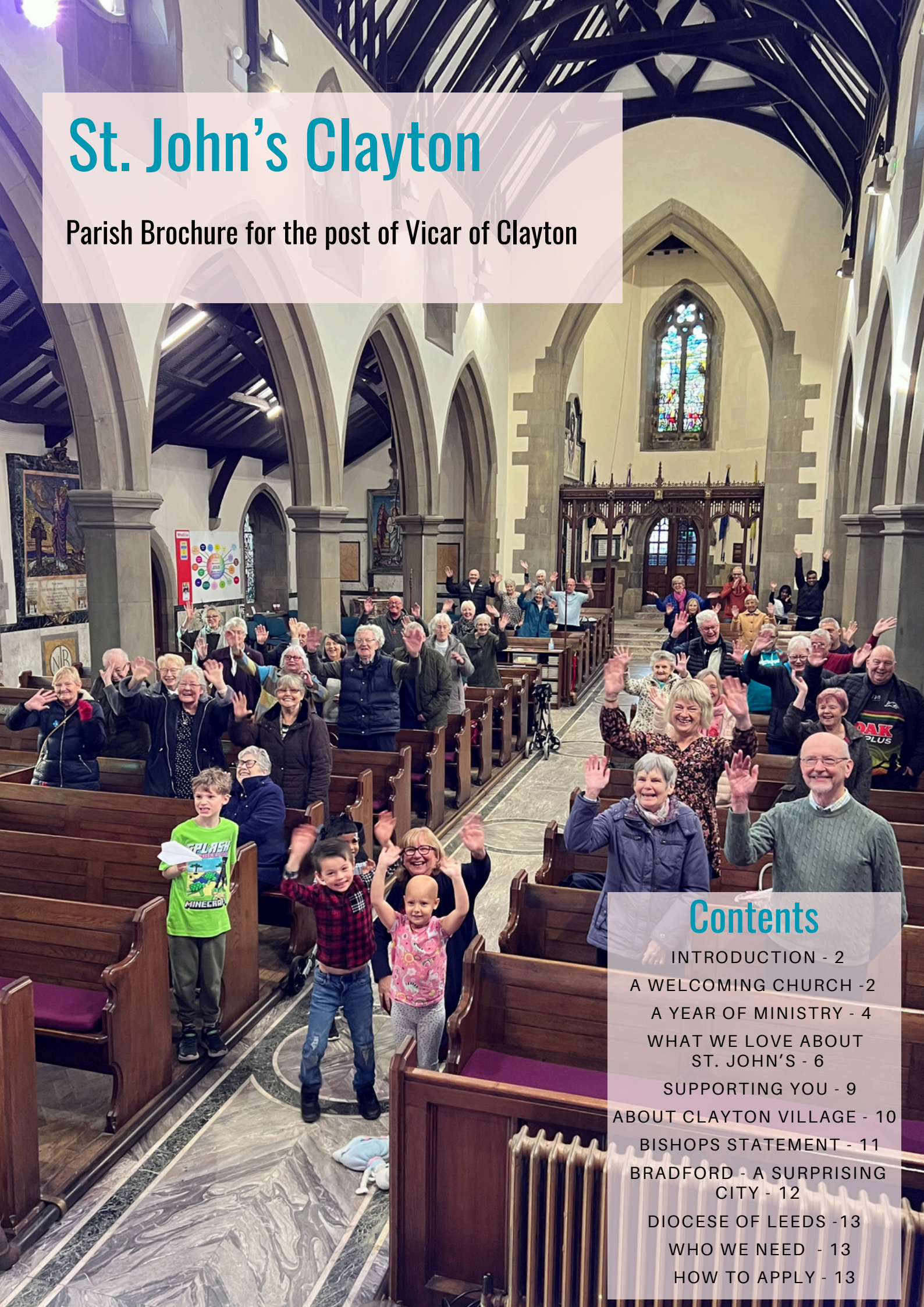


St. John's Clayton

Parish Brochure for the post of Vicar of Clayton



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Introduction

BY PENNY SILSON, VICE CHAIR PCC

Welcome to St John's Church Clayton. Thankyou for choosing to learn more about this exciting opportunity, especially if God is calling you to come and live and work amongst us. We are already praying for you in your discernment.

