

St Anne-in-the-Grove Southowram

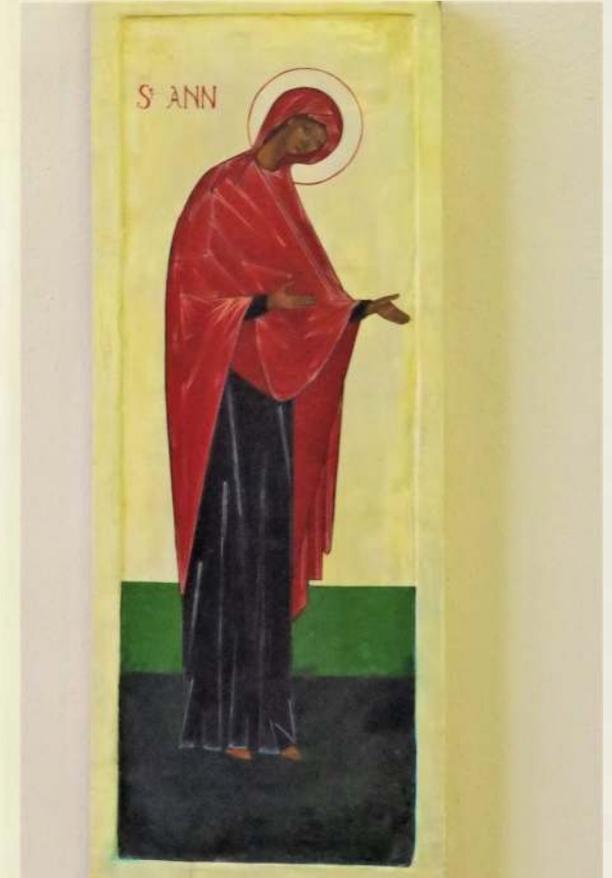
Parish Brochure

Welcome ...

“We seek a Priest who
will help us
to be the Church
in this community”

By deepening our commitment to
and understanding of Word and
Sacrament in our daily lives ...

If this is you please read on ...



Briefly...

Southowram and the adjacent community of Bank Top lie between Halifax and Brighouse in West Yorkshire. Much of the Parish is farmland with pockets of its industrial past, notably Marshalls the hard landscaping company. Access to Halifax, Brighouse and the M62 is easily achieved. St Anne's is a late Georgian Church with much-used Church Community Rooms opposite. The incumbent is to be housed in a modern Vicarage at St Paul's King Cross in Halifax.

We are a welcoming, friendly and gregarious church seeking someone to love us and lead us onwards from where we are on our faith journey.



Our view

As God shares his Love with us through the Sacrament of the Eucharist we look to share that Love through us as a worshipping community founded on our sacramental tradition, His Word and our prayers.

Build our journey by

Deepening our life of faith and our love of God;

Continuing to build our communal life through sacrament, word and prayer;

Serving the community in which we are set;

Confidence to know what we believe and the courage to share it;

Strengthening our links with the Village School and Young People;

Open to change and a readiness to be led by God in fresh directions;

What we need [the big ask!]

We appreciate that this is a part-time post with St Paul's King Cross in Halifax. Nevertheless we are looking for a Priest to who will sometimes walk in front as guide; always at our side as companion; occasionally behind us to give a push.

