



ST. BARNABAS, LINTHORPE

Making Disciples For life



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Bishop's Introduction



The Right Reverend Paul Ferguson
Bishop of Whitby

Thank you for your interest in the post of Vicar of St Barnabas'.

St Barnabas' is a flourishing diverse church family — numerically the largest in the Archdeaconry of Cleveland. This is an evangelical parish with a wonderful living tradition of worship, Christian nurture, and community involvement. There have been significant and exciting developments during the recently-retired vicar's twenty years here. The people are eager to build on them, to pray and work with their new vicar, and be led by God into the next phase of the parish's life.

St Barnabas' serves an area of Middlesbrough with a variety of housing, with lifelong residents, others who reflect the town's changing population, the town's welcome to asylum seekers and refugees, and of course its many students. In addition, because of its distinctive evangelical voice, the church attracts worshippers from a wide area.

The Diocese of York has identified strategic goals, among which is Reaching those we currently don't, with an emphasis on young adults (20s-40s) and people living in poverty — both being under-represented in the Diocese's

life. We would envisage St Barnabas' potentially being a significant hub for this aspect of mission in the future.

This post is an opportunity for a collaborative servant leader who will love the people for whom St Barnabas' is — or will be — their spiritual home; one who will appreciate the community of the parish and understand what makes Middlesbrough a great place to be; and one who is, first and foremost, a friend of Jesus who deeply desires to see others grow in faith and whose daily prayer is that God's Kingdom may be a reality for the people of the parish.

I hope that if you sense that God is calling you to be the next vicar of St Barnabas' you will contact us.

✠ Paul Whitby

For an informal conversation please contact one of the following:

- The Rt Revd Paul Ferguson, Bishop of Whitby (01642 593273)
- The Ven Samantha Rushton, Archdeacon of Cleveland (01642 706095)
- The Revd Dominic Black, Area Dean of Middlesbrough (01642 271814)

Appointment is subject to a satisfactory Enhanced DBS disclosure.

The closing date for applications is 1200 on Monday 9 July. Interviews will be on Thursday 19 July.

Welcome

St Barnabas is a lively evangelical church, open to the gifts of the Spirit. Our vision is “Making Disciples for Life” which underpins all that we do. Prayer upholds us and flows through the life of the church.

We are a family church with a family atmosphere. We try to be welcoming and generous with the resources we have. There are strong links between us and with the community we serve. Like all families, we like to preserve what works well and is still valuable, and at the same time, change, refresh, move with the times, and plan for the future.

About 300 people attend regularly, of which 275 are on the electoral roll. Less than half of us live within the parish boundary, others are just outside the boundary or within a few miles of the church.

True to family life, our ages range from newborns to the very elderly. About 30 energetic children and teenagers attend church regularly but we have a much larger fringe of families who attend special services and midweek events. We have many gifted people among the congregation who give their time and skills to the services, worship, activities and groups which run through the week.

One of our strengths has long been, and is still, the quality and depth of Biblical and spiritual teaching. We have been very

blessed by gifted and passionate preachers through the years. We would certainly wish for this to continue into the future.

To help us remain true to our vision and aims, we would hope to attract a new vicar who would be:

- A skilled enabler, to encourage us to discover and develop our gifts to reach our full potential
- Someone to challenge and work alongside us as we reach out into our community
- A gifted and inspirational communicator
- A preacher and teacher of the Gospel
- A clear thinker, able to bring unity and integration across the generations

As you read this profile, we pray for you.

- That you, as another work in progress, will see how the journey so far has shaped your own foundations.
- That the talents, personality and skills you have to offer now, are held lightly as gifts to be given to others.
- And, St Barnabas aside, that God would guide you to the right place, at the right time for the right reasons.



