



Parish Profile

St Andrew's Church, High Street. Starbeck, Harrogate HG2 7JE

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 [St Andrew's Church](https://www.facebook.com/StAndrewsChurch)

 Diocese of West Yorkshire and the Dales

**Under God's direction to equip everyone to reach their
full potential in Christ**

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About the church

We think you will enjoy being part of St Andrew's and leading us in our mission. You will find that we are diverse and inclusive, that we readily welcome new people into our midst and that we take Jesus' words about unity seriously.

While there is no pressure at St Andrew's to be anything other than who you are, we do believe that it is important that people are challenged to grow in their faith and their walk with God. We encourage people, when they are ready, to take a full and active part in church life.

St Andrew's is a 'church in the community' and many regular worshippers are local people. However, we also have a significant proportion of people from outside the parish, who are attracted by its forms of worship, its vision and its fresh expressions of church.



We are blessed with an attractive, versatile and uplifting worship space, which we use creatively. The church was built just over a hundred years ago and has a prime position on Starbeck High Street. Three years ago, we completed a major extension comprising our Welcome Centre, kitchen, servery and toilet facilities. The Welcome Centre has transformed our fellowship times, especially between the two Sunday services, and enhanced our presence in the community.

'We wanted to resource the church for outreach, community participation and gathering - seven years later, a magnificent Welcome Centre arrived.'

Mike (Building Project Coordinator)

Worship

St Andrew's is an evangelical Anglican church with links to the New Wine movement and styles of worship reflect this. We believe our worship services are inclusive and accessible. People are free to be themselves. It is a hallmark of the church that many people are encouraged to use their gifts in a wide range of ministries including preaching, leading services and children's activities, praying, leading worship and serving communion.

On most Sundays we have two morning services, which are different but complementary. We value our traditions but are open to fresh ways to express and share our faith. Sometimes we hold a joint service.

The earlier service at 9 am tends to be more traditional in its form of worship. A range of modern liturgy is used along with a mixture of hymns and modern worship songs. Holy Communion is shared each week. At this service, Priests and Readers generally wear robes.



The later service at 10.45 am is more contemporary in its style and more families with children attend this service. This service is more informal, combining prayer, praise and teaching and does not always include formal liturgy. Children take part each week and Sunday groups take place during these services. Once a month there is a Family Service, which children remain in church for and there is a communion service once a month. Leaders and preachers do not robe for this later service.



Music at both services is led by worship groups using guitar, keyboard, drums and other instruments. We are fortunate to have a number of talented worship leaders who take responsibility for this aspect of our services.

Although attendance at services varies, typically there are about 50-60 worshippers at the earlier service and 80-100 at the later service.

'I enjoy worshipping at St Andrews: it's inspiring, uplifting and based on biblical truth. It's great praising God together and also drawing close into His very presence.'

Caroline (Worship Leader)

Prayer

St Andrew's is rooted in prayer. There is an expectation we will seek God's guidance about decisions that we make. People are encouraged to pray for our church, for the community, the nation and for world affairs. We pray for each other during services, not only in intercessions but also in groups and informally. Prayer ministry is available every Sunday during and after services, including prayer for healing. Prayer is a normal part of our small groups.



Saturday Prayer on the Street (SPOTS) is a weekly ministry to the local community.

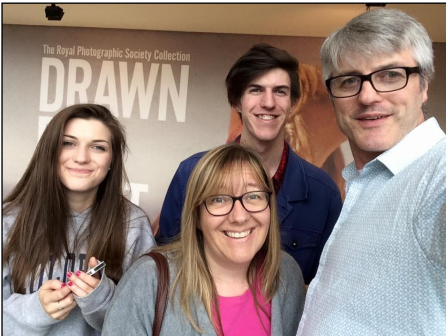
24 hour prayer events are held monthly. At the moment the focus is on prayer for our new vicar!



'Prayer at St Andrew's helps us to grow in our relationship with God and each other, extending His kingdom amongst us and in the world.'

Tina (Prayer Coordinator)

Mission



At St Andrew's we are proud to be an outward looking church with strong national and international links. We support a number of people who are serving God abroad, some of them through regular financial giving and all of them through prayer. This includes:

- a family in Cairo, Egypt working with CMS at the Anglican Cathedral and leading the Episcopal Training Language Centre
- the National Director of British Youth for Christ and his family, based in the West Midlands
- a young couple at the Belgian Bible Institute in Brussels preparing for ministry in French-speaking Europe

Within our church family we also support the Senior Advisor for Fairtrade International Tea and Coffee and the Director of Media Ministries at Youth For Christ International.

