

Parish Profile

This form is designed to give an overview of a parish to be used in a vacancy for the appointment of a new parish priest. It will be accepted as the "statement describing the conditions, needs and traditions of the parish" required by the Patronage (Benefices) Measure 1986. Additional information may be given by way of printed documents or written submissions.

Please write in black ink: **Benefice information in italics**

I. Parish Information

1(a)	Name of parish(es) to which this information relates:	Aysgarth
(b)	Name(s) of parish church(es):	St Andrew's Church
2.	Name(s) of other C of E church(es)/centres for public worship in the parish:	Thornton Rust Mission Room
3.	Cluster or group of parishes within which you work (formally or) informally:	Penhill Benefice
4.	Deanery:	Wensley
5.	Population: <i>The 2011 census information gives the following figures. Please indicate how this might have changed since then.</i>	1045 Only marginal changes since 2011 census

6(a)	Number on Electoral Roll:	59
(b)	Date of APM when this number was declared:	24 th March 2019

7. Attendance at worship in each church

Please provide details of average attendance at Sunday and weekday services

Church/Service	Time	No. of communicants	Adult attendance	Under 16
1 st & 3rd Sunday HC	11am	26	28	0
4 th Sunday MP	11am	0	23	0
Thornton Rust 4 th Sunday EP	3pm winter	0	8	0
Thornton Rust 4 th Sunday EP	6pm winter	0	8	0

8. Occasional offices

Number for last 12 months in each church

Church	Baptisms	Confirmees	Weddings	Funerals in church	Funerals taken by clergy not in church
St Andrew's	2	0	4	12	

9. Communications

Names, Addresses & Telephone Numbers for each church

Church	Clergy	Readers	Lay staff eg Youth worker, Administrator	Churchwardens
St Andrew's Church, Church Bank, Aysgarth, Leyburn, North Yorkshire DL8 3SR	Revd Penny Yeadon - Associate Vicar: Dale Cottage, Aysgarth, Leyburn, North Yorkshire, DL8 3AB	Ian Ferguson, The Priory, Worton, Leyburn, North Yorkshire, DL8 3ET 01969 650685	Christine Gard - Benefice Administrator Penhill Benefice Office, The Coach House, Swinithwaite, Leyburn, North Yorkshire DL8 4UH	Juliet Barker - juliet@julietbarker.co.uk Margaret Ferguson - 01969 650685 [Thornton Rust Mission Room contact - Jackie Cook 01969 663626]

	01969 663505		01969 663097	
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II. Parish/Community Information

1(a)	Briefly describe the population mix of the(se) parish(es) in terms of its employment, cultural, ethnic, age and housing mix.	<i>Please see Benefice Brochure Section 3 Who we are and Employment</i>
(b)	Are there any special social problems (eg high employment)?	<i>Please see Benefice Brochure Section 3 Our Benefice</i>
2.	<p>Please list for each</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local Schools: • Youth centres: • Hospitals: • Nursing/elderly persons' homes: • Places of worship of other faiths • Local Businesses: • Neighbourhood initiatives: • Associations eg tourist group: • Describe any civic responsibilities which the clergy have: 	<p><i>Please see Benefice Brochure Section 3 Our Benefice</i></p> <p>Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority, pubs, hotels, B&Bs, cafes, 1 butcher, 1 petrol station, 2 village stores, 1 Post Office, miscellaneous small service businesses</p> <p>Community First Responders miscellaneous social activities focused on local village halls</p> <p>No formal links but informal and individual involvement in the very large number of musical, art, social and sporting groups throughout the parish, benefice and wider Dales community</p> <p>none</p>

III. Church Information

Please give details for each church

1(a)	What percentage of the congregation lives outside the parish?	5%
(b)	Describe the mix of the congregation in terms of age, employment, cultural, ethnicity, age and gender.	aged 0-17 0 18-69 15 70+ 20 Mostly retired, mainly retired professionals White Gender two-thirds female, one third male Much larger congregations for major church services.
2(a)	How would you describe the churchmanship tradition of each church and give details of robes and vestments worn by officiants?	<i>Please see Benefice Brochure Section 4 Our Churches</i>
(b)	What is the regular average weekly giving of those 16 years & over and what proportion of the giving is gift aided?	2018: £266 - 92% gift aided
(c)	When did you last have a stewardship campaign?	2012
3.	How does each Church supplement its direct giving in order to meet its financial needs?	Hiring out the church for concerts & providing refreshments; organising bi-annual flower festivals; requesting donations annually from parishioners on the Parish Gift Day, monthly from coffee mornings and daily from visitors; other minor fund-raising events; investment income from legacies; annual financial contribution of £1665 from our Parish Patron Trinity College Cambridge which is put towards our share of paying the salary of the Benefice Administrator.
4(a)	What amount of working expenses were paid to the clergy in the last financial year?	<i>Benefice: April 2017-March 2018 the vicar claimed £1308.45 for clergy expenses: we also make a contribution to telephone costs and out of pocket expenses</i>
(b)	Were these met in full?	yes
(c)	Is there an annual discussion about level of expenses as part of the PCC's budgeting process?	No, treasurer uses his discretion and refers to PCC if problems arise

