

Vicar of Darton with Staincross and Mapplewell

Darton with Staincross and Mapplewell is a benefice with two parishes within the Wakefield Episcopal Area of the Diocese of Leeds, being part of the Deanery of Barnsley.

Both All Saints Darton and St John's Staincross play a prominent role within the local community, including in helping local people mark key events in their lives. The church buildings are significant features at the centre of the parishes. The new Vicar will be warmly welcomed.

Like many churches, attendance and finances at both All Saints and St John's struggled during the pandemic and have not fully recovered. A key priority for the new priest will be to grow the churches in discipleship, numbers and financial health.

The building at All Saints Darton is in good condition following a reordering in 2024 and St John's Staincross, while essentially in good condition, needs roof repairs. Both churches have parish halls, well used by churches and the local communities.

Churchmanship is Liberal Anglo Catholic, and worship is sacramental in focus. The new Vicar will wish to work with the PCCs and church members to consider how best to draw in local people, particularly from the several new housing developments in the parishes. There is huge scope for growing relationships, mission, discipleship and numbers.

The villages are long-established communities with many multi-generational families, and now increasingly commuter villages with a combination of rented and privately owned housing. There are four primary and one secondary schools in the parishes, and it will be important for the new Vicar to maintain and develop good relationships with these schools, as well as with local uniformed organisations and other community groups.

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 of church growth, however defined. They will ideally have experience of ministry in commuter areas and new housing developments, or be willing to actively develop such experience, and will be a motivating leader who can work with the congregations of St John's and All Saints to grow the churches, develop discipleship, increase lay leadership and draw the community into church life.

Our particular priorities for the new Vicar are:

- growing the congregations, spiritually and numerically,
- reaching out to the communities 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,
- re-establishing the financial stability of both churches,
- as well as leading the roof project at Staincross.

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 Leeds

14th October 2024