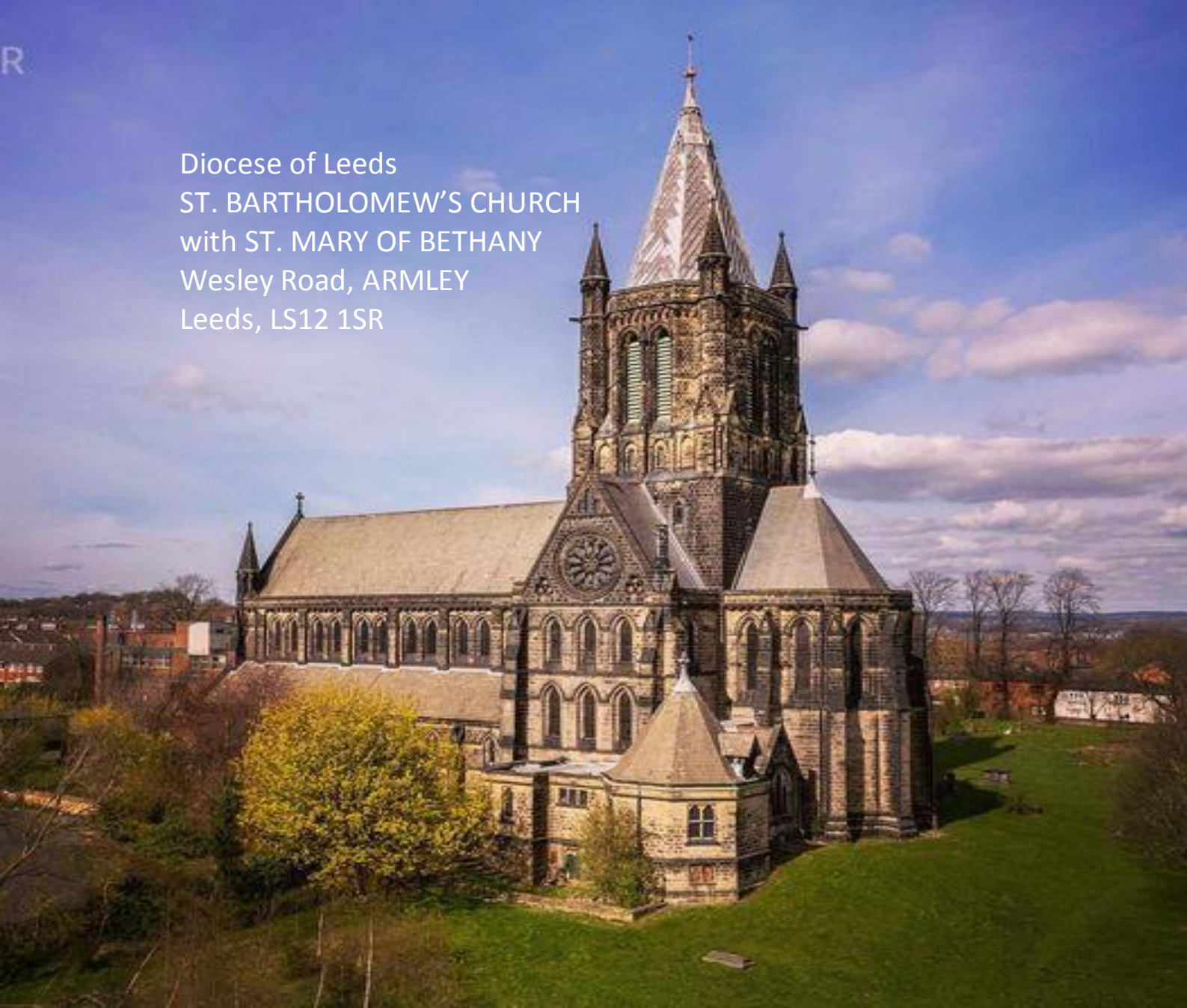


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Diocese of Leeds
ST. BARTHOLOMEW'S CHURCH
with ST. MARY OF BETHANY
Wesley Road, ARMLEY
Leeds, LS12 1SR



**Parish Brochure for the Post of
Priest-in-Charge
0.5 FTE**

July 2022

Thankyou for considering applying for this post. We hope the following pages will breathe a little life into the formal statistics of the parish "profile", and give a bit more insight into who we are, what we do and how St. Bartholomew's ticks. We can't pretend this is an easy parish to work in; there's no attempt to present a sanitised or falsely optimistic picture of the parish. But with prayerful thought, cheerful resolve, and hard work we believe we can progress towards a more sustainable future that drives

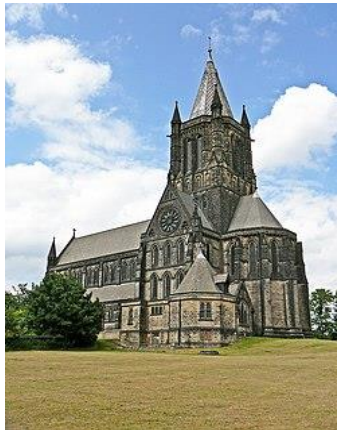


Our Vision for the Future

- To help the church to re-emerge stronger from the pandemic and to reconnect in new, creative ways with the local community,
- To build up confident lay ministry, developing pathways for greater discipleship and increased lay leadership, and encouraging individuals to develop and use their faith, gifts and talents,
- To build on our relationship with St. Bartholomew's Church School, and the Uniformed Organisations, reaching out to families, young people and children.