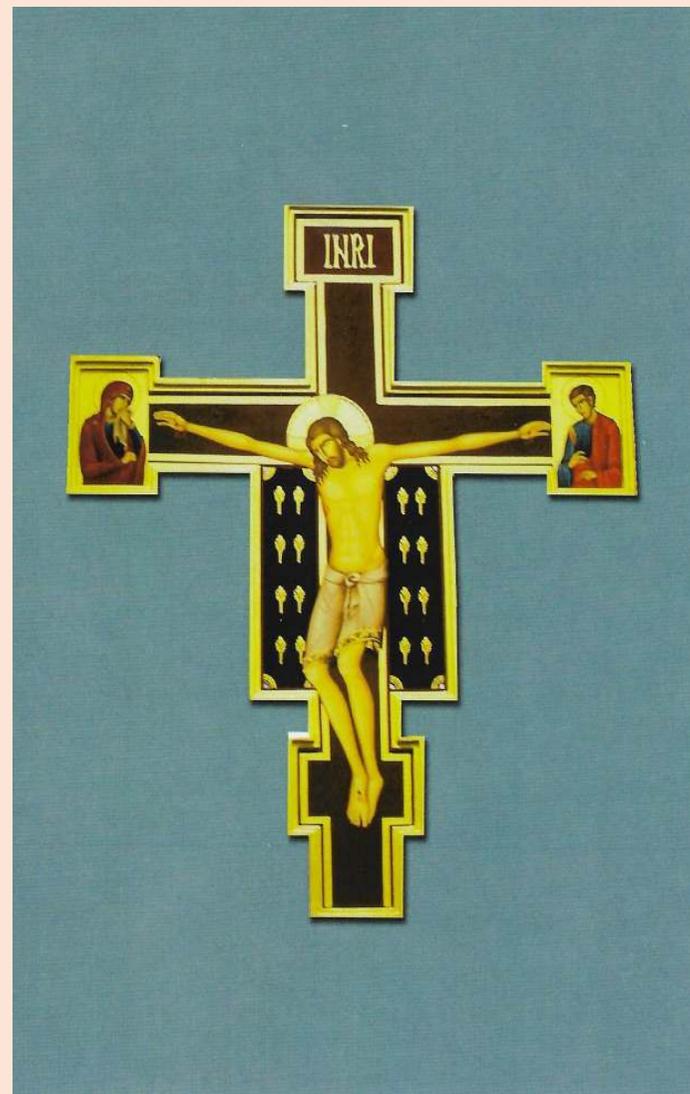
Support us in developing our faith through Sacrament and Word; lead and encourage Pilgrimages to the Shrine at Walsingham; encourage, train and support Ordinands from the Community of the Resurrection at Mirfield; support and encourage our musical tradition.

Help us build on our worshipping tradition in a way that is inclusive of believers and non-believers;

Sensitive to our strengths and weaknesses; to those of other Christian traditions; to those of other faiths;

Relate to the communities of Southowram and Bank Top;

Generous in spirit, friendly, forgiving of our idiosyncrasies; approachable; a good sense of humour; tenor or bass would be a bonus.



IKON SUSPENDED ABOVE THE NAVE ALTAR IN
ST ANNE'S

Our
Offer
To
You

We are a welcoming and friendly church supported by our Reader and PCC of 10. Our Parish Share is up-to-date.

We offer you our support in this part-time post and have a nucleus of those who are willing to do this either prayerfully or practically or both.

We will **PRAY** for you and **WITH** you;

LAUGH and **CRY** with you;

EXPERIMENT and **INNOVATE** with you;



Who we are - strengths

Our Sunday morning Eucharist [Sung Parish Mass] is the focal point for many. Supported by our choir [mostly 4 parts], Reader, lectors, intercessors and servers. Baptisms either during the Mass or later in the day. Morning Prayer is said beforehand and Evening Prayer at 6.30pm.

Wednesday evening is a said Mass at 7pm preceded by Evening Prayer. Friday Mass is said at 12.00.

A memorial service is held around All Souls-tide for bereaved families who may light a candle or bring flowers; nine lessons & carols has village representatives reading for us; a popular Christingle service plus others. We have occasional talks on either a religious painting or a piece of music. We have hosted concerts of live music.

The organ has recently been completely upgraded.

We are the last place of public worship in the community so there is a responsibility to being open to other Christian traditions in our village. There is excellent interaction between members of all traditions.

We have a very good relationship with our local Primary School [Withinfields] which is responsive to our approaches. The school visits the church to learn about the Christian tradition and holds its annual carol service in church. We are working with them to develop a 'walking nativity' through the village in December. The school is a feeder for Brighouse High School.

We have responded to major historical events e.g. to WW1 Centenary by staging exhibitions in the Church and our Community Rooms. The knitting of poppies evolved into a village-wide activity and attracted much interest in the community to the point where we have been asked to make it an annual display. We were involved through the 'there but not there' initiative which supported several charities helping ex-service personnel. The school also committed themselves to various activities on the theme which were displayed.

