

Christ Church High Harrogate



GRAPEVINE £1.00
October 2026



Christ Church High Harrogate

A Commemoration & Celebration in Remembrance and Hope

Saturday 7th November 3.00pm

Please join us for an opportunity to remember in deliberate time, love and prayer, those loved ones who have died not least within the past 12 months but also so very much more. This is an invitation to take confidence in the Promise of life and light and hope, even in the darkness of grief and sorrow.

Everyone is invited to join us in church

(Please note, it *might* be possible to join via a Zoom link.

We will let you know nearer the time if we can offer this)

Refreshments will be available after the service

*For further details please contact
Liz Leatherbarrow 07928 616560 or
the Parish Office 01423 530750*

Email: info@christchurchharrogate.org.uk

Please do join us

Please contact Liz Leatherbarrow, the Parish Office or see the sign-up sheet in the concourse if you would like a lift on the Little Red Bus



GRAPEVINE OCTOBER 2026

Welcome to this month's Grapevine magazine.
We hope you enjoy reading it.

Don't forget if you would like to submit an article you think the readers would enjoy, please contact Jill Walters in the Parish Office.

Articles need to be submitted as Microsoft Word or pdf documents and should be emailed to info@christchurchharrogate.org.uk

We try to ensure that Grapevine reflects the Christian aspirations of our community. All contributions are welcome but may be edited. If you feel we have made a mistake, please do let us know via the Parish Office.



Deadline for the November 2026 edition is 21st October



WEDDINGS & BAPTISMS

For enquiries regarding Weddings and Baptisms at Christ Church please contact the Parish Office.

Parish Office

Christ Church,
Church Square,
Harrogate HG1 4SW
Tel: 01423 530750



E: info@christchurchharrogate.org.uk
What3Words: talked.bowls.doors

Normal Opening Hours:

Monday to Friday 9.00am – 1.00pm
(other hours are available by arrangement)



<http://twitter.com/ChristChurchHG1>



www.facebook.com/ChristChurchHighHarrogate



www.christchurchharrogate.org.uk

Church Donations can be made by cheque, cash, online banking or via the QR Code. If you would like to make a donation and you are a tax-payer please consider adding GIFT AID. This reclaims tax, at no extra cost to you.

Thank you



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(formerly Freepik)

WHO'S WHO at Christ Church, High Harrogate



Vicar: The Revd Matthew Evans

Tel: 01423 883390

Email: msevens126@gmail.com

Assistant Curate (SSM):

Revd Caroline Taylor

Email: caroline.taylor@leeds.anglican.org

The Parish Office

Tel: 01423 530750

Email: info@christchurchharrogate.org.uk

Honorary Assistant Priests:

The Revd Dr Geoff Turner (retired)

The Revd Arnold Clay (Methodist Minister – retired)

The Revd Linda Potter (retired)

The Revd Ian Shelton (retired)

The Revd Michael Price (retired)



Churchwardens: Shirley Morris, Norman Potter & Anna Harrison

Treasurers: Shirley Morris, Rachel Rollinson (contact via the Parish Office)

Parish Clerk: Jill Walters info@christchurchharrogate.org.uk

Director of Music: David Darling david.darling@live.co.uk

Junior Church & Crèche: christchurchjc@gmail.com

PCC Secretary: Paul Mottershead PCCSecretary@christchurchharrogate.org.uk

Sacristan Team: Paul Mottershead & David Convery

Head Server: Paul Mottershead

Pastoral Care: Revd Linda Potter

Carla Baranovsky (Safeguarding Officer) Safeguarding@christchurchharrogate.org.uk

Liz Leatherbarrow (Bereavement Support Team) (contact via the Parish Office)

Electoral Roll: Denise Lynn (contact via the Parish Office)

Sidesmen & Sideswomen: John Woolliscroft (contact via the Parish Office)

PASTORAL CARE at Christ Church, High Harrogate

The Pastoral Care Team at Christ Church is there to offer a listening ear, offer support and make sure that we do genuinely “bear one another’s burdens”. Please contact the Vicar or any of the Churchwardens here at Christ Church via the Parish Office if you want to find out more.

Christ Church Services and Prayers

Daily Prayer :

Please see the church website or Weekly Bulletins for weekly variations to these services.

Morning Prayer in the Lady Chapel at 8.30 am Tuesday to Friday.

Evening Prayer in the South Transept at 5.30 pm on Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Saturday and Sunday.

You are also very welcome to join us at Evening Prayer via ZOOM - an opportunity often taken-up by people in the parish and beyond.

Please contact the Vicar for Zoom access details. Email: msevans126@gmail.com

EVENING PRAYER Zoom Meeting Time: This is a recurring meeting.

Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86509171527?pwd=b1RhenRBYWxOSnhRaTVHdGV4QlI4Zz09>

Meeting ID: 865 0917 1527 **Password:** 905250

Sunday Services

Our Sunday 8.00am and 10.00am services both take place in the church with refreshments being served after the 10.00am service. The 10.00am Service can be joined by Zoom. If you wish to access this facility please

email : msevans126@gmail.com each week for the Zoom access details.

Intercessory Prayers on Wednesday Mornings 9.30am:

This is a short, quiet service of prayer in the church, where each week a small group gathers naming individuals, places and situations in prayer.

Please simply email us on **info@christchurchharrogate.org.uk** or telephone 01423 530750 to add any request of an individual or situation into these prayers.

Wednesday Midweek HOLY COMMUNION

A simple, said, midweek Holy Communion service with a short address.

