

A Church Near You



A Church Near You – what it is

www.acny.org.uk is a new website developed by the Diocese of Oxford for the national Church of England. It contains information about parish churches across the country, and the services and events that take place in those churches.

A Church Near You – what it does

Visitors to the site enter a postcode or place name which then enables them to find their parish church, and also churches nearest where they live (or for visitors, nearest to where they're staying), a map of the parish indicating where the church is as well as information about what the church is like, what is going on there and who to contact to find out more.

A Church Near You – Wakefield Diocese

Wakefield Diocese has subscribed to **A Church Near You**. At the moment most churches in Wakefield Diocese have a simple entry on the site – just address and location – administered by Chris Freeman (Wakefield Diocese web administrator working with Oxford Diocese). At present **A Church Near You** enables people to find their parish church and other nearby churches – but there is the facility for churches to include additional information about what they offer and what is going on.

A Church Near You – over to you

Parishes that take on their **A Church Near You** entry can add a vast amount of information to their page – a description the church, up to date service times, regular events, one-off events, photos, news, parish information, links and contact details. In fact for those daunted by the complexities of creating their own church website, this could be the answer. www.acny.org.uk will never be the same as having you own web site, but it is a good second option. It means all churches can have their own mini-site.

Even churches with a personal web address should fill in their details on **A Church Near You**, because the site is likely to become a primary way for people to locate their parish. There is evidence that churches on **A Church Near You** receive a good number of relevant enquiries. Because it shows parish boundaries it is also very useful for wedding and baptism enquiries.

A Church Near You – over to you – how to adopt your parish entry

At present all churches in Wakefield Diocese are entered in the **A Church Near You** system. Some have already entered their information, but most are waiting to be adopted by individual parishes, who will then be responsible for entering their details and keeping everything up to date. Each parish will be responsible for their church's entry – a local person needs to look after their church's information.

1. Make sure incumbents and PCCs know about **A Church Near You** and what it offers.
2. Nominate a person (known and approved by the incumbent).
3. Email chris.freeman@wakefield.anglican.org to receive instructions on how to register and add the details for your church or call Chris on 01484 714553 for more information.

