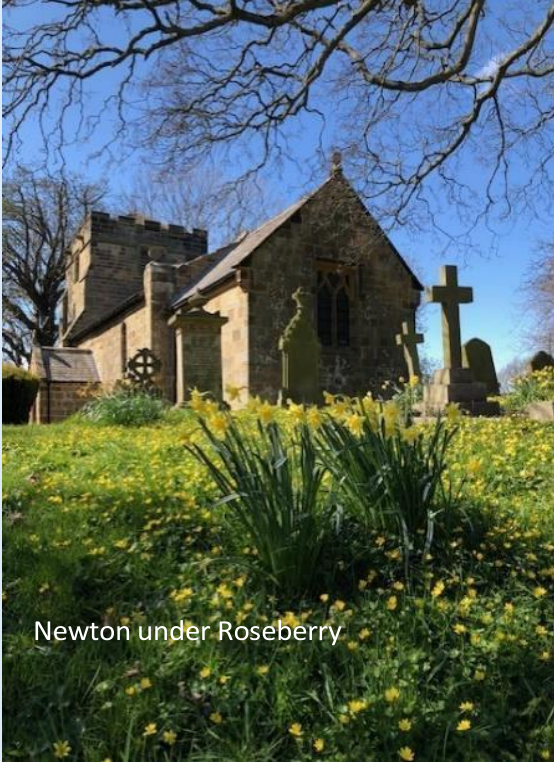


The Benefice of Great Ayton with Easby and Newton under Roseberry



Newton under Roseberry



Great Ayton

Parish Profile

An introduction from Barry, the Bishop of Whitby

I am delighted you are exploring applying to be the next Vicar of Great Ayton with Easby and Newton under Roseberry. Be assured of my prayers and those of Archdeacon Amanda and our colleagues as you do so.

The Benefice is a place of great creativity, missional energy and faithful service. Highly capable lay leaders and officers work closely with an effective and supportive leadership team to serve the 5,000+ parishioners amongst which the churches are set. The churches enjoy excellent relationships within the wider community. This is seen in the fruit of encouraging levels of participation in church life, alongside significant potential on which to build in the years to come.



As the previous Vicar had served faithfully in post for many years, the vacancy period has seen a significant benefice-wide listening exercise led by the drafting team. This has allowed a wide diversity of voices to be heard and led to the drafting of a profile which reflects with honesty the heart and hopes, opportunities and challenges of Christ Church, All Saints and St Oswald's.

Potential applicants would do well to notice the words which appear most frequently in the pages which follow! Encouragingly God is named as the prime agent and mover of mission and the focus of worship and prayer - it is hoped the next Vicar will be a woman or man of lively faith, secure in who they are before God and helping congregations grow in a Spirit-led confidence to evermore reach out to the wider community into the story of God. The place of intergenerational mission is key, with the existing congregation going to considerable and sacrificial lengths over recent years to serve and reach those of all ages, learning from the voice of young people amongst us. The diversity of worship styles is often mentioned - the range of styles and traditions is clearly valued by the church community but, more importantly, is a great gift in helping all parishioners know the difference being a follower of Jesus Christ makes in their life.

I have no doubt benefice and deanery colleagues will offer the new Vicar the support and care essential to thriving in ministry. In moving to Cleveland Archdeaconry you will find a wider archdeaconry team keen to support and serve you, led by a bishop and archdeacon for whom parish ministry is at the heart of who we are called to be and a diocesan staff team committed to your care and support.

As a diocese, all parishes are working together to invite the 1.5 million parishioners we serve to know the joy of Living Christ's Story. This means each church focusing on what it means to:

- **Become more like Christ** – knowing we are God's beloved children, that Jesus came to seek, serve and save, and actively participating in worship and witness Monday to Sunday;
- **Reach people we currently don't** - living and telling the story of God with cultural humility and faith-filled confidence, inviting our classmates and colleagues, neighbours and friends to know the love, purpose and hope which has blessed us;
- **Grow as churches of missionary disciples which are younger and more diverse** – knowing we are sent to every place and person to which we go, but being a 'community of the sent' is most effective and best reflects the Kingdom of God when everyone is known and needed, honoured and participating.

