Two Village Churches

PARISH BROCHURE

of

St John the Baptist, Bishop Monkton

and

St Leonard’s, Burton Leonard
A warm welcome, led by our incumbent the Very Reverend John Dobson, awaits the house-for-duty Priest who comes to share their ministry and mission with our communities in the parishes of St. John the Baptist, Bishop Monkton and St Leonard’s, Burton Leonard. These are two very picturesque, rural villages that boast strong, thriving, diverse communities. The villages are two miles away from each other, are strategically well placed to reach the Cathedral city of Ripon, the Spa town of Harrogate, the cities of Leeds and York and are within easy access to the A1 motorway.

Through farming heritage, active families, professional people and of all ages, both communities have a beating heart and we are all looking forward to you getting to know us better.

The parishes of Burton Leonard and Bishop Monkton are two of the four parishes making up the Ripon Cathedral Benefice. This brochure has been prepared to assist the appointment of a house for duty Priest to these two parishes. It reveals how much life and vitality there is both within the Churches and the communities they serve. This is a delightful area in which to live and a wonderfully rewarding context in which to minister; many people of all ages are enthused and engaged.

It is important that we appoint a Priest who will help these Churches and communities to continue to flourish. Continuing to develop lay leadership and offering ministry within the schools will be clear priorities. There is a good deal of autonomy for the person in this post, but also an enviable amount of support from both the parishes and the wider benefice. The Cathedral’s support often extends beyond that provided by me, to that of Cathedral canons and minor canons and the services of the Cathedral Office. The Area Bishop of Ripon and the Archdeacon of Richmond and Craven also provide valuable encouragement.

The other two parishes in the Cathedral benefice are the Cathedral Parish itself, which also contains the village of Littlethorpe, and the Parish of Sharow with Copt Hewick and Marton-le-Moor. The clergy and congregations of the whole benefice look forward to welcoming, and working with, the person who is appointed.

I would be delighted to have a conversation with anyone wishing to explore whether God is calling him or her to this particular ministry.

The Very Revd. John Dobson
The Dean of Ripon
THE DIOCESE

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 COMMITMENT TO YOU

We think our two communities are wonderful places to live in and we hope you will too. We will support you in meeting the needs of our parishes and sharing the love of God and Jesus Christ with those who live here. We will involve you in community events and be there when a name escapes you or gentle distraction is required. We will provide you with committed PCCs with experienced and knowledgeable Churchwardens and proactive, helpful PCC members. We will continue to build our team of over 140 volunteers so that you have many hands to make the workload lighter. We promise you good-natured debate in meetings, a willingness to collaborate and an open mindedness to new ideas. We will ensure you take time out for family, for relaxation and for self-development. You will have our prayers, support and friendship.
The Local Community

Bishop Monkton is a vibrant community of around 850 people. Its population includes older retired people but also younger families with children: well-established locals alongside ‘in-comers’: farming people and professionals working in neighbouring urban centres. The village is predominantly white, mainly middle-class and relatively affluent. However, there are a number of people living alone and social isolation and poverty are not unknown.

The village has two pubs, a village hall and sports facilities, children’s playgrounds, two Churches (a Methodist Church as well as the Anglican) and a primary school. Perhaps its most distinctive physical feature is a small beck running through the middle of the village.

There are plenty of footpaths, bridleways and cycling routes as well as several holiday cottages and a caravan site.

The Church of England Primary School in the village has 111 pupils as well as a nursery and pre-school with 26 children. The school, which was rated ‘good’ by OFSTED in 2018, attracts children from outside as well as within the village.

There are more than 30 sports and social clubs and societies catering for a wide range of interests including amateur dramatics, bowling, books, bridge, cricket, croquet, film, gardening, keep fit, history, singing, tennis, table tennis and walking. There’s a Lunch Club and a local branch of the WI.
Community events include a Hog Roast, quiz nights and an annual ‘Beck Busters’ 10K and fun run.