Meeting in the main hall of the Parish Centre at 10.00am the service lasts approximately 45 minutes.

Teas and coffees are served after the service. You are very welcome to join us.

Open Church

The church building is usually open and available to visitors as follows:

Sundays 11.15am – 5.30pm

Mondays and Tuesdays 9.00am – 3.00pm

Wednesdays 10.00am – 1.00pm (afternoon hours may vary)

Thursdays and Fridays 9.00 – 1.00pm (afternoon hours may vary)

Saturdays 9.30am – 5.30pm

Please always feel welcome to come in, light a candle, write a prayer, or simply sit in the silence of the church. If you are making a special visit, please do let us know so that we can be **absolutely sure** that the church will be open for you.

WELCOME

What ? No words of wisdom this month ? !

Yes, plenty. At least 60 . . .

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(If you want to know what I found _ see later in the magazine)

Happy hunting, and finding.

Matthew x



We are thinking of starting a new Monday Morning Social Group called '**Knit & Natter**'. It will be for all age groups and abilities – from absolute beginners to seasoned knitters! You can bring in your own project to work on and share

with others or you can knit items such as blankets, hats, bootees and cardigans for babies up to 12 months old to support the Baby Basics Charity in Leeds. A small donation will be requested to pay for the teas, coffees, biscuits and cakes! Contact Shirley Morris or the Parish Office for more details or to register your interest!

Christ Church Harvest Collection



Thank you for all your Harvest Donations in aid of the Harrogate Homeless Project and the Harrogate Foodbank. Thank you also to Paul and Elizabeth



Mottershead for taking the food donations to the HHP

and to Stuart from the Harrogate Foodbank who came to collect the donations for their local warehouse. Both organisations were incredibly grateful for your generosity at this special time of year.

Please remember you can donate food items on any day of the week by bringing them into the church or Parish Centre and leaving them in the collection boxes provided. Thank you. *Sue Craven*

The latest shortages are: Strong Carrier Bags, UHT milk, coffee, washing up liquid, tinned custard and rice pudding, jam, male and female deodorants.

Please do NOT supply out of date food, baby food, any items containing alcohol or any fresh or homemade goods.

If you would like to make a cash donation in lieu of food donations to the Harrogate Foodbank please see Sue Craven, Shirley Morris or Jill Walters.



**HARROGATE
HOMELESS PROJECT**
HOPE • EMPOWERMENT • TEAMWORK • 35 YEARS

35 Years of Hope

Celebrating our past, supporting our present, shaping our future

Since 1991, we have supported thousands of people facing homelessness, hardship and uncertainty. From our early beginnings to the services we provide today, every success has been made possible by the generosity of our supporters, volunteers, staff, trustees and community partners.

As we celebrate our anniversary we are also looking to the future. The need for our services continues to grow and we remain committed to ensuring that everyone who comes to HHP receives the support, opportunity and hope they deserve.

A special thank you goes to everyone who has supported our recent appeal to fund a new Employability Worker. Thanks to your generosity we can provide even more people with the skills, confidence and guidance needed to move towards employment and independence.

Thank you for helping us celebrate our past, support our present and build the next 35 years of hope.

Richard Cooper
Chief Executive



Editor: The collection for Kath and Andy raised a wonderful £480.00. A true measure of how much their works and support here at Christ Church has been valued over the many years they lived at the back of church! Here is a little 'thank you' note from their new home in York

Dear All,

A huge thank you to everyone for your generous gift when I moved away from Christ Church. I'm sorry I didn't have time to say goodbye to everyone, we left in such a rush, it all happened very quickly at the end. There's not a lot that makes me speechless! Your kind gift was totally unexpected and left me completely lost for words. I have thought long and hard about what to do with the money. At the moment, I think I would really like to put the money towards something that would bring back some of the happy memories that I hold from Christ Church. Here in York, we have a lovely courtyard garden, but it only has a holly bush in it, so the current thinking is that after taking advice about what will thrive (and more importantly, survive!), I will buy some plants and probably a bench that we saw at the Yorkshire Show. That way I can think of you all every time I sit on the bench having a cup of coffee/glass of wine! And when it's all flowery and colourful, I will send you a photo or two.

We are settling in but it's taking time. We have furniture on order, promised for Christmas, curtains on order, hopefully before Christmas, but good news – the carpets have just arrived!!! Again, thank you all very, very much, and this comes with all my love and many prayers.

Kath





New Way of Sharing News!!

Do you want to get the news about what's happening at Christ Church 'as it happens'?

Do you want reminders about services and events?

Do you want to know as soon as we have the heating back on in church?

Then sign up NOW for our new 'free' email subscription service to get news straight to your inbox.

To sign up, go to the church website ***christchurchharrogate.org.uk***, select ***Communication*** from the top line and then click ***email sign-up***. Simply enter your email address and name and that's it !

You can also use the QR code (see below) to register with our email service and get all the latest Christ Church news straight to your inbox

- be the first to know!!



Please Note: We are using an email service called MailChimp to provide this service and their logo should be included in the messages from us.

Mailchimp are compliant with UK data protection laws. Once you have signed up, our initial message may drop into your Junk Folder so if you haven't heard from us, please check there!

For more information see Paul Mottershead or Tina Hutchinson.

Note: we will only send you information about Christ Church, we will not share your details with anyone else. Please see the Privacy Notice when you subscribe for more details.

Junior Church & Creche

The **Junior Church & Creche** at Christ Church offers **children of all ages** a positive, exciting and supportive introduction to Christian faith, life and worship as a foundation for life.

