton and Thorpe Willoughby

Brayton has a Community Centre governed by 'Up for Yorkshire,' it is a vibrant, inclusive multipurpose building offering playgroups and other community activities. A Medical Centre with a pharmacy and optician, together with a veterinary practice serves the village and local area. A well-established Scout Group with its own building caters for children and young people aged 6 to 18, playgroups and a centre for preschool education. Brayton also has a well-kept village green, lined with horse chestnut trees planted as a memorial to those lost in the Great War. The village has a very active Parish Council, plus two pubs, a mini supermarket with petrol station, a post office and a butcher's shop. There is a good bus service through the village and a train station close by in Selby.

Thorpe Willoughby has several shops and a Medical Centre, a pharmacy, and a popular café, with a Community Centre. Thorpe Willoughby Sports Association, a not-for-profit organisation offers football, cricket and tennis and is a centre for social activities. The Village Hall is a large modern building with good facilities for community events and an active Parish Council. A Childcare Centre offers Day Care and Breakfast and After-school clubs. The village has a scout group and walking and gardening groups. The village sits next to a nature reserve, Brayton Barff, which is an ancient woodland with many diverse habitats. In springtime it is a blanket of bluebells and is always popular for walking. Both villages have access to walks on the Selby Canal, The Selby Horseshoe Walk and many farmland tracks.

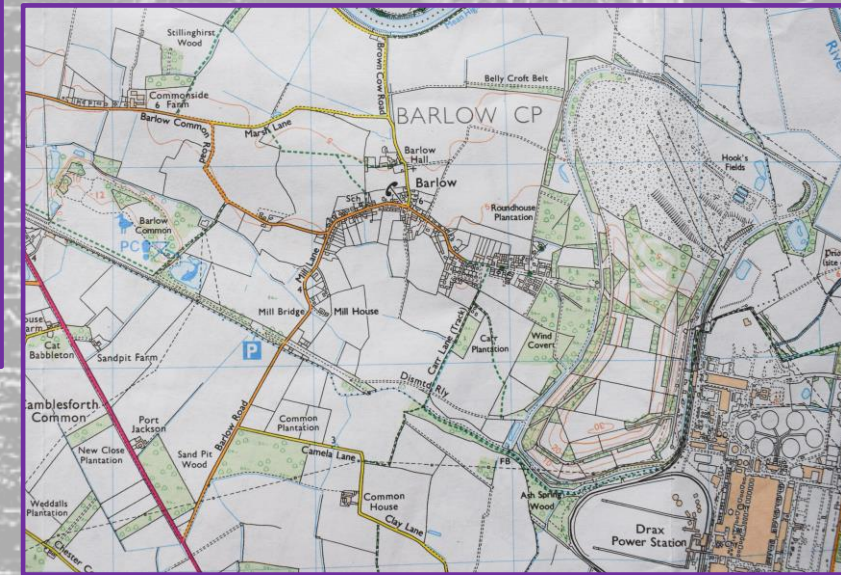
Barlow is a smaller village dating from medieval times and is mentioned in the Domesday Book. It has a village hall refurbished in 2009, with good facilities and a large playing field. The hall sits on the site of a Royal Ordnance Depot and near a former aircraft factory and POW camp. Barlow has seen recent new house building and has a thriving school and parish council. Barlow Common Nature Reserve, part of the Yorkshire Wildlife Trust, has an array of different habitats with flourishing wildlife and a nature trail.



Our local area maps



Brayton and Thorpe Willoughby



Barlow

Some links you may find helpful:

[St Wilfrid's parish website](#)

[Brayton Community Centre](#)

[North Yorkshire Council](#)

[Brayton Parish Council](#)

[Brayton Scouts](#)

[Brayton Guides](#)

[Brayton Medical Centre](#)

[Friends of Brayton Barff](#)

[Brayton Methodist Church](#)

[Barlow village website](#)

[Barlow Common Nature Reserve](#)

[The Selby Horseshoe Walk](#)

[Thorpe Willoughby parish council](#)

[Thorpe Willoughby Methodist Chapel](#)

[Thorpe Willoughby village website](#)

[Burn Methodist Church](#)

