



**PARISH OF ST. MARY THE VIRGIN  
NUNTHORPE-IN-CLEVELAND**

**PARISH STATEMENT 2017**

[www.stmarys-nunthorpe.org](http://www.stmarys-nunthorpe.org)

Nunthorpe lies 5.5 miles south of the River Tees facing south to the North Yorks Moors. Comprising around 3,800 houses of mixed diversity, of which approximately 75% are owner-occupied, with an increasing population of approximately 10,000, Our parishioners are predominantly engaged in, or retired from, professional, senior & middle management and blue collar occupations. It is a beautiful place to live. Saltburn and Whitby, on the coast, are only 12 and 27 miles respectively, whilst York is a pleasant 46 mile drive over the Moors.



*View facing south from the Church*

There are five schools in the area where previous clergy have been welcomed both as governors and to take regular assemblies. They have acted as advisors/counsellors to staff and pupils and given spiritual support.

In addition to St. Mary's, the parish is served by Nunthorpe Methodist Church, St. Bernadette's Roman Catholic Church and Rookwood Gospel Hall. We engage with these churches by membership of Churches Together in Marton and Nunthorpe and by sharing a magazine 'Nunthorpe News' with Nunthorpe Methodist Church.

In addition to a small group of shops at Nunthorpe Station, where the doctors' surgery is located, there is a large Mall at Coulby Newham (3 miles). Middlesbrough (5.5m) and the market towns of Guisborough (6m) and Stokesley (4.5m) offer a wide range of shops, from small retailers to multi-nationals.

Local buses provide a convenient mode of travel and there are excellent links countrywide from Nunthorpe Station to James Cook University Hospital and, via Darlington, to Manchester Airport. Durham Tees Valley Airport (17m) has regular flights to Amsterdam and a few other routes, whilst Newcastle International Airport (52m) and Leeds/Bradford Airport (59m) offer a wide choice of continental flights.

The parish is covered by two unitary authorities, the split being on the railway line from Whitby to Middlesbrough and beyond. The church lies in that area covered by Middlesbrough Council and the Church Hall and Vicarage by Redcar & Cleveland Council.

## OUR BUILDINGS

### CHURCH OF ST. MARY THE VIRGIN, Church Lane, TS7 0PD

The Church, built in 1926 and designed by Temple Moore is Grade II listed as is the lychgate, built to commemorate those who fell in World War II. A Narthex was added in 2007. This houses a galley, toilets and storage and is used each Sunday for serving coffee after Morning Service. Additionally, it is a useful assembly point prior to Services and Weddings, meetings plus discussion and for serving refreshments after social functions. The church is renowned for the number of furnishings created by the 'Mouseman' of Kilburn. The WWI memorial, which is the responsibility of Nunthorpe PCC, is at the bottom of Church Lane, close to the A172 and has recently been awarded Grade II listed status.

The Church is in an excellent state of repair having been professionally cleaned from ceiling to floor in 2016 and all work recommended by the Quinquennial Inspection (2016) having been executed.



*Lych Gate – WWII Memorial*



*St. Mary's Church Hall*

### ST. MARY'S CHURCH HALL, Morton Carr Lane, TS7 0JU

Set in extensive grassed grounds (Approx. 1.25 Acres) with substantial tarmac car park adjacent to woodland and residential properties. Comprises of Main Hall with large stage equipped with lighting for theatrical productions, Chapel Vestry, Parish Office, supper room and kitchen, plus male, female & disabled toilets and store rooms. The main hall is also equipped with a fixed LCD projector, electrically activated screen, radio microphones, fixed sound equipment with inputs from laptop/iPad/iPod and an audio loop system. The building is currently undergoing a major upgrading and refurbishment.

It is regularly used by the PCC and their sub-committees and teams, Mothers' Union, St. Mary's Luncheon Club, St. Mary's youth groups, Nunthorpe Players (3 or 4 productions per year) and scouts, cubs and Rainbows. It is also available for private hire for social and professional functions, including schools and local authority elections.

### RIPON ROAD TS7 0HX

Originally purchased for use by curates but currently leased out, this 3-bedroom semi-detached property was totally overhauled and upgraded in early 2017.

### VICARAGE

Sited in Gypsy Lane, and in the Parish of Ormesby, this 5-bedroom 4-bathroom detached house with 7 reception rooms was purchased by the Diocese for occupancy by the previous incumbent. It is currently leased out.

## CHURCH WORSHIP

The average joint weekly attendance on Sundays in 2016 was 71 adults (77 in 2015) and 6 children (10).

At the Church, our regular Sunday services have recently comprised a Eucharist at 9.15am from Common Worship and, on occasions, a robed choir and, at 5.30pm, a said Eucharist on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays, an Evensong Service on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays and a choral Evensong on the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday. At the Hall, the services, at 11.00am, on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays, are generally more informal but with a Eucharist once a month.

Additionally, there is a Eucharist every Wednesday, at 10.00am from Common Worship in the Hall Chapel.

We use *Hymns Old and New*. We are looking to get a new hymnal but are waiting for a new incumbent.

