

The Parish of

**ST JAMES'**  
Tong

**ST CHRISTOPHER'S**  
Holme Wood

**ST MARY'S**  
Laisterdyke

 THE CHURCH  
OF ENGLAND  
Diocese of Leeds



Parish Profile for the

Interim

Associate

Vicar

Full-time, 3 year post

Tong, Holmewood and Laisterdyke

**FAITH.HOPE.LOVE**

## Introduction

We are looking for a creative and energetic parish priest with a passion for Jesus and a love for people to help us explore, shape, agree and enable mission and ministry to flourish across our parish.

Operating out of three church buildings in three very different communities, we are a group of overlapping worshipping communities (some more traditional and some fresh expressions), together with a community project, and work closely with a



number of community partners who share our buildings. This flexible and creative approach to mission and ministry creates many wonderful opportunities to share the love of Jesus and we want to see how this area of mission and ministry can become increasingly fruitful.

The historic, rural parish of Tong, with its Grade 1 listed building, changed significantly in the late 1950's with the start of a greenfield development heading towards Bradford, which became for a time the largest outer-estate in Europe. The parish relocated the vicarage into the centre of the Holmewood estate and built a church alongside it. St Christopher's Church in Holmewood has operated important community projects that continue to serve the local community.

In 2015, the Parish of Tong and Holmewood combined with the next-door Parish of Laisterdyke. Laisterdyke is made up of a number of smaller estates – some associated housing and others commercial developments, alongside some of the older back-to-back terraced streets that almost reach into Bradford city centre. Similar to St Christopher's church, St Mary's has had a number of community projects that have effectively served the wider community, and the new parish has enabled shared learning in developing these community resources more effectively.

Tong village is a semi-rural community of about 100 households, that looks towards Leeds (you can see the city centre across the fields). The church holds the small community hall on behalf of the whole community and operates it in conjunction with the local community association. Alongside this, the church has set up a Restoration Team to head up the work to develop plans and raise funds to restore and develop St James' to be a church for the whole community. The Restoration Team is a creative and energetic group of people from the church and the wider village who are passionate about enabling St James to become a significant building for the whole community and their imagination and effort has already led to fund-raising activities that have also built a strong sense of community across the village.

Semi-rural ministry is very different from estates ministry and we want to take the opportunity to properly explore and reflect on whether mission and ministry in Tong village would be more effective if St James' was to partner with its closest neighbour, St Paul's Church in Drighlington (part of the United Benefice of Drighlington and Gildersome), with which it shares similar interests such as bell ringing and choirs. There have been some natural connections at times, but the fact that St Paul's is part of a different deanery, and a different Episcopal Area has meant there has been no organised partnering. We think this is worth exploring more intentionally.

## St Mary's and Laisterdyke

We are a worshipping community of around 19 children and 29 adults. Our Sunday worship has a Usual Sunday Attendance of 3 children and 20 adults, with a family focus and an informal approach. We meet for coffee before our worship which begins at 11.15am.

Our usual pattern of worship is:

- Week 1 Holy Communion
- Week 2 Café Church
- Week 3 Morning Worship
- Week 4 Morning Worship



Our modern and flexible worship space is used throughout the week for community projects run by

Primetime at the Vine – a charity that was set up by the church many years ago, to serve the wider community.

Primetime runs the building on our behalf, operates a term-time café every weekday, alongside activities for older people, toddler groups and after school clubs for children and young people.



Once a month, Primetime supports the church to run Pop-Up Church (a messy church-like fresh expression) which is aimed at the families who attend some of the Primetime events and groups.



The Interim Associate Vicar will be based at St Mary's where they will be the lead minister. There are wonderful opportunities to develop and nurture the mission and ministry that takes place around Primetime, as well as the possibility to explore a church plant in the community of Tyersal (a distinct community within the parish) alongside the work already being carried out by Primetime. We hope that the Interim Associate Vicar would also become a Primetime trustee.

## St James and the village of Tong

We are a worshipping community of around 7 children and 31 adults, with a number of people from the village and wider community attending occasionally throughout the year. Our morning services has a Usual Sunday Attendance of 2 children and 17 adults and begins at 9.30am, with Evening prayer monthly at 4pm.

Our usual pattern of worship is:

- Week 1 Holy Communion
- Week 2 Morning Worship
- Week 3 Morning Worship
- Week 4 Bible Breakfast (our fresh expression Messy Church type event for young families that takes place in the Schoolroom)  
Evening Prayer



The Restoration Team, is a creative and energetic group of people from the church and the village, who are developing plans to restore the church fabric and develop the building to become more of a community building for the whole community (as much as a Grade 1 building will allow). Community engagement and fundraising activities have so far included the setting up of a summer fair, and a brass band led carol service.

The church community also play a vital role in running the community building called the Schoolroom, which was gifted to the church to run on behalf of the community. We do this in partnership with the Tong Village Association.

The churchyard is well kept thanks to the amazing hard work of members of the church and wider community. The churchyard is closed apart from the Garden of Remembrance where cremated remains continue to be interred.

A number of weddings and baptisms also take place at St James.



The Interim Associate Vicar will be the lead minister for St James', spending up to 2 days a week helping the church community develop mission and ministry in the village and explore partnership opportunities with St Paul's Drighlington and its deanery, as well as supporting the Restoration Team and the Schoolroom.

## St Christopher's and Holmewood

We are a worshipping community of 22 children and 47 adults. Sunday worship consists of 2 small but different congregations which meet each week. Encounter has a Usual Sunday Attendance of 20 adults and is our 9.30am service of Holy Communion and Connect has a Usual Sunday Attendance of 8 children and 10 adults and is our All-Age community which meets at 11am.



