The Benefice of East Dere Street

Benefice Brochure
Welcome

We, the community of the Benefice of East Dere Street in the young Diocese of Leeds, extend a warm welcome to whoever is called by God to serve with us.

We will welcome you into historic Richmondshire. The name of our Benefice is taken from the Roman Road that runs to the west of the Benefice.

Our Benefice covers six parishes and seven churches: St Cuthbert with St Mary's Barton; St. Peter's Croft; St Peter's Cleasby with Stapleton; St Mary’s Eryholme; All Saints Manfield; St Michael & All Angels Middleton Tyas with St Andrew's Chapel of Ease Moulton. Our Benefice is part of the Richmond Deanery within the episcopal area of Ripon in the Diocese of Leeds.
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, Ripon, Richmond 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 Dr Helen-Ann Hartley.

Our vision as the Diocese is about confident clergy equipping confident Christians to live and tell the good news of Jesus Christ. For all of our appointments we are seeking clergy who have a joyful and confident faith which has inspired a track record of church growth, both numerically and spiritually.
Our Mission Statement

This Benefice commits itself to serving God by reaching out to the community through Christian love, fellowship and worship.

We are committed to enabling people to feel free to worship at and to become part of the community within the Benefice.

We wish to serve the people who live, work, and visit or worship the Benefice. We will provide a sustainable future in Christian and pastoral ministry.

We endeavour to enable people to live out their faith as part of our community through: worship and prayer; provision of pastoral care for people living in our parishes and those seeking to marry in our Benefice; and working with the school and local community groups.
Dear Lord

Our mission, Lord, is to channel your love and compassion in a way that enriches the lives of others.

Give us the strength to work as a united Benefice and serve our communities in your name.

Help us to reach out to young and old and support them in continued growth and awareness of our faith.

Support us as we seek to grow and nurture our Christian faith through your teachings.

We commit ourselves to serving you by reaching out to our community through Christian love, fellowship and worship with no strings attached.

In Jesus name we pray

Amen
Our Team

The Rector

Licensed Readers

There are two Licensed Readers in the Benefice, Viv Waugh and Martin Idale, who regularly deliver services across the Benefice.

Lay Worship Leaders

We are fortunate to have ten Lay Worship Leaders across the Benefice who lead services within their own and occasionally other parishes in the Benefice.

Churchwardens

There are nine church wardens across the benefice. St Peter’s Croft is a Crown Living and entitled to four Churchwardens. The other parishes are each entitled to two Churchwardens.

Administration

We are looking to appoint an administrator to support you in the work of the Benefice.
The united Benefice of the East Dere Street is located in the north of rural North Yorkshire close to the county border with County Durham. We are close to the historical highways of the A1 and the A66.

We cover a number of lively villages that work alongside the church to promote a healthy environment for body and soul.

We have easy access to towns and cities in the region, and beyond, both by road and public transport. Darlington railway station, approximately 7 miles from the Rectory, is on the East Coast main line with regular direct services to London and Edinburgh.

The A1 (M) north and south together with the A66 trans Pennine route to the Lake District is within one mile of the Rectory. There is a local airport based just outside of Darlington and the international airport of Newcastle is less than an hour away.

Our Benefice was initially largely a farming community. The villages are now largely commuter based with people travelling to Richmond, Darlington and Teesside for employment but farming remains important with a number of large farming estates.

The Benefice has three excellent primary Schools, all of which are Church of England schools. Members of the Benefice PCCs are on the Board of Governors of the three schools.

Secondary pupils have the choice of attending schools in Richmond or Hurworth. There are first-rate sixth form colleges in Richmond and nearby Darlington with a further education college in Darlington. Part of the University of Teesside is located in Darlington, with its main campus 25 miles away in Middlesbrough.

The villages are friendly places with a strong community spirit. There are active community associations and buildings working alongside the churches.

There is a community village shop in Middleton Tyas and a general store with a post office in Barton. There are excellent shopping facilities in Richmond and Darlington with not only the usual national big names but many first-rate local boutiques.

There are excellent healthcare facilities in the Benefice operating open walk-in surgeries as well as appointment based surgeries. Not only is there access to major hospital facilities within the immediate area there is also a small community hospital offering rehabilitation care in Richmond. There are dental practices in the nearby town taking both NHS and private clients.

