

N O V E M B E R 2 0 1 0

*our*  
**PARISH** *profile*

ALL SAINTS' STRANTON AND BURBANK COMMUNITY CHURCH



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## *Dear future incumbent,*

As you read this you may realise that this letter is addressed to you, or that you should at least explore with our Bishop, our Patron (St John's College) and us whether you are God's person to lead us over the next few years.

Previous incumbents have brought wonderful gifts to their ministries in Stranton and Burbank. They have included gifted teachers, able musicians, fundraisers and project commissioners, fosterers of renewal, vocations discerners, community engagers and mentors of curates. When we prayed about what attributes you should have, we came across none of these specifically. What we believed God was saying to us was that you are someone who prays and is open to being led by the Holy Spirit. Because you pray, you are wise and discerning about people. You are a good communicator. You are a leader yourself, but also able to identify the needed gifts in others, delegating work and creating trust. You are an enabler and encourager, helping people to work together for the Kingdom of God. Where matters need to be moved forward you are a supporter and inspirer of change.

As for your other attributes, you may have all of the ones that previous incumbents have possessed or few of them. You may be a woman or a man. We are keen for you to take an interest in the uniformed organisations and the non-church-based youth work. You must have energy as this is a very busy parish.

In return you will find a team ready to form around you, people of integrity and faith who will accept you for who you are (and, if you have one, your family) and work with you not just to maintain our ministries here at Stranton and Burbank, but to take part in God's mission to the communities he has called us to serve.

We look forward to having you here.

Yours sincerely and gratefully,

*Stranton PCC.*

***Our parish outing to Glaisdale, above, was enjoyed by many from both Stranton and Burbank congregations.***

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*Top - One of our Authorised Pastoral Assistants being commissioned by the bishop.*

*Middle - St Matthew’s hall is used for all kinds of community activities, including ‘Holiday at Home’ for pensioners. See p14-15*

*Left - Small children relaxing at our annual Summer fair. p19*



# *A Short History Hartlepool and Stranton*

Hartlepool has a long and proud history. Hartlepool was originally two towns, the ancient town of Hartlepool, 'Old Hartlepool' known locally as the Headland, and the more recent 'West Hartlepool', which amalgamated in 1967 to form what is now known as Hartlepool.

Hartlepool is a local government district and borough in the ceremonial county of Durham. The main employers in the town include local government, brewery, Nuclear Power Station and ABLE UK, the largest purpose designed recycling centre for marine structures. The town has a population of 88,200 in 36,000 households. It has five secondary schools, two of which are church schools and 31 primary schools, ten of which are church schools. There is also the Cleveland College of Art and Design, the College of Further Education and the Sixth Form College.

Along with many other towns in the North East, Hartlepool and the parish include areas of significant urban deprivation.

Tourism is a significant and growing part of the local economy. Places to visit include: the Maritime

Experience (a superb re-creation of an 18<sup>th</sup> century seaport), HMS Trincomalee 1817, PSS Wingfield Castle, Historic Quay, Navigation Point, (a place to watch the boats and yachts moored in the Marina that has many restaurants), the Museum of Hartlepool, RSPB Saltholme (a beautiful nature reserve), Hartlepool Fish Quay, St Hilda's Church, the Art Gallery, Golf Course, a seaside resort (Seaton Carew), a country park (Summerhill, a hundred acre site transformed for conservation and outdoor sport) and beautiful parks. The town also has a cinema, Superbowl and various entertainment venues where stage plays, concerts, bands, talks and comedy take place. Slightly further afield are the Cleveland Hills, North Yorkshire Moors, the Dales and North Northumbria.



In August 2010, Hartlepool welcomed more than 60 Tall Ships to the town after being chosen by the race organizers to be the finishing point for the 2010 Tall Ships Race.

## **Stranton Parish Church**

The Church building dates back to the 12<sup>th</sup> century and Christians have worshipped on the site for over 1200 years. Today the church is the base for a thriving Christian community of all ages, in the evangelical tradition of the Church of England.