Our Community Rooms [formerly the village school] are use by ourselves and SOFA [Southowram Over Fifties Association] providing a singing group, table tennis and kurling./The scouts, cubs and beavers are present on 2 evenings per week. At times we have hosted social gatherings for ourselves, usually involving food and sometimes raucous laughter; barbecues; funeral teas; birthday parties and in 2019 our inaugural Art Festival.





Our challenges - our vision

Challenge is nothing new to the church and familiar to many congregations. We are no exception and our challenges are linked to our desire to move forward and grow ourselves and renew our life and congregation.

Victorian building: We need to look at how best we use the space which we have. Is a much-loved and cared for 200 year old building set out to its best advantage? We need help to look at it and discuss where we are going.

Congregation: We have an ageing but loyal and committed congregation as noted earlier. We have many contacts with the next two generations. We need to explore how we communicate our faith in a way which makes sense in the 21C.

Finance: always a challenge as to how to balance the books. We do, but financial security is an emboldening point which would assist our endeavours.

A brief history of St Anne's - a continuing story ...

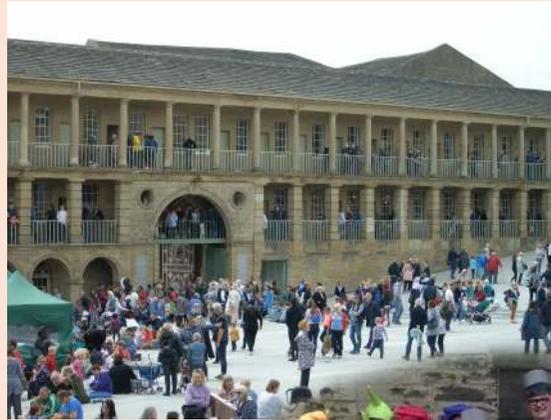
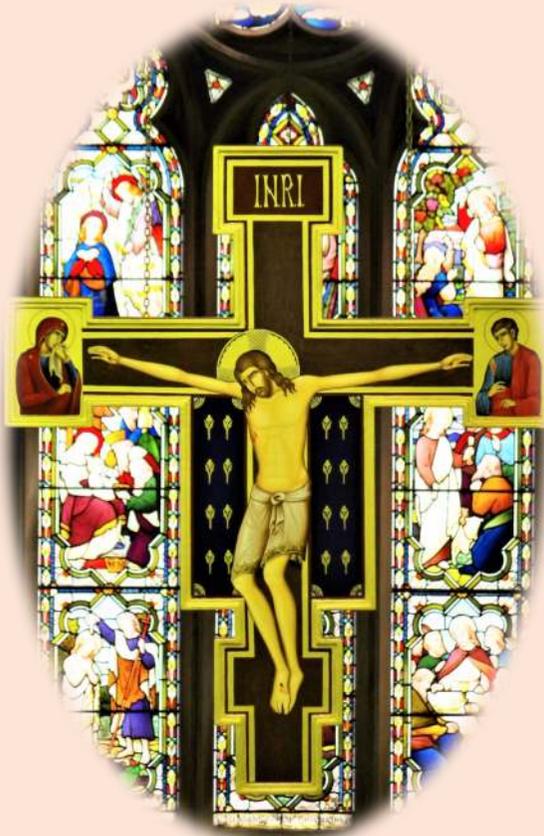
Originally a Chapel-of-Ease of Halifax Parish Church, St Anne-in-the-Grove eventually became a parish in its own right in The earliest reference to Mass being offered is 1445 in the Manor House at Cromwell Bottom. Around this time a licence was granted by Pope Eugenius IV to build a free chapel not under the supervision of Halifax Parish Church. It was dedicated to St John. In 1530 a chapel-of-ease, known as Chapel le Briers was built on land bought of John Lacey of Cromwellbottom Hall. This was sited on land between the present church and Brookfoot [towards Brighouse]. It survived until 1816 when it was pulled down and work began on the present building which was consecrated in 1819. The parish has migrated from the Diocese of York via Ripon and Wakefield to the Anglican Diocese of Leeds. It is in the Archdeaconry of Halifax and Episcopal oversight is provided by the Bp of Wakefield. St Anne's is the last remaining place of worship in the village.