Bishop Monkton has its own Parish Council and its population is expected to grow with new housing planned for the village.

The monthly parish magazine, which is widely distributed, is a useful source of information. There is also a very informative and regularly updated website [http://www.bishopmonktontoday.btck.co.uk](http://www.bishopmonktontoday.btck.co.uk)

The Church

The Church’s Mission Statement is – ‘Through faithful worship and humble service, to strive to embrace Christ’s love and compassion, and to share the Gospel message with all people with a welcoming and friendly community of faith.’

There are currently 70 people on the Church electoral roll with a high percentage attending regularly. A recent Parish Review (in conjunction with Burton Leonard) led to a new pattern of services designed to appeal to more people.

An All Age Worship or Café Church Services take place on the first Sunday of each month, children participate actively in the service. On the second and fourth Sundays there is a 9 a.m. Communion Service using the Book of Common Prayer. On the third Sunday there is a 10.30 a.m. Parish Eucharist.

An Evensong service is held with Burton Leonard on the third Sunday at 6 p.m. and, in months with a fifth Sunday, when there is a joint 10.30 a.m. Eucharist Service.

There is a joint choir with Burton Leonard, of about 20 members, led by a director of music. Congregational participation in services is strong: reading, serving the chalice, lay led intercessions.

The management of the Church is led by two Churchwardens,
a team of deputy wardens and an active Parochial Church Council. The PCC has sub-groups looking after finance, fundraising and the Church fabric.

The Church works closely with its ‘sister’ Church in Burton Leonard and also with Bishop Monkton Methodist Church.

In 2019, an appeal raised over £37,000 for urgent repairs to the Church tower and roof. The work is due to be carried out in Spring 2020. Further structural work is likely to be necessary in coming years.

The Church in the Community

The Church is open daily for visitors. A rota of churchgoers and other villagers looks after the Church and churchyard.

In an average year, there are one or two weddings, three baptisms, occasional confirmations and five or six funerals. There is a wedding coordinator and the House for Duty Priest works closely with the Churchwardens to make arrangements for baptisms and funerals.

The village school has a termly service in the Church and the House for Duty Priest is regularly involved in collective worship in the school. The Church elects two foundation governors to the school’s Board.

In conjunction with the Methodist Church, a support network known as HANDS provides help for people in the village in particular need.

On the first Friday of every month, Coffee and Cake mornings run by volunteers are held using the ‘kitchen in a cupboard’ facility, built in the Church, with an average attendance of around fifty. These events provide an important meeting place for the village community and also raise money for charity and Church funds. The Church currently supports the Children’s Society, Harrogate Homeless Project, Christian Aid and the British Legion.

The Church is used for community events, for example a concert last year to mark the centenary of the end of the First World War, ‘Let’s do Lunch’, Christmas tree and Angel Festivals. A Project Group has recently been formed to investigate how the Church might be more widely used by the village. A survey of villagers is planned for early 2020 and it is expected that a fundraising campaign will be launched to secure the long-term structural integrity of the building and to make it suitable for a wider range of uses.
Local Community

With a population of approximately 700, and with a high proportion of young families, Burton Leonard is a hive of activity catering for all ages.

There are many well established groups which are run from our Village Hall, including Keep Fit, Yoga, History, WI, Scouts and Brownies, Amateur Dramatics, Leisure, Art and Gardening Clubs. Outdoor activities for juniors and adults alike include tennis, football, cricket and bowls, all using purpose-built facilities located on the edge of Burton Leonard, where there is also a fantastic playground. St. Leonard's Hall (the Church Hall) is used for Spanish classes, Bridge Club, coffee mornings and village meetings. It is disabled-friendly with modern facilities.

We have a village monthly magazine which keeps everyone updated on activities as well as future events. It is circulated to over 400 households. Two village events that you won't want to miss each year are the Scarecrow Festival and the Village Feast. Food, music and laughter - a great combination. The village also boasts a thriving and friendly village shop and post office, a lovely pub, a B&B, self-catering cottages and an abundance of places to walk and enjoy the picturesque countryside.

