

Diocese of Durham

The Church of England from the Tyne to the Tees
and the Dales to the Sea, blessing our communities
in Jesus' name for the transformation of us all.



St Mary and St Cuthbert Parish Church



Parish Church & Parish Centre

*Church Chare
Chester-le-Street
County Durham
DH3 3QB*

Our New Associate Rector

This is an exciting opportunity to join the leadership of a church entering a new phase in its mission and ministry. The Associate Rector will share responsibility with the Rector in implementing the vision of the church to be a “multi-generational church that makes life-long disciples of Jesus, where everyone flourishes”. Within that vision, the Associate Rector will have particular responsibility for discipleship, mission and ministry with children, young people and families.

We are a medium sized, relaxed and informal evangelical church who worship using a variety of service styles. Occasional offices are a regular and important part of our ministry in serving the town. Having been at the forefront of pioneering church-planting during the 1970s and 80s, we are currently in the process of re-imagining our service pattern, mission and ministry under the leadership of Rector Matt Strand who arrived in February 2022. We have a strong history of youth and children’s ministry and this role offers an exciting, creative opportunity to lead and shape this ministry alongside a team of volunteers and a full-time, paid youth minister who will be appointed in due course. We have good relationships with the five primary schools and two secondary schools within the parish, with our closest relationship maintained with our wonderful Church of England primary school.

The role will involve sharing general duties of leadership and ministry with the Rector, including preaching, pastoral care and occasional offices, but will specifically include the following:

- a. Overseeing work with children, young people and families, developing appropriate discipleship pathways.
- b. Building on ministry with children and families through work with the local primary schools, baby and toddler group and messy church.
- c. Overseeing and developing intergenerational worship, both on Sundays and other times during the week.
- d. Overseeing baptism preparation, baptisms, and ongoing relationships with families through occasional offices.
- e. Prayerfully recruiting, leading and motivating adult and teenage volunteers to work in a variety of leadership teams.
- f. Ensuring the voices of children and young people are heard and represented across our leadership structures and within all aspects of our mission and ministry.
- g. Being part of the recruitment process for a youth minister to be appointed in 2023, providing line management following the appointment.

Our New Associate Rector

We are praying for someone who:

- Recognises their dependence on the grace and power of God in all things, and is consequently a person of prayer, humility and integrity, and is open to the leading of the Holy Spirit.
- Loves God and loves people and believes that the good news of Jesus Christ needs to be lived and shared with others.
- Is passionate about and has experience of ministry and mission amongst children, young people and their families.
- Is creative, flexible and pioneering.
- Is able and keen to work as part of a team, and able to build good relationships with the Rector and other leaders in the church.
- Is an ordained minister within the Church of England

Housing

The Diocese of Durham is in the process of purchasing a modern house for this role located within the parish. The property will include four generous sized bedrooms with built in storage, two reception rooms in addition to the study, conservatory, double garage, generous parking and spacious garden.

Further details will be given on the day of the interview.

Church Vision

“A multi-generational church that makes life- long disciples of Jesus, where everyone flourishes”.

Welcome to Chester-le-Street



Chester le Street is a place of rich historic significance, founded in the Roman times, with a fascinating Christian heritage. Our beautiful church, steeped in history remains a focal point for the community and is visible throughout the town.

Chester-le-Street has a population of 25,947 (2011), and has been named in The Sunday Times as one of the best places to live in the North East. The parish is of huge social and economic contrasts with both above average home ownership and pockets of affluence as well as some of the most deprived areas in the country.

A market town in the North East of England with excellent transport links, Chester le Street offers easy access to the three major cities of the North East via bus, rail or road as well as beautiful countryside and coastline within a twenty-minute drive—the A1(M) is less than a mile from the town centre. The parish of St Mary and St Cuthbert covers the entire town, alongside neighbouring villages.



We have seven local churches within the town centre with which we have a Churches Together forum that the clergy feed in to. Like most towns we've seen a decline in some small businesses. However we still have a good retail sector (Including Tesco, Morrisons, Aldi, Iceland and Wilko) and a thriving hospitality sector.

We have the Emirates Riverside International cricket ground at the end of the high street, with Lumley Castle nestled in the trees just beyond. Chester-le-Street has a very popular riverside park with extensive grounds for walks and a great place for the children. Every week the Park hosts a park run which is very popular with local people and members of our church often help to steward the events. Other sports facilities include golf club, swimming pool, leisure centre, Chester-le-Street cricket ground and a number of private sport clubs.

The five primary schools in our town all have a 'good' Ofsted rating. Also 2 large secondary schools, one of which is located adjacent to the main church building.

We have nine residential care homes and a small community hospital.



Parish Area

The town of Chester-le-Street including North Lodge area, and South Pelaw.
Outlying communities of Chester Moor, Pelton Fell, Waldrige and Hett Hills.



