BROCHURE FOR
THE PROPOSED UPPER AIRE BENEFICE OF GARGRAVE, CONISTON COLD AND KIRKBY IN MALHAMDALE
PRIEST-IN-CHARGE
THE BENEFICE OF GARGRAVE, CONISTON COLD
AND KIRKBY IN MALHAMDALE

The Anglican 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), market towns (Harrogate, 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).

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

The proposed Upper Aire Benefice comprises three parishes in the Ripon Episcopal Area, part of the Bowland and Ewecross Deanery. The three parishes are St. Peter’s, Coniston Cold, St. Andrew’s, Gargrave and St. Michael the Archangel, Kirkby in Malhamdale.

We are a rural benefice lying to the north west of the market town of Skipton, sitting in beautiful countryside, partly in and partly on the edge of the Yorkshire Dales National Park. The economy is principally agricultural, producing dairy, beef, lamb and a little arable, plus moorland management. There is one major employer at Gargrave producing surgical dressings. Otherwise, the wider area has a number of associated agricultural businesses, holiday accommodation and caravan sites, as tourism is an important factor. The Pennine Way crosses the Leeds to Liverpool canal at Gargrave, and heads north through Malhamdale to the well-known Malham Cove.

The three main villages relate to a number of smaller settlements across the area. We have a strong sense of local community and rural tradition, balanced with an outward-looking culture welcoming the many people who come to live locally. The wider community has a sense of ownership of the church as an important and relevant part of rural life, with generous support for major events and initiatives. One of these is Voices of Craven, a community choir drawn from our parishes and others, with its own quality summer festival.

As with all rural areas, there have been difficult times and farming can be uncertain, not least with current questions about agricultural funding policy for the future. Rural deprivation does exist but can be hidden. Issues include the high cost of housing and a lack of affordable homes.

Proposals are being brought forward to create this as a new benefice. Each parish has its own distinctive story and there is a breadth of worship styles. There is history of St. Peter’s being linked with St. Michael’s, and for the last 10 years with St. Andrew’s, but this is the first time the three parishes have been brought together. We look forward to imaginative leadership to help us create an effective partnership. Each parish has a committed PCC and churchwardens. We are willing to work out good patterns of oversight and management that makes the best use of the time and talents of our new priest. This will be an early topic of discussion with our priest. The plan is that the Priest-in-Charge will be based at Gargrave in a team relationship with a House-for-Duty priest based in Kirkby Malham, to be recruited in due course.
We view this as an exciting opportunity for mission, growth, increased spirituality, the development of lay leadership and the discipleship of all. At the start of this journey together we pray that someone will be called to lead us, providing vision, leadership, encouragement and training. We are also aware that the post will require considerable patience, persistence and a sense of humour. We offer our wholehearted commitment and support.

There is also the opportunity for a person with the appropriate skills and experience to contribute to the diocesan hub strategy for training and development in the deanery.

The attractive vicarage in Gargrave is a modern four-bedroom house with two reception rooms and an office easily accessible from the door without passing through the house. It is adjacent to the church and within easy walking distance of the village’s shops, primary school and pre-school and the GP and NHS dentist's surgeries.

There is very good local education provision, with fine primary schools in Kirkby Malham and Gargrave and excellent secondary schools in Skipton, Threshfield and Settle, including two grammar schools, plus an FE college. The Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School in Gargrave caters for some 117 children and has good links with the church, using St Andrew’s for some school services. Church members serve as governors and there are regular assemblies delivered by them and others. There is a strong team of governors, including two Foundation Governors. The Priest-in-Charge is one of these. There is an independent pre-school for the younger children. We are keen to develop existing links with the local school and to make a more effective bridge for children and young children to explore faith.

The very popular primary school in Kirkby Malham, with approximately 60 on role serves the parish and beyond. Although not a church school, there is a strong tradition of the priest working in the school, taking assemblies etc., and of church members being involved and assisting. The school produces a nativity play as part of the Christingle service, all pupils taking part.

Gargrave station provides frequent and regular rail links to Leeds, Lancaster and Carlisle, the last by crossing the iconic Ribblehead viaduct. Skipton station has a six-day direct return service to London, King’s Cross.