We hope that this brochure will provide you with sufficient information to give you a good insight into the family of St. John's.

We are a resourcing church which is an exciting and challenging opportunity.

Our current mission is not just to grow our own church in numbers, in spirituality and in service to our local community, to encourage lay ministry, and to strengthen links with the community. It is also to generously share what we have with other churches and to graciously send people to resource our partner churches as requested by Bishop Toby.

As a resourcing church we acknowledge that we are travelling a journey and at various points on the way, the route and companions can change , but what a privilege it is to be a part of the journey.

Whilst this brochure aims to give a flavour of what goes on at St. John's what is missing is it's LEADER. We want and need someone with drive, vision and enthusiasm to be our leader. You will be well supported by an interim minister, a curate, an associate priest, lay readers, the PCC and a team of passionate lay personnel, so together we can advance God's Kingdom and make followers of Jesus Christ.

The vacancy for Vicar of St. Johns Church, Clayton is a permanent appointment. Please check out our video prepared by our mission apprentice :

[Link to video: https://youtu.be/L1St_30IQ30](https://youtu.be/L1St_30IQ30)

Clayton is a desirable and sought after place to call 'Home'.

Families have grown-up here through the generations and also welcomed new residents through a series of pre-war and post war housing developments . Clayton maintains its reputation as a wonderful Village community and St. John's sits proudly and prominently at the heart of the village. Perfectly situated just a few miles from Bradford City Centre, a vibrant City awarded UK City of Culture status for 2025, Clayton finds itself surrounded by beautiful countryside, with recreation facilities, areas of natural beauty and places of interest, literally on the door-step.

A place is here for you.

Penny Silson, Vice Chair PCC.

St. John's A Welcoming Church

As a church known for its warm welcome, acts of kindness and a compassionate approach to pastoral care, a new incumbent will have the opportunity to be supported in prayer and upheld in ministry, as an integral member of St. John's Church family, who together, serve their Lord and one another. St. John's is truly blessed with those who through their daily Discipleship offer themselves in a whole host of lay and voluntary roles, both within the church and ministering to the Community, with hearts for mission and growth, both locally and further afield.



Penny Silson



Bishop Toby

"We seek people who have a joyful and confident faith, and a track record of church growth, both spiritually and numerically."

Bishop Toby

St. John's PCC

The PCC are proactive and enthusiastic, with a number of Action Teams of clergy and laity, with delegated responsibilities in the areas of Ministry & Mission, Estates and Finance & Governance.

This approach brings together individuals with a wealth of experience and expertise.

St. John's Vision Day

A recent Vision Day brought about a renewed and shared commitment to our objectives and responsibilities as a resourcing church. Through prayer and from fellowship our short and longer term goals were established and approved. We seek inspirational leadership & God's grace to guide us.

St John's Ministry Team

We are so appreciative of the ministry, teaching and interim leadership provided by our wonderful team of clergy and lay leaders and are absolutely delighted that our Mission Apprentice has chosen to stay for a further year. We are blessed.

St. John's Music and Worship

Music, worship and the worship area at St. John's is very much of a versatile nature with a recently reordered contemporary worship space equipped with state of the art Audio, Lighting and Video Screen installations. These systems were designed to enhance and open the front of church to provide a flexible space support a variety of worship styles and to support our worship band who lead most Sunday's augmented by a Community Choir and our Organ which is available for more traditional services and events.



View down Brook Lane towards Queensbury

“I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener.”

John 15 v1



St. John's Church, Clayton

“I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing.”

John 15 v5

St. John's ~ A Good Year of Ministry, Mission, Teaching and Prayer

Since moving into Interregnum in the Summer of 2023, whilst praying earnestly for an inspirational new Leader, the people of St. John's Church Family have stepped up even further, to ensure A Good Year of opportunities for Ministry, Mission and Growth.

