



Parish Profile for the Benefice of  
Christ Church, Coalville  
St Peter's, Bardon Hill  
St Michael's, Ravenstone



*“Sowing Good Seed In The National Forest”*

# Welcome



Welcome to our Benefice Profile, which aims to set out our Vision and our Ministry within the parishes of Christ Church Coalville, St Peter's Bardon Hill, and St Michael's Ravenstone.

We hope to convey an overall impression of the life of our three churches, our family members, services, social activities and organisations.

Our three churches are, for the most part, traditionally Anglican but with Evangelical leanings.

In the following pages you will find more detail about our churches and other aspects of our life as Christians in the Benefice.

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# 1. Where are we?

Our benefice is situated in the Diocese of Leicester.

- Founded in 1926, Leicester is one of the youngest dioceses in England. The present Bishop, the Rt Revd Martyn Snow, was welcomed in May 2016.
- The diocese of Leicester has a strong mission vision called “Shaped by God” full details of which can be found at [www.leicester.anglican.org/shaped-by-god/](http://www.leicester.anglican.org/shaped-by-god/)

Shaped by God began a process of organising our resources for mission, continued in deanery 2020 vision plans for the deployment of ministerial resources in the light of projected Sheffield figures. A culture of mutual responsibility is growing between “central” leadership and the parishes, expressed in this devolved planning process and in a financial system based on gift rather than demand. We are encouraged that between 2009 and 2013 the Diocese of Leicester grew by just over 9% (using the Church Commissioners preferred measure of Adult Average Weekly Attendance and Child Usual Sunday Attendance). The support for clergy and parishes is taken seriously and we have one of the leading departments of mission and ministry which has received national recognition. There is a vision to encourage fresh expressions of Church with the goal that by 2030 they will balance the number of inherited churches.

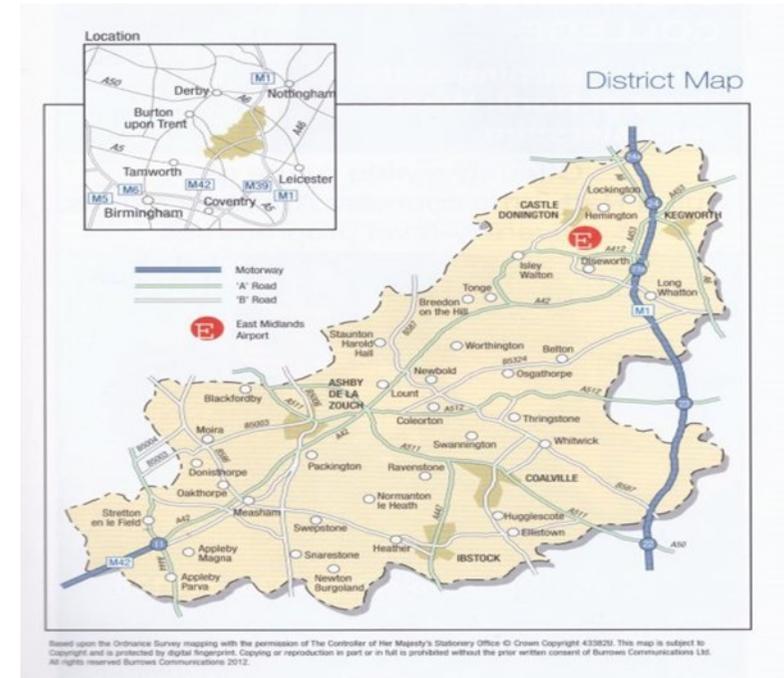
- There is a £5million Growth Fund for local church initiatives
- The Diocese was involved in setting up the ecumenical and internationally-acclaimed St Philip’s Centre for engagement in a multi-faith society
- Launde Abbey, the Retreat House shared by the Dioceses of Leicester and Peterborough, is one of the finest in the country. There are plans for a new monastic community in Leicester linked to Launde, comprising an international community of young adults

Learn more about the Diocese of Leicester at the website: [www.leicester.anglican.org](http://www.leicester.anglican.org)

**Our Benefice** is in the district of North West Leicestershire about 11 miles from the centre of Leicester and within the National Forest.

