



St Thomas á Becket Church, Hampsthwaite

Felliscliffe Chapel of Ease



HFKB

Joint Benefice of

Hampsthwaite with Felliscliffe & Killinghall and Birstwith

Brochure



St Thomas the Apostle Church, Killinghall

St James' Church, Birstwith



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Foreword

We thank you for your interest in our benefice; you are most welcome and we warmly invite you to learn more about us through our brochure.

We are blessed to live and worship in beautiful Nidderdale here in North Yorkshire. Our three churches and associated Chapel of Ease join together and provide support to our rural and provincial communities. As well as offering a strong and comforting physical presence, they are places that everyone can visit or reach out to if they need help, advice, assistance or perhaps just friendship.

The populations of our two parishes are increasing and, as a benefice, we are keen to welcome all into our family. It is an exciting time of growth; we live in a special place and appreciate this and we know that we have the faith and strength to move forward together. Please join us if you can. If you need further information or have any specific questions, please let us know and we will gladly provide the answers.

With blessings,

Josephine Shepherd

Sue Baugh

Sue Macdonald & Fiona Pepper

Churchwarden (Hampsthwaite)

Churchwarden (Birstwith)

Churchwardens (Killinghall)

Section 2: Our Diocese

The Diocese of Leeds

The Diocese of Leeds was formed at Easter 2014. It is one of the largest dioceses in the country covering an area of around 2,425 square miles, and a growing population of around 2,642,400 people. The diocese comprises five Episcopal areas, each served by a suffragan (area) bishop. Each Episcopal Area is coterminous with an Archdeaconry.

The Diocesan Vision, informed by the values of 'loving, living, learning' is: 'confident Christians, growing churches, transforming communities and so helping share the Good News of Jesus Christ across our Diocese'. This Vision is embedded into the Diocesan Strategy and Goals and expressed in meaningful ways across the episcopal areas.



Our goals

- ① Thriving as a distinctive diocese whose culture is shaped by a shared vision and values
- ② Re-Imagining ministry
- ③ Nurturing lay discipleship
- ④ Building leadership pathways
- ⑤ Growing young people as Christians

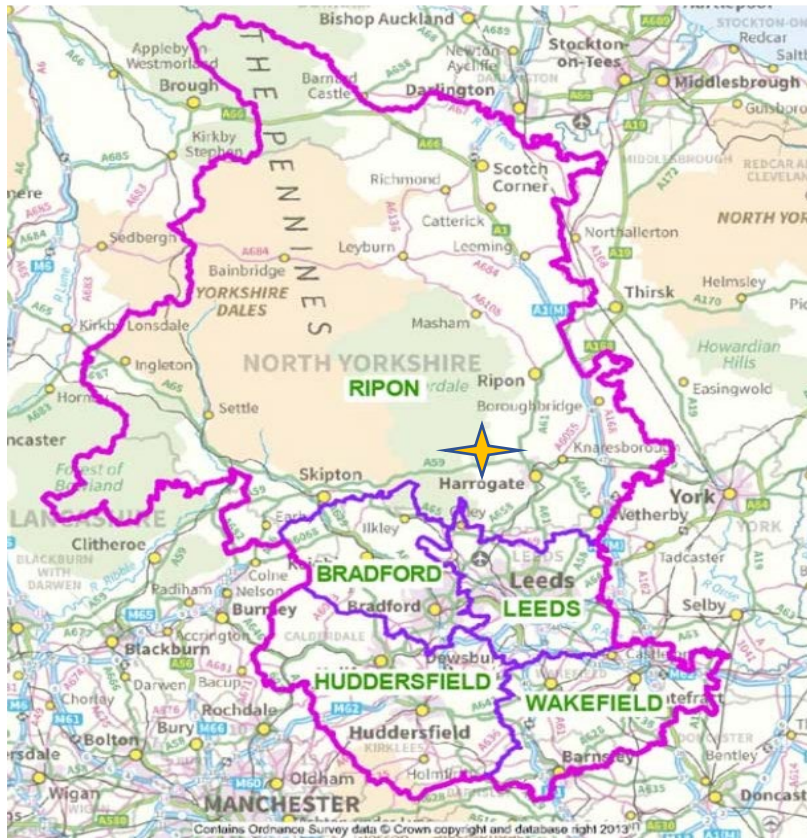
The Diocese is a blend of urban and rural in all their diversity. This includes the major cities of Bradford, Leeds and Wakefield; the large industrial and post-industrial towns of Halifax, Huddersfield and Dewsbury; the market towns of Harrogate, Skipton, Ripon (classed as a small city), Richmond and Wetherby; and the deeply rural area of the Yorkshire Dales. It covers several civic and parliamentary boundaries.

