



**Welcome
to
Christ
Church
Heworth**



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Heworth Christ Church

Mission Statement

At Christ Church our hope is to see the Kingdom of God grow in our communities through Worship, Prayer, Lifestyle and Outreach.

Welcome to Christ Church

We are based on the outskirts of the beautiful medieval city of York and have just celebrated 60 years since the church was dedicated on 20 March 1964; it became a parish in its own right on 19 March 1999.

WE ARE

- An Evangelical Church, rooted in the Scriptures.
- Led by the Holy Spirit.
- A generous church who tithes church funds for charity, with a heart for mission and discipleship.
- A welcoming and caring church family.

WE WANT TO

- See God's love spread into our community.
- Grow in maturity and understanding of the word.
- Apply all we learn to our daily lives.
- Live Christ's story in this place.
- Use our gifts and talents to glorify God.
- Develop our prayer and Spirit-led lives here.
- Know God's vision for Christ Church and follow it.



WE ALSO WANT TO

- See more young people and families worshipping here.
- Be a beacon of light and hope to all around us.
- Build and bind closer relationships with those who utilise our buildings, so we are more of a Hub for the community.
- Build closer links with the other local churches, denominations and local school.



- **WE HAVE**

- A faithful core of worshippers.
- A modern building in a lovely setting, incorporating a church, hall, kitchen, teaching rooms, hut, car parking and grounds which are accessible to all.
- Been sited near a primary school and within a neighbourhood of many homes.
- Various church outreach activities including ones specifically for Babies and Toddlers, Senior Citizens and a Coffee Shop.
- Church groups which meet during the week to study the word and support each other.
- Groups hiring and/using our facilities most days.

WHAT OUR CHURCH FAMILY THOUGHT WERE



PEOPLE

A gifted and talented group of people who regularly worship together and use their gifts and talents to lead or help run groups which meet within our building from Babies and Toddlers to Senior Friends and from our Monday Coffee Shop to a Fellowship group.

They are keen to learn more about God's word through Sunday teaching and preaching to joining weekly Home Groups to study God's word. They come together weekly and help with reading and prayers in the service and by providing teas and coffees for all.

BUILDING

We are blessed with a modern building in a lovely setting back from the main road with car parking which is accessible to all. We have an attached kitchen and hall, together with teaching rooms and also have a Hut in the grounds.

We have good internet access in all the areas and have a PA and projector in the main church which enhances the church services by projecting all that is needed through the service and can be seen by all.

WELCOMING

The warmth of the welcome that everyone receives who comes to join us whether as a visitor, an explorer or who are new to the area has always been commented on. This is whether they come to our church services on a Sunday or whether they join us for one of the regular church groups we run or to the annual events like Carols on the Lawn

All look forward to meeting new people and ensuring that they are made to feel welcome.

CARING/PASTORAL

There is a Pastoral team who look to care for all within our church family, our groups and our church but also reach out into the community through the groups that meet regularly.

This ranges from lifts to church, Doctors etc., to visiting the sick or lonely, from Holy Communion at home to hospital visiting, from meals provided following an illness or after the birth of a child to visiting those in need of prayer.

Those involved with Home Groups also seek to look after those within their groups to ensure that needs are met spiritually, physically or mentally.