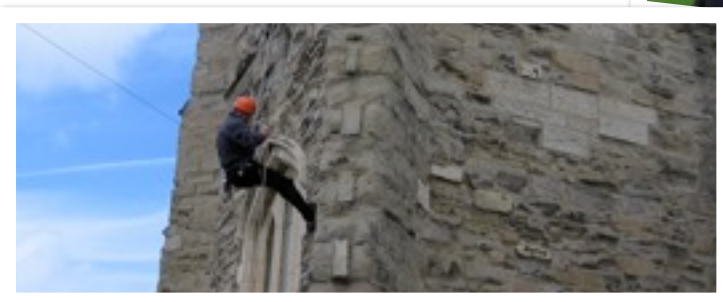
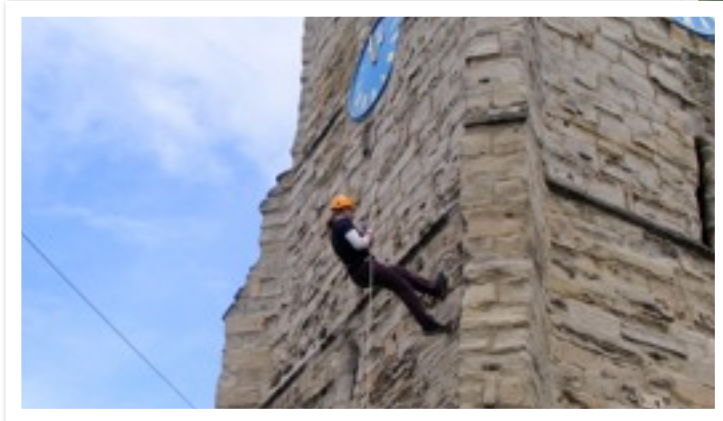
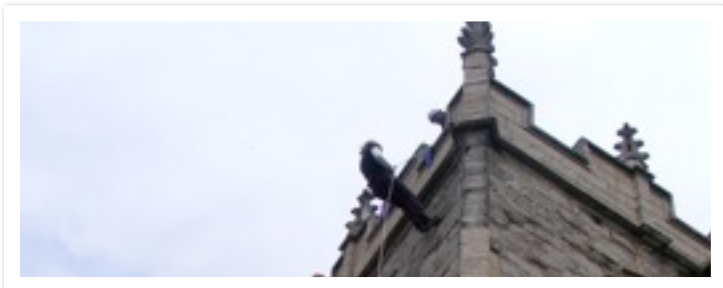
Stranton parish is part of the Church of England deanery of Hartlepool in which we are linked to the other eleven Anglican parishes of the town, and in particular St. Luke's parish with which we are developing a close working relationship. Beyond that we are part of the Diocese of Durham, and are also members of the Evangelical Alliance. Locally we also have close links with other Christian churches and are members of the

Local Ecumenical Partnership with St Luke's, Westbourne and Grange Road Methodist Churches, St George's URC and St. Joseph's Roman Catholic Church.

This is a stone built Church, enjoying Grade II\* listed status. The earliest parts were originally constructed approximately 900 years ago, apparently on the site of a previous Saxon church. It stands on a raised site incorporating a historic churchyard, visible from the town's main access road, the A689. The churchyard is maintained by the local authority. The immediate area around the church is largely used for commercial activities. Certain access and car parking arrangements are shared with the nearby Cameron's Brewery.

The building has been extended, refurbished and altered over the centuries. In recent years it has been extensively renovated including the provision of a new chapel, extending the altar area, providing more accessible vestry areas, a new balcony, additional toilet facilities, a refitted kitchen, a quiet prayer room and upgraded safety access to the bell tower. In 2005 a new sound system was installed incorporating a 32 channel-mixing desk.

