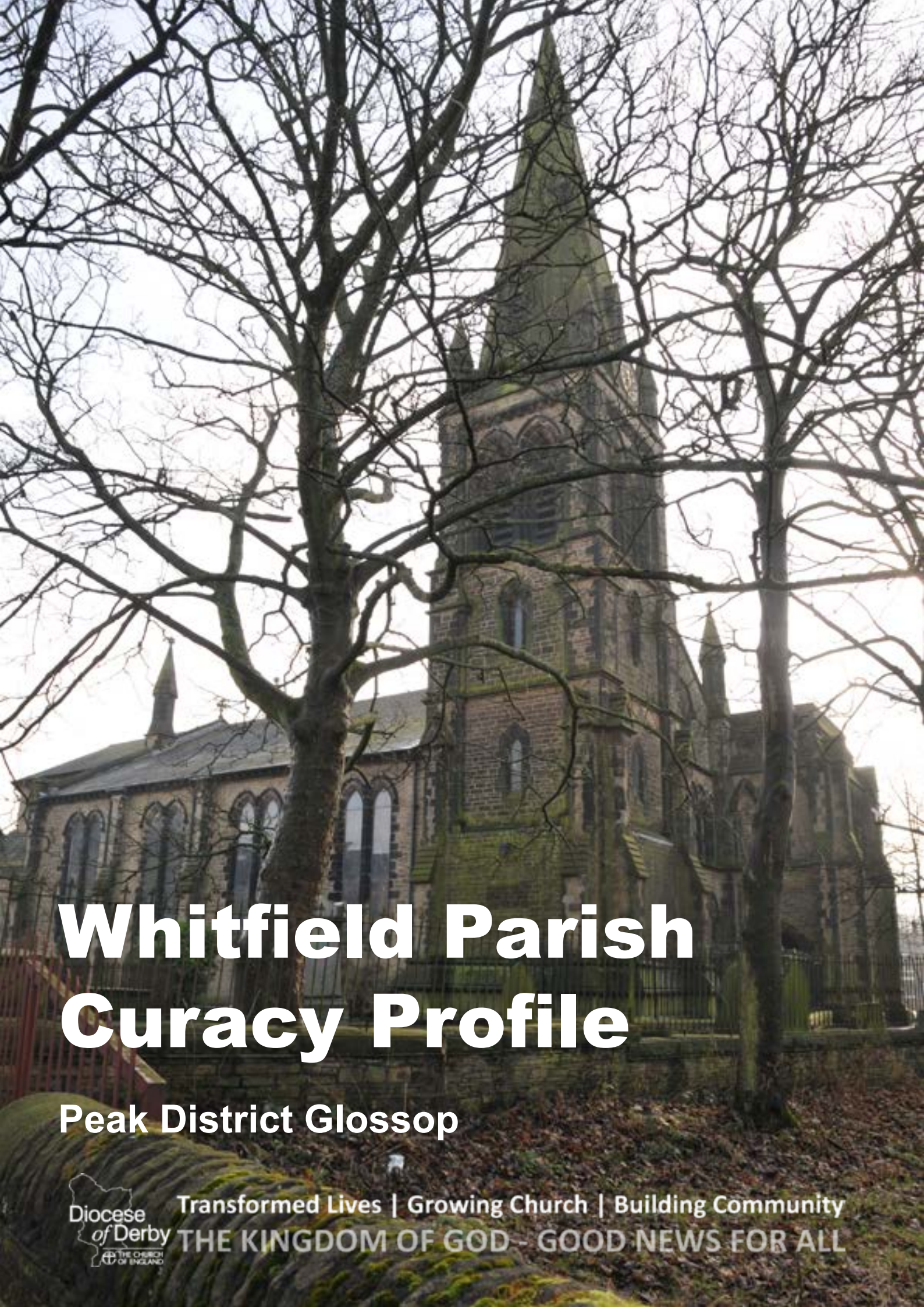


A photograph of Whitfield Parish Church, a large stone building with a prominent central spire, partially obscured by the bare branches of trees in the foreground. The church is set in a landscape with fallen leaves on the ground.

