

# The Benefice Profile of Yarm with Kirklevington, Picton and Worsall



St Mary Magdalene, Yarm



St Martin & St Hilary, Kirklevington



All Saints, Worsall

Aerial  
photographs  
taken by  
Harry Brown

## A message from the Rt Revd Paul Ferguson, Bishop of Whitby

Welcome, and thank you for your interest in the post of Rector of Yarm with Kirklevington, Picton and Worsall.

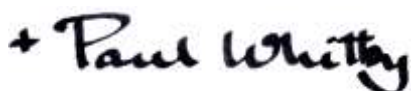
This post offers exciting possibilities for ministry in a varied town-and-country setting.

As you will read in these pages, this is a benefice of two parishes comprising the market town of Yarm and a group of nearby villages. This relatively new grouping was formed under the leadership of the previous Rector, Canon John Ford, who was also Area Dean and who retired in 2020.

The communities are conscious of their very long history — Yarm is an ancient fording place over the River Tees, and the villages have been the source of a wealth of Saxon and Anglo-Danish archaeology — but they are not in any sense locked into the past. Retail and education are key to their economy and culture; rural industry still has a significant part to play, and there is extensive new house-building and an increasing population.

The new Rector will find a secure foundation to build on, willing and able lay leaders, and a shared commitment to worship well planned and led in a generally liberal Catholic style. Although there is mention in this profile of concern that congregations are ageing, in fact there is more involvement with families and younger people, and with external institutions, than would be found in many other places. Much of the joy of this post will be to lead people who are eager to see more people reached in Christ's name, and to find ways to increase awareness of what the Christian faith and the Church of England can offer these communities.

I hope you will consider whether God is calling you to be our next parish priest.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "+ Paul Whitby". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

The Bishop of Whitby acts as the delegate of the patron, the Archbishop of York.

Appointment is subject to a satisfactory Enhanced DBS disclosure, bishop's reference, and eligibility to work in the UK, and if necessary an Occupational Health assessment.

If you would like to discuss this post informally, please feel free to contact any of the following:

Bishop Paul Ferguson [bishopofwhitby@yorkdiocese.org](mailto:bishopofwhitby@yorkdiocese.org) / 01642 593273

Archdeacon Amanda Bloor [adcl@yorkdiocese.org](mailto:adcl@yorkdiocese.org) / 01642 706095

An application form is obtainable from the Bishop of Whitby's PA, Mrs Mandy Robinson [mandy.robinson@yorkdiocese.org](mailto:mandy.robinson@yorkdiocese.org) / 01642 593273.

## Introduction

Welcome to our profile of the Benefice of Yarm with Kirklevington, Picton and Worsall which is a worshipping community to the south of Stockton on Tees. This document sets out the information covering both the location of the Benefice and where it fits within the Diocese of York and Stokesley Deanery. There is information about our three churches, their activities, services, and local communities and details of the modern rectory situated in the centre of Yarm. We also set our aims and aspirations to allow potential Rectors to consider the challenge our vision presents and the contribution they may be able to make to realising our future Christian presence.

The Benefice welcomes all, without prejudice.

Yarm is the main hub of the Benefice, a historic market town, where the Church of St Mary Magdalene is situated. They have a strong following and a supportive socially minded congregation, a number with young families. Kirklevington, Picton and Worsall are villages on the southern edge of Yarm, where the regular, faithful congregations are largely elderly, with young families swelling the congregation in worship at key church festivals.

The three villages worship and socialise together on a regular basis, either at St Martin & St Hilary, Kirklevington, or All Saints, Worsall, and especially for special events at St Mary Magdalene. The church in Kirklevington has a close working relationship with the village school (non -denominational) and much of the work with young people is on an outreach basis. St Mary Magdalene has links with Yarm School, Conyers and the three primary schools with a strong desire to develop them further.

We have a united vision for the Benefice, which is to grow in numbers and introduce a wider age range of disciples to the love of Christ. We are looking for a Rector who will be able to lead and guide us in our mission. We require someone with the skills to steer a pathway towards growing a vibrant Church of England presence for future generations and to reach out to the many new people moving into new housing in the benefice.