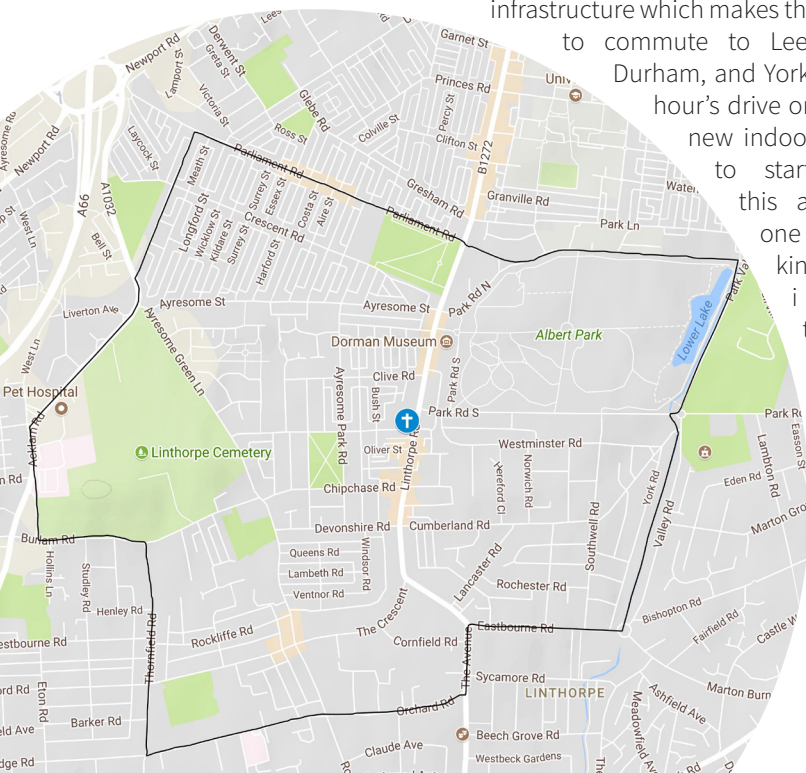
Who We Are

Where on Earth?

Middlesbrough is an exciting place to be at the moment!

In the 19th century, Middlesbrough was at the forefront of the industrial revolution, producing iron and steel for iconic structures around the world – for example, the Sydney Harbour bridge was made in Middlesbrough! Today, even with the reduction in the iron, steel and chemical industries locally, Teesport is still the third largest port in the UK, shipping goods all around the world. The recent investment of £500m in Middlesbrough has resulted in thousands of new jobs and revamped leisure and business facilities. New housing areas are springing up to the south of the town attracting thousands of new people to live here, not least because of the road and rail infrastructure which makes this an ideal place

to commute to Leeds, Newcastle, Durham, and York – all within an hour's drive on good roads. A new indoor ski slope due to start construction this autumn is just one example of the kind of hopeful investment that is being attracted to this part of the country. And, of course, we still have



the hope of Premiership football again at the Riverside ... maybe next year!

Middlesbrough boasts a first class teaching hospital, named after the explorer James Cook, a local lad who is rightly celebrated for his achievements. On the border of St Barnabas' parish is Teesside University, which has recently invested £270m in its campus and are expecting to invest a further £300m over the next 10 years, and the Cleveland College of Art and Design. Part of our vision as a church is to build on our position as the obvious choice for evangelical student ministry in the town.

One of the big attractions of the town is its location. Within an hour's drive, we could be sitting on the beach at Sandsend or Whitby, tramping the North York Moors, or having tea in a picturesque teashop in the Yorkshire Dales. We could be shopping in the city of York or at the Metro Centre in Gateshead. Or we could be jumping on a plane from Teesside or Newcastle airports.

Middlesbrough was built primarily on Irish labour and so there is a strong Roman Catholic presence in the



town. St Barnabas is one of only 2 evangelical parishes in Middlesbrough and so attracts worshippers from across the town. We have excellent ecumenical relationships throughout the town, not least due to the influence of Together Middlesbrough and Cleveland, a joint CUF / Church of England enterprise which mobilises Christians to support mission work here in some of the most deprived parishes in the country.