Currently a major programme of works is being carried out. This includes new stonework to the south clerestory wall, new roofs to the south aisle and to two vestries. The anticipated cost of these works, approximately £100,000, is largely being funded from grants received from a wide variety of sources including English Heritage. A quinquennial inspection is due and will take place upon completion of this work. The architect responsible for carrying out the inspection is managing the current works on our behalf. Previous quinquennials have commented on the general good condition of the church building.



*Stranton church has many uses. One of its more unusual days was when members of the church abseiled down the tower in June 2009, to raise money for the youth work of the parish.*

# Burbank Community Church

Across a dual-carriageway road from the church is a council estate called Burbank. The church has had a long-term interest in the estate. Fifty years ago it had a Mission Hall built and a sister church was started on the estate, but sadly the building was sold and there was a period when no church services were being held.

A new community centre was built and the PCC employed a church and community worker to start a church based in the centre. A house was also purchased for the worker to live on the estate.

The Burbank Church meets in a primary school on the estate, due to the refurbishment of the community centre. Approximately 30 adults and 10 children attend the Sunday service. Burbank Community Church has a leadership team to help plan and run the church and the clergy celebrate Holy Communion on a monthly rota. This church has an informal atmosphere and is family based.



*Right - Some young people from Stranton join Clive in a 'mini-mission' on the Burbank Estate in summer 2009*

*Left - Burbank, and the rest of the parish, have often had the help of mission teams from the US*

# Staff and Ministries Team

The PCC of Stranton has not passed any of resolutions A, B and C under the Priests (Ordination of Women) Measure 1993 Code of Practice, and is open to the appointment of a woman incumbent. There is already a good history of ordained women's ministry within the parish and of women's vocations to ordination being identified and encouraged.

Until recently the Staff team consisted of:

- \* Full-time incumbent
- \* Stipendiary Associate Minister (also working part-time as a prison chaplain)
- \* MSE Associate Minister, employed full-time
- \* Full-time Community Church Worker, for Burbank
- \* Full-time Youth and Children's Worker (in the process of change)
- \* Church Administrator (five mornings per week)

Relationships within the staff team are open and supportive, and there is a weekly staff meeting of the stipendiary members of the team. The MSE arranges his working diary to be involved in a monthly staff breakfast. There are regular social gatherings for the team, spouses and occasionally families.

There are a number of other licensed or authorised ministers within the congregation, including:

Two retired priests in the parish, who are active in the deanery and are helping to support ministry at Stranton during the vacancy

- \*One active Lay Reader, with a ministry of preaching
- \*One Reader Emeritus
- \*Two Authorised Pastoral Assistants.

## Shared Ministry Development Team and Lay Participation

Stranton Church was one of the first parishes in the diocese to establish a Shared Ministry Development Team, in 2003. This followed a consultation process and established its initial priorities through a "parish MOT". The SMDT has been renewed on two occasions, the PCC appointing its half dozen lay members through a process of prayer, consultation, nomination and election. The SMDT's work has included reviews of Sunday worship, co-ordination of some social events and an assessment of human resources matched with opportunities for ministry. More recently the SMDT has shared and reflected on its role with the diocesan Ministry Development Officer.

Lay participation in parish activities includes:

- \* One of the APAs assists in baptism preparation
- \* Lay people help with marriage preparation days
- \* The present Associate Ministers and the APAs have been working to broaden lay involvement in pastoral ministry
- \* There is an active robed choir and a music group
- \* There are rotas for intercessions and reading, and other congregational members fill these roles
- \* A number of lay people are licensed to assist with distribution of communion
- \* The 'Food for Thought' seekers course is run by lay people
- \* There are several lay-led home groups.

# *Sunday and Midweek Worship*

There are around 200 members on the electoral roll. Stranton Church has at least three services each Sunday morning.

- \* 8am Prayer Book Holy Communion (said); 14 - 22 communicants
- \* 9:15am Common Worship Sung Eucharist; with organ and robed choir; 35 - 50 communicants
- \* 11:00am Family worship; 40 - 70 people, including 8-16 children.