## Our Benefice

The Benefice of Yarm with Kirklevington, Picton and Worsall comprises three churches; St Mary Magdalene, Yarm; St Martin and St Hilary, Kirklevington; and All Saints, Worsall. They form a strong reminder of our Christian heritage, with worship being in evidence since the 10<sup>th</sup> century. At the time of writing, ministry in the Benefice is supported by two Readers. We are part of the Deanery of Stokesley in the north of the Diocese of York, and we are 'committed in love and service to God and our neighbours, and to co-operate with and encourage one another in proclaiming the Good News of Jesus Christ, which is the Deanery vision. We also acknowledge the Diocesan vision, 'Generous Churches, Making and Nurturing Disciples' which provides an ongoing focus for us to ensure that our mission is shaping our shared life and structures. Our Benefice was created in

January 2019, following pastoral reorganisation in the local area. To facilitate service coverage by the Incumbent, the three churches agreed a new service arrangement, allowing for movement between churches for shared worship and fellowship. Communication is important and there is a Benefice magazine called Trident with five church members on the editorial team. Yarm and Kirklevington church buildings are grade 2\* listed. The





Benefice is made up of two parishes, each with its own PCC, one for St Mary Magdalene, Yarm and one for St Martin and St Hilary, Kirklevington, and All Saints, Worsall. Yarm and Kirklevington are within the Yarm ward of Stockton Borough Council. Worsall is in Hambleton District Council, North Yorkshire.

The population of the Benefice has been increasing in recent years as a result of a significant number of new housing developments being agreed along the southern fringe of Stockton borough. There are currently 9,500 people in Yarm, over 2,000 in Kirklevington, 300 in Worsall and 100 in Picton. However, in the near future, there will be further increases especially in Kirklevington. Whilst Yarm is a town community, Picton, together with Worsall, would be classed as rural/farming villages and Kirklevington, an urban fringe village.

Residents are predominantly Christian (68%), but this is not reflected in either church attendances or Electoral Roll numbers for any of our churches. Within the town of Yarm, there are Catholic and Methodist churches with faithful congregations. However, there is also a significant impact being made by local 'free' churches, which draw from our parishes.

Within the Benefice, there are four Primary schools and one Secondary school with a sixth form, together with an Independent Primary and Secondary school with a sixth form. The young people of Worsall are bussed to schools in Great Smeaton and Northallerton in North Yorkshire, although some have places at more local schools. The Benefice churches do not have their own halls but the area has a number of community centres and village halls, which are accessible to the churches and well used by them.

In March 2020, our churches closed for worship and private prayer and Zoom was used for three services on Sundays and mid week. Since early July, it has been possible to re-open Yarm and Kirklevington churches, as these buildings are much larger than Worsall church. We have continued our Zoom services as several members of the congregation appreciate this form of worship. From September, there are some communion services when clergy cover is available.

## **Our Strengths and our Challenges**

Our strengths are seen as

- Having supportive congregations in both Parishes who have a desire to spread the good news not only to those living in our existing communities but also to the large tract of new housing areas.
- Having two hard working PCCs and three thriving well maintained church buildings.
- Having an ethos of collaborative working, not only within the Benefice, but also in the local area with other C of E Churches.
- An established pattern of Ecumenical working, alongside churches of other denominations.
- Strong fellowship between our three churches and a desire for us to be all one church family.
- Our strong sense of mission and ministry within our local community but also in the wider world.
- Willingness to trial and embrace new worship patterns and practice.
- PCCs striving to make our churches financially sustainable, developing 'giving' programmes with the support of the Diocese.

We see our key challenges as a Benefice as;

- Capturing the potential from the rapid expansion of the Benefice with the development of over 2000 new homes on greenfield sites.
- A significant rise in the number of young families, and being able to develop a sound approach to engagement with young people.
- Recognition that we need to develop an effective mission strategy
- Ageing congregations, which limits the scope and number of volunteers we have to support activities.

- A need to identify strategies for succession management to encourage younger people to become active in the church, hold office and become PCC members.
- A need to encourage and support people in exploring their vocation or calling and enable more RPAs, Readers and priests to step up for training.

