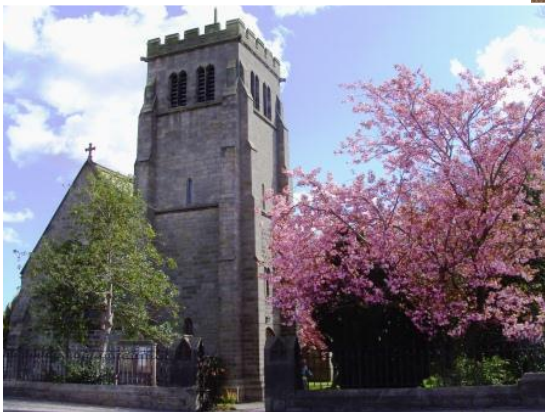




# St. Robert's Church, Pannal and St. Michael & All Angels, Beckwithshaw



Are you called to lead us in  
our recently expanded  
Parishes in a beautiful part of  
Yorkshire?

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Please also refer to  
the accompanying  
Appendices and  
Schedules



# **THE PARISHES OF ST. ROBERT'S, PANNAL AND ST. MICHAEL & ALL ANGELS, BECKWITHSHAW**

## **PCC Statement**

### **Under Section 11 of the Patronage (Benefices) Measure 1986**

#### **Introduction**

We are two welcoming and friendly communities of faith. We have an exciting opportunity in a lovely part of Yorkshire at a time when there are real opportunities to be grasped and developed in our recently expanded Parishes.

St Robert's Church is a thriving worshipping community of about 200 Christians situated at the centre of the village of Pannal, a beautiful Yorkshire village, on the southern edge of Harrogate.



There is something for every age group at St Robert's. We enjoy a variety of worship, from 'Pub Praise' and a sunrise service on Easter morning to Morning Worship.

Pannal village and Conservation Area lie in the Crimple Valley and the Parish Church of St Robert of Knaresborough provides the focal point within the village. St Robert's, Pannal, is the only Anglican Church in the country dedicated to St Robert of Knaresborough.

The Parish of Pannal includes Burn Bridge and parts of the southern suburbs of Harrogate. We enjoy good links with the Methodist church in Burn Bridge. Our church building is adjacent to Pannal Community Primary School and a care home for the elderly. The village has a cricket club, a junior football club, several uniformed organisations, two pubs and a village hall. A number of businesses are also located within the Parish. These include a village shop, run by a



local farmer, that has a Post Office counter and a real community focus. There is also a small business park within the former Dunlopillo factory premises.

Many people who live in Harrogate and the Parish of Pannal commute to work in the nearby cities of Leeds, Bradford, York and beyond. Pannal has its own railway station with links to the mainline stations of Leeds and York (both within a half hour's journey time) and buses run every 20 minutes to and from Leeds and Ripon.

Harrogate is a relatively large and prosperous Spa town close to the beautiful Yorkshire Dales National Park. Harrogate is famous for its Stray (a 200 acre area of common land surrounding the town centre), Betty's Cafe and Tea Rooms, the Great Yorkshire Show and Harlow Carr Gardens. The town has a large conference centre and many large hotels and restaurants. Tourism and conference business contribute significantly to the town's prosperity.



St Michael & All Angels is located in the small, pretty, traditional village of Beckwithshaw which consists of housing, a school, a pub and a Village Hall. On one periphery of the village stands Moor Park, a private housing estate. Surrounding the village are several private working farms. Within the parish is Havarah Park, the ancient hunting grounds of King John. Nowadays it consists of farmland and includes 3 reservoirs and cricket grounds.

Beckwithshaw Village Hall has a Sports Section, a Gardening Club and runs a monthly Whist Drive and fortnightly Coffee Morning. The hall is used both by the school and the church and has a number of private bookings. The Incumbent is traditionally made an honorary trustee of the hall.

As a result of recent Parish boundary changes, both Parishes have inherited larger areas which include more of the suburbs of Harrogate and a large secondary school. This brings with it lots of exciting mission opportunities. The information contained in the accompanying Appendices relates to the pre-existing Parish boundaries before the alterations took effect on 1 May 2013.



## Mission of the Parishes

We are a benefice which includes two worshipping communities – St Robert's, Pannal and St Michael & All Angels, Beckwithshaw. Our two churches share much in common but some aspects of mission differ between the two communities in light of the different locations, sizes and compositions of the two congregations, and thus the communities in which the churches are located.

