

# Parish brochure for The United Parish of Aldborough & Boroughbridge with Roecliffe, Minskip and Dunsforth





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## PART ONE:

### Our Church Community – an overview

The future for our Parish is exciting and we invite you to be part of it.

We're a very welcoming and inclusive Church community comprising four villages and one market town in beautiful North Yorkshire.

Our United Parish is part of the Ripon Deanery, with Rt Revd Anna Eltringham as the Area Bishop of Ripon.

The historic town of Boroughbridge lies at the geographical centre of the five communities, and is also where the Vicarage is located, a short walk from the High Street. From here the other four villages are close by, with Dunsforth being the furthest, but that's only about three miles away.



There's a lot more information about the villages and churches in Part Two of this document. There's also a handy map of the local area.

But here, we wanted to tell you a bit more about our Church Community – some of our strengths, our hopes, our challenges and where you can help to lead us.

We're a committed group that genuinely cares for the church, and have during the past five years, encouraged – and overseen -sustainable growth in Christian worship and inclusivity in all our churches and communities. We have worked hard to place our churches at the centre of each of the communities and we look forward to continuing this welcome and exciting trend under new leadership. Our Somewhere To Belong campaign, which stressed the benefits of community worship, is the most striking example of our inclusivity drive. We have made big strides in this area, making our churches easily accessible to all and enjoyable to be part of.

We have monthly United Services, and we all get on well together and support each other. But we are also mindful of the differing needs of our separate communities: one town and four villages. Our sense of togetherness is underpinned by our popular monthly Parish Link magazine, which contains news and views from all five churches. The magazine is available in every church and is distributed to those who subscribe.

We have a website [www.boroughbridgechurches.uk](http://www.boroughbridgechurches.uk) as well as a Facebook page.

Looking forward, we are very keen to forge ahead with our policy of reaching out to children, young people and families, which has been a feature of the past five years. Your skills and experience in this area will be invaluable – not least by continuing to strengthen the links with the three schools in the Parish. One of the significant roles of the Vicar is to be a Foundation Governor at Rocliffe Church of England Primary.

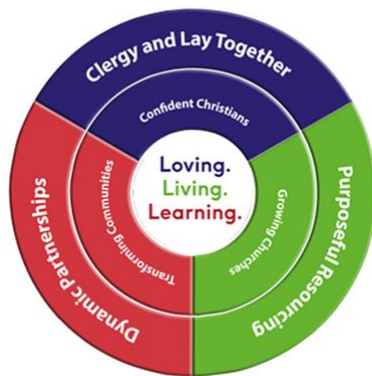


We recognise that we are just a small but very important part of something much larger - our Diocese!

## The Diocese of Leeds

The Diocese of Leeds was formed at Easter 2014. It is one of the largest dioceses in the country covering an area of around 2,425 square miles, and a growing population of around 2,642,400 people. The diocese comprises five Episcopal areas, each served by a suffragan (area) bishop. Each Episcopal Area is coterminous with an Archdeaconry.

The Diocesan Vision, informed by the values of 'loving, living, learning' is: 'confident Christians, growing churches, transforming communities and so helping share the Good News of Jesus Christ across our Diocese'. This Vision is embedded into the Diocesan Strategy and Goals and expressed in meaningful ways across the episcopal areas.



The Diocese is a blend of urban and rural in all their diversity. This includes the major cities of Bradford, Leeds and Wakefield; the large industrial and post-industrial towns of Halifax, Huddersfield and Dewsbury; the market towns of Harrogate, Skipton, Ripon (classed as a small city), Richmond and Wetherby; and the deeply rural area of the Yorkshire Dales. It covers several civic and parliamentary boundaries.

The Diocese is unique in having three cathedrals; Bradford, Ripon and Wakefield. The Deans of the Cathedrals work together and continue to look to fresh ways of sharing ideas and engaging in projects of mutual interest.

## Our goals

- ① Thriving as a distinctive diocese whose culture is shaped by a shared vision and values
- ② Re-Imagining ministry
- ③ Nurturing lay discipleship
- ④ Building leadership pathways
- ⑤ Growing young people as Christians

## Back to us

**Music** is important in our services. We try to maintain a healthy balance between the traditional and the modern in our choice of music and we are very fortunate to have great support from three organists who are part of our congregations.

We love to sing! We have had both an adult and junior choir in the past. These have been well supported and we would now like to re-establish and rejuvenate both these choirs, to help enrich our Services through music.