The Diocese is unique in having three cathedrals; Bradford, Ripon and Wakefield. The Deans of the Cathedrals work together and continue to look to fresh ways of sharing ideas and engaging in projects of mutual interest.

The Diocese of Leeds comprises five Episcopal Areas, each coterminous with an Archdeaconry. This is now one of the largest dioceses in the country and its creation is unprecedented in the history of the Church of England. It covers an area of around 2,425 square miles, and a population of around 2,642,400 people.

The three former dioceses were created in the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries to cater for massive population changes brought about by industrialisation and, later, mass immigration. The diocese comprises major cities (Bradford, Leeds, Wakefield), large industrial and post-industrial towns (Halifax, Huddersfield, Dewsbury), a spa town (Harrogate), market towns (Skipton, Richmond, Ripon and Wetherby), and deeply rural areas (the Dales). The whole of life is here, along with all the richness, diversity and complexities of a changing world.

The Diocesan Bishop (The Rt Rev'd Nick Baines) is assisted by five Area Bishops (Bradford, Huddersfield, Kirkstall, Wakefield and Ripon) and five Archdeacons (Bradford, Halifax, Leeds, Pontefract, Richmond & Craven). The Bishop of Ripon is the Rt Rev'd Anna Eltringham.



★ Shows Benefice location

Section 3: About the Benefice



The United Benefice of Hampsthwaite with Felliscliffe & Killinghall and Birstwith lies within the Ripon Episcopal Area of the Diocese of Leeds in a rural area close to the beautiful spa town of Harrogate in North Yorkshire. The village of Hampsthwaite sits on the border of the Nidderdale Natural Landscape, while Birstwith parish has the luxury of being within the Natural Landscape. Killinghall village, while semi-rural, is just three miles from Harrogate town centre in which there are excellent schools and hospital facilities.

The Benefice is a highly desirable area to live within and we are fortunate to have a modern vicarage which is situated in the heart of the village of Birstwith opposite the local shop and a stone's throw from the Station Inn.

The nearest large town is Harrogate with its eclectic mix of shops, bars and restaurants, art galleries and conference facilities with the stunning Valley Gardens and the Stray providing acres of open recreational space. The lovely market towns of Knaresborough and Pateley Bridge, and the small city of Ripon with its impressive cathedral, are easily accessed, as are many rural villages. The whole area around the Benefice is a haven for walkers, joggers and cyclists with miles of unspoilt pathways.

There are regular bus services from the villages in the Benefice to Harrogate and Pateley Bridge. Fountains Abbey, RHS Harlow Carr and the Dales are all easily accessible by car. There are main line railway stations at York and Leeds with connections from Harrogate, and a new, direct train service from Harrogate to London Kings Cross which runs four times a day. Leeds/Bradford International Airport is just 13 miles away from the vicarage.

Please look on A Church Near You or maps for the locations of the villages within the Benefice.

The Parishes



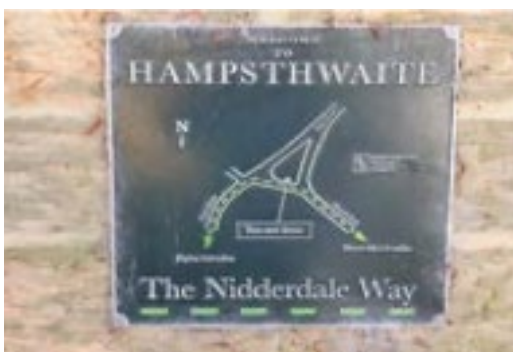
At the time of the 2021 census, the civil parish population of Hampsthwaite was 1,659, Felliscliffe was 368 and Birstwith was 793. By far the largest and most populated is Killinghall with a civil parish population of 5,997 with the area extending beyond the village of Killinghall and into the more urban Jennyfields/Skipton Road area. There has been significant housing development within Killinghall and smaller housing developments in Hampsthwaite and Birstwith resulting in an increase in population. This brings with it a great opportunity for outreach and mission with an as-yet-untapped wealth of

potential new churchgoers.

