



**Christ Church,
Mount Pellon**



**St John and St Hilda,
Warley**



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Christ Church



Mount Pellon

1. Introduction...

Welcome to the Parishes of Christ Church, Mount Pellon, and St John and St Hilda, Warley!

We invite you to join us as we explore, through this brochure, who we are, our communities and church families and where we feel God is calling us.

As you will see, our churches both have a strong culture of love, care and compassion; we have many overlapping characteristics from our traditions and churchmanship to our emphasis on fellowship and lay leadership. However, our journeys have been on different paths until now - this is a new venture as we seek a path together for the first time in collaboration with a shared Priest-in-Charge. As you read through this, we welcome you to prayerfully consider whether you feel called to join us in what will no doubt be an exciting, challenging and Christ-centred journey!

"Through Faith, Hope and Love, to know Christ better and make Christ better known"



"To share God's love and the good news of Jesus, by word and action, with all who come through the doors, in the community and beyond"



2. Our Communities...

Halifax is an historic Victorian town in West Yorkshire, in the Diocese of Leeds. Central to the industrial revolution with its then thriving textile industry, it has evolved over the years into a friendly and welcoming corner of Yorkshire, packed with culture and heritage, home to iconic and world-famous sites, and truly offering something for everyone!

At the heart of the town sits the magnificent Grade I listed Georgian cloth hall, Piece Hall, with its atmospheric cafes and bars, local independent shops and creative spaces, which transforms in the summer into a concert venue hosting some of the biggest names in the industry.

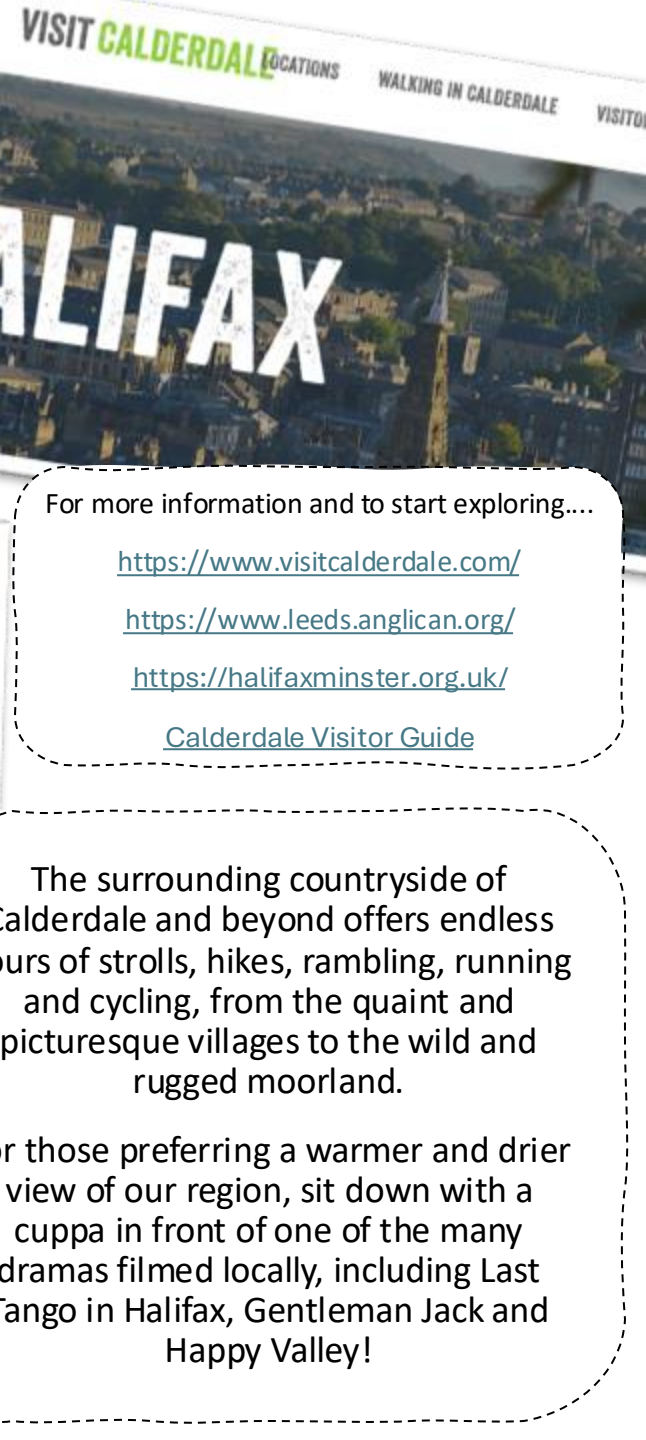
In its shadow lies the beautiful 900yr old Halifax Minster, locally known as The Parish Church and the birthplace of many of the churches across the town.



