

St Mary the Virgin, Cottingham

Diocese of York

PARISH PROFILE

November 2019



WELCOME!

Welcome to our Parish Profile. In this document we set out a description of our church, our parish and our vision for the future. We hope this will form a good basis for helping you to discern if we are the right church for you to lead.



After the Patronal Festival Eucharist, 2019

praying
loving
serving
growing

Who are we?

St Mary's, Cottingham, is an Anglican parish in the Diocese of York and the Deanery of Hull. We are, and will continue as, a single church parish.

Cottingham and the Parish: an overview

Parish and population

Cottingham, in the East Riding of Yorkshire, lies just north-west of the city of Kingston upon Hull. Proud of its village identity (and one of the claimants to be the largest village in England), it is part of the Hull urban area but comes under the East Riding of Yorkshire Council, and has its own Parish Council. Its population was just over 17,000 in 2011, and that of the ecclesiastical parish was just under 15,000. Roughly 13% of the population was aged under 15, 62% was aged 16 to 64, and 25% was over 65. There is a wide diversity of housing including a local authority estate. The population is rising: over 1000 houses are being built (some on the sites of former University residences). Managerial, administrative and professional occupations predominate. There are two long-established permanent traveller sites on the outskirts of the village. The University of Hull is just over two miles away.

Amenities and transport

Hull city centre is about four miles away, and Beverley, the historic county town, five miles. York is about 35 miles away. Hull, Beverley, and the University offer a wide range of cultural activities. Cottingham still has some independent shops, as well as two supermarkets, and several pubs, cafés and restaurants. It still has its Post Office, public library and two banks, as well as a sports centre with playing fields. Castle Hill Hospital, a major teaching hospital, is on the western outskirts of the Parish. Cottingham station, under 10 minutes' walk from the Rectory, is on the Hull-Scarborough line, journey time to Beverley six minutes, Hull seven minutes. Many trains continue to Doncaster and Sheffield, connecting with long-distance destinations. *Hull Trains* runs a regular Hull-London service, with two trains each day providing a direct service between Cottingham and London. Local bus services are good. There are daily ferries from Hull to Zeebrugge and Rotterdam.

Society and community

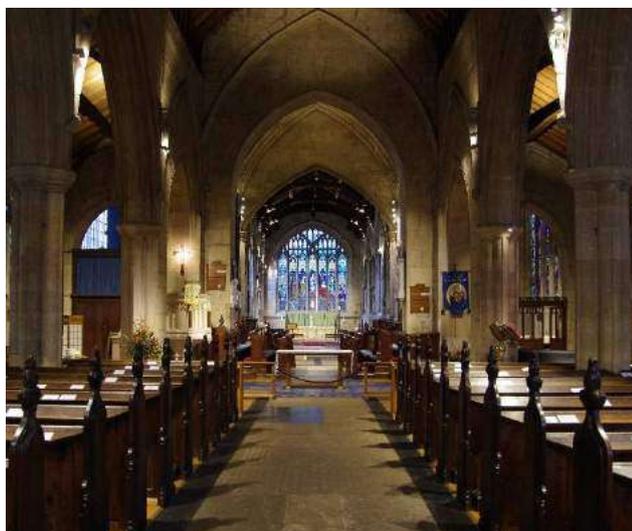
St Mary's has excellent relationships with the four primary schools (all rated "good" or above by Ofsted). There is also a senior school (Cottingham High School) which is a flourishing academy. There are four residential homes, and also three retirement housing developments within walking distance of the village centre. Cottingham is regarded as a desirable place to live. There are many active social, cultural and community groups making use of the various halls in the village including those at St Mary's. A "Cottingham Village Trust" set up in 2017 now runs the Civic Hall for the benefit of local people, and it is used for a wide range of social and musical events. The church itself

is often used for concerts, and in 2020 will host part of Cottingham's Springboard Festival of free live music. The Parish Council organises a number of major community events in the year including the Cottingham Christmas Festival, in which St Mary's plays a part with the other churches.