The area is well served by major road and rail links, with airports at East Midlands and Birmingham within easy reach. The benefice falls within the deanery of North West Leicestershire. Within the overall vision and strategy of the Diocese of Leicester, the deanery has a 2020 vision plan, some aspects of which have been worked out while others remain a work in progress. In recent months, the deanery has been focusing on the outworking of the Church of England headline “A Christian Presence in every community”. Deanery synod is well attended as topics on the agenda are seen as interesting; it functions well. There is a friendly, happy and supportive chapter with a good regular committed attendance at both chapter meetings and socials. It functions well and the clergy of the deanery see North West Leicestershire as a rewarding place to work.

The benefice is also part of the Sence Valley Mission partnership, named after the River Sence which runs through this area of Leicestershire, and is formed between three benefices. The partnership covers an area in the centre and on the south side of Coalville and includes the villages of Ravenstone, Bardon, Hugglescote, Donington, Snibston, Ibstock and Heather. Mission partnerships are an important aspect of the mission strategy of the Diocese of Leicester. They work to facilitate mission across an area and are focused on sharing resources and opportunities. Recently there has been a focus on the working of messy church, our mission to baptism families, and a course on prayer. Another key aspect of the partnership is building relationships between the churches and providing support for one another, in particular the clergy. In addition there is an active “Churches Together” in Coalville which meets monthly for prayer, fellowship and to discuss joint outreach ventures e.g the Coalville “Picnic in the Park”.



## Benefice Facts

	Pop census 2011	Elec Roll	Associated school	Facilities
<b>Christ Church Coalville</b>	5,092	89	All Saints Primary (CofE)	Shopping precinct, supermarkets Retail outlet and Ind Est. Municipal Park, with tennis courts and bowling green. Historic theatre, an assortment of pubs. The District Council Offices. Local Scout Group. Residential homes. We have a local community hospital although falling outside of the parish boundary.
<b>St Peter's Bardon Hill</b>	2,100	35	none	Sports Ground with local football and cricket team. Pubs. Large industrial estate.
<b>St Michael's Ravenstone</b>	2,200	38	Woodstone Primary school (not CofE)	Local history Group, Scout/cub group, football club, Pubs. Village shop

The three churches support each other. The wardens meet together regularly, and last year went on a wardens' away day; there is a joint meeting of PCCs twice a year and last year the PCCs went on an away day. The churches assist each other with fund-raising events. Every 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday, there is a united benefice service which rotates round the 3 churches.

## 2. Who are we? (the nitty-gritty)

### a. Our Vision

Whilst we are very grateful as a Benefice for all that the Lord has been doing in recent months, and continues to do within and through our respective churches, we are conscious that we struggle with outreach in more rural areas of the Benefice. We are however excited about what God may have in store for us as we continue this journey. It is our fervent hope and prayer that through God's grace we can work with our new incumbent to build on our strong foundations and develop new plans to further the spread of His Gospel in our parishes and wider communities.

### b. What our Benefice is looking for.

Our parishes are committed to working together within the benefice, whilst still having our own individuality as the parishes are different in their nature. In particular therefore we look for:

#### An Incumbent who is

- caring and compassionate and ready to listen, with a heart for evangelism
- rooted and grounded in the truth of the Gospel, secure and confident in their spiritual and personal life.
- will respect the work in progress but undertake and encourage outreach to the young through contact with the schools and youth groups.
- someone with a sense of humour
- passionate about working with us to take Christ out into the communities.

- someone with leadership, organisational and IT skills, willing to delegate.
- accepting that the ministry belongs to the whole church community and that we do not expect our Vicar 'to do everything', but rather to enable and encourage 'the body of Christ'. To be comfortable in working with teams of lay people within the different parishes.

#### **An incumbent who will:**

- support and develop the discipleship of the three congregations through Biblical preaching, teaching and worship such that faith impacts every area of life
- develop pastoral care across the community and support and develop our pastoral teams, and exercise pastoral care to the congregation and community
- help us to find new ways to share our faith outside the walls of the church
- build on the links with our schools and work with us to develop our youth work
- help grow the Church membership across the age ranges
- lead and further develop the prayer ethos within the three churches.