THE PIECE HALL



HALIFAX



For more information and to start exploring...

<https://www.visitcalderdale.com/>

<https://www.leeds.anglican.org/>

<https://halifaxminster.org.uk/>

[Calderdale Visitor Guide](#)

The surrounding countryside of Calderdale and beyond offers endless hours of strolls, hikes, rambling, running and cycling, from the quaint and picturesque villages to the wild and rugged moorland.

For those preferring a warmer and drier view of our region, sit down with a cuppa in front of one of the many dramas filmed locally, including Last Tango in Halifax, Gentleman Jack and Happy Valley!

Our parishes together cover much of the West of urban Halifax, transitioning out to stunning countryside with spectacular views across the moors.

Both have population sizes of just over 10,000 people, with very multicultural and diverse demographics, including large Asian and Muslim communities. Several schools lie within each Parish with whom both Churches have aimed to nurture relationships. Local amenities include supermarkets, post offices, small businesses and places to eat. Regular and reliable bus services connect the Parishes with central Halifax from where there are direct connections to Leeds, Manchester and London.

St John and St Hilda, Warley

The Parish Church building of Warley St John the Evangelist and St Hilda was consecrated in 1878. The Parish consists of mainly private/residential housing, with a small amount of Housing Association and Sheltered Housing property.

Since St Hilda's church building closed in 2023, the building has been taken fully over for the provision of a Preschool and to provide community rooms but not for religious purposes. The whole of the former St Hilda's parish has transferred to form part of the new St John's and St Hilda parish.

Christ Church, Mount Pellon

We lie to the North West of Halifax, stretching far out over 7.5km, deep into the Calderdale countryside, up to Mount Tabor, Wainstalls and beyond.

Christ Church has been at the heart of the community since 1854 when it served the neighbourhood built up around Webster's Brewery whose founder, Samuel Webster resides in our graveyard.

Despite the beauty within the Parish, there are high levels of unemployment, deprivation and need for free school meals.



3. Our Church Families...

St John and St Hilda, Warley

Our Church Families come from all areas of the parish and outside as well.

Children : Come through Uniformed Organisation groups. Preschool, Mums & Toddlers, Messy Church and Schools Work.

Others: From a wide section of the many communities we seek to serve and come through Parents, Grandparents, Older family members and Single parents/persons attending the church or associated groups.

Our church family has been extended and strengthened through our collaborative working alongside Preschool, Uniformed groups, Mothers Union, Warley Community Association and The Chatty Cafe. This has resulted in a blended church which learns and lives and grows together.

An example of total family involvement arises annually at the local Sowerby Bridge Rushbearing Festival, when Warley is the first Church to Bless the Rushcart and hold an outreach service before the cart moves up the Calder Valley.

Mon: Mums and toddlers, home groups
Tues: Chatty cafe
Thurs: Mums and toddlers, Singers Together
Fri: Unfiromed groups
Sun: Morning services, Messy Church
Ad hoc/occasional: Open the Book, Social events



This is a new undertaking for both our Parishes – although we share boundaries and have worked together on projects in the past, we have never formally been connected. However, as we've got to know each other in recent months, we're discovering several similar qualities and characteristics.

For both, a desire to empower our Church Families and involve them in direction and decision making is essential. Fellowship, pastoral care and teaching also underpin our ethos, with similar evangelical styles and character



Some more details:

Leadership: Using the many gifts and skills of the leadership team, other members of the PCC and other church members we seek to work collaboratively in supporting the whole body of the church.

Building: We are blessed with a reordered church building (consecrated in 1878) providing an adaptable space for both worship and other activities. In addition at the side of the church is a church hall and meeting rooms (built in 1856) which are in regular daily use. Both buildings have had new boilers installed this year to improve our carbon foot print.

Style: We see ourselves as having a strong Evangelical tradition which encompasses both contemporary and traditional worship.

"Christ Church: where the door is always open and the kettle is always on"

Christ Church: who are we?!