The Benefice has a population which is predominantly white British. Unemployment is low across the Benefice but the lack of affordable starter homes in Birstwith and Hampsthwaite means the population is slightly older than average with associated problems of mobility and isolation. In Killinghall, in particular, the new housing is attracting a relatively young population with many families moving into the parish who we have welcomed into the village and into our church.

So, it's fair to say that our Benefice is a place of growth and opportunity.

Hampsthwaite



The village of Hampsthwaite has the advantage of being a rural village situated in Nidderdale while still only five miles from Harrogate. It is vibrant and family friendly with a great sense of community. It has a popular C of E Primary School, a shop, a pub, a village memorial hall, café, cricket club and village rooms and some lovely countryside routes for walking or cycling.

Due to its wonderful position, Hampsthwaite has a varied population of families, working couples, retired and elderly people. The wider parish includes many farms and rural businesses, many of which are

diversifying to meet modern community needs. There are village activities for all ages from a mother & toddler group, Brownies and Guides to a snooker club, cricket team, keep fit classes, a thriving WI and more, with many events being held in the Memorial Hall.

Each year, the village holds its Hampsthwaite Show and Feast, a weekend of fun events including a scarecrow trail, which has taken place annually since 1304! The local amateur dramatics society, the Hampsthwaite Players, also produce a pantomime and play each year which are enjoyed by audiences from far and wide. The village also hosts regular film nights which are very popular.



A band on Feast Weekend



St Thomas à Becket Church has strong links with Hampsthwaite C of E Primary School. The school uses the church for special services at Easter and Harvest and also to perform their Nativity play and many parents and relatives attend these services.

Birstwith

Birstwith village is less than two miles from Hampsthwaite and six miles from the town of Harrogate.

Clustered around the centre of the village is a thriving post office and shop, a C of E primary school and the church Vicarage. Nearby, you'll find a safe and inviting children's playground, doctor's



surgery, the popular Station Hotel pub and restaurant, Belmont Grosvenor independent preparatory school and Kerry Ingredients, a local food manufacturer. Its rural location within the Nidderdale Natural Landscape means Birstwith is a popular choice for people who love the outdoors.



There are plenty of activities within the village including a tennis club, a walking group, a snooker and billiard club, a thriving WI and Birstwith in Bloom which has recently achieved a gold award, but perhaps the highlight of the calendar is the annual Birstwith Horticultural Show which is a fantastic event attracting visitors, competitors, exhibitors and traders from far and wide.

Killinghall

Killinghall village has a slightly less rural feel, being located on the fringes of suburban Harrogate, although it is still within the countryside and walking distance from the stunning village of Ripley with its castle and deer park.

The A61, which connects Leeds to Ripon and the A1 beyond, runs through the centre of the village making it much busier than the other two villages and the proliferation of new housing developments in the village means that the character of the landscape is changing every day. One of Killinghall's nicest features is the glebe, an area of communal land adjoining the churchyard which has been transformed into a children's play area, adult exercise area and relaxation spot with benches which are surrounded by daffodils and crocuses in the spring.



In the village there is the C of E Primary School, village hall, Methodist chapel, cricket ground, nursing home and several local businesses including two garages, a cook shop, garden centre and children's nursery to name a few.



Local activities include events and activities put on at the village hall such as regular quiz nights, pig races, harvest suppers and even a fashion show with the clothes modelled by members of St Thomas's congregation. The village also has a thriving WI, a popular women's singing group (Village Voices) and a successful cricket team.

Section 4: The Churches and their People



There are three churches in the Benefice as well as Felliscliffe Chapel of Ease in Kettlesing near Hampsthwaite. In Killinghall there is also a newly refurbished Methodist Chapel, which hosts a popular Resurrected Bites café.