We hope that we can encourage you to come and share the leadership of our life and mission together. If you are persuaded to explore further, please follow the links for more detailed information about each parish on the diocesan vacancy website and the individual Parish website.
OUR PARISHES

SPECIFIC INFORMATION - ST ANDREW’S, GARGRAVE

Summary

Gargrave sits at a crossroads. A main road that leads from East to West, a rail link extending the famous Carlisle to Settle line through to Skipton, Leeds, and the Lancashire coast, the Pennine Way, National Cycle Network routes, and the Leeds Liverpool canal, all pass through the village.

The congregation of St Andrew’s Church also stands at a crossroads, one full of possibility and exciting options. We are looking for a priest to lead us into those possibilities and options, someone who can help us on the next stage of our walk with Christ.

Our Parish

Gargrave is a large, attractive village on the River Aire, four miles from the market town of Skipton. It is a friendly place, a good-neighbourly one and with a strong community spirit. The ecclesiastical parish of Gargrave, with a population of around 2,000, extends over a large area, six miles to the north and three to the west of the village. The village is home to some 1800 people who come from every branch of society, and whilst some are employed at Scapa (a healthcare manufacturer and the only major employer) and by shops and small businesses in the village, many commute daily to Skipton, Leeds, Bradford and beyond. Several family run farms, mainly livestock, help to maintain a distinctly rural atmosphere.

Our Church

Many in the community recognise St Andrew’s as “our church,” even though they may not attend regularly. Our electoral roll has increased significantly in recent years through those moving into the village recognising the strength of our community and choosing to join us. Around the main festivals much larger numbers attend church with the annual Christingle service drawing almost 300. The church’s presence in the community is very evident through other activities including a well-used and widely circulated parish magazine that the church produces, and which includes ConistonCold, charitable fund raising events for a range of causes, and by our very successful annual “open gardens” event.
St Andrew’s is an outward looking community of Christians with a vision to develop a genuine parish church, a church for all who have an interest in or a commitment to following Christ. People comment to us that they feel welcomed when they visit our church and that means a lot to us. St Andrew’s Church follows an Anglican centre line in its worship. For our more traditional services the priest typically wears an alb and stole; chasubles are not now part of our tradition. Altar frontals and pulpit falls are changed with the church seasons. Sermons are generally now delivered from a lectern in the Nave. For some other services less formal attire is used.

As a result of our open approach and the care that we take to listen to one another we have grown significantly in recent years and many who are not of an Anglican tradition have joined us. We have enjoyed seeing this diversity bring us blessing. In addition our efforts to create a space for those with less experience of church has grown a new set of strong relationships that focus on our family service. Coupled with more traditional liturgical services, a monthly meditative service and home groups, we try to offer opportunity for many different worship styles to find a home.

Our Vision

Recently the PCC sat down to try to identify the building blocks of our church – how we are and how we want to be. The product of that work is available, raw and unpolished, on our website. We want to be

Opportunities

- A welcoming community of disciples,
- Inspired by the Holy Spirit,
- Reaching out to those around us
- Offering pastoral care and hospitality.
- Visible and brave in our willingness to represent Christ in our community
- Inclusive
- Valuing a wide range of styles and traditions.
Challenges

- An older community that faces a real challenge to incorporate younger people in our worship.
- We lack the space and resources that would allow us to offer a more varied and inclusive range of activities.
- We need to work hard to maintain harmony when our church attracts such a wide span of Christian traditions.
SPECIFIC INFORMATION – ST PETER’S, CONISTON COLD

Summary

The Ecclesiastical Parish of Coniston Cold covers the villages of Coniston Cold and Bell Busk with surrounding farms and dwellings. It is a much sought after rural location particularly for commuters, not only working locally in Skipton and Settle but further afield in Keighley, Bradford, Leeds, Manchester and beyond.

Our Parish

The parish has a total population of about 200 people, made up of families, business people, elderly and retired couples. There is little unemployment.

The Parish is primarily a rural farming community, however there are several thriving businesses within the Parish which provide substantial employment. To name a few, The Coniston Hotel, Country Estate and Spa, Metcalf Models, Guest Houses Green Grove and Tudor House, Hesper Farm Skyr Yogurt, Craven Country Ride, Geoff Fawcett Haulage and Dougie Lampkin Motor for Sports demonstrate the diverse nature of the employers within the Parish and the innovative spirit and nature of the people themselves.

