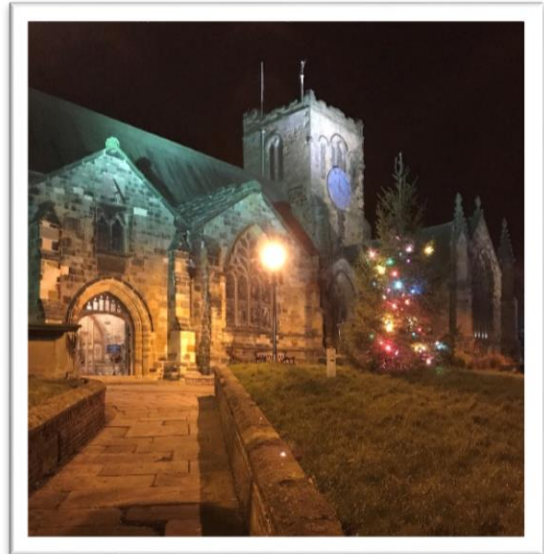


ST. MARY'S WITH HOLY APOSTLES, SCARBOROUGH

PARISH PROFILE

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20-40S MINISTER



Richard Walker

Vicar



01723 371354

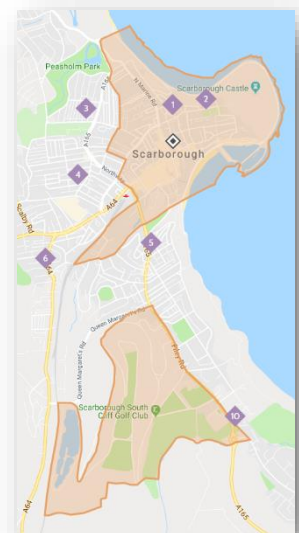
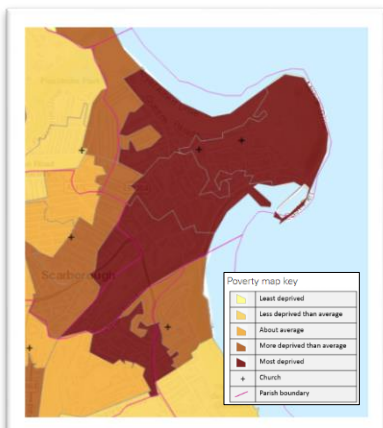
The Parish Context

Welcome to the Parish of St. Mary's with Holy Apostles', Scarborough. You can find us on the headland area just below Scarborough Castle in the ancient part of the town. Our church is broadly evangelical, serving our parish from a foundation of four weekly congregations of mixed traditions. In this last year, our whole church has taken time to pray and listen for God's call. This process of developing a vision has resulted in some significant changes to the outlook and life of the church. We may not be at the full strength of previous generations, but we are convinced of the call of God on our lives and are getting into shape to follow Jesus into a ministry of mission and discipleship, but more about that later on.

The Bottom-End

Most of our parish is distinguished by its coastal setting running a mile and half along the sea (right), including the ancient harbor with its tourist infrastructure. Much of this is quaint with great eateries including the best fish and chips in the land. Here, character abounds in the alleyways and narrow streets of what is affectionately called the "bottom-end."

However, the visitor should not be fooled by this lovely venire where the social hardships of the fishing community have given way to a hard core of drug and alcohol abuse. The Church Urban Fund's analysis of poverty (left) shows that our parish



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the Rainbow Centre

Scarborough

support • uplift • encourage

is one of the most deprived in the UK. Clearly, a ministry to the 20-40s within our parish is challenged by this socio-economic analysis. St. Mary's with Holy Apostles' has responded to these difficulties over the last 20 years with a food bank,

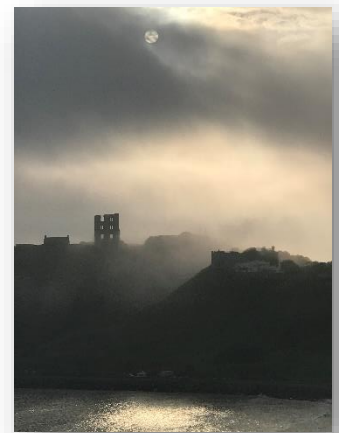
debt counselling (£1.46m of debt managed in 2016), homeless intervention and help to navigate the universal credit conundrum through the work of our Social Action Centre: The Rainbow Centre¹. Many of its clients are between 20-40years old. This ministry is a good place to start to understand the nature of ministry here in our parish.