## The Benefice Priest We Are Praying For

We are seeking a priest who will value the traditions of the Church of England and who:

- has a zeal for mission whilst respecting the churchmanship of the current congregations and their traditions.
- is an enthusiastic and experienced leader and team player, who will inspire and work with the existing leadership teams and lay ministers, whilst encouraging and developing them; and will grow the mission of each church within the Benefice, also working collaboratively with other local churches.
- is prepared to welcome all, regardless of culture, age, ethnicity or sexual orientation, and be particularly encouraging to those who are not regular church attendees and also exhibits a liberal view towards those seeking occasional offices.
- is comfortable working with children and young people and their families through innovative engagement and linking the Church with local schools and colleges where appropriate.
- is prepared to face the challenges of rural ministry together with actively engaging with our new housing communities in both urban and rural areas.
- is able to encourage and equip us all to work together for the Kingdom of God.

Additionally, we would hope he or she

- is willing to embrace the diversity of worship through an appreciation of music, encouraging traditional and new forms of choral and instrumental expression.
- shows willingness to develop and embrace new technology not only to enliven worship but also social media to communicate with parishioners and assist mission through trying new ideas and not being deterred if they fail.
- is a good listener and is prepared to bring new ideas of worship.

## The Rectory



The Rectory for the Benefice is 6 Westgate, Yarm TS15 9QT and is located in a cul-de-sac in the centre of the town, which is situated on the River Tees. The Rectory is two minutes walk from Yarm Parish Church. The house has four bedrooms, one bathroom, three reception rooms together with a kitchen and large utility room. There is a Parish Office which is well used for receiving visitors and is equipped with a cloak room and toilet. The office is located in a single storey wing adjoining the garage and accessed via a separate entrance.

The garden has a lawn, patio and borders with a flood defence wall incorporated into the back garden as part of defences to protect the centre of Yarm from floods.

Yarm is a long established thriving town within two minutes walk of the Rectory. The High Street is well appointed for shops during the day and restaurants and pubs in the evening. The High Street is well supplied with a wide variety of individual and specialist shops and a Sainsburys. Close by there are three pre-school nurseries, four primary schools and two secondary schools together with an independent school catering for 3-18 year olds. The theatre in the independent school puts on many productions and events which are usually open to the public.



## Parish Profile: Yarm.

Yarm Parish church members live in Yarm and the neighbouring area including Stockton and Middlesbrough. Ages range from toddlers to elderly. The churchmanship of individuals varies slightly,



however the term “broad church” describes the majority. The congregation tend to choose one of the services offered and rarely change.

Yarm population is expanding and we wish to extend the Good News to the new houses.

The church has a very active and strong Mothers’ Union and photographed is the latest induction of Pauline and Beryl (left) as new

members by the Rector. The MU is active in the worshipping life of the parish – see below. We use common worship Holy Communion Order 1 and Order 2 with seasonal variations to suit the service.

### Parish Services

**Sunday** 8:00am Holy Eucharist (CW order 2); 9:30am Parish Eucharist (CW order 1)

**Monday** 10:00am Pram Service for toddlers with parents/carers

**Wednesday** 9:30am Holy Eucharist (CW order 2)

### The church - Involvement in worship

The congregation of all ages is encouraged to contribute actively to worship through serving at the altar, being Eucharistic ministers, leading intercessions and delivering readings. The ‘Redemptorist’ service sheet is ordered and weekly notices are printed on the back by a churchwarden. The MU run a monthly time of prayer after the 9:30am Wednesday service and an evening service in Holy Week.





We have a talented organist and choirmaster who is tutoring a trainee, sponsored by the Benefice. The choir is small but regularly delivers an anthem at the 9.30am service. The photograph overleaf was taken at a WW1 commemoration service which the choir and Rector attended.

The church congregation welcomes people of all ages, ethnic mix and ability: We have 2% of our congregation from a BAME background. Many members of the congregation undertake administrative duties in support of the clergy and churchwardens such as the maintenance of the occasional office diary.

We are in the process of developing a café style church using halls and meeting places within the housing estates of Yarm. The aim is to reach out to those who have an understanding of faith and wish to discover more. Community meeting places were chosen because we are looking to attract the enquirer who has little or no knowledge of

the church and what it stands for.

We have a monthly young person's group called Funday Sunday Sparkle held in the rear vestry and a monthly craft group for children held in the north aisle organised and run by members of the congregation. The pram service is similarly planned and run by the congregation. Jo Austin, Funday, Sunday Sparkle leader, says; "Rather than seeing church as something they go to, we want our children to feel part of our church. Funday Sunday Sparkle is a special time for children to explore, discover and experience the Christian faith through games, bible stories, crafts, singing and prayer. We want the work and learning undertaken by our children in Funday Sunday Sparkle to feed into church services to be enjoyed by the whole congregation."



