

# Benefice Profile

This is the first step in our exciting journey to fill the post of Vicar. Follow the stunning coastline from the East Riding to the Lighthouse up to the sandy beaches in the north and you will be on

## The Headland Benefice

Passing through the villages of Sewerby, Flamborough, Bempton & Buckton, Speeton and Reighton

**We welcome you to this beautiful part of Yorkshire**



Sewerby Estate



Flamborough North Landing



Bempton RSPB Reserve



Speeton Cliff



Reighton Sands

**Read on and explore what we have to offer!**



## The Headland Benefice offers you

- Rural ministry in a stunning location
  - Commitment from us all
  - Five interesting churches
  - A spacious modern vicarage with a large open garden
  - Two Primary schools in the village of Bempton & Flamborough which is C.E (VC)
  - Great relations with the Deanery and neighbouring benefices
  - Active links with Flamborough Methodist church
  - Four parishes by the sea
  - An enthusiastic ministry team
  - Three good church halls
- An exciting opportunity to realise the potential of the Headland Benefice

## Contents

1. Creation of the new benefice – Archdeacon Andy writes ...
2. Greetings in Christ's name! – Welcome from Eleanor Bishop of Hull
3. Our new vicar – person specification
4. The vicarage
5. Working together
6. Worship across the benefice
7. Sharing together
8. Parish profiles
  - Sewerby cum Marton
  - Flamborough
  - Bempton with Buckton
  - Speeton with Reighton
9. A message from the Bridlington Deanery and us on the Headland Benefice

### Appendices

- i. Finance
- ii. Map

# The Creation of the new Benefice

*Archdeacon Andy writes . . .* this is a story of remarkably faithful people who have patiently waited for various decisions and processes to occur that has now led to the new Headland Benefice. The journey thus far has had quite a different feel for the different churches.

## Flamborough, Bempton w Buckton and Reighton w Speeton

The four churches and three parishes have been together as a benefice for a number of years. Originally they shared a full time Incumbent but this changed in 2012 to a House for Duty priest. Since then there have been two House for Duty Incumbents but both expressed the view that the demands, and as importantly the potential, needed more than a House for Duty appointment. Both served generously with their time, but both also finished earlier than they might have expected and did so very tired. The last Incumbent retired in 2022.

The PCCs shared these observations but have always remained positive and forward looking, evidenced in the level of Free Will Offer that continued to be given. One very encouraging implication is that the benefice embraced other expressions of leadership – including PTO clergy, authorised lay ministers and very active churchwardens. The new Incumbent will inherit an active Ministry Team and it will be important that they are a natural collaborator who will look to share ministry with them.

## Sewerby cum Marton

St John the Evangelist has for many years been part of a benefice with Holy Trinity Bridlington and they shared the same Incumbent since he was appointed in 1998. Sadly, during this time there have been a variety of complications and the health of both churches suffered.

The Deanery Plan in 2022 advocated a significant re-organisation which would create this new benefice (with a F/T Incumbent) for the Headland Benefice, now incorporating St John the Evangelist. It was proposed Holy Trinity would become part of Christchurch, its neighbouring parish in the town. In addition, much of the suburban housing within Sewerby parish was to become part of the Priory parish. This has now all occurred but required the dispossession of St John's Incumbent which has been a lengthy process and included an extended period on sick leave. In effect, St John's has been in vacancy since 2022. The laity has proved extremely resilient in the midst of a disorientating and unsettling time.

## Looking Forward

All the parishes are very committed to the new arrangement and can see many benefits. Clearly St John the Evangelist will need integrating into the new benefice and I am struck by the significant lack of connection they have been encouraged to have with Holy Trinity over the years. They can see the advantages of such collaboration but it will be a new experience. Early conversations are ongoing between the churches but they are looking forward to having an Incumbent to lead them into this next chapter of the lives together.

# Greetings in Christ's name!



Thank you for prayerfully discerning God's calling to the Headland Benefice and also to the East Riding Archdeaconry in the Diocese of York.

We trust this profile will begin to give you an understanding of the churches and parishes, but above all, we welcome you to come and meet us here!

This post has become available at a very significant time in the life of the Diocese.

We have committed together in *Living Christ's Story* to being people who tell the story of Jesus' life death and resurrection and who also tell the continuing story of what Jesus has done through his church, which includes what Jesus has done and continues to do through each of our own lives. These are times that require us to be simple, humble and bold.

To make the vision of *Living Christ's Story* a reality, our diocesan goals are:

- Becoming more like Christ
- Reaching people we currently don't
- Growing churches of missionary disciples
- Transforming our finances and structures

You can explore this vision and our commitment to it on our Diocesan website.

This is a Profile for a new benefice and something of the journey to get to this point is told in it. It is a journey that has taken longer than we would have liked but it has revealed the depth of faith and perseverance within the churches. The next Incumbent will discover faith-filled people keen to move forwards. It is a good place to live and minister and you will find not only a supportive benefice but also a deanery which actively encourages collaboration across it.

As a Diocese we pray together the prayer of Teresa of Avilia, "Lord, what do you want from me?" This is our prayer for *Living Christ's Story*. We pray this prayer particularly for you in this time of discernment. We hope that you will hear Christ's call clearly and we look forward to prayerfully sharing this discernment with you.

Please do contact Archdeacon Andy Broom by phone (01482 881659) or email (ader@yorkdiocese.org) if you have any questions or would like a fuller picture than the Profile offers. We want to support you in any way as you explore and discern this call.