Prayer for these people and for the world in general is a regular feature of our services and, through our mission team, people are kept well informed of the needs of our mission partners and the wider needs of the world.

'We believe that being a mission based church is important and we support a number of people and organisations at home and abroad.'

Andy (Mission Group)

Children and young people

At St Andrew's we believe that children and young people are the church of today, not the church of tomorrow. That is why you will see they are so involved in our church life. We encourage families to worship together, as well as providing dedicated activities on a Sunday morning.



We are exploring ways to engage even the youngest children in worship and prayer. 'Pray and Play' is a space where parents and their preschool children can feel valued whilst still being included in services.

Sunday Club meets in the halls on Sundays, except when there is a family service.

Level Up, for the 11-14 age range, meets in our Welcome Centre on Sunday mornings.

On Sundays, the Children and Young People's Team lead a range of activities.

Children participate fully in our services, including taking communion under their parents' guidance. Young people are offered preparation for confirmation.

A number of young people are involved musically in services and also enjoy presenting drama. We are keen to see them encouraged in developing their gifts, whether in creative or prayerful elements of the service.

JC is a group for 15-18 year olds, instigated and run by a group of sixth formers. It is a safe place in which to explore faith, develop friendships and have fun within a Christian context.

'We aim to help our young people find their place in our church community and support them in any role they find.'

Rob (Young People's Coordinator)

In the week

St Andrew's is a busy church and is not only about Sundays. You will find that most days something is happening.

People are encouraged to join small groups, which meet in the daytime and evening in homes around the parish and beyond. These groups are for sharing and caring, prayer and Bible study, and also for socialising. Sometimes, particularly during Lent, the groups follow an agreed theme.

The Welcome Centre is open most mornings and anyone is welcome to call in for a coffee and chat. We would like to do this more, but sometimes we do not have enough volunteers. Even so, we believe there is huge potential in opening the church to the community in this way.



It would be impossible to mention all our groups, but here is a taster:

- Men praying together
- Alpha course
- Growing Leaders group
- Morning Prayer and Midweek Communion
- Cleaning team
- Flower team
- PLUS and Lunch Club for over 60s
- Vulnerable adults group
- Family Spot

Social events are also important because we pride ourselves on being as inclusive as possible. There have been quiz nights, barn dances, walks and the annual cabaret evening . . . but we are always looking for new ideas.

'Small groups are such an asset in this church. We appreciate learning more about Jesus and supporting each other in our everyday lives.'

Helen (Small group member)

Team

First of all, everyone plays an important role at St Andrew's. Some people have prominent roles in services but the life and work of the church would not continue to flourish without the many people who serve in their own way. A read through this brochure will give a good impression of the wide range of activities that take place. A few faces will make a good starting point.



Kathryn Watson and Janet Jackson - Church Administrators

Kathryn and Janet keep us organised and, without them, things would not run smoothly. They are the first port of call if you need to know anything. The church office is open every morning.



David Leonard - Churchwarden and Reader

David has lived in the parish and worshipped at St. Andrews for nearly 46 years. Formerly the PCC secretary and a variety of other posts, he was encouraged to train as a Reader and licensed to the Parish in 1993. He also takes services at other parishes in the Deanery should the need arise.



Malcolm Price - Churchwarden

Malcolm has worshipped at St Andrew's for over ten years. He has been involved in worship leading for many years but has recently 'hung up his guitar'. He has been a headteacher and now works in higher education.



Paul and Sheelagh Easby - Retired Church Army Officers

Paul and Sheelagh were originally involved in St Andrew's when they led the work of British Youth for Christ in the Harrogate district. Since joining Church Army, they have led a church plant near Sheffield and served here as Community Outreach Workers. Although retired now, they are still very active and involved at St Andrew's.



Rev John Walden - Retired Vicar

John has been minister of six churches and spent 28 years in the Norwich Diocese. He has been the SAMS Conference and Communications secretary and joint organiser of CMS Diocesan Mission in Bristol. He has also presented the weekly TV show 'Mustard Seed' and his writings include 'Let these stones speak'. He and his wife, Alison, are now Chaplains on cruise ships!



Charles McNutt - Retired Church Army Officer

During his 40 years of ministry, Charles has worked as an Evangelist in Liverpool, N. Ireland, St. Andrew's and St. Mary's Harrogate. After his retirement 9 years ago, he came back to worship with us at St. Andrew's with his wife, Beth. Both are actively involved.

Many other people are involved in leadership, including our PCC members and the leaders of our ministries and groups. We are delighted that two members of our church family are training for the Anglican ministry. A significant group of other people help to lead our services and we are especially proud of the leadership demonstrated by our young people.