Having celebrated in fellowship and thanksgiving, a wonderful Season of Harvest with schools, uniformed organisations and the Community, our plans came to fruition around the theme of Remembrance, including a Memorial Service for those recently bereaved and those wishing to remember loved ones. Remembrance Sunday, always a large scale and moving time of respect and reflection in the Village, brought together members of the community, at St. John's, in the Park and at The Avenue Nursing Home.

Advent and Christmas, together with the usual festivities, presented many opportunities for community engagement, including, Messy Church, a 'Blue Christmas', a Candle-lit Service of Lessons and Carols with St. John's Community Choir, a Christmas Eve Nativity Service, Midnight Communion and a Christmas Day Church Family Service.

Epiphany this year presented the opportunity to continue our celebrations of our Saviour's birth, with a beautiful Christingle service, drawing in uniformed organisations, schools, and the wider community. A quiet service of reflection opened our Parish Vision Day, leading us into a period of renewed commitment to our mission, values, action plans and goals.

Voluntary partners in the community, as varied as the Women's Institute and a local Folk Band, helped us to deliver another successful Innchurches Winter Shelter at St. John's, ensuring a warm, welcoming safe space for some of the most vulnerable in society.

Leading us into our Lent course, St. John's offered both church family and the community the opportunity for fellowship and cakes on a Sunday afternoon to watch together the second series of 'The Chosen', this will be followed by a Bible course later in the year with plans for an Alpha course in the Autumn.

Mothering Sunday in Clayton has always been special, with traditions such as The Mothers Union preparing and offering posies and the opportunity to encourage family members back to their 'Home' church. Being 'intentionally invitational', is an approach we are seeking to apply to all opportunities for mission and ministry throughout the year.

St. John's will again run the national initiative ~ Thy Kingdom Come. 'Light up the World in Prayer', and will offer a broad range of opportunities for participation, culminating in a citywide Pentecost praise in City Park, Bradford.

We are blessed to have those in our midst, people with a breadth of experience of leading different styles of worship, fellowship and teaching, with new approaches constantly being explored, including the introduction of a quiet Sunday Evening Service ~ 'Be Still'. We've also recently established a New Worshipping Community at The Avenue Nursing Home, bringing together residents, their families and carers, with Services and activities led by laity and clergy.



Carols By Candlelight



Our Uniformed Organisations at Remembrance



The Joy of Christingle



A Talk on the Holy Land



Flower arranging with Avenue Nursing Home

St. John's Our Church Buildings

Together with our large adjoining Community Rooms our beautiful Victorian Church Building is filled with an abundance of vibrant stained glass, Italian marble and intricate works of art of brightly coloured mosaics. St. John's is well placed and actively exploring ways of being an integral part of the Bradford 2025 City of Culture, with the many opportunities this will bring for Community Engagement and Mission.

The chancel area was re-ordered in 2021 providing a new stage and open chancel offering space for alternative worship styles, choirs, bands etc.

St. John's Opportunities For Growth Spiritually, Numerically & In Service To Our Local Community

We are aware of so many more exciting opportunities and recognise there are key areas we need to focus on, to ensure that whatever we do in the Lord's name, we do well and for His Glory. Communication, the use of Social Media, publishing services/sermons on-line and the development of our website, are examples of where we acknowledge we could be much more pro-active and effective communicators to reach out to a wider community. Recognising our buildings, resources and finances need to be used wisely and effectively. The recent Stewardship Campaign was successful.

Whilst caring pastorally, passionately and practically for our existing congregation, in seeking to grow an inter-generational church family, we look forward to even stronger links with schools, uniformed organisations, families, children and young people, creating an environment where we can worship and grow together in our love for the Lord.



