

***CHRIST CHURCH WOODHOUSE  
PARISH BROCHURE 2024***

***CHRIST CHURCH, WOODHOUSE***



***THE VICARAGE***



## **ACCOMMODATION:**

The vicarage is in a pleasant area and is quite close to Christ Church, approximately one third of a mile. It is purpose built to the highest standards and was constructed approximately seventeen years ago. The accommodation includes a large study where PCC meetings have been held on a regular basis. It also has attractive gardens which have been used for parish events.

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## ***WELCOME***

The PCCs and congregations welcome you to the Parish Brochure of the United Benefice of St John the Evangelist, Birkby and Christ Church, Woodhouse. We are pleased you would like to know more about us and hope the information we have given about our Benefice will inspire you to join us. We thought, as we are two different churches, it would be useful to provide a brief insight into each one and we hope you will come and see our churches for yourself.

## **INTRODUCTION TO THE CHURCH AND PARISH OF CHRIST CHURCH WOODHOUSE**

Christ Church is located on the border of Fartown and Sheepridge in the parish of Woodhouse, in the Metropolitan District of Kirklees. The area is well served by motorways, the M1 and M62, and access is easy to the major cities of Bradford, Leeds, Manchester

The parish of Woodhouse lies approximately one mile to the north of the town of Huddersfield and is situate between the main roads to Bradford (A641) and Leeds (A62). Although previously mainly industrial, much of the wealth is now generated in the town from the University. The parish is in an urban priority area with an ethnic mix which, in the last few years, has included asylum seekers and east European immigrants. There are also a large number of single parent families.

There are four council estates within the parish ie Fartown, Sheepridge, Deighton and Brackenhall and a number of private developments. In addition, there is one nursing home - Astley Grange, two residential care homes for the elderly – Sun Woodhouse and Abbey Place and a residential care home for adults with learning difficulties – Oxley Woodhouse. The church lies in a dominant position nestling in a wooded area at the top of Woodhouse Hill. The lower churchyard was levelled and grassed over many years ago and is maintained

by Kirklees Council. The upper churchyard is now closed to new burials and also maintained by Kirklees Council.

We understand that Christ Church Woodhouse parish is described as being in a most deprived area.

At the present time we have no churchwardens, although we have very willing church assistants. We do not have an official secretary but one of the assistants has taken on the role. Joe Breckin is our appointed Treasurer who keeps us on the straight and narrow and whilst we have not been able to pay the parish share in full for some time, Joe has maintained a monthly contribution by direct debit.

The multi agency Chestnut Centre stands on a site adjacent to the church and has become a much needed asset in the parish. It is also used on a weekly basis by the Aspire group (Creating Communities) for anyone over 55) and is supported by the church. It provides social activities for older/isolated members of the community. This has proved to be a good link which we could expand upon. We hope that the presence of Aspire at the Centre will encourage relations between the parish and the church. The new incumbent may find ways to develop further links.



MEMBERS OF THE ASPIRE GROUP





### **THE FORGET ME NOT CHILDREN'S HOSPICE**

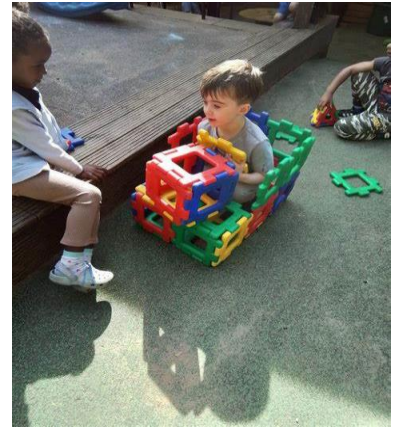
The children's hospice, Forget Me Not Trust, was built in 2012 and is situated on the edge of the parish towards Bradford Road we have been supporting it through church giving from its inception which we hope to continue in the future.



### **NURSERY RHYMES - Woodhouse Hill**

Nursery Rhymes is a full day care and out of school care for 70 children under 11 and offers enhanced curriculum with forest school sessions taking place in the natural garden area. There is a beautiful willow den and fabulous mud kitchen where the children enjoy taking care of the environment.

Since covid, during December some of the children have visited the church to see the crib scene and to hear the story of Jesus' birth in the stable.



## OUR CHURCH





There is a kitchen facility at the back of the church and although the facilities are limited the congregation is able to enjoy coffee/tea and biscuits after the service. Lunches and social events are also enjoyed in church on occasions, although on a small scale.

The small meeting room was once the choir vestry but has since been refurbished. The church and facilities are hired out to the Eritrean community on Sunday afternoons from 2-5pm for services and prayer meetings. We are hopeful that the next phase of the restoration programme will allow for some re-ordering of the interior to make it user friendly for the community.

### **EASTER 2023**



### **SERVICES**

Eucharist with music at 10.45 am. Choice of hymns from Complete Anglican Hymns Old and New. The Common Worship Communion Service is used. Our style of service is traditional ‘middle of the road’.

Family Service every third Sunday which, through connections with the church school and local interest, we hope to expand upon.

Special services are held on Mothering Sunday and Remembrance Sunday.

The church is fortunate enough to have a team of lay people who administer the chalice and read the lessons. We also have a team of Greeters.

The PCC has signed a statement supporting the ethos of an inclusive church.

We work closely with Christ Church Academy, our church school, in two ways.