The new sense of hope here grows out of a place which has suffered significant deprivation over the past 20 years. The loss of the iron, steel and chemical industries has been a difficult burden to bear and there is serious poverty in many areas of the town including in the north of St Barnabas' parish. In addition, Middlesbrough is home to one of the highest proportions of refugees and asylum seekers in the country. But the people of Middlesbrough are resilient, hospitable and faithful and there is a growing swell of optimism for the future.

St Barnabas Church is a well-recognised building and sits on Linthorpe Road. Linthorpe is a popular residential area about a mile south of the town centre. The centre of Linthorpe is locally known as "The Village" and is just round the corner from St Barnabas. It has a friendly buzz about it, indeed it's hard not to run into someone you know there, going to the shops, GP surgeries, cafes and pubs.

Local housing ranges from terraced streets to large detached houses, reflecting the presence of deprivation and affluence, but in general, Linthorpe has a leafy neighbourly feel.

Local schools are well rated with the Ofsted inspectors and are in walking distance for most homes. Ayresome and Linthorpe Community Primary Schools lie within the parish boundaries and both engage with the church. There is also a Roman Catholic primary school within the parish, all feeding into five secondary schools in the town.



Clergy and Staff

Sam Tyndall is our curate and joined us with his young family in July 2016. Sam trained full-time through St Hild college and his sending church was The Belfrey in York. St Barnabas is highly regarded within the diocese as a good place to train and we have not been without a curate in almost 40 years. We would hope that our new vicar would have the necessary enthusiasm and skills to be a Training Incumbent.

Ray Morris is an honorary curate and a very familiar face to the church family, having served at St Barnabas for over 20 years. Reaching the age of 70 in 2012 did not seem to slow him down very much. He has Permission to Officiate and regularly supports other parishes across the deanery when needed.

We have three readers, **John Ravalde**, **Peter Rushton** and **Ken Whiteway**.

Ann Watson and **Allison Ward** are Recognised Parish Assistants and **Barbara Edwards** is our paid administrator (20 hours per week).

Our two church wardens **Alistair Bolton** and **Graeme Malyon**, work closely with the current incumbent to support the day to day business of the church. They lead on Faculty matters, maintenance and operation of the church and church hall, health and safety, and the smooth running of the church services. They also work closely with the treasurer to ensure good financial accountability.

We are a small team relative to our size and the breadth of activities we offer. We are open to growth, for which we would need to invest further finance for mission, as well as a bigger leadership team. This would be an area to explore as we look to the future.

Organisation

We recognise as a church that in order to grow beyond our current size, we need to find new ways to organise ourselves to provide the kind of enabling leadership which energises and encourages everyone to play their part in the life of the church. We have begun this journey by creating a team of Ministry Leaders three years ago.

They lead in six key areas: evangelism, fellowship, service, worship, discipleship and communication/administration. Their role is to work with and support others serving in these areas. They are asked to identify areas which need addressing, and are encouraged to develop plans and ideas to support their areas of ministry.

While this move has had some successes, it is still in its early days. One of the key tasks of the new vicar will be to build on this work so that the ministry teams become more effective but also so that we can carefully manage the relationship between the teams and the PCC, who retain the responsibility for setting the direction and vision of the church and having oversight of its life.

The Deanery and Diocese

St Barnabas lies in the Middlesbrough Deanery, within the Archdeaconry of Cleveland, in the north of the Diocese of York. We are fortunate to have supportive and close relationships with the Archbishop of York, the Most Reverend Dr John Sentamu, Bishop of Whitby, the Right Reverend Paul Ferguson, our Archdeacon, the Venerable Sam Rushton, and with our Area Dean, Reverend Dominic Black.

Middlesbrough Deanery is made up of 19 parishes, 17 of which are in the 20% most deprived in England. Parishes vary in style and emphasis across the deanery with six being traditional Anglo Catholic. Numerically, St Barnabas has the largest church attendance in the deanery and is the largest church in the Archdeaconry.