For further information see the sources listed on page 15.

The church building

The church is a key landmark in the village. The building is medieval and is Listed Grade I (1103394). It was rebuilt in Tadcaster stone in the fourteenth century. The tower, chancel and vestry were built in the fifteenth century. The interior was re-ordered in the mid-nineteenth century. The floor level in the nave, the pews, choir stalls, pulpit, font and stained glass date from this period. The medieval south porch is used as the choir vestry.



The organ, by Forster & Andrews of Hull, dates from 1860. It is of historic importance as one of very few Forster & Andrews organs in near original state, and is often used for concerts.

The nave altar, which is movable, was installed in 1983. In 2016 several pews were removed from the back of the nave on the south side, creating a flexible space which is used for many purposes including displays, refreshments, and for our monthly "Prayers in the Space".

There are eight bells which are rung on Sundays, special occasions, and by request for weddings. The church has level access, a loop system and gas central heating.

The church is open in daylight hours and is used by local people as a quiet space.

The churchyard is closed for burials, but ashes are interred. The grass and hedges are maintained by the local authority.

In summer the area is often used by many local people as a green space, to sit and relax and have lunch.

Information about worship is on page 9.



Churchyard with the Arlington Hall beyond



"The Church is the only society that exists for the benefit of those who are not its members." Archbishop William Temple (1881-1944)

We asked the congregation three questions.

Question 1: *What are the main issues to be addressed in the Parish?*

- Reach out to the community in mission, engage with the new people moving into the parish and existing young families, young people, and the many who have no experience of church.
- Maintain links with the primary schools, and re-establish links with Cottingham High School.
- Serve the community, not just the existing congregation. Identify the areas where we have no contacts.
- Accept and recognise the challenges of a declining congregation, growing local population, and the retirement population. Support and expand the pastoral group.
- Continue to work closely with Churches Together in Cottingham.
- Engage widely with village life. Strengthen links with well-wishers who are not church-goers.
- Make it a church for all.

Where have we come from?

A previous Rector, in post from 1983 to 2004, who was opposed to the ordination of women, took the church in a very Anglo-Catholic direction, and the PCC of that time passed resolutions A and B. St Mary's was developing as a "niche" church, and links with Diocese and Deanery, for the laity, became tenuous. All this caused great unhappiness. Many people left, and church life suffered.

Since then the congregation has worked together through prayer and practical action, and there has been a period of sustained recovery.

What point have we reached?

Our congregation looks on itself as Anglican without any additional labels. We are a parish church, not a "gathered church". We no longer come under resolutions A and B: they were not renewed. As there is no other Anglican church within walking distance, the congregation includes both those born and raised in this parish and those who have come from elsewhere to live and have varied experience of churchmanship. We want to look forward and not to the past.

We are an open church, hopefully in many ways, but especially in that the church is open every day from Morning Prayer to Evening Prayer, and is well-used by local people as a place of quiet and prayer. Our Visitors' book reflects the esteem in which the church is held by both local people and

visitors from further afield. Its well-kept appearance and peaceful, welcoming atmosphere are often commented on. People in the village contribute generously to our annual Gift Day.

We now have 126 on the electoral roll, of whom 108 live within the parish boundary. This number is in gradual decline as the congregation becomes more elderly. But we have a loyal and cheerful congregation, willing to quietly support and help in the many aspects of church life.

For many years there was a Sunday School, but few children now come to services. There is a core group of the congregation eager to build on the work of the “Open the Book” team and develop new ideas.

In addition to those on the electoral roll, we have over 100 volunteers who willingly take part in church “big clean” days, deliver the parish magazine, ring the bells, and undertake many other tasks.



Taking a break during a recent “big clean” day

We have a strong musical tradition, and music plays an important role in services. Adult robed choirs sing at the 9.30 a.m. Parish Eucharist and at the 6.30 p.m. sung Evensong, with a full Choral Evensong on most major feast days.

There is more information on services in the section on worship on page 9.

We asked the congregation three questions.