For a closer look at Burton Leonard please visit the village website www.burtonleonard.org.uk.

The village Church of England primary school, with 80 pupils, has close links with the Church and enjoys services in Church on occasions such as Welcome Back (in September), Harvest Festival, Christingle, Christmas Carols and the tear-jerking Leavers Service in July.

Recently awarded "outstanding" by OFSTED, the school is hoping to achieve similar recognition from the SIAMS inspection which is expected in 2020-21 and is looking forward to working with our new Priest.

Please have a look at the school website www.burtonleonard.n-yorks.sch.uk
The Church

Our much loved St. Leonard's Church, situated in the heart of the village and built in 1878, is the third Church to be built on this site. It is surrounded by a closed Church yard, and separate cemetery to the north of the site. We celebrate four to five weddings and baptisms each year, and sadly say farewell with a similar number of funerals. We have 86 people on the electoral roll.

The Church has a seating capacity for 120 people, choir stalls, portable ramped disabled access, a looped hearing system with Bluetooth, piped organ and a piano. The Church is in a very sound condition. It is open daily for all to enjoy its peaceful character.

To enable us to work more closely with St. John’s we have recently revised our worship schedule. We offer a mixed pattern of worship from the Book of Common Prayer, to Common Worship, and theme-led services. We involve all ages of our congregation in the delivery of all services, and have recently started "Kingdom Kids", a Sunday school for children aged 3-11. Our family service team also plan services aimed particularly at families in which children delight in taking part.

With Dean John closely supporting us as our incumbent in this House-for-Duty arrangement, we enjoy good contact and support from the Cathedral Office. During the vacancy we are strengthening and expanding these links as different clergy take services with us. We value these contacts immensely along with support from lay preachers and other ordained ministers. We also value the support given by the diocesan officers. We look forward to building on all these contacts with our new Priest.

In addition to support from the Cathedral and our two knowledgeable and highly experienced Church wardens, Lesley and John, our Priest can also rely on our active PCC. Comprised of 12 members, the PCC prides itself on maintaining a financially
stable Church with carefully managed income. We are a friendly, proactive and approachable team which meets up to six times a year and collaborates well with the PCC members of Bishop Monkton.

**The Church in the community**

The importance of St. Leonard’s to the community is reflected in the list of 82 volunteers who give up their time to help with flower arranging, cleaning the Church, reading, providing refreshments and maintaining the cemetery. Some are regular church-goers and others only attend on special occasions. All support and value the Church.

In May 2013 the Methodist Church in the village sadly closed, but we continue to welcome all its members and we have shared many services in the past. The building has been bought and occupied by the charity Dementia Forward, with whom we have close links.

Each year we donate £1,000 to a named charity. In 2019 the charity was Supporting Older People, a local charity aimed at reducing the isolation felt by many older people. Other local charities we support are the Harrogate Homeless Project, and Ripon Food Bank.

We enjoy sharing our Church and Church Hall with the community and we have an active social programme throughout the year, from our laughter-filled coffee mornings, to highly enjoyable barn dances. We have hosted art and history exhibitions, Christmas fairs, quiz nights, afternoon teas, hymns and Pimms and a wide range of uplifting musical concerts.

We look forward to welcoming our new Priest and introducing him/ her to our community.
The vicarage for both parishes is situated a short walk away from St. John the Baptists Church in Bishop Monkton. It is a well-proportioned, four bedrooomed, family home with a study that is home to the Church photocopier. The house is in a good state of repair and has an easily maintained garden.
### OUR WORSHIP SCHEDULE

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### WEBSITE

We have recently launched our joint website which is a great source of information about our parishes and an easy way to keep updated on the many activities going on across our two communities.

[www.twovillageChurches.com](http://www.twovillageChurches.com)