



We are able to offer:

- A strong active Ministry team
- A strong desire to minister within the community
- Four well maintained rural churches
- Good ecumenical relations with the local Roman Catholic community
- A vicarage recently refurbished and modernised
- A small C of E school with a clear expression of Christian Values

The Benefice comprises 4 rural churches situated within the Howardian Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and sits at the South West foot of the North York Moors National Park. We are within the Deanery of Northern Ryedale, 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.

## The People

This most beautiful corner of Ryedale has attracted people to take root from all walks of life, denominations and professions, bringing with them a multitude of skills and experiences both intellectual and practical. The presence of Ampleforth Abbey and school in the Benefice is regarded as a huge benefit in raising Christian awareness and there is much cooperation between the two denominations and congregations. The Ampleforth Benefice is supported by 2 readers, 3 recognised parish assistants and 3 enthusiastic PCC's. Oswaldkirk and Stonegrave have initiated moves to create a Joint Council.

The Benefice worship community is largely retired with some families and children. We seek a priest who will help to grow the church alongside the recently appointed children and youth leader. The four churches stand central to each village and are a strong reminder of our Christian heritage, providing places of solace and hope for all.



## The Minister



embracing all ages.

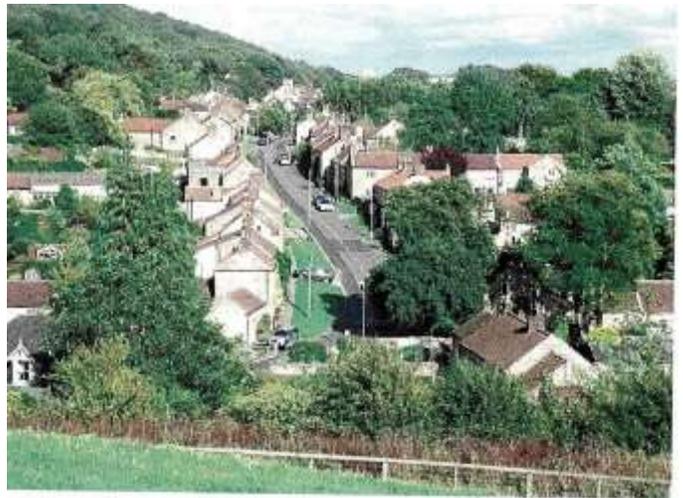
## Our Parishes

We seek a priest of who is from the central tradition of the church, faithful in the Ministry of the Word and Sacrament, who supports lay ministry and is happy to embrace varied forms of worship. He or she should not only lead but also be a good team player willing and able to delegate to and develop the laity of the Benefice in all aspects of mission, ministry and administration. Each parish has its own individual identity and styles of worship. We seek a priest with vision, able to reinforce what is already present and grow the body of Christ

## AmpleforthThe

### Village

Ampleforth is an attractive and vibrant working village in the Ryedale district of North Yorkshire, about 23 miles north of York and 4 miles south of Helmsley. The main street of the village forms the southern boundary of the North York Moors National Park. The population of Ampleforth Parish, according to the 2011 Census, was 1,345 - with 760 in 342 households and 585 in Ampleforth College. A new housing development in 2016 increased the numbers by about 30 households. The local employer is Ampleforth College, which is situated within the parish. Farming, tourism and support services are other occupations. The population of the village is roughly 30 per cent Anglican and 70 per cent Roman Catholic due to the influence of Ampleforth College.



The village has a shop with post office, two pubs, a village hall, medical centre, two churches (Anglican and Roman Catholic), two primary schools (Anglican and Roman Catholic) and playing fields. There is a regular bus service to and from York, Easingwold and Helmsley. The Vicarage for the Benefice is located privately, off the main street and adjacent to St Hilda's Church.

### St Hilda's Church

The Church of St. Hilda, named after the Saxon Abbess of Whitby was built mainly in the thirteenth century, being substantially rebuilt in 1868 when the north aisle was added. Only the tower remained

untouched. Church records list names of Vicars or Rectors back to the 12th Century, a silver chalice still in regular use, dates from 1567, and the registers, begun in 1643, are now on deposit in the North Yorkshire County Archive.

Prior to the current interregnum, and Covid restrictions, St. Hilda's was an active parish community with a popular monthly Family Service accompanied by the Youth Band, and a vibrant Sunday evening Youth Church, led by parishioners supported by the Deanery Youth Worker. Parish fellowship was supported by coffee served after the main service each Sunday in the refurbished multifunction area at the back of the church. The parish had a busy and varied social programme each year including a mixture of events including monthly coffee mornings, annual Lottery, Village Quiz, Summer Fair and Christmas Fair.

