

April 2024

# Wirksworth Team Ministry Team Vicar



# Archdeacon's Welcome



There is much to celebrate within the Wirksworth Team. They are blessed with ten wonderful churches in the heart of the beautiful Derbyshire Dales and neighbouring Peak District. The Team Rector is looking for a full-time stipendiary colleague to work alongside him and join the well-established team, including several clergy with PtO and readers, leading mission in a rural and market town context.

At a pivotal time for the Diocese of Derby, I see great potential in this post. This role offers an innovative opportunity to model a new and collaborative way of leading churches into growth, building on networks. There is a desire to see relationships with God deepen and out of that solid core of prayer and worship to see lives transformed, community built and the churches grow as the churches serve their communities, challenge injustice and seek to make new disciples.

There is great support and engagement by the laity with warm congregations and the opportunity to minister across the whole team but with an exciting focus on missional engagement particularly around the Growing Faith agenda.

So, do read on, and if you would like an informal conversation, please do not hesitate to be in touch with me directly on [nicky.fenton@derby.anglican.org](mailto:nicky.fenton@derby.anglican.org)

*Nicky Fenton*

The Venerable Nicky Fenton  
Archdeacon of Derbyshire Peak and Dales

# Area Dean's Welcome



Thank you for taking the time to read this profile for the role of Team Vicar. Carsington Deanery consists of three market towns – Matlock, Wirksworth and Ashbourne – along with a number of rural villages surrounding each town. The deanery is the result of merging two smaller deaneries and this coming together has benefitted both clergy and lay folk as we now have a greater pool of resources and experience from which to draw. The name of the deanery comes from the reservoir that sits at the heart of the geographical area.

Our clergy chapter meets regularly and is a place of mutual support and encouragement. Synod meetings cover a variety of subjects and are known to be a forum where issues and questions can be passed to Diocesan Synod. It is a place where we celebrate what is good in our parishes and we can also share the things that are more challenging and using a lot of our energy. Our deanery administrator works tirelessly to ensure that good communication underpins all that is happening.

There are many blessings and opportunities to be found in our context along with a number of challenges as well. Using the resources of the Mission and Ministry Team at Church House, along with training and equipping lay people into the ministries to which they are called, will help us to continue to reach out to all those within our communities with the love of Christ.

I hope you are excited by what you discover about this role and may our gracious Lord give you discernment for the way ahead, remembering that “The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do it.”

Revd Phil Michell  
Assistant Area Dean



# Team Rector Welcome



Thank you for reading this profile and being interested in the role of Team Vicar in the Wirksworth Team Ministry.

The Wirksworth Team Ministry is a great place to serve God and the church. I've only been here a relatively short time but already feel welcomed and appreciated. The team has a wealth of willing volunteers and supportive colleagues, who work together to seek to transform lives, grow the church and build community, as we share God's love with our communities.

We hope that this profile captures the individual nature of each church and the community it serves, as we also seek to work together, so that the whole is greater than the sum of the parts.

You will see from this profile, that whilst this role includes all the things you would expect as a team vicar in a rural context, there are also items that are specific to this place and the needs here. These include; exploring growing our Messy Church offer to some of our village parishes from the successful base in Wirksworth, initiating focussed work with young people between the ages of 11 and 18, and exploring the creation of new worshipping communities amongst our more elderly residents.

We hope that all you can see here helps you as you discern God's plan

Revd Neil Griffiths  
Team Rector  
Wirksworth Team Ministry

# Welcome from the Wirksworth Team

Welcome to Wirksworth and the Derbyshire Dales! Thank you for your interest and for taking the time to consider this exciting position, which arises at a transformational time in the life of the Team.

We hope that the information provided below offers a glimpse of life in the Wirksworth Team. To find out more, please explore the various web links referenced in this document and do come and visit and see the breadth and range of support and opportunities available for the successful applicant.

If you would like further information, would like to discuss any points relating to the position, or would like an informal chat, please do not hesitate to contact:

- Venerable Nicky Fenton, Archdeacon of Derbyshire Peak and Dales  
[nicky.fenton@derby.anglican.org](mailto:nicky.fenton@derby.anglican.org)
- Revd. Neil Griffiths, Team Rector Wirksworth Team Ministry,  
[neilgriffiths01@btinternet.com](mailto:neilgriffiths01@btinternet.com)

We look forward to welcoming you warmly in person to rural Derbyshire.





# Our Vision and Mission

Our previous Mission Action Plan (developed in 2014) reflected our three priorities and nine targets:

## Living faith – building communities – transforming lives

1. Maintain a Christian presence in each community, offering regular worship in well-maintained buildings that are open, accessible, welcoming and attractive.
  - Buildings are cared for, open and accessible
  - Our churches are attractive, have good information and are welcoming
  - Adequate funding for building and ministry
2. Develop our own faith and understanding so that there are confident and committed church members in each community able to provide a focal point and build up the life of the local church.
  - Good preaching and teaching
  - House groups, bible study opportunities and workshops
  - Concern for justice at home and abroad
3. Listen to the communities around us to identify where needs are and how we might contribute to the life of each village we serve and the wider Derbyshire Dales.
  - Christian service to whole community
  - Work with schools
  - Ecumenical cooperation

These themes continue to arise as we look at how we deliver our mission in the years ahead. We have recently begun forming a new Mission Action Plan and the new Team Vicar will be a key part of continuing its development and implementation as each PCC develops its own detailed local plan.



