

## **Vicar of Holy Cross, Airedale with Fryston**

Holy Cross, Airedale with Fryston is a single-church estate parish within the Wakefield Episcopal Area of the Diocese of Leeds, being part of the Deanery of Pontefract. The church has a prominent role within the local community and the Holy Cross building is a significant feature at the centre of the parish. The church and its people are a trusted and loved presence in Airedale. Local people continue to look towards Holy Cross to mark key events in their lives and the life of the community, and the new vicar will be warmly welcomed.

The finances are well managed and the church has consistently paid its full share in recent years. The church building is in good condition, although a significant building project is planned, to create a narthex/community room, improve facilities for people with disabilities including an accessible toilet, and install a more modern kitchen area. This project will be an early point of focus for the new vicar, and much of the funding for it is already in place.

Churchmanship is central, and worship is currently sacramental in focus. There will be opportunities to consider different worship opportunities to draw in new people from the community, especially from the new build housing, which has been substantial in recent years.

While Airedale with Fryston is historically a mining community with a significant social housing component, in recent years house ownership has increased, and growing numbers of new people have moved into the area, including people who commute to Leeds, Wakefield and other towns and cities in West Yorkshire. There are five primary and one high school in the parish, and it will be important for the new Vicar to maintain and continue to develop excellent relationships with these schools, as well as with the local uniformed organisations and other youth projects.

Our vision as the Diocese is about confident clergy equipping confident Christians to live and tell the good news of Jesus Christ. In appointing to this post, we are looking for someone who has a joyful and confident faith which has inspired a track record (however defined) of church growth. They will ideally have experience of estates ministry and will be a motivating leader who can work with the congregation of Holy Cross to grow the church, develop discipleship, increase lay leadership and draw the community into church life.

Our particular priorities for the new Vicar are:

- growing the congregation, spiritually and numerically,
- reaching out to the community in mission and evangelism, especially to families and to the occupants of the new housing in the parish,
- growing children's and youth ministry,
- developing and empowering lay leaders,
- leading the building project, and
- developing strong relationships with neighbouring parishes and the wider deanery, collaborating in mission and evangelism as opportunities arise.

The new Vicar will find colleagues in the deanery and in the wider episcopal area to be friendly, enthusiastic and supportive in sharing the joys and challenges of ministry.

+Nicholas  
Bishop of Leeds  
26<sup>th</sup> September 2024