The churches and the Chapel of Ease are managed by two PCCs: the PCC of Hampsthwaite & Killinghall and the PCC of Birstwith supported by a part-time parish administrator, churchwardens

and vergers. Each church has a team of volunteers who clean the buildings, provide beautiful flower displays, ring the bells, sing in the choir, act as intercessors, chalice assistants, sides persons or readers and provide refreshments or organise fundraising or 'fun'raising events.

The Christian mission is very similar across the parishes of the Benefice. Each church has a strong core of regular worshippers, and many others come to swell the numbers at special or festival services. There is strong support from outside the normal church community for church events, and vice versa with village events.

In October 2023, in her first visit to our Benefice, Bishop Anna welcomed into the church seven confirmation candidates from all of our 3 churches.

Church Services - Across the Benefice there is a rotating pattern of Sunday services to ensure an equitable sharing of the vicar's time between the three churches.

| Church | Week 1 | Week 2 | Week 3 | Week 4 | Week 5 |
|--------------|---------------------|-----------|---------------------|--------------------------------|---|
| HAMPSTHWAITE | 1100 - HC | - | 1100 - HC | - | 1030 - HC JOINT BENEFICE SERVICE |
| KILLINGHALL | 0930 - HC | - | 0930 - HC | - | |
| BIRSTWITH | 1830 - Evensong BCP | 1030 - HC | 1830 - Evensong BCP | 1030 - HC 1600 - 4.00church | |
| FELLISCLIFFE | - | 0900 - HC | - | - | |

HC: Holy Communion; BCP: Book of Common Prayer; 4.00 church: Benefice service for families with young children

The average attendance at Birstwith is 21 adults with 12 under 16s and at Hampsthwaite the average adult attendance is 34. Killinghall's average attendance is 20 adults. Currently, there are no regular under 16 attendees at either Hampsthwaite or Killinghall. Where Sundays fall on the fifth Sunday of a month a Joint Benefice service is held with an average attendance of 30 adults and two children.

The congregation

The numbers on the electoral roll are 50 at Killinghall, 82 at Birstwith and 74 at Hampsthwaite. The majority of our worshiping community is white and over 70 with more women than men. The number of teenagers is limited although at Birstwith there is a thriving Sunday Club for younger children whose parents stay for the service. However, we recognise the need to attract young families and younger people generally to attend church.

There is a Benefice choir with a regular group of enthusiastic junior and adult members with additional singers drawn from the villages joining for special occasions. Birstwith's church band, though small, also supports the choir and helps inspire worship.

Birstwith has a lively Sunday school run by a group of enthusiastic parents which meets once a month. During Sunday school the children come into church to receive a blessing and enjoy sharing what they've learnt with the congregation.





4.00 Church (monthly children’s service) started in January 2024. It is a Benefice service held in Birstwith Community Hall. Before our summer break there was an average attendance of 28, with approximately 18 children and 10 adults who travel from all three villages. It is a short relaxed service with singing, dancing and activities keeping our youngest congregation engaged. It’s a very lovely service and we’re proud that the Benefice can cater to its young people.

Our ambition as a Benefice is to grow numerically, particularly by welcoming more families to church. We’d also like to increase our rural outreach and outreach to elderly and infirm people as well as our charity work and our social events.

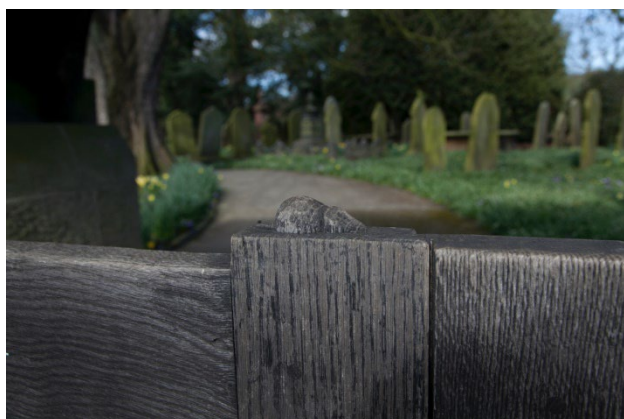
We’d like our new vicar to prioritise outreach and connecting with people within and between the villages, establishing a high-profile presence in all villages, engaging with young people, particularly teenagers, and families, visiting the sick and vulnerable and engaging with volunteers and others. We also recognise there’s more that could be done to strengthen ties between the churches in the Benefice.

