



PROFILE

Welcome to this description for the vacancy for a Full-time Priest-in-Charge at All Saints, Middlesbrough.



An introduction from Barry, the Bishop of Whitby

I am delighted you are exploring applying for to be Priest in Charge of All Saints in Middlesbrough town centre. Be assured of my prayers and those of Archdeacon Amanda and our colleagues as you do.

All Saints is a parish with a rich story and big missional reputation, aided by being led ably led until his retirement last Autumn by the same Priest for just over three decades. A Parish of the Society, the Mass is the centre of church life – the place from which God feeds and sends us Monday to Sunday. All Saints has thrived over the years because of the direct line from the altar to the street (literally as well as metaphorically). As local bishop, I am keen to work with the Priest and People of All Saints, the Bishop of Beverley and wider deanery to encourage this rich sacramental tradition and strong missional history of All Saints, which has an honoured place in the town.



This appointment comes at a critical time for mission and ministry in Middlesbrough. We are in the middle of discerning how the Spirit of God is calling us over the coming years. It is hoped this vacancy will be much briefer than is often the case to ensure the new Priest-in-Charge can be involved at the heart of these discernments. As a diocese, and with the encouragement of the national church, we intend later in 2026 to seek significant new investment from the national church to support these plans which are focused on growing not retreating, mindful that God alone gives the growth. Within All Saints itself there is also space for the new Priest to lead the congregation in discerning the future vision for the Parish.

Partnership and collaboration are key to this appointment, we seek a Priest who can continue and further build on the history of All Saints having a ministry beyond the boundaries of the Parish. This involves someone keen to work both with civic partners and with all the churches of the deanery in responding to the significant needs of those who live, work and study here. This includes being involved in deanery wide thinking as to how we respond to the 3,400 new houses approved to be built in the coming years across several parishes, with a majority in the Parish of All Saints. It is also includes working with the newly appointed Priest-in-Charge at Whinney Banks in supporting the school which serves both parishes, and whose catchment area has the highest rate of children born into poverty in the whole country (85%).

All Saints join with the parishes of the Diocese in seeking to invite the 1.5 million parishioners we serve to know the joy of Living Christ's Story. This means each church focusing on what it means to:

- Become more like Christ
- Reach people we currently don't
- Grow as churches of missionary disciples which are younger and more diverse

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

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). As a Parish of the Society, potential applicants may also find it helpful to contact the Bishop of Beverley, who will be represented on the interview panel by a senior priest of the Society. 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

A message from Stephen, the Bishop of Beverley

Thank you for considering the possibility that you may be being called to live out the next phase of your priestly ministry serving God and His people in Middlesbrough. Here you will find a faithful and committed church community and a beautiful building, both of which proclaim the catholic faith boldly.

Do be in touch with me or +Barry, the Bishop of Whitby, if you would like to discuss this role in more detail

+Stephen Beverley

The Rt Rev Stephen Race

The Bishop of Beverley

stephen@seeofBeverley.org.uk



Location.

All Saints Church is a Society Church in the centre of Middlesbrough and is the most northerly parish in the Diocese of York. Five former parishes in central Middlesbrough merged over the years between the 1950s and the 1980s. These were All Saints, St Hilda's, St Aidan's, St Peter's and St Alban's. This forms the current parish. The whole area was mainly terraced housing in and around the town centre. Now the parish is mainly the shopping, administrative, commercial and educational centre of the wider town. The residential population has substantially reduced, but there are proposals for substantial areas of new build housing.

All Saints is within the Middlesbrough Deanery and the Archdeaconry of Cleveland, in the Diocese of York.

The Church and the Community.

All Saints is seen by many as their place for baptisms, weddings and funerals even when they have moved away from the town centre. At present All Saints has no other buildings apart from the church, but has a long standing funded proposal to develop the west end of the building for a meeting room, social events, kitchen and toilet. A change of Architect has slowed the process, but once a scheme has been agreed by the diocese the work should proceed.