It now comprises a nave, chancel, west-end balcony [the north-side previously removed], baptistry, tower with electric clock and six bells rung carillon-style, a small 'oratory', choir vestry, organ, sacristy, kitchen and wc adapted for disabled use. The font from the 1530 chapel stands outside close to the main entrance. 'Project Rainbow', a major restoration, was undertaken in 2005/6 and the Cross by the Romanian artist, Christinel Ioan Paslaru was hung in the chancel arch at the same time. We have our church community rooms, formerly the school, with a large 'hall', smaller room, kitchen and toilets plus a good sized car park. It is well used by the community and ourselves.

Historically, the Parish has been a mix of farming, coal mining and stone quarrying. Currently, stone is still quarried, the land farmed and Marshalls the hard-landscaping manufacturers have a production unit in the Parish. Its worth noting that they have been supportive of the church in the past. The remaining coal is where it always has been.

The changes in work patterns have left the church building slightly stranded in that the village nucleus has drifted a short distance towards Bank Top. Our relationship with the community is strong and mutual but we need to look at how we are able to build on the bridge which we have.

As mentioned elsewhere, it is anticipated that the Priest will live in the Vicarage at St Paul's King Cross. The vicarage is of recent build and situated at the east end of the church.



St Anne's and the wider Community ...

We see ourselves as a viable worshipping community which offers a warm and friendly welcome to all who join us. Sunday Mass is the focal point for many. Baptism is administered either during the Mass or at a later time. Mass is said on Wednesday and Friday. There is no hospital or care home in the Parish. Calderdale Royal in Halifax and Huddersfield Royal are the two local hospitals in the Calderdale and Huddersfield NHS Trust. We look for continued deepening of our faith, a strengthening of our commitment to the Sacraments, empowerment to share the power and wisdom of God as revealed in His Word.

We have a small Companions group linked to the Community of the resurrection in Mirfield and St Anne's has hosted ordinand placements and it is hoped that this will continue and expand. The Lent house groups[s] became a regular study group entitled 'Journey On'. We are a sociable 'gang' and hold a variety of events, often involving food and a drink and sometimes including fund-raising as well. These are usually 'all Parish' events and are well supported by the wider community of Southowram.

The congregation is a mix of residents and non-residents. It is an ageing group, committed and loyal, with some younger adult members and the lack of young people is a situation alluded to elsewhere in this brochure and is a priority for the future. Being the last place of public worship in the parish reinforces our rôle to be open to and ministering to all who are resident.

The building: St Anne's is a balconied, late Georgian church consecrated in 1819. Additions over time include a chancel and the removal of the balcony on the North side. The 2005/6 refurbishment included the nave altar and the Rood Ikon, a small kitchen and accessible toilet. The Church Community rooms are on the opposite side of Church Lane to the church and are dated 1837 as the school. It has an accessible toilet, kitchen, a large hall and a smaller room. It is much used by the congregation and village.

2019 saw the bi-centenary of the consecration. A small group planned the celebration which included updating the 175th anniversary booklet; a celebration Mass and choral Evensong; a Flower Festival themed on famous 'Annes' involving most of the groups meeting in the village, e.g. the Book Club and the Allotment Society; a Day of Prayer for every street in the Parish [1800 leaflets delivered by hand]; a celebration lunch; the Art Festival and plans for a walking Nativity through the Parish in conjunction with the school.

Withinfields Primary School is the only school in the Parish and we have a good and receptive relationship via the Headteacher. They embraced the Art Festival, are keen to be part of the walking Nativity as a newer way of telling the story and were actively involved in our Commemoration of the Centenary of the ending of the First World War. Coupled with our popular Christingle service there are opportunities to 'open our doors to many families. There is an active Scout Group which carries the church's name and we have contact with Beacon Rangers Junior Football Club.

We hold an annual Memorial service for bereaved families and Carol in the pubs and Tesco in Brighouse, the latter not being a regular engagement. We have a choir which leads Sunday Mass and most weeks we manage 4 parts. The Organ was completely renewed in 2019.

