The Benefice of Lower Wharfedale

Brochure

All Saints’, Kirkby Overblow

St Peter’s, Sicklinghall

St Barnabas’, Weeton

St John’s, North Rigton

St Wilfrid’s, Pool

St Mary’s, Stainburn
Stained glass window at St Barnabas' church.
Foreword

Welcome to our Benefice Brochure.

We feel truly blessed to live in this beautiful part of Yorkshire. Following to the retirement of the previous incumbent, we are looking forward to welcoming a new rector to support and lead us in the development of our mission and walk with us on our Christian journey. The Benefice of Lower Wharfedale incorporates the best of both rural and provincial communities, enjoying a picturesque rural location along the Wharfe valley and situated within convenient distance of established towns. We believe that it’s a special place to worship, work and live.

As a Benefice family, we are proud of our fellowship, our churches, our communities and we are ready to welcome you. Our hearts are open and our faith is strong. Join us.

Should you require any further information please do not hesitate to ask.

Benefice of Lower Wharfedale
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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.

About the Diocese of Leeds

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 and 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.
The Benefice Of Lower Wharfedale

The Benefice is in the Ripon Episcopal Area of the Diocese of Leeds and in the Archdeaconry of Richmond and Craven. It lies on the southern most side of the Harrogate Deanery and runs for about fifteen miles along the river Wharfe, from the outskirts of Wetherby to the outskirts of Otley. The largest part of the Benefice of Lower Wharfedale lies in North Yorkshire, with the exception of the Parish of Pool and Arthington, which is in West Yorkshire and the Metropolitan Borough of the City of Leeds.

The Parishes of Lower Wharfedale sit in 'the golden triangle' between the cities of Leeds and York and the old Spa town of Harrogate; they enjoy the benefits of being within an hour of each of these commercial, historical and vibrant cultural centres. In addition the parishes are within easy reach of the Yorkshire Dales, the North York Moors, the Lake District and both the Yorkshire and Lancashire coastlines. As such, they are very desirable places to live, with both a rural and an urban outlook and high expectations of ministry.

The Benefice consists of ten distinctly different village communities that fall into three ecclesiastical parishes, with six churches between them, three church primary schools and one community primary school.

Although there are some facilities located in the benefice, the villages look to the towns of Wetherby, Harrogate and Otley for most shops and local services, and further afield to the cities of Leeds and York.

Agriculture still plays an important part in the local economy giving the area a beautiful and very rural feel. Inevitably, it is prime commuting country for people working in Harrogate, Leeds, York and London. There is easy access to Leeds Bradford airport and people regularly commute to work in other parts of Europe. There is a large, skilled and affluent population ranging from young families to retired people.

Between them the parishes offer a wide range of worship styles and services including the full spectrum of Eucharistic ministry, family style Communion Services, informal worship and Celtic Morning Prayer. There is scope for more. Each of the services and worship styles has a committed core congregation and with others – sometimes hundreds – joining them for special events and services throughout the year. Life at times might be challenging and frustrating, but it is never dull.

There are are also two Roman Catholic parishes, three Methodist Circuits, the Coptic Church of Egypt has a parish base within the benefice.
The Parishes

The Parish of Kirkby Overblow and Sicklinghall includes the villages of Kirkby Overblow, Sicklinghall and Kearby with Netherby. All Saints’ Church and All Saints Church of England Primary School are in Kirkby Overblow and St Peter’s Church is in Sicklinghall, which also has a Community Primary School.

The Parish of St Barnabas’, St John’s and St Mary’s encompasses the villages of Dunkeswick, Huby, Weeton, North Rigton and Stainburn. St John’s church in North Rigton is associated with the Church of England Primary School there. St Mary’s church in Stainburn is used occasionally. St Barnabas is the church serving the communities of Huby and Weeton. There is a railway station in Weeton.

The Parish of St Wilfrid's church encompasses the villages of Pool, Arthington. It has one church: St Wilfrid's in Pool, which serves a thriving and growing community with a large Church of England Primary School. St Peter’s church in Arthington was declared redundant about twelve years ago and is now used by the Coptic Church of Egypt.
From top right, spiralling clockwise, into the centre: All Saints' church, Kirby Overblow, detail of St Barnabas', Almscliffe Cragg, stained glass windows from St Mary's, Stainburn, view from the entrance of All Saints' Church, a photo from the Tour de Weeton, Stained Glass of St John's, North Rigton.
All Saints is a thriving church at the heart of the local village community. Evidence of early inhabitants of the village has been found in remains of a Saxon cross stored in the church and in St Helen's Well, a spring below the church. The church is undoubtedly the oldest building in the village; it has been altered and renovated especially in the 18th and 19th centuries.