With our prayers,

Eleanor

(Bishop of Hull)

# Our new vicar's person specification

## Personal characteristics **we are looking for**

- A cheerful guiding person to help us fulfil Gods purpose in our parishes with humour and grace
- Respect and kindness to the ministry of all believers and the proposals of
- Living in Love & Faith
- You to take your day off each week as well as annual leave, retreat time and training

## Areas of expertise **that demonstrate**

- An understanding of life in rural communities and a willingness to engage in rural life
- Skills essential for working across several congregations
- Work across generations from those in school to those much older
- An understanding of church growth and different ways of achieving this

## Gifts & Skills **we trust that you have**

- A calling to be here with us in our travels with Christ
- A good understanding of a work life balance, the ability to say no and take meaningful time out
- An appreciation of and an understanding of our different traditions of worship and theology

## Leadership Style **that is**

- Filled with prayer & faith able to encourage, energise and inspire us
- Confident to tell us through fresh eyes what we can do better and what we need to stop doing
- Collaborative and creative, supportive of team work recognising and nurturing the gifts of all in our church
- Underpinned with good communication skills and an understanding of the importance of strategy to support and encourage the aspirations of each church as we grow together as a new benefice

# The Vicarage

This modern property is in a great location ideal for walking into the heart of the village, the school and St Oswald's. It is on the northern edge of Flamborough less than a 30 minute walk to the rugged coastline, caves and beach of North Landing. The garden has a gate leading out onto a public footpath.

It will be a good place to call home at the end of a busy day.

The Vicarage - 11 High Holme - Flamborough - East Yorkshire - YO15 1QL



In a sought after area the Vicarage has a good sized back garden, a patio area and raised decking with open views across to fields. To the front is a double drive & garage.

There are 4 bedrooms, 2 en-suites, a family bathroom and 3 reception rooms

The property is central heated and double glazed



# Working Together

With understanding and patience we are enjoying working together and being a part of a Headland ministry.

The vacancy is showing us our strengths whilst demonstrating that the future will mean change.

There is no doubt about the demand upon a new vicar and the current ministry team, especially within those first few months and our commitment to working with you practically and in prayer will remain steadfast beyond that.

Looking ahead our wish is for all our churches to keep on *Living Christ's Story* to be witness to the grace and light of God in our communities and to be a simpler, bolder church together. Waiting to work with you are our

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Team</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Three authorised lay ministers that organise and lead monthly services</li> <li>• Enthusiastic churchwardens</li> <li>• Dedicated team of ten retired clergy one of whom is a local Methodist colleague</li> <li>• A reader Emeritus</li> <li>• Two mustard seed community ministers with a third in training</li> <li>• Flamborough Outreach Team who work with young people</li> <li>• Two baptism administrators covering Bempton &amp; Flamborough</li> <li>• DBS Administrator (safeguarding officer role currently vacant)</li> <li>• Representatives at Deanery Synod and Community Practice events</li> </ul>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>PPC's</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Two are happy to continue with churchwardens in the chair releasing you to observe or do other things</li> <li>• A desire to reinstate an annual benefice PCC to celebrate and share together</li> <li>• Reighton &amp; Speeton with Bempton are trialling two parish and two joint meetings a year. Joint meetings will focus on benefice wide challenges.</li> </ul>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Churchwardens</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• St John's Sewerby is currently represented by PCC members</li> <li>• A review of how to work towards 1 not 5 in relation to utilities, insurance, inspections, maintenance</li> <li>• Exploring new partnerships, St John's is in conversation with Sewerby Hall</li> <li>• 2025 to see the benefice pilgrimage become a benefice heritage trail</li> <li>• Feasibility of alternative energy for sustainable heating and lighting</li> </ul>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Ministry Team</b></p> <p>Worship leaders, wardens and representatives meet to map out service cover, disseminate information, maintain communication and provide a safe space for mutual support. This group have been fundamental to not letting the vacancy hold us back.</p> <p>The work of the teams below represented at the ministry team and PCC's are established groups working with the benefice communities whilst providing support within the church</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pastoral Team</li> <li>• Bereavement support group</li> <li>• Fellowship</li> </ul>

# Sharing Together

## Information

Pew sheet and Newslink  
Headland Magazine see appendix iii

Websites  
[www.headlandbenefice.co.uk](http://www.headlandbenefice.co.uk)  
[www.achurchnearyou.com](http://www.achurchnearyou.com)

## Special Services

Healing Services  
United 5th Sunday Worship  
RNLI – Royal National Lifeboat Institute

## Time

Warm Space soup lunches  
Coffee & Cake  
Fellowship  
Chat & Craft  
Supper Clubs  
Thursday lunches  
Seasonal Fairs  
Flower Festivals

## Benefice Commitment

Hope Housing emerged from the desire of churches across Bridlington Deanery to come up with a response to homelessness that makes a longer-term difference.  
[www.hopehousingbridlington.org.uk](http://www.hopehousingbridlington.org.uk)

Food bank boxes for the Hinge and Christchurch Bridlington outreach projects.  
[www.thehinge.org.uk](http://www.thehinge.org.uk)

## Finances

Treasurers from 2 PCC's are working together to identify a common accounting framework, each church will retain financial independence whilst providing meaningful data from which to develop a benefice wide strategy for financial planning and giving.

This will inform funding strategies recognising our ageing congregations, building maintenance, the upkeep and promotion of three church halls.

Across our 5 churches there is in place

- Contactless card readers in 3 out of 5
- QR codes in 4 out of 5
- Direct Debits in use in 5 out of 5
- Gift Aid operated in 5 out of 5

For further details see **Appendix i**

## Wydale Hall

The Retreat and Conference Centre for the Diocese of York provides a beautiful peaceful place for all to experience training and reflection.