We produce a monthly Magazine printed by ourselves; give practical and individual financial support to Calderdale Churches Together's 'Drop-in and Advice Centre' based in the middle of Halifax. Latterly, they have been distributing around 150 food parcels per week. We have held occasional music or art appreciation sessions. We can add historical and literary connections to this artistic endeavour. Shibden Hall now of 'Gentleman Jack' fame is in the parish and there are references to Anne Lister's involvement in St Anne's. Her sister Marian is buried in St Anne's churchyard. The literary connection extends as far as Emily Brönte teaching at Law House, a school which was between Southowram and Bank Top and is now a private House identified by a blue plaque.

There is a Farm Shop/Bakery and other shops meeting most daily needs. Sadly, only one bus per hour between Halifax and Brighouse and return. There is an active Community Centre in the village which hosts a range of activities across a wide age range. There are two public houses and a thriving Social Club affiliated to the Clubs and Institute Union.

During the CoVID-19 pandemic, we have been keeping in touch through Zoom and Youtube. This has included a Sunday Mass, PCC meetings and a Friday morning coffee morning which has allowed some chat and more meaningful discussion [occasionally]! The re-opening of churches at the beginning of August 2020 allowed us At St Anne's to hold a socially distanced said Mass which has settled to a regular congregation of 25-30 communicants. We have our own website, and Facebook pages for Church and Choir.

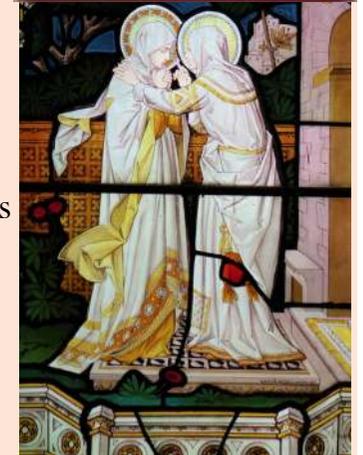
This brochure is all 'bones' and the reality is much more subtle. We hope that you will come and see for yourself what we are like in reality and in "all our glory".

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCvtPpi6-9x9qU7h6tVJFbsA?view_as=subscriber

St Anne's Church Southowram: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/995557737269343>

St Anne's Church Southowram Choir: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1411456512423963>

<https://brighousescouts.org.uk/groups/st-annes-southowram/>



The priest we want: Joint statement of needs

The vacancy is a shared ministry between St Anne's, Southowram, and St Paul's, King Cross, Halifax. The two parishes are about four miles apart. As well as their physical separation, the two parishes are quite different. St Paul's is in a multi ethnic area with high levels of social deprivation while St Anne's enjoys a more rural environment. The new incumbent should be able to operate successfully in both environments and find opportunities for spreading the Gospel among the wider population. He should ideally have some experience of building relationships with other faiths and displaced people.

The two churches have much in common. Both are churches in the Anglo-Catholic tradition. St Paul's has recently renewed its request to the Bishop for arrangements to be made for the church in accordance with the House of Bishops Declaration on the Ministry of Bishops and Priests and St Anne's would expect the new incumbent to be a member of The Society. We are therefore seeking a priest who will commit to the Catholic tradition of St Paul's and St Anne's through helping the congregations develop their faith and continuing with such traditions as the annual joint pilgrimage to the Shrine at Walsingham and support for those undergoing theological training at the Community of the Resurrection at Mirfield. Both churches also have a strong musical tradition with dedicated choirs and it is hoped that the new incumbent will encourage this.

The PCCs would also like to highlight the following characteristics:

A priest who:

Can find ways of attracting young people to the church and engage with Withinfields, the local school at Southowram and with St Anne's uniformed groups to encourage more young people into the congregations of both churches;

Will show strong leadership in spiritual/theological matters with an ability to sympathise with those on both sides of an argument;

Is tolerant of other traditions and faiths and sensitive to the environment in which he finds himself;

Has an ability to communicate effectively and adapt to the audience;

Shows humility;

Can generate new ideas for outreach;

Is prepared to make a long term commitment to the parishes;