May you know the surrounding and upholding of the Spirit of God in the vulnerability of discernment,

For an informal conversation about this post, contact the Bishop of Whitby, Barry Hill (bishopofwhitby@yorkdiocese.org or 01642 593273) or the Archdeacon of Cleveland, Amanda Bloor (adcl@yorkdiocese.org or 01642 706095).

Applications via Pathways to Mandy Robinson, PA to the Bishop of Whitby: mandy.robinson@yorkdiocese.org

This post is open to Anglican priests who are eligible to work in the UK, subject to satisfactory episcopal reference and enhanced DBS.

Welcome to our Benefice

Following retirement, we are looking forward to appointing a new vicar.

The Benefice is part of the Diocese of York in the Deanery of Stokesley. It consists of two parishes **Christ Church** with **All Saints Church** in Great Ayton, and **St Oswald's Church** in Newton-under-Roseberry. We are part of the Archdeaconry of Cleveland under the care of the Bishop of Whitby. The Deanery Chapter are very supportive of each other and meet regularly. We have one Assistant Curate, one Minister with Permission to Officiate, three Lay Ministers and an Authorised Lay Minister. There is also a paid church secretary. We would expect you take rest days, regular holidays and would support your personal and spiritual development.

We are churches with **solid foundations** who want to grow both **spiritually and numerically**. We recognise we are an ageing congregation, whose children have mostly grown and moved away, and we would love to see **more new families** and young people joining us so we started Cafe Church, Little Fishes and the All-Age Service to address this. We would like your help and enthusiasm to develop this further. You need to be able to relate to, support and teach the existing congregations who have been faithful worshippers. We would like to become a body of believers who are **excited about Jesus**, and what the Holy Spirit is doing in individual lives, the church and the wider community. We would like to grow in our faith through teaching from God's Word, which equips us to reach out and serve.

We prayerfully seek a vicar who:

- helps us to know God, to follow God and to serve God
- is a teacher and preacher of God's Word who helps us to apply its wisdom to the challenges and opportunities of our everyday lives
- enjoys both traditional and contemporary worship styles
- inspires children, young people and families to deepen their faith in Jesus
- is a team player who can lead and develop ministry within the benefice
- encourages the development of people's gifts and service
- is caring and approachable, able to reach out to our community

and our children would like: a '*child friendly*', '*fun*' vicar who is '*young but good*', '*knows what they're doing*' and '*makes creative use of technology*'.

Safeguarding

We are continuing to embed safeguarding into every aspect of Parish Life in our benefice. We strongly wish to ensure that everyone is safe in all our activities and when using our premises. The Parish Safeguarding Officer works with staff and the PCCs to raise the profile of safeguarding and meet all the current requirements of DBS checks and training.

Our Churches

Christ Church was built in 1876, when the original village church of All Saints was considered too small and is now the **principal church**. It is a Grade II listed building with an attached hall and office.



All Saints Church was built in the 12th Century. It has been restored, now being a Grade 1 listed building. There is a Custodian and a group of guides who are present on summer afternoons. The church is used for services in the summer and at Christmas. It is a beautiful setting for concerts

St Oswald's Church is situated in the small village of Newton under Roseberry, two miles from Great Ayton. The historic 12th century church and early 20th century Lych Gate are Grade 2 listed. The main nave is Norman, with the chancel and tower added in the nineteenth century. The tower was designed by the famous architect, Temple Moore.



The Vicarage

The Diocese has recently bought a new vicarage (118 Guisborough Road, Great Ayton) which is situated 10 minutes' walk from Christ Church. It is a 4-bedroomed dormer bungalow with an EPC rating B which has been **modernised to a high standard**. There are plans to convert the workshop at the back of the garage into a **separate office** in early 2025.



