

Associate Vicar for Morley St Andrew's Church Plant Lead Information Pack

PRINTABLE VERSION

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One God. One Church. Two Locations

The Big Picture

It's an exciting time in Morley as the two Anglican churches, St Peter's and St Andrew's, are coming together with a shared vision for spiritual renewal across the whole town under the new banner of Morley Anglican Church.

In recent years, St Peter's has grown into a healthy and fruitful church with a vibrant worshipping community of all ages. Spiritual and numerical growth has fuelled a vision for resourcing ministry beyond the parish to help more people come to know the life changing love of Jesus. We are blessed to be a blessing.

In recent times, St Andrew's Morley has reduced in size and has limited capacity for ministry and mission. The worshipping community is a small but faithful remnant who enjoy worshipping in a more traditional style. They long to see the church grow and come alive in faith once again and are excited to be part of what comes next.

We're praying for the right person to join our team as Associate Vicar, to gather a small team from St Peter's and to plant into St Andrews, working alongside the existing congregation to realise the vision of two healthy, growing and fruitful communities of faith in Morley seeking spiritual renewal in the town.

Thank you for taking the time to look through this pack. If you are interested in finding out more about the role, please do get in contact with me for an informal chat. I would love to hear from you.

Yours in Christ,



Phil Harris - Vicar of Morley (Team Rector)



Phil & Abby Harris

Associate Vicar

What's the Role?

Church Planting

- Spend time at St Peter's absorbing the culture and missional DNA of the church, gathering a team and preparing them to graft into St Andrew's (roughly a dozen people).
- Lead the church plant to St Andrew's, uniting the existing St Andrew's church family and the plant team as one.
- Establishing a vision for growth through mission built on prayer and relationship building in the community.
- Raising and releasing leaders into key roles of responsibility.
- Facilitating worship that is full of life and the joy of the Spirit, honouring the traditions of the existing congregation whilst bringing changes.

Church Leadership

- Day-to-day responsibility as the parish priest of St Andrew's Morley.
- Working in close partnership with the Team Rector and the wider team at St Peter's to establish a cohesive and unified ministry and mission to Morley.
- Contributing fully to the clergy, staff and leadership teams of Morley Anglican Church.
- Overseeing one or two ministry areas across the whole team such as Alpha, Pastoral Ministry, Occasional Offices, Training Courses etc depending on individual gifts.

Future Vision

- Morley Anglican Church has a vision to establish an estate-based congregation plant in Morley within 3 years. This will be a joint project between both churches overseen by the Team Rector. The Associate Vicar will play a key role in championing and supporting this plant, helping to equip and release members of St Andrew's.

Associate Vicar

Who are we looking for?

Essential Qualities & Experience

- A deep love for Jesus that is evident in word and action.
- A desire for others to know the transformative love of God for themselves.
- A demonstrable love for scripture and commitment to gracious, orthodox teaching of the Bible.
- A lively and robust spiritual life rooted in prayer and dependence on the Holy Spirit.
- A passion for church planting and up-to-date understanding of the complexities and nuances of church grafts in the parish context.
 - A patient leader who loves people and enjoys working with teams.
 - A commitment to developing and releasing others as disciples and leaders.
 - Proven experience of leading people through change in a church context.
 - Proven experience of leading growth in a church context.
 - Ability to inspire others with enthusiasm, passion, joy and a sense of humour.

Desirable Qualities & Experience

- Direct experience of a church planting.
- Experience of social action projects.
- Musical/worship leading skills
- Experience of good stewarding and financial planning.
- Experience of building governance structures from the ground up.

The Churches

St Peter's Morley

SPM is a healthy, growing church which serves the north side of the town including the town centre. In the last four years, Sunday gatherings have increased from about 45 people to well over 100 people of all ages gathering to worship Jesus in an informal, family-friendly atmosphere. It's a community where everyone chips in to serve the vision, and leaders are developed and released to serve.

Key Values

A family of all ages

A vibrant, informal style of worship

Emphasis on the Word of God

Seeking the Holy Spirit

Everyone gets involved

Strengths

Ministry with under 18s

Raising leaders

Significant growth in recent years

Vision for mission

Financial stability

Opportunities

Resourcing wider ministry in the town

Developing social action projects

Challenges

Not spreading resources too thin

Sustaining growth after planting

The Churches

St Andrew's Morley

St Andrew's Morley (Bruntcliffe) covers the south side of the town, an area which includes both of Morley's high schools and the main sports clubs. It has a large Community Hall which is well used. The congregation is mostly made up of over 65s who have enjoyed more traditional forms of worship. Whist numbers are low and capacity is limited, there is real enthusiasm for what God will do in this new season.

Opportunities

- Significant missional potential
- Some 'easy wins' for ministry development
- Newer housing developments which are largely unreached by the church
- A beautiful park next door

Strengths

- A faithful, committed remnant
- A good building location
- A blank canvas on which to paint
- Committed support from St Peter's

Challenges

- Attendance – less than 20
- Finances - unsustainable at present
- Governance - missing key roles
- Mission – little capacity at present
- Culture – needs renewing

Key Values

- More traditional/liturgical worship
- Open to change
- Historical connection to place
- Wanting to grow

TOGETHERNESS

Just as a body, though one, has many parts, but all its many parts form one body, so it is with Christ.

1 Corinthians 12:12

BLESSING

I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing.

Genesis 12:2

HOPEFULNESS

For the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the Lord as the waters cover the sea.

Habakkuk 2:14

RENEWAL

See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland.