In 2010, a major reordering of the interior of the church came to fruition with the removal of the pews and the installation of under floor heating. We now have a multipurpose, stimulating building, with fine acoustics that provides a space that is sacred for worship – with 6 services a month ranging from Holy Communion (BCP) to Family Breakfast Church as well as baptisms, weddings and funerals. Now we also host musical and dramatic events; art exhibitions and classes; birthday parties; and a yoga class. All these attract an increasing number of visitors to our church and village; most comment on what a wonderful church we have. (Indeed, many visitors wish to know how we made the transition for it inspires them to do the same in their churches).

We have a splendid Harrison and Harrison organ and some furniture made by Robert “The Mouseman” Thompson. We also have an up-to-date sound and lighting system, a website and a Facebook page. The church building is open every day. Information on all the marriages that have taken place in the church and a plan of the tombstones in the churchyard are available for all visitors to see. There is also information about the church building.
In recent years initiatives by the churchwardens include monthly coffee mornings and the Harvest Supper. The increasingly popular coffee mornings create strong bonds within the community and raise funds for the church, local and international charities and disaster funds. Links with the village school are strong with their end of year production, the Nativity play and Easter play all being held in the church as is the Community Christmas Dinner. Members of the church congregation go into school twice a term to perform ‘Open the Book’.

We have hopes to add to our 2010 enhancements with further space being built next to the church to provide improved kitchen and toilet facilities as well as a separate meeting area.

The two church wardens lead an enthusiastic team of volunteers who clean the church, polish the brasses, provide beautiful flower displays, play the organ and run the Sunday Club. They also act as service managers, sides people, readers and provide refreshments at services. Our PCC pays its parish share in full and we maintain the church fabric well. We contribute to local charities and support the village school’s ‘Link Ethiopia’ project.
An ancient community sited on a ridge overlooking lower Wharfedale with superb views across the River Wharfe to the Harewood estate. It is a lovely rural village 4 miles from Harrogate and within easy reach of Leeds and York.

In the Domesday Book the village is named 'Cherchbi', a name of Viking origin meaning a settlement by a church. Over the years the spelling has become 'Kirkby', a common Yorkshire name. The name of 'Overblow' first appears in the 13th century as 'Orblawere' or 'Orblauers'. There is evidence of a medieval iron-smelting industry in and around the village, and the name certainly refers to 'ore blowers'.

Our village has changed little over the centuries. It was granted by William the Conqueror to William de Perci who died in the Holy Land. In 1310 the manor passed to the family of De l’Isle de Rougemont, the remains of whose stronghold are to be found today in a beautiful spot a short walk from the village by the river. Ownership of the land then passed to William de Aldburgh who built Harewood Castle. Our village, lying in the Harewood estate’s land north of the river, was sold off in the 1950s.

The population of our village today is around 300, much as it has been for hundreds of years. In the late twentieth century there were a number of small businesses in the village, some of which have gone however, there is still an excellent and award-winning public house (The Shoulder of Mutton), a couple of farms, riding stables, a successful primary school (with a roll of over 90 students, many from outside the village) and newer residents operating their business from home. These all contribute to a vibrant community that is underpinned by a significant number of retired, yet active, folk. We are proud of our regionally famous amateur dramatic society (KODS) and our three yearly summer arts festival (KOSAF) that draw painters, sculptors, dramatists and musicians to perform for an expanding number of enthusiastic patrons from the village and beyond.
St Peter’s is a small gem of a church delightfully situated near the top of the village of Sicklinghall. It was dedicated in 1882 and holds about a hundred people. The approach to the Church from Main Street is across a small green into a pretty, well-maintained garden, which leads to the entrance Porch. It is a simple, elegant building of Yorkshire stone; the dressed stone interior sets off the beauty of the wooden ceiling which has the appearance of an upturned boat, bringing to mind the fisherman disciples. The village cemetery is nearby just across a country lane and the primary school is less than a hundred yards further up the hill at the top of the village with a glorious view across open fields.

