

RECTOR OF
ST NICHOLAS CHURCH GUISBOROUGH

PARISH PROFILE



An introduction from Barry, the Bishop of Whitby

I am delighted you are exploring applying to become Rector of Guisborough, serving a beautiful market town on the edge of the North York Moors, close to both the coast and to Middlesbrough. Be assured of my prayers and those of Archdeacon Amanda as you do.

St Nicholas is a delightful church. During my first year here, I have visited the church community on a number of occasions and witnessed the warm welcome and generous hospitality offered to all. I have baptised and confirmed quite a number of people on two separate occasions and laughed more with a choir than on any occasion I can recall! It is a place of strong community, lively faith and many missional opportunities.

This is a rare opportunity to lead and serve a single church unit which is deeply missional, has a superb, newly refurbished building, has a team (of 7) licensed/authorised lay and ordained ministers as well as many faithful volunteers, and is in good heart. Their description of what they seek is significant and worth repeating: we are seeking a Priest who will “lead us into the next chapter of deepening and energising our Christian faith, enabling us to share Christ’s story through the many opportunities we have.”

St Nicholas is part of a collaborative and supportive Deanery, who join the parishes of the wider Diocese in seeking to invite all who live, study, work or play in our parishes to know the joy of Living Christ’s Story. This means each church focusing on what it means to:

- **Become more like Christ** – knowing we are God’s beloved children, that Jesus came to seek, serve and save, and actively participating in worship and witness Monday to Sunday
- **Reach people we currently don’t** - living and telling the story of God with cultural humility and faith-filled confidence, inviting our classmates and colleagues, neighbours and friends to know the love, purpose and hope which has blessed us
- **Grow as churches of missionary disciples which are younger and more diverse** – knowing we are sent to every place and person to which we go, but being a ‘community of the sent’ is most effective and best reflects the Kingdom of God when everyone is known and needed, honoured and participating.

May you know the surrounding and upholding of the Spirit of God as you discern.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read '+Barry Hill'.

For an informal conversation about this post, contact the Bishop of Whitby, Barry Hill (bishopofwhitby@yorkdiocese.org or 01642 593273) or the Archdeacon of Cleveland, Amanda Bloor (adcl@yorkdiocese.org or 01642 706095).

This post is open to Anglican priests who are eligible to work in the UK, subject to satisfactory episcopal reference and enhanced DBS. Applications to Jacqui Gunter, Jacqui.Gunter@yorkdiocese.org