We also have 2 fresh expressions:

Friday Feast is our Messy Church-like community which gathers on Friday tea-time every fortnight.

First Sunday at Five – meets once a month on Sunday tea-time, to explore the Bible together as we eat. This is aimed at the people who attend our

weekly Food Pantry and also draws people from Encounter, Connect and St Mary's congregation.

For many years, St Christopher's has operated PCC-run projects which serve the community. A few years ago, our Family Project and Youth Project were combined to establish a separate charity called the Holmewood



Family

Centre. This operates out of St Christopher's, running toddler groups and children and young people clubs on site and out of the local Salvation Army building (which also runs the local foodbank).



Our remaining PCC-run Project, Good Neighbours, runs day care and activity sessions for older people as

well as a community café also from our St Christopher's church buildings.

We also run a weekly Food Pantry and Place of Welcome that supports many local people.



The Vicar is the lead minister at St Christopher's and oversees the parish and partner charities and is currently the training incumbent for 2 full-time curates.

## Pattern of ministry

We enjoy a collaborative approach to ministry. The ministry team meet for morning prayer at 8.30am weekdays and once a week for a staff meeting. The Vicar and Associate Vicar usually conduct 2 of the 4 Sunday services each week (this is also shared with our curates and ordinands when they are present in the parish). We serve across the parish on Sundays and work together as a team to run Pop-Up Church, Friday Feast and First Sunday at Five (we support and attend Bible Breakfast which is run by a small team from St James'). We also each play a part in the provision of Weddings, Baptisms and Funerals across the parish.



## Accommodation



The accommodation for the Associate Vicar is a modern, purpose-built vicarage, located just across the road from St Mary's Church in Laisterdyke.

Over the winter it has played an important role helping to house homeless people as part of a local community project. We were able to do this because the building will now be completely refitted and redecorated in preparation for the new Associate Vicar.

The Vicar lives in the vicarage adjacent to St Christopher's Church on the Holmewood Estate.

## Terms of Appointment

This is a full time Interim incumbent status post with a three year fixed term. Provision of the house includes water rates and Council Tax. All expenses are paid. Removal costs and a resettlement grant are available.

The appointment is subject to a satisfactory Enhanced Disclosure from the DBS. There are six weeks holiday per annum plus Bank Holidays (or time in lieu)

Participation in an annual Ministerial Development Review and in-service training is required and an annual retreat is strongly encouraged

## Is God calling you to this post?

To arrange a visit or conversation, contact:

Archdeacon of Bradford, Ven Dr Andy Jolley, [andy.jolley@leeds.anglican.org](mailto:andy.jolley@leeds.anglican.org), 07973 458403 or  
Revd Canon Gary Hodgson, [gary.hodgson@leeds.anglican.org](mailto:gary.hodgson@leeds.anglican.org) 01274 682100

Application is via the Church of England Pathways system

Closing Date: Midnight **on 22<sup>nd</sup> August 2023**

Interviews will be held on **Friday 8<sup>th</sup> September 2023** followed by a further meeting with the Diocesan Bishop prior to a final offer of the post.

## The Diocese of Leeds

The Diocese of Leeds was formed at Easter 2014. It is one of the largest dioceses in the country covering an area of around 2425 square miles and a population of around 2642400 people. The diocese comprises five Episcopal areas, each served by a suffragan Bishop. Each Episcopal Area is coterminous with an Archdeaconry.

The Diocesan Vision is 'confident Christians, growing churches, transforming communities and so helping share the Good News of Jesus Christ across our Diocese'. This Vision is embedded into the Diocesan Strategy and Goals.



## Our goals

- 1 Thriving as a distinctive diocese whose culture is shaped by a shared vision and values
- 2 Re-Imagining ministry
- 3 Nurturing lay discipleship
- 4 Building leadership pathways
- 5 Growing young people as Christians

The Diocese is a mix of urban and rural. The area includes the major cities of Bradford, Leeds and Wakefield; the large industrial and post-industrial towns of Halifax, Huddersfield and Dewsbury; the market towns of Harrogate, Skipton, Ripon, Richmond and Wetherby; and the deeply rural area of the Yorkshire Dales.

The Diocese is unique in having three cathedrals; Bradford, Ripon and Wakefield. The Deans of the Cathedrals work together to provide key diocesan services.

## Parish Statistics

	2019	2021	2022
<u>Electoral Roll</u>	<u>90</u>	<u>90</u>	<u>85</u>

### Worshipping Communities:

	2019	2021	2022
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#### St Mary's

<u>Children</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>19</u>
<u>Adults</u>	<u>28</u>	<u>20</u>	<u>29</u>

#### St James'

<u>Children</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>8</u>
<u>Adults</u>	<u>31</u>	<u>29</u>	<u>31</u>

#### St Christopher's

<u>Children</u>	<u>23</u>	<u>11</u>	<u>22</u>
<u>Adults</u>	<u>53</u>	<u>33</u>	<u>47</u>

### Occasional Offices:

	2019	2021	2022
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<u>Weddings</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>10</u>
<u>Wedding Blessings</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>
<u>Baptisms under 12</u>	<u>13</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>15</u>
<u>Baptisms over 12</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>2</u>
<u>Funerals in Church</u>	<u>11</u>	<u>16</u>	<u>14</u>
<u>Funerals at the Crematorium</u>	<u>21</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>7</u>