St Peter’s celebrated the Millennium with a major refurbishment. The heating and lighting systems were completely renewed and the old altar was replaced with a simple marble one which came from the chapel of the former Ripon Diocesan House at nearby Barrowby. The church building is in good repair and there is a small kitchenette at the back for making coffee after the service. However, it lacks toilet facilities and accommodation for children but it is hoped that these small deficiencies could be rectified.

There are Eucharist services on the first and fourth Sundays of the month with Celtic morning prayers organised by members of the congregation on the other two Sundays. On the first and fourth Sundays during term time, Music students from Leeds University play the electric organ and sing to accompany the services. A generous local benefactor funds this.

The Catholic Church, Church of the Immaculate Conception, in the centre of the village is no longer used for regular services. The adjacent Convent has also closed. However, an Ecumenical Carol service is held each year, starting off at St Peter’s then continuing to the Catholic Church.

After the service, worshippers repair to the village hall for wine and mince pies. This is a popular event, which appeals across faiths and generations. On a separate evening, villagers come together for carol singing round the village in aid of a local charity.
The Village of Sicklinghall

Sicklinghall lies just inside North Yorkshire, about 3 miles from the town of Wetherby, which is in West Yorkshire. The village has a population of about 300. Most of the houses line the Main Street, which rises steeply from the Wetherby Road to the top of the hill. Most residents are either retired or commute to work in Leeds, Harrogate or York. There are a few young families. Secondary school pupils from the village take the school bus to St Aidan’s and to other comprehensive schools in Harrogate.

There is a community primary school at the top of the village, about 100 yards from St Peter’s, with about sixty-five pupils on roll. Many of the pupils are from outside the village, mostly from Wetherby. The children and staff have visited St Peter’s in the past. There will shortly be a new Head teacher (shared with Goldsborough).

The Scotts Arms is the local pub, which dates from 1685. It is situated midway between the church and the Village Hall, this village pub and restaurant, offers space for a book club, puts on quiz nights and provides catering for funerals and such. PCC meetings take place in the lower room.

The Village Hall is on the main road in the centre of the village. The playgroup meets there every weekday morning in term time. It is also well used for birthday parties, wedding receptions and other social groups. It is also the local polling station. From time to time, St Peter’s and the Village Hall committee hold joint fundraising events.

St Peter’s organises a popular quiz night each autumn and other events such as wine tasting evenings, teas and plant sales in the village hall. There is an active Cricket Club, with matches held at the ground at the top of the village.

www.sicklinghallprimary.co.uk
www.sicklinghallvillagehall.org.uk
www.scottsarms.com
www.sicklinghallcc.co.uk
The Church of St Barnabas in Weeton is a Grade 2 listed building situated on the edge of Weeton village, set in the beautiful countryside of Lower Wharfedale. It was designed by the famous architect Gilbert Scott, and constructed in the early 1850s by Lord Harewood to seat c. 200 people. In more recent times, the church has been enhanced with a large car park for 40 cars, a modern kitchen and toilet facilities.

The local Church of England primary school is located in nearby North Rigton 1 mile away. St Barnabas is often used for school services. Senior schools are situated in Harrogate.

Over the course of a year, there is plenty going on at St Barnabas. The summer months see the popular Tour de Weeton community bike ride, bringing the villages together to enjoy cycling through the quiet country lanes around the church. The Christmas Market is another popular event, well supported by the community and an important fundraiser. The monthly Coffee Mornings draw the community together and have become an important outreach for St Barnabas, acting as a social contact point for older villagers.

St Barnabas is one of the larger churches in the Benefice and has become an important venue for concerts, events and large services such as the much-loved Benefice Carol Service.

www.stbarnabasweeton.co.uk
The Villages of Huby and Weeton

Thanks to its size, rural location and committed team, St Barnabas attracts weddings and christenings each year, and has even featured as a film set for the Emmerdale TV series.

Huby and Weeton are considered to be one community as there is only a railway embankment and Weeton railway station between them. The line runs from Leeds to York via Harrogate, with a regular half hourly service on it. Bus services connect our villages with Harrogate, Otley, Leeds-Bradford airport and Bradford.

Huby has a busy Village Hall that is used for a variety of activities (such as playgroup, drama, talks, snooker) and is conveniently positioned next to the Tennis and Bowling Club. The rectory is centrally located in Huby village, in the heart of the Benefice.
The church of St John The Evangelist at North Rigton was built in 1911. Its foundation stone was laid by the Countess of Harewood in June 1910, one hundred and nine years ago. The land for the site and the stone for the building were given by Lord Harewood. The stone came from the Crag quarries and the ashlar from the estate.