#### **c. Our Commitment to You**

- Loving, prayerful and practical support, from all three Churches, through small groups, parish activities, help with administration and the assistance of the Church wardens.
- We will recognise the challenge of ministering to the needs of three different parishes, and will offer all support to enable a good life/work balance; it is appreciated that you cannot be everywhere at once.
- Continued support with regard to the leading of regular services and worship across the benefice.

# 3. Description – who we are/what we do

## (a) Christ Church, Coalville

Coalville holds an important place in the history of Leicestershire due to the discovery of coal in the area and the coming of the railways, the railway line through the town being one of the earliest in the world. The town developed rapidly because of the mines but since their eventual closure in the 1980s Coalville has, by necessity, had to adapt and today has become an important centre of distribution. Lying as it does in the centre of the country and close to major roads and motorways, numerous companies such as Amazon have established themselves either in or on the outskirts of the town. As a result employment levels are high. One thing is certain, despite all the recent changes and the challenges they have brought, the one constant in all of this has been the friendliness of the people together with the town's community spirit.

The church was built for the mining community back in 1836 and comes with a large adjoining vicarage and church hall (formerly the church school), together with extensive grounds. We are situated on the main road which leads into the town.

During a recent quinquennial inspection no major structural problems were identified with either the church or the church hall, although the official report is still to be issued.

The grave yard is not used but is maintained by church volunteers.

### Our Services:

Traditional Holy Communion (average morning attendance 40) and Evening Prayer (average attendance 12)

Celebrate Together (average attendance 65) (informal and family friendly)

Morning Worship (average attendance 45) (more structured than above but still fairly informal)

United Benefice Services such as Holy Communion or Songs of Praise (attendance varies).

During 2016 we conducted 6 baptisms and 6 funerals.



## Activities

Fortnightly prayer group with lunch (averaging 18-20 in attendance)

Fortnightly prayer walk by 6 people

A group of 6 who pray for healing and other needs

Fortnightly gardening/maintenance group

Weekly “Coffee Stop” open to the public.

Mother’s Union

Weekly Men’s Fellowship (winter months only)

J Team (children aged 5-11 years) Weekly in term time

Sunshine Toddlers weekly.

Sunday school “Lighthouse” group

Social Committee.

Benefice Church Magazine

Communal singing at our local Morrison’s Supermarket – Christmas and Easter

Summer fete – raising monies for local charities.

**We have appropriate protection policies in place for both children and vulnerable adults.**

**Community Involvement – what we do**

**Church usage**

Civic events e.g Remembrance Service when upwards of 200 people are in attendance in church with another 80-100 attending an overflow service in the church hall.

There is a side chapel in church dedicated to prayer and prayer ministry, open to anyone

Charity concerts



## External links

All Saints School is the associated church school

Church visits, Nativity/Christingle services, Harvest Festival. Attendance at School assemblies.

Heartland Youth For Christ has its offices in the parish and has built strong links with all the senior schools in the area together with Stevenson's College. As a church we have had a long association with this organisation and give regular financial support. Historically, members of the church have been on the Board of Trustees.

Local Air Training Corps. (The incumbent has historically been the padre for the ATC)

Pre-school play-group (term time only). Christian based with weekly talks led by church member.

Coalville Guides and Brownies and senior section.

Coalville "Churches Together" (Monthly inter-denominational prayer meeting)

## Current Lay Involvement

At present we have two Church Wardens and two Deputy Wardens, our two main wardens both being very capable of leading services when called upon. We have a full rota of sides-people, readers, and prayer leaders.

We have a Worship Group for the more informal services, but sadly only one, but very talented, organist.

In addition, we have a team to conduct Home Communion visits which includes two members of St Peter's church, a team for regular pastoral visits and a nominated couple for Baptism and Marriage preparation. All these teams operate across the benefice.

One of our long standing members regularly leads our Celebrate Together and Morning Worship Services and has done for a number of years, these particular services being among our most well attended. This person is currently undertaking the visits to our affiliated school and pre-school group.

There is a team of 6 who offer prayer for healing and for other needs.

We have an active social committee who not only organise the after-service refreshments but also help run our Coffee Stop, organise our annual fete, thanksgiving lunch and any other social gatherings including "Faith Lunches".

## Church Hall Users

Local dance academies

Karate club

Exercise groups

NHS Pulmonary physiotherapy.

Co-op Retired Pensioners Association.