Christ Church

Our congregations include people from a **diverse range of church traditions**, including liberal catholic, evangelical and broad church. We worship and work together to further God's Kingdom. There are currently **198 on the Electoral Roll**.

We are taking part in the Diocese initiative of '**Living Christ's Story**' focusing on extending our use of technology, actively encouraging families and young people and developing our Welcome Team and information for newcomers.

Christ Church PCC currently has 16 members and meets 6 times a year. A Standing Committee meets prior to PCC meetings to set the agenda and deal with day-to-day and urgent matters. Specific duties are delegated to smaller committees. Our members show commitment to the wider church through their roles both locally and nationally.

The 9.15am is our largest Sunday Service where our singing is led by our **excellent choir** and **talented organist**. Members of the congregation participate by reading and leading prayers. There is a **Sunday school** where young children learn about God's word and then join us for communion. We have a team welcoming us into the church and serving coffee afterwards. Streaming on **Facebook Live** has a loyal following.

For those who prefer a quieter and more traditional service, the 8am Sunday and 10am Wednesday services provide this.



Cafe Church has been running since 2018. It is led by one of our readers and was developed to **attract young families** (which it has) but regularly has eight decades of ages represented! The numbers have grown and we are **expanding our youth** work as a result. We have a time of informal worship, with children and adults leading prayers and reading from the Bible, then separate into age-related groups to study God's word through teaching and discussion

Little Fishes, another lay led service, is much valued in the village. As well as introducing significant numbers of **pre-school children** (and their carers) to Bible stories, it attracts many non-church families and enables links with the church to develop.



			Average Attendance
Sunday	8.00am (2nd + 4th Sundays)	BCP said Holy Communion	14
	9.15am	Common Worship Holy Communion with Choir (Zoom + Facebook livestream)	68 (62 adults + 6 children)
	4.30pm (2nd + 4th Sundays)	Cafe Church	33 (20 adults + 13 children)
Monday	2.00pm (1st Monday)	Coffee Lounge Communion	14
Tuesday	9.45am (term time only)	Little Fishes	40 (20 adults + 20 children)
Wednesday	10.00am	BCP Holy Communion	10



We have extra services over **Advent and Christmas** (Christingle, Carol Services in All Saints Church (by candlelight) and Christ Church, a School Carol Service led by both schools, a Crib Service and Midnight Mass). **Memorial Services** are held twice a year, together with several **Taizé style** services. The uniformed groups join a non-Eucharistic Sunday Parade Service four times a year. The choir also lead an occasional Choral Evensong.

We host the well-attended annual **Service of Remembrance**. The village community was involved in knitting the poppies which adorn the memorial for Remembrance Sunday.

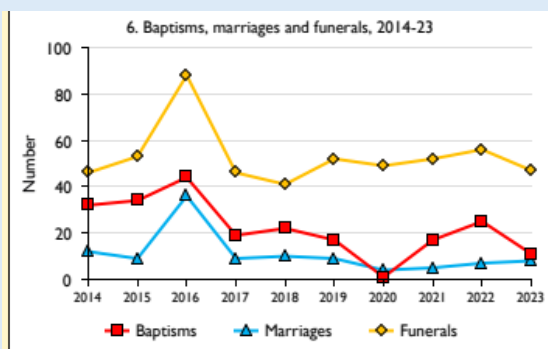
Within Christ Church there are a variety of groups who meet to share their faith and study together. There is a discipleship group, a prayer group and a bible study group.



The ALM heads the Christ Church **Visitors Group** which has 17 members who visit people in their own homes or Care Homes. This is not exclusively for church members and includes the wider community. Members meet together for an afternoon communion service once a month for those unable to attend the early Sunday services. Others receive home communion.

Christ Church takes an active role in **Churches Together** within Great Ayton, meeting regularly with The Methodist Church, Roman Catholic Church, and Society of Friends. A range of initiatives is organised throughout the year to promote Christian unity.