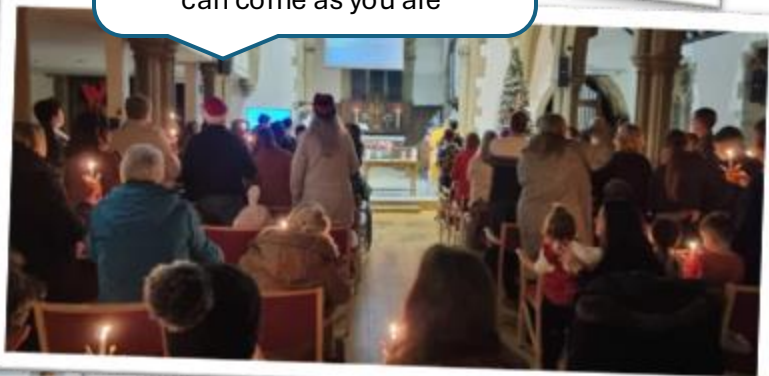
We are a friendly, welcoming and passionate Church, led by the Spirit, and with a heart for Christ and all His people.

We are active in our community with activities throughout the week, caring for and nurturing people from all areas of society, and regularly throw open our doors for Community and Heritage Open days and events

We are inspired and blessed by some of our family who are residents of Alpha House, a centre for men with multiple complex needs including mental health and addiction, who remind us weekly of the power of love and grace.

We are home to the Deaf Church who come from across the Diocese to share with us in worship and fellowship through BSL-interpreted services and our exciting new venture of Deaf-led services – a Sunday morning every month led in BSL and interpreted into English which is engaging, reflective and powerful!

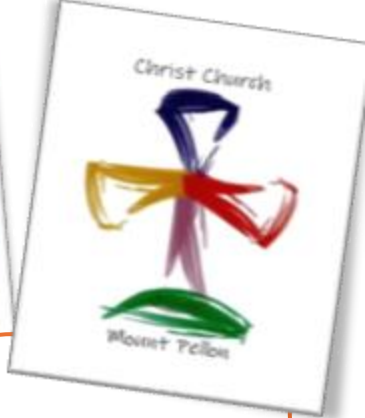
"A friendly, helpful fellowship, preaching the Gospel, you don't have to dress up – you can come as you are"



"Alive!"



"People that care when you are faced with difficult situations"



Some more details:

Leadership: we believe strongly in team-work, recognising the skills and gifts that we each bring to the whole body, with established teams incorporating PCC and Church members for our core running.

Building: our church building creates a versatile space to serve our community but, at 170yrs old, requires some work to keep it going with major building works in progress and more needed in the immediate future, to be guided by the forthcoming Quinquennial.

Style: we are evangelical in character with a structure that is flexible and an enthusiasm for trying new things. Our Testimony Slot each Sunday morning brings a sense of anticipation to hear the incredible things God has been doing in our lives and through the week!

- Mon:** Prayer, Home Group, Knit and Natter, Rainbows, Brownies, Guides, Rangers
- Weds:** Coffee Morning, mid-week Communion, LunchBox
- Thurs:** Music group, Listening to God
- Fri:** Chatterbox Toddler group
- Sat:** Graveyard Gardening and soup lunch
- Sun:** Family and Deaf-led Worship, Communion
- Ad hoc:** Social evenings, Concerts, School Visits, Heritage and Community Open Days



"a sense of family and community"



4. Mission and Vision...

Both Parishes are committed to sharing the gospel and serving our communities, and already have established links with schools whom we support initiatives through CICS (Christians in Calderdale Schools) and Open the Book, as well as care homes and toddler groups. We also have regular coffee mornings and lunch groups aimed at older members of our communities, and support the work of Diocesan link Parishes in Mara, Tanzania.



“Through Faith, Hope and Love, to know Christ better and make Christ better known”



St John and St Hilda, Warley

Our mission and outreach work takes place with Children and families through Messy Church, links with Uniformed Organisation groups, links with the five day a week Preschool and through the team who take Open the book in to schools.

There are also outreach services held with three residential/nursing homes each month.

Home groups are held weekly in three locations.

Going forward we would hope to strengthen and extend common links within the parish communities and church.

Currently we are looking to find a leader of the ‘Singers Together’ group with appropriate skills for music/singing in church and on other occasions.



Our Mission plan:
To further develop the existing work taking place with Children & Young People and integrate the church more fully within the life of the community.

