

# Priest-in-charge of

The Benefice of Belper Christ Church with  
Turnditch

The Benefice of Hazelwood,  
Holbrook and Milford

The Benefice of Ambergate and Heage



# Archdeacon's Welcome



I am delighted that you are interested in finding out more about this unique and exciting post. We are looking for an enthusiastic priest with a pastoral heart and passion for market town and rural ministry. Someone who can work collaboratively within a group and engaging as part of a wider ecumenical team serving Belper and surrounding village communities.

We are praying for someone who will love people, recognise and seize opportunities, balancing tradition and innovation to engage creatively and missionally sustaining existing church life, developing lay ministries while also innovating and forming new partnerships and worshipping communities.

There is significant potential here for mission as the churches are currently already engaging in key aspects of local Civic life including the Belper Passion play, Christmas tree festival, Pride week, Remembrance activities and the Chair of Belper Football team has recently asked for a chaplain. As part of our next Diocesan Funding Bid, we are expecting that there will be a Growing Faith hub and potentially a FLOURISH community forming in Belper which will support and develop the existing work with schools, children and young people. Christ Church has a strong musical tradition that we hope will bring new people into the life of the church and the Cathedral is a potential partner who could help expand that work into local schools.

We are seeking a leader who can inspire others to use their gifts and work in partnership to transform lives through growing church and building community. This role combines three benefices for the first time so investing in relationship building and considering how best practice might be shared and what can be done together will be of vital importance in finding ways to become sustainable. The churches need to seriously consider some combined governance to ensure office holders are in place and to enable compliance and good governance and to support a sustainable and financially resilient future that will release energy for missional community engagement.

You will find a willingness and energy to look outward, to work in partnership with others and an aspiration to grow the church through generous faith, courageous hope, and life-giving love. Building on the network of relationships that are forming across the churches in the area, you will find supportive engagement from retired clergy and laity.

At a pivotal time in the life of the Diocese of Derby, this role offers an innovative opportunity to work and model a new way of leading churches into growth through partnering across boundaries as together we seek to be good news for all bringing God's kingdom near in transformed lives through growing church and building community.

So do read on and if you are wondering whether this might be where God is calling you, please contact me and request an informal conversation so I can answer any questions and we can begin exploring the possibility together.

**The Ven Nicky Fenton**

[nicky.fenton@derby.anglican.org](mailto:nicky.fenton@derby.anglican.org)

Archdeacon of Derbyshire Peak and Dales

# Area Dean's Message



This new grouping of benefices within Dove and Derwent Deanery offers the opportunity to re-envision ministry in the contemporary context, with the opportunity to bring fresh energy and ideas to a mixture of settings.

We are a numerically small, mutually supportive deanery operating across varied geographical and social situations, but with a firm deanery commitment to explore what mission means in the 21st century. With a comparatively new leadership team, there are plenty of opportunities for exploring what we can do together, and the successful candidate is assured of our full support.

**James Hughes**

# Our Shared Vision

This vacancy is an exciting and challenging opportunity for a new priest-in-charge to lead and provide fresh vision to bring our six parishes together and move forward in mission and faith. The congregations of all six parishes, whilst keen to maintain their unique identity and frequency of services, are looking to be inspired by an individual who can help the churches grow and extend mission across communities and beyond church buildings. To release energy for mission and to ensure the life of our churches is sustainable into the future, we recognise we need to work together more and work towards greater shared governance and fewer PCCs across the benefice.

You will be working in and around the pretty market town of Belper, with added contrast of smaller rural churches that stand at the heart of their communities, helping to provide a sense of place, celebration and worship.

**Our vision is that the new incumbent will be a priest who simply loves and cares about their people and who will focus on the following unique opportunities:**

Inhabiting with integrity different worship styles and church traditions	Helping church members grow as disciples and form new disciples
Sustainability into the future, bringing the churches closer together and reviewing governance structures	Building on the relationships with schools exploring the potential for forming new worshipping communities in that context
Forming new Community partnerships and developing existing ones	Supporting our desire to become more diverse and appropriately exploring how each church manages inclusivity
Making the most of seasonal opportunities	Expanding our use of social media and varied technologies to reach a wider group of people
Exploring opportunities to engage with the Civic life of Belper	Chaplain to Belper Football Club
Working closely with the benefice of St Peter's Belper and ecumenical partners supporting the development of shared missional strategy and working for Belper	

# An Overview of the Benefices

The six parishes form an arc around the pretty town of Belper, Derbyshire, in the historically important Derwent Heritage Valley, parts of which are today a UNESCO World Heritage Site, because of the mill industry.