The original plans for the building included a separate vestry and a "parish parlour" but the 1914-1918 War put an end to further development.

In 1911, the Reverend E.K. Stott became the first rector of the new church. In 1981, North Rigton became part of the United Parish of Kirkby Overblow, and in 2003, part of the Benefice of Lower Wharfedale.

The church is home to a small but enthusiastic team who maintain the upkeep and running of the church and a loyal congregation. Monthly family services and ever-developing strong links with the local school are having a positive impact on congregation numbers. Numbers swell to almost fill the church with popular services such as the Harvest Festival, Palm Sunday, the Crib Service and baptisms. The church building is in good condition and enjoys well cared for grounds and superb views from its elevated position.

The church is blessed by fantastic support from the Almscliffe Villages Community Association and the Parish council, who have worked closely with the PCC and the wider community to raise funds for a new peal of bells and also to install a water supply and kitchen area in church. Ambition is high and the community recognises the value of the church in the village and are keen to work creatively to maximise its potential impact for the whole community.

The church supports a number of charities including Harrogate Homeless with foodbank donations and family food hampers at Christmas. The very well supported ‘Make One, Bring One, Buy One’ harvest auction often raises several hundred pounds to support local charities. Recently funds were raised for the Leeds Donkey Sanctuary.
The Village of North Rigton

Mentioned in the Domesday Book and still a forest in 1082 North Rigton is now a thriving village of approximately 460 people and 185 households. Situated two miles south of Harrogate, the village sits beneath the idyllic Almscliffe Crag which is a popular spot for walkers and climbers from the local and wider communities.

The village has a very proactive community who work closely and effectively together on a number of events throughout the year including litter picking, the flowerpot festival and treasure trail, afternoon tea, garden party and community BBQ. Many of the outdoor events are hosted on the sports field or community garden with its children’s play area.

The old stocks still sit on the village green opposite the thriving Public House – where they now provide a setting for photographs for visitors and solutions to clues in treasure hunts!

The village has a flourishing and highly successful Church of England Primary school, which serves children and their families from North Rigton and Weeton. The School is part of the highly respected Yorkshire Causeway Multi Academy Trust led by StAidan’s High School Harrogate which is one of the top performing state secondary schools in the country.
The church of St Mary the Virgin is a Norman Church set high on the rise above the valley near the village of Stainburn wonderful views of the surrounding area. This historic medieval church is now in the care of The Churches Conservation Trust, as it became a redundant church in 1977, though it is still used and has, typically, three services a year including the Easter Liturgy. These services take place during the daytime as there is no electricity in the church.

This small but beautiful Grade 1 listed church is much loved by the Benefice. The churchwardens, PCC and everyone connected with, and invested in, both St John’s and St Mary’s will welcome the new Rector giving them the warmest welcome and their wholehearted support.
Welcome to St Wilfrid’s Parish Church at the heart of Pool-in-Wharfedale.

The church is a Victorian building and we think it important to value our heritage, our history and believe that knowing these things helps us to begin to understand our own identity.

The history of Pool’s families is embedded here with numerous people having been involved in the life of the church over a number of generations, as well as being baptised, married and buried here. The war memorial reminds us of those young men who were taken away from here, many never to return.

www.stwilfridspool-in-wharfedale.com
However, although we value the past we have a busy church life now. Our activities include:

- Sunday Worship including traditional and contemporary usage.
- Pool Messy Church is held in partnership with Pool Methodist Church. Our ethos is Christ centred and based on creativity, hospitality and celebration. We are seeking to tune in to what God is doing in the context and culture of our village and respond accordingly; having fun as we do so!
- We pray, have a Bible Study group and hold Quiet Days and other reflective activities.
- We celebrate baptisms, marriages and conduct funerals with and for the people of Pool and Arthington, and those who have had close connections with us in the past.
- Communion Services are held in Wharfedale Court, the local housing facility for older people.
- We hold a regular coffee morning.
- We have close involvement with Pool (C of E) School through assemblies in Church and school, the governing body and volunteer readers.
- As Christians, our members are engaged in the work of a number of national and local charities.

- To ensure we look beyond the parish we have a close formal link through giving money and goods to St George’s Crypt (the Leeds centre for those with a variety of needs including mental health problems, homelessness, poverty and addictions).
- We are a church which is a long way from perfection but if you wanted to put your toe in the water you might like to come along (being assured of a warm welcome), see how we are, and help us on the journey.