Other regular services are:

- \* Burbank Community Church 11am family worship (see separate section)
- \* Wednesday 10am Prayer Book Holy Communion (said); 14 - 20 communicants at St Matthew's Hall
- \* First Sunday of the month 4pm "Messy Church" at St Matthew's Hall

Practice has varied over recent years, but currently two 11am services per month are Eucharistic. Children belonging to Christian families within the Church are admitted to receive communion, in accordance with diocesan policy. At Stranton this takes place as early as age five following a course of instruction, led until recently by the incumbent. (Because of this policy confirmation is offered to young people at the age of 16 and over.)

The 11am service is informal in content, following loosely the CW Service of the Word format. Usually the entire service including hymns and songs is projected on to a screen in the chancel using Microsoft PowerPoint. Music is led by a small music group. Hymn books currently in use are: Sing Glory and Hymns Ancient & Modern Revised occasionally at 9:15. A new set of TNIV pew bibles was recently purchased.

One Sunday per month a short all-age service is held at 11am entitled "Lighthouse", often with lay leadership. This has a simplified Service of the Word format.

On the first Sunday of the month "Messy Church" gathers at the St Matthew's Community Hall. This is for children up to age 10 with their parents and includes activities, a short teaching/worship section and a light meal. Attendance at this event is in the region of 40 to 50 people. A number of relatively new members of Stranton Church participate



*Parents and children enjoying 'Messy Church'*



# Teaching

Children's teaching has taken place during the 11:00am service on Sunday mornings, with occasional other courses such as preparation for first communion.

A high value is placed on preaching at Stranton, although it is seen more broadly than as a vehicle for teaching. In the past there have occasionally been sermon series, for example about the Lord's Prayer, Elijah and Luke's gospel (following a diocesan Lent

lay team), and both the "Faith and Life" and "Living Theology Today" diocesan courses.

## Home Groups

Adult teaching also takes place through home groups, with the lay co-ordinator producing notes on the 11am Sunday readings and distributing them to home group leaders. Eight small fellowship groups meet every two weeks and the leaders meet regularly for mutual support and encouragement. Most groups use the notes for discussion based on the Bible passage, but they are free to set their own programme. Our aim is not just "Bible study" important though it is, but also to build relationships with each other that will help us grow together in faith and discover new areas of serving the body of Christ. We try to be dynamic and inclusive and hope to get to the point where belonging to a small group is normal, not exceptional.

## Prayer Ministry

One home group has had a ministry of praying for the Church. Services of prayer and laying on of hands for healing

have been held in the past, and a number of lay and ordained people have received training for healing ministry. However, this ministry has not been exercised much in public worship in recent years. There is also a prayer chain organised by the pastoral group.

course). CW lectionary readings are used at the 8am and 9.15am services, and at the midweek Eucharist. A reading from the Scripture Union material used by the children's groups has normally been the basis of preaching at the 11:00am service. This is intended to integrate teaching between the adults and the children.

A small number of people have committed themselves to an Emmaus Course "Food for Thought" (led by a



*Members of Youth Fellowship enjoying their bible study in the church grounds.*

# Occasional Offices

## Baptisms

There are around 50 baptisms each year, usually very large extended family gatherings of between 60 and 100. It has proved difficult to integrate these groups with the regular morning worship, so most baptisms have taken place on Sunday afternoons, with up to three families at a time.

Parents applying to have children baptised have been required to participate in a monthly evening session entitled "New Beginnings", using CPAS video material. Baptism and thanksgiving services are described followed by a question and answer (Q&A) session. The child can have a baptism or a thanksgiving and it is only after this that a date is given for the service.

Baptism services are led from the chancel where a small, portable stone font is used and the children being baptised are given a children's bible as well as the usual candle and baptismal certificate.

There is a standard printed order of service. Families of baptized children have later received invitations to occasional parties, Messy Church and "Back to Church Sunday". The assistant clergy are reviewing some details of this practice whilst maintaining most of the

principles of the policy.