There are two multiplex cinemas within 7 miles of the Rectory. Major touring theatre companies put on productions in Darlington, Newcastle and York.

The Station in Richmond is a stunning riverside old railway station that has been converted into a cinema, an art and exhibition gallery with access for community groups and classes.

The Benefice is steeped in history with its various churches, the majority of which are grade 1 or 2 listed. Moulton Hall is a grade 1 listed 17th century Manor House owned by the National Trust.

In Richmond the Georgian Theatre is one of the oldest active theatres in the country. The upgrade of the A1 was delayed due to the excavation of numerous Roman finds shedding further light on Roman life in the area including that the most northerly coin workshop in Europe was located here.
Our Worship

Most of our churches mainly use Common Worship with printed booklets specific to each season of the year. Individual orders of service are also printed for special services. We provide a variety of Holy Communion, All-Age Worship, Morning Prayer and Evening Prayer services across the Benefice. We are always open to new forms of worship.

We hold joint and special services across the Benefice: notably during Easter Week, Ascension Day, All Saints’ Day, Advent, Christmas, Epiphany and Lent. Where there are 5 Sundays in a month we hold a joint Holy Communion Service alternating between the six churches.

Our worship ranges from traditional to more informal encompassing all ages with an emphasis on fellowship. For example we hold pet services and open air services when weather permits.

There is a well-established musical tradition throughout the Benefice. St Peter’s Croft and St Peter’s Cleasby with Stapleton have choirs with the latter one being robed. There is an ad hoc United Parish Choir that comes together for special services.

We have four voluntary organists in the Benefice.

We use a variety of hymn books in the different churches. Our main hymn books are: Hymns Old and New, Hymns Ancient and Modern Revised, Hymns Ancient and Modern New Standard, Mission Praise, Junior Praise and Complete Anglican Hymns Old and New.

Our Tradition

We generally follow a traditional form of worship using Common Worship. For the traditional Eucharistic services the priest typically wears an Alb, stole, and chasuble. When the service is Evening Prayer and scarf are generally worn. For more informal services with the schools for example the dress code is informal.

Altar frontals and pulpit falls are changed in line with the church seasons. Sermons are usually delivered from the pulpit or less formally from the nave area in front of the congregation. Intercessions and readings are delivered by volunteers from the congregation.

We offer home communion to housebound parishioners, members in hospital and those who have moved into residential care. This is sometimes delivered by the Readers as well as the priest.

Volunteers from the Pastoral committee visit both existing and previous members who are sick or housebound to keep them in touch with church life.

Our churches are popular for marriages and we have an open policy for Baptisms. Where possible Baptisms take place within a Sunday Holy Communion service.

Our churches play a central role in life’s rites of passage, baptisms, weddings and funerals, and as such are a valued part of community life.
Our Strengths

An effective Ministry Team made up of the Readers, Lay Worship Leaders and Churchwardens and PCC members all working well together.

The commitment of a worshipping community committed to the Christian mission of the Church of England.

Good teamwork: with all members of the community working well together, whether it is in preparing the churches for worship, playing the organ, arranging flowers, cleaning the churches or distributing the newsletters.

A close relationship with our schools.

There is a real willingness to work together as a united Benefice.

Our Challenges

The challenges we face are:

How to encourage numerical growth in our congregations?

How do we inspire growth of families and children in our worship communities?

How do we ensure that our services and events support all members of our wider communities?

How can we move towards an even more unified Benefice?

How can we inspire spiritual growth throughout the Benefice?

Parish Activities

The church family is involved in the life of each our villages, either by organising or helping to organize, coffee mornings, fetes, flower festivals, open gardens, fayres and harvest suppers. There is a good musical tradition in the Benefice, and concerts are often organized in the various churches.

Individual churches are becoming increasingly used as a focus for community events including flower festivals and charity events such as Macmillan Coffee Mornings.

Parish newsletters include items from neighbouring parishes and are circulated both in hard and soft copy. Barton has an email village information messaging service that is widely used to post notices of all village activities including Church services and social fundraising events.