Given the above, it is not surprising that St Wilfrid’s Church is loved and cherished by so many.
The village of Pool-in-Wharfedale is named in the Domesday book as Pouele. Today, the village is a rapidly expanding community with approximately 2,000 residents. It is a close-knit village extending for about half a mile from the bridge to the C. of E. school on Arthington Lane.

The main road through the centre is extremely busy, it splits in two in front of the White Hart, one road heads to Leeds, Bradford and their shared Airport, the other road to Harewood, Collingham, Wetherby and the A1 Motorway. By contrast, running parallel to this is the attractive riverside of the Wharfe, an oasis of peace and quiet.

Despite its proximity to Leeds, Pool is very much a community village. There are four main residential estates in Pool, and at the heart, activity centres around the school and the village hall which share a car park. The school is very much involved with the community - its premises are often used together with the village hall to stage joint ventures: such as the Pool Feast.

The village hall is busy both during the day and every evening. It offers a variety of activities ranging from Chinese Brush Painting to dog training. Attached to the village hall is the Sports and Social Club, a comfortable attractive room, well-used, particularly at weekends when families from all areas of the community gather for a drink and a chat.

We are fortunate to have outstanding sports facilities, the envy of all visiting teams. Children are particularly well-catered for with both cricket and football coaching for all age groups.

Arthington is a much smaller village with only about six hundred inhabitants. Visitors are welcomed at the Coptic Church which serves much of Yorkshire. The village hall is the centre of this closely-knit active community. Arthington nunnery, one of two former Cluniac nunneries in England, has been rebuilt and is now a farm. Arthington Hall was taken over by the Sheepshank family in the 18th century and they paid for the church. Creskeld Hall (a former manor house) is renowned for its rhododendrons and both these attractive buildings have frequently been used by ITV when filming “Heartbeat” and, more recently, “Emmerdale”.

The Villages of Pool and Arthington

Arthington Village Hall
Our New Priest

The churches within the Benefice are seeking an experienced priest to lead us in our Christian journey, work with us to enhance the life of our churches; to embed faith in the heart of our communities. We hope for an inspirational preacher who is comfortable in leading services over a wide range of churchmanship from low church to high Anglican, and who can bring the gospel to life and draw in young and old to learn about the message of God.

You will be supported in your role by the Benefice: the Rev’d David Wheeler, part-time Associate Priest, Moira Keith, lay reader, and in addition you have administrative support and part-time secretarial help from a Benefice administrator.

Please see Appendix 1 and 2 for full details of the role of the Rector and the Person Specification.

The Rev’d David Wheeler

Reader Moira Keith

▲ Flowers in the garden of the rectory, Hayfield House, Huby.
Challenges and Opportunities

Although we feel truly blessed to live and work in this beautiful Benefice, we know that there is work to be done. With your help, support and guidance we are looking forward to tackling our challenges head on, as one team.

Putting Our Vision and Plans Into Practice

Our cohesiveness and productivity throughout this recruitment process has proved that we can work together as a wider Benefice team. Building on this foundation, we would like to create and implement more strategic plans which will enable our future growth - to know our goals, our direction, and how to get there.

Growth

Growth of Congregation: we would like to bring more families and children into some of our churches, as one or two congregations consist of mainly older people. There could be an opportunity to share learning from what’s working well across the Benefice already, as some churches are attracting congregations spanning different age groups.

Growth Through School: there is an opportunity to further develop our church and faith integration with local schools, through collective worship, school or church events and using churches for curriculum learning. We would like to use this as a building block to appeal to a wider cross section of our communities, inviting more people into our churches for services and events, thus growing our congregations through building stronger relationships.

Growing our Impact: we would like to develop even closer links with our communities, and with wider faith groups, to build fellowship and make a difference, through God’s love, with those around us.

Growing our Teams: through developing our congregations, our aim is to create a pathway for more people to use their gifts and strengths in the life and work of our churches. This will enable people to take a natural step towards official roles, and PCC membership. We are currently carrying a couple of churchwarden vacancies, which have not impacted any of our services or events thanks to voluntary additional help from the congregation and the close support and decision-making of robust PCCs. Once the recruitment process is fully under way, we will be turning our attention to filling these as a priority as we recognise that the current situation is not sustainable in the longer term.