St Barnabas plays an active part in the life of the Middlesbrough Deanery, supporting and hosting deanery events and maintaining links with other local parishes. For example, two members of our congregation are part of the Deanery Leadership Team.

We also support **Together Middlesbrough and Cleveland** both financially and practically. This is a joint initiative between the Diocese of York and the Church Urban Fund. They work closely with the Roman Catholic Diocese of

Middlesbrough and many of the free churches to initiate and support wider local church action against poverty.

St Barnabas is one of the key churches in **Christ First**, an ecumenical network of local church leaders who meet at 8am every Tuesday to support and pray for each other. Christ First hosted a couple of events this year, which had good support from public and civic leaders of the town as well as many members of the churches involved.

We feel our involvement with other churches, the deanery and the town is a very important part of who we are. We would certainly want this to continue and strengthen over the coming years.



What We Do

Services

Our services reflect our diversity. Our current pattern is:

Sunday 8am

Style

Said Holy Communion

Details

Common Worship. Book of Common Prayer once a month



Sunday 9.30am

Style

Morning Praise

Details

Common Worship, organ, clerical robes, robed choir and music group. Parade Service every 2 months



Sunday 11.15am

Style

Praise Together

Details

Contemporary worship, with a light liturgical structure, music group, no clerical robes, baptisms as they arise. Sunday school and crèche in hall. All Age Service once a month



Sunday 6.30pm

Style

Evening Praise

Details

music group, more informal, longer teaching and ministry time



Wednesday 9.30am

Style

Said Holy communion

Details

Common Worship



Prayer Ministry is available at all services and Holy Communion is offered at all services once a month. Prayer meetings for the church and its work are on Saturday at 9am and Tuesday at 7am.

St Barnabas has long enjoyed rich and diverse musical worship. The music is chosen by the music leaders to reflect the theme of each week. The character and style of worship can range from an anthem from our traditional robed choir, to rousing hymns accompanied by our recently

restored organ, to modern worship songs led by a music group or youth band. The music has been led entirely by volunteers since 2015.

The distinctive flavours of the different services attract different people. We see this as a strength; to be able to allow for different styles and needs. However, we also recognise it can be something which has the potential to divide people so we work hard to maintain communication and a sense of common purpose between congregations.

Through the Week

St Barnabas is a 7 day a week church, hosting a wide range of lay-led missional activities through the week which attract hundreds of people across the doorstep.

On a Monday morning we open the doors for the very popular **Welcome Break**. Coffee, cake and chance to chat and be listened to, provided free of charge to the lonely, vulnerable, and elderly in our area.

We host and support the **Foodbank** distribution in the afternoon, and the evenings are all set for the **Brownies and Guides**.

The church hall is busy on Tuesday with **Armchair Keep Fit** kicking off the action before fortnightly **Pathfinders Club Night**. The **Puppet Team** also meet for rehearsal and planning.

Get the scooters out on a Wednesday for a double dose of **Toddlers** in the Hall, both on a morning and afternoon. Paracetamol not included, but a cup of tea and a rest for parents and grandparents most certainly is.

The volume remains set high for **Cubs and Scouts** in the evening.

Thursday evening resounds to the more melodic weekly **Music Group Rehearsal**.

On Fridays, we host **Friends of Barney's**, a coffee morning which will cost you, but all profits go to charity. More chance for a friendly chat, beverages and biscuits.

The monthly **Lydia group** welcomes older ladies for a short service and knitting for charities.

We also welcome the **First Fridays** event, which gets a special mention later. Heads up!

Throughout the year we also let out both the church building and the hall to various community groups, choirs and music groups, concerts and private functions during the evenings and weekends. Never a dull moment.

More information is available on our website, please do look us up on www.st-barnabas.net

Growing in Faith

With our vision being to Make Disciples for Life, members of St Barnabas are encouraged to join a **life group** to share life and faith together. Some life groups meet in homes while others are at church through various times of the day and week.