### St. Robert's

#### **1. Notable mission activities in our church during recent years**

There is something for every age group at St Robert's - a range of services provide for all people and age groups.

St Robert's is a 'child and family friendly' church. We have a thriving Junior Church of around 100 children and a monthly Pram Service.

Our strong musical tradition is appreciated by all ages and the RSCM affiliated choir is inclusive of young and old. Older members of the church and wider community appreciate our lay visiting team, Luncheon Club and Friendly Club.



#### *Community events that open and reveal something of our church to the wider community*

We have held events which have attracted people into the church who would not ordinarily come:

- Our Beer Festival has been held annually for the last three years and has attracted people from the wider community into the Church. The festival runs on Friday evening and Saturday afternoon and evening. The Saturday afternoon is aimed at families and there has been ferret racing and a teddy bear zip wire from the top of the Church Tower. This event has been very successful as a fundraising event but even more so as an event that draws the wider community into the church. Last year included a new Sunday evening service of 'Beer & Hymns'.





- Links with Pannal Primary School have been renewed. The school's Harvest Festival is held in church by the clergy. For the last two years our Christmas tree lights in church were ceremonially turned on after school on the last day of term before Christmas at school finishing time and the children and their parents were invited into the church for that.
- We held Diamond Jubilee celebrations in Church during 2012. We had exhibitions from various local groups in church e.g. WI, Brownies, Brookside Nurseries (local garden centre). The displays showed many photographs and artefacts from the last sixty years. There was also a quiz for visitors and refreshments in the Chapter House. We also have a rota to keep the church open for visitors during the week.

#### *Innovative services*

Whilst being respectful of tradition and catering for all age groups, we have seen real innovation in Services in the last five years. Many of these Services have taken the church out of the building and into the Parish. Services have included:

- Bi-annual progressive Nativity Service through Pannal and Burn Bridge in December;
- Summer 'Pub Praise' Service held at one of the pubs in the village on a Sunday morning;
- Sunrise service at local landmark on Easter Sunday followed by bacon sandwiches in the Chapter House;
- Processing from church to Pannal Memorial Hall for Remembrance Sunday service;
- Meditative Evening Worship once a month;
- Christmas Eve Crib services with a real donkey in church which are very well attended;
- Palm Sunday service with the Methodist Church involving a procession with a real donkey between the two churches.



### *Other areas*

- The Churchwardens host an Epiphany Thank You Evening each year to thank all members of the church community for what they do. The vast majority of our church community give service to the church in some capacity.
- A similar 'Newcomers Evening' is held bi-annually.
- We have a rota of people to welcome new people at each 9.30 service on Sundays and to invite them to stay for coffee after the service.



## **2. The three major strengths of our churches**



1. Large committed and welcoming church community and thriving Junior Church.
2. Services to suit all age groups.
3. A strong RSCM affiliated choir who form an integral part of our church community.

## **3. Barriers to achieving our mission goals**

- Limited time available amongst church community.
- Finance linked to the level of giving and, to some extent until recently, a lack of detailed knowledge amongst the church community of the financial position of St. Robert's. The knowledge issue has been addressed by the recent stewardship campaign and we must ensure that the current level of knowledge is maintained.
- Reluctance to change.

## **4. The mission priorities that we will work on with our new priest during the next five years**

**Our Mission Statement:** St Robert's seeks to be a welcoming, caring and worshipping community of faith, joyfully reflecting God's love for all as shared with us in Jesus.

We would like to:

- Reach out to the wider community with the new Parish boundaries, for example Rossett High School.
- Maintain our ecumenical links.

- Enhance and strengthen the links between Junior Church and the main Sunday congregations.
- Have more involvement with St. Michael & All Angels, Beckwithshaw. We have begun this process by having Choral Evensong together at alternate churches. We also had a Harvest Supper together last year. We continue to share 'Fifth Sunday' Choral Evensong, join for Junior Confirmation, and meet for special services e.g. Chrissy's Priesting and Nigel's Leaving Service.



- Increase the provision of Bible Study groups and grow lay leadership of these groups.
- Forge stronger links with the Uniformed Organisations in Pannal.

#### **5. Our plans for achieving our mission priorities and the resources and support we might require**

- Encourage training for Licensed Readers. Laity to lead House Groups/Bible Study Groups with clergy support on how to do that well.
- Use the talents available within our church including youth leaders and others for active roles in mission activities.
- Investigate ways to increase our income to pay more of our Parish Share. This might include clear and regular information for all members of the church (not necessarily from the Vicar).
- Draw on the skills of PCC members.
- Improved organisation – increased hours for Administrator and better communication.