The Churches and the Community

All of the churches are places where people come for weddings, baptisms and funerals.

At all of our churches, the ethos and tradition is one of openness and welcome. The three churches are open during daylight hours and welcome visitors.

Birstwith church has a set of eight bells. Hampsthwaite church has a set of six bells with a regular band of ringer who practice weekly. Both churches welcome bell ringers from other churches/bell towers to visit for ringing practice and to ring peals.



Our churches provide the venue for many church and non-church activities and the members of



the Benefice also enjoy organising and providing a wide variety of charitable, missional, fundraising and enjoyable social activities.

At Hampsthwaite, for example, donations of food and toiletries from the Sunday services are given to the Harrogate Food Bank; for Harvest, a harvest lunch is laid on for the whole village with produce distributed to the Harrogate Homeless Project; a coffee morning is held in the Community room every month. An 'open gardens' is organized by members of the congregation and has become a well-loved annual event in the village. Bacon butty breakfasts are held at Hampsthwaite for parents/carers of children starting school. The church also runs a whole village Christmas event which varies each year. Each year the church donates to the Royal British Legion after the annual Remembrance Service.



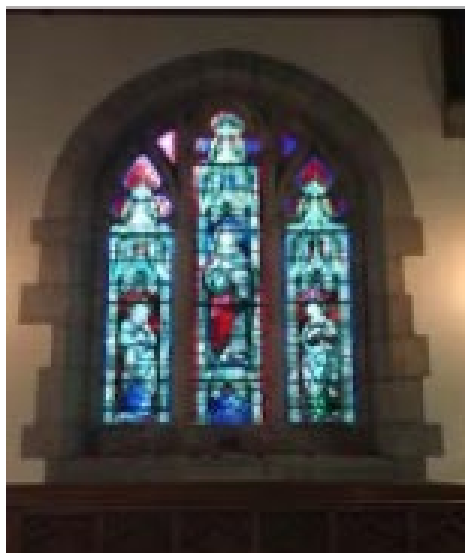
At Birstwith there is a modern Community church hall which is well used for yoga, keep-fit, WI, coffee mornings and monthly Fellowship group. The hall's facilities make it a popular venue for fundraising and social events. Charitable works include Birstwith Church supporting two children overseas through Compassion UK, giving £30 per month for each child. This year the church also made donations to CMS, Horticap, SMILE and the Royal British Legion. Collections of food and other consumables are donated from Birstwith to the Harrogate Food Bank twice a month.

At Killinghall, a monthly coffee and cake event takes place in church which is always well attended. Other events include musical evenings, suppers, quizzes & crafts to name a few. In 2022, a successful Art Exhibition was held in the church over a summer weekend.

The church also supports the Harrogate Food Bank.

All three churches have excellent links with their local primary schools. Members of the church individually also offer support within the community. The churches also have links with the Army Foundation College in Harrogate who send staff and Junior Soldiers to the churches for Remembrance Sunday.

The Church Buildings



St. Thomas à Becket, Hampsthwaite

St Thomas à Becket church was originally built in 1180 but has been rebuilt several times and is currently in an excellent state of repair. In 2019 a spectacular new-to-us stained-glass window was recycled and installed.

The churchyard comes alive in February with the emergence of a carpet of Galanthus (snowdrops) and also boasts a developing wildflower garden.