With your help, and the power of the Holy Spirit behind us, we are ready to work hard and enjoy the journey towards meeting these challenges together.
The rectory is a recently built, individual, four-bedroomed detached house constructed in Yorkshire stone. Hayfield House was built to a high specification with well-appointed accommodation on two levels, offering generous and flexible accommodation, with garaging and an attractive garden.

It is well placed in an attractive and convenient position off Strait Lane within the popular village of Huby, to the south side of Harrogate, well placed for travel around the Benefice and for access to Harrogate and Leeds. It is within five minutes walk of Weeton station and about twenty minutes drive of Leeds Bradford Airport. The deceptively spacious accommodation, as illustrated on the floor plan,

It has oil-fired central heating, uPVC double glazing throughout, security alarm system and low-voltage spot lighting.
Hayfield House

Ground Floor
The Entrance Porch has a double-glazed front door with uPVC frosted windows to the side.

Dining Hall

Lounge
uPVC window to front and uPVC French doors to rear. Two central heating radiators. Raised inset fireplace with fitted coal-effect electric fire. Television point.

Breakfast Kitchen
With range of matching Shaker-style wall and base units with matching drawers and black granite work surfaces with inset 1 1/2-bowl stainless-steel sink unit. Built-in Siemens appliances include double oven, combi microwave, induction hob, extractor canopy, and dishwasher. Integrated Liebherr fridge and freezer. Tumbled marble tiled splashbacks and ceramic floor tiles. Island unit. Two central heating radiators. Television point. Window to rear.

Sun Room
uPVC French doors to side, plus further large window overlooking the rear garden. Ceramic floor tiles. Central heating radiator. Velux window. Television point.

Utility Room

Shower Room
First Floor
The galleried landing has a window to the rear; central heating radiator; walk-in store room / airing cupboard with heated towel rail; access to the boarded roof void via pull-down loft ladder.

Master bedroom suite
Window to front. Central heating radiator. Built-in bedroom furniture incorporating bedside cabinets and matching chests of drawers and cupboards. Further fitted units and central heating radiator in entrance to suite. Television point.

Dressing room
Built-in wardrobes with hanging rails and shelving. Central heating radiator. Window to front.

En suite bathroom

Bedroom 2

Bedroom 3
Windows to rear. Central heating radiator.

House bathroom
Three-piece white suite incorporating curved bath with shower attachment and glass shower screen, low-flush WC and vanity unit with inset wash-hand basin having fitted mirror and shelving above, set in alcove. Window to rear. Extractor fan. Central heating radiator. Modern tiling.

Bedroom 4 / Sitting room / Study

Outside
Electrically operated cedarwood security gates, with pedestrian gate adjacent, lead on to an extensive block-paved driveway providing ample off-street parking, which in turn leads to a front patio area.

Double garage with twin remote-controlled electrically operated up-and-over doors. The garage has power and light and houses the Worcester Bosch oil-fired combination central heating boiler, plus stainless-steel sink unit.

Delightful and easily manageable gardens to the front, side and rear, with those to the side and rear enjoying a pleasant south-west-facing aspect with flagged patio, shaped lawn and mature planting and hedging. Garden lighting. Gravelled area to the side with timber garden shed and oil storage tank.

Services
All mains services are connected to the property with the exception of gas.
Future Development of the Rectory

A feasibility report regarding provision of a new study at ground floor level has recently been undertaken. The plan (see below) provides for a single storey extension at the side of the building which would have a separate entrance and WC. Visitors could be seen in the new study without requiring access to the main house.
Afterword

We hope you have enjoyed learning about our Benefice, the ministry to be undertaken here and what we have to offer you. Please visit us to learn more; we would enjoy showing you around and helping you to understand what is special here and what is challenging for us. We wish you well in your search for the right place to do God’s bidding.

Benefice of Lower Wharfedale
Appendices

Role Description

Person Specification

Schedule of Services
Role Description

Role Title: Rector
Benefice: Benefice of Lower Wharfedale, comprising of the Parish of Kirkby Overblow with Sicklinghall; Parish of Pool with Arthington and the Parish of Weeton with North Rigton and Stainburn.