Older children are given encouragement and support in preparation for **Confirmation** as part of their own journey into Christian commitment.

On **Sunday mornings** during term-time, children gather for Junior Church & Creche in the Parish Centre. Children are asked to arrive by 9:50am in readiness for the start of the service. They join the congregation in the front pews of the church at the start and end of the 10.00am service. For the remaining time, they work across four age groups in the Parish Centre:

- Creche and Reception children;
- Year 1 and 2;
- Years 3, 4, and 5; and
- An older group consisting of years 6-9.

These groups follow a syllabus called 'ROOTS'. By following this syllabus, the children gain a good grasp of the key events and teachings of the Bible and develop a personal relationship with Christ.

Junior Church members are asked to bring a weekly donation to the collection plate which goes to the Church funds in order to support the youth work of Christ Church. In addition, Junior Church also aims to support three charities each year – one local, one national and one international. We manage this through various events such as cake stalls and tombolas.

Other activities involving Junior Church throughout the year are outlined in newsletters to parents.

If you have not previously registered with Junior Church & Creche or if your details have changed, please email us at christchurchjc@gmail.com

If you are interested in being a Leader or Helper with Junior Church & Creche, please email us at christchurchjc@gmail.com

Lady Chapel, South Transept and Chancel – News Update



Following on from the exploratory works in August, the Structural/Site Inspection Report from Blackett-Ord Conservation Engineering has just been received. Although the contents still need to be discussed and agreed by the PCC the main conclusion so far is that there is an issue with the foundations under the floor and internal partitions.

The good news is that apart from the vestry area the main walls appear to be stable. The vestry area however appears to be suffering from foundation settlement which we are advised should be investigated further.

The suggested recommendation is to arrange ground holes to be drilled deep into the floors of the affected areas to better identify the root cause of the problem.

In addition we may be required to undertake a new measured survey using laser accuracy. Back in 2014 we had a measured survey of the church which mapped out an accurate plan of the church. By arranging a new up to date survey we will be able to compare the two sets of data with a view to giving us an idea of the building's movement since 2014.

We await further information and decisions from the PCC.

Please watch future Bulletins and Grapevine magazines for the next updates.

The People's Emergency Briefing Film



*Deborah Booth the Environment
Champion for the Harrogate Deanery writes...*

You will all have heard of the 'People's Emergency Briefing' film. This film is a condensed version of the 'National Emergency Briefing', a series of talks from experts in their field, which took place at Westminster in November 2025, about the ways climate and nature breakdown impacts our health, food systems, the economy, and national security. It explains in no uncertain terms the seriousness of the crises unfolding around us.

There will be a screening of this at St Mark's Church Harrogate on **Wednesday 21 October, 7 - 9pm.**



St Mark's is hosting the evening, but the event itself will be put on and chaired by Zero Carbon Harrogate (ZCH).



The film lasts 50 minutes and the format of the evening, as we all know, wherever the film is shown, is for a chaired audience discussion to follow the film screening.

Just turn up or book if you can:

Here is the Eventbrite link <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/the-peoples-emergency-briefing-a-free-community-film-screening-tickets-1985670314363?aff=oddtcreator>

Please especially be praying for this event. It could be a turning point for many people in Harrogate and the wider region.

For your interest here is the map showing the various screenings of the film:

<https://www.nebriefing.org/screening-map>

So far 3,450 People's Emergency Briefing screenings have either been held or are booked across the UK

HSTM Saturday 19 September 2026

Venue: St.Mark's Church, Harrogate

ImaginaGon – As a Key to Unlocking Scripture

With John Bell, Minister of the Church of Scotland and Member of the Iona Community

John has worked for over 30 years in the areas of music, worship, spirituality and social justice. He conducts workshops and seminars across the globe and, with his colleagues, develops new and accessible liturgical materials. He is an occasional broadcaster and for over 20 years was a regular contributor to Radio 4's Thought for the Day. To date, John has published 17 collections of original and global songs, and numerous collections of liturgical material.

John's focus was on using our imagination as we read the Scriptures, to help us think through the ways in which we interpret what we read.

The biblical readings came from Genesis 11 and the Tower of Babel, which he presented as opening our eyes to the diverse images of God.

Using our imagination starts, he said, with what we know, with the real world. This can be contrasted with fantasy, as the invention of an impossible world. Other literary and art forms use the imagination in their own way. Jesus, of course, used parables as the stories which helped his disciples to understand the truths of his more abstract teachings. In the art world, there are many paintings of Christ, of his life, and of his parables, which draw us in using our imagination.

One of the most famous paintings is the Salvador Dali depiction of the Christ of St. John of the Cross, looking down from above – many of us have seen this. Films too, such as The Nativity, and the Passion of Christ develop the Christian story visually using the imagination of the screenwriter. Life in biblical times becomes much more engaging when we watch films such the story of Abraham . The diversity of creation too becomes very real as we follow the detailed seven days more closely, not just the one day of the separation of light and dark. Films of the Noah story are enjoyed by all ages. Our own strength becomes clear as we both make our own interpretations of the Christian story, yet are open to the perceptions of others.



Christine Jack

*Here are the lunchtime recitals for the 2026 season.
Thank you to our Director of Music, David Darling, for organising
this wonderful variety of musicians and singers.*

Christ Church Lunchtime Recitals Series 2026

Wednesday 4th February

Ed Deakins (Cello)

Wednesday 4th March

A-level Musicians from
St Aidan's and St. John Fisher Associated 6th Form

Wednesday 1st April

Alannah Saphir (Flute)

Wednesday 6th May

Nick Fletcher (Classical Guitar)

Wednesday 3rd June

Voces Seraphorum (Vocal Ensemble)

Wednesday 1st July

~~Lily Ziff (Soprano)~~ to be rescheduled

NO August Recital as we take a break!