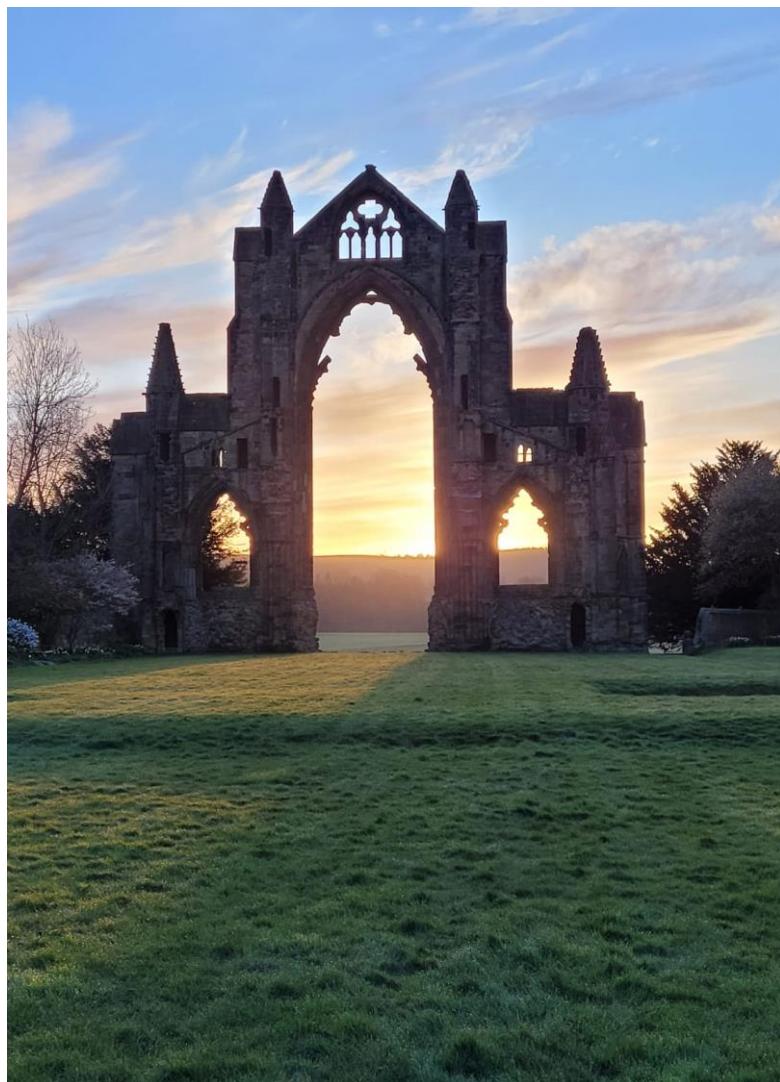


WELCOME TO ST NICHOLAS CHURCH IN GUISBOROUGH

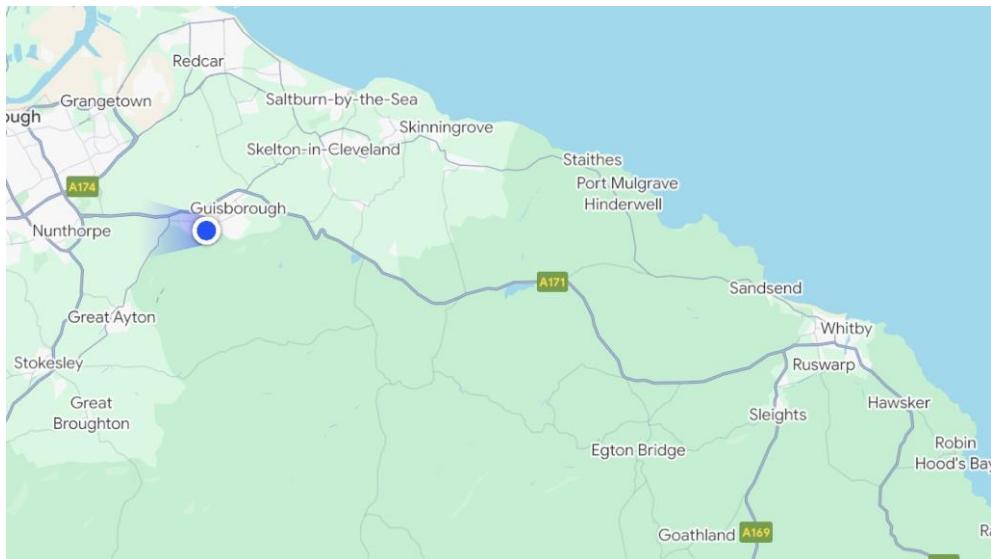
We are an energetic, welcoming and vibrant community who have been working hard over the last 10 years to re-order our grade II listed building whilst having major restoration work done to our tower. Now we are seeking somebody to lead us into the next chapter of deepening and energising our Christian faith, discovering with us God's purpose and enabling us to share Christ's story through the many opportunities we have.

The Guisborough community regards St Nicholas Church as a focal point. Through the Church/Schools Programme and Occasional Office Services, we have built relationships with people across the community, seeing many hundreds of young families coming through the doors of St Nicholas throughout the year.

Be assured of our prayers as both we and you seek God's guidance as to the way forward.



LOCATION



Guisborough is an expanding market town, on the edge of Guisborough Forest, on the northern fringe of the North York Moors National Park. It is in close proximity to the North East Coast and near to the local landmark of Roseberry Topping.

Guisborough Forest and Walkway has its own visitors' centre and is a gateway for families, local residents and outdoor enthusiasts to access beautiful, unspoilt forest, moorland and the National Park.

Amenities.

The town is supported by an effective transport network including rail and air within easy reach and an excellent road network.

Guisborough is fortunate to be in a first-class environmental and ecological location, with its own hospital, two health centres and ample dental care. The town is very well served by five of the country's leading supermarkets, a wide range of other well-known shops, a host of local tradespeople and regular markets, excellent restaurants, public houses, wine bars and a range of cafes and coffee shops. We have five popular primary schools, an 11-16 school and a sixth form college. The town also boasts its own football club, cricket club, rugby club, squash club, bowls club, swimming pool and gym facilities. Many organisations which support young people are well attended, these include Scouts, Guides, Cadets and numerous sporting groups.