Belper is situated approximately 8 miles north of Derby on the main A6 road and the river Derwent runs down the same valley as the main road.

St Anne's, Ambergate is in a United Benefice with St Luke's, Heage and they have had various interim ministers for the past 12 years.

Christ Church Belper is a United benefice with All Saints Turnditch and for the past two years that role has been held in plurality with the United Benefice consisting of St John the Evangelist, Hazelwood, its daughter church, St Lawrence, Shottle, with St Michael's, Holbrook.



MAP

# Populations from 2021 Census

The populations of each parish are given below:

Ambergate	Christ Church	Hazelwood	Heage	Holbrook	Turnditch	Total
1,347	2,670	1,926	3,032	1,658	550	11,183

## The Ministry Team

The benefices are supported by 7 retired clergy holding PtO. Christ Church has a full complement of office holders and PCC members. Hazelwood and Holbrook have all the required officers. Heage has all the required officers except for wardens. The PCC at Ambergate consists of three people, one is Warden and Treasurer, the second is the Secretary and the third runs the church hall bookings. Turnditch only has a warden and the treasurer from Christ Church acts as their treasurer too.

## Patterns of Worship

Each parish church manages their services in the pattern described below. Four of the churches come together for a United service when there is a fifth Sunday in the month. Ambergate, Holbrook and Heage work with their Methodist friends on alternate months and have regular joint services, alternating between their places of worship. Christ Church Belper holds a midweek Holy Communion every Wednesday at 9:30am.

Location	Ambergate	Heage	Christ Church	Turnditch	Hazelwood	Holbrook
Tradition	Middle	Middle	High	Middle	Middle	Middle
1st Sunday		9:30MP 6:30 EV	11:00 HC	09:30 HC	11:00 HC	11:00 Matins*
2nd Sunday	9:30MP	9:30 MP 6:30 EV	11:00 HC	9:30 HC	9:30 HC	11:00 HC
3rd Sunday		9:30 HC 6:30 EV	11:00 HC	9:30 HC	11:00 HC	9:30 HC
4th Sunday	9:30 HC	9:30 MP	11:00 HC	9:30 HC	9:30 HC	11:00 HC
5th Sunday			11: 00 HC	at CC	at CC	at CC

\*alt with Methodists

## Church Census Statistics 2023

The statistics for each parish church are given below:

	Electoral Roll	Total worshipping community	USA	USCA	Baptisms	Weddings	Funerals
Ambergate	8	5	4	0	0	0	0
Christ Church	73	65	45	4	2	0	1
Hazelwood	34	37	20	1	2	5	7
Heage	31	32	24	2	1	0	8
Holbrook	25	22	16	1	2	1	2
Turnditch	17	13	12	0	2	0	1

# The Six Parishes Finances

The 2023 financial status of each parish is detailed below:

Year 2023	Ambergate	Christ Church	Hazelwood	Heage	Holbrook	Turnditch
Common Fund asked	£7,200	£44,407	£13,997	£19,283	£13,795	£10,120
Common Fund Paid	£3,000	£44,407	£13,997	£6,000	£6,300	£10,120
Total Income	£3,220	£98,726	£47,835	£23,916	£20,404	£13,087
Total Spend	£14,328	£120,821	£50,358	£20,431	£18,794	£22,628
Restricted Funds	£1,507	£161,095	£0	£6,859	£0	£12,533
General Funds	£34,641	£37,525	£188,587	£13,174	£0	£10,000
Designated Funds	0	£7,077	0	£5,635	£23,514	£25,445



# Church of England Schools in the Parishes

## Holbrook School

Holbrook C of E Primary School, part of Derby Diocesan Academy Trust (DDAT), consists of a 5-class school of 140 pupils aged between 4 and 11 and takes inspiration from Jesus; the promise to bring life; life in all its fullness (John 10:10). They strive to provide a caring, calm and inclusive environment in which every child can flourish, develop their knowledge and skills, and find their talents and passions. Through their curriculum, rich learning experiences are provided which help the children grow into caring and responsible young people who are curious about the world around them and can go on to positively shape their communities. Underpinning all this is a commitment to Christian values, supporting children to grow in character, explore their spirituality, develop a sound moral compass, and be ready to play an active and loving role in their communities. Under their new headteacher they have developed closer links with St Michael's. In addition to four annual services (Harvest, Christmas, Easter and Summer leavers) they organise visits for year 6 pupils to experience and play the church organ in conjunction with the Derby Organists' Association and for younger pupils to understand fully the "furniture" of the church that they learn about. Our curate, as well as taking regular collective worship, has led workshops on Holy Communion and prayer. We are also developing a school Remembrance Service. The school hopes that the new priest-in-charge will want to maintain and develop these excellent collaborations.

