Welcome to our Parish Brochure

We are an open church – come on in and meet us...
Hello and thank you for taking the time to find out more about our church. We think Holy Trinity and St Jude’s Church is a really special place and we’re excited to share what makes it unique with you in this brochure. We do hope you enjoy reading it.

Our church is located in the heart of Halifax - a town that is very much on the up. A former industrial centre, the town has been sensitively modernised in recent years without spoiling its character. Landmarks of note include the magnificent Piece Hall, the oldest remaining cloth hall in Britain, the 15th-century Halifax Minster, a real gem in the town’s crown, and Wainhouse Tower, the tallest folly in the world where it is rumoured you can see as far as Blackpool on a clear day.

Due to the merger of parishes a number of years ago, our parish boundary now incorporates a large chunk of the town centre, residential areas and a local nature reserve. The football fans out there may also be interested to know that the Parish takes in half of the South Stand at The Shay, our local football and rugby stadium, although it is up for debate as to whether we actually have a goal post!

The church itself is set just a stone’s throw away from Savile Park moor, a large open grass area which is often used for sport and family events, and Manor Heath, an award-winning park. You only have to step outside our front door and you can walk your dog, exercise or take in some fresh air. The church building has attractive gardens and a spacious, well-equipped church hall in the grounds that is used by a wide variety of community groups.

Whilst you can hopefully tell that we love where we’re located, this isn’t what makes our church special.

We are a vibrant and increasingly diverse congregation, made up of people of many different ages and backgrounds but what unites us is our values – we are warm, friendly, open-minded and, most importantly, we welcome everybody.

Attendance at our church is growing with high attendance from inside the Parish. To reflect this, we’ve broadened the range of church services that we offer to include Eucharist, Evensong, Songs of Praise, Taizé and more.

Music is very much at the heart of our church and we have a strong musical tradition that we want to take forward with us. We have juniors in the choir for the first time in several years and have a well-maintained organ with an ongoing fund to ensure it is kept in pristine condition. Children also play an important part in the life of our church. We have a children’s church, youth group, uniformed organisations and very strong links with Holy Trinity Primary School, one of three schools in our Parish. However, like many churches, we have an ageing population and struggle to attract and retain children of teenage years so having an incumbent that understands and can inspire families and young people is very important.

We really do hope this foreword has given you some insight into life at Holy Trinity and St Jude’s Church. Please do take a look at the rest of the brochure to learn more about our church, the area and our requirements for a new vicar. Above all else, we’re looking for a priest who embraces our diversity, is able to liaise with people from all walks of life and is able to bring new people into our church family. If you think this is you then we’d love to hear from you.

David Lord and Angela Greenwood, Churchwardens

"Without a doubt, the best thing about our church is the people – we truly are a family."
Our Building

Our church is a well-maintained Grade II listed building dedicated in 1890:

- The chancel
- A view down to our font
- A close-up of our beautiful stained glass window
- Glass doors into our Lady Chapel
We have a strong choral tradition which we would like to continue - but would also be open to the introduction of a greater range of music, from a more frequent use of contemporary hymns, to other musical styles.

Choir members
Our Church

Our Services
- On a Sunday mornings we have between 80 and 100 adults and up to 20 children.
- This is a communion service (CW) and the Children’s Church leaves us after the first hymn and comes back in time for communion.
- On the first Sunday of the month there is an all age service.
- The music is led by our choir with adults and children.
- There are services on Sunday evenings with Choral Evensong (BCP) on the first and second and said evening prayer on the third. On one Sunday we have a ‘Refresh Service’ which is quieter and more reflective often using candles and Taizé chants.
- We have a Wednesday morning Communion Service (said) and, once a month, a Thursday Healing Service.

Our Outreach
- The church hall has excellent kitchen facilities and a sprung dance floor and is widely used by the community, as well as our own congregation.
- On a Wednesday morning we have what we call ‘Super Wednesday’ where members of the community and the congregation meet to play scrabble, make cards, learn quilting and have a water-colour painting class. Toasted tea-cakes with jam and fresh fruit are very popular!
- Our Tiddlers (Mother/carer and toddler group) meet on Thursdays and at least ten children with their parents or carers join in the Prayer and Praise session complete with prayer bears and percussion instruments.
- The church hall is a well-used community asset with something happening every day of the week!
I grew up attending St Jude’s so, despite now living in London, it really meant a lot to me to get married in the church. We were made to feel so welcome and had the most beautiful service.