Our Worship Tradition



St. Bartholomew's church is a magnificent Grade II* Gothic style church set in the heart of Armley. Consecrated in 1877, it is possibly best known for its world-famous Schulze organ.

A traditional sung Anglo-Catholic Mass is held every Sunday. The celebrant wears full Mass vestments, and bells and incense are used to enhance the service. Said Mass takes place in the Centenary Chapel each Thursday, followed by coffee.



Uniformed groups are invited to attend the Sunday Mass on special occasions such as Mothering Sunday, Christingle and Remembrance Sunday. They own a well-equipped Scout Hut opposite the Church on Wesley Road.

Our Church Community

We have a small but dedicated core of church leaders. There are two Church Wardens, and six other members of the PCC, including a Secretary, a Treasurer and a Safeguarding Officer. During Covid-



19 we had a tough time, and although numbers in the congregation have gradually crept up since resuming 'in person' worship, overall attendance has been adversely impacted. In addition, we lost around 10 long-standing church members over the last

year, not because of the pandemic, but through old age and infirmity. People often spend as little as six months living in Armley before moving on, making it difficult to retain newcomers to the church. We have recently lost a number of immigrant members of the church who have had to return to Eastern Europe and Africa. The Church Hall, which was the focus of much of our social activity for over a century is now closed, owing to deterioration of the fabric. There is a lack of young families in the church community and this is a key area we seek to address. A majority of members live outside the parish.

Our Music Tradition

Music has always been an important aspect of the church's life at Armley. Central to this is the organ, which was installed in the new church building in 1879. It provides a rich, sonorous accompaniment to Divine Worship and encourages hearty congregational singing. There is no longer a functioning choir, though this is an area of activity we would like to rekindle. There are two regular organists who share the work of playing for services, weddings and funerals. There are at least four organ recitals each year, plus occasional visits from external groups.



Our Working Church



The day-to-day running of the church is carried out by the P.C.C. members and by a band of willing helpers, seen here with their sleeves rolled up!

We produce a monthly Parish Magazine containing news and special articles in which local businesses advertise; their fees help financially. The Church is available for hire e.g. by the Ethiopian Orthodox Church. We no longer benefit from hire fees for the Church Hall, which is now permanently closed. We are hoping to raise funds for a new church facility, partly from the sale of the Church Hall site. After Mass at St. Bartholomew's-tide during the pandemic, we brought our own lunch, and thoroughly enjoyed ourselves!



We offer opportunities to meet at the mid-week Mass and coffee morning/social gathering. Our services are now available to a wider (internet) community through new audio-visual hardware and software (via Zoom and YouTube).

As an example of our charitable work, we have housed asylum seekers from the WEST YORKSHIRE DESTITUTE ASYLUM NETWORK. Here's how it went:

"Our Night Shelter began on Monday, 16th September, for one week. Five guests spent the evenings and nights in our church. Volunteers from St. Bartholomew's helped with meals, supervision, and night vigil. Our guests were polite, friendly, amazing



considering the life they live at the moment. We pray that they may find stability soon. Many thanks to those who helped in any way, by providing meals, serving and washing up, supervising, and giving money and goods to make this week the success it was."



Our Finances and Charitable Giving

Finance

We pay as much Diocesan Parish Share as we are able. Clergy expenses are always paid in full.

Good financial housekeeping means that significant funds are available in the event of major expenditure being required on the organ.

Mission Giving

We like to support charitable work whenever we can. Every year, we hold a Harvest Thanksgiving Appeal. In 2021, we helped Water Aid.

In past years, the PCC provided facilities, resources and support to the Saviour Trust and the West Yorkshire Destitute Asylum Network (WYDAN) night shelter projects.

We also raise funds for the Additional Curates Society during Lent and the Church of England Children's Society.

Fundraising

The magnificence of St. Bartholomew's makes it an ideal setting for weddings, baptisms and funerals.

The church is also available for external hire.

Funds are also raised from:

- A Christmas Market
- Organ Concerts and Recordings

Our Community Outreach

We continue to strengthen links with St. Bartholomew's C. of E. Primary School through the appointment of one of our PCC members as a Foundation Governor. We help enrich the school experience by supporting its Christian ethos, and its unswerving commitment to the pastoral care of its pupils.

