



The Parish of St. Mary

Luddenden with
Luddenden Foot

Parish Brochure
2024

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Mission Statement



“This church is here to glorify God
and experience Jesus Christ in worship.

We seek to do this by being a welcoming and caring family in which
all members play their part.

Our desire is to find out more about the love of God
and to share that love.

St Mary’s is here to help people find God.”

In a future priest-in-charge, we are seeking a leader with vision

- who can encourage, energise and inspire.
- who is enthusiastic about working within a team.
- who can recognise and help develop strengths and qualities in others.
- who can engage through a variety of worship styles.
- who can lead us onto the next stage in our journey.

**Future
incumbent:
gifts, skills
and ministry**

St Mary's Church - now and in the future



Achievements of the last five years

Growing our Church – a successful programme of development based on the LyCiG initiative focusing on numbers, spirituality and community.

Increasing the numbers in the congregation compared to the national trend, particularly families and children and the bounce back after Covid.

Work in two of our schools by telling bible stories using the 'Open the Book' resources.

Offering 'Start' and 'Alpha' courses on alternate years.

Ensuring we are, first and foremost, a praying community.

Key areas for development in the next five years

A praying community – to continue to ensure that we are first and foremost a praying community

Growing our church – continues to evolve including the exploration of mission within the parish.

Encouragement of lay ministry - with a part-time priest-in-charge we recognise the need to develop the lay ministry to take the gospel into the community.

Young people - to continue to develop the offering for children and young families in all our Sunday services.

Pastoral care - to expand the team to meet the needs of the members of our congregation and the wider community.

Discipleship - to ensure there is a variety of groups and activities and to welcome our fringe members to become established members of our church community

Working with the Erringden Benefice – exploring the opportunities of working together.

Strengths

A variety of services offered which attracts a diversity of worshippers across all age groups.

A friendly and welcoming atmosphere for visitors and new congregation members.

The diverse mix of community is reflected within the regular church membership.

The quality of music reflected by the choir, organist and other musicians.

The church maintains an active presence enhancing its position as a centre for the community.

A strong and committed lay team.

Outreach to the community through the work of the 'Pop in Shop'

Weaknesses

There is a lack of:

- formal development for lay ministry and ongoing engagement with baptism families.
- overall communication between the different groups within the church and with the congregation.
- community presence in parts of the parish other than the village of Luddenden.
- an equivalent standard of music for 'all age worship'.





Opportunities

To broaden the links within our four local schools.

To engage with the large numbers of young families who live in the parish.

To retain more wedding couples and baptism and funeral families as regular church members.

To integrate fringe members who attend church into the church community.

To further our pastoral offering particularly through the work of the Pop-in-Shop.

Risks

The difficulty of replacing the older members of the church community who lead many of the activities.

Disenfranchising parts of the church community by focusing on another part (ie: how do you meet the needs of all the people all the time).

Small number of members contribute a high percentage of the church giving.

Losing our young people as they reach their teens.

Local Area and Parish

The parish is made up of several distinct settlements, ranging from villages and hamlets, to more modern housing estates. This makes for a diverse mix of people, ranging from the affluent to the deprived.

The parish has a population of over 4,000 and has an area of about 12 square miles. It extends along the valley bottom by the River Calder and the canal, up to the moor tops adjacent to 'Bronte Land'.

St Mary's Church is situated in the picturesque village of Luddenden which is a conservation area and has been called the 'Jewel of Calderdale'. There is a lively village pub, the Lord Nelson, opposite the church where the landlord is an active member of the congregation and serves on the PCC. There is a good rapport with the local Conservation Society and the Luddenden Mayor's Committee.

Luddenden Foot straddles the main road through the valley and a community primary school, pubs and a takeaway. There is a community centre used by various local groups.

Many of the houses in Luddenden Foot were demolished in the 1960s and replaced by new housing to create the Kershaw estate. This has a mix of social housing and privately owned homes. There are a number of elderly people's flats on the estate and a small community centre. The estate has a small supermarket and adjacent to this is St Mary's 'Pop-in-Shop'. Other facilities on the estate include a health centre with pharmacy, the church primary school and a community special school.



The Parish of St. Mary

Luddenden with
Luddenden Foot

The hilltop village of Midgley feels to be quite a separate entity. It has a community primary school, its own small community centre and a community shop run by volunteers.

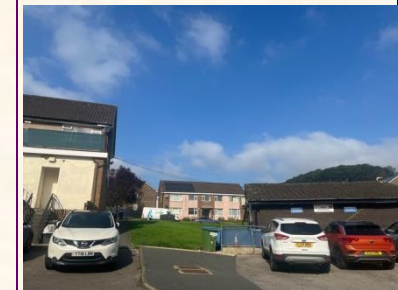
Luddenden Dene is an attractive valley with a country park at Jerusalem Farm. A number of people visit the area, many of them walking past the church at the beginning of a ramble up the valley.