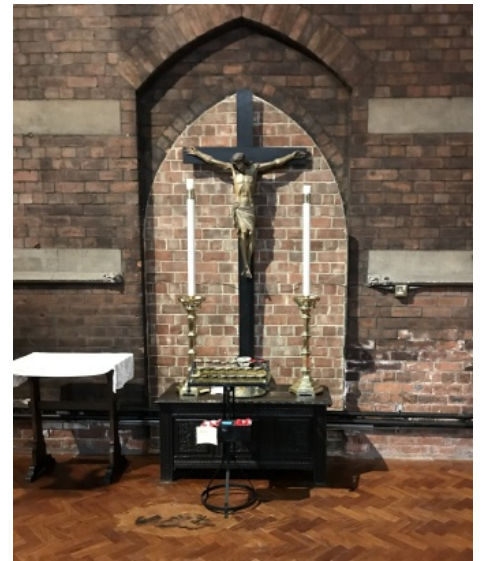


The new secondary school in the St.Hilda's area offers an additional opportunity to that previously available at primary level. The last incumbent had close links with two primary schools in the town. He also had good links with local undertakers and an annual memorial service for recently deceased family members brought a wider group of people into church. The three town centre churches, All Saints', St.Columba's and St.John's are all 'Society' churches and have worked together in various forms for decades. This continues today for some services and social events. Prior to Covid there were some Ecumenical activities in the town centre, including a Good Friday procession of witness.

We look forward to developing activity with other denominations. There is further opportunity to look to the needs of people who live, work and study in the town centre.

Worship.

The worship is centred on the Mass. Prior to Covid Mass was celebrated 6/7 times a week. Post Covid that has reduced to 3/4 a week. The Parish is committed to playing a full part in the life of the Middlesbrough Deanery and the Archdiocese of York in accordance with the Five Guiding Principles set out in the House of Bishops' Declaration. The PCC has confirmed all three relevant statements at its meeting September 2025.



From its earliest days All Saints has stood firmly in the Anglo Catholic tradition having a stormy relationship with the diocese for a number of years. By 1900 Archbishop McClagan had placed All Saints under The Ban due to its ritualistic practices and remained so for some 30 years. In April 1900 a tabernacle was placed on the altar in the Lady Chapel and down the years the church has been enhanced and beautified for its worship. Nowadays a tabernacle on the High Altar is used,



In 1925 The Anglo Catholic Congress was held in Middlesbrough organised by All Saints' vicar Fr. Burn (vicar for 41 years) and presided over by Lord Halifax. All Saints remained at the forefront of the Anglo Catholic movement maintaining the faith in good times and bad throughout the 20th century. After Vatican Two and the changes to the Liturgy the choir stalls were removed from the chancel and a westward facing altar placed in what is now a wonderful open sanctuary.

Prior to Covid All Saints held a Corpus Christi Festival on the octave of the feast and catholic parishes from around the area came together for a great celebration.

The Church and its people.

During the vacancy Father Stephen Cooper, an Associate Priest (retired), presides at Sunday, weekday and other Feast Day Masses. Mass attendance on Sunday is around 40, with smaller numbers on weekdays. Most attendees are established parishioners, but with often changing additions due to migration, University students and medical employment patterns.

The Electoral Roll has a current membership of 61.

Sunday and Holy Day worship is supported musically by an experienced Organist with congregational singing. In 2010 the organ was replaced with a large 3 manual digital organ housed in the case of the original pipe organ.



The parish has adopted a Safeguarding policy and has a safeguarding officer.

Nature of the Parish.

The Catholic worship at All Saints is supported by a substantial number of worshippers resident in other parishes. As a church in the centre of Middlesbrough, the parish has historically been associated with Local Government, Civic and ceremonial events. Past Incumbents have chaired the Town Centre Partnership, local school Governing bodies and Community Councils. Three of the last four Parish Priests have been members of religious orders (Company of Mission Priests, Society of the Sacred Mission and the Society of the Holy Cross). Incumbents have progressed to be a Bishop, an Archdeacon and Chaplain to a religious order.



Future Developments.

Within the parish a new Secondary School is due to be completed. New housing developments are taking place in the town centre and 3,400 homes are to be built in the St Hilda's area. The proposed large housing development will provide a substantial opportunity for mission. Adding 3,400 properties within the parish more than doubles the residential population. Additionally the redevelopment of the Gresham area will give a further boost to the town centre residential expansion.

Pastoral Requirement.

