



The United Benefice of Barlborough and Clowne comprising St James the Greater, Barlborough and St John the Baptist, Clowne

The context: the parish setting

Barlborough and Clowne are two villages a mile apart in the North East corner of the Diocese of Derby. The villages are on the border of South Yorkshire and Nottinghamshire. The nearest big city is Sheffield (20 minute drive away) and people look more to Sheffield locally than Derby (even though we are in Derbyshire and the Diocese of Derby). Barlborough is just off junction 30 of the M1.

Our two churches are traditional village parishes in the central catholic tradition (Eucharist every Sunday, chasubles are worn by clergy, gospel is processed). St James has a strong choral tradition with an active choir and a team of bell ringers and has quite a formal feel although friendly. St John the Baptist is smaller and more informal and has a slightly older congregation. Barlborough and Clowne are former mining communities.

The population of Clowne parish is 7025. It ranks 4486 out of 12382, where 1 is the most deprived parish. This means that the parish is relatively deprived compared with other parishes in the country.

The population of Barlborough parish is 3868. It ranks 9391 out of 12382, where 1 is the most deprived parish. This means that the parish is relatively wealthy compared with other parishes in the country. (Data from Church Urban Fund).

Being curate in this benefice provides a unique opportunity to minister in two quite different parishes – one more wealthy than the other.



General Information

Parish: The United Benefice of Barlborough and Clowne comprising St James the Greater, Barlborough and St John the Baptist, Clowne

Deanery: NE Derbyshire

Archdeaconry: East Derbyshire

Incumbent's contact: Rev'd Bryony Taylor, The Rectory, Church Street, Barlborough S43 4EP, 01246 813569

E-mail address: revbryonytaylor@gmail.com

Website address: bcjj.org.uk

'Church near you' link: <https://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/13193/> and <https://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/13197/>

Date of ordination: 29-7-2014

Length of time in present parish(es): 5.5 years

Other responsibilities and duties currently undertaken by incumbent: Member of Deanery Leadership Team

Previous posts and experience of incumbent, including details of experience with previous curates: Previous post: Curate at St Michael and All Angels, Houghton-le-Spring, Durham Diocese. Had my first curate in 2021 in current post. Have also hosted a number of ordinands on placement in my current and previous posts.

Location

Barlborough and Clowne are great villages to live in: very easily accessible from the motorway (M1 Jct 30) and near big cities such as Sheffield (25 mins), Nottingham (40 mins) and Derby (45 mins). Our local primary schools are good and there are a range of options for secondary education (Netherthorpe school being the better of the two secondary schools in the area). There is a council-run leisure centre called the Arc in Clowne that has a gym and swimming pool. There are a lot of good country walks from your doorstep in the area (especially if you have a dog). We are near local attractions such as Chatsworth House, Hardwick Hall, Bolsover Castle and Creswell Crags. Barlborough is a pretty village with a good selection of local pubs and located near a retail park that has a Dobbies Garden Centre. Clowne is more urban and is where all the local amenities are including Tesco and Aldi supermarkets.



The Churches

Please indicate how many Church of England churches lie within the relevant parishes or benefices:

2 churches in the parish, St James the Greater, Barlborough and St John the Baptist, Clowne

Ecclesiastical tradition (if there is more than one church, please indicate the tradition in each church):

The churches are the same relatively high church tradition (vestments are worn, sacrament is reserved, gospel is processed).

Electoral roll numbers:

St James Barlborough: 82 St John the Baptist Clowne: 57

Pattern of Sunday worship:

There is a Sung Eucharist every other Sunday in our churches and this is the centre of our worshipping life. At Barlborough on a good Sunday we have about 40 attending, at Clowne on a good Sunday we have about 30 attending. We have tea and coffee after the service – an important time of fellowship.



We have a Said Eucharist every Thursday in both churches that uses the traditional language version (Order Two of Common Worship). These Thursday services are attended by roughly 10 people at Barlborough and 6 at Clowne.

All main Sunday services are live streamed on our Facebook page – we have quite a large online congregation.