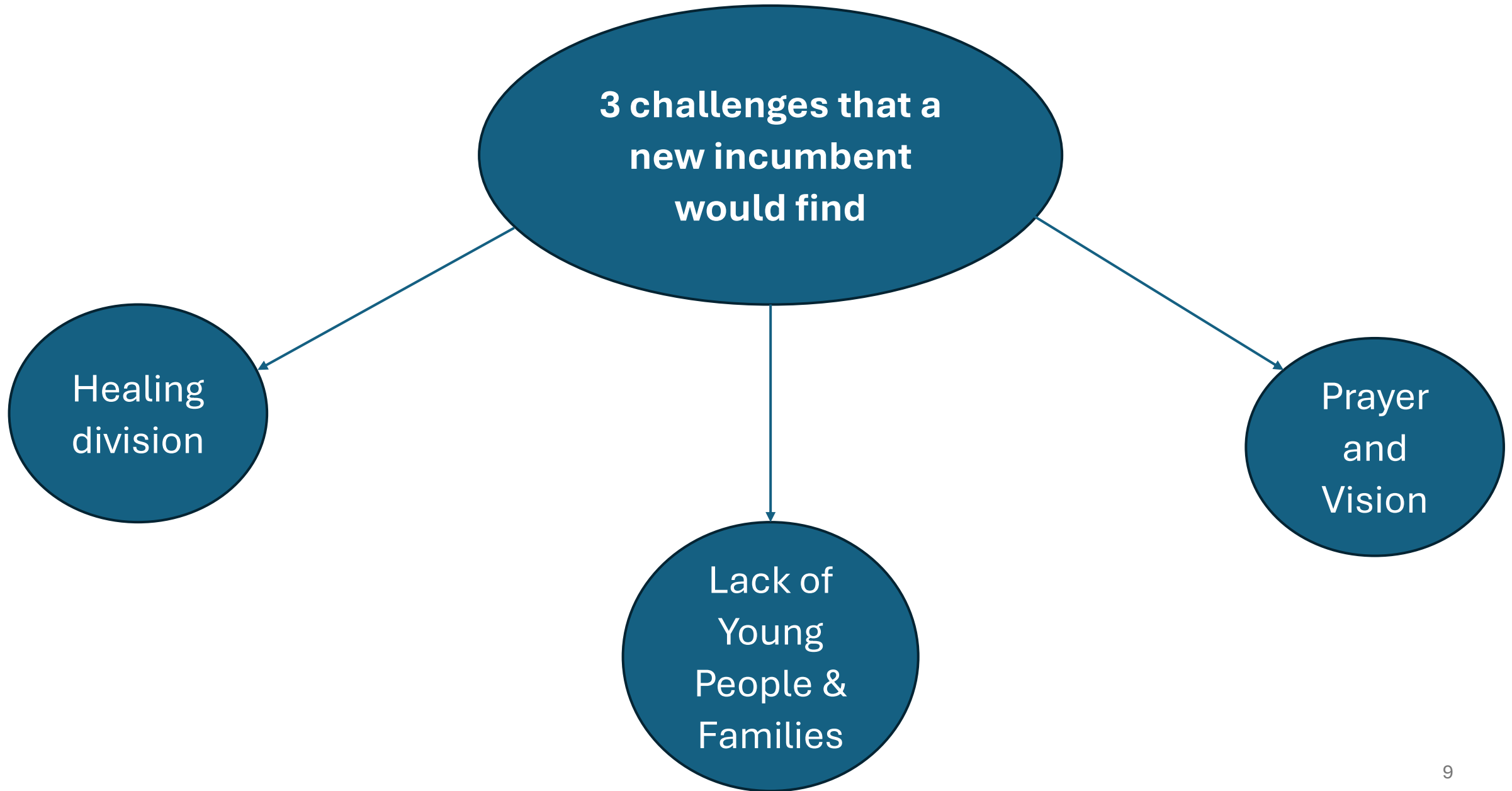
HUB FOR THE COMMUNITY

Our church buildings are used most weekdays and evenings by a number of different groups. The groups cover all ages, many of whom would never come to the church, and we seek to deepen relationships with these groups and their membership.

An example of the groups for younger people would be the Playgroup and our uniformed organisations and for other ages would be the Slimming Groups and the Gardening Group. All these are hirers or users of our facilities but there are many more.

As a church we welcome people to the things that we put on e.g. the Babies and Toddlers group and the Senior Friends group to the Tuesday Fellowship group and to the Coffee Shop.

Our facilities are well maintained and well used and accessible to everyone in order that all feel welcome whatever they come to join in with.



HEALING DIVISION

We recognise that we have been through a time of division and disunity which resulted in some members leaving our church family and we feel that we want to reflect, repent and reconcile as a family.

We know that there is always learning that comes from any period of difficulty and that if we trust in God and are willing to learn, then we can build and bind together to be one body in Christ in this place once again.