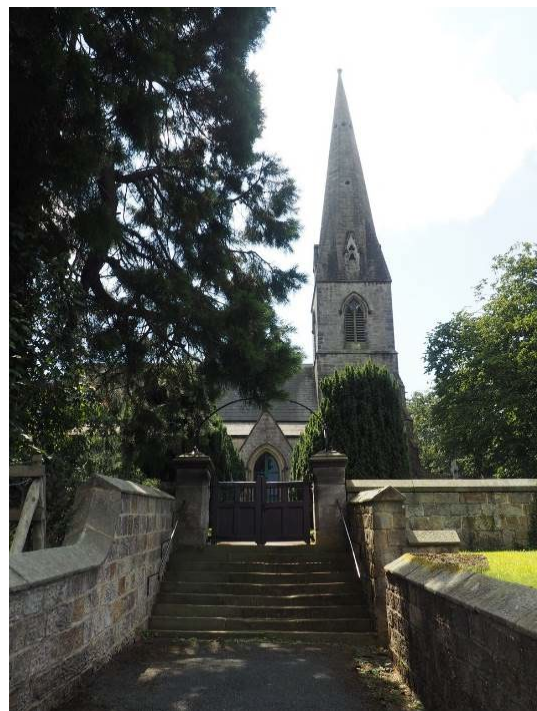
A dedicated and proactive church committee ensures that the fabric, goods and ornaments are well maintained and in good order.

Hampsthwaite's last quinquennial was 2021 and all major works have been completed. The church also has an attached community room, overlooking the river Nidd, which is a modern addition and ideal for small functions, activities and events.

Felliscliffe Chapel of Ease

Mr Joseph Hezmalhalch and Miss Mary Hezmalhalch erected 5 cottages as Almshouses during 1893 and 1894 in memory of their brothers Thomas and James both of whom died during 1891. They subsequently built the Chapel of Ease which opened around 1897. The incumbent is an ex-officio Trustee.

The church is looked after by the Hampsthwaite Church Committee and Trustees, and is in good order. It is used for monthly services.



St James' Church, Birstwith

St James' is a Victorian Grade 2 listed church, set in the Nidderdale Natural Landscape on a hillside overlooking the village green and surrounded by working farmland. It too has a dedicated fabric committee and is in an excellent state of repair.

Birstwith's last quinquennial was 2021 and all major works have been completed.

St Thomas the Apostle, Killinghall

St Thomas's is a large Victorian church in the heart of the village.

Killinghall's last quinquennial was in 2022 and all major works have been completed.

The building has plenty of potential for new mission and ministry activity especially in light of the population growth in Killinghall and the surrounds.



Section 5: The Vicarage



Total Area: 180.3 m² ... 1941 ft²
 All measurements are approximate and for display purposes only.
 No liability is accepted by either the agency or Box Property Solutions Ltd as to the exact measurements of the rooms.
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The Vicarage, Wreaks Road, Birstwith, Harrogate, HG3 2NJ

An attractive stone-built detached four-bedroomed house constructed approximately 35 years ago and offering spacious and well-appointed accommodation, with views across Nidderdale and occupying a generously sized plot.

The property is situated in the heart of the village, adjacent to the village green and close to the shops and post office, primary school and a bus stop with regular services to Harrogate and Pateley Bridge.

The Church and its Finances

The latest set of accounts for each church is attached to this brochure. There is a Benefice treasurer, a qualified accountant, who looks after the accounts for all three churches.

Details of the Church Finances can be found in the Parish Profile, pp 6 & 7.

Section 6: The Wider Context

Our new priest will be taking up his/her post at an exciting time in the life of the Ripon Episcopal Area and the Diocese of Leeds as a whole. A new diocesan strategy has been adopted (see <https://www.leeds.anglican.org/content/introducing-strategy-framework>) to implement the vision of 'Confident Christians, growing churches, transforming communities helping to share the Good News of Jesus Christ across our young Diocese', and a web-based learning platform (<https://learning.leeds.anglican.org/>) is in place to facilitate this.

The Benefice has begun to use 'Leading your Church Into Growth' (LYCIG) resources (see <https://www.leadingyourchurchintogrowth.org.uk/>) and is encouraging the use of the LYCIG prayer in church and at home, and it is said at the beginning of all meetings across the Benefice.

As we seek to grow God's Kingdom, we are committed to continue to seek meaningful ways to live the Good News within our communities, for example by working to combat loneliness and rural isolation across the Benefice, and by sharing our faith in our local primary schools.