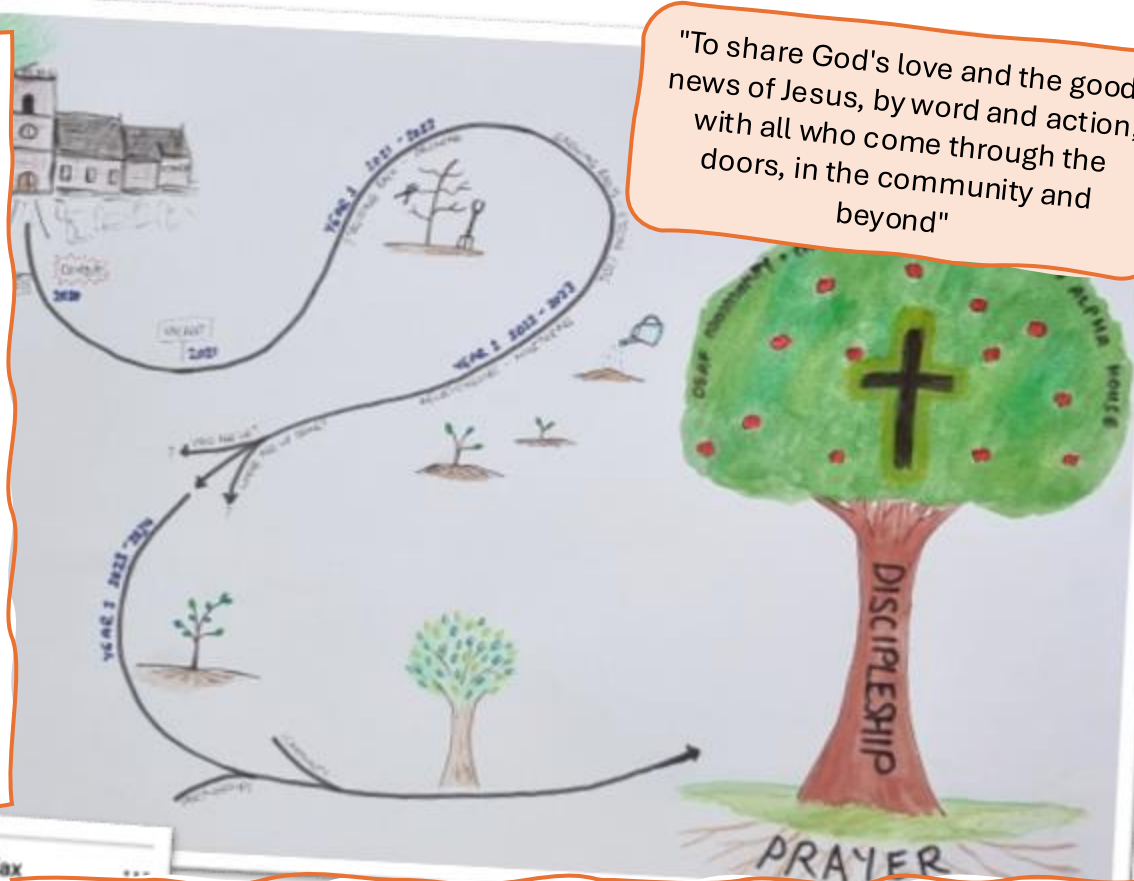


Christ Church, Mount Pellon

Being in vacancy for more than three years has given us much time to reflect on who we are and where we feel God is calling us. It has been a challenging yet blessed time, one that has been essential for us to strip back, prune, and then grow and nurture new shoots as we look forward to the exciting, fruitful future that God promises us!

We have used this time to better understand ourselves and our community through the Knowing Your Church, Knowing Your Neighbourhood series and our Heritage project which have led us to re-connect with our community through open days, children's work and our fantastic community Graveyard project where, both literally and metaphorically, weeds are beaten back and seeds planted!

"To share God's love and the good news of Jesus, by word and action, with all who come through the doors, in the community and beyond"



Our Mission Plan:

Step 1: Identify our needs

- To be rooted in prayer with a strong core through discipleship
- Setting steady branches: reaching into our community focusing on Alpha House, the Deaf Community, and Children and Young People

Step 2: get to work!

- Grow our Bible groups and discipleship, and fill our church with prayer
 - Christ-centred children's work – activity days and schools work
 - Alpha House: Bible study, prayer/support buddies, explore gifts
- Deaf Community: grow our BSL and Deaf-led provision, conversational BSL courses, signing cafes

Step 3: reflect, refocus and go again!