### Inclusive church Network

At the beginning of 2024, all five churches individually and as the United Parish voted unanimously to join the Inclusive Church Network. All five of our churches have now been accepted as part of the Inclusive Church Network, which is one way we can affirm our commitment to our Whole Parish "Somewhere to Belong" statement. For further details <https://boroughbridgechurches.uk/what-we-believe/>



The changed pattern to our services has seen an increase in the numbers attending our weekly services in all five churches. At key events, such as Harvest Festival, Remembrance Sunday and Carol Services, the congregations swell, and our churches are full to the rafters – which is wonderful and reflects the importance of the church in people’s hearts. We look to you to continue to tap into this. We need you to reach out to those occasional churchgoers and share with them the wonder of regular Christian worship and spirituality.

More specifically, we would like you to build on the progress we have made in the past five years, including celebrating our inclusivity and sustainable initiatives. The Messy Church at Boroughbridge for young children, the Forest Church at Lower Dunsforth and the Eco Church and celebration of the four seasons at Minskip are three examples of how we have broadened our reach and appeal within our communities.

We invite you to expand our outreach efforts with young families in this area. Our successful Messy Church program brings families together for bible stories, prayers, crafts and a shared dinner, we have been known to feed in excess of 80 children and adults in Boroughbridge on occasion. Make Time for Music is a preschool group at St James’ Church that runs weekly during term time that we are keen to build on.

One of the challenges of having five churches in your charge is being visible, known and liked in

the town and the four villages. Whilst we know you can’t be in two places at once, we would like you to be an integral part of the whole community. That makes a huge difference.

We have five beautiful church buildings to share with you. We’d like to continue to share them for the benefit of the whole community and look to you to lead us in this objective.

In summary,

**we are asking you to work with us to:**

- Support and strengthen closer working of our five churches.
- Inspire the ways in which we worship with inclusivity and love at its heart.
- Help communicate the Christian message to all in the wider community.
- Grow Christian worship and increase regular congregations.
- Continue to develop strategies to engage children, teenagers and families.
- Enrich our services through music.
- Reach out to occasional church goers.
- Share your presence.

**We are asking a lot from you, so here is what we can offer you:**

- We’ll welcome you with open arms into our homes & families.
- We’ll support you through prayer.
- We’ll help out where we can and utilise the diverse skills of the members of the

UPCC, church councils and the wider congregation.

- You’ll have support from two experienced lay readers and our very efficient Parish Administrator.
- We’ll help you settle in and get to know the wonderful area in which we live.
- We’ll provide you with a large, recently upgraded, 4 bedroomed, comfortable Vicarage. Which boasts a large study looking out over the garden - perfect for pastoral meetings or work, and conveniently located adjacent to St James Church.
- We will remain positive and provide endless coffee & cake (or whatever you prefer)!

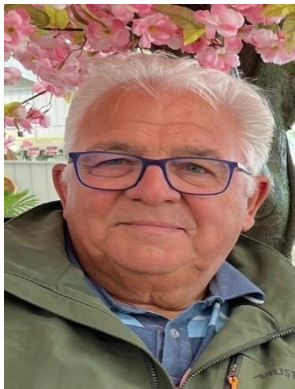


## Meet some of Your Team



**John Francis  
Moss - Reader**

I feel privileged to have shared the Word of God within this community for the past 30 years. I thoroughly enjoy preparing, leading and assisting at services, as well as having an academic interest in the performance of liturgy and church music. I also enjoy pastoral aspects of ministry – despite it frequently involving the consumption of tea, coffee or something stronger...



**Paul Bartle –  
Reader**

I am one of the Licensed Lay ministers in the United Parish. I am also a day Chaplain at Ripon Cathedral, I previously served in a joint benefice in

the Bradford Diocese.

I am now retired from employment having worked as a Fire Officer for over twenty years, and latterly owned a disaster restoration

business. I am married to Maxine with a Son and a Daughter and we have seven teenage grandchildren.



**Louise Leong - Parish Administrator**

I can be found in the Parish office, the Vestry at St John's Minskip, each Tuesday and Thursday morning from 10-12 noon and look forward to welcoming you.

## Churchwardens

Your Churchwardens details are on page 14

## Bishop Clive

As a retired bishop living nearby in Kirby Hill I count it a privilege to be able to help when I am needed and available, in the Boroughbridge group of churches.



## Revd Marjorie Warner

I'm a recently retired priest, living around 10 miles away who's been enjoying helping out on a monthly basis. I've always felt very much welcomed by the congregations of the different churches in this beautiful rural area.