The average number of people aged 16+ attending the Sunday services is 85.

### **The church - and the community it serves**

The September 2020 electoral roll has a membership of 122 with 53 non-resident in the Parish. This represents under 2% of the population, therefore there are great mission opportunities here in Yarm. This is further enhanced by the presence of three primary schools, one co-educational secondary school, one sixth form with academy status and one independent day school accepting pupils in the 3 to 18 age range. The congregation has assisted with school visits and welcomes the use of the church building by schools for services, concerts etc. We feel that we could do more with schools given the right opportunities. The 2019 ward profile is available at <https://www.stockton.gov.uk/media/1959347/yarm-ward-profile-september-2019.pdf>.

The church is a popular venue for weddings and baptisms and is in use particularly for larger funerals. The congregation assists in booking baptisms and keeping in touch with families. Our pram service is popular with carers and parents post baptism. Members of our Eucharistic Ministers team visit two local care homes weekly to offer the reserved sacrament and the choir and anyone interested in singing visit monthly to offer a selection of old favourite hymns, and appropriate to the church season. We also offer home communion for the unwell or immobile.

Remembrance day is important for the town, the church is full (see below) and several thousand turn up for the service at the war memorial.



Christingle and Crib Services held in church are very popular with young families. In the Summer months the church is open for visitors on a Wednesday, manned by congregational volunteers.

The parish actively contributes to ecumenical events such as Good Friday in the high street (see below), Christian aid week, Christian unity week, and there is an ecumenical prayer group. Church members are involved in many activities within the community including play groups, lunch clubs, management of the nearby halls, and volunteering to work in charity shops.

We support a number of charities both local, national and international. Currently, in the local area, we are supporting Little Sprouts, Home Start and Neoangels. Nationally we contribute to the work of Christian Aid and the Childrens’ Society. Internationally we have links with False Bay in South Africa with which the Diocese of York is linked. We work together to very successfully raise money for charities and benefit from the fellowship arising from this.



### **The church – buildings and resources**

St Mary Magdalene Church is situated between the river Tees and West Street in Yarm. It is a grade 2\* listed building with a history back to Saxon times. The churchyard is closed, however we do have a



cremated remains area. The churchyard and surrounding wall have been adopted by Yarm Town Council. There is no church hall, but we do contribute financially to the local Fellowship Hall and use it for large social gatherings and a Christmas Fayre.



The building is well maintained and any fundraising for capital work is organised through the PCC. We are currently looking at raising £95k for improvements to the organ and the church entrance. Our craft group help out with projects in church and their work sells well at fayres to help raise money for charities. The treasurer pays in full all legitimate working clergy expenses. The churchwardens expect clergy to take proper holidays and days off and ensure they are supported as they take time for training (CME), personal development, retreat and academic study. We also welcome trainees, curates and visiting priests.

The church was reorganised under the guidance of the previous Rector to provide a more flexible and inclusive building. The altar area is adaptable, for example, used by Maasai Warriors for a show (photograph below) and for an Easter garden (photograph below).

The church has space for projector and screens and uses microphones and a loop system. The acoustics are good and the building has been used for recitals and concerts. Each row of pews has a cushion to offer comfortable seating.

There is a great deal of activity going on in Yarm, however, it is a little fragmented, especially for those wishing to join the church community. Members of the congregation are very generous in giving their time, talents and money and will welcome guidance and direction.

There is a coffee bar in Church, which enables good fellowship after service. We have an active PTO reader who is willing to participate across the Benefice when required.

Using the “Come and See” idea of bringing new people to learn about Christ, Yarm is developing a Café church to be held in one of the various halls in the parish once it is possible to do so. Background research and preparation, including a trial run at a PCC meeting took place shortly before the national lock down.



The finances are well managed and the church contributes in full to the free will offering; currently £61,800 (63% of income). We budget for work with young people and mission. There are no huge reserves but sufficient to allow monthly contributions to the Diocese to be maintained along with paying bills and expenses. We have an aspiration to cover the budget through parish giving. The 2019 accounts are available on our website

<https://www.yarmchurch.org.uk/> or from the churchwardens. They indicate how income is derived and spent.