Please follow these links to [explore our journey](#) over the last 3 years and read our full [Mission Plan](#)

Christ Church Pellon Halifax
21 Jul · 🌐

Today at our 10:30am service we had an amazing Graham Kershaw Preach Deaf Lead service.

#churchofengland
#DeafMinistry
DEAF CHRISTIAN EVANGELISTIC ASSOCIATION



In order to move forward, we need to recognise our strengths and weakness, to focus our skills on where they are most needed. We're reflecting on these and sharing them with you so you have an honest and open idea of what to expect and how you could walk alongside us on this next phase of our journeys...

STRENGTHS...

CHRIST CHURCH:

- Passionate, loving, committed
- Welcoming and friendly
 - Everyone is valued
- Strong team-working and communication
- Prepared to look honestly at ourselves
- A willingness to reflect, change, challenge ourselves and try new things
 - Baking!

WEAKNESSES

Things to IMPROVE...

CHRIST CHURCH:

- Discipleship: develop our home groups and prayer life
- Establish Christ-centred youth and children's work
 - Our building: we need sustainability, warmth and to fix the roof!
- Recognition that we are physically tired after a long vacancy and need to nurture ourselves to be able to nurture others

In order to move forward, we need to recognise our strengths and weakness, to focus our skills on where they are most needed. We're reflecting on these and sharing them with you so you have an honest and open idea of what to expect and how you could walk alongside us on this next phase of our journeys...

STRENGTHS...

St JOHN and St HILDA:

- Realistic and grounded approach to ministry, mission and outreach
- We endeavour to reach all ages through, service, community & pastoral care
- We are an inclusive church where everyone is welcome
- We encourage everyone who wants to serve our Lord

WEAKNESSES

Things to IMPROVE...

St JOHN and St HILDA:

- Continue to extend and develop our work with young people
- Strengthen and grow our home groups
- Improve and strengthen our music groups
- Continue and develop our support overseas, particularly Mara
- Support and encourage each other in all our ministries



5. Who are we looking for?

Someone who...

- Walks closely with God; whose spiritual life and relationship with Christ is first and foremost
- Has a heart for mission and growth, who is willing to get stuck in and work collaboratively with us towards the vision
 - Is a team worker, enabler, encourager
- Is able to recognise the skills and gifts we each have, as well as our weaknesses and gaps, and who will walk alongside us as we nurture, direct, and encourage each other
 - Is willing to challenge us and prepared to have the difficult conversations with us, as well as the easy
 - Recognises and values lay leadership
- Has experience of leadership to be able to guide us through this new relationship and the challenges that may bring

Specific to Christ Church:

- Values every person, from all backgrounds and walks of life, including ex-offenders and those fighting addiction
- Willing to learn to see things through different perspectives, including Deaf, and join us in learning BSL

Specific to St John and St Hilda:

- Willing to engage with our local Muslim community and their leaders



What can you expect?

- A challenge! This is a new relationship, both between ourselves and with you. It will have its ups and downs but, in prayer and commitment, we hope will be rewarding and fruitful
- Two Churches sharing many characteristics but in very different places on their journeys and with differing challenges and expectations – one newly restructured within its Benefice; the other having had a long, hard vacancy filled with hurdles, but also reflection, blessing and vision
 - Love, encouragement, compassion
 - Fellowship, support, listening
- Honesty and openness; commitment and dedication
- Beautiful walks and homemade cake!

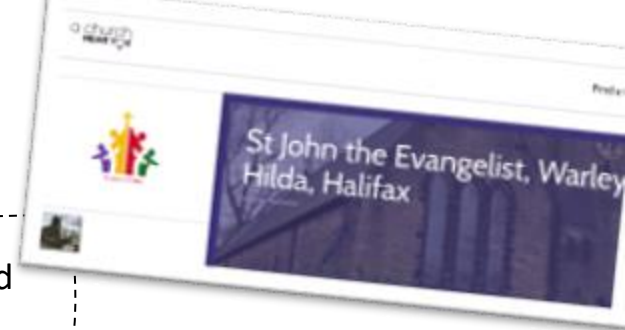


6. Further details...



For more information, please follow the links below, and contact The Ven Bill Braviner, Archdeacon of Halifax

archdeacon.halifax@leeds.anglican.org



CCMP:



<https://www.facebook.com/christchurchpellon/>



[A Church Near You - Christ Church](#)
[Christ Church – Who are we?!](#)



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StJStH:



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<http://stjohnschurchwarley/wixsite.com>