Are you the person to help us?

PRAYER AND VISION

The corporate prayer life of Christ Church has been felt to be a weakness. We would like to see this change, with a stronger emphasis on the many and varied forms that prayer takes and the learning that can result in understanding and experiencing prayer in other ways.

We are keen to know God's vision for us as a community, to be doing His will in this place and joining in what He is already doing. We are sure that this will be revealed by the Holy Spirit through prayers and a closer walk with God.

Is this an area you are keen to explore with us?

LACK OF YOUNG PEOPLE AND FAMILIES

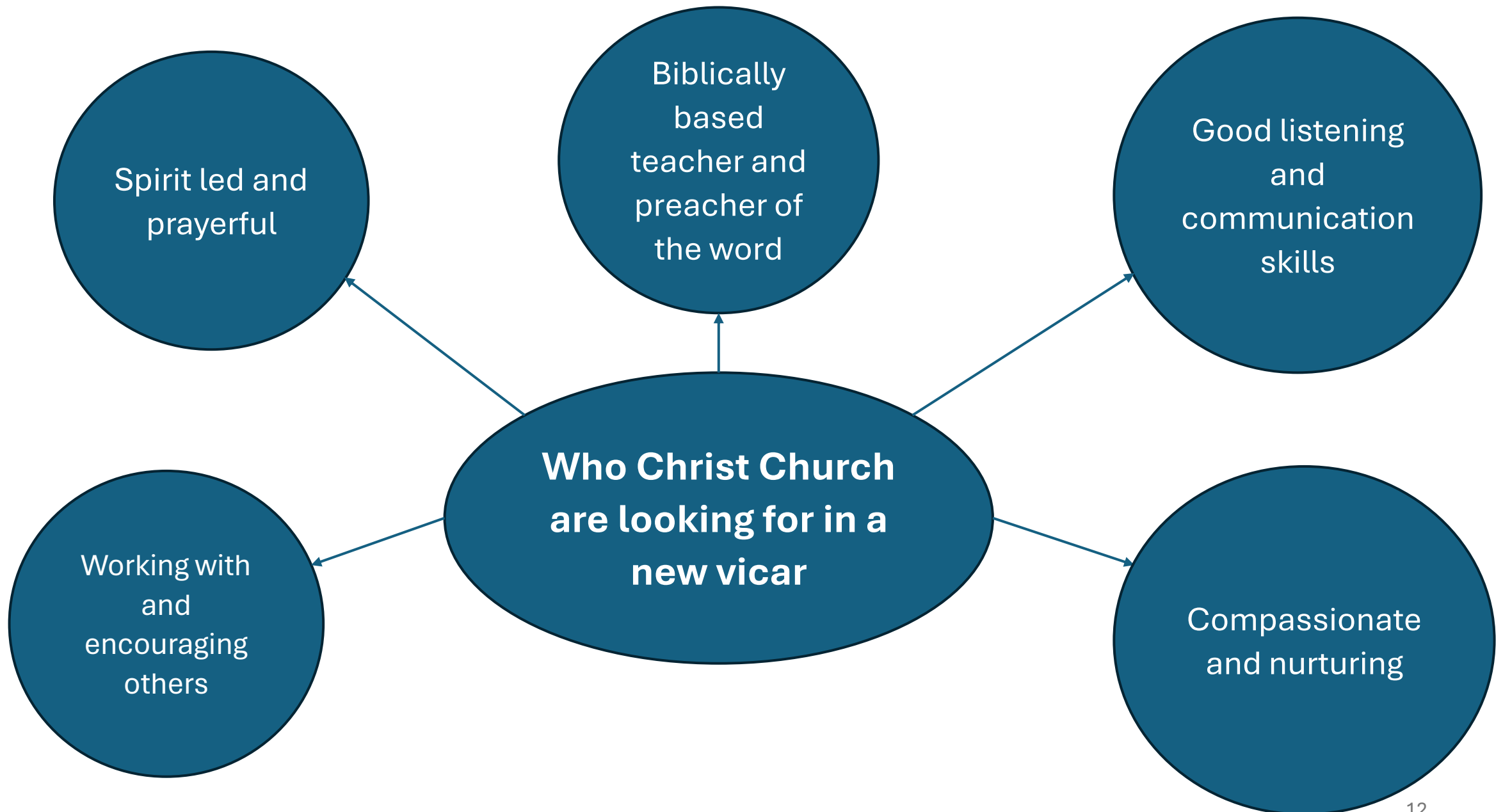
We are an ageing congregation, whose children have mostly grown and moved away, and we would love to see new families and young people joining us.