## Turnditch School

Turnditch C of E Primary School, part of Derby Diocesan Academy Trust (DDAT) is a successful School, where children flourish in a dynamic, exciting and enriching environment. The school is the centre of the community. It serves the local community through links with All Saints' Church and in return the local and wider community are extremely supportive of the school.

Children and families of all nationalities and faiths are warmly welcomed into the school. Being a single-level school, it is accessible to wheelchairs, and the school provides well for children with Special Educational Needs. One of the greatest benefits of Turnditch School is the strong sense of family that it is able to engender. It is because the school is few in number that staff know each individual child's family, their interests, achievements, worries and challenges and that they can make every child feel safe, loved and cared for.

Children are invited to explore their own faith and their relationship with God, through prayer and reflection, delight in the gift of natural world and growing sense of responsibility towards themselves and others. The school continues to build a strong relationship with Turnditch All Saints' Church. With the support of the curate, the school is able to offer family services and regular Collective Worship sessions for children including for occasions such as Harvest, Remembrance Day, Easter, Christmas and Ascension Day. The school values its link with the church greatly and the support it offers to enrich the children's holistic education.





## St Anne's Ambergate

Ambergate has a population of 1459 and lies 3 miles north of Belper on A6, within the UNESCO World Heritage Site. It was an important location in the 18th and 19th centuries for the pioneers of industrialisation, including railways and wire manufacture. The parish straddles the A6 and the village is spread up the sides of the valley and includes Riversdale and Sawmills on the A610.

Ambergate retains a community primary school of 70+ pupils and this serves as a focal point for many community activities. The school uses the church for nativity performances each year and members of St Anne's congregation regularly carry out Open The Bible sessions at the school, which was rated Good by OFSTED in March 2017. Although Ambergate Primary School is not a C of E school, the relationship already fostered by the PCC will need to be maintained and enhanced.

There is an annual Carnival held in July, in which St Anne's joins with Ambergate Methodists to hold a stall at the event, "A Fellowship of churches in Ambergate". In addition, the church hall is used by a Yoga group each week and a Pantomime is staged each year by local players. The cricket pitch next to the church is used by youth and adult teams.

St Anne's church seats 110 and has a usual service congregation of 4. After nearly 12 years without a permanent priest, pastoral care and missional outreach within the community are much needed. The congregation are realistic and recognise they need to grow and see that they have one last chance to turn the cycle of decline if they want to become sustainable into the future.

The church was built in 1894 as a classic late Victorian building, with a single bell, some very good stained glass including some 14th century fragments, a rood screen and chancel and a 1st World War memorial that was originally destined for St Martin's Church, Ypres, Belgium, but the church was destroyed in the war.

The church hall under the church has been prone to flooding on several occasions in the last 15 years, but a faculty was obtained in 2022 to enable flood mitigation works to be carried out. These works have now been completed and the PCC awaits the next flood to test the system.



## Christ Church Belper

The Church is located to the west of, and alongside, the main A6 road through Belper. It is immediately to the south of the Strutt Mills complex, in the area known as the Belper Triangle. The Church is Grade 2 listed and built of local sandstone, being typical of its period. It includes 3 Kempe stained glass windows within the main body of the Church. In its position alongside the main A6 it has quite a dominant appearance, being right alongside the road and footpath.

The Church is located in the UNESCO World Heritage Site of the Derwent Valley and is very much an active and vibrant part of that. There are memorials within the Church commemorating members of the Strutt family, who built the Mills in the Belper triangle area to the north of the Church. There are many visitors to the Church because of this, and it is used by many as an oasis of calm in a very busy world. The Church has an open church policy and it is open every day without fail, between dawn and dusk.

We offer High Church Mass in the choral tradition on a Sunday morning with a full SATB choir, servers, bells and incense, in line with our High Church Tradition. We are also a member of the Inclusive Church network. The demographic structure of the church is currently towards an older congregation. There are, however, some young parents and their children who attend regularly on a Sunday morning. Consequently, there is a need to encourage the starting up of a creche and consideration of our current provision for children and young people. Some of the congregation travel to attend our services because of both the High Church and the choral tradition.