The close links between the parish and the local church school are carefully nurtured through contact with the Foundation Governor who is also the Deanery Youth Worker. Recent vicars have led a collective worship in school each week and held termly and seasonal church services for pupils. The Youth Worker continues to lead worship in school and at school services in church.

There are 34 people on the church electoral roll. The average Sunday attendance is 17 adults and 2 children out of a worshipping community of 30. There were three baptisms in 2019, no weddings and three funerals. St Hilda's has a vacancy for churchwarden and a PCC of four members including a Secretary and a Treasurer.

The incumbent also acts as Chaplain to the Anglican students at Ampleforth College, holding services in the Abbey crypt and preparing students for the annual Confirmation service held in one of the churches of the Benefice.



## **The School**

In 2020, St Hilda's School was rated Good by Ofsted, which followed earlier Good ratings in 2011 and 2016; ratings from SIAMS inspections have also been Good. The Ofsted report stated '*The head teacher, governing body and previous vicar have ensured the explicit expression of Christian values and Church school distinctiveness through the impact of the vision and values.*' St Hilda's school became federated with Hovingham School in 2015, and shares a Headteacher and Governing Body. It is a small primary school with excellent facilities, with 39 pupils in two classes: one with Nursery to Year 2 pupils, the other with Year 3 to Year 6 pupils. Children attend Nursery on a part-time basis in the mornings. The proportion of pupils supported by the pupil premium fluctuates from year to year.

## **Oswaldkirk**

### **The Village**

Oswaldkirk, named after the church of St Oswald, comprises about 100 houses and has a population of 230.

The village has one pub (currently closed) and 1 Anglican Church. The village community is very active, with walking groups, book club, discussion group, keep fit. Scottish country dancing, neighbourhood watch and an active social life.



## **St Oswald's Church**

Although the church of St Oswald, King and Martyr dates from Saxon times, nothing remains of the wooden building. The church was re-consecrated in 1287 and the present church is basically Norman with later insertions. A Norman doorway and slit windows still survive from the 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> centuries. The church is built of local stone and underwent a major restoration in 1886 when the painted chancel ceiling (of historical note) was installed.

The two church bells, which are currently used for services and are struck by the 19<sup>th</sup> century church clock, were installed in 1683 and 1684. The clock mechanism, which powers two faces, was installed in 1898 and still runs smoothly and accurately today.

Since 2015, £95000 has been raised locally and from grants for the refurbishment of the stonework on the tower and west, south and east elevations. Internal monuments have also been repaired and remounted within this programme leaving the church currently in a reasonably sound condition.

There are 39 people on the church electoral roll. Pre Covid, the average Sunday attendance was 16 adults and 2 children out of a worshipping community of 30. There were no baptisms, weddings or funerals in 2020. Up to 10 children attend the Wednesday Tea-time Club, an equivalent to Sunday school. In non-Covid times, a number of social and fundraising events are held each year. St Oswald's has one reader (PTO), two RPA's and 1 pastoral assistant. It has 2 churchwardens, a PCC Secretary and Treasurer.

## **Gilling East**

### **The Village**

The village of Gilling East together with its neighbouring hamlets of Cawton and Grimston have a total population of 345 of which 22 are under the age of 15 and 89 are aged over 60. There is no shop but a pub, a village hall, two churches (Anglican and Roman Catholic, 60% of the village is Roman Catholic), the Ampleforth College Golf Club (open to members of the public) with clubhouse and the Ryedale Society of Model Engineers. Gilling Castle, for centuries one of the homes of the Fairfax family is currently owned by Ampleforth Abbey Trust. Autism Plus is developing a training workshop and organic farm on the edge of the village.

### **Holy Cross Church**



Holy Cross is a grade 1 listed building with a Norman pillared<sup>d</sup><sub>th</sub> nave, 14<sup>th</sup> century chancel and south aisle, 15<sup>th</sup> century tower and important monuments to the Fairfax family. The three bells date from 1664. The organ was installed in 1883. Repairs to the tower and the installation of the clock were carried out in 1908 with money raised by the renowned cricketer Ranjitsinhi. After over a hundred years of operation the clock stopped on Remembrance Sunday 2019 but was quickly repaired by Cumbria Clocks using money donated by the local community. Trinity College Cambridge has been patrons of the church since 1835. They currently fund a lecture series organised by the church concentrating on environmental matters.