Wednesday 2nd September

Christ Church Musicians

Wednesday 7th October

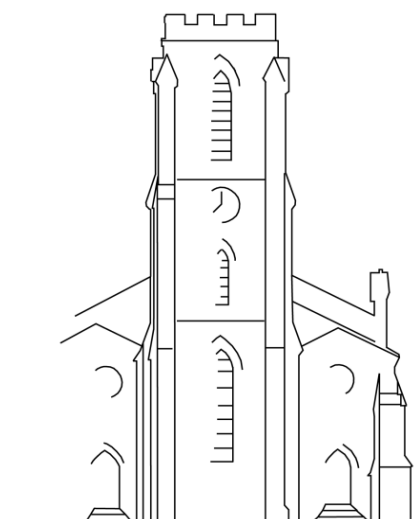
~~Matthew Lazenby (Organ)~~ Postponed

Wednesday 4th November

Persia Shafi - Cliffe (Soprano)

All recitals begin at 12.15pm and are followed by a light lunch

*Admission to the recitals is free, but a donation towards Christ Church Music Fund
is most welcome. A small charge is made for lunch*



Do you enjoy singing?

Are you aged 7 or over?

The Choir of Christ Church would love to hear from you!

Becoming a Chorister can give you these benefits...

- A free musical education, which will stay with you for life
- Equal opportunities for boys and girls aged 7+
- Progress through the Royal School of Church Music Singing awards
- Learn new musical skills by being part of a centuries-old English choral music tradition
- Develop confidence through teamwork and also from opportunities to sing solos
- Get paid...yes, really!...for doing something you enjoy doing.
(Money earned will depend on experience and attendance among other things)
- Choir outings and social activities
- Perform solos and as part of an ensemble at the Harrogate Competitive Festival
- Join with other choirs to sing larger-scale works
- Personal development as a member of a church choir can lead to university choral scholarships



Our choir is a friendly closely-knit group of singers aged 7+ to 80+. All members support each other and rejoice in the success of fellow choristers. Choir practices take place on Thursday evenings from 6.30-7.45p.m. and on Sunday mornings at 9.30a.m. before the morning service. Our Junior Choristers also meet after the service to prepare the music they will be singing on their own at the All-Age service and to work towards their RSCM awards.

For more information, speak to any member of the choir or contact our Director of Music, David Darling. Email: david.darling@live.co.uk, telephone 07975 791028, or have a word after any service.

SAVE THE DATE



Christ Church Parish Centre presents

Christmas
FAIR

Saturday 28th November
1.00pm – 3.00pm

GIFTS | RAFFLE | COFFEE | CAKE | MUSIC
SANTA'S GROTTO | GAMES | PRE-LOVED TOYS

CHRIST CHURCH, HARROGATE HG1 4SW

If you or anyone you know would like to
reserve a table at this year's Christmas Fair
please contact the Parish Office for further details.

Email: info@christchurchharrogate.org.uk

or Tel: 01423 530750



Tables will be £20.00 each
(table measures 6' x 2'6")



Nearly 2,000 affordable homes could be built on church sites - five years on from the landmark report on the housing crisis

<https://www.churchofengland.org/media/news-and-press-releases/nearly-2000-affordable-homes-could-be-built-church-sites-five-years-landmark-report-housing-crisis>



The Rt Revd
Dr Guli Francis-Dehqani,
Bishop of Chelmsford

Nearly 2,000 affordable new homes on land earmarked from church sites could be created with support from the Church of England, it has been revealed, in work under way five years on from a landmark Church report on the housing crisis.

The Archbishops' Council Housing Project was set up in 2024 with an aim of helping churches in the first stages of exploring the potential of sites to create housing – such as pockets of surplus land or land freed up through redevelopment of a church hall or other building.

The Project team, with an architect, a community housing specialist, a town planner and a Church buildings officer, has provided advice and support to around 85 parishes so far.

Most of its budget is distributed through a grants programme, with more than £1.2 million awarded to 54 projects in the first year of operation, paying for expert advice and early-stage feasibility and viability work, up to the 'pre-app' stage – the point at which a project will seek advice from a planning authority ahead of submitting a formal application.

The Church Development Agency functions as the Church's specialist property development and delivery arm, supplying the technical expertise that most dioceses and parishes lack. Currently there are 42 church sites in 10 dioceses, receiving support from the Agency, 15 of which were given initial grants by the Housing Project for early stage work.

If given the green light, the projects currently with the Agency could create more than 1,000 new affordable homes. This figure almost doubles to 1,952 when taking into account proposals being given support by other Church housing organisations and dioceses, including the Housing Project and the Church Housing Association.

The work currently under way is helping to implement the recommendations of *Coming Home*, the 2021 report of the Archbishops' Commission on Housing, Church and Community on tackling the housing crisis.

Among its recommendations, the report called on the Church of England to lead by example, including delivering more truly affordable homes on its own land. The Church Development Agency and the Church Housing Association were set up following the publication of the Coming Home report, alongside the Archbishops' Council Housing Project.

The Church Housing Association, approved last year as registered provider of social housing, is currently raising money needed to buy 70 'section 106' homes – properties built by a developer as part of an agreement with a local authority to provide affordable housing or community benefit.

A planning application has also been submitted for Winson Green, Birmingham, in partnership with the Church Development Agency and the Diocese of Birmingham for 17 affordable homes on a former vicarage site.