There is a Children’s Club based at Middleton Tyas school and a Discoverers group at Croft school. St. Cuthbert with St. Mary’s Church maintains close links with the local school and Scout Group.

Middleton Tyas hold a regular meeting for the older members of the community, St Michael’s Majors.

Croft hold a monthly luncheon club over nine months of the year and a monthly coffee morning in St Peter’s with everyone welcome not just church members.
Our New Rector

We would appreciate a Rector who could support growth and sustainability for the future. This would involve:

Growing and maintaining Christian Fellowship in the Benefice.

Commitment to leading the Benefice, with the ability to foster the gifts of all.

Being involved in the life of the community by taking an active role in promoting Christian faith within our local schools including developing connections with children and young people and their families.

Leading and supporting the pastoral needs of our Benefice including representing those needs at Deanery and Diocesan levels.

Working with the treasurers and lay leadership to promote financial sustainable growth through individual contributions, alternative forms of revenue and social events.

We would be grateful for a Rector who has an outgoing and friendly personality who would embrace the life in our communities by:

Empathising with and understanding rural ministry.

Having the ability to teach and nurture in a way that is understandable to people of all ages.

Having experience of developing Christian faith and enjoy working with children and families.

Having good communication and listening skills.

Liking working as part of a team leading in a positive and energetic manner.

Being disciplined in taking time off to nurture their own spiritual growth and relaxation.

The Rectory

The Rectory is a modern detached family house located in Kneeton Park, Middleton Tyas on a small private estate. This attractive home is a four-bedroom house with two reception rooms and a study/office easily accessible from the entrance door without passing through the house.

It has good sized rooms and open views across the countryside from the rear garden. There are gas and electric services connected to the house and a garage.
Our Churches

St Cuthbert with St Mary Barton serves the parish of Barton and Newton Morrell. In 1840 the ancient Chapelries of St Cuthbert and St Mary were united. St Cuthbert’s was demolished with the exception of the tower. The rebuilt parish church is a Grade 2 listed building. The church remains in a good state of repair having had the roof re-slated in the last three years and the churchyard is still open for burials.

In 2018 the PCC took a leading part in events in the village to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the end of WW1 with a project to install two additional bells to make a ring of six bells. An enthusiastic band of bell ringers has been formed to ring for all services and weddings as required.

St. Cuthbert with St. Mary’s Church holds a monthly joint service a month with the Barton Methodist Chapel. The 13th century Village Cross commemorates the journey of St Cuthbert’s body through the village around 870 AD.

St Peter Cleasby with Stapleton was originally built in 1712, probably a wooden building. This church was pulled down with the present church being built in 1828 by public subscription. The north wall of the church is older than the rest of the church and may be part of the original church. Bishop Robinson of London and a leading diplomat in the reign of Queen Anne was born in Cleasby in 1650. He was a generous benefactor to his native village: he endowed a school for 6 poor boys, gave a schoolmaster’s house and built the original wooden church.

St Peter Croft is a Grade 1 listed building, it was built in Norman times with the addition of aisles and a chancel in the 14th century. The church was recently extended to include kitchen and toilet facilities. Croft has close connections with Lewis Carroll, his father was rector at St Peter’s. Carroll lived at the Rectory from age 11 and took inspiration from the interior of St Peter’s for the Cheshire Cat and Tweedledum and Tweedledee in his books, Alice in Wonderland and Through the Looking Glass. The church yard is closed for burials.

St Mary Eryholme is a Grade 1 Listed Building dating back to 1150 with styles ranging from late Norman to early Perpendicular. It stands on the highest ground in the village and is built of a multiplicity of colour of sandstone. It can seat 80.

All Saints Manfield is a Grade 2 listed building. It is of medieval construction and stands at the entrance to the site of a medieval settlement which forms the basis of the village today. The church is in good repair and has a preaching cross located in the church grounds.

St Michael and All Angels Middleton Tyas is Grade I listed, and the approach to the church is along an attractive avenue of Lime trees. St Michael’s Church follows a traditional form of worship. A resident of Moulton has traced the graves of all those on the war memorials in both St Michael’s and St Andrew’s and produced a booklet of the history.