Marwood Voluntary Controlled Infant School has very close links to Christ Church where the vicar is an ex officio governor. Currently members of the congregation are continuing to take the weekly act of worship. Services in the church for the school children are held every half term including Harvest, Christmas, and a Leavers' Service. There have also been visits by the vicar to Roseberry Academy.



Six **weddings** were held at Christ Church during the year up to 1 Sept 2024 as well as 12 **baptisms**. Many people are now opting for **funeral** services at the crematorium, but we have held 42 services in church this past year.

We have strong links with **St Chad's and St Oswald's**, a parish in a disadvantaged area of Middlesbrough and support the **Genesis Project**, a church-based community initiative providing food, clothing, advice, and friendship. We collect for **Middlesbrough Food Bank** every month.

Buildings

The Quinquennial Inspection for **Christ Church** carried out in 2023 noted:

'The Church is in a really good condition and is clearly very well looked after by the PCC and the Churchwardens. The programme of work over the last five years shows that there is an understanding of the maintenance needs of the building and that it is being very well cared for. The PCC should be congratulated on a job well done here.'

All Saints Quinquennial Inspection in 2022 declared it to be *'in reasonable condition and it is obviously well cared for'*.

The **Church Hall and Coffee Lounge** were renovated in 2018 and are well used for many local groups, wedding and funeral functions, parties and concerts, in addition to church groups.



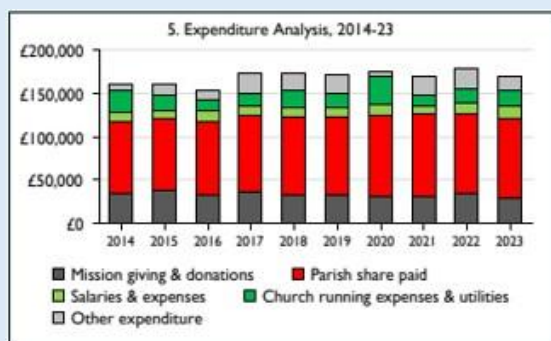
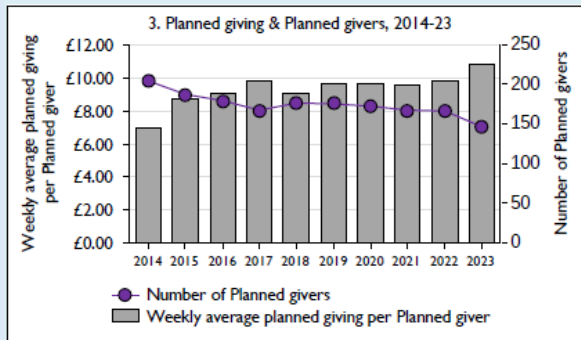
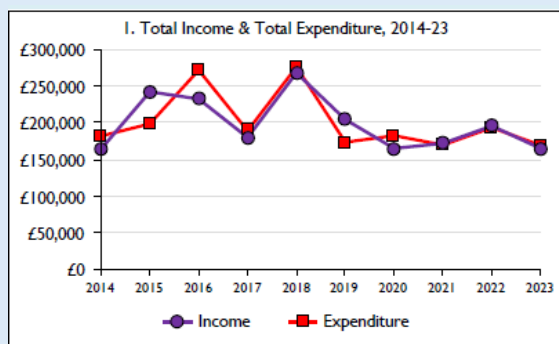
Finance

We are in a **sound financial position**. 146 church members participate in the planned giving scheme and donations are regularly received from visitors. A card reader and QR code are now used successfully to augment collections.

The PCC annually reviews the Freewill Offer to the Diocesan Common Fund. In 2014 a major re-evaluation resulted in an 18% increase in our giving. Since then, we have increased our offer by up to 4% per annum – **we are one of the most generous parishes in the Diocese**. Collections at weddings, funerals and baptisms are donated to charities of the families' choice. In addition, each year the PCC gives a proportion of income to Christian Charities. Overall, this has been extremely successful resulting in **£30,000 annually for worthy causes**.