[www.wydale.org](http://www.wydale.org)





# Worship across the benefice

- We know that in all our parishes there are huge opportunities to reach those that currently don't worship with us - most specifically younger people and those visiting throughout the year.
- Growing in discipleship, growing a presence in our villages and a future for the benefice we understand means having courage to change and we are willing to step up.
- We actively encourage the continued development of lay led provision.
- We celebrate and cherish the variety of worship across the benefice in its many different settings which is welcomed by many who travel from outside their parishes.
- Our beautiful historic churches are safe and so far, warm described as 'peaceful - a special place to be in a chaotic world'.
- When asked, people in our communities feel attached to their village church this is recognised in well attended services at church festival times.

## Worship Patterns

Key: Clergy involvement required

Solely Lay Led

Lay and Clergy Led

Church	Sewerby St John the Evangelist	Flamborough St Oswald	Bempton St Michael	Speeton St Leonard	Reighton St Peter
Time	9.30am	10.30am	10.30am	10.00am	10.00am
Average attendance	16	35 Including the choir	20	15	15
No's from outside the parish	6	15	9	4	4
1st Sunday	Eucharist	Sung Holy Communion	Morning Worship	Holy Communion	
2nd Sunday	Eucharist	Sung Holy Communion	Holy Communion		Morning Worship
3rd Sunday	Eucharist	Sung Holy Communion	Morning Worship	Morning Worship	
4th Sunday	Eucharist	Sung Holy Communion	All Age Worship Moves with the church year		Holy Communion
5th Sunday	10.30am United Service Holy Communion				
Midweek	Flamborough St Oswald Thursday Said service Holy Communion average attendance 12				
Prior to COVID					
Sewerby St John the Evangelist held a Thursday morning Eucharist					
Flamborough St Oswald held a monthly sung Evensong					
Prior to vacancy					
Flamborough St Oswald had a Sunday 8.00am said service of Holy Communion					

## Occasional Office

Benefice Statistics for Mission 2023

	Sewerby St John's The Evangelist	Flamborough St Oswald's	Bempton St Michaels	Speeton St Leonards	Reighton St Peters
Baptisms		8	1	1	
Weddings		5	2		
Funerals Church	4	13	2	1	1
Crematorium			2		
Interment of ashes	1	9	5		1

# Sewerby cum Marton

## Parish Profile

The attractive village of Sewerby originally an estate community, is on the northern edge of Bridlington Bay a short walk from the stunning cliff top, to the parkland and gardens that surrounds the splendid Sewerby Hall. The Hall is open to the public, owned by the East Riding Council and is one of East Yorkshires top visitor attractions. Adjacent to Sewerby is the hamlet of Marton with a café farm shop, several caravan sites, holiday lodges, Links Golf Club and Danes Dyke nature reserve.



Sewerby Hall



On the B1255 road Sewerby is two miles along to Flamborough up and across to Bempton. An hourly bus service runs during the day from Bridlington to Flamborough and a network of footpaths connects walkers to the England coastal path. Tourism underpins the village economy and supports The Ship Inn, Bondville model village & tearooms, hairdressers and caravan sites.

The village is very small with a high proportion of second homes and holiday properties the permanent residents are mainly retired elderly. The recent boundary changes under the Deanery Plan have drastically decreased the catchment area for the church slicing off a significant part of the eastern urban population of Bridlington which included a Primary and Secondary school, community library and supermarket.



St Johns the Evangelist Sewerby cum Marton is situated on Church Lane. The church Grade II listed was built for the Graeme family of Sewerby Hall Estate by the architect Gilbert Scott (Albert Memorial & St Pancras Station Hotel) between 1846 – 1848 for use by the family, staff and villagers. It is a beautiful church built in the Norman style with round arched openings throughout. The slender tower and a splay foot spire which has lead covering with rolled joints stands proud over a churchyard under the care of the Local Authority is closed to burials but open for the interment of ashes.

Opposite is a great church hall completed in 1994 with excellent parking it was built with money raised by the congregation and local community with restricted funds for improvements. A versatile space it is used throughout the week by community groups and the church; it is seen as a focal point for outreach into the community and for fundraising activities. We are frequently commended for the strength and warmth of our welcome.



The hall provides a beautiful wedding space.



# Sewerby

## Worshipping Community

### St John the Evangelist

We may have declined significantly in numbers but there is now an average attendance of 16. The electoral roll stands at 39 reflecting the boundary changes. The last few years have been difficult for us and we know it has undermined people's impression of the church, diminishing the potential of the church. However following the dispossession of our last vicar we are now able to look forward and we are working to change this. There has been really positive feedback from those new to the congregation and visiting from the benefice – describe their first encounter with us as being *'encompassing, encouraging with an incredible warm welcome'*.



Worship every Sunday follows a traditional Eucharistic service we expect the clergy to wear vestments. We do not have a choir but our excellent organist a long standing member of our congregation accompanies our sung services .

The midweek (Thursday) Eucharist was suspended during COVID and it is hoped this will resume in the future. We have valued the ministry of retired clergy over the period of interregnum and being realistic we see that we shall continue to need their services even when a new incumbent is in place. In the absence of a vicar the PCC has played an essential and fundamental part in continuing the life of the church and use of the hall. We do not have church wardens so the PCC maintains responsibility.

In 2024 we restarted our lent discussion group and have talked about a parish retreat using the Diocesan centre Wydale Hall. We do not have a history of pilgrimage but enjoyed being an active part of the Headland Benefice walk in September and look forward to developing the 2025 Heritage Trail.