## Weddings

Around 15 weddings are solemnised in Stranton Church each year. Preparation is offered through a "Wedding Preparation Day" on a Saturday in March, to which all couples hoping to be married in Stranton Church are invited. This consists of a course of presentations, video clips and exercises led by lay people and clergy, followed by lunch together.

The outgoing incumbent and assistant clergy have all been willing to conduct the remarriage of divorced persons after a satisfactory interview process and in line with Bishop's Regulations.

Many couples use a standard printed order of service.



## Funerals

There were 44 funerals in the parish during 2009. There is no standard order of service for funerals at present. The majority of funerals are in church rather than directly at the crematorium. The churchyard is closed for burials but Hartlepool Crematorium and public cemetery is only a few minutes' drive from the church.

Each year there is a memorial service, to which all families who have had funerals at Stranton during the

*Two members of Stranton church at their wedding in summer 2010. Left, a baptism using our stone font.*

year are invited. This takes place in the week closest to All Souls' Day. All families receive a card on the first anniversary of their relative's death. This is organised through the church office.

## Other Special Services

These include:

- \*Back to Church Sunday: this has become a regular feature at Stranton
- \*Harvest Festival: the uniformed organisations and outreach youth groups are encouraged to be involved in decoration and participation in this service.
- \*Carol services: several schools in the area use Stranton for their carol services at the end of the autumn term.
- \*'Stranton Sunday', special services at Pentecost and All Saints' where all the congregations combine for one service and shared lunch.
- \*Christingle, carol service midnight communion and nativity services are part of Stranton's usual Christmas celebrations.



*Stranton Church decorated for the Christmas services.*



## Mission and Community

The church has long been committed to the active support of overseas mission, with active links to CMS and SAMS (now merged) and CrossLinks. The parish gives around 10% of its income to overseas mission each year, mainly to these charities. There is a strong link with the Kilimatinde Trust, an independent charity set up by a previous incumbent, and both personally and financially supported by members of the church.

Stranton is part of a covenanted Local Ecumenical Partnership with two local Methodist churches, one URC and one Roman Catholic Church, formed in 1998. These five churches, together with some others, form an active Town-Centre Churches Together group which has run Lent courses and runs a breakfast club for homeless people as well as taking part in major events such as the 2010 Tall Ships. Ecumenical prayer meetings take place fortnightly.

Within Hartlepool Deanery as a whole relationships between churches are good, and the deanery chapter is a supportive, collaborative group in which clergy from wide-ranging church traditions work together in an open and friendly manner. The nearby parish of St Luke's shares a similar theological and ministerial outlook. There is good engagement with the life of the deanery and diocese. Members of the church are active on Diocesan Synod, the Diocesan Board of Finance, the Diocesan Board of Education, and Bishop's Council. The SSM is a respected voice on environmental issues in the diocese.

The church has had two missionary priorities since 2001, the Burbank Estate and Youth and Children's work (see p6 and p17/18 respectively). However, there are many other good community links:

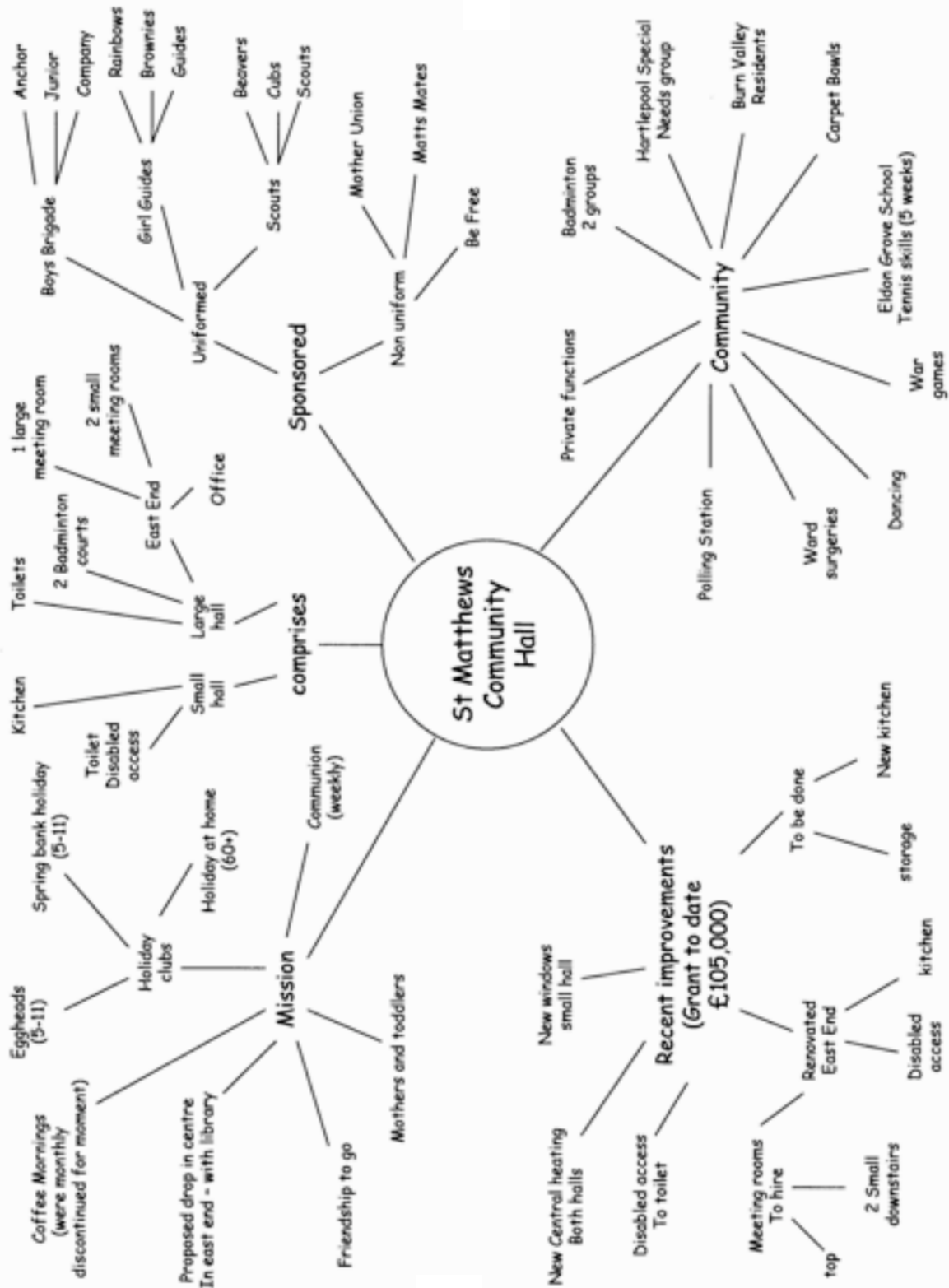
- \*A wide variety of groups use the newly-refurbished St Matthew's Hall (see separate section)
- \*Several congregation members have been active volunteers at the Mission to Seafarers
- \*A number of people are involved in leading uniformed organisations
- \*The previous incumbent was involved in the Burbank Forum along with the Community Church Worker
- \*At least four staff and lay members are school governors, two in the capacity of Chair
- \*The present Stipendiary Associate Minister acts as chaplain to the Further Education College situated in the parish
- \*The previous incumbent, community worker and the Youth and Children's Worker assist with assemblies in three local primary schools.
- \*Recently established is a monthly ecumenical men's breakfast.



*Top - Friendships formed across generations at the Holiday at Home outreach for pensioners. Above - At Holiday at Home some people learnt to paint for the first time.*

# St Matthew's Activities

St Matthew's Community Centre is one of the hubs of our outreach. This diagram shows its range of uses.



# Property

The PCC is responsible for a number of properties within the parish boundaries including, naturally, the Church itself, a community centre/church hall, the Vicarage and two further residential properties, both owned by the parish.