There is a well-established subgroup of the PCC called Generosity of Loving Discipleship (GOLD for short), which is working closely with the Diocesan Generous Giving Team to realise our aspirations. We are in the process of launching the Parish Giving Scheme as the most efficient way for us to give as generously as we can. An example of the materials developed and used by the GOLD group is shown.

David Beeton from Stockton said about his family; "We attend St Mary Magdalene because we felt welcome in the Church 30 years ago and still have that warm welcome today, we like the support and fellowship within the church and the social events and fund raising efforts".



## Parish Profile: Kirklevington with Picton, and Worsall.

The parish of Kirklevington, Picton and Worsall lies to the south and west of Yarm. The parish was created in 2008, by the amalgamation of two separate smaller parishes. There are two centres of worship, St Martin and St Hilary, in Kirklevington, and All Saints, in Worsall. However, the wider rural farming communities surround both villages, and congregations are drawn from the wider area. HMP Kirklevington Grange, a Category D men's prison and YOI, is also within the parish. There are more than 800 households in the parish, 127 in Worsall, 625 in Kirklevington and 50 in Picton. A number of new housing developments are also being built within the parish and particularly in and around the village of Kirklevington. When completed there will be an additional 1400 houses within the Parish, of which around 270 will be in the village of Kirklevington. This is attracting an increasing number of families to the village.

A PTO Reader supports the parish, delivering services and funerals. The Reader has been successful in becoming an Ordinand in training. Along with Yarm, the Parish is supporting a young organ scholar and there are two further organists available. There are currently three Churchwardens in post within the Parish, and there are thirteen people on the PCC, with membership from both churches. There were 79 parishioners on the Electoral roll in 2019.

Finances are well managed by the PCC and each year; we are able to review and increase our freewill offer to the Diocese. This year we have agreed £27,180, which is approximately 75% of our annual income. The balance of this is just sufficient to cover other general expenditure. Major repairs to the church building have to come from our reserves. However, at this time, with reduced income, our reserves are being used to fund any shortfall. Joint fellowship and fund-raising events are held on a regular basis. The majority of people contribute to the church by regular standing order. However, this does not cover our annual expenditure and so fund-raising events are necessary to cover the shortfall. It is our intention to run a stewardship campaign as soon as it is feasible to do so. Any clergy or church expenses are paid in full and we also support the Reader and Organist. As a PCC, we decide which local, national, and international charities we will support each year, together with specific appeals, and also the local Food Banks.

Our churches are well maintained and used regularly. The last Quinquennial Inspection in 2019 raised no significant issues in either church. There are a number of skilled parishioners who join forces to keep on top of maintenance; professional services are employed where necessary. We have the services of the local prison inmates to keep the grass and hedges trimmed in our churchyards. Currently the Prison is unable to provide personnel due to the pandemic and the work has been undertaken by a group of volunteers. There is an element of pride amongst our parishioners and thus the churches and their surrounding churchyards are well cared for.

Neither church has its own Hall but make use of the Village Halls close by, on a regular basis, for their social and fundraising events. Being small communities, there is significant overlap with 'village' organised events

and 'church' events. Many of the regular congregations attend a whole range of activities in the villages and so indirectly there are 'missional' opportunities. Because of the small size of the villages, events are organised with a view to maintaining the visibility of the church, with events like an Antiques Road Show, and Gardeners Question Time and others. Other broader parish events, such as the Church Fete are normally held at Kirklevington because of the larger size of the village. Events have tended to vary as the population has changed.

### Parish Services

As a parish, services have been organised on different Sundays and at different times, to allow the congregations to move between the churches and also attend services in Yarm. The pre-lockdown pattern of services is outlined below:

Kirklevington: 8:00am Holy Eucharist (1<sup>st</sup> Sunday), 11:00am Holy Eucharist (2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday), 11:00am Family Service (4<sup>th</sup> Sunday)

Thursday: 8:00am Morning Prayer

Worsall: 11:00am Morning Prayer (1<sup>st</sup> Sunday), 11:00am Holy Eucharist (3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday).