We at St Johns the Evangelist, to differentiate us from St John's Methodist Church at the southern side of the village, do not have a mission action plan but are keen to develop one and this might explore ways of working together with the Methodist Church. We want to strengthen our links with the community: - Holy Communion is taken out to those at home; we recently hosted a visit from the local primary school and worship involving the local Rainbows group. Our aim is to look at ways our worship can be integrated and motivational to include more people to step into our historic church spreading the word and teachings of Christ.



Remembrance Sunday

Finger post to Flamborough

# Flamborough

## Parish Profile

The village sits at the centre of the stunning chalk headland bordered by the North Sea and Danes Dyke to the west it is a busy community of 2,500, the largest Parish in the benefice and steeped in seafaring history. It is a popular retirement area and significant tourist destination especially for anyone interested in wildlife and nature. Visitors enjoy the coastline all year round staying at the many large caravan sites and holiday properties.



The new lighthouse on the Headland



Coastal path to Bempton

There are good facilities: a post office, library, and chemist, a Co-Op, the In Shore RNLI at South Landing, several pubs, cafes, golf course, Living Seas Centre and lighthouses that all support the local economy. A large village hall, active WI Hall (Women's Institute) and social club the Victoria Institute provide community meeting spaces. There are church representatives on the Parish Council and the local charity Flamborough in Need.



At the heart of the village is Flamborough C.E (VC) Primary School with 90 students and 15 staff.

Growing with God Striving for Excellence it celebrates collective worship and the latest inspection in 2024 found that the school was living up to its foundation as a church school. A newly formed Early Years unit has extended the curriculum on offer. There are three foundation governors from St Oswald's on the governing body. Representatives from both churches (church & chapel) lead weekly worship in school and support an after school club three half terms a year.

The long established and active links with the Methodist church continue, marked by the Covenant Service in January and a joint Remembrance Service. The Outreach Team organises events such as Nativity on the Hoof, Mothering, Palm Sunday & Easter workshops, an annual Blessing of Animals service and an All Saints Light Party.

St Oswald's church hall hosts meetings of Mums & Tots, Benefice Fellowship, Quaker Meetings and the flower club. The Mothers Union branch of 24 members meets regularly and there is a thriving quarterly supper club as well as social and fundraising events. It provides post service hospitality, catering for the flower festival, monthly lunches, coffee and chat afternoons and is the venue for activities shared with the Flamborough Methodist Church.



# Flamborough

## Worshipping Community

### St Oswald's

St Oswald's still serves as a focus within the community and many look to the church as 'their' church. Grade II listed with its fine fish weather vane it is essentially a 12th century building retaining a Norman chancel arch and font, it was rebuilt and restored during the 1860s. A magnificent rood screen and loft, one of only two in the whole of Yorkshire, dates from the 15th to 16th century and is of special interest along with the curious tomb of Marmaduke Constable. The church also houses several local and regional historical curiosities. The churchyard remains open for burials and the interment of ashes. The heating and sound system has recently been upgraded along with extensive repairs to the pipe organ. In 1990 two additional bells were installed making a peal of six calling people to worship. The choir affiliated to the RSCM has achieved several awards over the years and is led by an excellent organist who receives an annual honorarium.



St Oswald's has a strong choral tradition with Sung Holy Communion every Sunday supported by a robed choir. Seasonal vestments are expected and the formal 'catholic' tradition has attracted a number of long standing congregational members from across the benefice and beyond. The average Sunday attendance is a consistent 35 including the choir. Every quarter a more informal communion service is held. A said service of Holy Communion on Thursdays at 10.30am well attended with an average of 14 people.

Strong established links with the RNLI continues through an annual Songs of Praise at the South Landing life boat station. Remembrance Sunday once the province of the local British Legion branch is now organised by St Oswald's their Standards are laid up in church. The numbers of families attending services such as the Christingle is increasing year on year and the PCC recognises that there is the potential to encourage families and young people to attend regular services and would welcome help to build on work currently happening with the school and Outreach Team.



Sunrise over Selwick Bay



# Bempton with Buckton

## Parish Profile

The villages of Bempton and Buckton on the B1229 Speeton to Flamborough Road are only separated by one field so for the most part operate as one community. Surrounded by farmland the area retains a number of working farms and is the gateway to RSPB Bempton Cliffs famous for its gannets and spring/autumn migrations. The resident population is around 1,200 attracting retirees and commuters, a good rail service runs between Hull and Scarborough with regular cross country trains to Sheffield. Tourism significantly increases the population during the holiday seasons with those coming to stay on caravan sites and in the growing number of properties offering accommodation.



Bempton and Buckton retain a post office and store, an art gallery and tea room, snooker club, hairdressers, garage for agricultural vehicles and the White Horse pub which provides a great half way point for joint churchwarden meetings. Located between both villages is the Community Centre a large modern building adjacent to a play area. Importantly there is a good Primary School serving around 85 children and The Old Rectory a care home for 17 residents.



St Michael's 'a real gem' is in the centre of the village by the duck pond it has a wealth of history, is Grade II listed dating in parts to the 12th century and the churchyard remains open for burials from both villages. Reordering has created a valuable open space at the back of the church for informal worship useful for Messy Church and social activities. A modern heating and a sound system with a hearing loop has been installed and the PCC has a faculty to create disabled access and improve churchyard paths. There is an organ in good repair, a recently purchased clavichord and the facility to use CDs to accompany Hymns Old & New.

Across the churchyard St Michael's has a tardis of a church hall with a small kitchen that produces astonishing refreshments for social, fund raising events and benefice meetings. Soup & roll lunches alternate weekly with a coffee morning and during the winter months there is a weekly warm space lunch. The hall serves cakes and drinks across most Bank Holidays and throughout the annual Flower Festival weekend. St Michael's offers a collection point for the Bridlington Food Bank and operates a Food Pantry for local village residents in conjunction with the Parish Council.