There are opportunities with the local primary school which is based in our Parish, the Playgroup and Uniformed Organisations that meet on our premises as well as the work that is undertaken by the Babies and Toddlers church run group and the families that come to the Coffee Shop.

We know that the children and young people are the future for Christ Church, and we would love to see and hear more of them as part of the church family.

We understand that church competes with the various sporting things that happen at weekends and that there are many other things that are attractive for young people these days, but we are keen to work to ensure that God's love is poured out to them so that they become part of the Christ Church family.

Do you love young people and families like we do and want to see God's love shared and our church family grow?



SPIRIT LED AND PRAYERFUL

A person who is reliant on God, whose life is prayer based, who is sensitive to the leading and direction of the Holy Spirit. We are keen to know and follow God's vision for this place and pray that the person who is appointed will lead, convey the vision and guide us in prayer, by the Spirit.

BIBLICALLY BASED PREACHER AND TEACHER OF THE WORD

A bible-based teacher, led by the Spirit, to inspire and challenge us via preaching that is alive. This may be through Sunday worship, individual conversations or small groups but is always scripture based and challenges and uplifts the congregation and helps them grow in discipleship. A visionary unafraid to be obedient to God's direction and willing to help us to grow at every stage of our Christian journey.

COMPASSIONATE AND NURTURING

A servant-hearted and approachable person who recognises the importance of caring and nurtures the gifts and talents of all God's people at Christ Church and in so doing, with prayer and love, can reconcile and heal the congregation.

GOOD LISTENING AND COMMUNICATION SKILLS

An active listener, with discernment, who shows respect, empathy and friendship to all. Who can make balanced decisions, having listened, and who is willing to utilise all forms of communication, written and verbal, to ensure that everyone has heard the message. Someone aware of the many forms of communication and wanting to ensure effective communication to all, whatever age or situation.

WORKING WITH AND ENCOURAGING OTHERS

Someone who builds us up and can recognise and develop the gifts and talents of everyone within our congregation for the benefit of the church and to be used to further God's kingdom in this place. Someone keen to encourage every person's spiritual and emotional growth. A person who desires to work with other churches, denominations and the community to share God's love and bring people to know the Lord.



- **INFORMATION ABOUT THE CHURCH**

- **Officers in the church**

- We have one Church Warden, but are hopeful of another at our APCM, 3 Assistant Church Wardens, 2 Deanery Synod Representatives, Parish Safeguarding Officer, Treasurer, PCC Secretary, Electoral Roll Officer and 3 Sidespersons.

- **Electoral Roll**

- There are 90 parishioners on the Church Electoral Roll.

- **Church Attendance**

- All 12 months of 2022 = 57 people attended per service.

- All 12 months of 2023 = 48 people attended per service.

- The last 6 months, Aug. 2023 to Jan. 2024= 53 people attended per service.



Weekly Services

Services held at 10am unless otherwise mentioned:

Week 1	Week 2	Week 3	Week 4	Week 5
HC	AA	HC	MW	HC
IC (6pm)				

HC – Holy Communion

AA – All Age

MW – Morning Worship

IC – Informal Communion

- Services are fairly relaxed, and Christ Church would best be described as a low church parish. Simple robes (cassock-alb and stole, or cassock, surplice and stole/preaching scarf) are often worn for Holy Communion but not for All Age Worship or Morning Worship.



