

The Parish of North Thornaby

in the Archdeaconry of Cleveland

Diocese of York



Parish Profile

Thank you for taking the time to read our Parish Profile!

We are praying for a priest who is prepared to work with our small and committed congregation to reinvigorate the church and build on the firm foundations of faith we currently enjoy.

We have a small team of people who work very hard to keep the church open, and we are seeking a spark of new life to bring into church the next generation of disciples. Could you be the person to leads us forward?

Our Vision

North Thornaby is a parish in the Diocese of York under the Episcopal oversight of the Bishop of Beverley. We are praying for the appointment of a male priest in the catholic tradition who will:

- exercise a sacramental ministry in the catholic tradition of the Church of England that centres on the Mass
- value the contributions of members of the congregation and seek to develop their talents
- provide a clear lead for mission and evangelism
- make contact with the local community and lead people into the family of the church and the church to the people
- be a pastor, spiritual director, teacher and friend

For ourselves: we seek to live each day to the greater glory of God and in service to our fellow human beings. For others: we seek to bring enquirers through faith to the foot of the cross.

Our Values

St Paul's stands in the Catholic tradition of the Church of England. The following are core values by which we seek to serve Our Lord:

- we want, above all, to be a welcoming church with a love of people of all backgrounds and circumstance
- we want to have a strong commitment to sharing the faith with others
- we want to enhance our Eucharistic worship, which seeks to meet the needs of all
- we desire on-going opportunities for people to develop their spirituality through prayer and study
- we want to encourage others to be ministers of the Good News
- we desire leadership that values the gifts and experience of the people of St Paul's

The Priest

We are praying for an incumbent who is a man of prayer who will provide clear leadership and develop our gifts and talents. In return we will contribute to the mission of the Church. In order to achieve this, we hope you will:

- Love us and our community and encourage its spiritual growth
 - seek to develop the gifts, talents and skills of the congregation, as a priest who will encourage and strengthen us in our lay ministry.
 - make space for the exercise of spiritual gifts.
 - support and develop the church's prayer life, both personal and corporate
 - lead us in making disciples for Christ and inspiring church members into a deeper relationship with him
- Love those on the fringes of the church
 - have a desire to work with us in mission following the 2018 LYCIG Conference in Walsingham, which one of our churchwardens attended
 - have a passion for outreach and seek opportunities to share the Gospel through daily life
 - be open to introducing enquirers' and nurture courses such as Alpha and mission events
 - work to make worship accessible and welcoming to new-comers
 - encourage current members to develop their evangelistic responsibilities in their desire to build relationships within the community

Worship

The ethos and worship at St Paul's for many, many years has been in the Catholic tradition of the Church of England.



Our main focus is our Sunday Mass. In addition to Sunday mornings, Mass is offered on Monday evenings and Friday mornings; weekday Masses have been offered more frequently in the recent past. We have a committed team of around half a dozen young servers, and a willing team of readers, intercessors and sides persons. Also we have had occasional services such as a Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols and for Remembrance Sunday (combining with the Town Council's Act of Remembrance at the cenotaph), which involve the wider local community.



Music

Music plays an important part of the worshipping life of St Paul's. Our Parish Mass on Sundays is a sung Mass and includes four or five hymns, and weddings and funerals are also provided for. Our two-manual pipe-organ was, sadly, declared out of action in 2016, as the cost of repair became prohibitive; we currently have a fine, single-manual instrument on longterm loan.

The Fellowship

Our congregation includes people of a range of ages, and we have a small and cheerful Sunday School which meets every Sunday during the first part of the Parish Mass. Children often move from Sunday School to the serving team as they grow up, and we strive to retain them as part of the congregation even as the demands of studies and work increase for them. St Paul's has a reputation for putting on a "good spread" for social events and for special services such as our Patronal Festival, which we celebrate on 25th January.



There are several primary schools in the parish, which we have welcomed for Carol Services in the past and would love to have more contact with in the future, including Mandale Mill, Harewood and the Village School; our previous incumbent was a governor at the Village School. There is also a contingent of Sea Cadets based in the parish, on the River Tees, whom we have welcomed on Sea Sunday and Remembrance Sunday.



The several nursing homes in the parish are also welcoming, although we no longer have regular contact with them and would hope to restore it.

Church Attendance 2017	
Electoral Roll	96
Average Sunday attendance	40
Christmas	52
Easter	61
No. of Baptisms	8
No. of Weddings	4
No. of Confirmations	0
No. of Funerals (not incl crematorium)	9

We also enjoy good relationships and fellowship with other parishes of the Society of St Wilfrid and St Hilda, and our clergy and people have always supported festivals and special occasions in our sister parishes. You will be supported by Society clergy in the Archdeaconry, diocese and beyond, and will also find support from the clergy of the wider Middlesbrough Deanery and diocese; there is also an active SSC chapter in the area.

Church Building

St Paul's lies on Thornaby Road, one of the main thoroughfares through the town; the church tower makes the building highly visible from the A66 approaching from Darlington and when driving from Stockton to Ingleby Barwick and from the railway line from Thornaby to Darlington.



The church was consecrated in 1858, and is a Grade II* listed building; we are looking forward to celebrating our 160th anniversary of consecration in the autumn of 2018. It contains beautiful stained glass, mostly dating from the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, and including a Royal Air Force memorial window from the 1970s.