Our current pattern of worship is as follows:

	Barlborough	Clowne
1st Sunday	8.30am Morning Prayer 5pm Choral Evensong	10am Sung Eucharist
2nd Sunday	10am Sung Eucharist	8.30am Morning Prayer
3rd Sunday	8.30am Morning Prayer	10am Sung Eucharist
4th Sunday	10am Sung Eucharist	8.30am Morning Prayer
5th Sunday	10am United Service alternating between Barlborough and Clowne	
Thursday	10.15am Said Eucharist (traditional language)	9.15am Said Eucharist (traditional language)

Occasional Offices (approximate numbers of p.a. baptisms, weddings, & funerals):

We conduct around 15 weddings a year in the Benefice. A preparation session is run for couples before their wedding.

We conduct roughly 60 funerals a year in the Benefice (mostly in church but some straight to crematorium). The local area is still quite traditional when it comes to funerals (people wear black, coffins are carried into church etc.).

We conduct around 25 baptisms a year in the Benefice. We run a monthly baptism preparation evening in partnership with the neighbouring Benefice of Elmton with Whitwell and Creswell. Families are expected to attend the preparation session before their child's baptism. Baptisms take place outside of the main Sunday service (unless requested to be part of the Eucharist – we usually try and have a baptism in our Easter service) on one Sunday afternoon a month.

Pattern of daily offices / Regular daily pattern of prayer:

Morning Prayer at 9am Mon-Wed, Evening prayer 5pm Mon & Wed, 4pm Tuesday (with people from mental health group Safe Space) – Thursday, Friday and Saturday the offices are said privately. The pattern for daily offices can be adapted to suit the curate provided it happens!

Staff or team members:

Rector, Bryony Taylor, Retired Priest with PTO, Rev'd Adrian Murray-Leslie

Lay involvement:

PCC members and church wardens, volunteers at Safe Space mental health group. Lay people read the lesson, serve and lead intercessions on Sundays.

House, study, and prayer groups:

We have a fortnightly small group bible study with around 10 members. We have a weekly prayer time after Safe Space mental health group attended by roughly 10 people every Tuesday.

Areas of particular mission and ministry of parish(es) (e.g. schools, hospitals, industry, prison, youth, elderly people, single parents, homeless, healing):

We do not have any church schools in the benefice but we have a very good relationship with the 3 primary schools (2 state schools and 1 private school), 1 infant school and 1 secondary school.

We do assemblies every term in the state schools. We also run a Prayer Space (see Prayer Spaces in Schools website to find out more) in both churches each year for School Leavers and for one year group to attend. The schools also come to us for Christmas services and performances and church visits in term time.

We also started to run Godly Play sessions in 2022 on a monthly basis particularly to engage with baptism families.

Opportunities for the development of fresh expressions of church / pioneering:

In 2021 we launched Great Outdoors – a fresh expression for those who feel closer to God outside. This meets at 2pm on the third Saturday of the month. There is an opportunity for the curate to lead and continue to develop this community.

Particular future plans already established:

There are plans for an extension to the building at Clowne.

Are congregation(s) mainly communal or mainly gathered:

they are mainly gathered congregations but in 2023 we have had a few new members begin attending and these new people often choose to attend both churches.



Areas and types of co-operation with other local churches (either Anglican or ecumenical):

We work together with the neighbouring benefice of Whitwell, Creswell and Elmton sharing baptism preparation. There is an active ecumenical group (comprising Methodists and Salvation Army with us, the Anglicans – the Catholic church is sadly now closed) called the Clowne Union of Churches with whom we collaborate at Remembrance, Christmas and Easter.

Have any of the resolutions under the Priest (Ordination of Women) Measure been passed? No

Vision and Priorities

Our vision is to love and serve our communities. In terms of mission we seek to offer people 'soft entry points' to church by offering hospitality, a warm welcome and through our occasional offices, arts projects and work with schools.

We run a mental health support group (crucially, with volunteers from both churches) every Tuesday afternoon in Clowne Church called Safe Space Clowne. This group is the frontline of mission in our churches and some people have been drawn to church services and confirmation classes as a result of their welcome at Safe Space. We now have a prayer service straight after the session which began organically after attendees were invited to join in evening prayer. This is a new congregation that has grown from the hospitality offered at Safe Space.