Firstly community afternoons are held in the school once a term and church members, parents/carers are invited to socialise over refreshments before joining the children for worship and secondly the children come into church during the week at the end of each term to lead their special services. We would very much like this to continue and grow.

## **OUR CHURCH SCHOOL:**

### **contribution by Margaret Farrell, Head of School.**

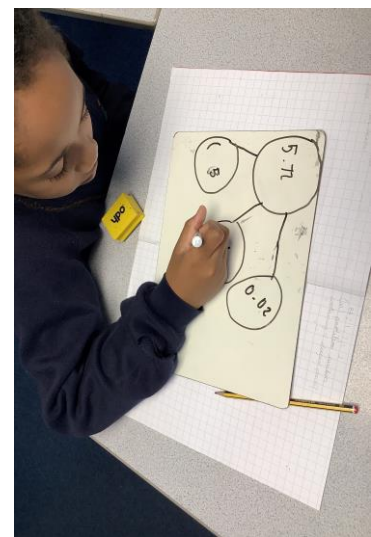
At the present time there are 223 pupils on roll at Christ Church CE Academy.

This is a school in challenging circumstances and sits in the highest percentile for deprivation, free school meals, minority ethnic groups, pupils with English as an additional language and special educational needs. Our pupil population reflects the cultural and radical diversity of this community.

Our pupils have very limited life experiences; incidents of gang related crime, domestic violence, drug and alcohol abuse, involvement with social care services and criminal convictions amongst our families are high.

Despite the challenges faced by some of our young people, Christ Church CE Academy continues to be a very special and happy place to be; a safe haven within which our children thrive. Our pupils are well behaved, courteous and considerate. Senior leaders and governors demand a high level of commitment from those working with our children in nurturing their emotional, social and personal development.

The school enjoys the support of Christ Church Woodhouse in its mission to serve the community within the context of Christian care. Previously, the Head Teacher worked closely with our vicar and our Church community to strengthen the links between the school and Church. School would like to continue to work with the newly appointed vicar and Church community in the future. The school and Church community come together in prayer and song six times a year through Christ Church Community Afternoons. The school also celebrate Christmas and Easter in Church, we also have a Christian Values celebration at the end of the school year.







### **Pupil Voices - (year 6)**

*I enjoy going to Church. We sing happy songs and listen to stories about Jesus.*

*I love going to Church because I worship and celebrate everything Jesus has done for us.*

*I like going to Church, we try to behave in the way Church tells us.*



## REMEMBRANCE SERVICE



## FUNDRAISING EVENT







## **POTENTIAL FOR DEVELOPMENT:**

1. An ongoing effort to build up the congregation. We welcome everyone.
2. Organise social events which will combine fundraising with fellowship. Seek closer links with schools in the parish. We need to encourage more young people and families, to make our multi-racial congregation grow and especially to reach out to the many deprived families in the area to whom we could give some sense of hope and commitment.
3. We would hope to encourage more members of our congregation to take on specific roles, but we must bear in mind that the congregation is at the moment mainly elderly. We are in much need of reinforcements!!
4. We make full use of the limitations of our church and hope this will develop in the future.
5. If we can build up the congregation we would be delighted if we could once again have a choir!
6. The first phase of the restoration programme was completed in 2018 and the second phase, which is on hold, is about the structural restoration of the east end of the church and some internal re-ordering to make it user friendly for community use.
7. In the past we have a very good relationship with Oxley Woodhouse (care home for adults with learning difficulties) and traditionally hosted an annual Carol Service for the residents of this and approximately sixteen other outlying Care Homes. Again, in the past we had strong links with Sun Woodhouse (care home for the elderly), formerly visiting on a regular basis for a short service. All this was curtailed due to the outbreak of covid. Steps have been taken to re-establish our connections. We would like to develop similar links with other care homes in the area.

## **OUR NEW PRIEST ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST AND CHRIST CHURCH**

Having sought the opinion of our congregation on the qualities and skills we would like to see in our new priest, the following proved to be significant:

“I think our new priest needs to be young, perhaps with children of her/his own to bring youth and vibrancy into the church. They need to have great ideas for encouraging younger people and families to church with different services such as family services and perhaps services at different times.”

“I would like to see a younger priest, someone to change his/her program and give the church more energy. As for children a little Bible Class in the vestry where they could learn about the bible, told in nice little stories so they understand. (An impossibility I know but we can but try)”.

To help our congregations to grow in numbers, in faith and in our spiritual life.

To engage with the local schools and to seek opportunities for working with children and families.

To be a visible presence in the local communities of Birkby and Woodhouse.

To envision us as we seek to further repair and re-order our church buildings for increased community use.

It is essential that he/she should be IT literate.

He/she should be a person who is outgoing with a positive attitude and a strong personal faith, committed to helping us to grow a new generation in our churches.

***Letter of Paul to the Philippians Chapter 4 V6***

***Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.***

Christ Church was built by John Whitacre, at his own expense, for the people of Deighton, Fartown and Bradley and opened in 1824.

Two monuments nearby in the church grounds are of particular interest. One of these commemorates Richard Oastler, a social reformer and friend of John Whitacre and the Reverend Madden. The other, to the right of the entrance door, is a stone cross dedicated to the men who fell in the First World War. The names of 95 men from this small area who lost their lives in the Great War are recorded on a brass plaque inside the church beneath a stained glass window depicting Christ appearing on the battlefield to comfort the wounded and carry away the dead.

*Taken from local history notes*

## CURRENT PCC