Community Rooms Entrance from The Avenue



Community Rooms Interior



South Entrance from Clayton Lane

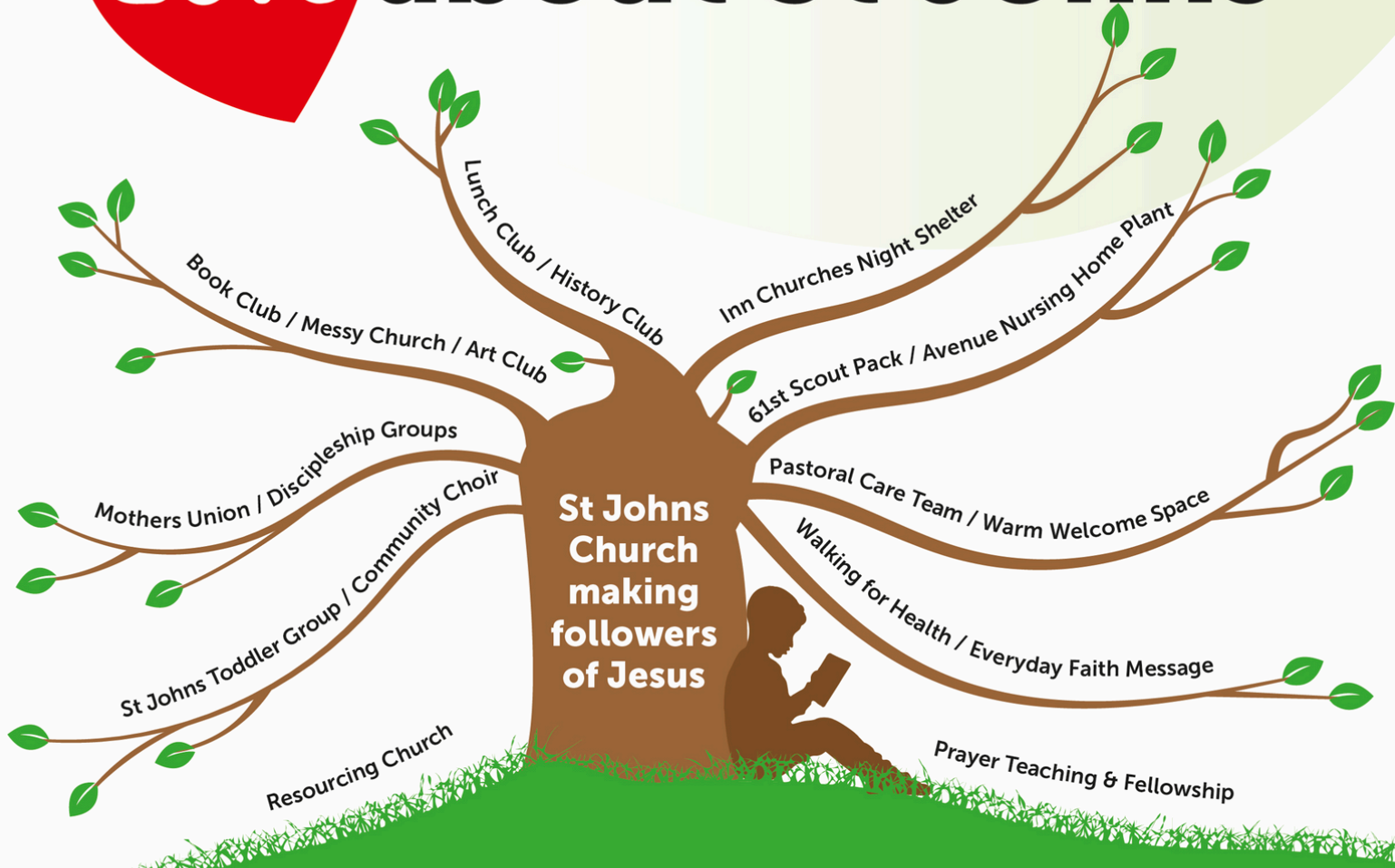


Partially re-ordered interior

What we all



Love about St Johns



"I am the vine and my Father is the gardener.

I am the vine you are the branches.

If a man remains in me and I in him he will bear much fruit"

John 15 v 1 and 5

Whenever we have the opportunity let us
work for the good of all

Galatians 6 v10

St. Johns ~ Activities In Brief

We hope you enjoyed the video at https://youtu.be/L1St_30IQ30 prepared by our Mission Apprentice, There are a wonderful range of active groups and initiatives, in the main led by laity and much valued volunteers at St John's. Here are a few more;

St. John's Messy Church

Messy Church started in November 2021. We love Messy Church and we run a 2 hour session every 4 - 6 weeks. We engage with a number of families from the community attracting 40 to 50 children and adults who have lots of fun, do crafts and share a meal and a short service giving a chance to learn about Jesus, all in a family friendly atmosphere. The church has a dedicated team of 12 to 15 volunteers committed to planning and running each session.

St. John's Art Group

The art group is a well established church group that meets every Thursday in the Community Rooms. The benefits to health and wellbeing through art are well known. The group displays their work at events throughout the year. The group is self sufficient and in the main are parishoners.

St. John's Lunch Club

The Lunch Club has been running for more than 7 years, serving a 3 course lunch to the over 60's. The club has over 40 members who dine weekly and chat over tea and biscuits. There is a weekly quiz and a raffle. The Club is supported by Bradford Community Transport Access Bus that collects and drops off many of the members. It is run by a team of 22 volunteers who cook and serve fortnightly. The kitchen has 5 star accreditation for food hygiene.

St. John's Mothers Union

Clayton Mothers Union is a small group who meet fortnightly, to enjoy fellowship, listen to guest speakers and support the Christian aims of the Worldwide Mothers Union.

St. John's Community Choir

Our Musical Director leads this choir of 30 or more singers every Thursday evening. The choir is for all-comers, very popular and provides a safe, secure outlet for people of any ability to sing a popular repertoire. The choir perform at church, school and village events, and augment the congregation at Carols by Candlelight and other church services. Musical evenings with the School Choirs and Community Choir are very popular.

St. John's A Warm Welcome

This initiative started out as 'Warm Spaces' during the recent energy crisis, it was due to end in March 2023. Due to demand and the impact it is having within in the community it has been extended to become a permanent 'Warm Welcome'. It has a dedicated team of volunteers and a weekly attendance of up to 35 people.

St. John's Discipleship Groups

Currently four weekly groups run at various days and times during the week. Bible Study, Prayer and fellowship being the impetus for each group.

St. John's Everyday Faith

Each day a Bible Verse with a Thought for the Day is sent out via WhatsApp, e-mail and SMS message to church family and beyond. This is a real source of encouragement and fellowship with opportunities to spread the good news of Jesus.

St John's Toddler Group

This weekly group was adopted by the church post Covid as it was in fear of closing. We see this as a way of encouraging families into church. The group is supported by the Reader and Mission Apprentice.

St. John's Walking For Health

St John's Walking Group offers two levels of walks, from easy walks for all abilities and all ages to more strenuous walks for more experienced walkers. The walks are popular, good fun and also great fellowship.



Messy Church hearing God's word



Community Acts of Kindness



Time to get serving at Lunch Club!



Messy Church Activities



Family Fun Day



Stewardship



All set to Zoom!

Affiliated Groups

Clayton Dementia Support Group

The group meets in the Community Rooms to help support carers and sufferers of Dementia in a friendly and supportive environment, sharing experiences and fellowship.

Clayton History Group

The History Group attracts many Claytonians filling the community rooms for their monthly meetings. The group researches Claytons rich history from a farming hamlet to the post industrial village of today. Tuesday PM, Monthly

Clayton Book Club

This small group of avid readers meet monthly to discuss the allocated books read that month. The club is in conjunction with Bradford Libraries who choose and supply the copies of the two books for members. New members are welcomed. Wednesday PM, Monthly

1st Clayton Guides and 61st Bradford South Scouts

There are vibrant groups of Rainbows, Squirrels, Guides, Beavers, Cubs and Scouts providing lots of opportunities for us to work with the children and youth and their families.

Supporting You

Gods People at St John's look forward to supporting you.

Tim Russell
Churchwarden

Reverend Philippa Slingsby-Lunn
Interim Associate Minister

Daniel Furlong
Curate

Reverend Pamela Coles
Associate Priest

Lucinda Cook
Mission Apprentice

Kay Holden
Reader

Angela Hamilton
Parish Worship Assistant

Christine Pilkington
Operations Administrator



REV PHILIPPA SLINGSBY-LUNN



REV PAM COLES



REV DANIEL FURLONG



KAY HOLDEN



ANGELA HAMILTON



LUCINDA COOK

The vicar is supported by an Operations Administrator who takes bookings for weddings, funerals and baptisms, prepares weekly notice sheets, updates and responds to the church social media channels and website and maintains rotas. The church uses the following packages to aid administration and sharing; Church Suite, Easy Worship, Finance Coordinator and My Giving software, underpinned by Microsoft Teams and administered by the Operations Administrator.

This 22 hours a week post is part funded by the SDF Resourcing Churches fund. This post is instrumental in creating and sharing resources and know how to 'work smarter', freeing up time for clergy to focus on renewal and revitalisation.

Volunteers

The church is blessed with a large group of active and dedicated volunteers who run most of the events in church and for the community. This may be preparing lunches, preparing worship, teas and coffees, worship music, winding the clock, welcoming, intercessions, readings, running youth groups, Messy Church, leading a discipleship group, worshipping at our Avenue plant, or running the sound, lighting and computer desk during events in the church and in the community rooms.

Clayton

Clayton - Your Home

The village has Victoria Park at its centre. The park has a childrens play area, multiuse football and basketball court, a bowling green, picnic area and seating. Its a pleasant place to walk and to sit. The parks focal point is the War Memorial, where the village gather for their Annual Remembrance Service.

Surrounding the park are shops and houses, a Post Office, a Newsagents and a Family Butchers. The village has the usual range of Take-aways, Hair Salons and Barbers. There is a local Vet, Physiotherapist and Chiropodist. Larger businesses include Sherbourne Furniture and Thermo-Cable.

The largest shop is a B&M. The Quora retail park, about a mile away at Paradise Green, has an Aldi, Greggs, Starbucks, a pub / restaurant and other stores for the weekly shop. The Village has a wide range of pubs, clubs and sporting opportunities including the local cricket and golf club. There is vast open countryside and nearby Horton Bank Countryside Park and Ogden Water.

Clayton and its neighbours in Fairweather Green make up a council ward with a population of 16,982, taken from the 2016 census.

The village has four schools, three of which are state primary schools; Clayton St. John's Church of England Primary School, Clayton Village Primary School, and St. Anthony's Roman Catholic Primary School.

A day and boarding school for Muslim girls, Jaamiatul Imaam Muhammad Zakaria School, was established in the imposing former Union Workhouse buildings at Thornton View.

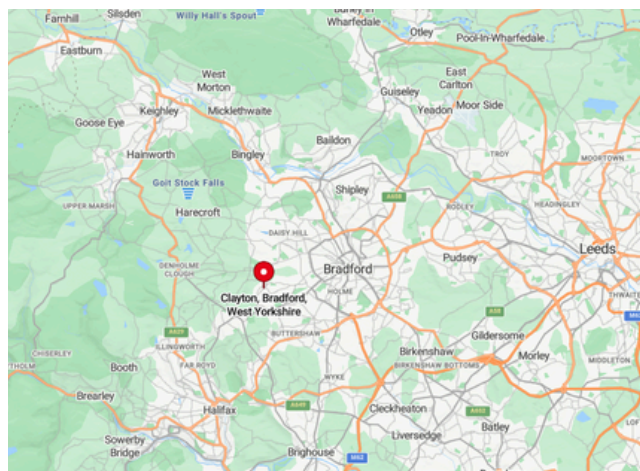
The village has several Christian places of worship representing different denominations as well as an active 'Churches Together' committee and joint events at Easter and Remembrance.

Clayton - Your House

The vicarage was built in the 1960's on the site of the original Victorian vicarage. It is adjacent to the church, separated by a footpath. The four bedroomed family home is well maintained and offers modern accommodation. The house sits amid large gardens fronting Clayton Lane with a garage and plenty of parking space. The house benefits from a large, private rear gardens laid to lawn and borders. The house has a large study/ reception and visitors facilities that are accessed via an inner hallway providing an option of privacy from the rest of the accommodation.



THE VICARAGE, CLAYTON LANE, BD14 6AX



ST. JOHN'S LOCATION BD14 6AX

Bishop's Statement for the post of Vicar of Clayton

Our vision in the Diocese of Leeds is about confident clergy equipping confident Christians to live and tell the good news of Jesus Christ. In appointing to every post, we seek people who have a joyful and confident faith which has inspired a track record of church growth, both numerically and spiritually.

St John's Clayton is a single church parish within a clearly defined large urban village in West Bradford. It has a growing population through new housing developments. St John's has strong lay leadership and associated structures. It was designated a Resourcing Church in 2019 and is receiving Strategic Development Funding from 2019-2027 to support revitalisation work in west Bradford. This funding is providing Operations Management support to the Resourcing Churches, and a series of 2-year part-time Mission Apprentices to develop areas of mission and ministry. In return, the Resourcing Churches committed to share resources generously with neighbouring parishes and to send people graciously to help revitalise and plant churches.

For St John's, a key Resourcing Church objective was outreach to the Thornaby estate within the parish. However, in 2021 the focus shifted to offering support to the nearby parishes of St Peter's Allerton and St Saviour's Fairweather Green as part of an Interim Ministry scheme. The Vicar of Clayton became Interim Priest in Charge of the two parishes, and an Interim Associate Minister was recruited. Progress was hindered by a number of factors, not least the pandemic, and then the retirement of St John's Vicar. Nevertheless, good work continued, led by the Interim Associate Minister and supported (since July 2023) by a training curate and the neighbouring parish of St James Thornton. As part of St John's role as a Resourcing Church, it is expected that the church will continue to work with the Area Bishop and Archdeacon to support church revitalisation and planting in its part of Bradford.

St John's church is well-maintained, with excellent and well-used community rooms, and a recently reordered chancel area, which gives more flexibility for leading worship. There is a very good relationship with the Clayton St John's C of E Primary School and a growing relationship with Clayton Village School. The congregation is recovering well from the impacts of the pandemic, now growing with new people as well as returners, not least families and children (especially at Messy Church). A new worshipping community has also been established at The Avenue Nursing Home.

A key challenge for the incoming vicar will be to continue building up the "home" congregations, especially with children, young people and families, and to re-engage St John's more fully with its role and agreed goals as a Resourcing Church. From the perspective of the Episcopal area we therefore see four particular priorities for the new vicar:

- a) To sustain and develop a 'mixed ecology' of effective forms of mission, ministry and styles of worship to grow a wider diversity of ages in the church, and especially with families, young people and children. This must include reaching out to those moving into the new housing developments in the area.
- b) To continue building up confident lay ministry, both in depth and numbers. This will include developing pathways for evangelism and discipleship, encouraging new people into leadership and inhabiting a role as a strategic leader of leaders in a way which enables others to flourish. Hence, the incoming vicar will need excellent teaching, pastoral, communication, team building and team leadership skills.
- c) To lead and enable St John's in its role as a Resourcing Church, working with the Area Bishop and Archdeacon to realise agreed goals around church revitalisation and planting.
- d) To creatively develop and strengthen active and visible relationships in the parish, both personally as an individual and also through the congregation. (S)he should be able to engage strategically with the life of the community, fostering excellent relationships (for example) with the local schools, uniformed organisations, other churches and community organisations. I expect her/him to contribute with others to a shared vision for Clayton in particular, and West Bradford more widely.

The Deanery of Outer Bradford is comprised of parishes similar to Clayton, many of whom are experimenting with mixing new approaches to worship and mission alongside inherited patterns. The new Vicar will therefore find a group of creative and supportive colleagues in the Deanery chapter, all of whom will be deeply familiar with the joys and challenges that each other faces. Hence, the new post holder will be expected to work with a spirit of generosity in sharing wisdom and insights about ministry within the Deanery of Outer Bradford and across the Episcopal Area.

+Toby Bradford, 28 May 2024

Bradford - A Surprising City



City Hall



- Bradford is UK's 5th largest Metropolitan District.
- 25% of the population is under 18 making Bradford the youngest City in the UK.
- You can travel to Leeds in 20 mins, Manchester in an hour and you are 3 hours away from London by train.
- Bradford is a multicultural city with a diverse population of which it is proud.
- Fountains is a new and vibrant city centre church.
- Bradford was awarded UK City of Culture 2025 status.

Bradford is one of the original 6 towns of Yorkshire that form a spiral to the east of the Pennines. These towns expanded dramatically in the 1850's when the district was central to the growth of the textile trades in the UK. Bradford grew to be the centre of the worlds woollen industries and was said to be richer than Berlin in the 1900's. Bradford is now a Metropolitan district including towns such as Bingley, Shipley, and Ilkley and villages such as Haworth, Clayton, Thornton, Oxenhope and Queensbury.

Bradford has always been a diverse and welcoming city and has seen many cultures making Bradford their home, settling and working originally in the woolen mills and nowadays in engineering, chemicals, automotive and food sectors alongside financial services and digital technologies. Unsurprisingly, Bradford is a City of Refuge.

The growth influenced much of the architecture, with areas such as Little Germany named after the merchants in the warehouse district and philanthropists such as Titus Salt who built a model workers village at Saltaire, now a World Heritage site.

The mill chimneys have all but gone and many entrepreneurs such as Urban Splash have rejuvenated the large mills into apartments and workshops to create space for the next generation.

It is also a tourist destination, with Saltaire and Haworth popular with visitors, Bradford is the first UNESCO City of Film and houses the National Science and Media Museum, a splendid City Park, the Alhambra Theatre, Cartwright Hall and Bradford Live! set to open in 2024.

This wealth of architectural heritage, its resilient people and its unique look at life contributed greatly to Bradford being awarded the City of Culture 2025.

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 2,642,400 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.

Who We Need

We look for inspiration from a new Leader to enthuse and ignite passions, to help us to further explore new opportunities for ministry and mission, both to build our 'home church' and to fulfil our responsibilities as a Resourcing Church. The desire to be led by the Holy Spirit is apparent, the potential for Growth is immeasurable and the willingness and support of God's people at St. John's to be a Resourcing Church, is immense!

We look forward to a time of refreshing, renewal, revitalisation, and growth. We seek to welcome, support and work alongside an enthusiastic and motivational leader of vision and integrity, a strategic thinker who will inspire us to discern God's will to take our next positive steps to follow Jesus, grow together in love and confidence in order to meet our objectives and responsibilities as a resourcing church.

We seek a leader of leaders who can bring together St. John's PCC, Clergy and those with leadership roles and a heart for mission and spiritual growth.

A leader who will intentionally examine our current approaches and initiatives, will seek to challenge us and learn from other's inspirational experiences, enabling us to develop a strategic approach and associated plans, with clearly defined objectives, priorities and shared ownership of the tasks ahead. We are going for growth come and join us.

How to Apply

Thankyou for taking the time to read this information. Please pray for us as we are praying for you. If you feel called by this opportunity then please apply immediately via Pathways. If you'd like further information, clarity or just a chat about the role then we encourage you to call Venerable Andy Jolley in confidence or one of the Parish Representatives.

Andy.jolley@leeds.anglican.org 07973 458403

Angela Hamilton: hamiltonsatcrimond@icloud.com 07815 839461

Penny Silson: pennysilson1954@gmail.com 07970 753119