Both parishes run a variety of fundraising events through the year. At Barlborough the focus is our Heritage Open Day, Carol Services and our Flower Festival in July. At Clowne the focus is our Christmas Fair and Summer Festival in June. In Clowne we have worked with Clowne Local History society to run a variety of local history exhibitions.

In 2019 we secured funding from Tesco Bags of Help to create a mosaic for our Miners Chapel at Clowne. This was an excellent community project involving all ages and left us with a talking point for visitors to our church. In 2022 we worked with the same artist to create a Noah's Ark mosaic for our children's chapel which is now the focus of our Godly Play space.

In the last year we have seen 3 children and 3 adults come to confirmation.

The priorities for the coming years are:

- To grow in discipleship in both churches and encourage lay leadership
- To start work on an extension to the building at Clowne to house our growing mental health provision and offer better facilities to visitors
- To develop plans to create a room within St James church for use for meetings, events and possible community provision such as a bereavement support group.

How does the incumbent understand the role of training?

Bryony trained for the ministry at Cranmer Hall. She would describe herself as a liberal catholic now but did spend time in a Baptist church for 8 years as a young adult and so embraces ecumenical working. Bryony has a Masters degree in Lifelong Learning and her last job before ordination in 2014 was working as a Social Media Consultant. Her background in education led to her becoming a facilitator on the All Saints local training institution with ordinands from the diocese in 2018-19.

Bryony has been an active blogger since 2009 (bryonytaylor.com) and developed expertise in social media for mission and ministry having published a



Grove Booklet on Sharing Faith Using Social Media (2016). Bryony is also a telly addict and wrote a book about the portrayal of Christians on television called 'More TV Vicar?' (DLT, 2015) and has written two discipleship courses with co-authors on Call the Midwife and Channel 4's Humans (DLT, 2020).

Bryony is in her first incumbency having served her title in Houghton-le-Spring in Durham Diocese. Bryony enjoys seeing people grow and learn and would be a training incumbent who is clear about expectations but with a special focus on reflective practice and growth of the curate. Bryony would work on the principle instilled in her by her own training incumbent that 'we take what we do seriously but we don't take ourselves too seriously'.

Training would focus on teaching a clear catholic approach to leading services (the curate would take a full liturgical role as deacon, for example) and presiding at the Eucharist.

Having been trained relatively recently and in her first incumbency, Bryony has not had time to become too cynical about the possibilities of mission in a traditional parish! Bryony is keen to work with a curate who is willing to learn and who might have some exciting skills and ideas to bring to our parishes.



Areas of particular responsibility for curate in training:

These parishes offer an opportunity for a wide experience of traditional parish ministry and the curate would spend time shadowing the Rector in all areas. The areas the Rector hopes to develop working alongside a curate are:

- Extend our schools work further. Potentially run a Prayer Space at the local secondary school Heritage High. Potentially introduce Open the Book to the area (perhaps joining in with ecumenical partners).
- Extend work with Plastic Free Clowne – seek to become eco-friendly churches and work on Climate Change and mission.
- Continue to develop our fresh expression, Great Outdoors, a form of outdoor church which embraces the climate agenda and attracts people who wouldn't usually attend our Sunday worship.
- Build on our hybrid worship developed during lockdown to extend our online reach and inclusion of all (especially those with disabilities).
- Work with seekers and running confirmation classes, bible study groups and other courses needs to be developed.
- Involvement with fundraising and managing the new building work at Clowne

The Diocesan Vision Summary

Vision statement

The Kingdom of God: good news for all

Mission statement

To proclaim afresh in this generation the good news of the Kingdom

Our values

Generous Faith
Courageous Hope
Life-Giving Love

Missional aims

Transformed Lives
Growing Church
Building Community

Diocesan interventions

Equipping people for mission
Shaping structures for mission
Sustaining resources for mission



Transformed Lives | Growing Church | Building Community
THE KINGDOM OF GOD - GOOD NEWS FOR ALL

If you would be interested in exploring this post further, please contact:

The Revd Ben Griffiths
ben.griffiths@derby.anglican.org
01332 388693

The Revd Dwayne Engh
dwayne.engh@derby.anglican.org
07425 60421