5(a)	What amount of Share has (a) been requested; and (b) been paid from the parish in: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • last year? • current year? • next year? 	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="2"><u>Share requested</u></th> <th><u>Share Paid</u></th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>2017</td> <td>£15213</td> <td>£15213</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2018</td> <td>£16908</td> <td>£16908</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2019</td> <td>£17202</td> <td>we are paying one twelfth monthly</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2020</td> <td colspan="2">not advised until October 2019</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	<u>Share requested</u>		<u>Share Paid</u>	2017	£15213	£15213	2018	£16908	£16908	2019	£17202	we are paying one twelfth monthly	2020	not advised until October 2019	
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2020	not advised until October 2019																
(b)	Will this year's be met?	yes															
6(a)	Is there any capital project in hand at the moment?	none in hand but there are some ideas under discussion (LED lighting; possible internal glass doors)															
(b)	Please give brief details with costs and state how they are to be met.	n/a															
7.	Please attach a copy of the last PCC accounts.	<i>See Benefice Brochure Section 5 Finances - Benefice and Parish Summary of Accounts</i>															
8(a)	What is the general state of repair of: the Church(es) - <i>please list</i>	Generally good repair: major roof repairs to aisles in 2017 following theft of lead in 2015 (fully funded and paid for): usual ongoing maintenance required															
(b)	Please give details of major maintenance needed following the last quinquennial.	Last quinquennial 28 March & 16 April 2018: no major maintenance required.															

IV. Outreach and Mission

1(a)	What are the regular mission and outreach activities of the parish?	<i>Benefice: Children's Church</i> Parish: Lent lunches, Christmas carol services and monthly coffee mornings held in the villages Monthly ecumenical village worship in Thorlby
(b)	What are you doing to help people find out about Jesus?	<i>Benefice: Food for Thought (two annual evening lectures in Lent with meal); Good Friday Walk of Witness</i> Parish: in addition to services, church is open daily during daylight hours; outreach literature for visitors in church and at gates; prayer tree/cross
(c)	What are you doing to help grow people in discipleship?	Thorlby village worship (see 1a), <i>plus long-standing and leading role in benefice-wide initiatives such Benefice Prayer Fellowship (monthly); Food For Thought (see 1b); Men's Prayer Breakfast (bi-monthly, ecumenical, often with invited speakers)</i>
(d)	What are you doing to grow people in leadership?	<i>Benefice: Encouraging lay worship leaders' training: 11 LWLs commissioned in 2015, 2 Lay Readers currently in training.</i> <i>Encouraging attendance at Diocesan training events eg for PCCs</i>

2(a)	Please give details of the support of the Church overseas:	Mission Aviation Fellowship (see below 3a-b); annual envelope collection for Christian Aid; sale of Christmas cards for Traidcraft; use of Freetrade coffee and tea after services and at concerts
(b)	How much is given annually?	2018 - £576 + £344 from individuals from own initiatives
3(a)	Give details of the support for home missions and charities:	2018 St George's Crypt - £825 Caring for Life - £604 Children's Society - £101 Royal British Legion - £506 [Remembrance Sunday collection and donations during our Festival of Remembrance] (We also participate in Caring For Life's annual Christmas Gift scheme, purchasing individual personal gifts requested by the charity on behalf of its beneficiaries and usually, though not in 2018, make grants to Scripture Union, whose material we use in church)
(b)	How much is given annually?	See above
3(a)	Does the parish have an overseas link?	Mission Aviation Fellowship
(b)	If so, please state where/who?	The Newnham Family, Liberia
4(a)	Is there an organised system of outreach and welcome to new families?	Pastoral Care Group and welcome leaflet
(b)	If so, please describe:	The Pastoral Care Group is made up of representatives from the villages in the parish who identify those in need of support, pray for them, visit them and keep the vicar informed so that they can also be ministered to by an ordained member of clergy. The PCG also produces a leaflet to welcome new residents with details of local church and village contacts. <i>The Benefice Magazine, Penhill Beacon, is delivered to all households except those which have indicated they do not wish to receive it.</i>