# Role of the Team Vicar

Wirksworth Team Ministry (WTM) seeks an energetic and inspired Team Vicar to join with others to lead the Team forwards into growth in its various forms.

The challenge is to work together to bring growth in both numbers and depth of Christian commitment throughout the ten individual churches, and to encourage the team of ordained and lay ministry who are supporting and encouraging the strong existing community links.

The Team Vicar brings their own experience of life into our situation, and they will be expected to continue to develop their own Christian life through interaction with the people and parishes of our Team. The Vicar's ideas and enthusiasm will contribute to the Team's continuing pilgrimage. We particularly value the life experience of new Team members, as previously held skills and disciplines are often transferable to our situation. Each member of our staff team has particular areas of responsibility, some of which are recruited to and some are allocated to match the skills and experiences of individuals.

## Key areas of responsibility are:

- To play a full part in the life, work and worship of the clergy team including leading Sunday worship across the Team, joining in Daily Offices and regular Team meetings
- To work with colleagues to deliver the Team Mission Action Plan and to ensure the delivery of ongoing mission, ministry, pastoral care, leadership and governance across the Team
- To hold oversight for existing Messy Churches and to expand these and other new worshipping communities for children, young people and households across the Team in conjunction with schools
- To explore and develop potential partnerships and possibilities for outreach amongst young people, especially focussing on creating links with local senior schools and young people
- To develop existing community engagement with the elderly expanding this with a view to forming new worshipping communities
- To support the ecumenical work of Churches Together in Wirksworth and District
- To participate in local church governance including; chairing PCCs and exploring how Team Council can make a greater contribution to the work and mission of the Team.





# Wirksworth Team Ministry (WTM)

## Team Profile

WTM ([www.wirksworthteamministry.co.uk](http://www.wirksworthteamministry.co.uk)) comprises ten churches, nine of which are parish churches.

Church	Population	Electoral roll	Regular service attendance	Maximum service attendance
St Mary's, Wirksworth	5000	73	30-40 (eucharist) 12-20 (evensong)	100-200
All Saints, Alderwasley	470	18	12-18	
St James, Bonsall	800	21	10-15	
All Saints, Bradbourne	100	12	6	80
St James, Brassington	600	25	6-10	60
St Margaret's Carsington	250 (including Hopton)	22	9	22
All Saints, Elton	400 (including Gratton)	10	6-12	150
St James, Idrigehay	400 (including Ashleyhay, Alton)	20	10-14	
Holy Trinity, Kirk Ireton	500	25	8-15	50-100
Holy Trinity, Middleton	750	12	8	100
Total	9200	238	117-167	

The present staff complement is a Team Rector, a Team Vicar (currently vacant), a non-stipendiary Associate Priest, a non-stipendiary Curate, a Reader and three retired but active clergy. The Team employs two part-time administrators who staff the Team Office.

Lay people participate in leading worship in various ways, through lay-led services, musical involvement, and readers'/intercessors' rotas. We aim to develop confidence in a model of all-member ministry. We seek to help our congregations to share responsibility for the life, witness, and resourcing of their churches. Mission Action Planning has been instrumental in keeping this on the agenda. All churches within the team welcome ministry irrespective of gender.

### The Team Setting

The Team is centred in the small market town of Wirksworth and encompasses more than 40 square miles of the Derbyshire Dales. Wirksworth offers most essential amenities, including a health centre, two dental practices and a leisure centre with a teaching swimming pool. The larger neighbouring towns of Matlock, Ashbourne and Belper can be reached easily. Wirksworth is on a well-served bus route to Matlock (which has a local railway station) and Derby (a major rail hub, 14 miles south of Wirksworth). Rail links and good roads to the M1 mean Wirksworth is well connected to Nottingham, Chesterfield, Sheffield and beyond.

There are eight infant and junior, church and non-church schools and federations within the WTM area. Secondary school-aged children in Wirksworth and the local villages typically attend the Anthony Gell School in Wirksworth, a comprehensive school of 750 pupils. Others travel to schools in Matlock and Ashbourne.

Several of the villages in the area are attracting residents from elsewhere in Derbyshire and further afield, including some young families and many retired people. House prices have risen considerably in recent years and it is increasingly difficult for younger local people to buy property in their own villages. Local people treasure the remaining village shops and pubs.



## Our Churches

Christianity has existed in Wirksworth for 1350 years, having benefited from the mission from Lindisfarne to Mercia in the 650s. Church tradition across the Team is mainly central. St Mary's, Wirksworth, holds up to 400 people, is listed as a 'Major Parish Church' for conservation purposes and has a more formal catholic liturgical style. The village churches are smaller with a more intimate feel and more informal worship. Our congregations tend to come from the immediate vicinity of each parish church, as we seek to offer ministry that values links with the local community. Increasingly, however, some of our occasional offices cater for people from further afield. Most of the Team's church buildings are of significant architectural and historical interest.

## Sunday Worship

The clergy and reader all participate in a quarterly rota, officiating at least once in each church with opportunities to participate more regularly in agreed places forming a closer relationship with some parishes than others.

Much of our worship is eucharistic, using Common Worship. Services can involve everything from BCP to experimental worship and outdoor worship for Nativity, Palm Sunday and the village Wakes services. Music is usually provided by a dedicated team of organists, although other musicians may play a part in worship, and congregations welcome input from younger residents whenever possible. Some of the smaller churches sometimes use recorded music in worship.