Where is our Church Building?

St Nicholas is situated at the east end of the high street. Adjoining the Church on the south side are the ruins of the town's Augustinian Priory, currently under the guardianship of English Heritage, managed by the Guisborough Priory Project.

WHO WE ARE

St Nicholas is the only Anglican Church in Guisborough. We have a regular congregation of well over one hundred servicing the needs of an expanding town of approximately eighteen thousand people.

We have a warm and welcoming congregation, from a range of backgrounds and Christian traditions, reflecting the socio-economic mix of Guisborough. This gives strength and breadth to our mission, while at times presenting a challenge. There is great unity in a desire to have a faith that is communicated in a relevant manner to the wider community. We are open to new ways and ideas of presenting the Christian message.

In addition to the usual services on Sundays and Thursday mornings the Church aims for active engagement within the community for families. It operates a programme of concerts and events in Church; it funds and manages the Church/Schools partnership scheme with all the primary schools in the town and organises a week-long Open-Door event involving all year five primary pupils. It runs Messy Church and hosts Mini Music sessions for pre-School children.

St Nicholas is a recognised Dementia Friendly Church and has the Eco Church Bronze Award.

What we can offer.

We are fortunate in having four retired priests with Permission to Officiate, a Licensed Minister, and two Authorised Lay Ministers who support the Incumbent. We appreciate the different styles of pastoral care, preaching and ministry they provide.

We have two Churchwardens who are ably supported by three deputy wardens. We have an actively involved PCC (of 19), which enables us to take up all our Deanery Synod places. Our Parish Safeguarding Officer does a magnificent job of managing the continual updating of DBS's, of training and overseeing events. We have several Verger's, who assist in the management of Baptisms, Weddings and Funerals.

We have a wonderful band of volunteers, of all ages who form several teams ensuring the smooth running of the Church: Treasury Team, Social Events & Fundraising Team, Hospitality Team, Buildings Team, Gardening Team and a Cleaning Team. We find working together creates a lot of enjoyment, fulfilment and forges strong bonds of friendship.

Our previous incumbent had secretarial support for 12 hours/week until January 2025. The PCC is committed to employing and funding part-time secretarial support alongside consultation with our new incumbent.

Music at St Nicholas.

Music plays a significant and vital part of our worship, with a blend of traditional hymns and contemporary worship songs, led by the choir, which includes several enthusiastic young choristers.

In September 2024 we introduced a Choir Scholarship Programme for children in Key Stage 2 and 3. This has resulted in an influx of young people to the choir. It offers them a musical education, social events, pocket money and an annual trip to take part in Prom Praise at The Royal Albert Hall.

We have a music group with a range of instruments joining the organ and piano in leading worship once a month. Our Musical Director plays a major role in our outreach to the community through the Church/Schools Partnership Programme.



Bellringers.

We have an experienced team of bellringers who practise weekly and ring each Sunday morning and on special occasions. St Nicholas Church has 6 bells, which celebrated their 200th anniversary in 2024. We are proud of the team's achievement in ringing a Quarter Peal for the first time in 2022.



Electoral Roll.

We have 307 on our Electoral Roll, 30 of whom live outside the Parish boundary.

OUR SERVICES

Our services follow Common Worship. We have a robed choir each Sunday and a chasuble is worn for the Eucharist. Lay participation is encouraged in readings and leading intercessions.

We have two Eucharistic services a week: Sunday 9.30am, with the choir, average attendance 100–130, and Thursday 9.30am, said, which averages 15-25. At Easter and Christmas, attendance can range between 150 – 250, and our Dawn Service in the Priory on Easter morning attracts 50-70 people. We hold seasonal services during Advent, Christmas, Lent, Holy Week, Easter and occasional services for healing.



Messy Church.

Our Messy Church which meets every two months is a vibrant and welcoming expression of our ministry with families and children. It offers a wonderful opportunity for creative, hands-on engagement with faith through stories, crafts, music, prayer, and shared meals.

Each session attracts families from both within the congregation and the wider community – many of whom may not attend traditional Sunday Services. It has become an important way of building relationships, nurturing faith and sharing God's love.

Occasional Offices.

Funerals: These are always tailored to families' needs, and a considerable number of bereaved people have subsequently become regular and active Church members.