- **Seasonal Services**

- We hold special seasonal services throughout the churches calendar including:

- Mothering Sunday
- Services for Lent
- Holy Week and Easter
- Harvest Festival
- Remembrance Service
- Memorial Service (for those who have lost a loved one)
- Christmas Services including Carols on the Lawn, Lessons and Carols, Christingle and Midnight Communion

Preaching Team

- The incumbent is supported by:
 - Local Lay Minister (Reader)
 - 1 Retired Priest (PTO)

Musicians

- We are short of musicians and/or someone to lead our sung worship, which results in us sometimes using digital media for our music. This is an area to be developed/revived.

Home Groups

- We have a number of active Small Groups who meet, mainly weekly, in one another's homes, to study the bible, pray, support each other and reach out to others.

Pastoral Care

- There is a pastoral care team providing everything from Home Communion to lifts to church and appointments, from visiting the sick to providing meals, from hospital visiting to prayer ministry.

• Outreach

• Outreach is an important part of the church's life and is achieved by:

- **Coffee Shop** – Run within the church itself - Monday weekly from 10-4, only closing 3 weeks at Christmas, Easter and all August. The church is open for the community for a warm welcome, Coffee, Cake and a friendly ear/prayer if required. This now has an average weekly attendance of 125+, the most ever 142.
- **Babies and Toddlers** meets weekly on a Monday and is open to anyone with babies or toddlers (0-4 years) in our area and beyond.
 - We offer a large, safe and friendly space with a variety of toys and activities.
 - We offer the opportunity for everyone to chat and make new friends.
 - The leaders offer the opportunity to listen to and pray with anyone in need.
 - **Tuesday Fellowship** is a group who meet fortnightly in the church lounge on a Tuesday between 10.00 and 11.30. We study the bible together and occasionally invite guest speakers. We celebrate Holy Communion termly. We hold occasional social activities such as quizzes.
- **Senior Friends** is a group of approximately 40 men & women, primarily of pension age, meeting weekly/fortnightly on Thursdays during school term times.
 - We enjoy a cuppa & cake together and between November & Easter we begin with a soup lunch. We have a quarterly programme of varied speakers and the occasional planned outing.



Church Buildings

- Christ Church, Heworth, is a very refined C20 modernist church designed by Michael Mennim with a diverse range of flexible facilities that are available in the large church building, conjoined church hall and outdoor grounds.
- Originally a sister church to Holy Trinity in Heworth, Christ Church became a parish in its own right in 1999.

Building Maintenance

- We have all the usual “cost and repair issues” that occur when maintaining our church buildings. However, we do hire out our church facilities with income from the hiring going some way towards paying for such repairs and our utility bills.



Some of the challenges emerging from our recent Quinquennial inspection, 22 June 2023.

Re-Roofing the Church.

- The concrete roof tiles are reaching the end of their lifespan. They are increasingly thin and fragile. This is the biggest upcoming essential and unavoidable work, so needs to be planned for.

Stained Glass

- A specialist stained glass condition report is needed and its recommendations to be followed.

Concrete

- The C20 construction methods provide different challenges to traditional construction. One of these is with the concrete panels which in places are cracking which may be due to rusting reinforcement bars within. Specialist repairs of these could slow further decay.

Re-decoration

- The need for some re-decoration of the building both internal and external was identified and is required.

Eco Church

- Having initiated Eco Church, Christ Church is looking to develop further its 'sustainability and green efforts' both inside our buildings as well as the church yard and grounds as indicated in the recent quinquennial report.



Finance

The details shown are taken from the Annual Audited Accounts from 31 December of the year quoted. The totals of both Receipts and Payments will also include Restricted or Designated funds which are only shown in the totals. Please also know that we tithe 10% of our annual voluntary income and also have investments at an original cost of £10,361 which generate an income and were valued at £18,649.37 on 31 December 2023.

There was an overseas volunteer who has returned to the UK in 2022 so the figures have been altered to remove the voluntary payments and tax received for this, but the E/D has these figures included.