Tourism & Cultural Heritage

Our parish has a rich cultural heritage, from the castle with its magnificent vista over the North and South bays, to the Church of St. Mary's that has witnessed 830 years of change through the destructive



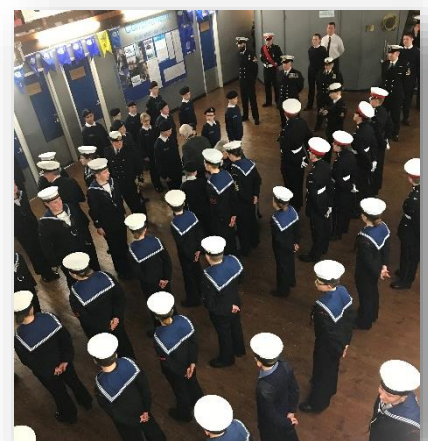
bombardment of Oliver Cromwell's castle siege to the final resting place of Anne Bronte. That says nothing of the beach and seaside amenities, the Stephen Joseph Theatre and the largest open air theatre in Europe. Tourism remains a staple economy for the town and through our hospitality



both St. Mary's and Holy Apostles provide a ministry to this sector. The bicentenary of Anne Bronte's birth in 2020 is one example. Her Christian faith provides a connection between the literary culture of the town and her understanding of the gospel.

Civic Responsibility

Another priority is our civic ministry centered particularly around remembrance held both on the sea front and atop Oliver's Mount. In June 2020, we have the privilege of leading the National Armed Forces Day celebration on Scarborough foreshore. These events strengthen our relationship with the whole community. Our church provides chaplaincy for the largest and most prestigious Sea Cadets company in the country who meet in our parish and it's not rocket science to see that they present ready access to over 70 families outside the church in the 20-40s demographic. There are two schools in our Parish: The Friarage Community Primary School and Scarborough College an independent school and currently we have good developing relationships with both of these communities.



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Church Life and Vision

Our website² is a good source of information about the church life but we are essentially three congregations with between 40-60 members in each service. Each has different characteristics. "The 10 O'clock" is a lively charismatic service meeting in Parish House. This is called Holy Apostles. There is a peaceful traditional service with robed choir and sung liturgy that meets each week at 9:30 in St. Mary's Church. The 11am service follows afterwards bridging the other two traditions with an informal family worship. Over 20 people gather for Wednesday morning communion each week in the chapel at Holy Apostles. Our church takes seriously the central place of scripture, hospitality, active discipleship and excellent pastoral care. In the summer, St. Mary's Church opens to the public and provides hospitality 6 days a week, including a small but significant ministry to holiday-makers and visitors. Currently, we have 12 weddings and 30 baptisms each year and these occasional offices should provide ready access to local families in the 20-40s age-range.



Developing our Church

On the face of things, we are a healthy church. However, through a process of prayer and listening in our PCC meetings and congregational meetings, we have recognized that there are several urgent things that need attention. Firstly, there are not many 20-40s. Secondly, while the foundation of the Rainbow Centre is both Christian, missional and church-led, it's charitable constitution prevents staff from evangelizing the client group who are vulnerable adults. Yet our congregations still presume that the Rainbow Centre is the vicarious mission for St. Mary's with Holy Apostles. The result is that while our church is engaging in some of the marks of mission, critically, we are poor at evangelism.

Our vision process identified four priorities for us to work on (above). We have placed **experiencing God** as our highest priority and started an *intentional discipleship community* of between 5 and 10 people that meets to worship using the daily office, to listen for God's voice, engage with the

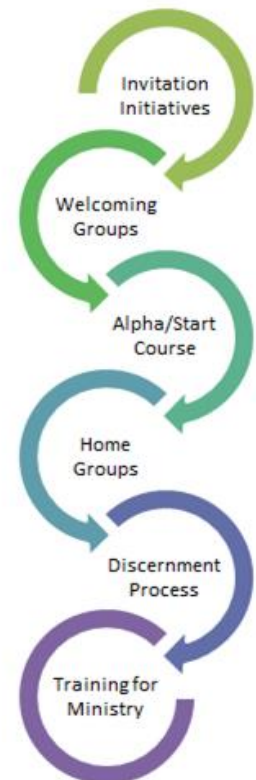
² on a Sunday where

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scriptures, and cover the whole church (and beyond) in prayer. We changed our Eucharistic pattern and made sure there are opportunities for people to receive pray and anointing. The 11am service is changing its focus towards baptismal ministry by renewing its music, format and liturgy. Tackling the 20-40s gap is central to the mission of the church and for this we have created a Families Team to organize family focused Saturday afternoon events **attracting Families** from the parish.