## Occasional Offices

Occasional offices across the Team in 2023 included 17 baptisms, 8 weddings and 64 funerals. The occasional offices facilitate mission and outreach and are part of the privilege of ministry. They are particularly important because of the pastoral possibilities they offer and the opportunity to strengthen further the existing links between the churches and their local communities. There is a well-established marriage preparation day within the Team and we are seeking to reinvigorate the pastoral visiting team in Wirksworth. Lay people are also licensed to take the sacrament to the sick alongside the clergy.



## Daily Offices

The daily offices are prioritised, and the Team continues to offer morning and evening prayer via Zoom. This represents an important part of our life together, and one way in which we express our sense of belonging to each other. The clergy (as well as lay people) take turns in leading these services.

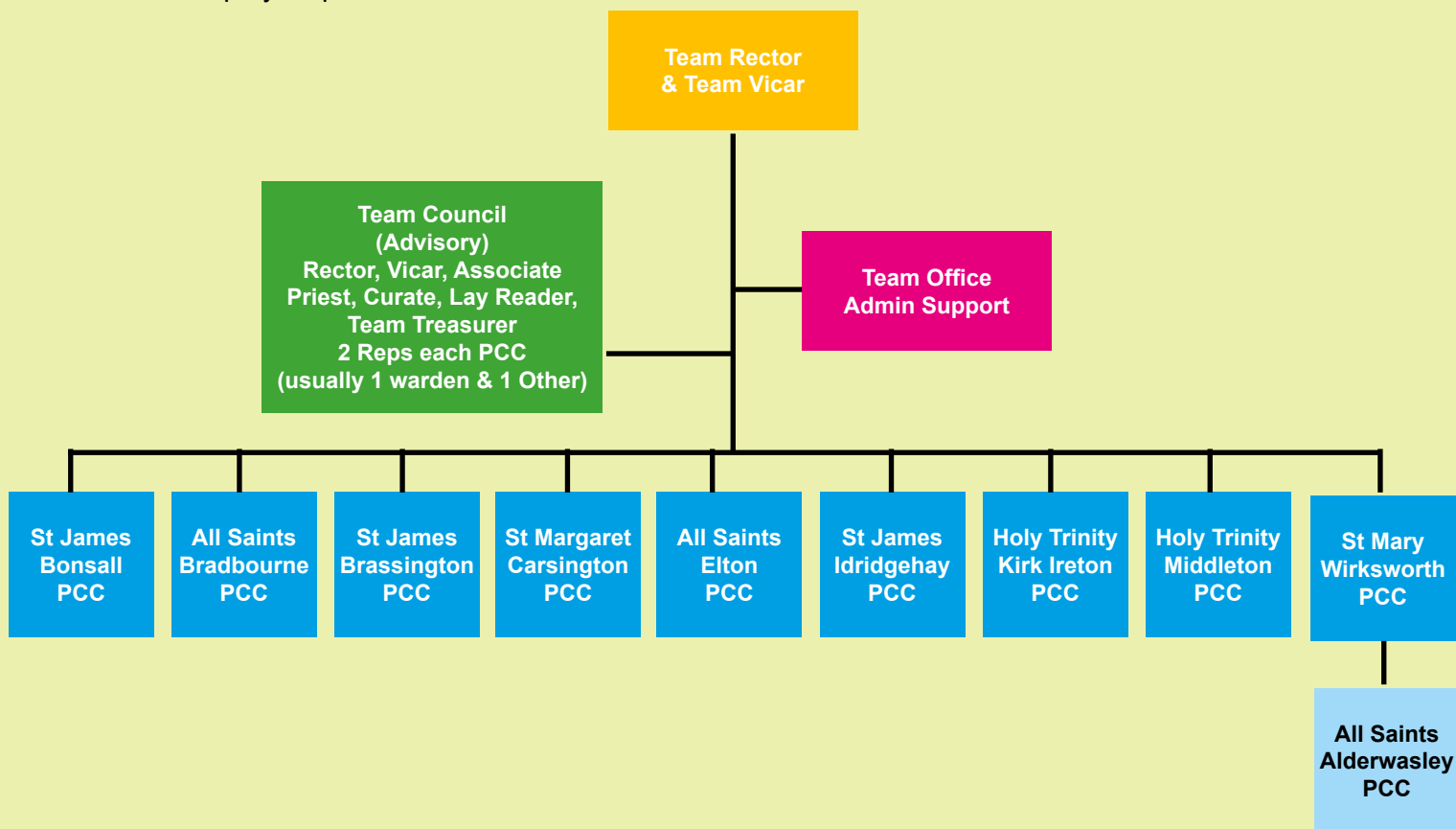
## House/Study Groups

A regular faith-based discussion group existed until interruption by the pandemic. These groups are being re-established, as resources become available, and ecumenical Advent and Lent groups are also being planned. In the future we might have more regular groups across the WTM area with a blend of lay and ordained leadership.

## Team Council

The church plays an important role leading community life and is allowed and encouraged to step forwards during challenging times, such as the COVID-19 pandemic. The current administrative structure of nine PCCs and a Team Council may appear disproportionate to the total worshipping congregations, as it reflects the very special relationships existing in each community. The Team Council feels that this devolved structure is important for the missional and financial health of the team.