St Andrews Moulton is a Chapel of Ease and although little is known about its history other than a plaque in the church commemorating the conversion of a barn into the Chapel in 1837. At that time, Moulton like the other Churches in our Benefice was part of the Diocese of Chester.
Our Communities

Our Benefice comprises several villages some of which are adjacent to the River Tees. There are seven churches in all. The churches are in the heart of each village except for St. Michael's and All Angels at Middleton Tyas which is on the outskirts of the village.

Historically the parishes are rural in character but have a tendency to be more commuter villages today. Our continuing aim is for all our churches to work closely together, sharing ideas and good practice for the benefit of the whole Benefice.

This is a relatively prosperous area with low unemployment. About 85% of the local properties are owner-occupied. While all age groups are well represented, there is a large percentage of retired people in most villages.

The schools use the churches for key services throughout the year. The priest regularly leads worship in the schools. This is welcomed by the schools and seen by the Benefice as an important feature of church-school cooperation and the nurture of young people in the Christian faith.

Barton

The village is north of Barton Lorry Park at junction 56 of the A1M, where there is a working quarry and transport related businesses. There are five working farms within the Parish. The population of Barton is just over 800 and there is local authority sheltered housing for the elderly with a resident warden in the village.

Currently there are 45 pupils attending the village Church of England school. There is a thriving Scout Group in the village for young people from 6 to 18 that also serves neighbouring villages.

Barton has excellent playing fields that are also used by the village Cricket Club. There is an active village hall in the centre of the village with numerous diverse activities. There is an award winning village shop that incorporates a Post Office.

Cleasby

The parish covers the two village communities of Cleasby and Stapleton, both situated on the south bank of the River Tees that marks the boundary between North Yorkshire and County Durham. Cleasby is famous for Comet, a famous shorthorn bull bought for 1000 guineas in 1810 was kept in the village in a specially built shed just off the Green. The combined population of the two villages is about 350.

Cleasby holds several events during the year including summer and Christmas fairs as well as housing various group activities in the village hall. There is a popular pub with a restaurant in Stapleton.
**Croft**

The parish covers two villages Croft and Dalton on Tees both located on North Yorkshire side of the river Tees. The population of the two villages is 1,575. Croft has close connections with Lewis Carroll, his father was rector at St Peter’s.

The 13th century ‘falchion’ sword of Sir John Conyers, who traditionally slew the ‘worm,’ is still used in the welcoming ceremony when a new Bishop of Durham who arrives in the county of Durham. The ceremony takes place on Croft Bridge where the new Bishop is presented with the falchion.

There is an active community using both the local village halls and church for events. In Croft there is an early 18th century coaching inn operating as hotel today. Adjacent to Dalton on Tees is the Croft Circuit that in addition to hosting race meetings offers various driving experiences. The Circuit was originally a WW2 airfield used by the RAF and the Canadian Royal Airforce.

**Eryholme**

The village is a small hamlet on the southern banks of the river Tees consisting of 26 properties; a mix of houses, farms and rental properties. The village was first recorded in 1086 in the Doomsday Book. Viewers of Downton Abbey will remember the Countess considered it a good place to live if one wanted a retreat from the noisy world.

The community of around 60 are mainly retired or semi-retired although there are a few families with the children. The children travel to school in nearby Croft. Events in the village largely evolve around the farming calendar as that remains the primary occupation.

A resident has recently written a book about the village, ‘A Perfect Paradise –Eryholme from 1066 To the Present’ that provides a good picture of life both past and present. This has been well received both in and out of the community.

**Manfield**

Manfield sits on the site of a medieval village that’s presence can still be seen in the mounds in the surrounding fields. The village has a population of about 280 made up of commuters, a few self-employed artisans and contractors and retirees. Very few of the population today are employed in mechanised agriculture.

There is an active community village hall where regular social events are held including summer fayres and regular quizzes. There is also a pub in the village serving real ales with occasional live music. As with the other villages Manfield is popular for weddings.
Middleton Tyas

The village was once famous for its copper mines, long worked out, today its main occupation is agriculture. St Michael and All Angels is adjacent to where the original village was sited. The current village has a strong community spirit within its population of 590.

The village benefits from high speed broadband as a result of the North Yorkshire project. Middleton Tyas village has its own website with a village newsletter.

There is a community village shop which employs part time staff aided by volunteers. The village has a popular pub with a restaurant.