The site is in an area of deprivation close to James Turner St, which featured in the Channel 4 documentary Benefits Street in 2014, and Birmingham Prison.

The Diocese of Leeds sold a surplus vicarage and church hall in the city to a local housing association, which has built 28 affordable homes with spacious gardens, heat pumps, EV chargers and solar panels.

All the Church of England organisations working to deliver affordable housing on Church land and property are connected through the Forum for Church Housing, providing a network for sharing information, opportunities and developments across the Church. The Forum meets quarterly and is chaired by the Church of England's lead bishop for housing, Bishop Guli Francis-Dehqani. It also brings in the Church Commissioners and dioceses actively engaged in housing delivery.

Bishop Guli said: "Housing projects can have a catalytic effect on participating churches; not only do they provide much-needed homes, they also provide missional opportunities and strengthen the church's reputation in the community.

They can unlock resources for ministry through a capital sum or income stream. We are starting to realise the huge potential for housing projects to sustain and even grow our local churches."



Can you help? Do you have any sealed but unused medical plasters, bandages, sterile wipes etc that you no longer use? It doesn't matter if they are out of date as long as they are sealed. Also do you have any unwanted medical equipment such as crutches, walking aids, splints, zimmer frames or wheelchairs **that cannot be returned to the NHS?**



If you can help, please contact the Parish Office for details.
Please note we CANNOT take medications



Christ Church Brownies

It is with great sadness that we have to announce the closure of the Christ Church Brownie pack. After meeting on Tuesday evenings for many years here at Christ Church and with numbers steadily falling the leaders had no option other than to take the very difficult decision to close.

We are deeply indebted to all of the volunteer leaders and of course to the children themselves who over the years have taken a special role in our church life.

If you have a daughter wishing to become a Rainbow or a Brownie in the Harrogate Division, places are available at other packs so please contact Jean Tennant (Girlguiding Harrogate S Division - Admin Support) jeantguides@btinternet.com for details.

The good news however, is that our Christ Church Guide pack is still very much in operation and there are still places available. Please contact Sally Owbridge-Kestell or Sue Newbould by email guides20thharrogate@aol.com to find out more.

The Funding of Parish Church Repairs – A Parishioner’s View

by Julian Gough

Many members of the congregation at Christ Church will be aware of the problems in the Lady Chapel, South Transept and Chancel. In the *Bulletin* of 19th July it was reported that “an inspection pit will be dug into the Chancel floor and within the Lady Chapel; and in mid-August explorations made into the cause of the floor movements and then toward possible remedies”.

The cause is likely to concern the foundations of the building and possible subsidence of the land. In periods of heavy rain, the area is prone to flooding which may be a contributory factor. In this period of uncertainty many of the congregation may be worried about the extent of the problem and the expense of putting matters right.

The question arises of what would happen if the repairs to the church currently being investigated result in a very large amount of money needing to be spent. Would Christ Church be expected to foot the bill of the whole repair or would it receive help from the Diocese or central funds of the Church of England? What would happen if no help was offered and the cost of the repair exceeded the reserves of the church or pushed reserves to an unacceptably low level?

At a more general level, the plight of parish churches in England has recently been highlighted by Rev. Marcus Walker, rector of St. Bartholomew the Great in the City of London. He has formed a group called “Save the Parish” to highlight the extent of the threat to parishes which form the bedrock of the Church of England. Official data published in 2022 showed that 423 churches were closed between 2010 and 2019. Ironically, it was mainly the churches in the poorest areas that were closed. He argues that parishes have been starved of funds both for essential repairs and for sufficient clergy and benefices to keep them open. This has resulted in clergy being over-stretched in having to look after multiple parishes putting an unreasonable burden on them and on voluntary support.

Rev. Walker points out that the plight of poorer parishes was considered long ago by the Bounty set up by Queen Anne in 1704, to fund their existence. This was a permanent endowment “for the cure of souls in parishes where such assistance is most required”. In 1948 the administration of the endowment was taken over by the Church

Commissioners for England. In 2024 the value of the endowment stood at £11.6 bn. of which £6.1 bn. was managed by the Church of England's dioceses. This generated an annual income of £653m. in 2024 but only £85m., or 13%, was spent on parish ministry. Over recent decades the endowment had been opened up for other uses, against the original purpose. Rev. Walker states that most funds have been diverted into specific short-term projects outside the parish system which have produced dubious benefits. He is a member of the Synod of the Church of England and is campaigning to bring the endowment back to its original purpose of helping parish churches survive and prosper.

A second report by Save the Parish points out a crisis of recruitment in the Church of England. The number entering training for ordination fell from 591 in 2020 to 442 in 2025, well below the target of 630. The report also states that retired ministers now make up the majority of active clergy – with 8,368 retired clergy, 6,682 in paid positions and 2,440 in self-supporting roles. It is argued that this aging structure and low recruitment poses a threat to having a Christian presence in every community. It advocates a substantial increase in funding to make the vocation more attractive to maintain the parish structure throughout England.

While parishes have been starved of funds the Church of England has drawn itself into other controversial areas – notably reparations for alleged historic links to the African slave trade in the 18th century. The Church Commissioners in November 2023 announced a plan for an initial allocation £100 m. over a period of nine years into an investment fund for reparations. The long-term aim is for this fund to grow to £1 bn.