About the parish



Starbeck is situated part way between the attractive spa town of Harrogate and the historic market town of Knaresborough. Harrogate is popular for tourism and conferences, and has much to offer in terms of shops, restaurants, entertainment and leisure. You may have heard of Bettys tea rooms, The Stray, Valley Gardens and RHS Harlow Carr.



The parish has a socio-economic mix, which is represented in the church family, and the surrounding area has a range of housing, including some new builds. There are some elements of deprivation and social need. Henshaws Specialist College for young adults with sensory impairments is a strong presence in the community, as well as Springwater special school and a number of residential care homes. These are represented in our church family.



We have links with churches of other denominations within the parish, particularly with Starbeck Methodist church. Nearby there is also Starbeck Mission Church and St Aelred's RC Church. We also have strong ties with other churches in the area, including Kairos, which is an Anglican Network Church in Harrogate.



Church in the community

St Andrew's is a community focussed church. We serve the local community in a variety of ways:

- Family Spot is run by church members and cares for and encourages parents and carers with their 0-4 year olds. Two groups meet each week on Monday and Thursday mornings in the church halls.
- Uniformed organisations meet in our church halls and are welcomed on a quarterly basis to our Sunday service.
- Our summer holiday club welcomes many children from the community. Last year we had a special focus on discipling children from our regular congregation and equipping them to share their faith with others.
- A wide range of community groups hire our welcome centre and halls.
- Holiday at Home is our annual summer activity week for the over 60s and is now in its tenth year.
- In recent years we have organised a 'Love Starbeck' day to help out members of our community and improve the local environment.
- We support local events such as Starbeck gala and Starbeck in Bloom.
- And when the Tour de France went past our front door, we were there to serve refreshments for the spectators.



St. Andrew's has developed strong links with Starbeck Community Primary School and regularly welcomes children and staff for events such as the school's Christmas service and the recent Advent Star Trail. Members of the church have worked within the school to develop prayer spaces and lead a regular school prayer group.

The local secondary schools in both Harrogate and Knaresborough are well respected and popular.

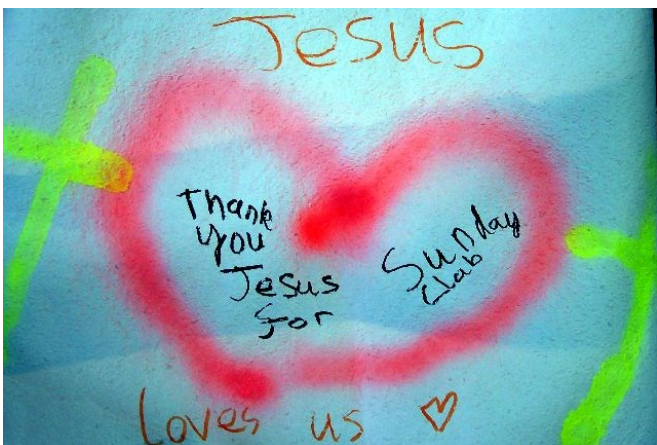
Living here

Of course, you will want to know what Starbeck is like to live in. Residents say that it has a strong community feel. Along the High Street there are shops, a library, a health centre, a park, cafés and other local businesses. There are supermarkets in the parish and a swimming pool. What you can't find in Starbeck is likely to be nearby in Harrogate or Knaresborough. Open countryside is within walking distance and there is a newly created cycle path to Ripley. It's a short drive to the beautiful Yorkshire Dales and the coast is within easy driving distance.



The Diocese is in the process of purchasing a new vicarage for the parish. This modern house is part of a small development located within walking distance of the church and looks out onto open countryside.

Starbeck railway station is on the branch line from York to Leeds with a regular service to other local stations. There are also regular local bus services.



Key strengths

We value everyone's voice, so we took time one Sunday morning to share our ideas. This is a taster of what adults said. Children and young people had their own meetings to discuss the same questions.