Much **pastoral care** is done through these and other groups, but there is a named pastoral key person for each service congregation. Our Recognised Parish Assistants join the clergy for more complex needs and Communion can be shared with the house bound.

We run **courses** through the year for personal spiritual development. The **Alpha Course** at St Barnabas has helped many people over the years to find a fresh or new faith. We also run Lent courses on differing topics.

We organise and host various **prayer events** and concerts through the year which encourage us and to which we can invite friends and family. Groups of the church family organise themselves on

various **church holidays** such as New Wine or Spring Harvest, as well as our own parish holiday, which encourage many in their faith.

Our children, young people and students are very important to us. We have many dedicated leaders who invest a lot of their time and energy into the children's journey into faith. We support their growth as young Christians, particularly giving them opportunity to serve the church in various ways through the year.

Over the years, a number of church members have been supported and encouraged into ordained ministry, others into lay readership and mission work. Equally recognised and valued are those who offer their gifting in the day-to-day service of the church, their community and places of work.



Standing with our community

Middlesbrough has areas of poverty with many families struggling to cope and provide the basics. Much of our community action serves this need. This is our aim, to share God's love and our love with our town. We want to continue to do what we do well and explore how we might need to do this differently in the future, to meet people, as Jesus did, where they're at.

The **Foodbank** uses our building as a collection and provision point and the church gives generously to this. We are delighted to support **Safe Families for Children** which provide short term or ongoing support for families in need.

Holiday clubs have been run by St Barnabas for many years. This year we supported **Feast of Fun**, partnering with other churches in providing a safe, fun space to give to children and their families through the summer holidays. Meals were provided and hugely appreciated as a way of addressing 'holiday hunger' when there are no free school meals.

For years we've hosted the perennially popular Christmas Eve Crafts (followed by the crib service, attended by over 400), Good Friday Crafts and the Shine Party at Halloween. We see families, who are not

regular church goers, return year after year to these events.

The launch of **First Fridays** was started with these families in mind. This is a monthly after-school club and activities group, with tea included. We want to make it easy for them to get to know us and feel part of our family as time goes by.

First Fridays is being facilitated by BiG Kids, a nondenominational Christian Children's charity, across churches and schools locally. The two founders of BiG Kids grew up within the family of St Barnabas which lends their input a special sensitivity to our aims.

We have become a **dementia friendly church** and provide special services and support to families dealing with this condition.

We have a home grown ceilidh band (**Barney's Band**) who do a handful of energetic barn dance nights for the church and other events on request through the year.

A **puppet group** and **drama group** also come together from time to time to give our family and All Age services a fun accessible feel.

Standing with our World

We are a sending church. Globally, we support mission partners in South East Asia, Thailand and Peru with finances, prayer and pastoral support.

The Anglican Eye Clinic in Jachie, Ghana, was established by a retired eye surgeon in our congregation. We continue to have a special ongoing link with the clinic. Fundraising for this hospital involves the annual **Craft Aid Fair** which is hugely popular with the community and church family and raises a significant amount of money to help with great work done there. Also in Africa, we give towards work done in Uganda with Tearfund.

10% of our voluntary giving goes towards mission support both abroad and at home. More locally, we support various groups helping refugees, the homeless, and the vulnerable in the early hours of the morning, amongst others.





Where We're Going

St Barnabas has a recognised presence in the community and across the town. It is an established place to come for weddings, baptisms, funerals, and festival. We want to continue to be this presence in our community and build on what we are already doing well. We want to extend our ministry to students and young people. And we want to be a church which is widely known for the quality of its worship, traditional and contemporary, and draws people who are sustained by good preaching and bible study.

We want to build on our strength as a church that values learning and teaching. We hold onto our vision of "Making Disciples for Life". This involves ourselves, our leaders and the people around us, in as many ways as we can imagine. More imagination can only be a good thing.