The case for reparations has recently been considered by Nigel Biggar, Emeritus Professor of Moral Theology at the University of Oxford, in his book *“Reparations; slavery and the tyranny of imaginary guilt”*. In a long and detailed analysis Professor Biggar concludes that the Committee advising the Commissioners have erred both in their analysis of the history of the slave trade and in the moral case for reparations. He argues there is no case for paying reparations for events that occurred over two centuries ago. Indeed, the evils of the slave trade were ended by the British in the passing of the Slavery Act in 1807 following the campaign by the MP William Wilberforce.

Thereafter the Royal Navy fought battles at sea across the world against the slave ships at huge costs in terms of sailors' lives and ships lost. The cost to the British taxpayer is estimated to have been over £1 bn. p.a. (in today's money) between 1816 and 1862. Hence Britain led the world in abolishing the trade and paid a heavy price in true reparations in ending the evil slave trade. Hence Professor Biggar concludes that the advocacy of new reparations is simply based on "false guilt" and should be dismissed as indefensible.

These views are supported by Robert Tombs, Emeritus Professor of History at the University of Cambridge. In an article in the *Daily Telegraph* (Sept. 4, 2026), he argues that the Church of England on spurious grounds "is stubbornly insisting on giving away £100m. from non-existent slave-trading profits and urging others to do the same".

By re-directing the Queen's Bounty back to its original purpose and cancelling the proposed initial £100 m. for mistaken reparations, there should be enough money released to save many of the nation's threatened parish churches. It would also allow the heavy burden of the Parish Share levied by the Church of England on each of approximately 15,000 parishes in England to be substantially reduced.

Rev. Walker is leading a campaign in Synod to change track on the Queen's Bounty and hopes that new Archbishop of Canterbury, Rev. Dame Sarah Mullaly, will be more sympathetic to maintaining the historic parish churches of England and supporting their hard-working clergy, than her predecessor.

References

Christ Church, High Harrogate *"The Weekly Bulletin"* July 19, 2026

Walker M. "It is the poor who are hardest hit by the Church's financial bungling" *Daily Telegraph* July 25 2026

"Parish churches facing 'annihilation'" *Daily Telegraph* July 25, 2026

"More vicars please! C of E clergy now an 'endangered species'" *Daily Telegraph* September 4, 2026

Biggar N. *"Reparations: slavery and the tyranny of imaginary guilt"* (Forum, Great Britain, 2025 pp216)

Tombs R. "Inconvenient facts they don't want you to know about, let alone discuss" *Daily Telegraph* September 4, 2026

Christmas card collection 2026

1



Fluffy robin

2



Christmas tree

3



Snow on the farm

4



Carols around the tree

5



Hopping through the snow

6



Placing the star

7



Enchanted Christmas

8



Away in a manger

9



Quick to bed

Only £3.95
per pack of 10 cards

10



Watercolour Santa

On Sale in the Concourse
from Sunday 11th
October. Please contact
Denise Lynn or the
Parish Office for details.

Grief is hard.
Death can impact
all of life.

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for *anyone* bereaved *anytime*

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- Anger and guilt
- Coping with others' reactions
- Delayed and suppressed grief
- Adjusting to change
- Moving forward healthily
- Faith questions – a Christian perspective (optional)

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thebereavementjourney.org

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Tuesday afternoons
beginning
13th October until
Tuesday 24th November

1.45 until 4pm
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knaresboroughparishoffice@gmail.com

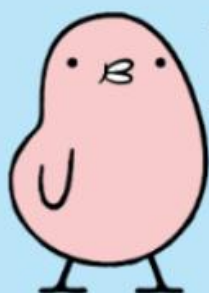
01423 869209

We're a
**Bereavement
Friendly Church**
www.lossandhope.org



**Baby
basics**

Thank you so much for all of the blankets and baby hats you have been knitting over the past few months. **If you would also like to make some small booties or cardigans** they would be extremely well received too. Please do keep them all coming!



**Baby
basics
Leeds**

Thank You!

If you would like to donate, we are in need of the following-

If you have any good quality clean preloved items of the below:

- * Moses basket (preferably with liner)
- * Moses basket sheets
- * Baby towels
- * Baby baths
- * Muslin squares
- * Blankets and sleeping bags
- * Toys and books (suitable for newborns and under 12 months)
- * Newborn clothes (size 0- 3 months) inc. hats, scratch mitts, bibs, socks
- * Maternity nighties
- * Maternity nursing bras
- * Flannel for mum
- * Flip flops/sliders for mum
- * Small bag suitable for as a hospital/ nappy bag

**Or if you could add some items to your weekly shop
(these must be unopened):**

- * Nappy cream
- * Cotton wool
- * Baby wipes
- * Baby 'top to toe' wash
- * Baby shampoo
- * Nappies (size 1 preferably but also size 0, 2 and 3)
- * Toothbrush and toothpaste suitable for under 12 months
- * Maternity pads
- * Shampoo/conditioner/shower gel for mum (also including afro suitable products)
- * Deodorant
- * Breast pads
- * Toothbrush and toothpaste for mum
- * Disposable maternity knickers
- * Lip balm for mum
- * Small item as a gift for mum eg. special toiletries/ hand cream/ hairband/ bobbles etc

Email: babybasicsleeds@gmail.com

- **Website: <https://baby-basics.org.uk/centre/leeds>**
- **Registered Charity Number 1168099**

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AT
CHRIST CHURCH PARISH CENTRE
COME AND JOIN US FOR A CHAT
AND A BITE TO EAT
THIRD WEDNESDAY OF EACH MONTH
FROM 11.30AM TO 1.00PM
(with food served from 12.00 noon)



Everyone welcome

2026

18th February

18th March

15th April

20th May

17th June

15th 22nd July (new date)

No August Meal

16th September

21st October

18th November

2nd December

**If you require transport, please contact
the Parish Office for details 01423 530750**

The History of Christ Church Organ

Written and researched by Brian Hamilton

The first organ was installed when Christ Church was built in 1831. It was located at the top of the West gallery, adjacent to the Clock Tower.