Our Church

The Parish Church of St Peters is a Grade 2 listed building built in 1846. It has a nave made up of four bays and a west tower with an octagonal stone spire. The interior is very simple with a three decker pulpit. There is a small organ gallery under the tower.

St Peters run several seasonal services throughout the year for the whole community. The Carol service with a brass band is extremely popular with a congregation exceeding 100. Mothering Sunday, Easter Sunday, our Pet Service, the Harvest Festival and Remembrance Sunday are all also well attended.

Twice a month we have a Holy Communion Service in the morning and twice a month a Compline Evensong at 4pm. We normally have between 10 and 20 people at these services.

The Coniston Cold Village hall is owned by the church and has provided good facilities for numerous events over the years. The Coniston Cold Young Farmers Club, now in its 76th year, meet there regularly from eight parishes, as well as art classes, jumble sales, fund raising and family social events.
As a parish we also play a leading role in the Voices of Craven initiative that brings together choirs for regular choir practices and culminates in a Grand Finale Concert in July. It has been very much a part of breathing new life into Craven’s communities through the power of song.

We have a dynamic, innovative and extremely welcoming parish and community and look forward to working with our new clergy team.

**Opportunities**

- To work together with our new Clergy team to foster a stronger, more cohesive community.

- Explore new ways of encouraging young families to worship with us and become a more active part of the community.

- To provide leadership and to fill a void in the community to fulfil spiritual thought and need.

- These is a possible new build in Coniston Cold for 8/9 houses which would provide additional attendees at church and help foster a greater sense of community.

- Develop the church as a true centre for the parish and community.

- Utilise social media in a positive way to encourage greater interaction between the people of the parish.

**Challenges**

- The number of people going to church is stable but small with a female and older age bracket predominant.

- We need to appeal and encourage more people to come to church.

- We need to get more young people to come to church and not think it’s a thing of the past.

- We must be welcoming to all the many visitors to the area to understand why attending church is a positive way of getting to know our wonderful community.

- Why is the church relevant to modern society? Help us all understand.

- Reverse the sense of decline within the Church of England and establish it as a meaningful, material part of our society and community.
SPECIFIC INFORMATION – ST MICHAEL THE ARCHANGEL, KIRKBY IN MALHAMDALE

Summary

The parish extends to 35 square miles and includes all of Malhamdale proper (upper Airedale) and its upland limestone hinterland. It is made up of the communities of Malham, Malham Moor, Kirkby Malham, Hanlith, Airton, Scosthrop, Calton, Raven Flat and Otterburn all within the Yorkshire Dales National Park.

The population of the parish (approximately 670) is a mix of farming families, others who work in the dale (frequently associated with tourism), the retired, and commuters. There is much consistency and continuity - for instance many farming families have worshipped at the church for generations, and there has historically only been the one Anglican church.

There is good contact and co-operation with both the Methodist Church (Malham) and with the Society of Friends (Airton Meeting House).

Visit by Leeds City of Sanctuary

There is a strong community spirit, and we see a strong sense across the communities that the church is ‘our church’. This spirit also manifests itself in dales people coming together in events, fundraising and maintenance. One annual event, which boosts church funds, is the ‘Malham Safari’, during the late bank May holiday weekend.

Within the dale there are several businesses associated, at least in part, with the tourism industry but bringing added richness to our communities - notably the National Trust Malham Tarn Field Study Centre, National Park Visitor Centre, High Trenhouse Management Centre, three pubs with accommodation, five guest houses, two cafes and a farm shop.

Our Church

The Church, which is Grade 1 listed, dates in its entirety from the 15th Century. It retains many interesting and original features, thanks in part to a very sensitive restoration in the 1870s. The church was partially re-roofed in 2016 (nave and south transept) and this was followed in 2017 by an extensive refurbishment supported by the English Heritage Lottery Fund. This included improvements to functionality and comfort, new heating and lighting, plaster painting, a second toilet with disabled access, external drainage and the re-opening of the priest’s door to provide emergency exit. More recently the tower chiming clock (quarters
and hours) has been overhauled. The recent quinquennium inspection confirms that only routine maintenance is required.

Earlier, for the millennium, funds were raised to extend the three bells to a ring of eight. These were commissioned in 2002 and since then, in 2010, a glass screened ringing floor was installed together with a parish meeting room and kitchen below.

The church was selected by ITV to be the venue for the Christmas Carol Service in 2013.

Next door to the church is the Grade 2 listed vicarage (17th Century). Funds have been ring-fenced for the upgrading of insulation, carpeting and heating, prior to the induction of a new house for duty priest.

The church was selected by ITV to be the venue for the Christmas Carol Service in 2013.

Next door to the church is the Grade 2 listed vicarage (17th Century). Funds have been ring-fenced for the upgrading of insulation, carpeting and heating, prior to the induction of a new house for duty priest.

**Opportunities**

- A consistent and faithful core congregation, which demonstrates a willingness imaginatively to draw in new residents.

- A developing music group in church, involving children from the primary school.

- A beautiful church (the ‘Cathedral of the Dales’) and a precious churchyard.

- A history of significant fundraising for preservation and development of the church.

- Since 2015 the parish has worked every year with Leeds ‘City of Sanctuary’, accommodating up to 35 women and children in our homes for a long weekend and including social events and a Sunday service.

- Continue the development of the Open the Book project on behalf of the deanery and enhancing the work with the Primary School on this, in the music development, and helping with assemblies.

- Continuing the outreach opportunities afforded by the regular concert held in church.

**Challenges**

- An ageing congregation.

- Finding imaginative ways to draw in more of the young families.

- Connecting more closely with the team of welcomers to receive the very large numbers of holiday visitors to our church.

- Overcoming the effects of a rather extended period of insecurity created by the absence of a resident priest.

- Renewing the strong parish tradition of the priest visiting and welcoming all new residents, and of close pastoral contact where required.
LOOKING FORWARD

LOOKING TO THE FUTURE

We hope that the information we have given has intrigued and inspired you. If you see the opportunities and challenges as we do then we believe that a very positive future lies ahead for us.

As a new benefice there will be things to learn and adjustments to make but we have worked well together in creating the documents that you have read and we look forward to appointing a priest who can help us make our aspirations a reality.

Our commitment is to work closely with our Priest-in-Charge, and with the House-for-Duty priest we plan to appoint, to create a team that is mutually supportive and resourceful. We recognise that we each need to play our part and look forward to sharing life and ministry together with a new Priest-in-Charge in the days ahead.

Website Links

Diocese of Leeds www.leeds.anglican.org
Gargrave Church www.standrewsgargrave.org.uk
Gargrave Village www.gargrave.org.uk
Gargrave Magazine www.cms.gargravemag.co.uk
Kirkby in Malhamdale www.kirkbymalhamchurch.org
Kirkby in Malhamdale Village www.malhamdale.com
Voices of Craven www.voiceofcraven.org
### PERSON SPECIFICATION

(Priest in Charge for Gargrave, Coniston Cold and Kirkby in Malhamdale)

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| **Qualifications /Training** | Ordained priest within Church of England, or a Church in communion with it, or a Church whose orders it recognises.  
|                    | Satisfactory completion of Initial Ministerial Education        |
| **Experience**    | Pastorally and politically astute in caring for and dealing with a wide range of people and institutions.  
|                    | Intuitive understanding of the opportunities given in being the Church of England.  
|                    | Mentoring and supporting the development of lay ministry.  
|                    | Developing imaginative ways of drawing people into the life of the church |
| **Knowledge**     | Understanding of people                                          |
|                    | Understanding of the way in which individuals grow in their gifts, skills and ministry and how to enable and encourage this. |
|                    | Theological depth and understanding of different Christian traditions and of other faiths. |
| **Skills and Competencies** | An inspiring and strategically minded leader who will work with the congregation to develop, in the context of the Diocesan vision of Loving, Learning and Living, the vision and momentum for the life and ministry of the parishes. |
|                    | To work as a team needed with the House-for-Duty Priest Kirkby Malham to ensure the spiritual health of all three parishes. |
|                    | Depth to harness the beauty of the ancient building at Kirkby Malham and the much loved beautiful churches at Gargrave and Coniston Cold to draw people closer into the mystery of God's love. |
|                    | Committed to Eucharistic worship yet aware of the differing traditions of the parishes, eager and keen to be innovative in responding to the needs and requirements of different age groups and levels of faith. |
|                    | Excellent and proven communication skills, not least in intelligent preaching, teaching and listening. |
|                    | An enjoyment in expressing worship of God in a broad range of worship styles |
|                    | An agreement with the need for transparency and leadership by consultation. |
|                    | A willingness to be a visible presence in the community. |
|                    | Able to make and build links with individuals, community groups, the church school and other local schools |
|                    | A desire to identify ways to engage with young families. |
|                    | A willingness to show compassion for the many people and families on the fringes of society in our parish and to reach out to them. |
|                    | Awareness of and interest in the varying perspectives, agendas and needs of rural parishes located in the Yorkshire Dales. |
|                    | Actively to seek out opportunities in the community and amongst the many visitors to the three Churches for outreach and church growth. |
|                    | Good computer and IT skills including the internet, databases and social media. |
To help spearhead, when required, fundraising activities and campaigns and so realise the full potential and flexibility of the church buildings and surroundings and to improve the facilities offered.
To develop your own personal skills and knowledge in relation to ministry, maintaining a worshipping and prayerful spiritual life and having an appropriate pattern of work.
To continue developing links with other churches in the area, the Deanery, Episcopal Area and Diocese.
To have a full driving licence and access to a car.

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<th>Personal Attributes</th>
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<tr>
<td>Loving and prayerful</td>
<td>Spiritual</td>
<td>Empathetic</td>
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<tr>
<td>Compassionate</td>
<td>Industrious</td>
<td>Inspirational</td>
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<td>Energetic and enthusiastic</td>
<td>Sense of humour</td>
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DIOCESE OF LEEDS

ROLE DESCRIPTION

1. Details of Post
   Role Title: Priest-in-Charge
   Name of Benefices: Gargrave with Coniston Cold and Kirkby in Malhamdale
   Base: The Vicarage, Gargrave
   Deanery and Area: Bolton and Ewecross Deanery in the Episcopal Area of Ripon
   Archdeaconry: Richmond and Craven
   Initial point of contact on terms of service: Archdeacon of Richmond and Craven

2. Role Purpose

   General

   • To share with the Bishop both in the cure of souls and in responsibility, under God, for transforming lives, congregations and communities in this Benefice with reference to any current priorities established by the bishop.

   • To be responsible for the parishes of St Andrew’s, Gargrave, St Peter’s, Coniston Cold with Bell Busk, and St Michael the Archangel, Kirkby Malham, having regard to the calling and responsibilities of the clergy as described in the Canons, the Ordinal, the Code of Professional Conduct for the Clergy and other relevant legislation.

   • To collaborate with the House-for-Duty priest based in Kirkby Malham and other clergy within the deanery in mission and ministry and, through the deanery plan, in such reshaping of ministry as resources and opportunities may require.

   • To develop the ministry of the laity, through training, delegation, encouragement and support so that they have greater involvement in the mission and ministry of the Benefice.

   • To work with the PCCs and fellow clergy towards the development of the local church and to develop and review their vision with them.

   • To ensure that a high standard of worship, preaching and pastoral care is provided so that people are more able to live and grow as disciples of Christ.

   • To seek ecumenical cooperation wherever possible.

   • To gain a good working understanding of the Diocese and the support it provides.

   • To encourage Christian stewardship of people’s time, money and abilities so that the ministry of the church is strengthened and enabled.

   • To develop the benefices as a mutually supportive group of parishes and to enhance existing positive links with community and external organisations based in the parish, so that full use is made of opportunities for outreach and service to the community.
3. Specific

It is important that the Priest:

- Can work with a wide range of worship styles, appreciating the value of all.
- Can recognise the value of lay ministry and develop the full potential of lay involvement in the life of the church.
- Will develop pastoral care, reaching out personally and through lay ministry not just to local residents but to the many tourists and "special occasion" visitors to our churches.
- Can recognise the demographic challenge of a committed but generally older congregation, and can work to engage the younger age groups both within the church and outside.
- Recognises where change is needed and can bring it about whilst caring for natural concerns and sensitivities and recognising the need for transparency and consultation.
- Can maintain the momentum in supporting, sponsoring and initiating many developments and improvements over recent years with regard both to the spiritual life of the church and to the physical resources we use and value.