# Bempton

## Worshipping Community

### St Michaels



A quote from trip advisor:

*We found this lovely church in the centre of Bempton. There are a few parking spaces near the gate or by the duck pond. Parts of the church date back to the 1200's and it is worth looking around inside. There is a beautiful stained glass window showing St Francis standing at Bempton Cliffs which are a short drive away.*

There is ordinarily an average Sunday attendance of 20, however during the summer this can increase by 9 with regular visitors who stay for much of the spring/ summer/ autumn season.

Visitors have described St Michaels as 'a church that gives you a hug' and that it is 'like coming home'.

With the exception of fifth Sundays there is regular morning worship one of which will be Holy Communion and a monthly All Age service, the local Brownie pack coming 3 times a year, below at Harvest with the Fruits of the Spirit.



The committed congregation is supported by two retired priests, a reader emeritus and an authorised lay minister. Both churchwardens are happy to be involved in worship and the congregation willing to read lessons, lead intercessions and take on various acting roles such as being a donkey, a Christingle orange or the disgusted women after the Palm Sunday procession.

Orders of service are based on Common Worship or designed to suit specific events and audiences. The good relationship with the RNLI is celebrated on Sea Sunday.

The links with the school are growing encouraged by a supportive head teacher keen to see this progress, there is a church presence at two assemblies a term with events in St Michaels for Easter, harvest, Christmas and end of school year. The local Brownies attend three times a year for a Parade Service and families are kept in touch through regular All Age worship.

Home Communion is taken regularly to 5 people and the Old Rectory is visited monthly.



Easter procession through the village



Getting together in the church hall

# Speeton and Reighton

## Parish Profile

The two villages are part of the benefice located in North Yorkshire on the edge of the rolling Wolds with stunning views across Filey Bay. The beach accessible from the England coastal path wraps round the Headland linking Reighton to Sewerby. Each village unique in character is connected by a public footpath through fields or a 5 minute journey along the B1229 road towards Bempton. Straddling the county borders the villages look south to Bridlington and north to Filey for health care, education and shopping the bus service is accessible from Reighton only. Each village has a mix of private and social housing with a steady increase in holiday lets and second homes. Reighton has a high number of early retired new to the village and Speeton a couple of young families.



From Speeton north to Reighton & south to Bempton



Reighton beach towards Filey

The population of the parish is 390 with 38% over the age of 60. Tourism and agriculture underpin the economy of both villages. Speeton has two working farm at its centre and Reighton a large Haven holiday village 'Reighton Sands' on the outskirts. The site has a significant number of owner occupied caravans making it a community in its own right.

Reighton has an established sense of community with a number of people having lived in the village for over 25 years; several are part of the church family. St Peters open every day has a surprising number of visitors recording their thoughts, 'a beautiful church to pray in' several people involved in the care of the building don't attend regular worship reflecting the value St Peters holds for many in the village. The church yard remains open to both villages for burials and the interment of ashes. Reighton has a village hall and Speeton with no public meeting place makes good use of the church. There is a church representative on the Reighton Village Hall Committee and Speeton Village Association.

Speeton is more mysterious, with outlying farms and property tucked away, one of which is an established stable affiliated to the National Riding for Disabled Association. St Leonards is open daily with fascinating local history displays whilst providing a quiet space enjoyed by visitors using the car park to access the coastal path. The Village Association work hard to bring the community together and established The Speeton Village Association Natural Burial Ground in 2019. Set in a breathtaking location it is part of a national network and involves St Leonards for those wanting a Christian service. It has provided financial contributions towards the upkeep of the church and importantly encouraged greater involvement with St Leonards during celebratory services.



Speeton Cliffs's



The famous sheep on the roundabout to Reighton



# Speeton St Leonards

## Worshipping Community

### Reighton St Peters

The churches St Leonards Speeton and St Peters Reighton are both Grade II listed and in reasonable order. The Parochial Parish Council (PCC) of 6 is informal and there are 18 on the electoral role. St Peters is outwardly Victorian with notable Norman features inside and is central to Reighton, on a hill with no parking. St Leonards sits on Saxon foundations and stands in a field a short walk from the village along a well maintained permissive track with excellent parking. They provide ideal settings for a range of worship and activities.



St Leonards Speeton

Our style of worship is flexible supported by an encouraging congregation, two authorised lay ministers, retired clergy and churchwardens. We enjoy the variety of worship that comes with visiting clergy celebrating Holy Communion (Celtic to traditional) It is not unusual for a service to be held outside, to relocate in support of another benefice church or be a simple reflection in the Chancel.

The congregation maybe of an age but we are definitely young at heart, all from different church backgrounds we are joined by folk from Flamborough and Bridlington. We firmly believe our future lies in sharing our gifts & working together.

Building relationships within our small villages and celebrating our faith outside of church is important. A small step towards this is on the second week of the month we hold 'Sunday Breakfast' in Reighton village hall.

Since 2021 we offer soup lunches weekly from November to March and monthly May to October in the hall. It has been wonderful to see old and new people from Speeton & Reighton coming together with a regular attendance of 15 -20 this has encouraged greater pastoral awareness and support leading to new faces through the doors of both churches.