The Team Council, set up in 1991 to facilitate good communication within the team, is responsible for the strategic overview of our ministry as we work to establish a new Mission Action Plan. The Team Council develops all team policies that create a framework for our work across the parishes. Recently, the focus of the Team Council has been refined to encourage more inter-Team cooperation between churches. A lay chair and deputy help maintain this focus.



The Team Rector and Team Vicar (the stipendiary clergy) have overall responsibility for the Team, and are supported by a non-stipendiary associate priest, a curate, three retired clergy and a licensed reader, plus a resident naval chaplain when available. Responsibility for pastoral care within each parish is allocated to one of the licensed clergy. PCCs in each parish (DCC in Alderwasley) have been chaired by the allocated priest but recently lay chairs have been appointed at some PCCs to reduce the need for clergy attendance at all PCC meetings.



The Team Council aims to advise on policies and help steer overarching strategic direction across the Team. It includes two representatives from each PCC, usually at least one of whom is a church warden. All active clergy and the Team Treasurer attend Team Council, with the Team Administrator acting as Secretary. The Council meets three times a year.

The Team Council runs along the lines of the 1991 constitution under which it was established. Recently the Team Council began exploring the potential to update the governance in accordance with the latest guidance on governance models of benefices. However, the Team is not ready to merge PCCs into a single PCC and other administrative approaches have been sought, such as the move to lay-chaired PCC meetings. We believe that the Team Council could and should offer more, and would like the Team Vicar to investigate and research how this might be done.

## Team finances

The financial circumstances of the individual churches range from generous recent or historic legacies providing reserves and stability to heavy reliance on fundraising to cover day-to-day running costs

Church	Total income	Ministry expend.	Building expend.	Other expend.	One-off exp	Total expend	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds
Alderwasley	7,738	2,436	2,586	612	0	5,633	9,033	0
Bonsall	40,233	8,731	8,094	990	1,571	19,386	50,725	41,375
Bradbourne	9,496	2,527	4,823	2,577	611	10,538	4,936	138,380
Brassington	24,665	7,480	3,011	1,200	0	11,691	20,929	260,351
Carsington	16,034	5,177	6,716	278	0	12,171	33,041	0
Elton	11,054	4,785	5,609	203	0	10,598	7367	6,225
Idridgehay	33,972	3,662	3,994	959	35,179	43,795	4,927	23,964
Kirk Ireton	22,808	7,034	7,629	1,936	550	17,150	26,010	13,240
Middleton	10,116	3,265	2,748	327	0	6,340	3,618	0
Wirksworth	90,850	41,763	17,031	9,230	2,333	70,357	214,081	11,772

Our parishes recognised the need to introduce online giving facilities, and many already have facilities to accept contactless donations, two in areas with no mobile phone signal are working towards installing WiFi to facilitate contactless donations and three continue to rely on more traditional donation methods.

The diocesan Common Fund request is distributed across the churches. The request for 2023 was £103,819 across the Team and approximately £24,000 was paid due to PCC decisions not to contribute, based on reduced income from fewer services and increased administrative and advertising costs, while the Team Rector and Team Vicar posts were both vacant. Contributions resumed at approximately 50% of the request on arrival of the new Team Rector. The parishes fully understand their responsibility to the diocese and intend to meet their Common Fund request as soon as possible, as they have in the past. Ensuring that this is affordable and achievable remains an important element of the work of the Team Rector and Team Vicar.

## Ecumenical Relations

The Anglican, Roman Catholic, URC and joint Methodist/Baptist churches in Wirksworth collaborate under the auspices of Churches Together in Wirksworth (CTIW). This oversees our work with young people in the town. Joint services are held, particularly for town events, and a Christian Aid group works across the churches. Where there is an ecumenical presence in the villages, relationships are good.

# WTM – Mission Action Plan

WTM strives to implement the Derby Diocesan Vision of Transformed Lives: Growing Church, Building Community. We aim to achieve this by being supportive, confident, joyful and active in our faith. We recognise that a range of strategies and activities is necessary to witness effectively across the full demographic and geographic range of the Team (Figure 1). We have worked with the Diocesan Missioner to review our Mission Action Plan in advance of the formal process refresh.

Figure 1. Relationship between churches and mission landscape of the Team. Words in blue arrows are keywords chosen by representatives of each parish.



## Bringing the Good News to Children and Young People

- Messy Church: Planned expansion will require more resources (people, materials)
- Links with schools: Requires more people to maintain fortnightly delivery
- School services for special events: Opportunity to reach families and friends

Currently a small lay group runs Messy Church on weekdays about once each half-term in Wirksworth. WTM aims to expand Messy Church both in the frequency of events and the number of centres in which it is delivered. This will require increased resources, particularly of personnel to deliver the sessions and finance to pay for the craft materials and food provided. Sessions prepared centrally can be used in multiple locations for different groups of children, given the resources mentioned above. Children attending Messy Church are accompanied by parents, grandparents or other adults. This provides opportunities for exploring the re-establishment of Family Services – either during the week or on Sundays.

There are good connections with schools in the WTM area (particularly infant and primary schools) through delivery of collective worships (assemblies) every other week during term times in church and non-church





schools. CTIW helps support some of these activities, although more people are needed to help in this delivery. The possibility of delivering after-school 'Messy Church Clubs' will be explored with some of these schools, building on the successful group currently held in Wirksworth. We would like to Team Vicar to have the expansion of "Messy Church" across the WTM area as one of their focuses.