When Christ Church was enlarged in 1862 with the addition of North and South transepts and chancel, the organ was moved to the Organ Chapel which is now the Lady Chapel.

In 1907 the parish magazine stated that the organ (now 76 years old) was in a very poor state and repeatedly broke down in use. In 1908 a new organ was ordered from Norman and Beard of London and Norwich at a contract price of £1410 (today's value £170,000). The Organ was placed in the north transept and the Vicar told his parishioners that the new organ promised to provide Christ Church with one of the finest instruments in the district.

The Dean of Ripon was present at the first recital.

The tubular pneumatic action of the organ used more than 21,000 feet of tubing, and the instrument contained 2507 pipes and 57 draw stops. Unfortunately, the acoustics in the chancel was reported to be very bad.

Towards the end of 1913 the 'advertiser' praised the great improvement in the music at Christ Church where there had been a succession of exceptionally able organists.



During 1980 the fine organ dating from 1908 (72 years old) was completely rebuilt by John T. Jackson of Yeadon, the console being repositioned. It is reported that 'the rebuild saw addition of Positive style mutations to Choir and enhancement of pedal as well as providing a new detached console'. The screen which had enclosed its West side was removed thereby opening up a pleasing view of the Lady Chapel from the north side of the nave.

In 2002, following many discussions involving numerous organ builders, a 'report on the organ' was written by Ian Bell; 'a professional adviser on organ building matters'. He produced a number of options ranging from simple overhaul (£100k) to a new, smaller organ at £300k. There appeared to be a period of 'non decision' until 2006 when Peter Wood & Sons of Harrogate (Organ builders founded 1866) were awarded a £25k contract, including a £4000 grant, for a simple overhaul.

Apart from minor work in 2011 by Peter Wood I have not found any information relating to the organ after this time. However, I understand work on the organ since 2011 has been restricted to regular maintenance by Peter Wood and Son (Mark).

It appears we still have the original rebuilt organ of 1980 (now 46 years old). AI indicates that a newly commissioned custom pipe organ with **2,507 pipes and 57 draw stops** (Christ Church specification) will cost between **£600,000 and £1.2 million**. (Mark Wood estimates £700,000).

But do not despair.... Mark tells me that 'Organs' are extremely resilient and there is at least another 40 years life in the Christ Church organ and 'could go on forever'.

Our first organ lasted 76 years and our second organ lasted 72 years. Furthermore...

The oldest complete surviving church organ in the UK is that by Renatus Harris in St Botolph's Aldgate, and dates from 1744 (280 years old). The oldest fully functional organ in the Netherlands is that by Jan van Coven in Laurenskerk of Alkmaar. It is a choir organ dating from 1511 (515 years old).

..... still some way to go at Christ Church!

We are, indeed, blessed to have such a wonderful organ at Christ Church regularly serviced by a local, internationally experienced organ builder. Continue to enjoy the beautiful sounds from our organ produced by our amazing organist David Darling accompanied by our magnificent choir.

Final additional comment from the Director of Music, David Darling... I would like to add that Christ Church has been fortunate to have had a number of very fine musicians connected to the church over the years, none more so than Ernest Farrar (composer and pupil of Charles Villiers Stanford) and his more famous pupil Gerald Finzi, one of our greatest 20th century British composers, both of whom I like to think must have thoroughly enjoyed playing the new organ in the first couple of decades of last century.

Appendix 1...A recent BBC review of Church Organs revealed...there were 40,000 organs in Britain in 1915...now, there are about 15,000 organs in total. Only half of those are playable and only half of them (3750) are in regular use. All the others are silent for one reason or another. "If this trend continues by 2070, Britain will have no pipe organs left, outside cathedrals, Oxbridge colleges, a few concert halls and some well-supported churches.

Appendix 2...Mark Wood, who services and builds organs worldwide, believes a big threat to the future of Church organs is a skill shortage. When he joined the family business in 1956 the company had 22 employees; currently there are 2 supported by independent tradesmen. Previously there were over 50 organ builders in the UK; now 29. It is proving extremely difficult to recruit and afford apprenticeships.

References...

1. A History of Christ Church, High Harrogate...Kenneth John Brock
2. 'The Organ' file, Christ Church
3. Mark Wood of Peter Wood and Son, organ builder.
4. National Pipe Organ Register (NPOR)
5. BBC

FROM THE VICARAGE - - WORDS : GRACE, ABSOLUTION, CONFESSION, SCRIPTURE, BAPTISM, FORGIVENESS, CHALICE, PATEN, FAITH, BLESSING, TRINITY, IESOUS, CHRISTOS, THEOS, SAVIOUR, WISDOM, HOLY, RUTH, MARY, ANGEL, EUODIA, PRISCILLA, JAMES, SAUL, PAUL, JOSEPH, MATTHEW, MARK, LUKE, JOHN, STEPHEN, SEEK, ASK, KNOCK, FIND, LAMENT, PRAISE, SING, EQUIP, INSPIRE, WAIT, CALL, CRY, PRAYER, SACRAMENT, WORSHIP, GATHERING, SENDING, HOPE, LOVE, JOY, PEACE, PATIENCE, KINDNESS, GOODNESS, FAITHFULNESS, GENTLENESS, SELFCONTROL, RISE(N), FRUITOFTHESPIRIT

The 100 Club Draw

Ongoing

Each number will cost £5 per month. People may pay for as many months in advance as they wish. The number(s) can be paid for in cash, bank transfer or by standing order. Contact Norman for details.

