



The Benefice of Pickering with Levisham, Lockton and Marishes



We pray for a Priest to lead us.

**If you think you may be
that person, please read
our Benefice profile
below**



We are able to offer:

- a committed, worshipful, predominantly mature congregation with a steady attendance of approximately 100 people at services every Sunday.
- broad churchmanship with liberal catholic character
- reverent observance of services during Holy Week and other Feast days throughout the Church's year by a good number of the congregation
- an active Ministry team of retired clergy
- Lay involvement during the services, e.g. altar servers, intercessors, eucharistic ministers
- a desire to minister throughout the community
- four well maintained churches
- a Walsingham cell and annual pilgrimage of approximately 25 members of the congregation to the Shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham in north Norfolk
- good ecumenical relations with other local Churches
- an award-winning team of bellringers
- a strong musical focus provided by our organist and choir
- an area strong on tourism and world-famous wall paintings

We are seeking

- a priest that God has prepared for us who will find warm and strong support from committed people within the congregations.
- a priest who is from the central tradition of the church, faithful in the Ministry of the Word and Sacrament
- a priest with vision, excellent preaching skills, who will be able to build on our strong foundations whilst working to develop healthy, growing churches which are well-equipped to take the gospel out into the wider community

- a caring individual with a zeal for the pastoral care for members of the Church and wider community.
- A priest with commitment to, and experience of, parochial ministry, who can engage with all age groups and facilitate different styles of worship to promote growth.
- an individual who encourages liturgy in all its forms, who follows the Church's year as per the Church of England Lectionary, who fully observes Holy Week and other Church Feast days
- a priest who has passion and is proactive in engaging with children, young people and families both to encourage Church attendance and to provide community support from the Church family where required.
- a priest who is interested in involving the laity
- someone who has a wide interest in Mission and outreach
- a person who has good collaborative Leadership skills and an ability to delegate

When we asked the community and schools what they were looking for from our new priest and Church they said

"We are looking for someone who will:

- *be proactive in creating and maintaining secure and positive links with our local schools and other community groups, both within church and out in the wider community*
- *ensure that relationships between the church and other local community groups continue to strengthen and develop*
- *ensure that St Peter and St Paul's church continues to be a welcoming space*
- *in which to work alongside a range of local schools and community groups*

The Benefice

The Pickering Benefice comprises of 4 churches, St Peter and St Paul, Pickering; St John the Baptist, Levisham; St Giles, Lockton; and St Francis, Marishes, which is the daughter church of St Peter and St Paul. The four churches are a strong reminder of our Christian heritage, providing places of solace and hope for all. Ministry in the Benefice is supported by several retired clergy and 3 PCC's. We are within the Deanery of Northern Ryedale in the Diocese of York, which is committed to "developing into a network of churches, inspiring, influencing and leading mission and ministry locally". The Benefice acknowledges the diocesan vision, 'Generous Churches, Making and Nurturing Disciples', which encourages us to ensure that mission is increasingly shaping our shared life and structures.

This beautiful area of Ryedale, which is rich in history and archaeology, has attracted people from all walks of life, denominations and professions, who have successfully settled among those with local roots. There is a range of agriculture and small industries. We attract people seeking a peaceful retirement and many visitors which include ramblers to the north Yorkshire moors, train enthusiasts (Heritage Railway) and people for the many events that are held throughout the year like the 1940s re-enactment.

Parish vision

The congregations of The Benefice would like to see the church valued as contributing to the heart of the community and playing a significant role in events and social activities. We want to demonstrate a caring attitude to all parishioners whether they attend church regularly or not and

to show that we are living God's love in a credible way; also to make the church buildings and activities welcoming to not yet regular church goers and to people with disabilities. We want children and their families to form a regular part of church life and worship throughout the year and to see an increase in the number of younger people with whom we have a genuine Christian connection (e.g. involving them in festival services and through links with school clubs and youth work).

Our strengths are:

- excellent standards of liturgy
- amazing social events and fundraising ideas
- commitment to improving the fabric of the church and project fundraising
- social media, e.g. church website, facebook and twitter
- welcome to visitors for which St Peter and St Paul's has been awarded the Trip Advisor certificate of excellence for the past 5 years.
- Our Churches cover the town environment and all rural areas.

Our challenges and key priorities are:

- outreach to children, young people and families to bring them to the knowledge of God's love
- taking faith into the community, particularly into the schools
- increased pastoral care for the vulnerable, sick and elderly
- to broaden patterns of worship
- fundraising for the next phase of modernisation, e.g. for educational boards about the medieval wall paintings, and accessible toilet facilities.
- maintenance and growth of all our 4 Churches.

Accommodation

The Vicarage is a detached stone-built property, situated on Hatcase Lane (5 minutes' walk from Pickering church), with 4 bedrooms, a lounge, dining room, kitchen, study, utility room, bathroom and wc upstairs and cloakroom downstairs, garage, and a secluded mature garden. The house has central heating and the windows are double-glazed.

Pickering and its Churches

Pickering is an ancient market town in the Ryedale district of North Yorkshire, about 18 miles from Scarborough and 27 miles from York. The town is surrounded by beautiful countryside on the border of the North York Moors National Park between the foot of the moors and the Vale of Pickering to the south. Pickering Parish Church with its medieval wall paintings, Pickering Castle, the North Yorkshire Moors Railway from Pickering to Whitby and the Beck Isle Museum are the major tourist attractions which make the town popular with visitors.

This vibrant town comprises a main street with a busy shopping area and market on a Monday. There are 4 schools and 4 churches (Anglican, Roman Catholic, United Reformed, Methodist), as well as Welcome Church which meets in Pickering Memorial Hall, a Friends Meeting House and Kingdom Hall. Links to other churches at the present time are mainly through Pickering Churches Together.

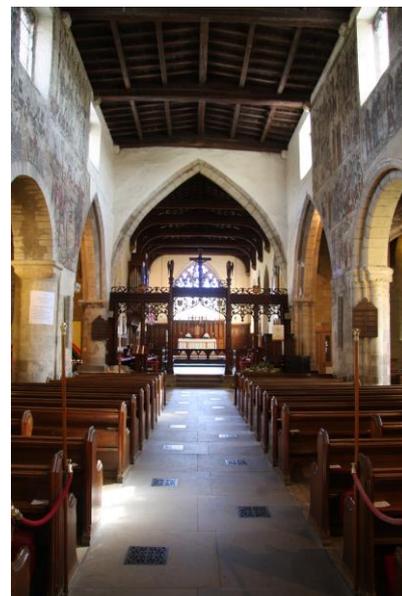
The population of Pickering has been rising steadily over the past 10 years with new affordable housing estates attracting young families. In 2011 (Census statistics) the population was 6830 with 25.39% being over the age of 65 years, 10% higher than the national average. By 2017 the population of Pickering was estimated at 7263 with 17% children (0-17 years) and 31.5% of people 65+. The population is mostly white British with approximately 1% from other ethnic groups now living in the area.

Housing (2011 census statistics) is mainly owner occupied – 71.5%; Local authority – 15.5%; privately rented – 13%. Local employment is in tourism, agriculture, education, health care, hospitality, National Park, forestry, wholesale/retail, light industry, motor trade.

There are three Residential Homes in Pickering – 5 Whitby Road, Alba Rose, Arden House. The nearest hospitals are in York, Scarborough and Malton. The four schools are Pickering Community Junior School; Pickering Community Infant School; St Joseph's Roman Catholic Primary School; and Lady Lumley's School (Secondary 11-18 years); and two facilities for the under 5s – Humpty Dumpty's Day Nursery and Pickering pre-school playgroup.

There is a regular bus service to York, Malton, Scarborough, and Whitby. The nearest train station is in Malton which is 8 miles from Pickering.

St Peter and St Paul:



St Peter and St Paul's is a living Church, a 'House of God and gate of heaven', with a large and active congregation who continue a thousand-year-old tradition of prayer and worship. The Church is open daily and is a space of great peace, valued by many who seek to draw closer to God in public worship or private prayer. It has been awarded the Trip Advisor certificate of excellence for the 5th year running.

The Church today was built on the site of an earlier Saxon building. Little is known about this early Church, and all that remains is a carved cross shaft and the bowl of the stone font. The early Norman Church was built around 1140 and enlarged throughout the 13th-15th centuries. The Roucliffe Chapel, on the south side of the sanctuary, was for some time a school following the abolition of the chantries before, in 1920, undergoing renovations to restore it to liturgical use.



The medieval wall paintings, which give our church its fame and make it a wonderful source of enjoyment for pilgrims and visitors from all over the world, were probably first commissioned in 1450. Further information can be found on the church website and details of each scene are given in the guidebook, available from the Church bookstall.

St Peter and St Paul's continues to change with the needs of the community it serves. For nearly one thousand years, generations of Pickering's residents have worshipped in this Church, been married at the altar steps and baptised in the font and have had their funerals here. The work of this Church continues to this day with a vigorous body of worshippers and communicants, who continue to take part in regular worship. This Church is Pickering's Parish Church and seeks to serve the whole community and to be there for all who need its ministry. It is also well used by the town for civic and community occasions and concerts and provides a real focal point for Ryedale.

There are 150 people on the church electoral roll. We have 2 churchwardens and 16 members of the PCC, 3 of whom are Deanery Synod representatives. We also have a Sanctuary Guild, Church flower arrangers, home communions taken out weekly, as well as fabric and fundraising committees.