In 2022 the PCC decided to combine worship reducing parish services from 8 to 4 the average attendance is now 15/22 compared to 3/9! It has made stepping into Sundays joyful this positive move was reflected in comments from our worship review in 2024:-

*' It has deepened fellowship and understanding as our two communities grow together'*



St Peters Reighton

## A Message from Bridlington Deanery

Bridlington Deanery takes its name from the coastal town at the centre of a crescent of rural villages producing a variety of contexts – town, suburban, rural and maritime. We are surrounded by beautiful scenery – splendid beaches and harbour, the dramatic cliffs, coves and wildlife sanctuary of Flamborough Head, rolling Wolds scenery, and big skies.

The deanery's population of almost 42,000 is rising due to new housing and is added to by substantial numbers of summer visitors. Coastal relocation owing to retirement means that 30% of the population is aged over 65 (more than 13% are over 75). Many older people thrive here; others face isolation and loneliness.

The Diocesan initiative 'Living Christ's Story' gave rise to an ambitious Deanery Plan, a major part of which has been the recent alterations to parish boundaries and groupings. The result is three groups of parishes ("Mission Units") centred on the town and the southern villages. Eight rural churches to the west make up the fourth Mission Unit, and Sewerby village has joined the Headland Benefice to the north, making the fifth.

Significant areas of the deanery, particularly in the town, suffer acute deprivation. Over a third of the population are in the 20% most deprived nationally. Many younger people have low aspirations, with relatively few engaging with higher education, and geographical isolation is an issue we share with many coastal areas. Our churches are known for reaching out sacrificially and generously to people in need, and for cooperating with agencies and with each other in providing food banks, meals, self-help courses and work with people struggling with addictions.



Uniquely, the churches of Bridlington Deanery have formed a charity, Hope Housing Bridlington, which, in partnership with the national charity Green Pastures. The Headland parishes have enthusiastically and generously supported this initiative, and have done so since it was first mooted in 2018.

We are blessed by a good number of unpaid people supporting ministry in our parishes and giving generously of their time, wisdom and experience. As a brand-new initiative we have a priest who is forming a Christian community of young adults who will share a house, grow in faith, and develop their own ministries. A part-time Multiply lay worker has established a new worshipping community on one of the town's more deprived estates and another in one of the town centre churches. We are about to run our fifth Mustard Seed 'Stepping Up' course, a year-long programme which develops lay leaders who would struggle with more conventional academic courses.

Ecumenically, we have good relationships with other churches and church leaders. Many of the churches of the area come together for special events, for instance a Good Friday service in the town centre, putting on Christian musical productions and of course the Headland pilgrimage which starts from Flamborough and Reighton and converges on Bempton.

Over the last two years we have held a deanery 'Community of Practice' in which a handful of key people from each group of parishes spend half a day together every six months to focus on an area of our mission and ministry and learn from an invited speaker and from each other. We hold an annual Chapter retreat at Wydale Hall, the Diocesan Retreat Centre. And we look for every church to grow, both in its traditional forms and in new ways as God leads.

It is crucial that the new incumbent of the Headland Benefice not merely acquiesces but enthusiastically supports these goals, collaborating with fellow-ministers in mission across the deanery. It is likely that this person will join the Deanery Leadership Team, which drives forward the deanery's mission.



## A Message of thanks from us all

It is our hope that many readers will reach this page and therefore may be considering whether it is their call to come to work with us?

Thank you for coming this far and discovering the Headland Benefice. Our prayers are with you as you consider your next step.

For us, it not the end, but the beginning and an exciting opportunity to bring together our five churches as one new benefice that will be the foundation for the future of faith in all our villages.

We have the confidence in Gods goodness and trust that He is calling the person with all the gifts we need to lead us into this next chapter of our benefice life.

If you are interested to explore further and are considering whether this is a call to come and work with us we would be delighted to show you around this very special part of Yorkshire.