Question 2: *What are the main priorities for the new Rector?*

We are looking for a new Rector (male or female), accepting of the ministry of women priests and bishops, who will work closely with the Diocese and the Deanery, and will:

- Help us to look to the future and build up our common life.
- Be a teacher of the faith and a missionary in the parish, leading spiritual growth.
- Bring new ideas, balance the needs of the existing congregations with the need to bring in more people, young families, children and young people.
- Make some services child friendly and accessible to young people and newcomers - whilst valuing present patterns of worship and nurturing the existing congregations.
- Appreciate the existing groups and activities and identify strengths and gaps.
- Initiate innovative outreach. Encourage existing outreach.
- Use the buildings for outreach to the community.
- Support and build up pastoral care.

Other church buildings

Arlington Hall

The Arlington Hall (the church hall) is on the south side of the churchyard. Built of brick in the mid-nineteenth century, it is listed Grade II. It has level access. A refurbishment in 2009 provided new toilets (including a disabled one), and a new kitchen, fully equipped for catering, was added in 2011.



The Arlington Hall, and beyond it Church House and the Mark Kirby Hall

The Hall is used for many church-related events and groups (for example the PCC, Mothers' Union, Embroiderers, high teas in Lent, charity coffee mornings), and also by local groups who hire it.



At a High Tea



... and the washing up

There is also a small Meeting Room with seating for up to about ten around a boardroom-style table.

The Arlington Hall also houses the Parish Office, used by the Parish Administrator (see page 13), and for Friday evening office hours, when lay people on a rota welcome those who come to book baptisms and weddings.

A member of the congregation who undertakes the role of “heating tsar” looks after the heating in all our buildings.

Mark Kirby Hall

This Grade II listed building is on the south side of the churchyard. Originally a charity school, the present building is mid-nineteenth century. It is a single room with a toilet, and serves on Monday to Saturday mornings as the church's coffee shop. This has a devoted and diverse regular following from a wide area. It is also used by church groups such as Knit One/Purl Two, a knit and natter group which undertakes charity projects, and by local groups who hire the space.



The Knit One/Purl Two group in the Mark Kirby Hall.

Here, they are hard at work knitting poppies for our 2018 "Beyond the 11th hour" Poppy Festival and exhibition commemorating the ending of the First World War. Over 4000 poppies were knitted and incorporated in the displays in the church. See also page 11.

Church House

Church House, on the south side of the churchyard, stands between the Arlington Hall and the Mark Kirby Hall. It was built as part of the parish workhouse during the eighteenth century. It is owned by the church and let to a tenant through a letting agency. *See photo on page 7.*

10 Kingtree Avenue

This semi-detached property is a short distance from the church. It was purchased as a house for a curate. The Diocese paid for improvements in 2012 (and members of the congregation redecorated the interior). As there is at present no curate, the house is let to a tenant through a letting agency.

Worship

Sunday Services

<i>Time</i>	<i>Service</i>	<i>Average attendance</i>
8.00 a.m.	Holy Communion, said, BCP	12 to 15
9.30 a.m.	Parish Eucharist, with choir and organ, Common Worship	55
11.00 a.m.	<i>1st and 3rd Sundays:</i> Holy Communion, said, BCP <i>2nd, 4th and 5th Sundays:</i> Morning Prayer, with Baptism as needed. If Baptism, with organ and hymns If no Baptism, Morning Prayer, said, on its own	5 varies widely if no Baptism, small
6.30 p.m.	Sung Evensong, with choir and organ	25

We respect and love the Anglican liturgy and use the lectionary. At the Parish Eucharist members of the congregation on a rota read the Old Testament lesson and the Epistle and lead the intercessions.

There is a full Choral Evensong, usually with augmented choir, on most major festivals. Other special services include the Advent Procession, the Service of Nine Lessons & Carols, and those on Ash Wednesday, in Holy Week and on Easter Day.

Weekday Services

Morning and Evening Prayer and Holy Communion take place daily (times vary), usually with small attendances.