These service times enabled clergy/Reader to move between churches, and attend services planned earlier in the day in Yarm Parish Church. Congregation numbers at Worsall are generally small and are augmented by parishioners from Kirklevington.

In previous years, our two churches have alternated Easter and Christmas services, with the inclusion of an Easter Eve and Christmas Eve service. However, services held in the evening have not been very well supported and these are no longer held.

Since July, Kirklevington Church has re-opened for a Morning Service every Sunday. From September, the Thursday Morning Prayer resumed. Worsall Church has not yet re-opened due to the vulnerability of congregation members and social distancing requirements in the small church severely restricting the numbers who can attend.

However, as we move forward, and dependent on the situation with the pandemic, consideration will be given to future patterns of worship between our two churches. This will incorporate family orientated worship, Messy Church, and more formal regular services. The PCC have agreed to trial Festival Church status at Worsall once the pandemic is over.

### The church – involvement in worship

KIRKLEVINGTON CHURCH:

Our church draws its congregation from the village itself, and also from adjacent villages and Yarm. Ages of our congregation range from young children to more elderly. Our churchmanship is very much middle ground. Services are based on Common Worship. People support all services on offer and it is encouraging that we have seen an increase in the congregation over the last 2-3 years, a very welcome sign of hope for the future!





Family attendance in church is variable but children are encouraged to be part of the service when they come. The 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday service targets family involvement through the Reader's contact with the local Primary school.

There is weekly involvement of a cross section of the congregation in services, as readers, interceders, Eucharistic ministers, sidespeople, coffee servers and bell-ringers. We set our stall out to involve as many people as possible on a regular basis! Our weekly Thursday morning 8:00am service has grown in recent years and there are regularly

25+ in the congregation.

A number of 'special' services are also held on weekdays, with Lent and Advent reflection services being run, together with special feast days. At the beginning of Advent, a 'Bridge of Light' service is held for those who have lost loved ones; an arc of lights is illuminated over the chancel steps as an act of remembrance and this stays in place until after Christmas.

At Christmas, apart from the popular village Carol Service, the Crib service on Christmas Eve has become the highlight of family Christmas! We have had over 200 attendees some years but regularly over 150 parents, children and grandparents! The service has grown in its involvement of young people, not only reading, praying, setting up the crib, but also enacting the nativity story, using the school's loaned outfits!

Each term, the Primary school holds services in Church, planned and delivered by the children, with the help of the Reader. It is hoped to start 'Messy church' as soon as possible, probably on a Saturday afternoon.



#### WORSALL CHURCH:

The congregation comes mainly from the village and former villagers who return for services. Very few people in the 15 to 40 age group attend church. A couple of families bring children and they are encouraged to be involved in the service when attending. The churchmanship is middle ground and seasonal variations of Common Worship are used. The congregation has greatly appreciated the provision of Morning Prayer once a month, led by a Reader. The Harvest festival service is of particular importance for our rural community, together with the Patronal service held on All Saints Day.

Worsall holds a Remembrance Day service in the church followed by laying of wreaths at the village war memorial. A Christmas Carol Service is also held in the church. Both of these services are well attended, by people of all faiths and none.

## The church - and the community it serves

### KIRKLEVINGTON CHURCH:



We endeavour to make our church an integral part of our community life. Apart from the regular weekly services, the local primary school use the building for special services each term. We also hold special services with the involvement of school children for Mothering Sunday, Harvest, and at Christmas. The Reader takes fortnightly assemblies in the school, and a group of interested parishioners work with the children preparing for special services. It has become a tradition that we hold a Christingle in the school each year! The church also actively works with the Beavers, Cubs and Guides who use the Church for services and parades. These groups also form an important part of our village Remembrance Sunday activities, when we join with local civic representatives to lay wreaths after our Church service.

Concerts are also held in church; the village ladies choir (over 50 ladies) join other local artistes for a great night of fellowship at the beginning of December each year! There are also baptisms, weddings and funerals held on a regular basis for members of the wider community. Often families return to the church, in which they were married, to have

children baptised and also for family member's funerals.

We have a small Mothers Union group. They keep in touch with families with children who have been baptised. They also run events and raise funds for specific charities.