Playgroup

Guides, Brownies and Rangers

## Communication

Monthly Benefice magazine

Facebook

Website [www.christchurchcoalville.com](http://www.christchurchcoalville.com)

## b) St Peter's, Bardon

### Building

St Peter's Church was consecrated in 1899. The Church was built in memory of Mr and Mrs Breedon Everard of Bardon Quarry and for the quarry workers and their families. The village that was situated behind the church was demolished in 1989 to allow the quarry to expand and a new village was built the other side of the quarry, further away from the church. Bardon parish has continually been growing over the past fifteen years with lots of new housing being built.

Following a recent quinquennial inspection, no major structural problems were identified in respect of the church although the official report is still to be issued

The grave yard is open and has been extended in recent years.

### Outlining Future needs

We have a reordering project in place where we are having a toilet and servery installed, and the font moved. Pews have already been removed to make way for this project.

### Worship

Our Holy Communion service follows the Common Worship style and for hymns we use Mission Praise.

We have a member of the congregation who is readily able to lead non-Eucharistic services.

We do not have a resident organist; we sing to CDS

During 2016 we conducted 4 baptisms, 1 wedding and 7 funerals.

### Organisations

A gardening club meets every Wednesday to look after the Churchyard and also to assist with the maintenance of the Church including brass cleaning and flower arranging. The club consists mainly of retired people and is growing in popularity (especially at coffee time!). This also gives an opportunity for the Church to be open once a week for visitors to pop in for a time of prayer or for someone to talk to.



## Children's Ministry/Child Protection

We have a Child Protection policy in place, but unfortunately for the last few years not had a Sunday school. It is our intention and hope that we could start some kind of club to encourage young children to attend our Church.

## Attendance

A typical attendance at St Peter`s is 17-20 people. We have 7 members on the PCC and 35 members on the electoral roll.

## Other information

St Peter`s Church has a well known reputation for being a friendly and welcoming church.

We have many talents within the church which are all put to good use; this is clearly shown when we have our bi-annual flower festival.

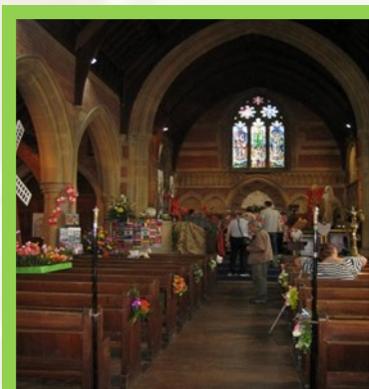
We are extremely blessed to have an ongoing friendship with Bardon Quarry who assists us in many ways.

In January 2005 we went live with a parish website which has proved successful. We have received enquiries for weddings and baptisms and the website reached its highest number of visitors during the advertising of our flower festivals. ([www.stpeterbardon.com](http://www.stpeterbardon.com))

We are known countywide as “the little church with the gorgeous Rhododendrons outside”.

The Flower Festivals have become very successful and are popular in the area.

Photos taken during 2017 Flower Festival – our theme being Countries of the World.



## **(c) St Michael's Ravenstone**

### **The Village**

The village of Ravenstone is set amidst some attractive countryside. In recent years much new development has taken place, and many existing houses have changed hands, consequently bringing together more young families, middle aged and retired people. Unfortunately, most of the young people are commuters and therefore do not spend a lot of time in the village.

We have a village shop/post office, garage, public house, primary school and village institute where lots of events take place.

### **Buildings of special interest**

Probably the two most interesting buildings in the village are the Alms Houses (now Ravenstone Court) and Ravenstone Hall.

The Alms Houses, founded by Rebecca Wilkins in 1711 and adjacent to the church, were converted into flats some years ago and now have a resident warden.

The present Ravenstone Hall, a fine Georgian country house, was built by the Fosbrooke family and is now privately owned. The present occupiers help and support the various functions within the village.

### **Village Organisations**

Organisations within the village include the Scouts, Cubs, Pre-school and toddler groups, Local History Group, the WI, Ravenstone Events Group and a football club.

### **The Church**

Of course the church is the focal point of the village. St Michael's is a beautiful, Grade two listed, sandstone church with a broach spire, believed to date back to 1323 and has been the spiritual heart of the community ever since. It has always been the policy of St Michael and All Angels church to welcome newcomers to join in the activities and, of course, a very warm welcome always awaits them in church.