5.	What part does the church play in community care?	Church members take a leading active and prayerful role in providing informal community care in the villages, from offering transportation to church, shops and hospital appointments to supporting and befriending the sick, bereaved and lonely. We are very conscious of the need for pastoral alertness and the power of prayer to change lives.
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6(a)	Are there any Lay Eucharistic Assistants who take communion to the sick?	Not at present
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(b)	If so, who are they?	n/a
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7.	What work does the church undertake with young people, other than in church based organisations (eg open youth work)?	BAWB Federation – the vicar has, in the past, been a foundation governor of West Burton school (a role currently undertaken by a member of St Andrew’s PCC) and taken weekly collective worship in Bainbridge and West Burton schools (currently delegated to Benefice representatives). The vicars of Aysgarth and Askrigg both lead several dedicated, creative services each year in their churches for BAWB school children and their parents. All the children of the BAWB Federation were heavily involved in our 2018 Festival of Remembrance, making poppies for our altar cascade, producing written work to be displayed in church and both singing and reading at our Concert of WWI Words and Music and at our Remembrance Sunday Service. 90 of them, with their parents and family members, attended an hour-long dedicated session in church which concluded with them singing the Armistice Cantata.
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V. Ecumenical Relations

1(a)	State involvement in local Council of Churches:	<i>Benefice: None</i>
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(b)	Is there a formal covenant with any other denomination?	Covenants with Methodists at <i>West Witton (Benefice)</i> and Aysgarth (Parish), now lapsed due to closure of both Methodist chapels.
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2.	What informal ecumenical contacts are there?	Parish: Thoraby Village Worship – a monthly ecumenical service led by Aysgarth Lay Worship Leader with quarterly HC administered by vicar or retired clergy. Informal links with Methodists at Aysgarth and West Burton chapels e.g. Mothering Sunday, Remembrance Sunday. Local Methodists, Roman Catholics and Quakers were all involved in our Festival of Remembrance. <i>Please see Benefice Brochure Section 4 Our Mission and Outreach</i>
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VI. Church Education and Social Provision

1(a)	Name of Church School(s) if applicable:	West Burton C of E Primary School
(b)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aided? • Controlled? • Foundation 	Voluntary controlled
(c)	Number of pupils on roll (approx)?	22
(d)	If aided, does the PCC support the school?	n/a

VII. Lay Education and Participation

1.	What education and training work takes place in the Church for the following (give approx numbers): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children • Young People • Adults 	<i>Please see Benefice Brochure Section 4 Children and young People and Section 2 Clergy Support</i>
2(a)	Give details of house/prayer groups:	Parish: Thoraby Village Worship <i>Benefice: Prayer Fellowship</i> <i>Men's Breakfast</i> <i>Lent and Advent courses</i>
(b)	Are the leaders clergy or lay?	<i>Mainly lay</i>

3(a)	How do you rate the strength of lay leadership?	<i>Benefice: Good. We have an established and active team of Lay Worship Leaders who work well together and with the clergy to serve all the churches in the benefice.</i>
(b)	To what do you credit this strength, or lack of it?	<i>Benefice: its strength is due to individual commitment, supportive teamwork and the variety of skills it has to offer.</i>

VIII. Mission

1.	List areas of Church life which you consider in need of development.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> : outreach to all generations, including pastoral care for the elderly : growing disciples through sound Bible-based teaching : adoption of modern ways and means of communication : a greater variety of church services : helping us to make the church more relevant to our communities and converting local good will towards the church into active attendance and participation in regular church services and church life
2.	What are the main areas of mission that you think the new priest should prioritise in their ministry?	See 1 & 3
3.	In summary, what are the top three challenges with which you and the new priest need to engage?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> : Accepting and engaging with the demographic problem of the Yorkshire Dales which is reflected in our church community: an ageing population with increasing pastoral, social and physical care needs and a declining number of young people moving into or staying in the Dales to redress the balance. : Clergy and parishioners working together to create a realistic plan to connect church and community and make the Gospel known. : Embracing technology for communication and to access funds (eg cashless collections at major services and at baptisms, weddings and funerals)

IX. Additional Information

Please add here, or on another sheet, anything else which you would like the Patron and the Bishop to know about the conditions, needs and traditions of the parish.