The Building is in good condition with new heating, completed in 2018, and lighting, completed earlier in 2019. The last quinquennial was done in 2018 and all identified work has been carried out. Improvements to the church facilities that are still required include the need for accessible toilet facilities and educational displays including digital for the medieval wall paintings.

Our Services

- 8am Holy Communion, 10am Family Eucharist, 6pm Evensong every Sunday.
- 10am Eucharist every Wednesday
- Other services include: All Soul's Day, a Light for Christmas; Christingle; town Remembrance service, carol services, including ones for the town, schools and Rotary plus a Bell-ringers service.
- Feast day observance – daily services during Holy Week including 3-hour Good Friday, Stations of the Cross, Corpus Christi with Benediction.
- Occasional Offices, i.e. baptisms, weddings, funerals. Six (1 adult and 5 children) were confirmed in 2018.

Seasonal vestments are worn at all Eucharist and Feast Day services and hymn books used are *Hymns Old and New* and *Ancient and Modern*.

Coffee is served after the main service each Sunday in the refurbished area at the back of the church.

Organist/Choir

Pickering Parish Church has a two Manual organ which was built by Abbott and Smith (Leeds) in 1903. It was overhauled ten years ago at a cost of approximately £50,000.

A choir of some 12 adults help accompany the worship for the Sunday Morning service at 10am. They also support services for mid-week festivals and Saints days as well as funerals and weddings when requested. There is an organist and choirmaster plus a deputy organist, while another helps with mid-week funerals.

Mission Support

Retiring collections have been made for disaster appeals, and at Harvest festivals and carol services for an identified charity such as Mary's Meals, 'toilet-twinning', and Water Aid. We support the local Ryedale foodbank on a weekly basis and through harvest. Members of the congregation support the Children's Society with home collection boxes and retiring collection at our Christingle service.

Outreach to the Community

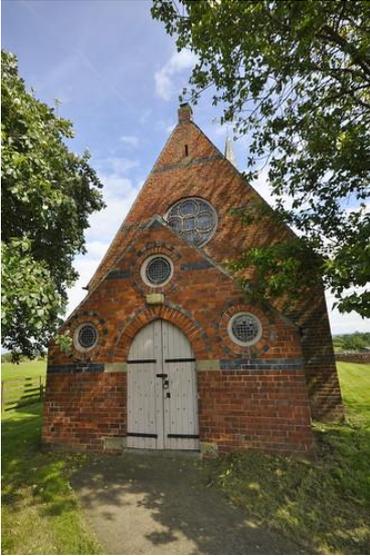
We have an active bookstall and an excellent fundraising/social team which organises Summer/Christmas fairs, Monday coffee mornings, refreshments during War Weekend and many social events throughout the year. Visits to the community are made for baptism preparation. We have an active online presence through our website, facebook and twitter.

Organisations

There are active groups including The Men's Society, Mother's Union, Bellringers, The sanctuary guild, and a newly formed young adults club. We are members of the Pickering and District Churches Together.

Parish Hall A former 1870 Grade II listed school building, adjacent to churchyard with access from: large room, medium sized room; large kitchen/catering area; large toilet area; outside yards/play area. The Hall is used for a mixture of church and secular activities, i.e. Church - Mothers Union, Men's Society, PCC meetings, social group (Harvest lunch etc), Funeral Teas; Secular - Dancing groups: Tap; Ballet; Modern; Old Time & Sequence; Scottish, birthday parties, meetings, workshops, Lectures; Partial non-secular - Brownies, Guides, Senior Guides; Disaster support site - the hall facilities could cope with supporting local efforts to afford basic needs to those affected by flooding.

Marishes – St Francis Church.



The community of Low and High Marishes is in the valley south of Pickering at the side of the A169 Malton to Pickering road. The village of High Marishes sits on the road to Thornton le Dale and comprises 19 houses and 6 outlying farms. There is a Pottery, and some holiday cottages and small caravan parks. The hamlet of Low Marishes is to the south and is situated on the road to Yedingham. This comprises 16 houses plus outlying farms, a fishing lake and holiday cottages. The community of 140 plus is mainly agricultural in profession with some retired residents. We are lucky to have some families with young children who attend the schools in Pickering and Thornton-le-Dale.

Our Church at Marishes was built in 1865 and is the daughter Church of St Peter and St Paul's, Pickering. The Church gained the name of St Francis 15 years ago when Canon Francis Hewitt was the Vicar.

Our services are held on the third Sunday of the month at 10 am with special services for Easter, Rogationtide, Harvest Festival, Carol Service and Christmas Eve. Our congregation is usually 10 to 15 in number with many more at the special services. In addition, we hold baptisms, weddings and funerals.

We have a great deal of support from the Community who are very willing to help with fundraising and any tasks regarding the upkeep of our Church that arise.