Isaiah 43:19

FRUITFULNESS

You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit—fruit that will last.

John 15:16

History of the Morley Team

In 2002 a Pastoral Scheme came into effect uniting three former benefices into one as The Benefice of Morley. The Benefice comprised St Peter's Morley with All Saints Churwell; Saint Paul's Morley; and St Andrew's Bruntcliffe. Each parish remained distinct.

There were some significant relationship challenges between the three parishes which could not be resolved. As a result, the team has been on pause since 2014.

All Saints Churwell was closed in 2015 and St Paul's was closed in 2023, due to unsustainably small congregations. Today Morley consists of two parishes, St Peter's and St Andrew's.

Phil Harris was appointed as Vicar of St Peter's in 2020. Much has changed in Morley and in this new season there is genuine desire locally to see both churches working together in unity to share God's love, pray for renewal and make disciples of Jesus.

Transition Team 2025

Phil Harris was licensed as Team Rector of Morley in March 2025, which was the first step towards united vision for Morley Anglican Church.

From March 2025 Phil is working alongside Jackie Gallop (Licensed Lay minister from St Peter's) and others as a Transition Team for St Andrews. The purpose of this team is to provide leadership for St Andrew's and help prepare the ground for the church plant, led by the new Associate Vicar, in the Autumn of 2025.

Proposed Timescale

March 25	Transition Team in place
May 25	Appoint Associate Vicar
August 25	Associate Vicar begins at SPM
	Prayer & Team building
Oct/Nov 25	Church Plant Launch to SAM

People & Structure

Phil Harris *Vicar of Morley (Team Rector)*

Phil and Abby moved to Morley in 2020 with their three boys Caleb, Josiah and Judah. Prior to this the Harris family were leading a church plant in Stockport. Abby works for St Hild Theological College and has a wide ranging leadership role at St Peter's. Phil oversees mission and ministry across Morley.



Beth Burbidge *Associate Leader*

Beth moved to Morley in 2021 with her husband Alex and they have a young daughter. Beth works full time for St Peter's Morley and is the only paid member of staff in the team. Beth is involved in leadership across the whole life of the church but has particular responsibility for overseeing ministry with children and young people.



Rosie Phillips *Curate*

Rosie is joining the team in June 2025 as curate. Originally from Staffordshire, Rosie lived in London before training for ministry in Oxford. Rosie will be mostly based at St Peter's but will serve across the whole team.



Mick Cooper & Jackie Gallop *Licensed Lay Ministers*

Jackie and Mick are both experienced leaders providing valuable ministry at St Peter's in many ways. Jackie is a key part of the transition team for St Andrews.



There are many more people important who serve and lead in significant ways in the team. Some key groups include:

St Andrews PCC - Currently without church wardens

St Peter's PCC and **Leadership Team**

St Peter's Church Wardens - Edwina Cooper & Sharon D'Ambrosio

One God. One Church. Two Locations

Morley

Morley is a former mill town to the south west of Leeds city centre. With a growing population of around 36,000, Morley is increasingly becoming a popular commuting town due to its excellent transport links and extensive housing developments.

The town centre has a pedestrian thoroughfare and a variety of shops, restaurants and other local businesses. The White Rose Shopping Centre is also located within the parish which includes a wide range of restaurants and an iMax cinema. There has been a resurgence in small bars and pubs opening in recent years in Morley Bottoms. Morley is also served by an excellent selection of local sports teams, gyms and the council Leisure Centre.

There is a family feel to the town and Morley is considered by many to be an excellent place for children and young people to grow up. Local parks are generally well equipped and the Churwell Urban Woodlands is a great place for short walks and exploration. Morley is served by a good selection of primary schools as well as Morley Academy and Bruntcliffe Academy high schools.

A major landmark is the Victorian Town Hall, which has been used in several well-known TV series. It is a historical town, being the birthplace of both Prime Minister Herbert Asquith and Titus Salt. The area also has remnants of the English Civil War. Despite growth and changes to the town, Morley retains a strong sense of community spirit and people turn up in numbers for community events such as remembrance day.

You matter to us

Whilst we're looking for an exceptional candidate with the right gifts and skills for this challenging role, we aren't looking for a machine. You will be joining a team that values people not just for what they produce, but for who they are.

What we can offer you

A supportive place to boldly exercise your God-given gifts.

Freedom to be creative and step out in faith as the Spirit leads.

Opportunity to serve primarily in just one church but with the benefits of relationship and support structures of the other.

Wholehearted support from the Team Rector.

A place where you (and your family) will be loved.

Our Working Culture

We give our all for Jesus but we are not workaholics.

We prioritise sabbath rest, holidays and retreats.

We care about one another as people first.

We model the practices of ROOTS (*see overleaf*).

We share mutual support and encouragement.

The Vicarage

The property is a 4 bedroom detached house around the corner from St Andrew's and close to the entrance to Dartmouth Park. The property has been recently carpeted throughout.



ROOTS

Seven disciplines to help us keep rooted in Christ

Scripture

Solitude

Silence

Spoken Prayer

Sabbath

Self Care

Significant Relationships

Further information

This info pack is here to give you a flavour of the role, the church and the town. Please take a look at the parish profiles and role description for more details. A printable version of this file is available on the St Peter's Morley website.

Potential candidates are encouraged to contact Phil Harris for an informal conversation before applying.

Websites

morleyanglicanchurch.org

stpetersmorley.org

standrewschurchmorley.org.uk

Socials

@stpetersmorley

Contact

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