Whitfield Parish Curacy Profile

Peak District Glossop



Transformed Lives | Growing Church | Building Community

THE KINGDOM OF GOD - GOOD NEWS FOR ALL

The names and number stuff

Parish:	Whitfield
Churches:	St James and St Luke
Address: Lane,	St James' Church, Hollin Cross Glossop, SK13 8JQ
Church office:	01457 853330
ACNY:	St James' St Luke's
Electoral Roll:	135
Usual Sunday Attendance:	St James 55 St Luke 40
Priest in Charge:	Rev Chris Neilson
Date of Ordination:	September 2020
Length of time in parish:	2 Years



Occasional offices	2024	2025
Baptisms	2	5
Funerals	9	20
Weddings	2	1

We lean into these opportunities to love and serve our parish. There are connections made, its builds trust and relationship outside those people who turn up to Sunday worship. The good-will comes back to us and a number of people, who we have built connection with in these ministries, have returned to church or reconnected with faith.



What are we about?

Whitfield Parish seeks to 'Welcome All to Walk with Jesus'. We also tend to work with all. It's a privilege to be in a community where churches love each other, support each other and work as the community of Gods church. We prioritise growing younger, delving deeper into discipleship and working with our community.

We are in Glossop, North Derbyshire with awesome hills to the east and the city of Manchester to the west. Nestled in the Glossopdale valley with the neighbouring town Hadfield and many large suburbs. Here you'll find wealthy commuters, mixing with traditional families who've been here for generations. There is a whole mix of housing and people across the valley, from social overspill estates, farming communities, wealthy commuter villages, traditional working-class terraces and converted mills with young apartment dwellers. There are many new housing developments. It has become a very popular place to live, given its proximity in the peak district while easily commutable into Manchester and Sheffield.



Whitfield has two churches, St James' and St Luke's, each with a linked primary school. They have worked together for many years and in a more co-ordinated way more recently. In the valley there are, another four Anglican churches, with four more linked schools and integrated youth and children's ministry which forms our 'Growing Faith learning hub'. Our church also supports a community café, food bank, youth clubs, care homes ministry, local community events and a toddler church.

Our congregations are from a charismatic evangelical tradition, but we are keen not to be limited by labels. Sunday worship in St James is around 60 and St Lukes 35, we have a healthy midweek congregation of about 35 mainly older people. We have monthly youth worship with a small but growing group linked to several churches across the valley. We have monthly 'Chilled out church' in a local wine bar for those younger and more creative. We even have a monthly BCP communion at the altar. We will do anything, work with anyone and love all because we genuinely want to Welcome all to walk with Jesus.



Who are you working with?

Rev Chris Neilson joined in 2023. After hoping for a career in professional football, hampered by being overweight, unfit and lacking any real ability or talent, God graciously called him into ministry.

Chris worked church planting for The Salvation Army in housing estates in Manchester and Oldham for 15 years, in partnership with The Message Trust. He built relationships, youth projects and community partnerships with church. He then moved south (where they don't put gravy on chips) to be the Church and Community Officer for St Albans Diocese for several years, before training posts in Liverpool Diocese in the wealthy suburban towns of Formby and Burscough.

He is passionate to bring people together, work with other churches and the wider community and introduce people to a loving and life transforming God.

He has trained teams and staff in youth ministry and is presently supporting a self-supporting curate locally and a future youth ministry student in the parish.

Chris is married to Rev Dr Laura Neilson who serves part time in two local parishes, runs Hope Citadel Healthcare, some other charities working in health and primary care in Manchester and is a paediatric A and E doctor, whilst still learning how to park a car! They have three boys aged between 16-20 years.



Suzanne Gregory, is presently our part-time administrator and local primary school teacher. She and her family spent 15 years in missionary work in Lebanon and Albania, before coming back to the UK in 2020. She is fun, personable, supportive and, thankfully, organised.

Rebecca Wilson is in the second year of her Future Youth Ministry Experience scheme where she has grown and supported our networked youth and children's team across several churches. After only recently finishing university, she has used her experience in cub scouting to develop further in serving young people in our congregations and reaching out to others in our youth drop in, messy church and toddler church.

Tracey Fellows, our reader-in-training, is full of love, fun and excitement. A self-confessed, 'Tigger' when she has the opportunity to tell others about Jesus and sing to him in worship. Her years of experience in nursing also give her the authority to maintain our robust safeguarding procedures, as PSO.

Hilary, our church warden, is the rota queen. Graciously supporting the team, diligently checking the vicar knows what's happening when and passionately praying it is all for Gods glory.

Martin, our church warden, is a man grounded in a deep faith and commitment to serve Jesus faithfully in all that he can do. He is the rock, supporting our building team to maintain the fabric.