At the Advent Procession

Occasional Offices

Baptisms, weddings and funerals conducted in 2018 were as follows:

Baptisms	45
Weddings	14
Funerals in church	20
Funerals at crematorium	27

Committals and interments of ashes in the churchyard are not included.

Discipleship, charitable giving and outreach

Some examples:

- Bishop Alison led a Parish Away Day in 2018. From this stems the “Take away prayers” initiative, which is linked to the monthly “Prayers in the Space”.
- A monthly “Prayer link” leaflet is produced and is distributed by the Pastoral Group and others to the housebound.
- Laity participate in, or lead, regular services in local residential homes.
- There is an annual Lent Appeal for charity, in 2019 raising money for Water Aid and Tree Aid. At Sunday services during the year there are retiring collections for charities.
- The “Open the Book” team takes a Bible story assembly to Bacon Garth Primary School weekly in term-time, and to each of the other three primary schools termly.
- A Pilgrim course is ongoing, and also a Bible study group with lay leadership, which arose from an earlier Pilgrim course.



At an “Open the book” rehearsal

- There is an active branch of the Mothers’ Union which meets monthly.
- Members of the congregation help at Cottingham Food Bank, which receives our Harvest Festival donations.
- The monthly parish magazine, *Church and People*, is distributed by members of the congregation and volunteers and reaches a much wider readership than the congregation.
- The church now advertises on the “Adpost” screens in the local post office.
- In addition to our website (www.stmaryscottingham.org) St Mary’s also has a presence on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter.
- The church is part of Cottingham Churches Together and works closely with the Methodist Church, Zion URC, Holy Cross RC, and Christ Church, on projects such as a children’s Summer Holiday Club, a Live Nativity at Christmas, Christian Aid, and a Good Friday walk of witness. St Mary’s is the lead partner in organising the annual Christian Aid Week house-to-house collection in Cottingham.

Activities at St Mary's

Groups

There are several groups which report to the PCC. These include the Pastoral Group, the Events Group, the Maintenance and Gardening Group, the Open the Book team, the Mark Kirby Coffee Shop team, Knit One/Purl Two, the Embroiderers, the Bellringers, the Flower Group, the Mothers' Union, and the Friday Office Hours team. There are also the sidesmen, two sacristans, the organist and choirmaster, the magazine editor and the website manager.



Community events and social activities



“It is a great mistake to suppose that God is only, or even chiefly, concerned with religion.” Archbishop William Temple (1881-1944)



The Events Group has periodically organised major community and social events which have brought many local people into the church: flower festivals, a wedding festival, and in 2018 a very successful Poppy Festival and exhibition “After the Eleventh Hour”, which was a major part of Cottingham’s commemoration of the ending of the First World War. This attracted over 2600 visitors and raised over £3000.

There have also been several presentations by “History Wardrobe”, valuable both as social events and also for the funds raised for the church.

We enjoy providing hospitality and catering for events for the church and the community – such as high teas (weekly in Lent, monthly in summer), and the Mothers’ Union strawberry tea in June.

Murder Mystery dinners have also proved hugely popular and great fun. (The Rector is not required to be victim or perpetrator.)



At a History Wardrobe event (in the Darby & Joan Hall)

We asked the congregation three questions.

Question 3: What qualities, strengths and character are we looking for in the new Rector?

Missionary attitude

Builder of our common life

Communicator of the faith

Committed to lay development

Empathy

Caring

Discerning

An encourager, enabler and listener

Able to initiate discussion

Open to new ideas, so good ideas can flourish

Lead as the first amongst many

Able to delegate

Experience of working in an area quite different from the church

Interests outside church life

Management skills

Able to communicate Biblical texts and theology

Able to communicate with young people

Embrace diversity

Approachable

Willing to be visible in the community

Creative

Listen before acting

Mentor

Willing to accept the challenges in *Question One* and *Question Two*

Not afraid to step outside his or her comfort zone.