Much use has been made of grant funding to support major projects. **A Gift Day in 2024 raised more £20,000** for planned projects in Christ Church and All Saints Church from villagers as well as church members.

The charts below provide an overview of the church finances:



St Oswald's



The congregation is a mixed age group of people, some employed and many retired. Worshippers are from the village, the wider community and further afield. We have **47 members on the Electoral Roll**. St. Oswald's PCC has nine members including the vicar and meets four times a year.

The church holds regular services on the 1st, 3rd, and 5th Sunday of each month at 11am. The 1st and 5th Sundays are a **BCP Communion service** whilst the 3rd service is an **All-Age Family Service**. Our usual attendance is 21 plus an average of three children. The services which are most well attended include Christmas Eve, Christmas Family Service, Easter Day, Harvest and St. Oswald's Day.





Recently the church vestry has been **refurbished**, and a kitchen facility has been added, following the introduction of a water supply to the church which has enabled the church to offer refreshments after services. The socialising after the service has developed a very **strong 'family' bond** amongst the worshippers. After the St. Oswald's Day service there is a family picnic.

The Harvest service is followed by a shared lunch and the Carol Service is followed by mulled wine and mince pies. We are a popular choice for weddings and many couples have continued to attend services. There were three weddings during the last year as well as 10 baptisms (often the children of couples married at St. Oswald's). There was one funeral.

Building

The Quinquennial Report for St Oswald's (2023) stated:

*'The church is in a **really good condition** and is clearly really well looked after by the PCC and Churchwardens. When the inspection was taking place, a significant amount of work was being carried out in the Churchyard and the church has a real feel of being the centre of the community and very well cared for.'*

New lighting was introduced to light the entrance path and vestry entrance. An electricity supply had been extended to the cellar.

Finance

We are in a **very secure financial situation** with 11 people who regularly and generously give to St. Oswald's using the planned regular giving scheme, as well as five members who give an annual donation.

The PCC reviews the Freewill Offer to the Diocese each year and **gives generously** from the funds, generally increasing the amount with inflation or slightly more.

Each November the PCC gives a generous amount of money to **Christian charities**. Alongside this, all collections taken at weddings and baptisms are given to a charity of the family's choice.

Eco Church



Both Christ Church and St Oswald's have achieved Silver A Rocha Eco Church status and All Saints Bronze. Additionally, St Oswald's has been presented with the **Best Sustainable Church Grounds** award in 2023. We continue to value creation and encourage members of the congregation to consider changes they can make.

The Villages

Great Ayton is a beautiful rural village of around 5,000 on the edge of the **North York Moors** with a mixture of rented, owner occupier and Housing Association accommodation. The River Leven runs through it and the two village greens are popular for picnics. There is a historical link with **Captain James Cook** with his mother's grave in All Saints Churchyard. It is a great starting point for walkers to enjoy the **Cleveland Hills**. We are close to the **Yorkshire Heritage Coast** and picturesque **seaside towns like Whitby**. There is a flourishing and well supported range of local businesses and a variety of essential shops. **Marwood C of E Infant School** (www.marwoodschool.org) is next to the church and within the village is a primary school, **Roseberry Academy** (www.roseberryacademy.org), both of which have an Ofsted rating of good. Secondary aged pupils attend **Stokesley School** (www.stokesleyschool.org) a few miles away – also rated good. There is a Health Centre providing a range of services and a Dental Practice.

The village has a predominantly White British population. While it may not be highly diverse in terms of ethnicity, the community is known for its welcoming and friendly atmosphere and there is a rich history of community spirit and inclusivity.

Newton under Roseberry is made up of 35 dwellings varying from terraced houses to large, detached properties, two farms and a hotel. The village is a popular tourist destination for those wanting to climb **Roseberry Topping**. The church grounds are an attraction for passing walkers and visitors to the village.

Do visit www.christchurchgreatayton.org.uk to find out more about us.

We look forward to hearing from you.