2024 40 funerals

2025 44 funerals held to the end of November

Baptisms: 2024 36 baptisms

2025 40 baptisms held to the end of November

Weddings: 2024 11 weddings

2025 4 weddings held to the end of November

The low number this year reflects the Tower restoration work which took place throughout the summer. However, weddings generally remain popular due to the Church being alongside The Priory ruins which provide a beautiful backdrop for photographs.

Remembrance Day.

We liaise with the Royal British Legion for the very well attended Remembrance Day service. It takes place outside the Church, around the War Memorial, together with the many uniformed organisations which parade through the town.

We also welcome our schools to the Church for their own Remembrance Day service.



Visitors & Children.

The local Primary schools hold seasonal services in the Church for Easter, Harvest, Remembrance and Christmas, which are well attended by family members.

Visitors are warmly welcomed. We have a Children's Corner for under 5's enabling both children and parents to engage with the service. Activity Bags are readily available.

DISCIPLESHIP

To help with growing our understanding and enhancing our faith journey, we encourage the use of our Church library and in house publications. We have organised bible study groups, usually connected to Church festivals and events and have used several of the Pilgrim Courses.

We believe that following Jesus and becoming more Christlike is the essence of discipleship. This can be summarised by loving God, loving one another and loving our neighbour. Thus, we all have a role to play in encouraging each other in our daily life through our decisions, thoughts, words and actions. A blessing we have at St Nicholas, as members of God's family, is that the enthusiasm of the children and young people influences the more elderly, while experience nurtures the younger members.

There is a genuine desire across the congregation for a deepening relationship with Jesus and for a growing understanding of the life of faith, enabling us to articulate the joy of knowing Christ.

In the past couple of years, we have held classes leading to the confirmation of fourteen adults and nine children, many of whom are new to faith and eager to grow.



OUR COMMUNITY LINKS

Open Door.

St Nicholas has had strong links with the Primary Schools in Guisborough for many years. For the last 20 years we have operated 'Open Door', a week at the beginning of July in which year 5 pupils of each primary school visit the Church for a day, learning about the building, Christian traditions, and enjoying related crafts and music.



This week involves a significant proportion of the congregation and volunteers (in excess of 60), and is much appreciated by the schools. We acknowledge the value of what this week achieves and are always open to new ideas.



Church/Schools Partnership.

This was established in 2016, with the employment of our Musical Director. He spends one day a week in 4 of the local primary schools, teaching music both sacred and secular. He leads services in Church for the choir from each school at Easter, Harvest, Remembrance and Christmas, all of which are well attended by family members. School Choir Festivals are held three times a year with many schools from the local area taking part. The musical education is greatly valued by the individual schools and the children's enjoyment is evident.



Through the Partnership we have developed strong links with the head teachers and staff of the Guisborough schools, along with many families. As a result of the Choir Scholarship several parents and grandparents bring the children on the Sunday morning, many staying for the service, and of whom several have been confirmed.

Mother's Union.

There is a strong Mothers' Union of 20-30 members which meets monthly and supports various charities.

Youth Group.

The Youth Group meets weekly during term-time on a Sunday evening in the Church Hall. It has an average attendance of 15 members aged 11-14 years. During the summer, they have regular outdoor trips. A 'God Slot' is part of their evening, we believe this is an important aspect of our mission.



Mini Music.

We run Mini Music, a group for pre-school children during term time. This involves half an hour of singing and games, followed by refreshments and chat. We advertise the dates each half-term. We regularly have 16-20 children with their accompanying adults.

Care Home Ministry.

We visit care homes in Guisborough with which we have developed strong links offering a monthly service for residents. We take House Communions to people who are unable to come to Church. The homes are usually visited during the Christmas period with a volunteer carol singing choir.

Ecumenical Partnership.

For the last 20 years there has been a strong Churches Together in Guisborough, more recently St Nicholas has taken a lesser role in attending joint services. We continue to play a significant role in Guisborough Bridge Association, a joint Churches venture which was set up in the 1990's to support the more vulnerable in society. It has continued to develop and is now a registered charity running a variety of events and support systems.

www.guisboroughbridge.org.uk We currently provide 3 out of 5 Trustees and several volunteers, along with annual financial support.

Concerts & Events.

Led by our Musical Director we actively raise funds for the Church. Since the re-ordering, provision of a servery, toilets and the removal of pews, the Church now has a flexible space in which we host a wide range of concerts and events. These have become hugely popular, helped by our dramatic lighting system, good sound equipment and occasionally a licensed bar. These fundraising events enable us to pay significantly more than our Parish Share.