# Appendix i

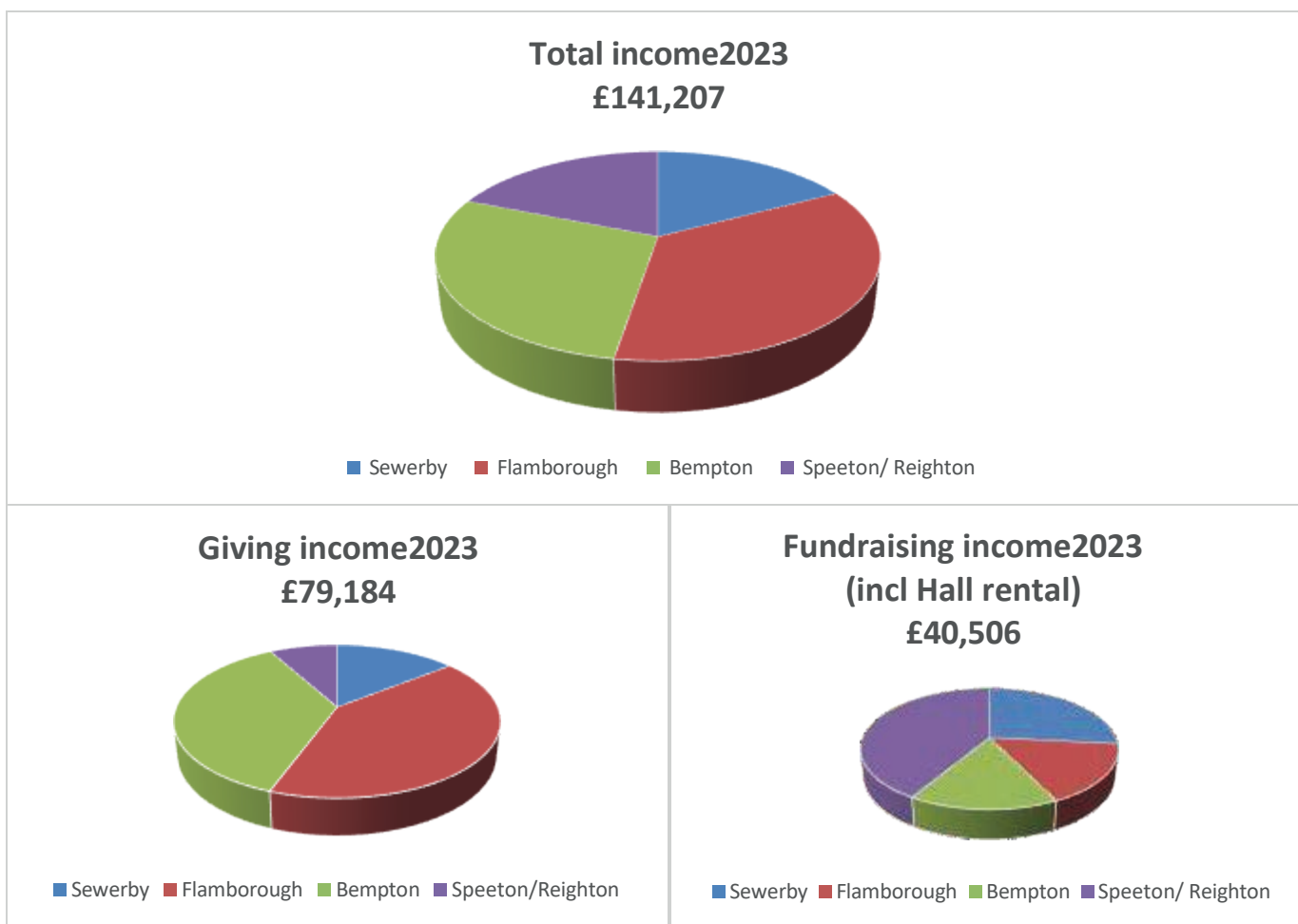
## Finance

As a benefice we see finance as an important tool to assist in the mission and ministry of our churches, but recognise that it is only ONE asset out of many which enhance our benefice as a whole and our parishes within them.

Whilst recognising that the current finances of our churches are healthier than many rural churches, we still wish to move forward positively with our financial position.

It is hoped that a unified focus on the mission and ministry across the benefice which a new incumbent can bring will result in a better financial position as part of planning for our future needs.