'We are warm and welcoming'

'It is encouraging and uplifting'

'There is a lovely relaxing atmosphere when people come for the first time'



caring, inclusive, relational, prayerful



'We are open to different ways of worship'

'All opinions are listened to and heard'

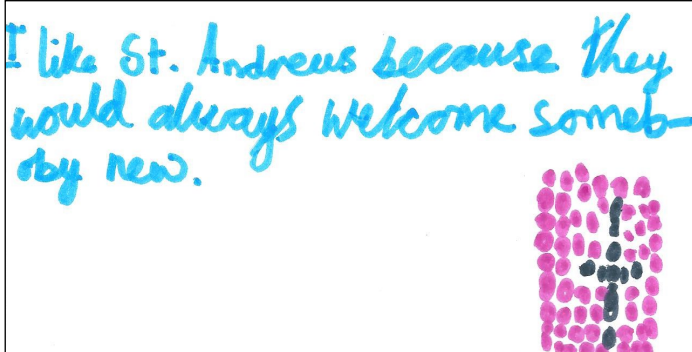
'Gifts of the Spirit are evident but not forced'

unity, freedom, fellowship, love



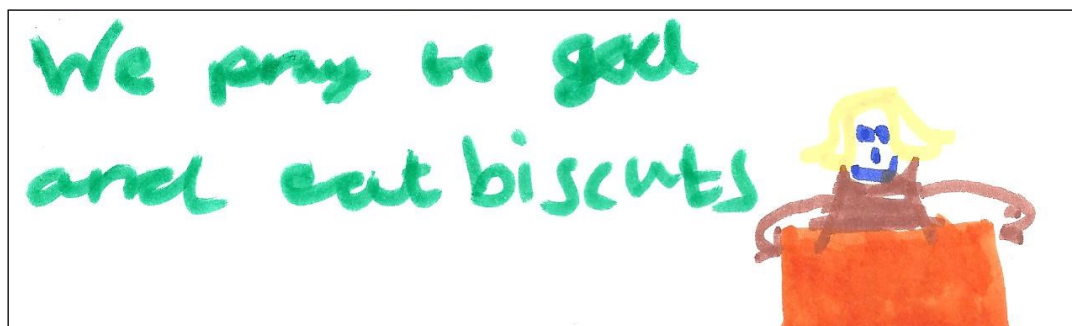
Children's comments

What do you like best about St Andrew's?



'I like waving the flags'
'The people are kind'
'I like what we do in Sunday Club'
'We sing lots of songs in church'

Our church is welcoming, friendly and funny



What would you like our new vicar to be like?

I would like our new vicar to be friendly

One of our younger children decided to draw what they thought you'd be like...



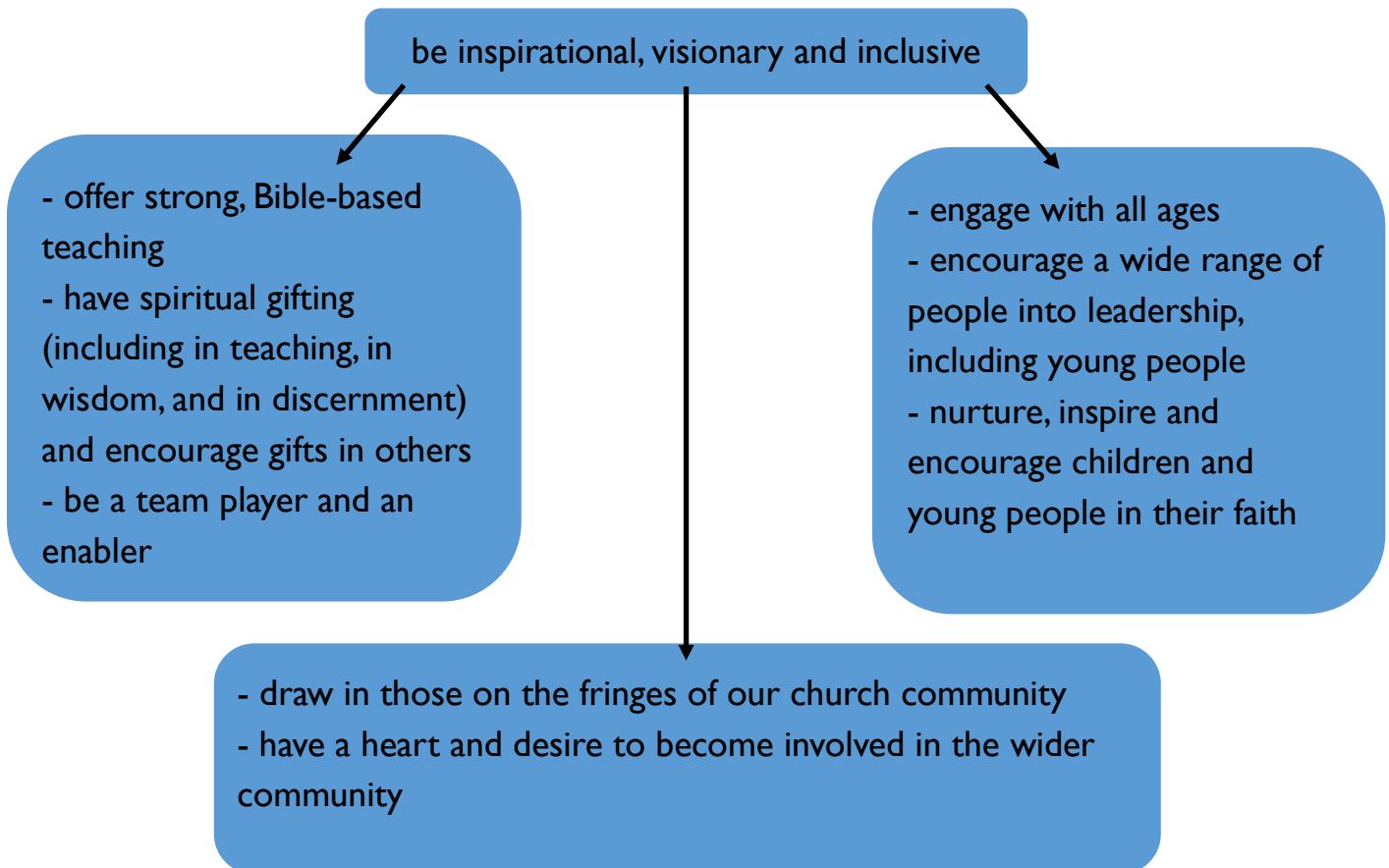
'I love the time I spend preparing for and working with the children of our church. I truly feel God is with me in this work.'