In 2011 the north porch was restored with a Leader Grant and further funding from the AONB and Trinity College. In 2015 a block of pews was taken out of the West end to create more social space. In 2019 fragments of medieval glass were removed from the Chancel because of safety concerns, repaired and restored by Jonathan Cooke with the help of various grants.

There are 37 people on the church electoral roll. The average Sunday attendance is 15 adults out of a worshipping community of 30. There was 1 baptism in 2020, 1 wedding and 2 funerals. There is a tradition of holding joint services with the local Catholic community on Remembrance Sunday, Harvest festival and Christmas. A number of social and fundraising events are held each year ranging from concerts to art exhibitions. Holy Cross has one Reader, one RPA, one PA and a treasurer; there are five people on the PCC. Currently we have two vacancies for Churchwardens. We are Trustees of the Pybus Trust, which holds an annual natural history competition for Anglican children judged by the Yorkshire Wildlife Trust. Our Living Churchyard project with children's activity days was a finalist for the Ryedale Green Awards in 2013. We publish a monthly Parish Magazine, which goes to many people outside the Parish. We have regular collections for the Middlesbrough Foodbank and receive donations from all denominations as well as those with no religious affiliation.

## **Stonegrave**

### **The Village**

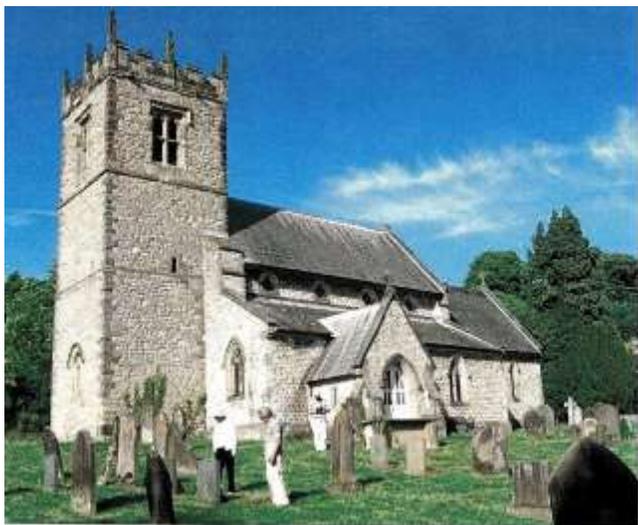
This small village has 26 dwellings and another 25 or so within the parish boundary, including those in Cawton, with a total population of approximately 90 souls. Of these, about 15 are retired, and there are 10 children under the age of 18. There are 4 working farms. Other adults work outside the village, many at Ampleforth College. School age children attend either Ampleforth College, Ryedale Comprehensive School, or local primary schools (State and Independent). The Minster is the only public building in the village. There is no pub, shop or village hall.

There is a small but faithful and devout Church membership, 2 of whom live in the parish.

Recently, when we have been operating without an incumbent Vicar, benefice services have rotated through the four churches on a four-weekly cycle.

Support and assistance is gratefully received from others in the Benefice. There is an Acting Treasurer for the PCC, but otherwise it has no active members.

### **Holy Trinity, Stonegrave Minster**



Holy Trinity Stonegrave or Stonegrave Minster is the oldest church in the Benefice. There has been a place of Christian worship on the site since 757 AD, and the atmospheric building is redolent of centuries of Christian worship.

Stonegrave has always held, and continues to hold, services using the Book of Common Prayer, in keeping with its historical significance and the wishes of the congregation.

#### **The building.**

The building is listed Grade II\*. It is generally sound, though some minor repairs to stonework due to water and frost damage on the northwest corner are currently being assessed (May 2021). The oldest part of the church – the tower – dates back to the 11<sup>th</sup> century. Victorian improvements (1866 – 1865) gave the exterior a high gothic

makeover with modern stained glass windows, but preserved large parts of original interior stonework and raised a steep-pitched slated roof- which has proved rain resistant for the last 155 years.

The Saxon wheel-head cross, the pre-Restoration (1637) rood screen and stone carvings from the 14<sup>th</sup> century stonemasons attract visitors interested in its history. As stewards and guardians, this presents us with opportunities to share this Christian heritage.