Gemma Rooney, Bride
Partly driven by the ‘Leading Your Church into Growth’ initiative and partly by our own desire to set some objectives for the future, the PCC had several meetings to agree a five-year plan. This was discussed with the whole congregation and distilled down to four key elements:

**Our vision** – to grow in Christ and make Him known
In other words, to see the church flourish as a worshipping body and also to spread the Gospel of Christ throughout the wider community. There was a powerful sense that we needed to widen our appeal to attract all sections of our diverse Parish, while maintaining the rich traditions that the congregation cherishes today.

**Our priorities:**
- **To consider the fitness for purpose of our buildings and seek to develop them appropriately.** Given the church is from the late-Victorian era, there is general agreement that facilities and the worshipping space need updating. Specifically, screens are being introduced and there are plans for removing some pews to create a more flexible space at the rear, to offer a more welcoming entry and kitchen facilities.
- **To build on our work with children and young families.** Children's Church, the Tidders Playgroup and links with the local primary school are all flourishing, but it remains a priority to strengthen our appeal to the next generation – to ensure the church's survival and prosperity.
- **To develop our church's involvement in the local community.** To contribute to this we have already established ‘Super Wednesday’ and held a ‘Great Get Together’ picnic and activities day, as part of the Jo Cox Foundation initiative – but we want to continue our work in this area.
While a great deal has been achieved, more remains to be done within these agreed priorities and, of course, we need a plan for the next five years – Vision 2025?
Our Strengths

We are a growing church with strong connections to our local Church of England primary school. Our other strengths include:

- Church attendance is more than 100 each week and is growing. The congregation is diverse with many families and people from all walks of life coming together to worship.
- Work is ongoing to bring younger members into our church family. We have a junior choir (known as Young Voices), Children’s Church on Sunday mornings and a youth group for secondary school-age young people.
- The church buildings are well-situated and in good repair. The church itself has many original architectural features, a fine organ and beautiful stained-glass windows.
- The church is open to the community every Saturday morning for cuppas and conversation and is staffed by volunteers from the congregation.
- Super Wednesday is a well-established weekly community gathering held in the church hall offering coffee, craft and companionship.
- We hold services at care/nursing homes in the Parish.
- There are several thriving home groups, meeting regularly for more personal worship, support and Christian development.
“The church has a fantastic social scene. Led by the Events Committee, we hold various activities throughout the year – many of which raise money for the church and for charity.

Samantha Potter, Events Committee Chair

Above: The Good Friday Experience
Right: Volunteers get ready for our annual Christmas Fair

Above: All dressed up for our 1940s evening
Above right: The Mad Hatter’s Tea Party with our parent/carer and toddler group
Right: Our Super Wednesday group in action
Our Challenges

Whilst there are several families who do regularly attend church services, the congregation is by-and-large an ageing one. We need to plan for the future:

_The key challenge for us is keeping young people in the church, attracting more families and ensuring they are equipped to continue the work of the church._

In addition to this:

- The schools in the Parish are all primary. There’s a challenge to find platforms to reach out beyond the congregation to older children and young adults in the area.
- The church enjoys relative financial stability but cannot be complacent about income streams as we look to the future. A renewed stewardship drive is still at an early stage and will need energy and focus if it is to bear fruit.
Our Opportunities

We’re looking for a priest who can lead us into the future and help us to take forward the many opportunities we have as a church:

- There's plenty of scope to work with additional schools in the Parish.
- We are a diverse community, but we seek to be welcoming to all. In 2019, our ‘Great Get Together’ gathered church neighbours and people from across the community to celebrate the blessing that there is more that binds us than divides us. We will repeat and build on this activity, to realise the benefits at congregational and interfaith level.
- An embryonic church orchestra allows congregation members to share their talents and adds an extra dimension to worship.
- The uniformed organisations (Guides, Brownies and Rainbows) already play a part in church, but we would like to expand this.
- The Christian community is thriving in Halifax and reaches out to people in a many ways, such as the Food Bank, the Gathering Place and the Night Shelter. We have been involved in projects led by other churches and there is scope to expand this through Churches Together South Halifax.
- The church is embracing new communications methods and technologies. We need to consolidate new means of communication with the tried and trusted methods that have stood the test of time.
One of the things that we are most proud of is the role that our children play in the life of our church and our strong links with Holy Trinity Primary School are of the utmost importance. These include:

- The Trinity Lighthouse after school club
- Two congregational services held within the school during the church year (Trinity and Education Sundays)
- Several services that the school hold in the church

Although there is a high percentage of Muslim and other non-Christian faiths within the school, many parents of other faiths are open to coming to church on occasions. More could be done to encourage this.
Halifax is a thriving Pennine town and the cultural and artistic centre of the Metropolitan Borough of Calderdale. It is equidistant from Leeds and Manchester, yet is large enough to offer a vibrant mix of activities and facilities in its own right.