We have over 2000 followers on Facebook and we use other outlets to advertise services and events.



THE CHURCH

St Nicholas Church is the Parish Church of Guisborough in the Diocese of York. It is a Grade II listed building within a Conservation Area. Its medieval origins go back to the time of the destruction of the adjacent Priory by King Henry VIII and an earlier fire. St Mary's Augustinian Priory was founded in 1119 by the local De Brus family. It is the earliest and one of the significant Priory's in Yorkshire.

The Church houses the nationally significant De Brus Cenotaph (1520), sections of the medieval tiled flooring from the Priory and examples of stained glass dating from the 13th to the 16th centuries.

Major re-ordering took place between 1903 and 1908 under the direction of the architect Temple Moore. More recently over the past two to five years, two further phases of internal re-ordering have seen;

- installation of two new toilets
- creation of a new kitchen and servery
- re-siting the memorial chapel
- removal of the old pipe organ and installation of a new electronic organ
- removal of the old Victorian pews and replacement with wooden chairs
- modern preservation treatment of the wooden flooring

The purpose of this re-ordering has been to create the largest indoor facility in the town and to liberate the potential of the Church to be the main venue in Guisborough for concerts, plays and other social events, in addition to providing a modern flexible space for worship.



The Quinquennial Inspection of 2022 highlighted the urgent need for major remedial structural work to be carried out on the tower and main entrance arch to ensure safe access to the building. This work was successfully completed in September 2025.

Church Hall.

St Nicholas Church Hall is within easy walking distance from the Church. It is extremely well supported and used by many Church and community groups including;

Guisborough Theatre Group, U3A Groups, Fitness Classes, Craft and Vintage Fairs, Dance Group, Woodcarvers' Group, Table Tennis/Coffee Group and the Church Youth Club.

In line with our future vision for growing Church numbers we look forward to increasing the usage of the Church Hall.

November 2025 Timetable of Bookings												
Nov-25	9am	10am	11am	Noon	1pm	2pm	3pm	4pm	6pm	7pm	8/9pm	
Sat 1st												
Sun 2nd							3-5.30pm Theatre Group	6-8pm Youth Group				
Mon 3rd		10am-12noon Table Tennis							5.45pm-7.45pm Natalie			
Tues 4th	9-9.45am	10am-1pm Woodcarvers					3-4pm Tai Chi			7.30 Theatre Group		
Wed 5th		10am-12noon Mah Jong					1.30-3.30 MU Meeting				7- 9pm Pimms & Needles	
Thur 6th		10.30am-12noon Table Tennis					1pm-3.30pm Tea Dance			5.45pm-7.45pm Natalie		
Fri 7th	9.15-10am	10.30am-12.30pm Art Group*					1.30pm-3.30pm U3A Canasta			5.30-9.30 Dice&them		
Sat 8th												
Sun 9th								3pm Theatre Group	6-8pm Youth Group			
Mon 10th		10am-12noon Table Tennis							5.45pm-7.45pm Natalie			
Tues 11th	9-9.45am	10am-1pm Woodcarvers					3-4pm Tai Chi			7.30 Theatre Group		
Wed 12th		10am-12noon Mah Jong								6-10pm Floral Arts		
Thurs 13th		10.30am-12noon Table Tennis					1pm-3.30pm Tea Dance			5.45pm-7.45pm Natalie		
Fri 14th	9.15-10am	10.30am-12.30pm Art Group*					1.30pm-3.30pm U3A Canasta			5.30pm Natalies Ladies Night		
Sat 15th												
Sun 16th		10-12 Natalie					3pm Theatre Group	6-8pm Youth Group				
Mon 17th		10am-12noon Table Tennis							5.45pm-7.45pm Natalie			
Tues 18th	9-9.45am	10am-1pm Woodcarvers					3-4pm Tai Chi			7.30 Theatre Group		
Wed 19th		10am-12noon Mah Jong								6-10pm Flower Grp - Clothes Show		
Thur 20th		10.30am-12noon Table Tennis					1pm-3.30pm Tea Dance			5.45pm-7.45pm Natalie		
Fri 21st	9.15-10am	10.30am-12.30pm Art Group*					1.30pm-3.30pm U3A Canasta					
Sat 22nd		10-12 MSEC								6-8 Michelle		
Sun 23rd							1pm Dress Rehersal	3pm Theatre Group		6-8pm Youth Group		
Mon 24th		10am-12noon Table Tennis								5.45pm-7.45pm Natalie		
Tues 25th	9-9.45am	10am-1pm Woodcarvers					3-4pm Tai Chi			7.30 Theatre Group		
Wed 26th		10am-12noon Mah Jong										
Thur 27th		10.30am-12noon Table Tennis					1pm-3.30pm Tea Dance			SHOW		
Fri 28th	9.15-10am	10.30am-12.30pm Art Group*					1.30pm-3.30pm U3A Canasta			SHOW		
Sat 29th										SHOW		
Sun 30th								3pm Theatre Group	6-8pm Youth Group			