Oversight: The Bishop of Leeds, delegated to the Area Bishop of Ripon.
Archdeaconry: Richmond and Craven
Deanery: Harrogate

Context
The Benefice of Lower Wharfedale comprises six churches which serve villages of varying sizes, scattered dwellings and farms. The area is largely rural with strong connections to the towns and cities of Harrogate, Otley, York and Leeds underpinned by reliable train and bus services. Enjoying the best of both worlds the Benefice is also on the doorstep of the Yorkshire Dales with all the amenities and attractions they have to offer.

The Benefice requires a rector to provide confident priestly leadership, model prayerfulness, encourage discipleship, grow lay ministries and be a sign of grace and blessing in the communities whilst remaining true to our six shared values; leadership, faith, compassion, commitment, community and vision. Whilst all parishes share these values, each is unique and has differing needs. We therefore require a priest who will live among the people and has the ability to adapt to these differing needs and who will engage in and care about rural and social matters. It is essential that the new rector is sociable, confident in initiating conversations and keen to participate in village life. The parishes seek a priest who will inspire the faithful, develop their discipleship and pilgrimage, and strengthen them as Christians, getting to know the communities and their visitors with imagination and creativity. The new incumbent is required to encourage and develop lay leadership. You will be supported by committed and very capable Wardens and Readers, retired clergy, and an administrator.

The PCCs are currently reviewing and rationalising the number of governance meetings to ensure the balance between administration and leadership of ministry is sustainable. This is an ongoing process and we welcome the input of the incoming incumbent.

The benefice is part of the very active and supportive Harrogate deanery in the Ripon Episcopal Area. The young Diocese of Leeds is committed to your on-going training, development and well-being. A full driving licence is essential.

Role Purpose: General

a) To share with the Bishop of Leeds in the cure of souls of the parishes.
b) To serve as rector of the parishes, having regard to the calling and responsibilities of the clergy of the Church of England as described in the Ordinal, the Canons, national safeguarding policies, and all other relevant legislation.
c) To work with members of the Parochial Church Councils in the development of the churches and parishes, having regard to the need for sustainability and effectiveness in mission and outreach.
d) To ensure that a high standard of worship, preaching and pastoral care is provided.
e) To nurture discipleship and develop the ministry of all God’s people, through training, cooperation, support and example, encouraging all God’s people as appropriate to take responsibility for the mission and ministry of the parishes, and seeking to identify potential future leaders and ministers.
f) To encourage all church members share the Diocese vision of; Confident Christians, Growing Churches, Transforming Communities, characterised by Loving, Living, Learning and enabled by Clergy and Lay Together, Purposeful Resourcing and Dynamic Partnerships.
g) To collaborate with others in the deanery in mission and ministry, and through deanery planning, participate in the future shaping of ministry according to resources and opportunities.
h) To seek the fullest possible degree of ecumenical cooperation and commitment within the parishes.
Role Purpose: Specific
a) To lead the churches and parishes forward prayerfully in mission and ministry.
b) To be a pastor to all – to those in the churches and the wider parishes.
c) To establish and maintain a high profile in each community.
d) To identify and develop ways in which the church buildings can be used by the wider communities.
e) To be involved in the life and governance of local schools, regularly visiting and finding appropriate ways to minister to the children and staff.
f) To lead Benefice meetings, deepening and developing the opportunities for shared ministry.
g) To encourage and enable the ministry of licensed and PTO colleagues.
h) To identify, in conversation with the PCCs, an appropriate model of rural ministry that can enable each parish to flourish and use the gifts of the clergy and laity appropriately.

Key Contacts and Relationships
Groups and committees
• The PCCs
• Deanery Chapter
• Deanery Synod

In the Benefice
• Associate Priest
• Churchwardens
• Reader
• Head teachers of local schools
• Local benefactors

Support structures
• Area Dean
• Archdeacon
• Staff at The Diocesan Office with key responsibilities for various aspects of supporting parochial ministry
• Area Bishop

Health and Wellbeing
• The health and wellbeing of our clergy is a priority for the Diocese of Leeds. It is therefore essential that the new incumbent is able to manage their time to ensure they:
  • Have a regular day off per week and every effort should be made to ensure this includes the preceding evening. If days off are compromised for whatsoever reason, days off in lieu should be taken.
  • Pay attention to their spiritual wellbeing, including daily prayer and Bible reading, reading/learning in general, quiet days and an annual retreat. This may include an annual deanery retreat.
  • Build collegial and friendship relationships across the deanery, Episcopal Area and Dioceses.
  • Advise the Area Dean or Archdeacon or Area Bishop as early as possible if stress or anxiety is of concern.
  • Have a spiritual director and work place mentor. The Archdeacon’s Office is able to provide a directory of spiritual directors and mentors should this be required.
Person Specification