As we were involved in the recent Northern Bishop's 'Come and See' Mission weekend (just before lockdown) we set out to take the Gospel message out into our communities. We held a very successful Lent Lunch in the village hall, inviting non-churchgoers to join us. We also ran our first 'Messy Church' Session, led by the Reader, which was very well supported! There were 13 children and 19 adults and as a team, we focused on Mothering Sunday and 'love'.

Unfortunately we were unable to hold the service this year because of lockdown. However we have a beautiful Altar frontal, created by all present, to use in the future. There are a number of parents who are interested in joining the church team to plan future Messy Church sessions, which is very encouraging. There is great potential for the Church in developing more for our increasing population. The village itself will be doubling in size in the next two years as well as the wider Parish.



Part of our mission work has included prayer visiting, when a group have visited each of the roads in the community on a rotational basis. Whilst this had some success in attracting people to church, overall, it was very time consuming and involved up to 8 people each month. It is hoped to establish a pastoral visiting group in the near future, keeping in touch with those who would like more contact with us as a church.



The Church is an active member of the 'Kirkfest' planning group. Each year, a week is devoted to village events, ranging from 'scarecrows', to dances, quizzes, school fair, afternoon tea in the village hall. The church holds an event, free for all to attend. These range from organ recitals, flower festivals, and recently, children's afternoons, showing films, running games, treasure trails and so on. Always well supported!

#### WORSALL CHURCH:

Worsall is in the Hambleton district of North Yorkshire and there is no school in the village, the local children are bussed into Great Smeaton at primary level and Northallerton and Conyers schools at secondary level or attend Yarm School or Teesside High School. Children's uniformed organisations, scouts guides etc, are centred in Great Smeaton. As the village grows, there will be more potential to engage with young families. In an anomaly of the old parish of High and Low Worsall, the old Friarage site which houses Yarm School and the old fishponds lies within the parish, but the small size of the All Saints' church and the proximity of St Mary Magdalene church in Yarm means the school looks there for activity.

Worsall is definitely a rural community and, as such, is closely knit. The local community supports significant church orientated events. The population has not increased significantly over the last two decades, however, there are a dozen or so new houses being built in the village.

The church has always been popular for baptisms, weddings and funerals. The new, well equipped Village Hall, completed in 2009, is well used by those living within and outside the parish and has attracted an increase in the request for weddings. The hall is also used for social / fundraising events by the churches.

### The church – buildings and resources

#### KIRKLEVINGTON CHURCH:

The church is situated in the heart of the village, just off the A67, which has a direct link to the A19. Formerly known as St Martin's Church, it was renamed St Martin & St Hilary, after its daughter church in Picton, which was closed in 2004. (St Hilary's church has since been sold into private ownership). The grade 2\* listed Church is built on the site of an earlier Saxon building, and there are some significant ancient stones from that period. Its history has meant that it is referred to in Anglo- Saxon and medieval writings and is frequently visited by specialist historians. Within the building, there are numerous stones, and carvings built into the walls. The church was altered in the 19<sup>th</sup> century to its present layout. It is surrounded by an open churchyard, although burial space is becoming restricted. The interior is traditionally laid out with wooden pews, a pulpit, lectern, and font. There are some significant stained glass windows, showing aspects of local history. There is also a good quality electric organ. The Chancel area was re-ordered some years ago and provides a flexible space for concerts and children's activities.



There are two projects ongoing at the current time. We have faculty approval to improve the lighting in the church and this is currently being progressed with completion expected in spring 2021. Also, consideration is being given to improving the heating, which is needed to make the building more user-friendly. Both projects are to be funded from monies available to us from the sale of Picton Church. This funding covered the cost of a new stone building, adjacent to the church, which was completed in 2014. This provides a simple kitchen, toilet, and garden store/toilet. We are thus able to serve refreshments after our main services.



## WORSALL CHURCH:

The Church is situated on the outskirts of the village, on the B1264 adjacent to the Ship Inn, who allow us



to use their car park. The church (grade 2 listed) was built in 1894 and is thought to be faced with stone from the old port of Worsall. It replaced the chapel of St John, which was built in 1719 on the site of an earlier 12<sup>th</sup> century church and sits in a closed churchyard in nearby farmland.

The interior of All Saints is of brick construction with pine pews and a stone pulpit and font. There is a good quality organ built by William Hill of London in 1900. There are a number of stained glass windows

created by the artist Ann Sotheran of York.