Former farm buildings have been converted into attractive houses drawing a more affluent group into the parish.

In the past, the parish contained many mills, providing the main source of employment. Nowadays, with all the mills having closed, the feel is very much that of a commuter area, although there are a number of new industrial units providing some local employment. Some of the mills have been converted into apartments or pulled down to provide space for new housing. These changes have encouraged an influx of young couples and families into the parish.

In the parish, there are football and cricket teams and a bowling club.

The parish lies within the Calder Valley in between Halifax and Hebden Bridge. Excellent road and rail links exist to the major cities of Leeds and Manchester as well as the university centres of Huddersfield and Bradford. There are excellent grammar and comprehensive schools close by. Within easy reach are two National Parks - the Yorkshire Dales and the Peak District.



The Church Building

The church is situated in a very beautiful setting in the centre of the village close to the waterfall. It is a Grade II listed building, dating from 1816, with the chancel being extended in 1910. Inside, it is an attractive area for worship that is always well looked after by church members.

The nave provides an open space with pew seating for over 200. There is a dais at the front of the nave from which worship is normally conducted and a screen separates the chancel. There is a comprehensive audio-visual system.

At the rear of the church there is a parish room, created in 1985, with another similar room at first floor level. These are also used by various community groups. There is a small vestry, a kitchen and toilet facilities.

The church building is generally in good order. At the last quinquennial inspection (April 2021), there were two 'Priority A' issues which have been addressed. 'Priority B', work is well on its way to being completed.

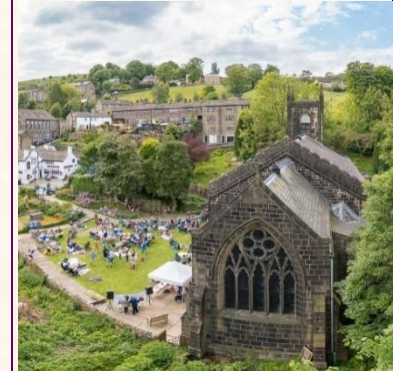
The churchyard is closed and is maintained by Calderdale Council. It is a pleasant, open, grassed space, which is used for the church summer picnic and for various community events.

A small Garden of Remembrance is retained for the interment of ashes. Luddenden Cemetery, owned by the local authority, lies just across the beck from the church and most visitors use the path through the churchyard and pass the church door.

The church owns no other buildings but holds the lease on the Pop-in-Shop, which expires in 2028.

Environment

The church has been awarded the Eco Church Bronze award promoted by A Rocha UK and is working towards achieving the silver award.



Church Services

There is a tradition of Eucharistic worship in the church which is offered on three of the Sundays service each month, reflecting the needs of the congregation which is broad in outlook and spans a wide age range.

The present service pattern is:

1st Sunday.....10.00am: Communion for All

2nd Sunday10.00am: Communion for All

3rd Sunday.....10.00am: Communion for All Ages

4th Sunday.....10.00am: Praise@Ten

Activities for children are provided at all services.

Weekday services:

Morning Prayer: Fridays at 9am

Home Communions when requested



Attendance

The average attendance at the 10am service is around 60 including 10 children.

Attendances on Mothering Sunday, Easter Day, Harvest and Baptisms are between 50 and 100.

Christmas services are very well attended - Carol Service: 150, Midnight Mass: 50, Crib Service on Christmas Eve : 200.

Style

Churchmanship might best be described as 'middle of the road' although previous vicars have been both higher church and low church. Sensitivity is needed in view of the varying backgrounds of members of the congregation. Currently the vicar robes in cassock alb and stole with chasuble worn at festivals and special services.

The Eucharistic worship uses a series of seasonal liturgies which between them use a wide range of material from Common Worship. Music is led by a robed choir with organ.

Praise@Ten is lay led and it comprises informal, contemporary worship with songs and presentations to engage all ages.

Prayer is offered by the Prayer Ministry team every Sunday after worship



Baptisms, weddings and funerals

These are a big part of church life. We have a positive attitude to all three and each is seen as a means of outreach into the community. Wedding couples are encouraged with some success to attend monthly before their wedding. We have seen several wedding couples in recent years continue to be part of the church. Several people have been drawn into the church through bereavement.

The number of baptisms, weddings and funerals in 2023:

Baptisms.....7
Weddings.....3
Funerals.....13

In 2024, 10 young people were admitted to Communion before Confirmation. It is expected that 12 people will be Confirmed at the end of September including the 4 men baptised earlier in the year.



Congregation

There are 104 people on the electoral roll.

The weekly congregation on Sunday mornings has a strong base of older as well as an increasing number of young families and married couples in the church. There are a few teenagers and a growing number of children of primary school age and several babies and toddlers.

One noticeable pattern is that there is a very solid core who come to church almost every Sunday. Others attend less predictably which can result in quite different congregations on different Sundays.

The majority of the congregation live within the parish but a number travel in from other areas, some for family reasons, others because of the style of worship.