Over a thousand people visited St Andrew's church during our four-day long Festival of Remembrance in

2018. Many of them had never stepped inside the church before but came, as one visitor commented, 'to see what everyone was talking about'. Hosted by the church and initiated and led by our lay members, this series of events – a WWI themed flower festival, a concert of words and music and an exhibition commemorating local men and women – was an excellent example of the teamwork which typifies St Andrew's. It succeeded where it matters most: in placing our living Christian witness at the heart of our locality. As one visitor wrote, 'The church's standing in the community as being there for *all* the parish has risen enormously'.

Working together is particularly important to St Andrew's because we have the largest parish in the Penhill Benefice. It has a resident population of around 1045 living in six small villages (Aysgarth, Carperby, Newbiggin, Thoraby, Thornton Rust and West Burton) and outlying farms scattered across three dales (Wensleydale, Bishopdale and Walden). The beauty of the Dales conceals the multiple challenges to those who live here, particularly the elderly. There is a high proportion of hidden poverty and many of the elderly feel isolated and lonely. Public transport is very limited. Although we are well-served by our local doctors' surgery and its pharmacy at Aysgarth, hospital appointments and visits increasingly mean a 100-mile round, cross-country trip to James Cook University Hospital in Middlesbrough. Though there are pubs and cafes in four of our larger villages, there are no banks or cash machines and just one Post Office (Thoraby). West Burton has a butcher's shop and a small village store; Aysgarth has the only petrol station and a small general store. Most villages have a very active social network offering a wide range of activities but those who cannot drive themselves are almost completely dependent on family, friends and neighbours for access to daily necessities and for companionship.

Our particular challenges as a single church serving such a widespread parish are to offer an active, specifically Christian, presence in all our villages (at a time when local Methodist chapels are closing) and to make the Gospel message relevant to everyone who lives here. Our greatest challenge is to do so despite declining numbers and an increasingly elderly core congregation.

We have only 35 regular worshippers from the parish, more than half of whom are aged 70 or over, and our average congregation consists of just 27 people. Yet, despite this, we enjoy an active church life. We recognise the importance of supporting our clergy in every way we can and have a long tradition of doing so. In addition to the PCC and our two churchwardens, we have a number of lay teams working within the church: a churchwardens' team which helps to prepare for services, assists with administration and arranges funerals and weddings; a Lay Reader and three licensed Lay Worship Leaders who lead and assist at services; a Pastoral Care team with representatives from the villages which reports back to the vicar and coordinates visits to those in need of support across the parish. Lay people also act as sidesmen, read lessons and lead intercessions, as well as cleaning brasses and arranging flowers. Informally, too, they try to follow our Saviour's example by caring for those who are sick, frail, lonely, or unhappy by offering friendship and practical support such as lifts to church and hospital appointments, doing shopping and clearing paths in winter.

Our regular monthly pattern of Sunday worship at St Andrew's has been two Holy Communions and one Morning Prayer using Common Worship services with readings based on the lectionary. (On the 2nd and 5th Sundays we have joined, or are joined by, the other churches in our benefice for united services.) Music is provided by our organist who plays both our pipe organ and our fine grand piano. Our use of technology is limited at present but we have just invested in a new sound system which will enable us to play a greater variety of music using cds and memory sticks.

In support of our Sunday worship and spiritual growth we participate in the Benefice's monthly Prayer Fellowship with Bible Study and a bi-monthly Men's Prayer Breakfast with speakers and discussion. During Lent we hold Food for Thought evenings to which speakers are invited to bring a challenging spiritual message and, on Good Friday, we participate in the Walk of Witness round the Benefice, holding a short service on the village greens. We are committed to mission both at home and abroad, supporting Christian charities as diverse as Caring For Life and Mission Aviation Fellowship, as well as the children's holiday activities of the King's Club in Wensleydale. Many of these initiatives have come from our parish and have been built up over the years. All of them enable us to engage with the wider Christian family in the parish, the benefice and the Dales.

We take the church out to our local communities by holding Drop-in for Coffee mornings in our members' homes every month, Lent lunches in village halls throughout the six weeks of Lent and annual Christmas Carol Services in our villages. A dozen people regularly attend our ecumenical village worship service each month in Thoraby, which has a quarterly Holy Communion service but is otherwise lay-led and held in village homes. Thornton Rust Mission Room (an upper room in a small converted barn) hosts a monthly service and a moving Maundy Thursday service for the benefice. During our Festival of Remembrance we organised Acts of Remembrance at the village war memorials which attracted around 180 people in addition to similar numbers who attended our service in church.

