

Holy Cross Church
Airedale with Fryston



Welcome to our parish brochure; we hope that you will see that we are a welcoming church and community with many positive characteristics and a willingness to serve. You will find a building in good repair, finances that are in balance, a community that is willing to take to heart anyone who gives them their heart and, above all, a church family that loves God and wants only for someone to help them explore and deepen that love.

Yorkshire is often described, at least by her residents, as God's own country because the county has been blessed by so much that is good. It is our opinion that Airedale with Fryston embodies all that is best in this County; open, down to earth people who will pull your leg mercilessly, tell you when they think you are wrong but will defend you and support you with every fibre of their being. Are you the one that God is calling to minister to us?

Section 1

Our Priest

We are looking for a parish priest who will guide us forwards into growth both spiritually and numerically while valuing our close ties and history within the community. We are proud Yorkshire folk (some adopted) with a down to earth approach to life and sense of humour. We would appreciate a Priest who will value us for who we are while helping us to find confidence in ourselves and empowering us to use our gifts effectively.



A heart for Estate ministry is essential. The community do still look to the church and our new incumbent will need to fit into their understanding of who they are while encouraging them to recognise their value in God's eyes.

Our services are mostly eucharistic and we value the traditional 'via media' Anglican approach to both sacrament and word; though we have tried various alternatives in the past such as 'worship services' and 'prayer walks' and are willing to explore other methods of worshipping God.

There is a great deal of scope for a minister of imagination and energy but, of course, you must look after yourself and recognise your own need to rest in God.

There is also much to build upon. We have a willing organist and keen worship group who would be delighted to receive support in their music ministry.



Our junior and infant schools have been used to regular ministerial support and there is a great deal of opportunity to extend that contact.



Of course, we are not perfect and recognise the value in change and development but would need someone who is patient enough to do so with love and sympathy for our concerns.

Obviously, there is a lot to do, so having good time management skills will be a plus in our new Vicar.

1a. Finances

Through the hard work and commitment of the church family the parish share has been paid in full for many years and we currently owe nothing to the Diocese. Funding comes partly from occasional offices, regular giving and reclaiming tax but it also relies on church fairs and various donations from within the congregation such as 'Frank's Plants' (Frank's plants are far better quality than found in garden centres and much cheaper)

Although our previous incumbent did not claim expenses (her choice) the PCC is of course willing to pay any reasonable clergy expenses.





1b. Problems!

Surely not! Before Covid we were holding our own against falling numbers and had a great deal of extra-curricular events supported by the congregation. As many places, not just churches, have found picking up the pieces has been challenging. Our Welcome team has not yet been re-started and our children's ministry while still functioning is less than it used to be.

The disconnect between secular society and the church is as true here as anywhere else and the old connection that previous generations had is fading. Falling numbers does mean that it has been harder and harder to reach our financial goals at the end of the year and, though not yet a problem, it is something that a new incumbent will need to bear in mind.

Section 3

Our Parish

Airedale, Fryston and Townville is a large estate with a broad spectrum of housing and residents. It retains a strong connection to its mining origins and is proud of its independence from Castleford.

There have been several new housing developments in recent years which has led to an influx of professional households with less connection to the community.

In addition there are pockets of the parish that are very high on the poverty index and many families that rely on benefits of many types. It is no surprise that our local food bank and baby bank are regularly in need of support and supplies. Such poverty does lead to the sad misuse of substances and other social problems often found on many large estates.

However, this parish is, we believe, a wonderful place to serve and live. There is, as already stated, a great deal of scope for your ministry and many positives in the area.



Aside from the strong sense of community and good relationships within that community from the local library to the local cafes; we are blessed with some wonderful countryside just a short car journey (or medium walk) from our doorstep.

Fairburn Bird Sanctuary, is literally at the bottom of the hill and in the opposite direction you will find everything you need from restaurants, shops, cinema and other entertainment at the Junction 32 complex.



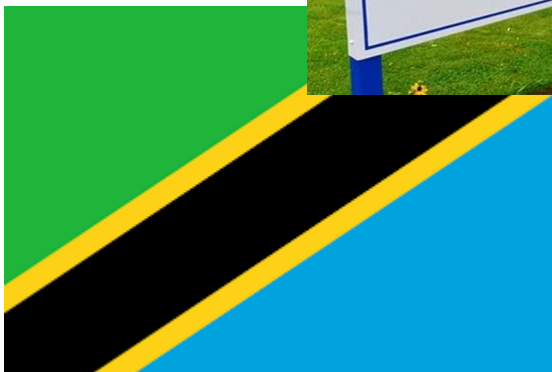
Want or need to go further afield we have an excellent train service to both Leeds and York as well as easy access to the M62 – M1 and A1.

Section 4

Our Church

Within the church body itself you will find a strong and cooperative PCC and a loving and supportive church family. We are serious about trying to live out our faith not just paying lip service to the Word of God but trying to be Christians in every aspect of our lives.

We reach out to the community in many ways; socially – through fairs, film nights, celebration events; spiritually – Walk of witness, Carols in the Square, Pumpkins on parade and practically – Supporting the food bank, being environmentally responsible (to this end we currently hold the Bronze Eco Church award and are working towards a silver).



Nor is our approach only to the local community we have a strong link with the parish of Kawangwa in Tanzania, and an ongoing link with the Prince of Wales hospice in Pontefract.

As a sacramental church we are blessed to call on the services of three lay visitors, two of whom are Lay Pastoral Ministers; as well as a willing team of baptism visitors, to assist in the care of those who are in need of additional assistance. They are looking for someone who will encourage their ministry and work in partnership with our assistant priest Angela Brownridge.

On a purely physical level our church building is a wonderful worship space. It is beautiful and practical with both an organ and piano, which are used every week. The building and grounds are well maintained and there are no major repair issues. We have a good sound system, including a loop, along side digital projectors and screens.







Adjacent to the church is a small, secure, garden of remembrance. There is a churchyard but that is closed and currently in the care of the local authority.



The PCC is in the midst of final plans for some building work in the church; this includes a new accessible toilet, a small narthex, kitchenette and solar panels to power additional heating. There is funding in place to meet a good deal of this and it is hoped that, with Diocesan assistance, we will be able to access funding for the rest of the work.

The vicarage, of course, meets with all the requirements listed and there is a private garden to the rear which is a quiet haven or children's playground, depending on your needs. It is also adjacent to the church and the commute is an arduous walk across the garden!



From this brochure and profile, you will see that we seek to do many things to grow God's kingdom here in Airedale with Fryston. We are looking to you to help us grow spiritually and numerically, reaching out in mission to evangelize local families and new residents. We need you to build our team by encouraging and empowering lay leaders, especially with our youth ministry. If this isn't enough then there is also the oversight of the final phases of our building project. That should be enough for the first couple of months at least!

To Summarize

To quote the apostle Philip when speaking to Nathaniel – ‘Come and see’. We will make sure that the door is open, the fire lit, the kettle on and the biscuits will be on the plate and, once you arrive, it may just be that God will let you know that this is where he wants you to stay.

With love – from the people of Airedale with Fryston.