Mass is celebrated each Sunday and Feast Days in a full ceremonial manner. Our new Priest needs to be an energetic person, dedicated to their calling in the Catholic tradition of the church, who:

- respects and upholds the tradition of the church and its liturgy,
- has a zeal for pastoral care,
- has a clear vision for growing the church,
- can recognise and use the talents of the laity through trust, co-operation and delegation,
- acknowledges the deprivation of the area,
- understands that our finances are stable and sufficient not to be a cause of stress,
- will have a supportive and experienced PCC.
- play a core part in the Deanery Plan for the Town Centre parishes.



Vicarage

A large semi-detached house is the Vicarage for the Parish Priest. Built in the 1930s, it is suitable for all priestly requirements. When the Diocese purchased the house for the last incumbent it was described as property extending over 166 square metres, with 4 bedrooms, energy

certificate grade D, Council tax band E, loft insulation and gas boiler. It is located at 14 The Crescent, Linthorpe, Middlesbrough, TS5 6SQ, just over a mile from All Saints as no other suitable houses are available in the town centre. The original vicarage and church hall were demolished in the late 1960s. They then formed part of Church House built behind the church. Church House has now been converted into 86 flats.

The Church Building.

All Saints, was consecrated on 29th July 1878 and has Grade II* listed status. It was designed by G.E.Street in the style of Victorian Gothic. The church has many stained glass windows, one of them designed by Edward Burne-Jones. When built the parish served a population of around 16,000 people: it now has a residential population around 3,000. The church had some major funding from Gjers, Mills & Co a local iron and steel company and was known as the Ironmasters Church. A published history contains a more detailed description.



Church Bells

The old Parish Church of St.Hilda was demolished in 1969 when the Town Centre was redeveloped and the bells were moved to All Saints and hung in the steel frame.

They still ring out for Mass on Sundays and Holy Days and weddings.

Financial

The financial position of the Parochial Church Council has remained sound in recent years. Continued generous giving, a history of energetic fundraising and a significant level of investment for income and capital growth, have together enabled reserves at least to be maintained in real terms, during the sixteen year tenure of the present treasurer. The parish has consistently been in a position to maintain Parish Offer at a level to support Direct Cost of Ministry and to meet the substantial and unpredictable costs of maintenance and repair of a listed building nearly 150 years old. It was possible to fund the replacement of the organ in 2010 from the parish's own resources. As and when circumstances permit reordering of the entrance area with amenities to satisfy present day needs and expectations, funds are likewise in place to meet the anticipated costs.

All Saints owns the former St Aidans Church Hall, which with the Diocesan owned church is leased by a Community Church. This provides a regular rent for our parish. All Saints is due a Quinquennial Inspection, which will be carried out in January 2026.

The church's 150th Anniversary falls in 2028 and celebrations will take place.

Contact for further information through the Diocese, the Bishop of Beverley, the Archdeacon of Cleveland, the Bishop of Whitby and the Churchwardens.



Welcome from the Area Dean

Middlesbrough Deanery is the northern most of the six deaneries in the archdeaconry of Cleveland. Just minutes away from the North Yorkshire Moors and the beautiful sandy beaches of the northeast coast.

Due to several retirements in the same 6-month period we are busy filling the 5 vacancies in Middlesbrough Deanery. We are taking the opportunity to rethink what ministry should look like across the deanery in the 21st century. Many of the current parish boundaries do not fit with the current geography and demographics and rather than take years to redraw them while we have large numbers of new houses being built, we are working with the idea of “porous boundaries” and a generous spirit as we navigate the changes ahead.

We are looking forward to working with people who will lead and embrace change, and for colleagues who will continue to work closely with neighbouring Society parishes in order to increase clergy provision from 1.5 FTE to 2 FTE when finances allow. So join us at this exciting time for the parish and deanery.

We are a deanery of many church traditions. From Society, through liberal catholic, low Anglican, and evangelical. As chapter we are looking forward to welcoming colleagues who will be as committed to working together with us, when we can. To share our resources and our experience to build up all our churches as we encourage our congregations to ‘live Christ’s story’. Our unity can be seen in the way we are each helping to cover these vacancies and others in the recent past.

Churches across Teesside have been working together for many years, culminating in Festival Teesside in 2024. We meet for a church leaders lunch each half term, and prayer weekly during term time.

The Holy Spirit is moving on Teesside; are you being called to join us in spreading the gospel in Middlesbrough?





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