### **St. Michael & All Angels**

#### **1. Notable mission activities in our church during recent years**

- The work with Beckwithshaw County Primary School has very recently brought children into our Junior Church.
- The joint services and celebrations we share with St. Robert's, Pannal e.g. Joint Harvest Festival Choral Evensong and Harvest Supper.
- Having refreshments in church following the service, this has contributed enormously to our fellowship.



- We open the church daily during the summer months, so that people can come in, simply to look round, or to spend time in prayer and meditation. The freedom to do this is popular with, local villagers and with visitors from further away including several from overseas.
- Prayer Tree for people to write their prayers, which are then prayed for in services.

## 2. The three major strengths of our church



- We are a welcoming and friendly community of faith
- We continue to hold weekly services despite being a small rural church
- Our Bell Ringing Team



## 3. Barriers to achieving our mission goals

- Some members of our church have been resistant to change.
- Age profile of our congregation.

## 4. The mission priorities that we will work on with our new priest during the next five years

**Our Mission Statement:** St. Michael & All Angels aims to inspire and nurture a joyful Christ-centred community of fellowship and faith.

We would like to:

- Continue to build up our fledgling Junior Church and help parents integrate into the congregation.
- Embrace the proposed boundary changes and develop our outreach.
- Develop our links with St. Robert's.
- Build up a relationship with Horticap (a local charity based plant nursery which provides employment for disabled people).



- Focus on the spiritual growth of our existing congregation and also growth in numbers, whilst recognising that Beckwithshaw is a small village.
- Forge links with the Sunday morning Junior Football and Junior Cricket Clubs.
- Do more joint services and activities with St. Robert's.



## 5. Our plans for achieving our mission priorities and the resources and support we might require

- Encourage and enable lay ministries.
- Encourage and enable Youth and Mission leaders.
- Hold a Stewardship Campaign.
- Encourage Prayer ministry by the house based and the older members in our congregations.

In the benefice (both parishes) we accept that it may be a slow process to achieve our goals, but will clearly define them and work towards change with our new Incumbent.



The Vicarage is located in close proximity to St. Robert's church in Pannal village. It is a substantial four bedroom, detached property with a large garden, two bathrooms (one en-suite), a downstairs cloakroom and a large study. The spacious lounge has double doors to the dining room with patio doors onto a terrace. There is a newly refurbished kitchen/diner and all windows have recently been replaced with sealed unit double glazing. The Vicarage is adjacent to a park and beautiful walks and is within very easy walking distance of St. Robert's Church, Pannal Railway Station, bus stops and local amenities.

We are two welcoming and friendly communities of faith. We have an exciting opportunity in a lovely part of Yorkshire at a time when there are real opportunities to be grasped and developed by our new Vicar in our recently expanded Parishes.



## Our New Vicar

### 1. The specific role we envisage our new priest will have in helping our churches and PCCs to achieve their mission priorities

- Provide leadership to all and challenge when appropriate.
- Explore and provide a variety of services whilst respecting tradition.
- Help us to make appropriate provision for all age groups.
- Identify and enable lay people with the right skills to engage with discipleship and nurture their own gifts.
- Lead the integration of the new parish areas and our mission opportunities.

*... and specifically for St. Robert's:*

- Maintain good ecumenical links with Pannal Methodist Church and St. Robert's RC Church.
- Maintain and encourage the strong musical tradition at St. Robert's.



### 2. The specific skills and gifts we expect our priest to have

- A spiritual leader and an enabler who can delegate.
- A gifted communicator.
- Identify needs across all age groups.
- Humility and a sense of humour.
- Able to see things from a child's perspective and be imaginative.
- Approachable and a good listener.
- Able to relate to different contexts; rejoicing in diversity.

### 3. How should our priest help the PCCs prioritise their mission initiatives

- Review current mission initiatives in light of our Mission Statement.
- Be prepared to move forward with new ideas for mission given the opportunities presented by our new Parish boundaries.
- By listening, reflection and prayerful consideration leading to pragmatic action

### 4. How we will support our new priest in their ministry

- Through prayer.
- Through friendship.
- By positive support and encouragement.
- By being willing to take on new responsibilities.
- By being open to change, looking towards the future, not the past.
- By allowing them to lead.
- Being willing to take risks and accept successes and failures.