### Headland Benefice Summary for 2023



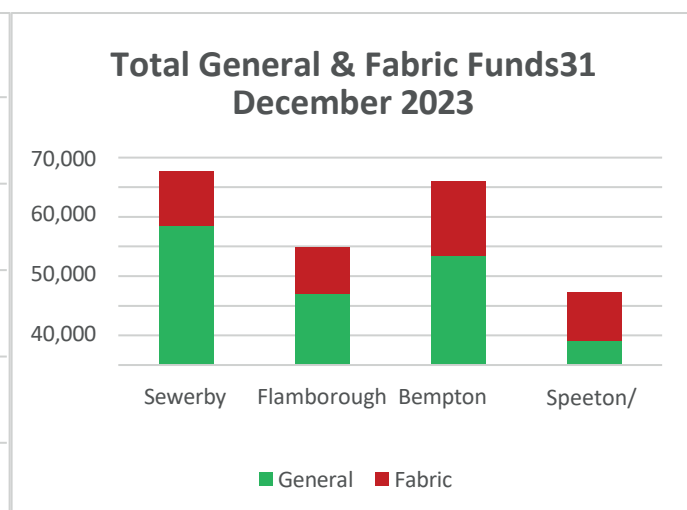
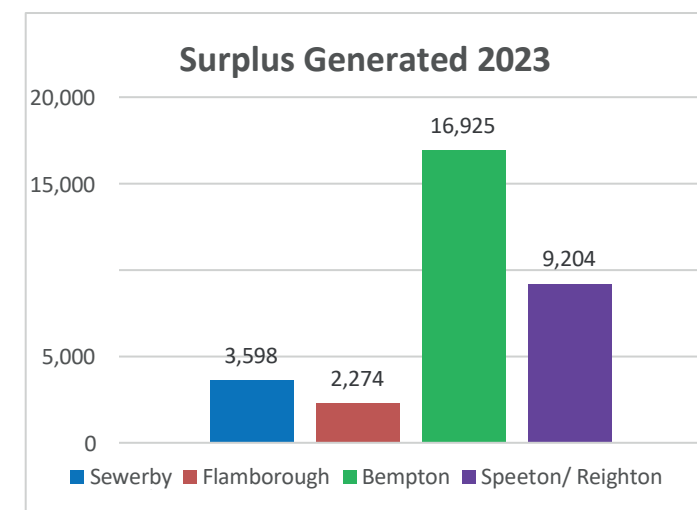
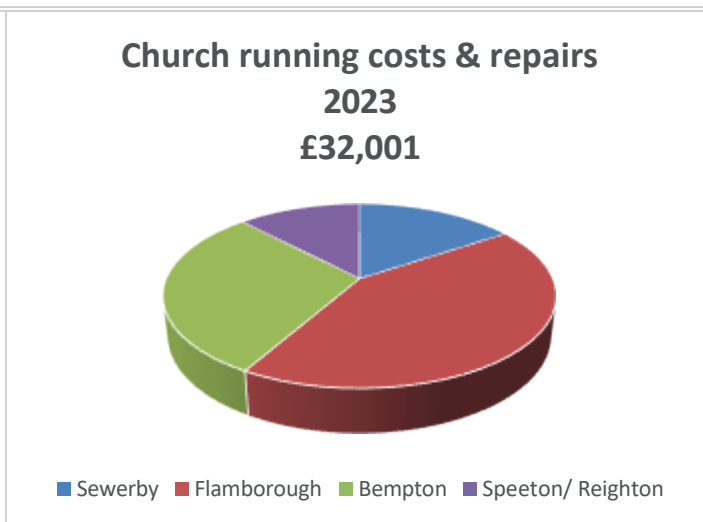
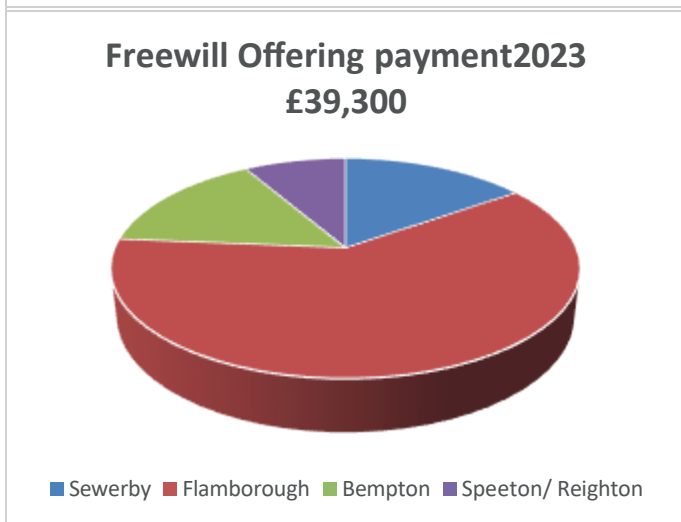
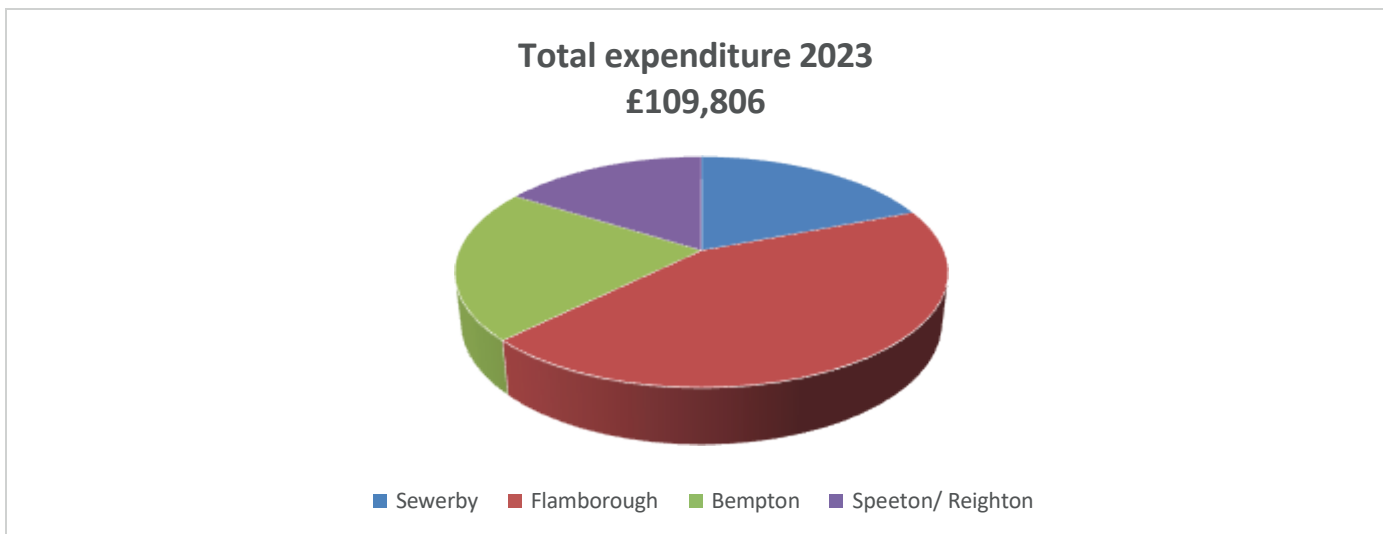
Our churches are blessed with generous support from both the congregations and the wider village communities. However, as is common with many rural and semi-rural parishes, we are facing the challenges of increasing congregation age, declining regular congregation numbers and a reduction in weddings and funerals taking place within a church context.

Three of our churches have Church Halls located adjacent to the respective churches, and use and promotion of these halls is one area which is continually reviewed, as well as exploring other ways to encourage giving from the wider community.

# Appendix i

## Finance

The main constituent elements of expenditure are:



Although we have general and fabric reserves generated from historical giving and legacies, each PCC is aware of the very significant maintenance costs of our churches. Each PCC has a reserves policy to maintain an emergency fund if needed.

The above summarises the financial position of our Benefice. Detailed accounts of each Parish are available upon request.

## Appendix ii

### Headland Magazine



This is a monthly publication that has been in production for over 40 years the costs of which are met by local business sponsorship and contributions from each church.

The magazine is produced by a small team encouraging the flow of information across the benefice in particular social and fundraising events. It includes a letter from those leading worship, articles from the Mothers Union, and Flamborough Methodist church with regular notes from around the diocese and benefice as well as regular Stories for the Journey.

The print run is 260 with distribution through all the churches, post offices and copies delivered to those in our villages unable to access church and available to access through the benefice website.

With the recent benefice changes there is scope for the magazine to shape a new way forward for the dissemination of information and communication across the benefice.

The new benefice presents the opportunity to look at our profile outside of our church community and to draw on the knowledge of those working on the magazine, the website and others to evolve a communication and publicity plan that encompasses all our villages and reaches out across the benefice.