

Drypool Parish Profile 2018

20s-40s Minister

The Parish

Drypool Parish is in the heart of East Hull. It is a wonderfully diverse and interesting parish, bordered by the River Humber and River Hull on two sides, with the city's largest park on another. About 24,000 people live here, and in the 2011 census 9,200 of them were aged 18-44. According to the Church Urban Fund, Drypool is one of the 6% most deprived parishes in England, but that does not tell the full story.

The parish includes the century-old Garden Village, built by a Quaker industrialist, and the modern Victoria Dock development, which attracts young professionals. It ranges from streets dominated by social housing, to industrial areas that have seen significant investment from the likes of Reckitts and Siemens. Being City of Culture in 2017 has given the city of Hull a boost in confidence, and as churches we are working to make the most of the increased openness this brings.



Drypool is a great place to live – we are next to the City Centre, with all its shops, restaurants, museums, theatres etc; the Humber and East Park provide beautiful open spaces; the bustling shopping street of Holderness Road goes through the heart of the parish; we are a short drive from the beach at Hornsea or the countryside of the Yorkshire Wolds; we are just 5 minutes from the ferry to Europe too. There are 7 primary schools in the parish, and our churches have links with all of them.

Drypool is an evangelical parish with 3 churches representing different styles, and reaching very different areas. The Team Rector, Dave Griffith-Jones, arrived in 2016 after studying at Wycliffe Hall and serving a curacy in Toxteth; his passions are biblical preaching and discipleship, and he is responsible for St Columba's. The Team Vicar, Martyn Westby, arrived in 2013 after serving as an incumbent in Cherry Burton, north of Hull; his passion is reaching the poor and broken with the gospel and he is responsible for St John's and Victoria Dock Church. Dave and Martyn love working together and are really looking forward to expanding the team of clergy making Jesus known in Drypool.



The Churches

St Columba's

St Columba's serves the northern half of the parish, which includes Garden Village and owner-occupied housing near East Park. We struggle to impact the poorer areas that are further away around Barnsley Street and Stoneferry. The congregation are mostly over 60, but in recent years we have seen fruit in reaching out to families too. We average 55 adults and a dozen children on Sundays. We see ourselves as a family who follow Jesus and reach out to our community, and our main purpose is to make disciples. Our vision for the coming years is to grow in faith, in unity and in number.



Our mission currently focuses on families and older people. We have a toddler group that attracts 30-40 families each week, and a teatime ministry for discipling families on Thursdays, as well as 2 Sunday school groups. About 40 families contact us about christenings each year, and we encourage them to come to church and to an evangelistic course. From September 2018 we are employing a families worker. Among older people we build relationships through groups around Mothers Union, knitting and art. We run an evangelistic course at least once a term, and in the last year have run Alpha, Christianity Explored and Life Explored. There are 4 midweek house groups.

Among 20s-40s, we are mostly in contact with young parents through the toddler group, schools ministry and christenings. We have begun to welcome a small trickle of young single adults into church as they explore faith and begin to follow Jesus too.

Opportunities for the future among 20s-40s could include expanding and deepening our ministry to parents, building on the new growth among young adults, discipling men, making the most of our contact with 6 wedding couples each year, and pioneering ministry among young adults in areas that we barely touch with the gospel.



St John's

St John's serves the area of our parish with the largest amounts of deprivation. Our building was recently reordered to become a hub for community-facing ministries. We mostly reach out to people in poverty who experience issues such as debt, addictions, mental health problems and brokenness. We have a core of about a dozen church members who devote themselves to reaching out to our community. Our mission aim is to reach them with the gospel in action, to build a community of love, and to welcome and lead them into a transforming relationship with Christ.



Our main ministries are spread through the week. On Tuesdays we open church for a community meal, friendship, debt advice, a very cheap food shop and more, and 50-60 people join us each week. Last Christmas we had our carolservice during this time, and we recently ran a Start course during it too. On Fridays we have all age worship called Friday Serve where about 50 come together to eat and worship and serve together. On Thursdays a ladies group teaches life skills, and a craft group attracts about 40 locals. We have a presence in all our local primary schools.

All of these ministries reach some 20s-40s, particularly Friday Serve, where half the people who come are young adults, who are mostly very poor. We have a lot of need and opportunity, and are only limited by the small number of workers. A 20s-40s minister would have lots of opportunities to grow, nurture and expand these ministries, to reach out to dads, and to pioneer outreach further from the church building.



Victoria Dock Church

Victoria Dock Church was planted as the houses were built in the 1990s. We meet in the Village Hall on Sundays and in homes for our weekly house group. Victoria Dock has a multicultural, transient population, with many here on 9-12 month contracts. The community here are mostly professionals, and we have a high proportion of young adults. Lots of single people live in the hundreds of apartments on the Dock, and families are attracted by the good primary school here. Many on the Dock struggle with loneliness and feel disconnected.



The Church gathers about 20 adults each Sunday, and has café church once a month. At the moment we are mostly reaching over 50s, but still have a heart for families and young adults. There is one midweek house group, and a focused prayer night once a quarter. We reach out to others through our book group, and through inviting people to occasional events in the Village Hall, such as quizzes, carol services and meals for special occasions. We run Messy Church a few times each year to build relationships with local families.

Our current links with 20s-40s are through Messy Church and links with the primary school. Since nearly 50% of the Village are in this age bracket, there is lots of potential for reaching out to them. Lots of people are looking for community so groups based around walking, cycling, football etc could be good means for connecting with them. The 20s-40s minister will have a free hand in how they want to make the most of the opportunities here.



20s-40s Minister

We believe the harvest is plentiful in East Hull, but because the workers are few we've been praying for the Lord of the harvest to raise up more workers. We hope that many locals will grow into gospel workers here, but we also know that we need others to be sent to make disciples here. That's why we're really excited by the opportunity to work with a 20s-40s minister in Drypool.

Drypool is a large parish, with so many opportunities for the gospel. Our plan is to house the 20s-40s minister close to the centre of the parish – partly because then they will be living among a large number of young adults, many of whom live in poverty, and partly because then they will be able to focus their ministry in any of the areas of our parish.



Our vision is to support and release a 20s-40s minister to make disciples among young adults wherever the Lord leads, and we would seek to give them a free hand when it comes to discerning whether that means building on what is happening in one of our churches or starting something new elsewhere. We love our parish and the people here, and long for them to know and follow Jesus for themselves. Whilst we are already fairly stretched in our current ministries, we will do our best to free up a few people to work alongside the 20s-40s minister in any new initiatives for making disciples.

A 20s-40s minister in Drypool will need to be:

- An evangelical who loves Jesus, his church and the lost and serves prayerfully in the power of the Spirit
- An evangelist who can relate to a wide range of people, but particularly those from urban, working-class and deprived backgrounds
- A pioneer who can bring the gospel to unreached people and places without a large team
- A leader who can recruit, train and support others in making disciples

Since we first heard about the 20s-40s ministers initiative, we've been really excited by its vision of bringing God's glorious good news to a younger generation. Thousands of people in Drypool need to hear about Jesus and see the difference he makes. We have far more people open to hearing about Jesus than we currently have to speak about him. We have more contacts with young adults than we can currently make use of. We're looking forward to meeting the person God is calling here, and seeing what Jesus does through them.

Could it be you?