The Rectory.

The Diocesan Property Team are investigating the option of replacing the current Rectory with a newer, more energy efficient parsonage house within Guisborough. Any alternative property will meet the standards of the National Parsonage's Guides.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

The Church is in a strong financial position. There are 130 people who give regularly to the Church, either by bank standing order or the envelope scheme, the majority of these are Gift Aid givers. A generous freewill offer continues to be paid to the Diocese each year, and this has been maintained despite the tower repair project (see below). Giving to missions and other charities totalled over £15,000 last year, of which £10,000 was direct giving, the remainder from funerals in line with family choices.

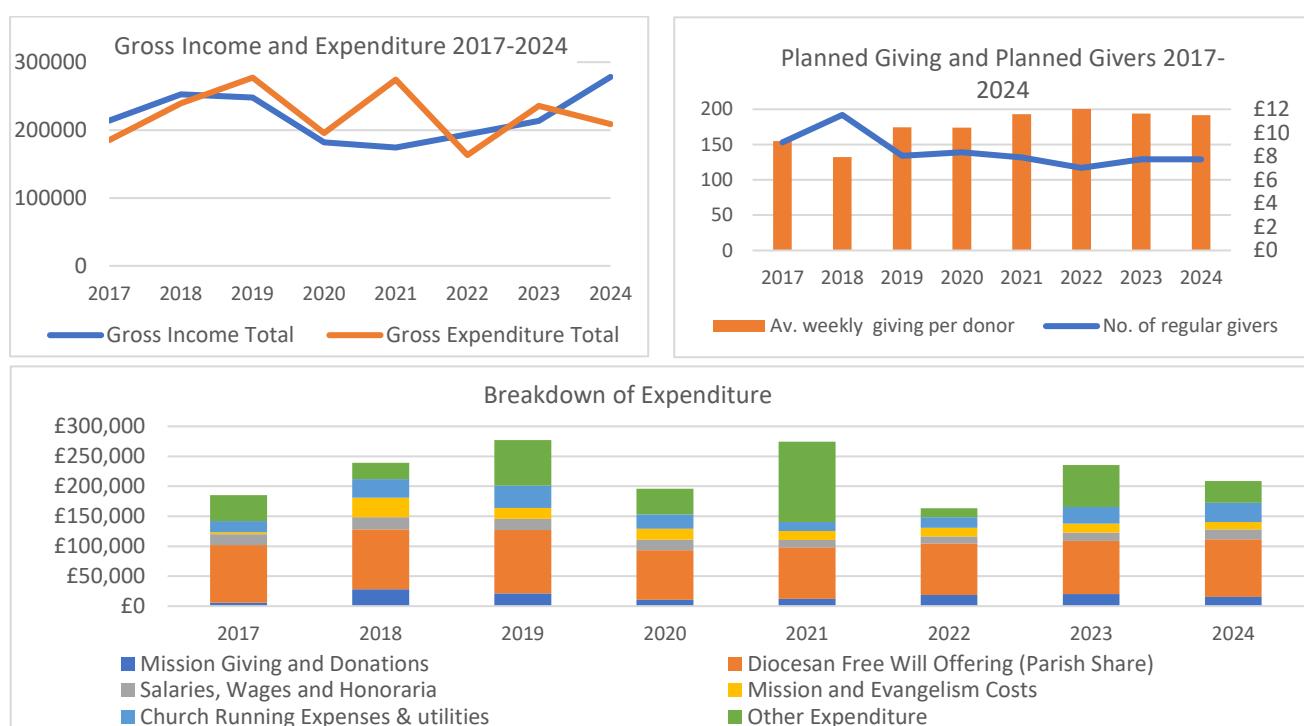
The Church funds the Church/School partnership programme which costs £12,000 per year.