Our church tradition is central with vestments and coloured stoles worn at Eucharists. At BCP Evensong, scarf and hood are worn.

A weekly Pram Service, organised by Mothers' Union, is held in the Church Hall every Thursday morning during term time. There are 34 children on the register – 18 families and 5 child-minders with an average attendance of 17 children and 14 adults.

Monthly Services are held in three retirement homes in the area.

Occasional Offices are listed in the table below:

	2018	2017 to date	2016	2015
Baptisms (Adults)		0	1	0
Baptisms (Children)		29	9	5
Weddings	21 booked	12 booked	20	27
Funerals (in Church)		7	15	14
Funerals (only at Crematorium)		4	9	6

There are three Retired Clergy, living in and assisting the parish:

The Reverend Patricia Harrison  
The Reverend John Blakesley  
The Reverend Judy Cook

Additionally, our Licensed Reader, Mrs. Janet Hinton, lives in the parish.

Lay members of the parish assist at the Services as Eucharistic ministers, servers, readers, intercessors, and sidesmen.

We have an Open Baptism Policy and a Confirmation Service, presided over by the Bishop of Whitby, was held in the Church on Sunday, 10<sup>th</sup> September 2017 for six candidates.



Confirmation 2017



Baptism

The Parish has been very active over the last year and the PCC feels that the following occasions proved to be significant for Christian life and witness.

1) The 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the church was celebrated with an open weekend at the beginning of September incorporating our Harvest Festival. There was a concert and a Songs of Praise Service.



2) On 11<sup>th</sup> November, a Remembrance Day Service was held at the WWI memorial with a 'sea' of knitted poppies.



3) On Remembrance Sunday, a said Eucharist in Church preceded a Service at the WWI memorial, moving on to WWII memorial in the lychgate and culminating in a Service in the Church.

<b>Organisation</b>	<b>Frequency of Meeting</b>	<b>Membership Total</b>	<b>Average Attendance</b>
PCC	Every other month	15	11.5
Standing Committee	As above + as required	6	4
Deanery Synod	Four Meetings p.a.	Nunthorpe 3	2
Communications Team	As required	3	3
Social Events Team	Every 2 months	6 regular + 6 helpers	6/8
Fabric Team	Approx. 3 monthly or as required with work carried out between meetings	11 inc. 2 ex officio members	8
Safeguarding Committee	As required	4	4
Choir & Music	Weekly practice. Sing at choral Evensong & Festivals	12	10
Church Cleaning & Sanctuary Linen	No meetings	N/A	N/A
Church Hall Bookings	N/A	N/A	N/A
Churches Together in Marton & Nunthorpe	5	13	9
Nunthorpe News	Twice yearly	7	5
Oasis	Monthly with some flexibility	Currently 12	9-10
Youth Sub-committee	New Committee	3/4	
St. Mary's Flower Guild	3 times a year	14	12
St. Mary's Luncheon Club	Monthly except Jul, Aug & Dec	72	60
Nunthorpe Mothers' Union:	See below	46	See below
Afternoon Meeting	Monthly except Jul & Aug		16
Evening Meeting	Ditto		22
Affiliated:			
Nunthorpe Players	Monthly	75 paid up & 10 committee members	8 at committee meetings
First Nunthorpe Scouts	Meet during term times	Two groups 24+14	30
Rainbows	Meet during term times	16	

## **CHURCH FINANCE**

Giving provides 48% of our funds. The remainder comes from Tax Refund (10%), Investment (3%), Fees (15%) and Fundraising (24%).

The average giving per attender per week is £7.75. 77 parishioners gift aid their giving.

In 2015, we paid £2,291 to our Incumbent, which represented full reimbursement.

Last year, our Income was £153,320 (including £53,404 for sale of land) and our Expenditure was £118,164. The debt owed by our Church at the last accounting date was £5,875.

Mission Giving last year totalled £3,162. However, this year, the PCC have introduced (at the suggestion of our acting "vicar", a policy of asking parents of children who are being baptised to elect one of three children's charity to receive collections at those services. Coupled with a new open Baptism policy, this has proved most successful. A similar system for wedding couples has also been introduced.

The PCC are keen to increase their Freewill Offering to the Diocese. In 2016 we gave £50,000, this year our Offering rose to £53,000 and for 2018 we have offered £60,000.

## **PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE**

The congregation demography with consequent reduction in elderly and younger members of the congregation and reduced planned giving needs to be addressed. Two changes of incumbent in the last five years, due to ill health, has unsettled the Parish and diminished its drive.

Over the next five years, we must work towards the involvement of the church within the existing and expanding local community so that it becomes recognised as a significant force for good.

We also need to redevelop our vision for the future of youth work particularly as we can no longer afford to employ a paid youth worker

Establishing identifiable church contact groups, so that St. Mary's is seen to be a leading provider of community activity in the parish should be a priority.

OUR NEW INCUMBENT should be -

a person with the ability to communicate with, and listen to, people from varied backgrounds and having different spiritual needs and ideas;

Have the ability and commitment to provide personal spiritual care as and when required through home or hospital visits, if appropriate;

Take an active part in the life of the parish, welcoming baptisms, weddings and funerals.