### **Our Parish...in more detail**

The United Parish of Aldborough & Boroughbridge with Roecliffe, Minskip and Dunsforth (UPCC) has a combined population of around 5000. It is made up of mostly white, British households in an area with low levels of unemployment and crime. There are a growing number of people living in the Parish that commute to the nearby conurbations of Leeds, York and Harrogate.

Most housing is of good quality and a large proportion are privately owned, particularly in the villages of Aldborough, Minskip, Roecliffe and Dunsforth. There is sustained growth on the outskirts of Boroughbridge.

We have three schools in the Parish. Boroughbridge Primary, Boroughbridge High School and Roecliffe Church of England Primary



School. There are many secondary schools in both Ripon and Harrogate which some children from the Parish attend.

The town of Boroughbridge has an attractive high street with numerous small shops, post office, tourist information centre, library, and pubs on its fringes, a large doctors surgery, four residential homes, garages, large supermarket, cafes, caravan parks, allotments, hairdressers and light industry. The villages have few commercial facilities, except for their popular pubs.



The Parish office is located in the refurbished vestry at St John's Church in Minskip. Louise Leong, our part-time administrator (see above) is based there.

Each of our five communities has an attractive and well-maintained church. The pretty River Ure flows through Roecliffe, Boroughbridge, Aldborough and Dunsforth. It is a much-loved attraction with great opportunities for walking, fishing and boating along its route.



**Here is some more detailed information about our five communities**





## Aldborough

- A beautiful, picturesque, peaceful village with a very long and important history back to Roman Britain.
- As Isurium Brigantum, it was the most northerly centre in the Roman Empire.
- Before the Great Reform Act of 1832 Aldborough returned two members to Parliament.
- Aldborough Roman Town Museum is a highlight of the village and is part of English Heritage.



- The village green is a delightful open space at the heart of the village and the maypole has been a long-standing feature, as have the village stocks!



### St Andrew's Church:

- St Andrew's Church is an architectural gem, grade I listed and situated off the village green.
- It was built in the 14<sup>th</sup> century, on the site of a Roman Forum and is believed to be the third church on the site.
- Historically it was the centre and Mother Church of a large Parish.
- The clock, built in 1783 has the longest pendulum in Britain, 30 feet!
- With a capacity of 350, it is the largest church within the Parish.
- The annual Northern Aldborough Festival has a superb reputation for musical, religious and literary events.

## Boroughbridge

- Boroughbridge is located on the famous Great North Road.
- Occupying a strategic position halfway between London and Edinburgh.



- The Devil's Arrows, three huge pre-historic standing stones, are located on the outskirts of the town. Nobody really knows why they are there!
- The town welcomes cyclists and walkers, and is situated on the Way of the Roses, a long-distance cycle path between Morecambe and Bridlington.



### St James' Church:

- Is a large Victorian Church which was consecrated in 1852. It replaced the original 12<sup>th</sup> century Church which stood on St James' square in the town centre before its demolition in 1852.
- The Vicar's vestry contains relics from an earlier Norman Church on the same site in the square.

### Dunsforth

- There are two small villages that make up The Dunsforths, Upper and Lower, just over a mile apart, and 2.5 miles from Aldborough.
- Both are linear villages and Lower Dunsforth lies parallel to the River Ure in a rural area surrounded by arable and livestock farming.
- Demographics have changed over recent years, moving from a predominantly farming community to one of commuters, retirees and a growing number of younger families.

### St Mary's Church:

- St Mary's Church's foundation stone dates from 1860. The present church replaced a much earlier church that had occupied the site for at least 800 years.

- Notable features include a Saxon Font and a Norman arch & Corbel in the vestry both dating from the twelfth century.



- The church has recently launched the Welcome Project to install a toilet and kitchen, to provide facilities for the wider community.
- Services include regular Parish Communion, Morning prayers every Friday and innovative family services, including Forest Church which takes place outside St Mary's.
- Fundraising and village events are crucial in binding the Dunsforths together. Central to these is the Country Fair and Dog Show and the very popular quiz nights.

### Minskip

- The smallest of the five communities in the Parish, Minskip is a linear village on the road from Boroughbridge to Knaresborough and Harrogate.
- The village pub has recently reopened as The Wild Swan and is very popular. There is a good village playing field and excellent village hall.
- Minskip Farm Shop is very popular amongst locals, selling locally grown fruit, vegetables, meat and treats. It now boasts a small petting farm.