### **Worship.**

Eucharist is celebrated as part of the Benefice rotational programme with Gilling East, Ampleforth, and Oswaldkirk. Stonegrave's Eucharistic service uses the Book of Common Prayer. There are 6 people on the electoral roll, 2 of whom attend church regularly. In 2020 there were no baptisms, funerals, or weddings. There were 2 funerals (burials) in March 2021. In past summers, Stonegrave Minster has hosted services of Choral Evensong one Sunday a month from April to October. The Helmsley Chamber choir take full advantage of the excellent acoustics in the Minster, and these services have attracted a relatively large attendance.

### **The Benefice**

#### **Our Strengths**



We are a close-knit community of friendly, welcoming and caring Christians active within the Church and the wider community. We have an energetic and committed ministry team. We are aware of the need to reach out to all sections of society and are involved in the more secular aspects of village life. We have worked hard to attract young families and children with some success. We enjoy the support of the community, even those who do not attend church but who see the church as the centre of village life. We are not set in our ways and are keen to take on new challenges and lead our churches into growth. We are committed to a mission to the many visitors to the area who appreciate the spiritual as well as historic wealth of our churches, which are open every day. We support the Middlesbrough food bank, Christian Aid and other charities.

#### **Our Challenges**

We are encouraged by the numbers coming forward for confirmation annually, but are challenged by the limited growth in numbers worshipping. Our aim is to grow our churches in numbers, spirituality and mission and as centres of community activity.

## Our Worship

Presently, a benefice Eucharist is held in one of the churches each Sunday rotating between the churches. In addition, a midweek said Eucharist is also rotated among the churches.

Our expectation for the future is that there will be service in each church every Sunday, at least one of which is a Benefice Eucharist. During lockdown we developed a successful online Sunday Morning Prayer, which was much appreciated by those unable to attend church. We are looking to develop this type of

online ministry to reach the sick, housebound and marginal in our community



## Our Finances (2020)

	<b>Ampleforth</b>	<b>Oswaldkirk</b>	<b>Gilling</b>	<b>Stonegrave</b>
<b>Income</b>	<b>£13336</b>	<b>£39081</b>	<b>£19908</b>	<b>£3153</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>	<b>£14463</b>	<b>£65963</b>	<b>£19087</b>	<b>£3569</b>
<b>Restricted Reserves</b>	<b>£0</b>	<b>£4130</b>	<b>£1778</b>	<b>£966</b>
<b>Unrestricted Reserves</b>	<b>£4109</b>	<b>£5658</b>	<b>£7270</b>	<b>£9823</b>
<b>Freewill Giving</b>	<b>£8395</b>	<b>£15759</b>	<b>£7500</b>	<b>£1350</b>

Note: One of the patrons, Trinity College Cambridge, provides financial support for the incumbent.

## Accommodation



The Vicarage is an attractive house in Ampleforth with three reception rooms, four bedrooms and two bathrooms in large gardens with extensive views to the south. It has recently been extensively refurbished with central heating and double-glazing.

## Education

There are two junior schools in the Benefice: St Hilda's C of E school and St Benedict's RC School both in Ampleforth. The secondary school used by most Anglicans from the Benefice is Ryedale School at Beadlam and some students travel to York Sixth Form College (transport provided)

## Note

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

## Priestly Qualities and Attributes Required

A priest from the central tradition of the church, faithful in the Ministry of the Word and Sacrament, who supports the priestly ministry of all.

A good leader, with vision, able and committed to develop lay ministry in all its forms

A good communicator, preacher and teacher who will continue to develop pastoral ministry in conjunction with the laity

A determination to grow the church in numbers, mission and spirituality.

Keen to involve Christians of all traditions and to foster the links with other traditions in the area.

Committed to developing a strong spiritual life for all, especially young people, and able and willing to be actively involved in local schools.

Ecumenically minded, sympathetic to rural issues and prepared to work to strengthen the special qualities of each village community.

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) [bishopofwhitby@yorkdiocese.org](mailto:bishopofwhitby@yorkdiocese.org) or the Archdeacon of Cleveland, the Venerable Dr Amanda Bloor (01642 706095) [adcl@yorkdiocese.org](mailto:adcl@yorkdiocese.org)

The Benefice is currently suspended. Consideration will be given to the lifting of the suspension in due course with the aspiration that the Priest-in-Charge may be appointed as Incumbent.

You are invited to use the standard Church of England application form which may be downloaded at:

<https://bit.ly/PiCAmpleforth>

Completed forms should be sent electronically to the Bishop of Whitby's PA, Mrs Mandy Robinson [mandy.robinson@yorkdiocese.org](mailto:mandy.robinson@yorkdiocese.org) or as a hard copy c/o 21 Thornton Road, Stainton, Middlesbrough, TS7 8DS