We recognise that there is clearly potential to engage more deeply with the local community to increase our church membership. Our major church services attract much larger numbers than those held weekly: between 70 and 110 people, including children, take part in our Easter Day, Remembrance Sunday and Christmas Day services. We have a small Church of England primary school in our parish but it is part of the wider BAWB federation and we could do more to involve the children and bring the Gospel to them and their families. Non-church goers support us with financial gifts and legacies; they form the majority of our bell-ringing team (which we share with Askrigg) and help our flower arranging team during our biannual flower festivals; they voluntarily help to maintain our churchyard, even though it is closed and therefore the responsibility of Richmondshire District Council. The good will is there – but we need inspired leadership to channel it into active church membership.

The church building is an asset which could be used more effectively for outreach. St Andrew's is a grade II* listed building which enjoys a spectacular setting overlooking the famous Asygarth Falls in the heart of the Yorkshire Dales National Park. It is also home to the beautiful medieval screen from Jervaulx Abbey. We try to encourage the thousands of visitors to this tourist honeypot to come into our church, appreciate its beauty and tranquillity, offer prayers on our prayer tree and read our outreach literature. We do not have enough people always to have someone there to greet and talk to visitors but we are open daily throughout the year and have a 4.5 star rating on TripAdvisor where the warmth of our welcome is praised – even when no one is there!

St Andrew's is the largest church in the Penhill Benefice, with toilets, basic kitchen facilities, good acoustics, seating for 250 people, three cafes nearby and two large pay and display carparks a few hundred metres away (though both are up steep hills which make them difficult for the elderly and less able-bodied to use). These assets make our church a popular venue for professional and amateur concerts, including the renowned Swaledale Festival, Wensleydale Concert Series and English Music Festival. These bring in people who would not normally attend our services, to whom we can offer hospitality and bear Christian witness. They also provide us with a useful income stream from outside the parish which, together with the generosity of local people, past and present, help to make us a financially

viable church.

We have no illusions about the problems we face as a church community: we have not enough able-bodied members to do all we would wish to do. We recognise the vital importance of attracting younger people to join us but, in common with the rest of the benefice, and the whole Dales community, we have an increasing dearth of young families. Those who do still live here have many competing calls on their time and no tradition of church involvement. Most new residents are themselves either retirees, or second-home owners who are absent for much of the year. We are glad to share worship and fellowship with other churches in our benefice, and need to do so for our own spiritual refreshment, but we are also aware that this can make us seem an exclusive clique which is irrelevant to our own parishioners. So how do we grow the church among the younger generation? And how do we do so without seeming to turn our backs on an increasingly needy older generation, some of whom have been faithful members of our church for decades?

These problems may seem insoluble but we hope, pray and believe that they are not. We also see the opportunities. Many of the retirees coming to live in our part of the Dales are in their 60s, active and willing to engage with village life. Most of the people who have joined our congregation in recent years are widows and widowers who have been drawn to us by our pastoral care. Our neighbouring parish of Askrigg has a vibrant children's church drawing on its village school which, like ours at West Burton, is part of the BAWB Federation. As our Festival of Remembrance showed, we can engage with our local community and we are not completely without hope for the future. We yearn to follow in Christ's footsteps and to share the blessing of His risen presence with those amongst whom we live. But we need energetic, enthusiastic and engaged leadership to move us forward: we look to our new vicar to provide us with such leadership and we will gladly support and follow in every way we can.

X. The New Priest

List the qualities and skills you would like to see in the new priest.

Please see Benefice Brochure Section1 What we would like from you, Person Specification and Role Description

Agreed by the PCC of

..... ST ANDREWS, AYS GARTH

on 10th APRIL 2019

Signed: H Oliver

Print Name: H. OLIVER

Office Held: PCC SECRETARY

This form, duly completed, should be sent to:

*The Administrator for the Designated Officer
Deborah Thorley
Diocese of Leeds, Church House
17-19 York Place, Leeds, LS1 2EX
deborah.thorley@leeds.anglican.org*

She will circulate copies to the Patron, Bishop and Archdeacon

*Please keep copies of this form
and ensure that all PCC members have a signed copy.*