### St John's Church:

- St John's Church began life as a Wesleyan Chapel in the Aldborough Parish around 1857. In 1858 the Church became the infants' school for the village and by 1907 was a Mission Church.



- It is the centre of the community with an annual Scarecrow competition, wine-tasting events, quizzes, topical talks and Bridge afternoons.
- The church is very proud to be part of the Parish commitment to being an Inclusive Church and has recently been honoured with a Silver Eco Award for its sustainable initiatives and celebrates nature with four services dedicated to the different seasons.



## Roecliffe

- The village with a population of 240 is centred around an attractive, tree-lined village green.
- The Victorian School building dominates the scene with St Mary's Church across the Green.
- The 16<sup>th</sup> century Crown Inn, has recently reopened, offering quality food and accommodation.
- There are good walking routes in and around the village and very attractive housing looks out across the village green.



## St Mary's Church:

- St Mary's Church, Roecliffe, was constructed in 1843 for Andrew Lawson of nearby Aldborough.
- It is believed to be the only church in the country with an entirely vaulted roof.



- The Church was declared redundant in 1983 and is now in the care of the Churches Conservation Trust, supported by Village Fundraising Events.
- A monthly service is held in the Church along with the important Festival Services.

**1. Current Monthly Services showing average attendance**

<b>Day</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Church</b>	<b>Service</b>	<b>Adults</b>	<b>Under 16</b>	<b>Communicants</b>
1st Sunday	10am	Each Church in turn	United Service Holy Communion	Variable	Variable	Variable
2nd Sunday	8.30am	Aldborough	Holy Communion (Said)	10	0	10
	10am	Roecliffe	Holy Communion	20	1	18
	10am	Boroughbridge	Songs of Praise	20	1	NA
	10am	Dunsforth	Morning Praise	15	0	NA
	4pm	Dunsforth	Forest Church	10	10	NA
3rd Sunday	10am	Aldborough	Holy Communion	20	2	18
	10am	Boroughbridge	Morning Praise	20	1	NA
	4pm	Boroughbridge	Messy Church	20	40	NA
4th Sunday	10am	Aldborough	Songs of Praise	15	4	NA
	10am	Minskip	Holy Communion	25	7	20
	10am	Boroughbridge	Holy Communion	20	1	18
	10am	Dunsforth	Holy Communion	18	2	16
5 <sup>th</sup> Sunday	8.30am	Aldborough	Holy Communion (said)	11	0	10
	10:00am	Each Church in turn	Holy Communion	Variable	Variable	Variable

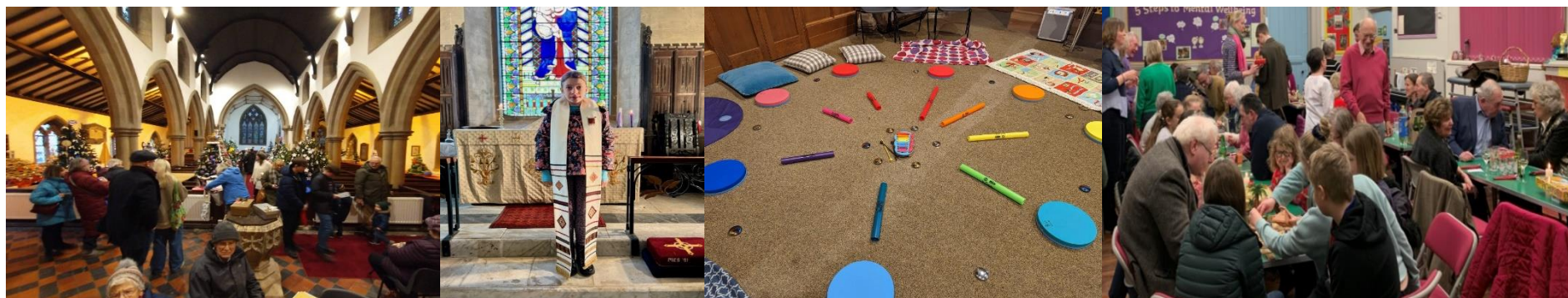


Quarterly		Minskip	Eco Church Service	22	10	NA
1st & 3rd Wednesdays	10:45am	Boroughbridge & Kirby Hill	Holy Communion	14	0	14
2nd & 4th Wednesdays	10:00am	Kirby Hill & Boroughbridge	Holy Communion			
This is a full list of the services we offer. Many of the non-Eucharistic services are Lay led and the Holy Communion services on the 4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday rotate between the churches with the addition of a Lay led service when applicable.						