Like most ancient buildings the church constantly requires remedial work and improvement, and our next project is to install a new ashes plot and re-instate the churchyard path. God willing this will be completed in the near future.

We are aware that substantial works are required following a recent quinquennial review, but we are receiving help from the Archdeacons' Project Officer.

### Church Services

Our services are varied. Messy Church meets on the first Sunday of the month. Some 14 adults and 12 children attend. These are followed with coffee – which proves to be a good way of getting to know one another.

Other services are more traditional.

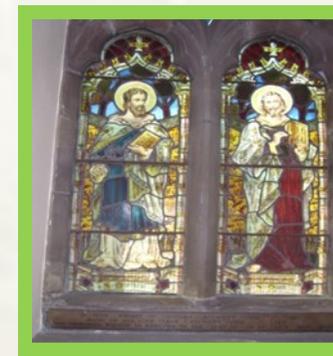
The average attendance is 12, but of course special services and celebrations are always well attended.

During 2016 we conducted 6 baptisms and 6 funerals.

### Other matters

It is worth noting that although not a C of E school, the previous incumbent was on the board of governors at the Woodstone Primary School where he led regular assemblies. He also conducted a weekly service in the Chapel at Ravenstone Court.

Our PCC and Social Committee work tirelessly to organise a varied programme of fundraising and social events throughout the year, and these are generally well supported and enjoyed. We do our best to involve the local community groups when possible but we are in desperate need of younger people to bring enthusiasm and fresh ideas.



Interior views of the church including the striking stained glass east window depicting the resurrection

## 4. Current Pattern of Services (monthly) across the Benefice

Sunday	Time	Service	Church
1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday	10:15	Celebrate Together	Christ Church
	10:15	Holy Communion	St Peter's
	11:00	Messy Church	St Michael's
	4pm	United Holy Communion	St Michael's
2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday	10:15	Holy Communion	Christ Church
	10:15	Morning Worship	St Peter's
	11:00	Morning Worship	St Michael's
	6pm	Evensong	Christ church
3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday	10:15	Morning Worship	Christ church
	10:15	Songs of Praise	St Peter's
	4pm	Evensong	St Michael's
	6pm	Holy Communion	Christ church
4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday	10:15	Holy Communion	Christ church
	10:15	Morning Worship	St Peter's
	11:00	Holy Communion	St Michael's
	6pm	Evensong	Christ church
5 <sup>th</sup> Sunday	10:15	United Holy Communion	Varies
	6pm	Evensong	Christ church

Whilst this is the current pattern of services (which arose for various historic reasons) we appreciate it may not be ideal and the PCCs are open to alteration and amendment subject to appropriate discussion.

# 5. The Vicarage



**Front Elevation**

Built around 1838, the vicarage is situated in Coalville, adjacent to Christ Church and is currently undergoing complete refurbishment.

The accommodation comprises;

- 4 bedrooms
- 2 bathrooms
- Kitchen
- Utility room
- Dining room
- Living room
- Study
- Porch, vestibule and entrance hall
- Cloakroom
- Integral garage.

To the rear there are extensive gardens



**Rear Elevation**

## 6. Further Information

### **The Parishes:**

Further information about the Parishes is available on the internet [www.achurchnearyou.com](http://www.achurchnearyou.com) (see LE67).

### **The Community:**

Census highlights on the Parish Spotlight reports available from Beth Marvin ([www.leicester.anglican.org/resourcing-your-work/parish-administration/census-data/](http://www.leicester.anglican.org/resourcing-your-work/parish-administration/census-data/)).

### **District/Parish Council websites:**

[www.nwleics.gov.uk](http://www.nwleics.gov.uk)

[www.ravenstonewithsnibstonparishcouncil.org.uk](http://www.ravenstonewithsnibstonparishcouncil.org.uk)

### **Benefice Magazine:**

Available by from [general@christchurchcoalville.com](mailto:general@christchurchcoalville.com)

We trust and pray that we have given you an insight into the life and work of our Benefice.

More information can be obtained from the website [www.christchurchcoalville.com](http://www.christchurchcoalville.com)

May God bless you as you seek his way forward for the future.