Several schools use their local parish churches for special services and other events. These are often attended by parents and other family members, providing an opportunity for mission by clergy and lay members of the congregations assisting in these events. Other school-related events are held occasionally. Primary and pre-school children are encouraged to produce artwork and Easter gardens in church for events such as Open Gardens, Easter, Harvest festivals and Christmas. Members of the Wirksworth Team (ordained and lay) are Foundation Governors at several of the schools. We would expect our new Team Vicar to play their part in this important work.

The excellent work with children of primary school age is not replicated with those aged 11–18 years, something we would like to address. We would like work with this section of our communities to be one of the focuses of the Team Vicar's ministry and look forward to working with you to develop these plans.

## Bringing the Good News to the community of all ages

- Make a Joyful Noise: Lay-led worship events with a more progressive feel, requiring more people to prepare/deliver
- Discussion groups: Leaders and venues required to re-initiate/re-invigorate these important activities

Traditional liturgical forms of Anglican worship are greatly valued by many regular members of the congregations within the WTM, but seem less attractive to some non-churchgoers. The Team has therefore established, and aims to expand, more contemporary-style worship events. These 'Make a Joyful Noise' events combine hymns, worship songs, other music, bible readings, poems and reflections. They are organised by a lay ministry group, members of which have completed a Diocesan Mission and Evangelism Course. These Worship Events should be expanded, diversified, publicised and delivered as widely as possible with the aim of attracting those who do not feel comfortable or confident in attending more traditional services. This will require involvement of more people to prepare and deliver these events.

Small gatherings, such as discussion groups, may be more attractive to some people who are interested in exploring Christian faith and spirituality but may not be ready to attend church worship services. Faith discussion groups are being re-established following the pandemic and seeker groups are also likely to be started, as we invite members of our communities to explore matters of faith from a Christian perspective. Appropriate personnel, venues and discussion material will need to be identified.

## Bringing the Good News to older people

- Messy Vintage: In the future, bring Messy Church concept to care homes/elderly
- Encourage elderly to explore/return to church: May need transport/mobility assistance
- Maintain social events: Reduce isolation and loneliness among elderly

Although the congregations in the WTM predominantly comprise older people (>70 years), there are many more elderly people in the communities who have little or no contact with the WTM churches. Some of these are frail, vulnerable, lonely and/or live in care homes (e.g. Waltham House, Wirksworth), where worship events (e.g. 'Make a Joyful Noise') could be delivered. The WTM should plan to deliver faith-associated social events for older people in the community, perhaps via 'Messy Vintage' (i.e. Messy Church resources specifically designed for older people). We would like the Team Vicar to have this area of outreach as one of their focuses.

Some older people may wish to start attending church: this is likely to require resourcing by providing transport and assistance with their mobility aids (e.g. walking frames and wheelchairs). A weekly 'Coffee and Chat' takes place in Wirksworth and is highly valued, particularly by older attendees. Other events such as 'Tea and Toast' in Elton, the Church Café in Bonsall and Souper Surprise lunches in Wirksworth provide opportunities for social interaction and, therefore, for mission, particularly among older people. Opportunities for further such events throughout the Team should be explored.

## Engaging with the community at large

- Focal point: Maintain church at the centre of activities (educational, arts, social, print and digital newsletters), irrespective of religion
- Welcome tourists: Inform and invite holiday makers, share heritage and faith
- Lead in environmental efforts: Engage through eco-church, shared interests
- Lead in social responsibility: Continue and improve charitable and welfare initiatives





Many of the residents of the WTM area see their parish church as an important feature at the heart of their community – even for those who have little or no contact with the churches in a religious context. An

important aspect of the Mission Action Plan is to facilitate and expand these contacts. Encouraging such links may help to lead some individuals down a path to faith.

Several churches in the Team host concerts, recitals, plays, art installations, etc. These should be encouraged, particularly through increased input into the organisation and delivery of such events by members of the communities as well as members of the congregations. Several churches provide catering for the general public in the church buildings and/or church halls. This is another form of outreach that encourages visitors and should be maintained and, if possible, extended.

Tourists present a missional opportunity. Leaflets including details of church activities and services could be coordinated and distributed to holiday cottages and camp sites. The church buildings of the WTM are important local landmarks and historic heritage. Many visitors to the Peak District and popular cycling routes are interested in visiting the churches. Good presentation of church heritage is therefore important not only for general interest, but also to give visitors cause for thought in relation to their own faith journeys. The presentation of heritage within the WTM should be reviewed in this context.