New housing developments are being built locally and they are often aimed at younger families. There is a good variety of local shops, supermarkets, restaurants, cafes, take aways and pubs. The successful candidate would also have the opportunity to become Chaplain to Belper Town Football Club. There are local nursery establishments and a state-run junior school within the Parish. There is a Nursing Home in the Parish, and various warden-controlled houses and flats. The local Territorial Army have their HQ within the Parish. The Parish houses a doctor's surgery, chemists, community halls and a non-emergency hospital.

There are good communication links via train and bus towards Derby in the south and the Peak District and Matlock to the north.



## St John the Evangelist Hazelwood (including St Lawrence Shottle)

St John the Evangelist, Hazelwood and its daughter church, St Lawrence, Shottle lie at the heart of a rural community in the beautiful county of Derbyshire. The parish covers a wide area and includes the hamlets of Farnah Green, Blackbrook and Cowers Lane and the village of Milford with a population approaching 2000. This is a mainly agricultural area in which the skills to support and uphold farmers and farm workers in good times and bad would be very important. It is easy to celebrate harvest when the weather is fine and the crop bountiful, but dealing with crop and harvest failures is much more challenging. St John the Evangelist is a Grade II listed building which was built in 1845 and nearly burned down in 1902. The money to build and then rebuild came from the local community, which is proud of its church and continues to keep it in sound order.

We chat over coffee and biscuits after every service. Our weekly Eucharist is a chance not just to worship but to catch up with one another after a busy week. We welcome new faces whether they are visitors or people looking for a church to call home. As a snapshot of the liveliness of the church, on Saturday 3rd August everyone, church goers and non-church goers alike, rolled up their sleeves to tidy the church yard. It was a wonderful event. Many people arrived ready for action and there was homemade food in plenty for everyone to share. We support one another in generosity of faith, courage in hope and life-giving love. We share our joy at births and weddings, we mourn the loss when someone dies. No one needs to be alone here.

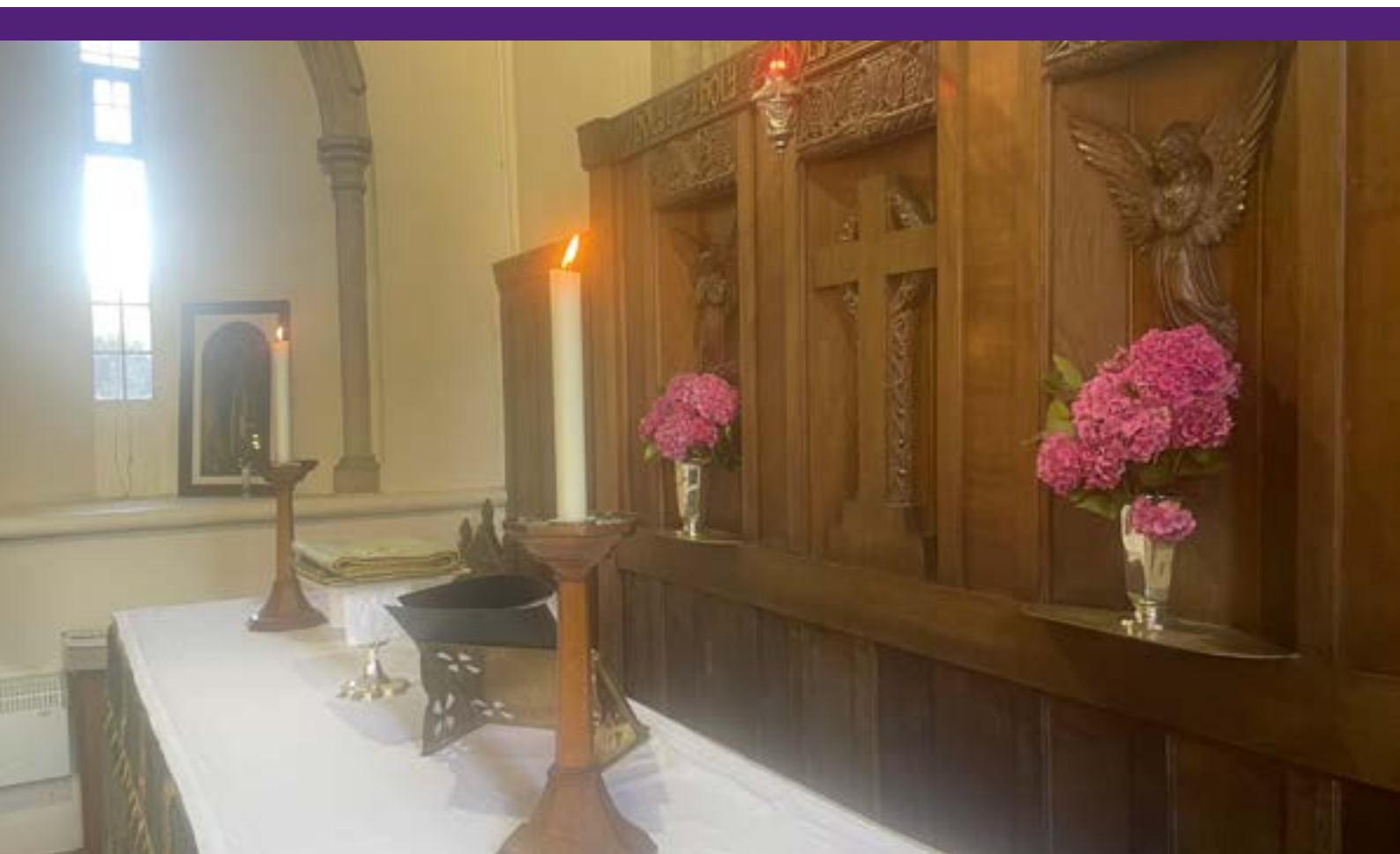
The work of preparing for services is carried out quietly and loyally each week. It is shared by members of the congregation. Everyone plays their part. Our regular Priests who preside know that all will be in order. We have a dedicated and talented organist to enrich our worship, the organ was restored in 1983, further enhanced in 2001 and in the new year the organ will be undergoing some additional work to suit for its role in leading the congregation. We have occasional music events which attract large audiences.

