

Parish Profile

St Andrew's

Tudhoe Grange

Spennymoor



Description of Parish/What we can Offer

The Town of Spennymoor is situated on high land above the south side of the Wear Valley between the City of Durham and Bishop Auckland. The A1(M) is about three miles away with rail services accessed from Durham City, which means that London, the Midlands and Scotland are easily accessible. The area has easy road and public transport links to a number of major cities including Newcastle and Middlesbrough, with York and the Lake District about an hours drive away.

Major employers in the Town have recently scaled back operations but there are a number of smaller employers including ASDA, Thorn Lighting and Boots the Chemist.

There are three GP surgeries and two dental practices, who both accept NHS patients. The City of Durham has a modern teaching hospital, opened in 2001, the Trust being rated number one in the Dr Foster Hospital Guide for 2008. There is also an excellent newly built hospital at nearby Bishop Auckland, about five miles away.

The Town boasts several excellent state run schools and there are also a number of local private schools, including the Durham Chorister School.

The existing population of the Parish is approximately 6000. This is expected to rise with a number of new dwellings currently under construction. The population is predominantly white with some families of ethnic background. The Parish is made up of approximately 3000 households of mixed tenure, the majority being privately owned (62%) 20% being Local Authority rented accommodation, 13% being Registered Landlord accommodation, 3% privately rented accommodation and 2% being vacant.

Buildings

The Church Grounds and car parks are well cared for and in a good state of repair. The Church itself is a very impressive, deeply spiritual building with immediate impact. It is lovingly cared for and tended by the congregation. It is a beautiful, light building, benefiting from two recent installed stained glass windows designed by Sep Waugh and dedicated to the memory of two extremely committed parishioners. There is a fabulous Lady Chapel that houses an 18th century Spanish marble altar, complete with Tabernacle, where the sacrament is reserved.

The Vicarage was built in 1969, when the parishioners raised $\frac{1}{8}$ of the build cost. It is regarded with affection by the Parish and is situated within the Church grounds, as is the Church hall. There is a separate garden area. There are four bedrooms and a bathroom on the first floor. On the ground floor there is a large entrance porch, sitting room, dining room, cloakroom/WC and rear porch. The office/study is to the south of the house, making it a pleasant room for Parish work and spiritual contemplation and is accessed without the need to pass through the living quarters. The Vicarage is well cared for and

all necessary repairs have been undertaken in the last few months. It benefits from a single garage and a substantial driveway.

The Church hall is a fairly modern building comprising of a main hall with an exceptional parquet floor, a small stage, modern equipped kitchen, committee room, male and female toilets and an abundance of storage.

Worship

The main service is Holy Eucharist and this is currently celebrated each Sunday at 9.15 am, with Evensong at 6.00 pm, which is BCP. Discussion has taken place regarding the timing of the Sunday morning service should we be granted a “shared” Priest with another Parish. Prior to our period of interregnum a service of Eucharist was held on the evening of relevant Saints Days. There are 80 regular communicants with 309 on the electoral role. The average weekly attendance is around 40.

Vestments are worn but incense and monstrance’s may be considered extreme by some worshippers and are therefore not used.

Over the past year there have been 4 baptisms, 1 marriage and 8 funerals held at St Andrew’s.

We have always welcomed babies and children into Church and there is a small area allocated specially for them, stocked with paper, crayons, books and jigsaws, etc.

St Andrew’s passed the A B & C resolutions in 1994 and these were re-affirmed in February 2007.

Teaching

Confirmation classes and house groups have previously been arranged by the incumbent on an “as and when” basis. We do have house group leaders in place.

Fellowship

We have an active Mothers’ Union branch with excellent leadership and a happy committee. Members are involved in prayer partnership and there is a monthly composite prayer group that meets in the Lady Chapel, followed by lunch in the Church Hall. The MU meets on the first Monday of each month and undertakes home visits to sick and elderly members.

The Women’s group meet fortnightly for fellowship. It is a non-denominational, open group who are highly supportive of the Church, raising a lot of money for the Children’s Society and the Church. They make the Easter Garden and provide tea and biscuits after worship on a Sunday in the Church Hall.

There is a small but faithful prayer and healing group who meet weekly in the Lady Chapel to pray for the needs of the Church, the world and the sick.

We have our own link missionary who teaches in Taiwan and we support the Church Missionary Society through our Lenten appeal. We are involved in Christian Aid week collections and normally raise approximately £600.

Administration

Much of the administration was previously carried out by the previous incumbent, however, help has been offered in this regard. We current have three Church Wardens who also give assistance. The PCC meets a minimum of four times a year and meetings are preceded by a celebration of Eucharist. The PCC consists of a wide age ranging group of committed Christians and Parishioners with a common love of the Church and Parish.

Finance

We are fortunate to have a dedicated and committed Treasurer. We operate a weekly envelope scheme and others give by standing order. During the year we have two major fund raising events, the garden party in June and the gift sale in November. On Good Friday we have a gift day.

Our finances have been always been sound for a Parish of this socio-economic make up. However, this area has recently become of concern to us with income down on previous years. We are conscious of this problem and hope to address the issue, in part, with increased fund raising.

Ministry

The Church wardens prepare the Church for services and provide a welcome, though everyone is friendly and make people welcome. There is a small group of ladies who clean the Church each week. We have a small choir with four parts who sing at both the morning and evening worship. At present we use the Common Praise hymn book. The Church magazine is published ten times per year and carried teaching and local advertisements. It is prepared and distributed by 20 volunteers from the Church. Two people from a group of sixteen read the lessons each Sunday.

Occasional Offices

We have an open policy as far as baptism is concerned though families are encouraged to attend wherever possible. Home visits are always made prior to a funeral service with input from the family being encouraged. Prayers are said in Church prior to the funeral and afterwards during the intercession. We welcome people for marriage. Those who have been married before, with a partner still living, are usually offered a service of blessing.

Locality, Deanery and Diocesan Links/Ecumenical Links/Community Links

Individuals take part in Deanery events, etc, as they choose. We have good links with the three schools in our Parish, two of the schools having held Easter and Christmas services at the Church and bringing children for informal visits. We hope the incumbent would continue the tradition of visiting these schools for services and prize giving events and perhaps explore the possibility of leading assemblies in the future.

The Future

We are conscious that the average age of the congregation is rising and this is also an area of concern. The congregation we have is very faithful but we would hope to increase numbers by encouraging family groups and individuals to join us.

The Person Spec/What we are Looking for

We are looking for a man who is prepared to continue our traditional position and who values the Catholic and Evangelical members of our Church. He should be a good communicator who can effectively work with all members of our Church and Community, continuing our established links and building new ones. He should be a good listener, caring, discreet and approachable.

We would wish the incumbent to be seen regularly around the Parish, although accepting that we must take into consideration the duties involved as Vicar at Bowburn. We are looking for a Priest who will build up lay ministry and encourage the younger members of the Church to grow in the Faith and to realise their potential as effective Christians to witness to the next generation.

Parish Representatives

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