Levisham - St John the Baptist Church

Levisham is a small village of around 60 residents on the southern edge of the North York Moors. The village is less than one mile from Lockton but is separated from its near neighbour by a deep valley.

St John the Baptist church, dating from 1886, was originally built as a chapel of ease, becoming the parish church when St Mary's (now a controlled ruin under the care of the diocese) was closed for public worship. The churchyard of St Mary's remains open for funerals.

Services of Holy Communion are held on the second and fourth Sundays of each month with attendances ranging from 15 to 22 people. At times the congregation is supplemented by visitors and families on holiday.

Additional services include a Harvest Festival in October and Carol service at Christmas.

These are well supported by the village. In July an annual open-air service is held adjacent to

the semi ruined original parish church, St Mary's, with Stape Silver Band providing the accompaniment for the hymns.

St John the Baptist church is in a good state of repair. The most recent works carried out include repairs to the roof and renewal of the heating system. The church is kept open for visitors every day by the churchwardens. It is an important focus for the village and many people offer their time and skills to ensure its smooth running.

Levisham Village



St John the Baptist Church



Lockton – St Giles Church

Lockton is an historic township appearing in the Domesday survey and the Parish itself extends to Saltersgate in the North and Cross Dyke to the South encompassing about 10 outlying farms within it.

The actual Church building is in the centre of the village and dates from the 13th century (nave and chancel) with a 15th century tower. It is a very tranquil place and contains a wealth of features including an oak pulpit and Rectors stall dating from 1688, a Jacobean Oak communion rail and stone font which we think dates from the 17th century. The three stained glass windows have been donated by former parishioners.

St Giles Church



There was a very strong Methodist presence in the village during the last century, but the congregation dwindled until the Chapel closed some 4 years ago leaving St Giles as the one place of Christian worship within the village.

Currently there are around 200 people in the Parish with approximately 130 in the village itself.

We have a very small congregation worshipping at our regular monthly Sunday communion service, but this is vastly increased for our special services – Christmas, Harvest, Pet and Patronal services. There is a decided lack of young people at all our services which does follow the demographics of the village itself which has seen a decline in families moving into the village. Traditional activities for children and families seem to be disappearing although we do have a well equipped playing field but no youth club and parents take their children to various activities out of the village which is very expensive and time consuming. In addition, those residents whose employment is away from the village disappear in the morning and return in the evening which makes the village very quiet during the week but packed full of cars at the weekend. Their general lifestyle makes it difficult to engage them in the life of the Church and in most cases the life of the village. We do have an ageing population who are keen to maintain the building itself and give very generously to the fabric funds of St Giles but are not regular worshippers.

We have a very dedicated team of people who look after the interior of St Giles and ensure that the church is open every day and accessible to all the visitors who pass through the village. This is very much appreciated by the people who stay for a peaceful moment of quiet reflection, and in some cases prayer, as they pass through. The comments in our visitors' book are unanimous in their praise.

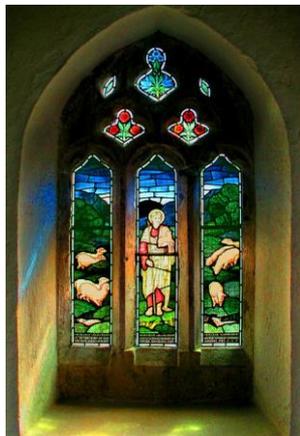
The Parish Council undertook a Parish Plan survey in 2018 and the responses to the questions on the Church are shown below:

Is the Parish church important to you? If yes, please tick the list below

For regular services	11
Special services e.g. Harvest festival, Christmas	23
Christenings, Weddings and funerals	36
As an historic building	42
Community Focal Point	22

The current congregation are quite traditional in their worship and look to their Vicar to maintain their faith through our Christian traditions, but are also well aware that we need to embrace some new ideology for the Church in Lockton to grow, and to work with the PCC to preserve St Giles as an inclusive place of worship available to all parishioners.

Stained glass window at the east end



Note

This is a rural area and availability of transport is essential.

For further information please visit our website: <https://www.pickeringchurch.com>
or https://www.ryedaleplan.org.uk/attachments/category/12/Local_Plan_Strategy_FINAL.pdf

Thank you for reading our Parish Profile

If you would like to have an informal conversation about this post, please contact the Bishop of Whitby, the Rt Revd Paul Ferguson (01642 593273).

Appointment is subject to a satisfactory enhanced DBS disclosure, episcopal reference, confidential declaration form, and eligibility to work in the UK.

*Applications should be sent to the Bishop of Whitby's PA, Mrs Mandy Robinson
mandy.robinson@yorkdiocese.org / 21 Thornton Road, Stainton, Middlesbrough TS8 9DS /
01642 593273.*

Closing date for applications: 09:00hrs Monday 9th March 2020

Interview date: Monday 23rd March 2020