There are many fund-raising activities throughout the year. This includes a flower arranging session, Floral Decoration Open Church at Easter, and Fashion Shows. The Parish Magazine cover is sponsored by different individuals each month. The floodlighting may also be sponsored in memory of loved ones. There is also a walking group and a collection point in the church for donations to the Hope for Belper foodbank.

There is one major employer. Lubrizol is a global producer of oil and petrol additives and one of their research centres is located in Hazelwood. It employs 350 people who commute from outside the village. As a company they are very supportive of church and village activities. They regularly donate gifts to events that we have within the church. There is also a local farm shop which services Duffield and the surrounding areas. We have an excellent relationship with support and gifts regularly donated to us.

Hazelwood Memorial Hall is situated close to the church. This is well used by people from the surrounding areas for childrens' parties, yoga, puppy training and crown green bowls (there is a bowling green) and tennis courts, all taking place on a regular basis. The Well Kitchen Cafe operates in the hall on three to four days a week. It is supported by volunteers and offers the most amazing cakes, savoury dishes and beverages.

Hazelwood has a daughter church in Shottle, which hosts well attended seasonal services for Christmas, Easter and Harvest. Shottle is part of the Chatsworth Settlement Trustees and most of the farms and houses in the surrounding area are owned by the Chatsworth Estate.





## St Luke's Heage

There has been a place of worship at Heage since 1086 and an open churchyard since 1847. The current church was built in 1646 and extended in 1836, with a faculty for a west-facing altar as well as the east-facing one in the original part of the church.

The parish consists of Heage and Nether Heage, providing a total population of around 4000 with a mix of new and old properties in both villages. Planning permission has recently been obtained for more than 180 homes on the former Lichfield works site. The major employer in the village is the construction company Bowmer and Kirkland, as well as a number of smaller businesses, such as shops, pubs, hairdressers, a plant nursery and a pre-school facility. The six-sailed stone built Heage Windmill is a major tourist attraction in the village, was originally built in 1797, was fully restored in 2000 and makes and markets stone-ground natural flour.

Heage Primary School, although not a church school, has close links with the church and comes to church for Harvest and Carol services. Members of the church carry out regular Derwent Valley Bible Assemblies and our priest-in-charge will be expected to maintain and enhance the existing strong links with the school. Coffee mornings are held at church on the first Saturday of every month and, through this, links have established with village litter-picking group who come into church for refreshments.