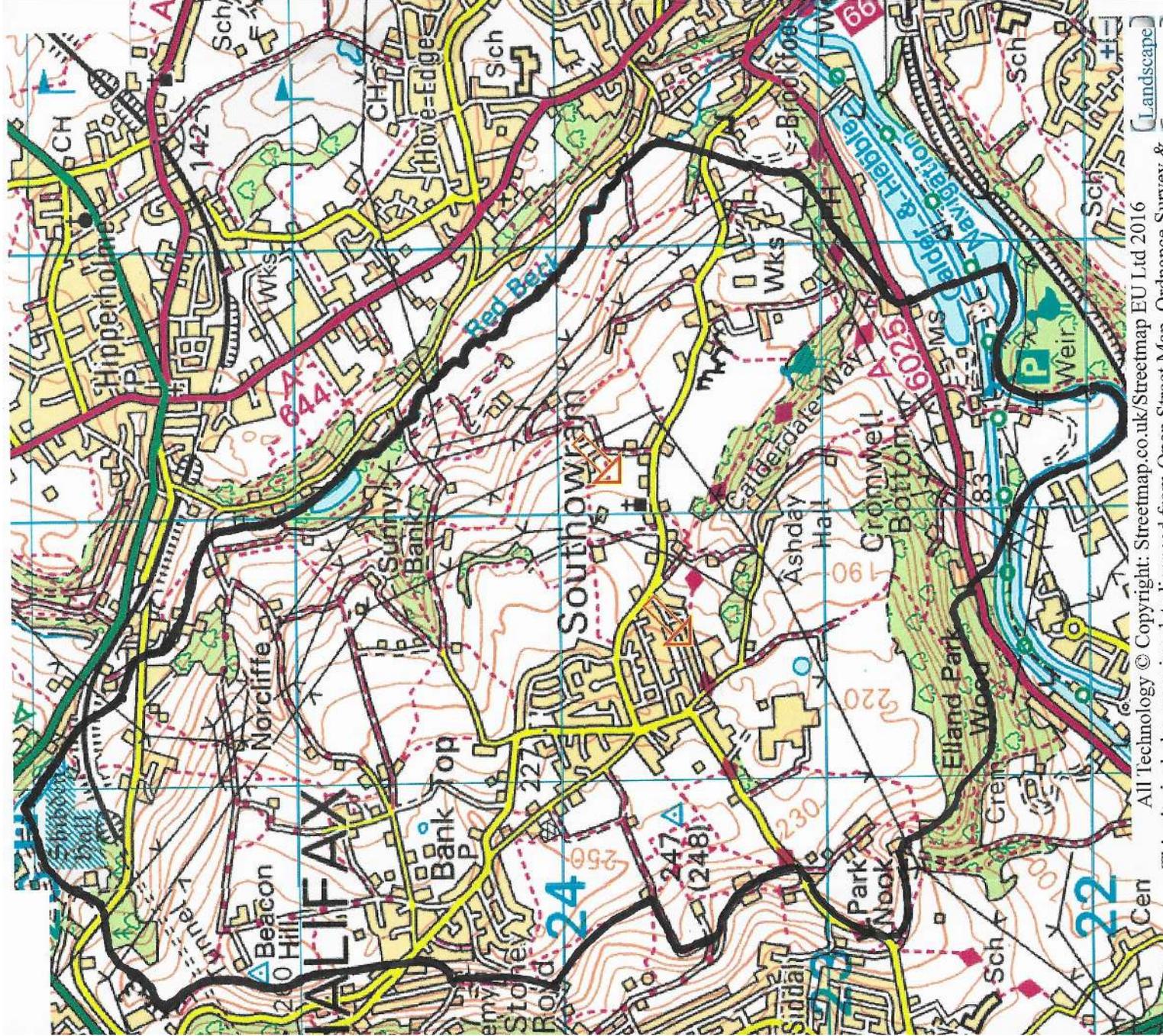
Can spot potential for lay development and encourage and support that development;

Has good organizational skills;

Is computer literate;

Is a car owner/ driver (necessary because of the geographical spread of the parish and the relationship between the two churches);

We are mindful of the needs of our priest as well, and would expect him to take proper holidays and have regular days off. We will support him in his training, reading and personal development.



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Parish Boundary for guidance only ...

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