**2. Finance & Administration - detailed accounts can be made available upon request.**

Name of Body	Date of most recent accounts	Total Income for the year	Total Expenditure for the year	Year End Surplus (Deficit)	Total Funds
UPCC Main Acc.	31/12/23	£2540.00	£5084.19	£(2544.19)	£2509.88
Parish Link Acc.	31/12/23	£5449.00	£1648.16	£3800.84	
Deposit Fund	31/12/23	£14.33		£461.49	
St Andrew's Church Aldborough	31/12/23	£26615.40	£23143.22	£3472.18	£26017.66
CCLA Deposit Acc	31/12/23			£20493.88	
St James' Church Boroughbridge	31/12/23	£30740.95	£32912.08	£(2171.13)	£26714.73
Other Accounts	31/12/23			£21571.16	

St Mary's Church Dunsforth Inv Fund	31/12/23 31/12/23	£23716.00	£23062.00	£654.00 £4033.00	£10689.00
St John's Church Minskip CE Deposit Acc	31/12/23 31/12/23	£7000.14	£9264.40	£(2264.26) £16396.88	£18017.98
St Mary's Church Roecliffe CBF Accounts	31/12/23 31/12/23	£18710.10	£17934.15	£776.17 £87847.85	£97243.45
Please note that the Parish Share is on track to be paid fully, and finances are healthy.					



### 3. Churchwardens

Aldborough	Boroughbridge	Dunsforth	Minskip	Roecliffe
<p>Elizabeth Vose Hill Top House Back Street Aldborough York YO51 9EX</p> <p>01423 203503</p>	<p>Lawrence Christensen CBE Inglewood Heaton Park YO51 9HE</p> <p>0779561701</p>	<p>Louise Leong Ure Lodge Lower Dunsforth York YO26 9SA</p> <p>07976259433</p>	<p>Robert Beaumont Minskip Lodge Minskip York YO51 9JF</p> <p>01423 323139</p>	<p>Jim Bolland Vicarage Farm Roecliffe York YO51 9LY</p> <p>01423 325091</p>
<p>James Lawson-Tancred Village Farm Aldborough York YO51 9ES</p> <p>01423 326162</p>	<p>Judith Lyon 5 Greenholme Close Boroughbridge YO51 9GA</p> <p>07791 640509</p>	<p>Julie Sanderson Dunsforth Lodge Lower Dunsforth York</p> <p>07845 121173</p>	<p>N/A</p>	<p>Stephen Jarvis 1 West View, Bar Lane Roecliffe York YO51 9LS</p> <p>01423 322026</p>



4. Local Map



## Further reading:

These are just a handful of interesting sites to give you a flavour of the area which has so much to offer:

Aldborough

[romanaldborough.co.uk](http://romanaldborough.co.uk) Friends of Roman Aldborough  
[www.english-heritage.org.uk/visit/places/aldborough-roman-site/](http://www.english-heritage.org.uk/visit/places/aldborough-roman-site/) Aldborough Roman Site  
[www.aldboroughfestival.co.uk](http://www.aldboroughfestival.co.uk) The Northern Aldborough Festival

Boroughbridge

[www.boroughbridge-pri.n-yorks.sch.uk](http://www.boroughbridge-pri.n-yorks.sch.uk) Boroughbridge Primary School  
[www.boroughbridgehigh.com](http://www.boroughbridgehigh.com) Boroughbridge High School  
[www.boroughbridge.org.uk](http://www.boroughbridge.org.uk) Boroughbridge Town Council  
[www.boroughbridgelibrary.org.uk](http://www.boroughbridgelibrary.org.uk) Boroughbridge Library  
[www.boroughbridgeshow.co.uk](http://www.boroughbridgeshow.co.uk) Aldborough and Boroughbridge Agricultural Society  
[www.bcccharity.co.uk](http://www.bcccharity.co.uk) Boroughbridge Community Charity

Minskip

[www.minskipvillage.com](http://www.minskipvillage.com) Minskip Village

Roecliffe

[www.roecliffe.n-yorks.sch.uk](http://www.roecliffe.n-yorks.sch.uk) Roecliffe C of E Primary School  
[www.roecliffewestwickvillage.co.uk](http://www.roecliffewestwickvillage.co.uk) Roecliffe Village

Dunsforth

[www.dunsforths.co.uk](http://www.dunsforths.co.uk) Dunsforth Villages