Just outside the village is Middleton Lodge Georgian Country House hotel and spa, a major wedding venue that also holds theatrical and craft events throughout the year. The local cricket club have their ground adjacent to Middleton Lodge.

At nearby Scotch Corner, the junction of the A1 (M) and the A66, there is a motorway service area, hotel and, currently under development a premium designer retail outlet.

Moulton

The village of Moulton is less than two miles from St Michael and All Angels Church at Middleton Tyas and there are strong links between the two village communities.

The village consists of 55 properties with St Andrew’s Church at its centre. A tenanted 17th century manor house owned by the National Trust lies in the village. A large village green lies at the centre of the village. The Village Association manage the Diamond Jubilee Garden next to the church.

The Green, Garden and Church grounds are used for various events including the annual Plant Sale, half of the proceeds going to the Church in alternate years. The “Moulton Book Stop” (in the bus shelter) is well supported raising several hundred pounds each year to fund village activities.
Background Information

Typical Church Service Patterns
We recognise that this may need to be reviewed by the new priest with the churchwardens. On the 5th Sunday we hold a Benefice United Service, each church in rotation.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Church</th>
<th>1st Sunday</th>
<th>2nd Sunday</th>
<th>3rd Sunday</th>
<th>4th Sunday</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>St Cuthbert and St Mary Barton</td>
<td>11.00 Morning Prayer</td>
<td>11.00 Holy Communion CW</td>
<td>11.00 Morning Prayer</td>
<td>11.00 Holy Communion CW</td>
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<tr>
<td>St Peter Cleasby with Stapleton</td>
<td>9.30 Morning Prayer CW</td>
<td>9.30 Holy Communion</td>
<td></td>
<td>18.00 Evening Prayer CW/BCP</td>
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<tr>
<td>St Peter Croft</td>
<td>8.00 Holy Communion CW</td>
<td>11.00 All-Age worship</td>
<td>11.00 Holy Communion CW</td>
<td>11.00 Morning Prayer CW</td>
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<tr>
<td>St Mary Eryholme</td>
<td>11.00 Holy Communion BCP</td>
<td></td>
<td>11.00 Morning Prayer BCP</td>
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<tr>
<td>All Saints Manfield</td>
<td></td>
<td>9.30 Morning Prayer CW</td>
<td>9.30 Holy Communion CW</td>
<td>9.30 Holy Communion CW</td>
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<tr>
<td>St Andrew Moulton</td>
<td></td>
<td>18.00 Evening Prayer BCP</td>
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Financial position statement
We are blessed with regular giving and gift aiding. We have always been able to pay our Parish Share in full and pay clergy expenses in full. Our income has been supplemented by regular fund raisers such as coffee mornings, lottery, concerts, etc. Copies of our accounts can be found on the Diocesan website www.leeds.anglican.org
Background Information continued

St Cuthbert and St Mary Barton
- Number on Electoral Roll = 36
- Average Sunday attendance = 14
- Christmas communicants = 44
- Easter communicants = 81
- Baptisms Infant = 2
- Weddings = 2
- Funerals and burial of ashes=5

St Peter Cleasby with Stapleton
- Number on Electoral Roll = 12
- Average Sunday attendance = 12
- Weddings = 3
- Funerals and burial of ashes= 5

St Peter Croft on Tees
- Number on Electoral Roll = 49
- Average Sunday attendance = 15
- Baptisms Infant = 2
- Weddings = 3
- Funerals and burial of ashes=9

St Mary Eryholme
- Number on Electoral Roll = 26
- Average Sunday attendance = 8
- Christmas communicants = 20
- Funerals and burial of ashes= 2

All Saints Manfield
- Number on Electoral Roll = 22
- Average Sunday attendance = 14
- Easter communicants = 30
- Baptisms Infant = 4
- Weddings = 1
- Funerals and burial of ashes= 3

St Michael and All Angels Middleton Tyas and St Andrews Moulton
- Number on Electoral Roll = 67
- Average Sunday attendance = 23*
- Christmas communicants = 42
- Baptisms Infant = 4
- Weddings = 19
- Funerals and burial of ashes= 3
  • Middleton Tyas only = 23 Moulton =8