Year	2021	2022	2023
Receipts			
VD	59559.98	40023.67	46033.26
CH	10550.37	10268.60	18931.23
TR	75051.22	64830.06	75942.74
Payments			
FWO	46500.00	46500.00	30000.04
OO	40882.25	20422.37	22094.69
TP	91687.25	84836.48	63685.65
E/D	-16138.43	-22267.38	12257.09

VD – Voluntary Donations, including Gift Aid

CH – Church Hire

TR – Total Receipts (other items not listed above excluding overseas volunteer)

FWO – Freewill Offering

OO – Other Outgoings

TP – Total Payments (other items not listed above excluding overseas volunteer)

E/D – Excess/Deficit at year end (including losses and gains from investments excludes overseas volunteer payments)

An aerial photograph of York, England, showing the York Minster in the center. The cathedral is a large, light-colored stone building with a prominent square tower. It is surrounded by a dense residential area with many houses having red-tiled roofs. A road curves around the right side of the cathedral. The background shows more of the city and some green spaces.

- **INFORMATION ABOUT THE PARISH AND SURROUNDING AREA**

- **Christ Church Parish**

- Heworth Christ Church parish is situated to the north-east of York about 2 miles from York Minster.
- The parish population of approximately 3,830 is primarily a mixture of retired and middle-aged households and families with young children; with 4.1% from a black and minority ethnic community group.
- In the region of 90% of residents are owner-occupiers, 9% are private renters and 1% are social tenants. There are no Council Houses in this ward.
- Several farms occupy land within the parish.



Religion

- In the region of 52.7% of parish residents identify as Christians.
- There are no other places of worship within our Parish but nearby are:
 - York Community Church
 - Heworth Methodist Church
 - St Aelred's Roman Catholic Church
- We have recently joined Churches Together in the East of York.





Community

- Stockton Lane Playgroup is based within Christ Church and utilizes our church hall and related facilities, as do uniformed organisations and other groups such as Slimming World.
- The premises have occasionally been used by the Diocese of York as a training centre.
- A real opportunity exists to develop and grow relationships between Christ Church, School, and Playgroup.

- **Schools**

- Within our Parish we have
 - Hempland Primary School
- In close vicinity to us we have
 - Heworth Church of England Primary School,
 - Archbishop Holgate's Secondary School
 - Applefields School, a secondary school for young people with additional needs





- **Shops and facilities locally**

- In the Parish there is an

- Spar
- Estate Agent
- Hairdresser
- Community Centre
- Cricket and Rugby Club

- Allotments

- Children's Play Area

- In Heworth Village many local shops and businesses including a fish & chip shop, chemist, post office, coffee shop and public houses are situated within easy walking distance.

- **Transport**

- A regular and reliable bus service exists throughout the day from outside Christ Church into York city centre or eastwards towards Malton and the coast. London is less than 2 hours away by rail.

For further demographic information please see the details charts below:

York Summary

- York has 211,012 residents with 7.3% from a black and minority ethnic community group.
- 83.6% are in good health, with 17.1% stating that they have some limitation in day-to-day activities.
- 65% own their own home, either outright or with a mortgage, 20% are private renters and 14% are social tenants. There are 7,394 Council Houses in York.
- 79.3% of residents have a Level 1 - 4 qualification, of which 71.9% are, at least, qualified to Level 2, but 13.3% have no qualifications at all.
- 11.5% of children are living in low-income families and there are 13.5% of households in fuel poverty.
- 1.7% of the working population (aged 16-64) claim out of work benefits (either Job Seekers Allowance or Universal Credit)

Ward Summary

- Heworth Without has 3,828 residents with 4.1% from a black and minority ethnic community group. 83.2% are in good health, with 15.8% stating that they have some limitation in day-to-day activities.
- 90% own their own home, either outright or with a mortgage, 9% are private renters and 1% are social tenants. There are no Council Houses in this ward.
- 75.0% of residents have a Level 1 - 4 qualification, of which 67.2% are, at least, qualified to Level 2, but 15.1% have no qualifications at all.
- 5.5% of children are living in low-income families and there are 12.6% of households in fuel poverty.
- 1.5% of the working population (aged 16-64) claim out of work benefits (either Job Seekers Allowance or Universal Credit)