Sharon (Children's Coordinator)

Our new vicar

As a church, we have been thinking about what our new vicar will be like and discussing the qualities that we believe it would be important for our new vicar to have. Here are some of the ideas.

Our new vicar should:



And, as if that isn't challenging enough, we'd like you to have a good sense of humour!



Looking ahead

We know there are areas to develop. As our new vicar, you will bring ideas of your own and we are looking forward to this. In the meantime, we are not resting on our laurels and have already been talking about the future.

The PCC, at its away day, in the Autumn, identified discipleship as a key area for development. We believe that all members of our church will benefit from being nurtured in their faith. Whilst this already happens informally, we feel that discipleship needs to be better planned and more systematic.

We also agreed that effective communication should be a priority.

Comments from our PCC and whole church meetings fall into some key sections.

We are passionate about developing the children and young people's ministry. We want to encourage children as they grow up to explore where they might be called to serve in the church. We have fantastic young people in our church but we are only too aware that the 18 to 35 age group is not well represented in terms of numbers. We have excellent leaders and would like to build an even stronger team.

We have a good group of people who preach. We feel that our teaching ministry could be more structured and systematic. In our new vicar we are looking for someone who is clear in their exposition of scripture and in their ability to make it relevant to our lives.

Our small groups are greatly valued. However, we are looking to support and develop these groups further so that they make strong connections with our key priorities and complement our Sunday teaching. We are pleased that there have been a number of new people in church recently; we would like to respond more quickly to new people, perhaps by having sessions specially for them.

Our Welcome Centre is a wonderful facility that has really brought our church together. We would like to use it to its full potential, especially during the week.

In addition, we always have outreach on our minds and are keen to explore new ways to communicate the gospel to those around us in the community and in our work places. We would like to strengthen how we follow up baptisms, how we counsel the bereaved. We feel there is scope to develop a healing ministry.

What else?



Here are some other things about St Andrew's that you might like to know.

- Every two years we have a church weekend away. In recent years this has been at Sneaton Castle near Whitby. These have been important times for fellowship and church growth.
- We have a wonderful signing ministry for the deaf and hard of hearing, which allows them to participate in services
- The St Andrew's Banner group makes banners for our church, and also sends many banners abroad
- We have Christingle services before Christmas each year, which are hugely popular

Our finances are in order though we do not have much leeway. We pay our parish share each year. We have paid in full for our Welcome Centre, raising almost £600,000. It would be good to have more funds available but we recognise that people have been very generous with their time as well as with their money. There are no outstanding major repairs required following the last quinquennial report. Amongst our priorities are external signage and refurbishment of both the church office and the halls. The halls and Welcome Centre are hired by a range of community groups and represent an important source of income.



Data

All figures are for 2015 unless otherwise stated.

Population of parish (2011)	10,200
Electoral Roll (April 2015)	170
Easter communicants	204
Christmas communicants	156
Christmas Eve Christingle attendance	590
Baptisms	19
Weddings	1
Funerals in church	9
Funerals at crematorium	10
Confirmations (September 2014)	13
Confirmations (January 2016)	9