Parish Of Chester-le-Street

Population	25,947
Deprivation Rank	3,835
Number of Occupied households	11,649
Area	6.1 sq. miles
Ethnicity	White - 98.3% Asian/Black - 1.0% Other - 0.7%
Religion	Christian - 72.3% Other - 1.1% No religion - 21.1% Religion not stated - 5.6%



Schools

We maintain good links with all of the town's primary schools, especially the Church of England Primary School which also includes nursery provision. Our team visits the school regularly for collective worship and supports the pupils through school chaplaincy and prayer spaces. Before Covid our Open the Book team visited weekly and hope to begin again in the near future.

We have two secondary schools, one of which (Park View School) is located adjacent to the main church building. Good links have been established with Park View through weekly school chaplaincy.

School Name		No. of Pupils	% Free School Meals	Type
Bullion Lane Primary School	Prim.	301	53.4	Community
Cestria Primary School	Prim.	411	12.4	Community
Chester-le-Street CE Primary School	Prim.	284	30.3	Vol. Cont. CofE
Newker Primary School	Prim.	441	17.3	Community
Red Rose Primary School	Prim.	287	8.0	Community
Hermitage Academy	Sec.	1,083	16.8	Academy converter
Park View School	Sec.	1,519	15.6	Academy converter

Our Congregations and Services

In February 2023, the parish will transitioned to a new pattern of worship as follows:

SUNDAYS

8.00am Holy Communion (BCP)

9.30am Parish Church Service (Liturgy from Common Worship, with a mix of traditional hymns and contemporary worship songs. Holy Communion twice a month)

11.00am Parish Centre Service (An informal service using contemporary worship. Holy Communion once a month)

6.00pm Evening Service (Sung evening prayer using Common Worship, including a choir, Holy Communion once a month)

WEEKDAYS

Thursday 10.45am Holy Communion (BCP)

Mother's Union meets fortnightly

MONTHLY

2nd Sunday 4pm Messy Church (Parish Centre)

3rd Sunday 2pm & 3pm Baptisms



The expectation for the Associate Rector will be to attend the 9.30am and 11am Sunday services weekly, and to attend the other Sunday and Thursday services as required.

Children and Youth Work

Before Covid we had an extensive range of activities for our children and young people, we are gradually building these groups back up.

There is huge potential for growth, with the following currently a regular part of the life of the church:

- Toddler Group
- Messy Church
- Sunday School
- Holiday Clubs
- Creative Ministry (puppets)
- Collective worship and assemblies in schools
- School class visits to church
- Prayer Spaces in Primary and Secondary Schools
- School Chaplaincy in two Schools
- Seasonal activities e.g. Light Party
- All of our local schools hold seasonal services in church.

We have a passionate and dedicated team of volunteers. This is seen as a vital role within the Church to maintain a focus on our children and young people across the community.



The Church Building

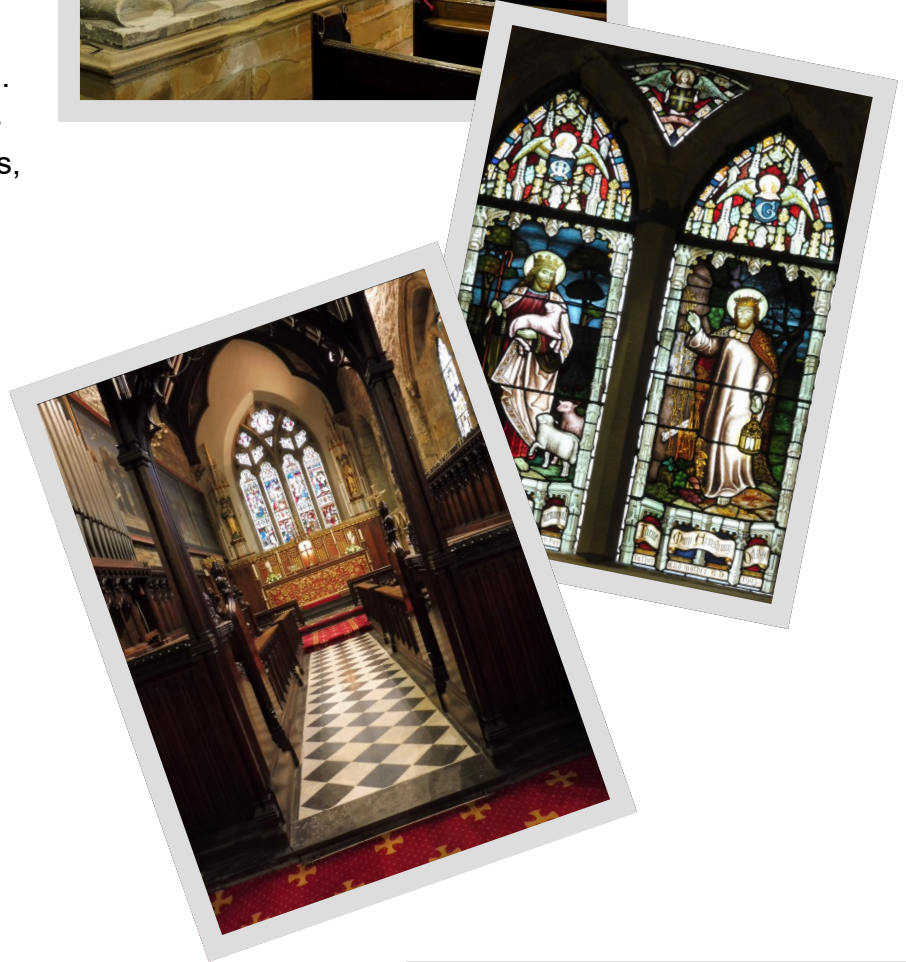
The church building is a Grade 1 listed building.