The final two priorities speak of enabling ministry and discipleship both within and beyond our church. As we have scrutinized our discipleship, it is evident that we provide a number of opportunities for people to grow their life with Jesus. We have run alpha courses for the last 15 years and we host a number of home groups. There are specific invitation events at the church (harvest, Christmas, mothering etc.), but these are so often isolated and disconnected. For **growing Disciples** to become our priority, we have created a Discipleship Team to oversee the connections between each stage of Christian growth (see right) from first hearing the gospel through to exercising some form of ministry within the church. The *intentional discipleship community* is a key part of this strategy but we have recognized that training is required to equip our people to meet this priority. Training 25 Recognised Parish Assistants (RPA)³, 17 of whom come from our church, is our boldest move and through this we are equipping our church to disciple and while becoming a training and resource hub to meet the priority of **servicing Community** for the wider deanery and diocese beyond. Our vision in the fullness of time is to host parish internships to train alongside the trainee readers, Ordinands and the Curates that are here. In the last few months, a



reorganization of Parish House has created space for a ministry suite of offices for the Parish Administrator, Vicar, Warden, Curate and the new 20-40s minister.

We have recognized that remaining static will not ensure that the gospel is proclaimed afresh for the next generation. This will require strategies that continue to grow the inherited church here at St. Mary's with Holy Apostles, which has so much to offer. However, it is striking that only 13% of our congregation live within our parish. While we have gained a measure of credibility through ministering

to the physical needs of poorer parts of the parish through the Rainbow Centre, this ministry has

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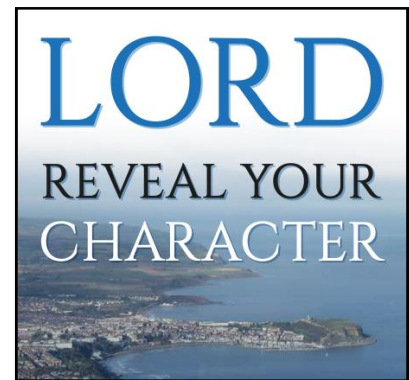
never translated into church growth. Historically the “bottom-end” community are diffident towards St. Mary’s despite owning it as “their” church in occasional offices and seasonal services. We need a strategy to reach our parish by growing a new Christian community that understands and grasps these contextual sensibilities. Part of this strategy has been to train our RPAs using the mission-shaped introduction and give them a good foundation of the priorities and principals of the fresh expressions movement. We have a ready-made cohort to work alongside a 20-40s minister.

And finally ... ecumenical excitements!

There is a buzz in the Scarborough churches at the moment that the Lord is about to do something significant in the body of Christ here. Recently St. Mary’s hosted a weekend *Springtide*⁴ conference entitled “*Lord, teach us to pray.*” Over a hundred Christians from 22 churches across the denominations gathered to worship, hear teaching on aspects of the Lord’s Prayer and then pray using the many prayer stations woven into the chapel spaces around the church. We corporately listened to God and set aside time and space for the whole body of Christ to share what they understood the Lord was saying during the plenary of each session. Unsurprisingly, themes emphasizing the importance of meeting together, of unity and corporate mission were common. We were surprised at the real appetite to continue to worship

together. A number of churches have decided to set aside the 2nd Sunday each month to meet, worship and pray. Our new theme is an exploration of the Trinity under the heading “*Lord reveal your character.*” What happens next is in God’s hands!

It is exciting to think that new 20-40s minister will experience the dynamic of the churches in Scarborough working alongside Scarborough Deanery, which has a long history for being a model deanery in the York Diocese for mission and collaborative ministry. The common thread for ministry here both in our church, deanery and gathered ministry is listening for and discerning the leading of the Spirit of God, then stepping out in obedient faith. That’s the kind of 20-40s minister we would love to work with, might it be you?



⁴ Spring Tide Scarborough is a group of Ministers who lead a variety of churches and local Christian missions in the community. We meet at 7.15am every week for prayer and since 2006 it has planned week-end conferences and missions, built upon a great level of trust, fellowship and serving God together.