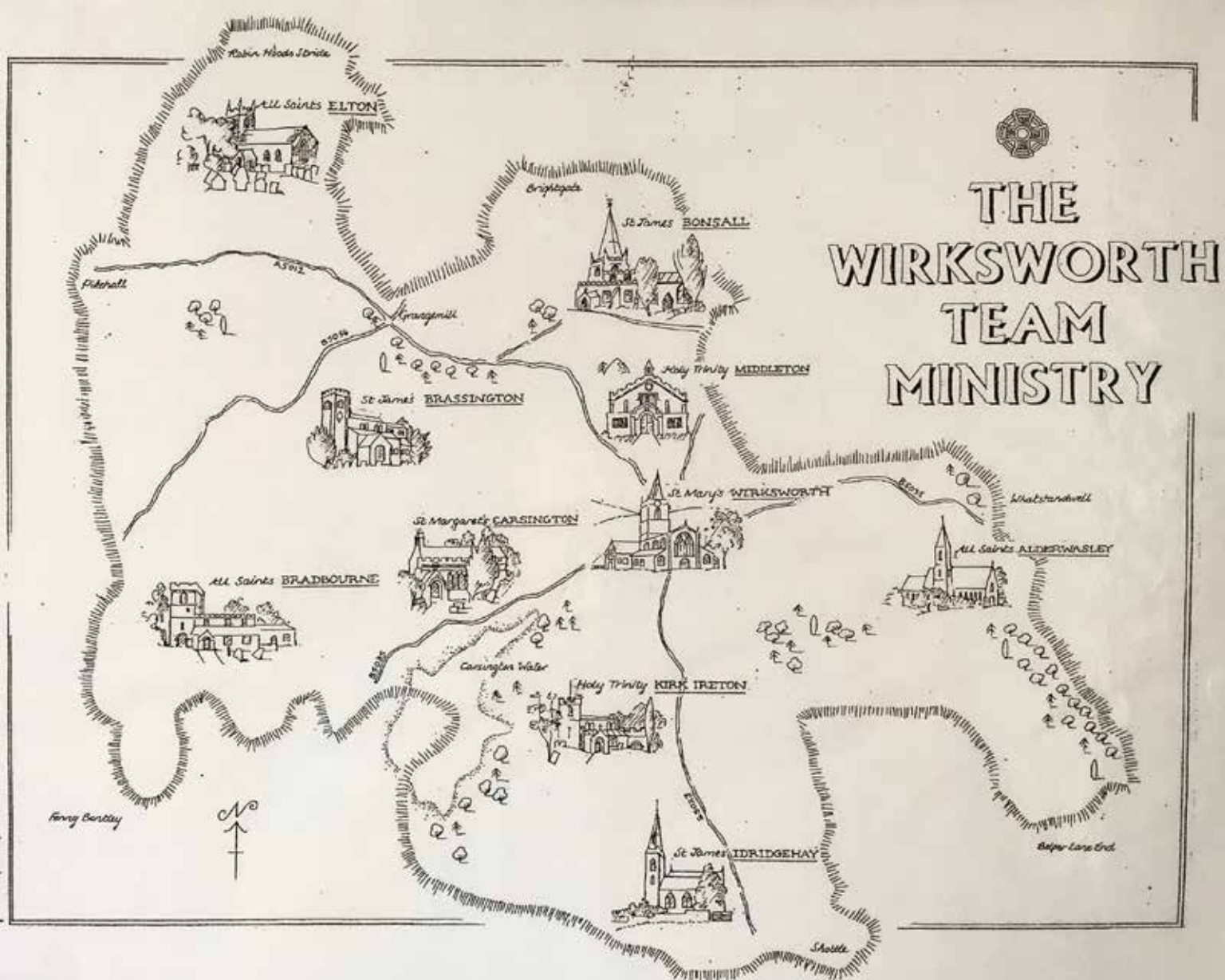
The churches have distinct presences in a variety of community activities (e.g. eco-events, well dressing festivals, carnivals, Clypping service). They are also important focal points for 'life events' and other ceremonies (e.g. baptisms, weddings, funerals, memorial services, Remembrance, Civic services, Easter, Harvest, Advent and Christmas events), which can provide opportunities for witness and mission.

Social responsibility is seen in the contributions of WTM to the work of Christian Aid and the Matlock 'Jigsaw' Foodbank, as well as churches donating harvest collections to the Derby Padley Centre. The Jigsaw Foodbank is run through the Church in the Peak based in Matlock: the WTM supports this project by collecting donations of food and other basic provisions at several of the churches in the Team. These provisions are taken on a weekly basis to the Foodbank in Matlock. Members of WTM also help with the packing and distribution of the food parcels.

### Cooperation across the WTM

There are significant logistical and organisational issues in operating as a Team across ten churches covering a significant geographical area. Enhanced contact and cooperation between the members of the different congregations across the Team is being encouraged, through organising more Team social events and worship events that bring the congregations together. These events will also be open to other denominations and to non-church goers. Pooling of resources for transport to different locations in the Team will also be organised. The Team Council has recently moved to do more sharing of ideas and events and a WhatsApp Group has proved beneficial in supporting sharing of resources, information and ideas.





## Parishes and Churches within the Team

The population of Wirksworth represents around 55% of the population within the Team area. The villages and their surroundings represent the remaining 45%. Each village has a unique identity and the village churches tend to have strong links with their respective communities. Villagers feel a strong affinity with the buildings and, in some cases, support them financially (for example, through Patronage funds) and attend festivals, school services and special events, including weddings and funerals, without being regular worshippers. The result is a complex consortium of churches and parishes.

From the outset, there was a strong focus on harmonising administrative and clerical support across the Team. Increasingly, the various churches are trying to congregate as a team, learning from each other and, in many cases, benefiting from synergy and shared best practice.

During the COVID pandemic, Team services via Zoom were introduced (weekly Sunday services and daily morning and evening prayer). The Sunday services were followed by virtual coffee groups, which helped to foster a sense of community and contributed to the growing sense of a Team of Church members alongside the Team of clergy. The morning and evening prayer meetings have evolved into a new praying community and have continued daily on Zoom. There has been a concerted effort to organise joint social activities and joint lay-led services to sustain the vision of a Team with a common goal. This is very much work in progress, which brings new opportunities, friendships and momentum and is an exciting and important direction for the community.