Experience

Essential
- Experience of working in clergy and lay teams
- Ability to work to a Safeguarding Policy
- Engagement with and pastoral support for people of all ages; particularly a experience of developing ministry to draw others into missing age gaps
- Love of the sacramental and a commitment to the Eucharist
- An effective communicator, teacher and preacher
- Proven ability and motivation to work both within and beyond church structures
- Ability to establish a rapport with a wide range of people – Christians and non-Christians – in a variety of contexts
- Ability to initiate and manage change

Desirable
- Experience with congregations in differing situations, including in villages
- Experience of leading mature and thoughtful worship
- Experience of working with schools and school-age children
- Experience of the care, maintenance and development of buildings
- Experience of doing forms of church in creative, engaging and imaginative ways

Knowledge, skills and competencies

Essential
- Ability to preach well in a variety of styles and formats to a broad range of listeners with varying outlooks, ages and understanding
- Ability to identify and respond to opportunities for mission
- Ability to make and build on links with individuals and community organisations whose involvement with the Church is limited
- Leadership skills including the ability to motivate, inspire and effectively coordinate volunteers

Desirable
- Ability to work collaboratively, especially with volunteers and other churches
- Ability to organise resources effectively to meet a large number of demands

General attributes

Essential
- A highly motivated, creative person committed to sharing life in a team
- Empathy with the values of the diocese and those of the benefice
- Able to adapt to and communicate with the spectrum of Anglican beliefs and practices
- A passion for growing and developing congregations
- An appreciation of the opportunities provided by the Church’s place within the existing secular structures for developing links with those not actively involved
- Evidence of a deep prayer life and ability to draw on a wide range of spiritual resources

Desirable
- Evidence of effective team interactions both lay and ordained
- An ecumenical outlook and willingness to work with local churches and faith groups
- A love of the arts in general and church choral music in particular and an understanding of how they can draw people to God
- A passion for learning and personal development

Qualifications and Training

Essential
- An ordained priest within the Church of England, or a Church in communion with it, or a Church whose orders it recognises
- DBS enhanced clearance
- Satisfactory completion of Initial Ministerial Education
- A person who lives and exemplifies the priesthood in ways both profoundly rooted and accessible to others so that she or he offers a ministry of encouragement, care and challenge
- Willingness to engage in further training that enhances the skills of parish and community leadership
- A theologically able priest who can communicate this with ease

Desirable
- A person open to learning about new ways of working, irrespective of their source
## Schedule of Services
### Benefice of Lower Wharfedale Sunday Services

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>All Saints’ Kirkby Overblow</th>
<th>St John’s North Rigton and Stainburn</th>
<th>St Wilfrid’s Pool</th>
<th>St Peter’s Sicklinghall</th>
<th>St Barnabas, Weeton</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>First Sunday</strong></td>
<td>8.30am Holy Communion</td>
<td>9.30am Parish Eucharist</td>
<td>9.30am Parish Eucharist</td>
<td>9.30am Parish Eucharist</td>
<td>11.00am Parish Eucharist</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Book of Common Prayer</td>
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<td></td>
<td>11.00am Celtic Morning Prayer</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Second Sunday</strong></td>
<td>8.30am Holy Communion</td>
<td>9.30am Parish Eucharist</td>
<td>9.30am Parish Eucharist</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Book of Common Prayer</td>
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<td></td>
<td>9.45am Breakfast Church</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Third Sunday</strong></td>
<td>8.30am Holy Communion</td>
<td>9.30 Family Service</td>
<td>9.30am Parish Eucharist</td>
<td>9.30am Parish Eucharist</td>
<td>11.00am Parish Eucharist</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Book of Common Prayer</td>
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<td></td>
<td>9.30 Family Service</td>
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<td>4.00pm Messy Church</td>
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<td></td>
<td>at Pool Methodist Church</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Fourth Sunday</strong></td>
<td>11.00am Parish Eucharist</td>
<td>9.30am Parish Eucharist</td>
<td>9.30am Parish Eucharist</td>
<td>9.30am Parish Eucharist</td>
<td>11.00am Parish Eucharist</td>
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<td></td>
<td>with Sunday Club</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Fifth Sunday</strong></td>
<td>10am, Benefice Eucharist, held at each church in turn.</td>
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