Other special services and responsibilities

- The Rector conducts funerals, baptisms and weddings for the traveller community who live on the two long-established permanent sites in Cottingham.
- Cottingham's war memorial stands in the churchyard, outside the west door, and the Rector conducts the annual Service of Remembrance.
- St Mary's hosts a well-attended Christingle and Nativity service on Christmas Eve, as well as special events for some of the primary schools, principally at Harvest, Christmas and Easter.

Colleagues

Retired Clergy	The Revd. James Hargreave is taking services during the vacancy The Revd. Trevor Holborn, a retired URC minister, is licensed to preach and assist
Recognised Pastoral Assistants	There are two RPAs who undertake pastoral visiting
Parish Administrator	Claire Dixon – works two half-days per week
Organist & Choirmaster	Julian Savory
Verger	Colin Basley
Caretaker	Jim Hawkes (part-time) – cleans the church halls and sets them out for meetings
Churchwardens	Denise Bottomley and Helen Bristow Two members of the PCC are elected to work with the Churchwardens as assistant churchwardens
PCC	Fifteen laity with two Churchwardens and the Rector The Treasurer attends Three laity are members of Deanery Synod The PCC met seven times during 2018
Standing Committee	The Churchwardens, four other lay members of the PCC, the Treasurer and the Rector



Parish Administrator Claire



Churchwardens Helen and Denise

The Rectory, HU16 4DD

The Rectory, adjacent to the west gate of the churchyard, was built in the 1960s.

Downstairs rooms: study, lounge, dining room, fitted kitchen, utility room, cloakroom and toilet. Upstairs rooms: four bedrooms, bathroom, separate toilet. Gas central heating. There is an integral garage and also parking space for up to three cars at the front of the house, and a walled garden to the rear.



The Diocese will undertake all necessary maintenance work on the house during the vacancy.

Finances

Our finances are on a sound footing with annual cash receipts in 2018 of £171,209 and outgoings of £120,749 (including £57,000 as the Free Will Offer to the Diocese). This year had various exceptional receipts including some generous legacies. All payments require multiple signatories.

We are a registered charity, number 1131553, and detailed financial statements are available on the Charities Commission website.

We have ongoing projects at various stages including:

- Renewal and enhancement of CCTV both internally and on the roof. The 2019 Gift Day has been well-supported in the parish to cover the cost of this.
- A proposal to improve the security of the historic organ is under development, being funded from a generous legacy.
- Further enhancement of the western end of the church, including the provision of toilet facilities (including disabled toilets). Various funds totalling £ 19,314 have been raised through events and gift days, although it is anticipated that the cost will considerably exceed this.

Sources of further information

- Our website is at: www.stmaryscottingham.org
St Mary's is also on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter.
- Maps of varying scales can be found on the following web-based services, searching by street name (Hallgate, Cottingham), postcode (HU16 4DD, for the church and area immediately around it), or OS grid reference TA 05 32.
 - www.streetmap.co.uk
 - www.geograph.co.uk
Excellent for photographs as well as maps
 - www.gpxeditor.co.uk/map
Has useful option for satellite images
- Pevsner, N. *Yorkshire: York and the East Riding*. 2nd ed., revised and enlarged by D. Neave. 1995. (Buildings of England series)
- Wikipedia has detailed information about Cottingham: search at https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Main_Page
- Websites of Cottingham schools:
 - www.hallgateprimaryschool.co.uk
 - www.bacongarth.co.uk
 - www.westfieldprimaryschool.org
 - www.croxbyprimary.co.uk
 - www.cottinghamhigh.net



Welcome banner by our embroiderers

The Archdeacon of the East Riding, the Ven. Andy Broom, can be contacted for an informal conversation about the parish and the post.

Contact details: telephone: 01482 881659; email address: ader@yorkdiocese.org

Lord Jesus, guard and grow our church as we serve You together during this period of vacancy. Please guide those who are seeking the right minister for us, and those who are seeking the right church for their ministry, that together we may discover our way for the future and see Your Kingdom grow. Amen.