The next draw will take place on Sunday 4th October
(November's draw will be on Sunday 1st November)

September's Winning Numbers are:

**AND THE
WINNERS ARE ...**



1st Prize £80.00 number 2
2nd Prize £50.00 number 11
3rd Prize £30.00 number 44
Bonus Prize £30.00 number 80

Since June 2019, £13675 has been paid out in prizes;
£15200 has been transferred into church funds.

There are still plenty of numbers left should anyone else like one, (or more!!) Please contact Norman for more information or to register.

The more numbers, the higher the prizes.

email - normanlpotter@btinternet.com
'phone 01423 819374 or 0783 3364 336

**REMEMBER...YOU'VE GOT TO
BE IN IT TO WIN IT!**

C-O-N-N-E-C-T

Wednesday

**Do you want to get out and about for a change
of scenery and to meet friends
and new people?**



**Why not join us this month for a
special trip away from the Parish Centre at**

Horticap, Otley Road

**for a cuppa and a catch up on
Wednesday 14th October at 1.30pm!**

Please note:

*We will return to the Parish Centre
for our November meeting on 11th November at 1.30pm*

**Contact Mollie Woolliscroft or
the Parish Office for details.**

Please contact the Parish Office for more information

Tel: 01423 530750 or

Email: info@christchurchharrogate.org.uk



***VOLUNTEERING
OPPORTUNITY AT CHRIST
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Sunday Morning Refreshments

Help is required for the 10.00am Sunday Services on the **4th** Sunday of each month. Please contact Christine Lofthouse or the Parish Office for details.

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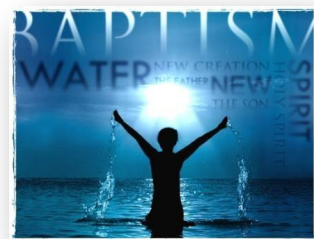
From the SEPTEMBER Registers

Holy Baptisms :

Sunday 6th September at 11.30am

Rupert George Stuart SWEENEY

Rory Finn ABBOTT



.....

Weddings in church :

There were no weddings this month



.....

Funeral Services at Stonefall Crematorium :

There were no services at Stonefall this month

.....

Funeral Services in church :

There were no funeral services in church this month

.....

Burials of Ashes (Christ Church):

Thursday 10th September

Geoffrey PARKER





CHRIST CHURCH PARISH CENTRE

Christ Church, Church Square, Harrogate, HG1 4SW



What3Words: [talked.bowls.doors](https://www.what3words.com/talked.bowls.doors)

An ideal venue for:

- family gatherings
- children's parties
- exercise classes
- group meetings
- rehearsal/practice space

Various spaces available along with a fully equipped kitchen and full disabled access.

Please call the Parish Office on 01423 530750 for details

Email: info@christchurchharrogate.org.uk

Website: [christchurchharrogate.org.uk](https://www.christchurchharrogate.org.uk)

What's on in the Parish Centre?

If you would like to know more about hiring one of the Parish Centre Rooms or joining any of the groups shown below, please call into the Parish Office, ring 01423 530750 or send a message to info@christchurchharrogate.org.uk

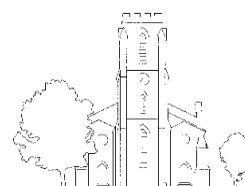
Mondays:

- 10.00 – 12.00 'Joined by a Thread' Creative Sewing Group (once or twice a month)
- 13.15 – 14.45 Singing for the Brain (Alzheimer's Society) (weekly)
- 18.15 – 21.15 NADFAS (3rd Monday of each month except August and December)
- 19.00 – 21.00 Art with Jonothan Potter
- 19.00 – 22.00 RSPB (Harrogate) (2nd Monday of each month September – April)

Tuesdays:

- 09.30 – 10.45 Keep Fit (weekly)
- 10.00 – 12.00 Literature Classes with Robert Hemmings (10 wk courses)
- 13.00 – 15.00 Dementia Forward Wellbeing Café (weekly)
- 13.00 – 15.00 Dementia Forward Carers Support (monthly)
- 13.00 – 15.00 Dementia Forward Voices (quarterly)
- 19.00 – 21.00 Guides (weekly term-time)

Christ Church



Wednesdays:

- 09.30 – 09.50 Intercessory Prayer
- 10.00 – 10.45 Holy Communion Service in the main hall
- 12.15 – 14.00 Lunchtime Recital with light lunch (1st Wednesday of the month)
- 11.30 – 14.00 Meet & Eat Social Gathering (3rd Wednesday of the month)
- 13.30 – 15.00 Connect Wednesday (2nd Wednesday of the month)
- 19.00 – 22.00 Harrogate Choral Society (weekly)

Thursdays:

- 09.15 – 10.15 Mojo Fitness (Pilates) with Marion Oakley
- 11.00 – 12.30 Dementia Forward Singing for Fun Group (weekly)
- 13.00 – 15.00 Art Class with Jonothan Potter
- 14.00 – 16.00 Harrogate Parkinson's Society (3rd Thursday)

Fridays:

- 09.30 – 10.00 Songbirds Singing Classes for pre-school children (weekly term-time)
- 09.30 – 10.45 Keep Fit (weekly)

Saturdays: