

***The Parish of Coatham &
Dormanstown***



Christ Church



All Saints

An introduction from Barry, the Bishop of Whitby



I am delighted you are exploring applying for to be Vicar of Coatham and Dormanstown, serving two closely related coastal communities, close both to Middlesbrough and the North York Moors. Be assured of my prayers and those of Archdeacon Amanda and our colleagues as you do.

These are storied communities, which reflect the wider narrative of Teesside,

with fortunes that have waxed and waned mirroring the same trajectory as key local industry, especially the steelworks. More recently, these communities have been sustained by deep local pride despite very significant financial deprivation, health inequality and relatively low rates of employment. It would be easy to feel these are communities which are overlooked.

The churches have continued to faithfully and fruitfully offer ministry into this context. They have very good links with local schools, good missional opportunity through baptisms and funerals and a team of dedicated lay leaders. Although the worshipping community is relatively modest in size considering the number of people who live in the benefice, as a diocese we are intentionally making a full-time appointment just for this benefice because the missional foundations are strong (even if numbers have dropped since covid) and the need and opportunity is great. This is made possible by the very significant investment we receive for overlooked communities from the national church.

The priority for the next Vicar, therefore, will be to help build confidence in God's call, and through that vision, growth and vocations, so as to help the benefice flourish and continue to serve the wider community which is in such need of the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Coatham and Dormanstown join 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 – 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 humility and confidence, inviting our classmates and colleagues, neighbours and friends to know love, purpose and hope;
- 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, individually and as a 'community of the sent' – a place where 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 dark ink, appearing to read 'Barry Hill', with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

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

The Parish Profile of Coatham & Dormanstown.

The Parish of Coatham and Dormanstown is an area of contrasts, with mainly large Victorian and Edwardian houses in Coatham, and newer housing in Dormanstown. Dormanstown was originally created by the Dorman Long steelworks as housing for the steelworkers and their families in the 1920's. All Saints' Church was built in 1931. Newer private housing was built in the 1960's. Dormanstown now has a mix of privately owned and social housing. The Primary School is Dormanstown Academy, and recently closer links have been made between School and Church with schoolchildren attending for special services.

The Coatham and Dormanstown area, consists of distinct Middle Layer Super Output Areas (MSOAs) and Wards, with Dormanstown often identified as a specific ward in local data. The area is part of a borough facing significant socioeconomic challenges, including high levels of health deprivation and economic inactivity. The population of Coatham Ward stood at 4840 and Dormanstown 4650 in the 2021 census.

Coatham is the older parish, beginning as a small fishing port from the 12th to the 16th centuries. During the Victorian era Coatham grew rapidly with large houses built for the wealthy middle class. The Parish Church was built in 1854 to serve this community. The Parish of Coatham is situated within a conservation area.

Coatham is now a mix of privately owned houses, flats and small hotels and Bed and Breakfast businesses. There are a number of Care Homes for the elderly within the Parish. The Primary School is Church of England and is closely connected to the church. The whole school attends for services at the end of each term, as well as church-based activities such as looking at marriage and the communion service.

Coatham is also home to Coatham Marsh, a 54 hectare nature reserve with reedbeds and wildflower meadows, home to a wide variety of flora and fauna, and a popular destination for bird watchers.

Locke Park is a 24-acre public park situated within the Parish and includes tennis courts, a boating lake, café and children's play area.

Redcar suffered a major economic blow with the closure of the steel works, once the life blood of our community. Although seen as a tragedy at the time, this has been the catalyst for new initiatives with the transformation of the old site into 'Teesworks', currently being developed into a multi-industry site offering green solutions such as wind turbine production and other ecologically sound industries. Work is currently underway to decontaminate the site; once the new industries are up and running hundreds of new jobs will be created, bringing a much-needed economic upturn.

The seafront has undergone a massive boost with a £3.75 million project featuring an 18 hole mini-golf and a fabulous children's play area. Regular outdoor events are held here throughout the summer, including music weekends with live acts and DJ's, and the recently introduced 'Sunset Markets' offering food stalls, music and children's activities. The historic boating lake was refurbished and reopened last summer.

The town centre is being transformed thanks to a Government grant. A brand new facility is being built, which will provide access from the High Street to the seafront via an arcade containing the library, job centre, shops and cafes.

Redcar Central Station has also had a facelift, and tenders are currently being considered for a number of businesses to open there. This will be a fantastic introduction to the town for visitors arriving by train.



Coatham Marsh

The People and Organisations

The men and women of our Parish are noted for their hospitality and the way they support and care for each other.

The PCC – There are currently 9 members of the PCC meeting 9 or 10 times a year. There is currently one Deanery Synod member, who is also our Community Minister. We currently have a Licensed Lay Minister, who is also Churchwarden, Safeguarding Officer and Health & Safety Officer.

We have a PCC Secretary who is also Vice Chair, a Gift Aid Secretary and Electoral Roll Officer.

Unfortunately, we don't have a Treasurer, and financial duties are currently carried out by the Churchwardens, Secretary and 2 other volunteers.

Churchwardens – Two Churchwardens share the duties and responsibilities of this office and cover both Churches in the Parish.

Servers – There are currently 2 servers who assist at the Eucharist.

Social and Fund Raising – A small team organise events throughout the year including coffee mornings in the Church or Hall. We usually hold summer and autumn fairs with various stalls and during the winter occasionally serve soup and sandwiches at All Saints. We believe our social events are an enjoyable way of expressing our commitment to the community, as well as raising funds for the Church.

Buildings Maintenance – Basic maintenance of our buildings is overseen by the PCC Secretary and Churchwardens with professional tradespeople being brought in as required.

Churchyard – The Churchyard at Christ Church was closed in the early 1980's and the local Council are responsible for the grass cutting and trimming of trees and bushes as required. Other maintenance, including grass cutting and hedge trimming at All Saints, is currently carried out by the Churchwardens and PCC Secretary.

Church Flowers – We have lost many of our flower arrangers over the years and currently have one volunteer who provides displays at both Churches.

Choir – A small group of 2 or 3 support our worship and are always looking to recruit new members.

The Church Shop – Our Shop, in the heart of Dormanstown, has been trading for 14 years. As well as selling a variety of second hand goods, it has also become a place where many friendships have been forged. The Shop is well supported and provides much needed extra income for the Parish. The Shop is managed by our Community Minister and a group of loyal volunteers from the Church and the local community.



The Church Shop

The Food Bank – In co-operation with 'Footprints in the Community', our Churches operate as collection points for food and provide volunteers who help with distribution from All Saints Church. We also provide clients with refreshments, a friendly chat and practical advice if needed.



Food Bank volunteers at All Saints

Brownies & Guides – The Brownies and Guides meet on a weekly basis in the Church Hall.

The British Legion – There are close links with the British Legion in Redcar and Dormanstown. On Remembrance Day, there is usually a Service at All Saints and the Vicar is always invited to lead the Service at the Cenotaph in Redcar. There are 5 British Legion Standards laid up in Christ Church.

Recent Work at Both Churches

A scheme to repair and refurbish the tower and spire at Christ Church was undertaken 5 years ago. This was made possible by a National Heritage Lottery Grant and a very generous donation from a former member of the congregation, which also funded replacement roofs to the Chancel and Choir Vestry. Unfortunately, the Nave roof, windows and stonework are currently in very poor condition and are in need of complete replacement/refurbishment. This work, together with some internal re-ordering, was estimated at £1.8 million 2 years ago. However, the PCC felt they didn't have the skills or resources to carry this project further. A public meeting was held at Christ Church last year to gauge public feeling regarding the future of the building. There was strong support from the community to try and keep the building open. However, there has been no further progress in this respect, and it is hoped a new incumbent will be able to guide us in the best way forward for the building.

All Saints had its Quinquennial Inspection last year and a selection of relatively minor remedial works were identified. It is hoped to address these over the next couple of years as finances allow.

Both Churches have been re-wired within the last 15 years.

The Church Hall

The Parish is fortunate to have a hall at Coatham adjacent to Christ Church, which is well used and contributes to our income. Currently we have 2 dance groups, U3A, 'Ringcraft' dog show training, also, Guides and Brownies meet weekly. The Priory Group (Autism and Learning Disability Group) have a regular booking to use the Hall for training purposes. The Hall is also hired out for private events, such as children's parties, and is also used as a polling station by the local Council for local and national elections. A Scout Hut is situated in the Hall grounds, which is run by the 7th Redcar Scouts who pay an annual ground rent to the Church.



Coatham Church Hall



Coatham Church Hall

A Short History of Both Churches

Christ Church, Coatham

Christ Church is a grade II listed building, built in 1854 by Coe & Goodwin with the benefaction of Mrs Teresa Newcomen.

Built from random sandstone with Bath stone dressings. The interior is plastered, with Caen stone dressings, double chamfered arcades with foliate capitals on compound piers. Beautiful stained glass windows in the nave. East and West windows are painted glass and date from 1858 and 1865. The Font, Pulpit and Reredos are attributed to Sir Gilbert Scott. We are fortunate to have a wonderful pipe organ, unfortunately it is in need of a full restoration program, although it is still playable. There is also an electronic organ and Yamaha Clavinova. We also have a separate sound/CD system when no organist is available.



Internal view of Christ Church

All Saints, Dormanstown

The Parish Church of Dormanstown, All Saints, was built in 1931 by William Anely & Sons of York. It was consecrated in 1932. It was described as beautiful and dignified in the Old English style, built of local Glaisdale stone from Ayton quarries and handmade "Tudor Bricks" from Comondale. It took 7 years to raise the sum of £9,000, a testament to the generosity of the people. All Saints also has an electronic organ, Yamaha Clavinova and a separate sound system.

The Parish of Coatham & Dormanstown was formed in 2002 linking the two adjoining Parishes.



Internal view of All Saints

Finances

The Parish is free from debt.

We contribute to the 'Free Will Offer' scheme operating in the York Diocese but, unfortunately, we have had to reduce our contributions considerably over the last two years due to increasing pressure on our Parish finances. Our Parish does, however, receive help in the form of the Lowest Income Communities Investment fund which helps towards making a full-time appointment viable.

Unfortunately, our income from planned giving, cash collections and Gift Aid has fallen over the past two years.

The Church Shop provides the Parish with a significant proportion of its income.

We are able to give a donation to The Children's Society at Christingle as well as a number of dedicated collections for various charities throughout the year.

A copy of the Financial Statements and Annual Report for the year ended 31st December 2025 will be sent to you.

Church Services

Everyone who attends our Services is made very welcome at the door.

Radio microphones are available in both Churches which also includes an induction loop system. The small congregation enjoys a mixture of traditional and modern hymns (Ancient & Modern Hymns and Songs for Refreshing Worship) and other

music. We have help from 2 valued organists at the weekly Service and another organist available for weddings and funerals.

The Eucharist is at the centre of our worship and is taken from the Common Worship, Holy Communion Order One booklet. The Vicar is supported during the Service by our Reader and a small team who read the lesson, lead intercessions and help with the Eucharist. Attendance has dropped dramatically since the Covid pandemic.

Regular Services

8.30 am – Sunday: Said Eucharist at alternate Churches, average attendance 4 or 5 (suspended during the vacancy)

10.00 am – Sunday: Sung Eucharist at alternate Churches, average attendance 25.

9.30 am – Wednesdays: Christ Church. Said Eucharist. Approximately 10 people currently attend.

9.30 am – Tuesday, Thursday and Friday – Morning Prayer via Zoom (currently suspended).

Coatham Primary School

Special Services are held in Church for Easter, Harvest, Christingle and Christmas. The children prepare and play a large part in these services, which are well attended by friends and families of the pupils. The Vicar normally leads collective worship in the school once each half term and is also an ex-officio member of the Board of Governors. Following a visit to the school by Bishop Barry last November and meeting the head teacher, Mr Phil Maudsley, Bishop Barry was “especially struck by the confidence and kindness with which you spoke. Clearly the support of things like the Archbishop’s Award, POW, Oscar and such fabulous teachers and staff has allowed so many of the students I met to be confident sharing with someone like me you are meeting for the first time”. Also, “It felt like a very healthy school, with students learning not just for school but for life. It was good to see faith at the heart of who you are and woven through all the curriculum”.



Year 1 Visiting Christ Church



Coatham Primary School



View of Christ Church from Coatham Primary School

Coatham School Vision Statement

We are a supportive community where everyone learns to believe in themselves both now and in their future. Our Christian values of Friendship, Respect and Fairness help us to understand that we can all make a positive difference to our world, as we love our neighbours as ourselves (Matthew 22:39).

Dormanstown Primary Academy

The Vicar is normally involved with Services at most major festivals in All Saints Church. The School generally prepare and lead their own Services, assisted by the Vicar and Churchwardens.

A Few Statistics from 2025

Baptisms total =21 (**14** babies, **4** 1-4yrs, **2** 5-10yrs, **1** adult)

Funerals total =18 (**11** in Church, **7** at the crematorium)

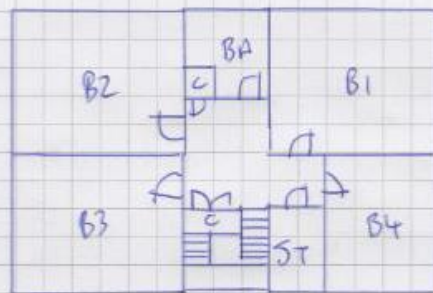
Weddings 1

The Vicarage

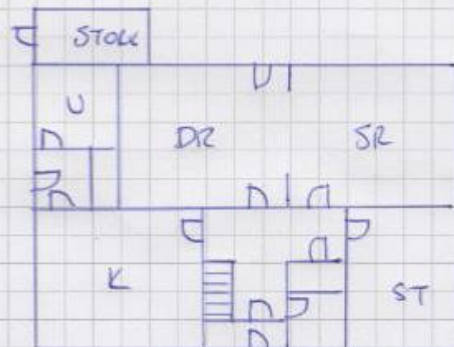
The Vicarage is a 4 bedroomed detached house situated directly next door to All Saints Church, South Avenue, Dormanstown. Externally there are front and rear gardens and a detached garage. It has an EPC rating C.

ALL SAINTS HOUSE, SOUTH AVENUE, DOGMANSTOWN

DOGMANSTOWN DH



FIRST FLOOR



GROUND FLOOR

NOT TO SCALE



The Vicarage

Our Vision for the Future – Living Christ's Story

We are keen to attract new people, particularly younger generations and families, to increase congregation size, hopefully to pre-Covid levels and beyond. To deepen the spiritual life of the Church through prayer and bible study. To cater for the needs of the local community, possibly looking beyond the traditional form of worship to make the Church more attractive to the wider population. Our vision is to encourage growth and diversity, fostering a welcoming, intergenerational community where members feel deeply known, supported, and empowered to serve.

Job Description

Ideally, we would hope the candidate would stay with us for, at least, five years. We would welcome someone who is just starting out on their journey of ministry, or someone with a wider experience of service in a diverse community. We are keen to work with someone prepared to build lasting relationships with young families directly, or through the two schools in the Parish.

The Qualities we are Seeking

A person with a good sense of humour.

A person who will lead us in worship and guide us in study, expanding our horizons in the Christian way of life.

Someone who will help us engage more positively with the local community and encourage younger people to come to Church.

A leader with fresh ideas and enthusiasm.

A teacher who will continue with our study groups at Lent, Advent, bible study and encourage discussion and prayer.

We feel our future must be focused on encouraging younger people to enter the Church and grow in our congregation.

What we have to offer

A welcoming, friendly Parish.

The support of a committed congregation and PCC.

A lovely place to live with a lot to offer.

A Church that is willing to embrace modern technology, including sound systems, projectors and screens, also the use of social media.

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