**Bonsall** is the largest parish (by population) outside Wirksworth with a largely working-age population. The adjacent church primary school uses the church for collective worship. Bonsall is a busy picturesque village attracting many tourists. The recent innovation of a café in church has been spectacularly successful, both in terms of raising funds and in generating and strengthening community links, reducing the feeling of isolation that can exist in rural communities, particularly following the pandemic. The village has a wide range of social activities covering toddlers, Friends of School, allotments, horticulture, history, pigeons, riders, book club, sewing group, lunch club and carnival. The PCC is focused on maintaining the building, developing the kitchen and other facilities and encouraging the use of the church for the café, concerts and other meetings. There is a Sunday eucharist twice each month.

The parish of **Bradbourne**, a Doubly Thankful Village, covers a large geographic area but is the smallest of the villages by population, many of whom are retired. All Saints has Saxon origins and a spectacular Norman Tower. A rare 7th–8th Century cross shaft attracts visitors' and walkers' interest. Professional performances throughout the year draw large audiences. Recent events include Live & Local concerts by a Balkan klezmer band and a mandolin duo, a St Cecilia's Day concert and Badapple Theatre's "Farmer Scrooge's Christmas Carol". The traditional church fete is an annual highlight and the modern church hall hosts events including the Harvest 'pie and bingo' night, local history talks and a Christmas fair. There is no pub, shop or school in the village but the parish boasts a popular microbrewery! There is a monthly eucharist during winter and twice a month during summer months. The PCC want to expand visitor engagement.

**Brassington** has a primary school, a village hall, a British Legion Hall, two pubs, a garage and a furniture business. Outdoor activities are catered for on a multi-use recreation ground. There is an increasing number of holiday properties within the parish. The church is prominent in events such as Wakes Week (with an outdoor service and Teddy Bear Zip Wire) and is central to the biennial Open Gardens event hosting refreshments and displays. It also hosts exhibitions, open days, carols in the porch and organises a community book exchange. There is good attendance at annual services and life events; a monthly eucharist; monthly lay-led Morning Prayer and the school uses the church at Easter, Harvest and Christmas. The PCC wish to develop the use of the church building as a venue for social events once the kitchen has been developed.





**Carsington** (together with Hopton) has a church primary school and a pub. St Margaret's church is the largest public building in the village and is multi-use for community events. The recent village fete was a highlight, bringing people together after the pandemic. The PCC's priority is to work with local groups to support (and in some cases, re-establish) the many and varied social activities (bonfire, pensioners' lunches, book club, Christmas carols on the green). There is a monthly worship service held here.

**Elton** (together with Gratton) has a church school and a pub. Social activities are centred around the church and school and are coordinated with the parish council. Recently a church café has attracted villagers and helped to encourage engagement in maintaining the churchyard. There is a worship service twice each month.

**St James' Idridgehay** (which also serves the communities of Ashleyhay and Alton) was built in 1856 and is Grade 2 listed. Recent changes to the internal layout have created meeting room and kitchen areas and an accessible toilet. The church therefore provides a point of pastoral and social cohesion for the community. Activities range from coffee mornings, first aid training, winter fayres, games nights and village quiz nights to local and national elections. The church helps provide a village identity, particularly through celebration services, such as weddings, baptisms and funerals. Despite the lack of children in the area (and in church) this is a growing Christian community. Structural issues with the church tower have resulted in the building being put on the 'at risk' register. Worship services are held here twice a month.

Most of the residents of **Kirk Ireton** live within the village. The outstanding church school encourages families to live and stay in the area and the age profile includes 21% under 24s and 54% 25–64s. The village is well served by a community shop, a traditional pub, a Methodist chapel, a school (supported by a Friends of School group), a village hall, a sports field and a playground. An active community association supports the village Wakes week, an annual bonfire and a Christmas singalong. There is also a toddlers' group, two craft groups, a book club and a village lunch (for pensioners). Open garden events are held biennially.

The form of service at Holy Trinity is generally traditional with a monthly eucharistic and monthly evening service. However, more innovative services have been held lately. Open-air services with a donkey and pets have proved popular at Christmas and Palm Sunday. The PCC fosters strong links with the other community groups (including the Kirk Ireton singers), and hosts concerts, slide shows and drama. Recently a Scalextric event, an Easter trail, a farm walk and tea and a teddy bear zip wire have proved popular. The PCC is concerned to maintain the Grade 1 listed 12th Century building and to engage more with the community.





**Middleton** by Wirksworth sits just up the hill from Wirksworth, separated by the Middleton Peak Quarry. The population was previously served by several Methodist chapels, now closed. Middleton has a primary school, a village hall and two pubs. The village hall hosts sports clubs, a dance class, a knit and natter group and a 'Not Dead Yet' band! The church hosts guitar recitals. Larger village activities are usually organised by one of the pubs. D.H. Lawrence once lived on the edge of the village. The history of lead mining and limestone quarrying has had a significant impact on the landscape. The Wirksworth Top Engine House contains a static steam engine once used to haul trucks up the Middleton incline of the former Cromford and High Peak railway (now the High Peak Trail). There is a eucharist twice each month.