What Halifax has to offer:

- Excellent schools, including two state-funded, selective grammar schools
- Lots of well-supported, local primary schools in the suburbs and neighbouring villages
- A tourist hot-spot, thanks to the multi-million-pound restoration of the Grade 1-listed Piece Hall and many recent TV dramas featuring the town (including ‘Last Tango in Halifax’, ‘Happy Valley’ and ‘Gentleman Jack’ all written by Sally Wainwright)
- An amazing heritage of historic buildings, including an ancient Minster, a splendid Victorian Town Hall, Borough Market and Dean Clough Mills complex (now home to a hotel, gym, shops, offices, theatre and bars)
- A varied cultural offering with The Victoria Theatre (professional touring shows), The Playhouse (amateur productions), Square Chapel Arts Centre (offering music, drama and film), Northern Broadsides Theatre, Actors’ Workshop (well-regarded youth theatre) and a multi-screen cinema
- Museums include The National Children’s Museum (Eureka), an Industrial museum and an eclectic collection of textiles and military artefacts at the Bankfield Museum
- Proximity to wonderful countryside, with miles of walks and outdoor facilities, including Ogden Water, Jerusalem Farm and the National Trust estate at Hardcastle Crags all within easy reach
- A range of parks, including Shibden Park (containing Anne Lister’s home, Shibden Hall and Folk Museum), Manor Heath Park and The People’s Park, designed by Joseph Paxton
- Excellent transport links, with the M62 on the doorstep and train services to Leeds, Manchester and a direct service to London King’s Cross
In 2018, Halifax was called ‘the Shoreditch of the North’ by BBC 6 Music due to its flourishing craft beer and music scene - and great pork pies!
Our Parish Map

Key

- Parish boundary
- Holy Trinity and St Jude
- Holy Trinity Primary School
- Vicarage
Our Vicarage

The vicarage is a three-bedroom detached house with an attached garage, downstairs WC and office but it is below Diocesan standard. There is discussion with the Diocese about possible improvement.
What We Want From Our New Priest

Working with our congregation, house groups, the ‘You, Me and God’ group and Junior Church, we’ve put together the following profile that sets out what we’d like in a new vicar:

The role:
We are looking for someone who will:

• take a close interest and involvement in the Church of England Primary School and in Children's Church, with an ability to engage with children on their terms
• together with the well-established pastoral team, be available in a crisis for visiting and ministering to those in need as the occasion demands
• encourage growth in numbers having adopted the Vision 2020 (where much remains to be done), to attract more young people to regular worship and to support the work of the home groups, spiritual courses and uniformed organisations, which need to feel valued and part of the church’s wider community remit
• support the church’s social events and ensure a spiritual dimension to these as appropriate
• continue the outreach and ecumenical work in our part of Halifax, in order to increase the church’s spiritual footprint (for example at the Gathering Place)

Above all else, we’re looking for someone with an open-minded attitude to the congregation and Parish’s diverse needs, together with a sense of proportion and a sense of humour!

The person:

• should have the ability to balance the need for change with maintaining the rich tradition of worship and existing range of activities
• may not have a family of their own, but needs to understand families and the pressures they face and to offer time and space to listen
• may not be a musician themselves, but needs to appreciate and preserve the important role music plays in our worship
• should have a lively and clear preaching form, with a churchmanship able to embrace a wide range of worship styles, and whose ministry is engaging and accessible, with a passion for the Gospel and an infectious love of Jesus
• needs to have the ability to unite us and take us forward as one, as we face the future
• will be able to delegate and oversee activities, rather than seek to control them. Given the overall demands of the role, striking the right balance between being ‘hands-on’ and nurturing the talents of others is essential
What Our School Children Want From Our New Priest

At the start of the school year, we asked pupils at Holy Trinity Primary School to tell us what they would like from a new vicar. Here are the key words they picked out:
A Good Reverend

I think a good Reverend should have their own special spark and creativity within their teaching. They should also be able to deliver a message as well as tell a story. Another quality I think a good Reverend should have is that they should be loud so everyone can hear what they have to say and also be confident to speak in front of a crowd.

I think a good reverend should show the Christian Values so they have to be trustworthy, compassionate, wise just and have experience.

All of these qualities are good for a reverend, but I think the most important quality is...

They must enjoy what they do.

Inaaya.
Are you the one we are looking for?

Join us!
Thank you for your interest

Find out more:

Website: www.holytrinitystjudes.org.uk
Facebook: @HolyTrinityandStJudes