Engage congregations in thinking about how we, as Christians, should view and react to local and worldwide events;

Someone who can appreciate and affirm what is already working and has the strength of character, ideas and resilience to move us forward - that we may reach out into our community to proclaim the love of God by word and deed.

Value and encourage the contribution from retired clergy and others, and lay involvement in worship.



*St. Mary's from the hills*



*In the deep mid-winter....*



*From the pulpit*



*Mothers' Union Festival*



*Nunthorpe MU outing*



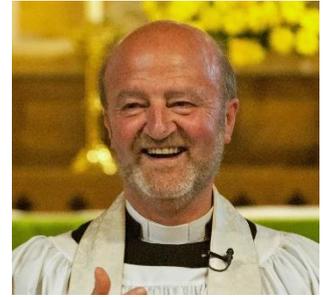
*St. Mary's Church Hall*



*Nunthorpe Players*

## Reflections of an Interim “Vicar”

**Rev'd Paul Peverell**, Priest in Charge & Vicar of Great Ayton & Newton.



I came to the neighbouring Parish of Great Ayton & Newton under Roseberry in 1993 when Ken Good was Vicar of Nunthorpe and Rural Dean of Stokesley and Nunthorpe was the best attended and most generous Parish in Stokesley Deanery. Since then I have seen another 4 vicars come and go and in more recent years seen the Parish slip down the rankings. In January 2017, I became the first Interim Priest in Charge, being responsible for Nunthorpe for a year as well as my own Parishes. What have I found?

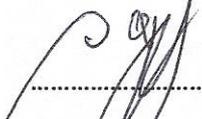
1. A warm and welcoming congregation who couldn't have done more to welcome me and rally round to assist in many different ways with extremely supportive Church Officers.
2. A keen and willing staff comprising three retired priests and a Licensed Reader and a competent and supportive PCC.
3. Good traditional Eucharistic worship in the Church with organist and Choir and with more informal styles of worship in the Church Hall the other end of the parish.
4. A bright and airy Church set in a fantastic location with views of Roseberry Topping and Captain Cooks Monument, making this a very popular Church for weddings. There are several wedding reception venues in the near locality. If you enjoy weddings as I do, and see this as a way of reaching the elusive 18 – 40 age group, then this is the place to be.
5. Following a restrictive Baptism Policy that saw a huge decline in Baptisms, the welcome mat is back out for those who see St Mary's as their Church. We have Christened 27 so far in 2017. This contact with young families feeds into the lay led Pram Service, and forms the potential for future growth of family services in the Hall.
6. The Church has an open Churchyard, but despite the population of the Parish being 10,000 approx., I still get 4 times as many funerals next door in Great Ayton! Not a problem.
7. There is a keen team of youth leaders, and the four Primary Academies (One of which is RC) and one Secondary Academy are open and welcoming for assemblies and visits. Last summer saw a wonderful Charity concert in St Mary's Church by the Primary Academies that should be repeated and built on.
8. The Church Hall also hosts Rainbows and Scouts, as well as many other Community Groups like the Nunthorpe Players, so if you have a desire to be a Panto Dame or Villain, this is the place to be.
9. There are good links Ecumenically with Methodists, United Reformed and Roman Catholics and good relationships with Parishes either side. There is a shared Monthly Magazine, *Nunthorpe News*, that is lay run.
10. There is a team who visit the residential and nursing homes in the Parish taking monthly services.
11. Nunthorpe is part of Stokesley Deanery, which after the cities of York and Hull, has been the most generous giver of Freewill Offerings to the Diocese.
12. The Vicarage, which used to be fairly isolated on the Church site, has been relocated into housing nearer the Hall.

From all I have seen of Nunthorpe Parish, both from next door over 25 years, and close to this last year, this is a brilliant place for ministry for someone who enjoys the traditional, is excited by new possibilities, and enjoys reaching out into the community. It needs someone who will keep open wide the doors of welcome and show the people that God loves them for who they are, and not just if they sit in a pew. It has good schools for anyone with a family, good shops and doctors nearby, and is on the doorstep of fantastic countryside and coastal towns for relaxations and refreshment. Go for it!

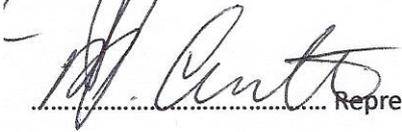
To be signed on behalf of Nunthorpe Parochial Church Council by the Churchwardens and the Lay Representatives appointed to assist in the selection of a Priest.



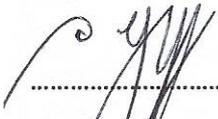
..... Churchwarden – M. A. Arnott



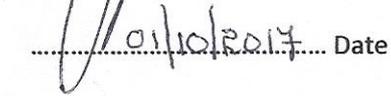
..... Churchwarden – D. Young



..... Representative – M. A. Arnott



..... Representative – D. Young



01/10/2017 Date