Family Life

We would love to get to know those people and families who circle on our fringes, dipping their toes in from time to time. We want to show them God's love and transformative power. Our plans with the Ministry Leadership Teams and First Fridays have been put in place in preparation for extending our family boundaries, but it is too early to say if they will be successful. Other more longstanding activities have perhaps served their purpose. We want to be open to other ways of spreading the Good News in a real way to the real people we connect with.

The changing pace and nature of work and family life means that attending Sunday services can be erratic for many families. We want St Barnabas to be a stable and secure place to come to, whatever people's situation. At the same time, we recognise this pattern can interfere with really becoming part of the family. It unwittingly creates a consumer based interaction with church. This is a challenge we, and many churches, face.



Being Relevant

Middlesbrough is a town with much economic diversity within small distances. The family of St Barnabas has a higher proportion of working professionals than the wider population in the parish. This has its plus points; we have many skilled and gifted people who take responsibility for services, pastoral care, worship and events and do this to a high standard. We can afford to be a generous church to the diocese and the community.

But we share a concern about the gap between the social and economic profile of our congregation — including many people who travel to worship here — and that of our geographical parish. We want to make our church a place where everyone fits in and feel like they belong. It would seem logical that a “people person” would be St Barnabas’s main ambassador and cheerleader.

Minding the gap

We know the importance of all generations of the congregation. Many of our activities are supported and run by experienced and generous retired people. We are mindful that St Barnabas needs to be growing in numbers and skills, to be able to fill roles which need to be passed along due to overload, illness, other responsibilities or simply increasing age. We need to ensure that all generations are engaging in the wider life of the church and that everyone is able to contribute.

Ready to roll

Our new vicar will be an ordained priest within the Church of England who will help us set our vision and lead us onto the next stage of our journey. The characteristics we are looking for are:

- A clear thinker, able to set the direction of travel for our church and bring unity and integration across the generations and traditions.
- A gifted, inspirational communicator, a preacher and teacher of the gospel, able to lead us, wherever we are on our journey, into a deeper understanding of God's message.
- The ability to challenge us to look and reach outward beyond our familiar church buildings, routines and family, to be a real and tangible presence in our community.
- A committed evangelical able to spread the Good News and ignite an infectious passion for God
- A skilled enabler, with the ability to discover, encourage and develop gifts that allow groups and individuals to reach their full potential.
- The ability to work collaboratively. To pastor and encourage the diverse congregation of St Barnabas to become adaptable and imaginative in their own gifts and skills.

Personal Qualities and Skills

- A people person, with the ability to encourage us to unite in love, valuing all members from the youngest to the oldest whatever their tradition.
- A broadly charismatic Christian, as comfortable with Common Worship or BCP as with more modern forms of liturgy and worship.
- A person of prayer, for whom Bible study enriches their faith.
- A searcher, to see a church led and renewed by the Holy Spirit

Experience

- Experience in a complex, dynamic environment, in a leadership capacity
- Experience in working across a range of traditions, comfortable with leading and equipping worship in a variety of styles.

Becoming the next vicar of St Barnabas will have its joys and challenges. So why not come and visit us you will be very warmly welcomed.



Appendix 1

Buildings

Church

St Barnabas Church is a Grade 2 listed building which was completed in 1892. We have just celebrated our 125th anniversary. The church has been reordered several times, most recently in 2009 when the pews were replaced by chairs and a new audio-visual system installed. This has allowed the church space to be used more flexibly and creatively, to host concerts or more informal events. Following an anonymous donation our church organ has just been refurbished.

Church Hall

We have a large hall next door to the church built in 1911. It has modern kitchen areas for large and small-scale catering. Several side rooms provide space for multiple activities to happen at once and our church office is also accommodated here.

It is in need of updating but is nevertheless well used for Sunday School classes, uniformed organisations and church ceilidhs. In addition, we rent the hall out to various community groups throughout the week.

The Vicarage

The vicarage is a six-bedroomed semi-detached house built in 1930. It has three reception rooms, one of which is currently used as a study. There is central heating throughout and gas fires in two of the reception rooms. It has a front garden with lawn and flower borders and a large grassed rear garden with a small orchard of ten apple trees at the rear.

Apart from the front porch it is double glazed throughout and has cavity wall and loft insulation. There is a detached garage with electric doors and a workshop/storage room behind the kitchen. The vicarage is about a 10 minute walk from the church.

Linden Grove

The church also owns a four bedroomed terraced property, formerly used to house curates, which is currently rented out.

The Curate's House

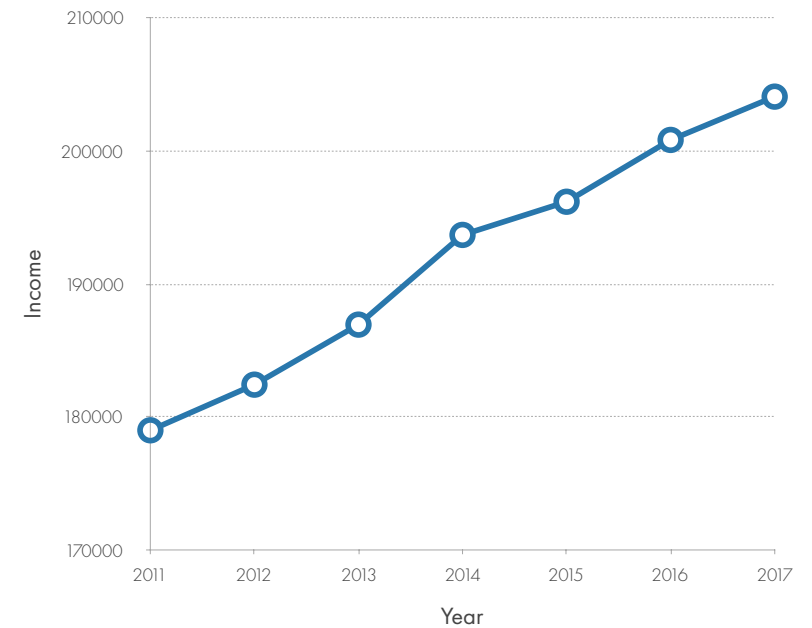
Our curate is housed in a diocesan property located just outside the parish boundary



Appendix 2

Finances

The chart which follows gives an overview of our unrestricted voluntary giving over the last 5 years.