St Mary's, **Wirksworth**, is the largest church in the Team, in terms of both building size and congregation. The church building incorporates some notable heritage features including the nationally important ~1300-year-old Wirksworth Stone, and the ~1000-year-old T'Owd Man carving. There are tombs of the Lowe and Gell families and many fine stained-glass windows, including one by Edward Burne-Jones and William Morris. Numerous improvements to the heritage interpretation were added as part of a project involving the re-leading of the nave roof.

Wirksworth is a thriving market town that attracts many visitors – both day-trippers and those holidaying in the Peak District. The town has numerous shops and other facilities, including several restaurants and pubs, a Heritage/Visitor Centre, and the Ecclesbourne Heritage Railway. The monthly farmers' market and weekly Tuesday market are very popular. Annual events, such as Well Dressings, Open Gardens and the Arts Festival, attract residents and visitors.

Wirksworth residents are quite evenly spread across all age ranges. There are many community groups and clubs and several venues/halls available for hire. St Mary's is open every day to visitors and is an important focal point for the community of the town. It is a popular venue for weddings, baptisms and funerals of the community. There are frequently





performances by local choirs and orchestras, as well as groups from further afield (e.g. the Derby Concert Orchestra, Bakewell Choral Society).

Most of the congregation at St Mary's are aged 60–90, which presents challenges for maintaining the various services and activities and for the fabric maintenance of the large, Grade 1-listed building, which is on the 'Heritage at Risk' register. Extensive refurbishment of The Maltings has recently been completed, with installation of a kitchen and new toilets, and this building is a well-used venue by both the church and the community. The Team Ministry office is also located in The Maltings.

The church holds a weekly eucharist and twice a month evensong with a full range of special seasonal and civic services as well as a Messy Church.

**Alderwasley** is a daughter church of St Mary's, Wirksworth, serving a predominantly retired population. The village hall supports a bridge club and carpet bowls and is a party venue for various occasions. All Saints has a good organ and is considered a very picturesque setting for weddings. Worship services are held twice each month and the church hosts fundraising activities, open days and choir concerts for the community.





# Our church schools

## Bonsall Church of England Primary School

Our vision is to create a welcoming, inclusive Christian atmosphere where all pupils can develop the wisdom and knowledge needed to flourish, allowing all to reach their potential in a school which sits at the heart of its' community. We are looking forward to enhancing our relationship with the church, through involvement in key celebrations in the school calendar and through partnership working to enhance our church school development.

## Carsington and Hopton Church of England Primary School

Carsington & Hopton C of E Primary School is very proud of its links to St. Margaret's Church in Carsington and to the wider church community. We have an active worship committee where the children help to lead our assembly/collective worship sessions and try to undertake as many activities in the church as possible, including our annual Christingle service. We have always valued the special relationship we have with the Wirksworth Team Ministry and look forward to any new ideas and projects that the team can bring to our little school.

## Elton Church of England Primary School

Elton C of E Primary School is a very small controlled primary school with close links to its neighbouring church. The school's official catchment area covers mainly a small farming community, this has posed a challenge for the school over recent years, as there are fewer children living in the area than there were in the past. Because of this, the school has had to look outside its usual area to the wider communities of Matlock, Darley Dale and Wirksworth. The school has a reputation for expertise in teaching children with additional needs and has pupils travelling from locations as far away as Chesterfield. We aim for children to thrive in our loving, Christian community.

## Kirk Ireton Church of England Primary School

Kirk Ireton C of E Primary School has an incredibly positive relationship with Holy Trinity Church and has built on its church foundation alongside the local clergy for many years. The children see the church as a positive place to be and to share performances and end-of-term services with their families and the local community. Over the years, we've enjoyed the children enacting weddings, baptisms and other key celebrations and we hope to continue bringing these enhancements to the school, alongside the Team Ministry, moving forward.

## Wirksworth Church of England Infants School

I am extremely proud to be headteacher of Wirksworth Church of England Infant School. Our school vision to inspire learning for all is truly lived out in day-to-day school life by the many ways in which our community comes together to support and inspire each other. Our relationship with the church is already incredibly strong and supportive. We hope to continue and build on these links working in partnership with Neil and the Wirksworth Team.



# Accommodation



The stipendiary clergy live within relatively close proximity in Wirksworth. The Vicarage address is 57 Yokecliffe Drive, Wirksworth, Matlock DE4 4PF.

It is a modern (30-year-old) four-bedroomed detached house on the pleasant Yokecliffe estate in Wirksworth, 10 minutes' walk from the centre of Wirksworth and the parish church. The house has: living room, dining room, study, kitchen, large utility room, downstairs cloakroom, two double bedrooms (one with ensuite), two large single bedrooms, family bathroom, central heating, garage, gardens front and rear, car parking.

The Diocese has recently carried out extensive work to improve the property

## How to Apply

Thank you for reading this profile. We very much look forward to hearing from you and will be happy to supply any further information you may need. If you have any specific questions or would value an informal pre-application conversation then please contact:

- Venerable Nicky Fenton, Archdeacon of Derbyshire Peak and Dales  
[nicky.fenton@derby.anglican.org](mailto:nicky.fenton@derby.anglican.org)
- Revd. Neil Griffiths, Team Rector Wirksworth Team Ministry  
[neilgriffiths01@btinternet.com](mailto:neilgriffiths01@btinternet.com)