There has been a church building here since Anglo Saxon times in 883AD. Our current building dates from the Eleventh Century but there are stones from the old Roman Fort reused in the building. This is where the body of St Cuthbert rested here for over 100 years, brought for safety by monks from Lindisfarne.

We have a facsimile of the Lindisfarne Gospels in the Church Building.

We are a local heritage site and on several walking and pilgrimage trails including the new Diocesan Pilgrimages of the Way of Learning and the Angel Way.

We love to welcome visitors and a small team of dedicated stewards enables the church building to open for some time on most days.



Ankers House

Part of the church is the Ankers House where Anchorites prayed in seclusion. This is now a small museum with artefacts and displays on the history of our church and town. Previously managed by the Ankers House Trust, the church has recently taken over management of the Ankers House.



Parish Centre



The Parish Centre was opened in 1987. It houses our Parish Office, two large halls, a number of smaller rooms, a coffee lounge and kitchen.

The Parish Centre is open daily for church and community activities and events. We have regular groups who hire the premises. The hall hire is very popular and gives the parish regular income to sustain the centre.

A large part of the vision for the Parish Centre is to bring people of the town into the building and receive a Christian welcome. The red cross at the centre of the entrance is a statement of our love and care to call who visit.

We have a parish office with employed administration staff. The office is open from 9am - 1pm to the public, and staffed until 4pm. Our Parish administrators are responsible for taking bookings for both the church occasional offices as well as the Parish Centre.



In the centre we have a café open daily from 10am—1pm serving hot meals, savouries and sweet snacks. We see our coffee lounge as a valuable asset to the community. It is through this ministry that we are able to walk alongside our community.

The Kitchen has three employed staff members and numerous volunteers who help daily.



Team

Employed staff

2 Parish Administrators 1 full time, 1 part time

3 Kitchen staff part time

2 Parish Centre Cleaners part time

1 Church cleaner part time

1 Organist part time

Vergers part time

Our office administrators are responsible for the day to day running of the parish office. We feel this is a huge asset to the Church and offers consistency for everyday church tasks. They take Church and Parish Centre bookings, keeping all records up to date. They take payments and ensure organisation for all occasional offices and liaise with ministers, funeral directors, vergers and our organist. They also manage fees and invoices, coordinate Parish centre staff salaries and monitor Church stewards. Our administrators also provide pastoral support during opening hours if and when needed.

Clergy

Rector

Curate due to be ordained deacon at Petertide 2023

3 Retired clergy with PTO

Licensed and Authorised

2 Lay Readers

1 Lay Reader in training

3 Authorised Pastoral Assistants

Engaging with the Diocesan Priorities

Mission is undertaken with the 4 Diocesan priorities in mind - Energising Growth, Caring for God's Creation, Engaging with Children, Youth and Young adults, Challenging Poverty.

Our church is a place where we celebrate the special gifts God bestows on each one of us. We have been the sending church for at least nine new clergy members and we see this as a special part of our ministry.

Through our Parish Priorities we seek to highlight the needs of our area and congregations, encompassing each of the diocesan priorities to meet the needs of those in our town.

We aim to encourage growth through our various chaplaincy teams at the Parish Centre or in schools. We promote opportunities for people to encounter God for themselves through courses such as Alpha, along with other faith development sessions / courses.

We also signpost to the training options the Diocese offers aiming to give people many varied options for personal development and growth and knowledge in faith.

We regularly engage and support our community with Baptism Preparation, Funeral Ministry, Bereavement follow up and Schools Ministry.

We offer opportunities for people to become Lay Leaders, Readers, Chaplaincy Team Members and Authorised Pastoral Team members, with a small number having completed training.

Our priority for mission with young people is to develop opportunities for young people to ask questions, develop prayer life, to see a Christian life lived out and develop their own faith.

Ephesians 3:17-18

¹⁷ So that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, ¹⁸ may have power, together with all the Lord's holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ.



Engaging with the Diocesan Priorities - Cont.

Engaging with the community to provide support for those in need we know we can always do more to create better opportunities for developing this mission.

Currently we offer support through donations to the local food bank and the Peoples Kitchen, in Newcastle.

We are a Fairtrade Parish and have a regular Traidcraft Stall.

We have a fully trained CAP Job Club Leader and Team and regularly host CAP Job Club sessions.

Showing care for our community and places we live happens throughout a range of activities. Most recently we have established an Eco Team to look at potential ways to be a more eco friendly church, encouraging others at home too. Creating a passion in others to come alongside and care for God's creation.

Through a very generous bequest we have been able to install Solar panels on the Parish Centre roof.

Proverbs 31:8-9

⁸ Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves, for the rights of all who are destitute.

⁹ Speak up and judge fairly. Defend the rights of the poor and needy.