Church Organisations

Study Groups

The well-established Monday House Group meets fortnightly on Monday evenings for Bible study and discussion and has a membership of eight.

There is a second Bible Study Home Group which meets on Thursday evenings.

Lent and Advent Groups are run in season.

There are occasional study groups held at midday after Sunday morning worship.

Music

Whilst our organist and choir master has recently moved on, we are actively looking to replace them. In the past he was paid an honorarium as the director of music.

The choir in its present SATB format has been together for over 35 years, although there has been a choir here for well over a century. It currently has twelve members and is affiliated to the Royal School of Church Music.

We have a Choral Evensong at our Patronal Festival . At Christmas there is a very popular 'Carols by Candlelight' and the choir lead carols singing at the Lord Nelson before Christmas.

Music for Praise@Ten consists of modern worship songs accompanied by piano and flute and the sound system is used for music videos where appropriate.



Pop-In-Shop on Kershaw Estate

This is a major part of the church's pastoral work within the parish.

As a charity shop it seeks to make available secondhand clothes and household items at a reasonable price.

Its profits form a fund to assist members of the local community in times of need and to support local community projects.

It is led by a committee which is answerable to the PCC and run by a volunteer manager and a team of about ten volunteers.

In 2023 it raised over £12,000 for the community.



The Team

This currently comprises the Vicar, a retired self-supporting Minister, a Reader (Emeritus) and a Lay Worship Leader.

Several lay people with appropriate skills assist in leading informal worship.

A team of seven, on a rota, offer prayer after every Sunday service.

A team of six lead 'Open the Book' story telling in the schools.

The church has a verger who undertakes duties regarding weddings, funerals and interment of ashes.

There is a dedicated Safeguarding Officer.

There are a large number of people who are involved in activities such as catering, flower arranging and fund raising.

The PCC consist of twelve members which meets five times a year and a standing committee with six members.

Parish Administrator - the church does not have a parish office, but it does have a Parish Administrator, appointed by the PCC. Most administrative matters are dealt with through her; she receives a small honorarium.



The Parish

The parish is part of the Halifax and Calder Valley Deanery.

The current vicar is also Priest-in-Charge of St Thomas', Greetland. The two parishes are some distance apart and links have not been practical.

St Mary's is the only church in the Parish. The Methodist and United Reformed Churches have closed in recent years.

Of special mention is our Link Parish of St Mary's Mmazame in the Diocese of Mara, Tanzania. This link was forged in 2006 and several of our congregation have visited the parish on a regular basis. We support them through prayer and we have raised money for various church and community projects there. Ongoing is the monthly provision of breakfasts held in their church.

Schools

There is a (voluntary controlled) church primary school within the parish, two community primary schools and a community special school. The priest-in-charge and assistant priest maintain an active relationship with the schools through regular visits. All the schools attend St Mary's for Christmas services. Two of the schools come to Harvest services and Luddenden CE School holds end of term and leavers services as well. Schools are encouraged to arrange class visits to the church as part of the RE syllabus.

The 'Open the Book' team visit Luddenden CE School weekly and Midgely School fortnightly.

Community

There are no care homes in the parish.



Finances & Accounts

The financial accounts presented at the last Annual General Meeting can be found on the following pages.

St Mary's has no debts and has always paid in full the Parish Share.

We rely mainly on direct giving for our income and encourage standing orders and giving in a tax efficient manner, with our Stewardship Recorder responsible for claiming the gift aid from HMRC. We run a planned giving scheme and most of our regular congregation give through this in a tax efficient manner.

We are currently developing our digital giving.

In addition, we have a fund-raising committee which raises some £3,500 annually.

**Financial Summary year ended 31st December 2023
(General unrestricted funds)**

Income

Church giving	£35,796
Gift Aid	£9,705
Donations	£8,616
Fund raising	£7,695
Fees	£3,148
Total receipts	£64,960

Expenditure

Parish Share	£30,240
Staffing costs	£6,645
Church costs	£10,501
Utilities	£6,474
Projects	£3,336
Other	£3,170
Total payments	£60,366

Excess of income over Expenditure **£4,942**

Fund summary

The Parish of St. Mary

Luddenden with
Luddenden Foot

Represented by:

Unrestricted

General fund	£29,094	£29,094
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Designated

Disabled access	£4,710	
Children's work	£4,822	
Mission and growth	£2,505	
Churchyard maintenance	£1,055	
Church and churchyard eco	£1,589	
Repairs & contingencies	£22,671	
Equipment	£1,186	£38,538

Restricted

Charitable organisations	£4,559	
Choir fund	£551	
Church fabric	£686	
Church flowers	£1,064	
Garden of Remembrance	£860	
Mara Fund	£896	
Organ fund	(£3,257)	
Pop-in-Shop	£36,079	
Praise Party	£1,632	£43,070

Funds of the church

£110,702



Visit our website: www.luddendenchurch.org.uk



St Mary's
in Luddenden