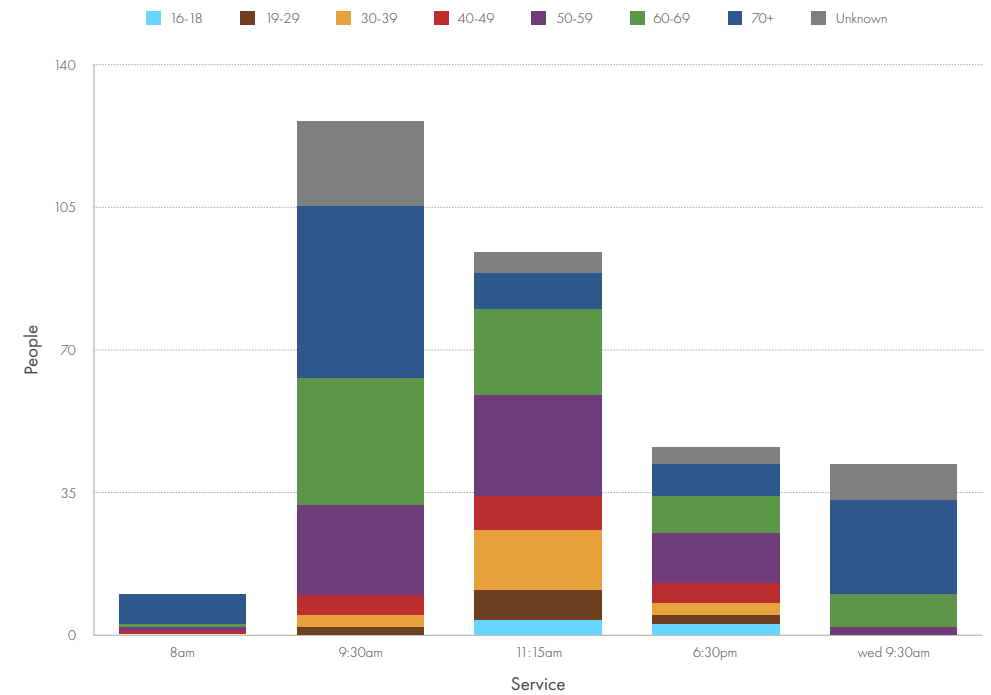


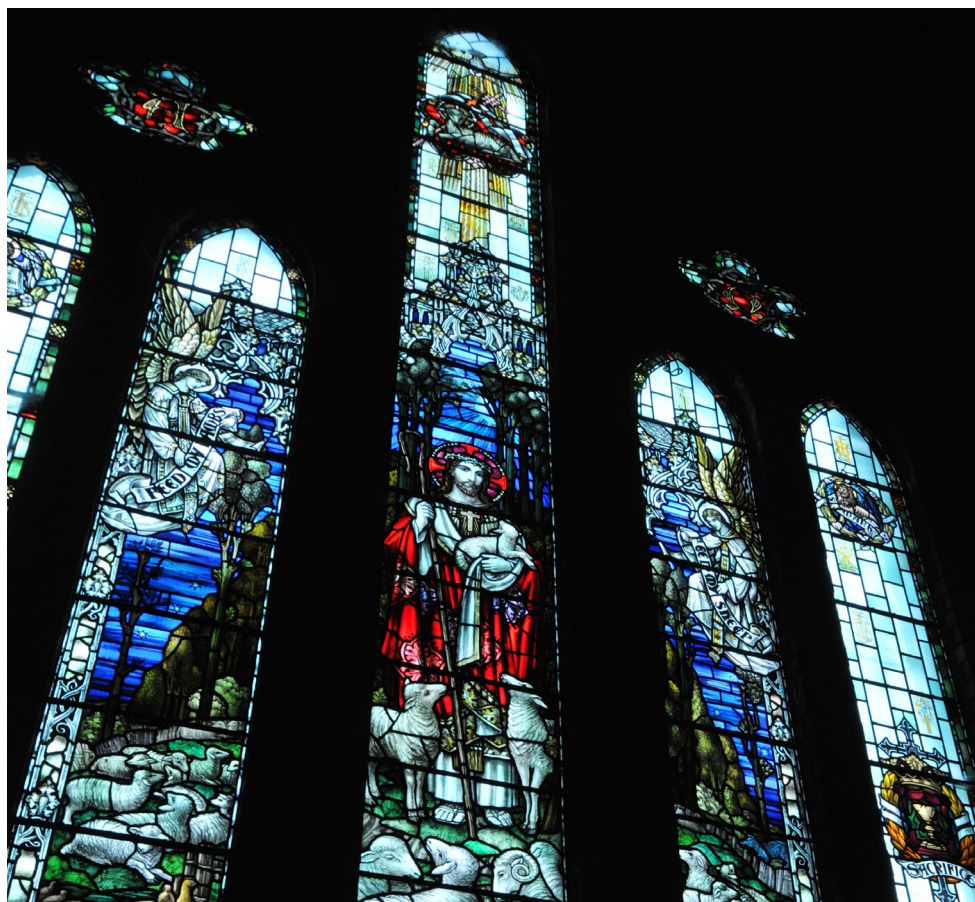


Appendix 3

Survey of our congregation

A survey of our congregation was taken in November 2017 to enable us to see the age make-up of the adults across the services.





ST. BARNABAS, CHURCH

www.st-barnabas.net

1a St Barnabas Road, Linthorpe, Middlesbrough, TS5 6JR

01642 812622



Photo acknowledgements: Pete Heywood, [Paul Hudson](#), [Dario Sušanj](#), [Reading Tom](#)