Besides these individuals we have **Andy**, an excellent treasurer, **Elaine** the lay chair of the PCC, **Ruth** the eternally young verger, our retired ministers **Rob** and **Martin** who have a wealth of experience, and I could mention many more. This is a team of people who support each other and want to see people grow and thrive when they join us.



And the rest

It's not just us – we work with the four other Anglican churches in Glossopdale.

All Saints is the original Glossop parish church with a long and rich history. They celebrate in a traditional Eucharistic style in an historic building in the oldest and most beautiful part of the town. They have a strong focus on Eco church and climate justice.

Holy Trinity Dinting, has a central tradition of communion and morning praise. They work with us on Messy Church and Tea and Toast (TnT) and have the best named service I know on a Friday, 'Scones of Praise!'

St John's Charlesworth is in a wealthy commuter village, just outside the town and has a committed evangelical congregation seeking to reach local people.

We also work with St Andrew's Hadfield, Elim Christian Centre, Central Methodist, Bethel Pentecostal Church in Hadfield and our two local Roman Catholic churches, who we pray for weekly.

There has previously been a church on Gamsley, which is a 1970's overspill estate from Manchester. There are a number of challenges in this area which is often isolated from the rest of Glossop and struggle with some higher-than-average social issues. Due to a number of factors services have been suspended here but the ambition is to resume a ministry in this area with the help of all the churches.



The Services at Whitfield

Sundays	9.30 am St Luke's Common Worship Holy Communion 11.00 am St James' charismatic worship service
Wednesdays	10.30 am Common Worship, alternate Morning Praise and Holy Communion
Monthly	Chilled out church at a local wine bar Youth service BCP Holy Communion (Spoken)

Activities

Whitfield Café	Community outreach café with quizzes and bingo
Grace Kitchen	Weekly lunch club and food bank
Coffee Pot	A welcoming a friendly space to chat and build friendship with a light-hearted and supportive, retired community
The Ark	Our weekly Toddler and Carers church with games, crafts and snacks
Messy Church	For primary aged children run monthly with a neighbouring parish
TnT	Youth after school drop-in run with a neighbouring parish where 60+ young people gather for tea and toast
Roots	Weekly youth club and youth discipleship group
6:30 Kids	Primary school aged youth club for local young people.



We have a network of small groups that meet to study and have fellowship. Some of these include folk from neighbouring parishes. This is supported with regular material excellently written by one of our retired ministers.

Morning Prayer reflections are posted daily to a group of 80+ people. These include a recorded daily reading, short reflection and prayer. A variety of people from different congregations contribute, building discipleship and communal prayer.

We visit and take monthly services in each of four different elderly Care Homes, supported by a team from six different churches in the town.

We have a programme for the Distribution of Communion at home when we share our Sunday communion with those who can no longer make the journey into church: remembering that welcoming ALL, means ALL.

This is an opportunity to experience, learn and grow in a full range of ministry traditions and contexts across a brilliant missional partnership and group of churches, while being centred in a loving and supportive community of faith.

There is a wealth of opportunity to learn from others and try different things. We have good connections with larger church networks in Manchester, like The Message Trust and New Wine regional gatherings.



This is a growing community which seeks to embrace new ideas and is confident to experiment. We have supportive and open primary schools that regularly visit church and invite the church into their activities.

We have a learning community filled with priests of different styles, traditions and status, who work together. Experienced and wise retired ministers are involved and supportive. Lay ministers are training here with others discerning their own future vocation.

Glossopdale is perfect for families. It has a busy and well used town centre. It is on the doorstep of some of the most beautiful countryside in the UK. It is a 30-minute train ride into Manchester. It's a 35-minute drive to Sheffield and under an hour to Leeds. There are seven faith based primary schools, all with solid reputations.

So, come and join the party

A Curacy in Glossopdale offers opportunities to experience a full range of traditions, community activities and contexts. There is a competent team ready to welcome a team player and encourage pioneering within a community of love and support. This is definitely a place where motivation and support will provide the opportunity for someone to thrive as a minister, in preparation to grow God's church for the future.



How to apply

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

The Revd Ben Griffiths

Director of Ordinands and Vocations

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01332 388693

or

The Revd Susie Curtis

Ordained Ministries Development Officer

Susie.curtis@derby.anglican.org

07899536178

Safeguarding

The Diocese of Derby is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children, young people and vulnerable adults. All post holders and volunteers are expected to share this commitment.

[Click here for further information on our commitment to safeguarding.](#)

All appointments are subject to acceptable pre-appointment checks, including a satisfactory Enhanced DBS Check.

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