The Church has an active programme of fundraising, with a dedicated team running events at intervals through the year, these are well supported by the local community. Net funds raised in 2024 amounted to nearly £27,000.

The Church has a policy of maintaining substantial financial reserves, consistent with the requirements of managing a centuries old Grade II listed building.

In 2025 major refurbishment of the 15th Century Church tower was carried out, at a cost of approximately £190,000. This has been funded by a combination of reserves, grants (£34,000), and over £60,000 donated by Church members and many others in response to an appeal. The Church remains in a sound financial position following this expenditure.

The Church has a card reader to allow it to receive electronic donations, and is looking to augment this with a table-top unit permanently located adjacent to the main entrance.



VISION / THE NEW RECTOR

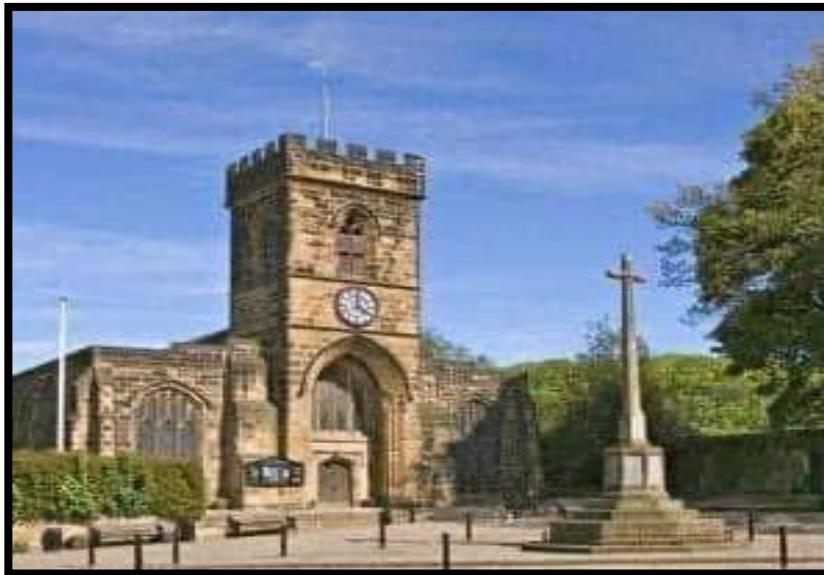
We are looking to appoint a new Rector who has the initiative, enthusiasm and energy to lead this popular Church into its next phase of development, as a Church, Church family and individuals at different stages of their faith journey.

We are team orientated at St Nicholas and value the cooperation and divergent skills offered by our volunteers.

The new Rector will be able to lead, encourage and work with the large number of volunteers we are fortunate to have.

They should also be someone

- who is an energetic and a natural communicator able to connect with people of all ages and backgrounds
- who will lead us in sharing Christ's story, taking full advantage of the opportunities already created at St Nicholas, to reach people we currently don't
- who is a team builder with the ability to equip, empower and enable others
- who is inclusive, open hearted and embraces diversity in all its forms
- who will respect our liturgical tradition, leading us forward in new ways of engaging with today's world
- who will lead, challenge and energise us to become more like Christ by deepening our life of prayer and faith
- who will continue to value the importance of the work undertaken with local schools as part of our Church/Schools Music Programme and work closely with our Musical Director to ensure its continued successful development.



Welcome from the Area Dean

The first words you will read in the Guisborough Deanery Plan 2022-2031 are from St Paul's Letter to the Ephesians:

For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named, that according to the riches of his glory he may grant you to be strengthened with power through his Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith—that you, being rooted and grounded in love, may have strength to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled with all the fullness of God. (Ephesians 3.14-19)

This wonderful Biblical text lays the foundation for what I pray for the people, parishes and ministries of the Guisborough Deanery. Whilst the Diocesan call for us to be 'Living Christ's Story' is fine, I prefer to say we are 'Living Christ's Gospel'. It is the Gospel and the life that flows from it that St Paul so powerfully describes in Ephesians. I see many in the Guisborough Deanery proclaiming and living Christ's Gospel. So, as you consider the Lord's call to minister in this area and among its people, I hope you are enthused by possibilities that God our Father will provide for you to speak and live the good news.

You may already have a rough idea of the geography of the parishes of the Guisborough Deanery, but the map below is helpful.

May the Lord guide your decision making as you consider this position.

Rev Adam Reed