During Covid-19 Sunday School provision was curtailed, but we are keen to reinstate this to encourage and support families in their journey through the Christian faith; we hope that the reintroduction of an element of religious instruction for children into the service will facilitate a pathway to Baptism and Confirmation.

We are keen to strengthen our ties with the Uniformed Organisations in our parish, and look to encourage their work in enriching and empowering the lives of our young people. Parade Sundays are an integral part of this relationship, and we hope to

build on attendance at these services by further encouraging their participation in our worship.

As a church we are acutely aware of the needs of the elderly. We have historic links with the charity 'Armley Helping Hands' situated next to the Church School, which provides acutely needed support to our senior citizens. The previous incumbent also established links with Amber Lodge Care Home that we are keen to continue.

We have good inter-faith connections with Armley Mosque (Jamia Masjid Ghousia) very close by at Brooklyn Terrace, and the Sri Guru Nanak Sikh Temple on Tong Road.

Armley Town Street is a busy, vibrant shopping area, including the St. George's Crypt goods store and café. We have previously worked together, providing a food bank depot and distribution centre.

Armley Library and Community Hub on the corner of Wesley Road incorporates a one-stop-shop centre for social support; facilities, including working spaces, are available to the local community and charitable organizations.

We have been a leading member of 'Churches Together in Armley'.

We have also worked with those on the fringes of society including ex-offenders via the Saviour Trust, based at Tong Road, Armley. Priests at St. Bart's often take on chaplaincy roles at H.M. Prison, Leeds, which is the other Victorian Building that dominates the Armley skyline.

The PCC is responsible for the upkeep of the Martha Walker Almshouses, six Victorian homes opposite the Church. A committee is appointed, including the Priest and churchwardens; all PCC members are Trustees of these Almshouses.

Our Safeguarding

As a PCC, we have made great strides in the last twelve months to address Safeguarding within our church community. Our Parish Safeguarding Officer has been working to ensure we are compliant not only with the letter of the law but also with its spirit. We are

keen to engender an inclusive, welcoming and safe culture, which promotes the welfare of all and is mindful of risk.

Accommodation for the Priest-in-Charge

Armley Vicarage stands on the site which the diocese hopes to sell, along with the surrounding glebe land. The appointed priest-in-charge will be accommodated in the property below, situated about a mile from the church at Hill End Crescent, Leeds 12.



This four bedroom executive detached property provides extremely generous accommodation and occupies an attractive position on this recent sought after development. Featuring an entrance hall, guest W.C, study, lounge, dining room, dining kitchen, utility room. Master bedroom with dressing area & ensuite, two further double bedrooms with ensuites, fourth double bedroom, house bathroom, PVCu double glazing, gas central heating and a security alarm system. Outside there are lawned gardens to the front, an enclosed lawned garden to the rear, a generous double drive and an integral double garage. Viewing is essential.

Our Thoughts!

These views and opinions of church members gathered through a recent questionnaire give a flavour of the hopes and concerns of our parish family:

Why do you attend St. Bart's Church?

"Because the worship is so beautiful and the organ and its organists so good."

"I enjoy the churchmanship."

"To pray. God knows why. God gives and God takes. Blessed be the Lord."

"I love it because God allows us into his home."

"I attend St. Bart's due to the friendliness of everyone. I enjoy my worship here."

"To feel wholesome."

"I came here after a fall out at my previous church. I found the peace I required so I stayed."

"It's my church! I first came here when I was six weeks old!"

"Because it's the type of church I'm used to and like."

"Feel part of community. The people are friendly and welcoming."

What is special about St. Bart's?

"The people who are so committed. Everybody is very warm and welcoming."

"A beautiful church. Many memories. I like the traditional aspect of the service."

"The church is known all over the city and is a beacon for Christ and his church."

"First communion here. Beautiful church."

"It is a beautiful church and it's got a wonderful organ."

"Very friendly people. Warm and welcoming here. Stunning and beautiful church."

"Everything. The building itself, the amazing organ and the memories from being here."

"It's been here in one form or another since the 17C. looking after the spiritual needs of the people of Armley full of love and prayers."

"It's the kind of church I like and enjoy."

"The organ and church building are very inspiring."

How can we improve what we do and what we offer?

"We need more people, and a mission-minded priest."

"Do more that involve families on Sundays and through week to get them involved."

"Better sound system. I do find it difficult to hear some of the Service."

"I think we do pretty well, but perhaps a regular children's 'spot'."

"....."



No parish ministry is easy and this one in particular has significant challenges. However, there are experienced and dedicated members ready and willing to work alongside our new priest to meet these challenges. There are great opportunities open to the parish as clamour grows to create a more equal society. The parish needs someone who can nurture and grow existing community partnerships, and help create new ones. We don't expect you to be able to solve all our problems overnight. Instead, we are excited to find out what interests, skills and experience you could bring to the post. We are looking for a person of God, who will on the one hand pray with us and for us, and on the other, be prepared to roll their sleeves up