Other outreach and ministry activities include annual Flower and Christmas Tree festivals, Light and Hope service, online Bible Study, Nativity, Christingle and Carol services and a regular Sunday school.



## St Michael's Holbrook

St Michael's Holbrook (together with the hamlet of Coxbench) is a small, historic village parish about 2 miles long and 1 mile wide. It has a population of approximately 1650 (a substantially static figure) and serves mostly as a dormitory village for Derby and Belper, although there are several farms, ten small businesses, a thriving village shop, a hairdresser and three pubs. Despite the village's origin and history as very much a working settlement it is now a sought after location for families, working couples and 'retirees' alike. The Vicar is an ex-officio trustee for Potterell's Alms Houses and a Foundation Governor of Holbrook C of E Primary school.

The parish church was built as a private chapel for Holbrook Hall in 1761. It became a parish church in 1835, was enlarged in 1841 and following a fire in 1907 the south aisle, chancel and porch were added. It has Grade II\* status. The chancel is generously proportioned and the absence of pillars allows good visibility and excellent acoustics. The church is heated by a modern, fan-assisted system installed in 2013. The building is in a good state of repair as confirmed by the last two Quinquennial inspections. The two-manual pipe organ is well maintained and was renovated in 2011. The church benefits from a kitchen, toilet and two meeting rooms providing ideal space for socialising. We have a 1760s Whitehurst clock, which is regularly maintained, and a single bell. The surrounding churchyard is now closed for new burials, and consequently is maintained by Amber Valley Borough Council.

We have a committed PCC of 6 members. The PCC social committee has the dual aims of bringing people together and raising funds. In the recent past it has organised a regular range of activities such as our Annual Advent Fayre, coffee mornings, ploughman's lunch, Harvest lunch, an annual walk and supper, local choir and musical group concerts and an open garden evening. Events are always well supported and attract members of the local community and enthusiasts who are not regular church goers. A fellowship of Holbrook churches meets monthly to socialise and hear visiting speakers.

There is a vigorous social life within the community. The recently renovated and well-used Village Hall, in which the church has a defined interest hosts many activities. For young people there is Scouts, Beavers, Cubs, Brownies, a Baby and Toddler Group and a Pre-school Play Group. Mainly for adults, there is a licensed Sports and Social Club offering regular entertainment, a ladies league Bowls Club and two well established football teams. The Holbrook WI, The Friendship Club, The Garden Group, The Knit and Natter Group, The Village Morris Dance team and the Holbrook Community Society all meet regularly. The annual Village Fête on the Mellors Lane Park is well supported by people from both the village and the surrounding area.

Our church newsletter has a circulation of over 200. In addition to the church newsletter there is a bi-monthly Holbrook Village magazine produced by an independent group which is circulated to every household where we highlight the shared message of the parish church and Methodist church to the community. We are proud of our strong links with our Methodist friends and our village school.



## All Saints Turnditch with Windley

All Saints' Church is a small, friendly church in the village of Turnditch in the Derbyshire Dales. It is stone built with an active churchyard and has one bell which is rung on Sundays and for weddings.

The main body of the church was built in 1630 AD. The Chancel and vestry were added some time later. The St. Christopher window in the nave, is particularly beautiful. Unfortunately there are currently no toilet facilities. We have an active churchyard, which is used both for interments and burial of ashes.

There are a few new-build houses within the Parish but the village has no local shops, doctors' surgery, post office, chemist or nursing homes. The nearest shops are in Ashbourne or Belper but the bus service is infrequent. There are two pubs in Turnditch and a well-used village hall with good parking.

There is a Church School directly opposite the church and the school visits the church as part of the RE curriculum. It is expected that the Priest-in-charge will be on the Board of Governors at the school.

We share our Treasurer with Christ Church and have a small PCC, consisting of one Churchwarden, 4 PCC members. We have a social committee and hold fund raising events, afternoon teas, coffee mornings etc.



## The Vicarage

The diocese are currently in the process of purchasing a new vicarage for this role. The previous vicarage was a 10 bedroomed Victorian property next to Christ Church Belper that was very costly to heat and impractical for modern family living. The new house will be in Belper and will be efficient to heat.

Once a property is identified, information in the profile will be updated on the diocesan website.

**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:**

**Ven Nicky Fenton, Archdeacon of Derbyshire Peak and Dales  
[nicky.fenton@derby.anglican.org](mailto:nicky.fenton@derby.anglican.org)**

**Be assured you are held in our prayers as you discern whether God might be calling you to this role.**