The church tower was completed around forty years after the rest of the church and has a peal of eight bells; an active team of ringers – not all regular member of the congregation – ring for Parish Mass on alternate Sundays and for occasional services such as weddings.

Our large churchyard has never been a burial ground, although we have a garden of remembrance area where cremated remains are placed in designated plots. The local authority hold a key for the gates and maintain the churchyard for us.



The general structural condition of the fabric of St Paul's is good order and with no signs of significant cracking that might cause concern. Going forward we have already identified that the electrics and heating system are in increasing need of improvement.

Church Hall

The spacious church hall is attached to the church. It was built in the 1970s after the chancel was shortened, and the land where the old vicarage and previous church hall stood was sold for redevelopment. Within the hall, there are two spaces separated by large sliding doors; the smaller space is currently used as our weekday chapel, while the larger one has a kitchen area, and access to toilets, storage rooms and an office at the far end. It is used by the congregation for after church coffee, jumble sales, fetes and other social events. It has been made available for community use in the past, and we would be delighted to see increased community use once again.

Finances

Our accounts are examined every year by an independent examiner, and have always been accurate and up to date. Regular monthly instalments are paid towards the Free Will Offering to the Diocese.

In June 2017, we were visited by the Archdeacon for Stewardship & Generous Giving, whose review of our giving indicated that average giving per head is a little under £7.50 per week, which is just under £2 less than the average for the Diocese; we were heartened by his findings, given that North Thornaby is in one of the most deprived areas of the diocese.

We encourage those members of the congregation who can to Gift Aid their giving, and we receive regular giving both through traditional envelopes and by standing orders. The congregation also participate in regular fund raising events such as Christmas and Easter Draws, a Christmas Dinner, regular Cake Stall, Jumble Sales and other ad hoc events during the year. Members of the congregation support the Additional Curates Society through collection boxes.

A copy of the 2017 accounts is attached.

The Vicarage: 60 Lanehouse Road, Thornaby, TS17 8EA

A vicarage is available, situated a short drive from the church. It is a modern detached four-bedroom house with an integral garage, and front and (large) rear gardens. The two-storey house was built in the 1960s and purchased for use as the vicarage in the late 1970s. The ground floor consists of a small study, large well-equipped kitchen with utility room, a large lounge, and a dining room which interconnects between kitchen and lounge; there is also a downstairs toilet room. On the first floor, a spacious landing gives access to three double bedrooms, one single bedroom, and a family bathroom.

There is a convenience store and Post Office within a short walk of the vicarage, and the town centre – with Asda, Lidl and Aldi superstores, several banks, library and other amenities is only a five-minute drive away. The local schools, primary and secondary, are easily accessible from the vicarage.



The Area

The Parish of North Thornaby comprises the northern half of the town of Thornaby and is dominated by nineteenth century, inter-war and immediately post-war housing stock, which grew up following the industrial revolution, filling in the space between the then-rural village of Thornaby and the industrial sites on the banks of the Tees at Stockton, where the historic Stockton & Darlington Railway arrived in 1825. More recent housing developments and newly-modernised town centre complex, focused around the area of the mid-twentieth century RAF base, as well as the ancient village green, lie in the neighbouring parish of South Thornaby.

The town centre includes the Pavilion sport and leisure facilities, library, post office, numerous banks and smaller shops, and Asda, Lidl and Aldi supermarkets. Nearby, the extensive Teesside Park retail and leisure complex, which includes a range of high street shops and restaurants, multi-screen cinema and bowling, lies within the parish; Thornaby Swimming Baths is close to St Paul's.

Thornaby also has three medical practices, numerous local parks, two secondary schools, a range of primary schools and a wealth of other religious communities, including the two Anglican churches in South Thornaby, two Roman Catholic churches, Baptist, Methodist and URC and Vine churches, a Salvation Army citadel, a Mosque and a Sikh temple.

If you are not yet familiar with Teesside and the surrounding area, you have a pleasant surprise ahead of you! Thornaby is at the heart of Teesside, with immediate access to the region's north-south and east-west arterial routes, the A19 and A66, and a local railway station which gives access to the east coast mainline at Darlington in under half an hour;

two National Parks (North Yorkshire Moors and Yorkshire Dales) can be accessed in under an hour by car, as can the beautiful North Yorkshire coast and the historic harbour town of Whitby, and in just over an hour, the cities of York, Newcastle and Leeds can all be reached. Durham-Tees Valley International Airport is only twenty minutes away.

Much of the heavy industry which dominated Teesside in the twentieth century is now gone, replaced by light industrial estates and customer service provision, and the chemical industry – formerly ICI – at Billingham and Wilton is increasingly international and hi-tech.



In Summary

We are praying for a priest who will:

- be a man of prayer whose spiritual life centres on the Eucharist
- hold a Traditionalist, catholic position, whilst recognising the ministries of all ordained clergy within the Church of England
- have a passion for evangelism
- be an effective leader, with strong personal motivation and drive
- be an inspiring preacher, teacher and spiritual director
- have secure liturgical understanding, and commitment to developing occasional services to complement the Mass

Thank you again for reading our Parish Profile. We very much hope you have enjoyed reading about our parish life and the many opportunities that lie on the horizon. If you feel God calling you to become our parish priest we would like to encourage you to apply.

Further detail, or for an informal conversation please contact the Bishop of Beverley, Bishop of Whitby or the Archdeacon of Cleveland.

We look forward to meeting you!