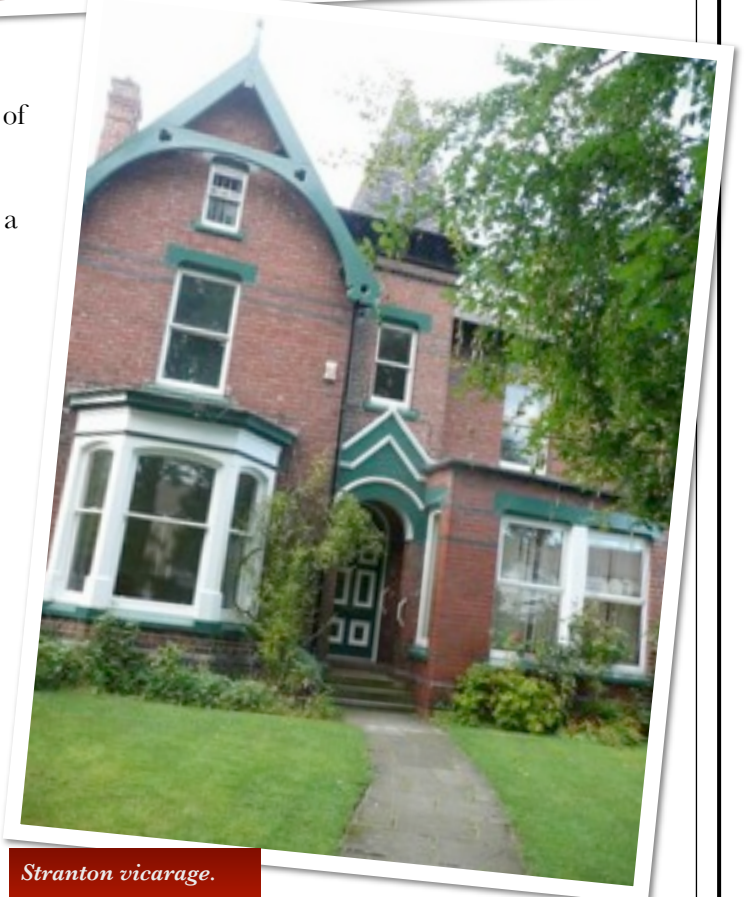
## St Matthew's Community Centre

Constructed around the turn of the last century as St Matthew's Church, this building was converted to a church hall about sixty years ago. It stands on a highly visible corner site at the junction of Elwick Road and Arncliffe Gardens, in the demographic heart of the parish approximately ½ mile from the Church. There are two main halls with ancillary kitchen and toilet facilities. In recent years, owing to the energy, tenacity and enthusiasm of the St Matthew's Management Committee, the whole building has undergone a series of transforming improvements. Whilst the larger hall has traditionally been popular for indoor racquet sports and the smaller hall has been used regularly by the many church affiliated uniformed organisations, the recent improvements have turned this landmark building into something of which to be proud for the range of facilities available to the local community. Recently a new heating system has been installed, most of the rooms have been redecorated and the kitchen has been refitted. £105,000 has been raised to reorganise redundant storage areas and the unused stage area into a suite of rooms that include a computer suite, meeting, conference and seminar rooms and modern toilet facilities.

There is now potentially sufficient space for the parish office to be incorporated into this building, rather than the Vicarage (see chart)

## Stranton Vicarage, 34 Westbourne Road, TS25 5RE

This is a Victorian double fronted semi detached house, situated in a quiet residential road within the parish, approx ½ mile from the Church. Currently the parish office is situated in one of the ground floor rooms, although all parties concerned recognise that the office's location cannot be taken for granted. A new incumbent may wish to either keep the office's convenient current location or move it to St Matthew's



*Stranton vicarage.*

Community Centre. The property is conveniently located within a short walk of three primary schools, local shops and approximately 2/3rds mile from the town centre.

Briefly, the accommodation includes:-

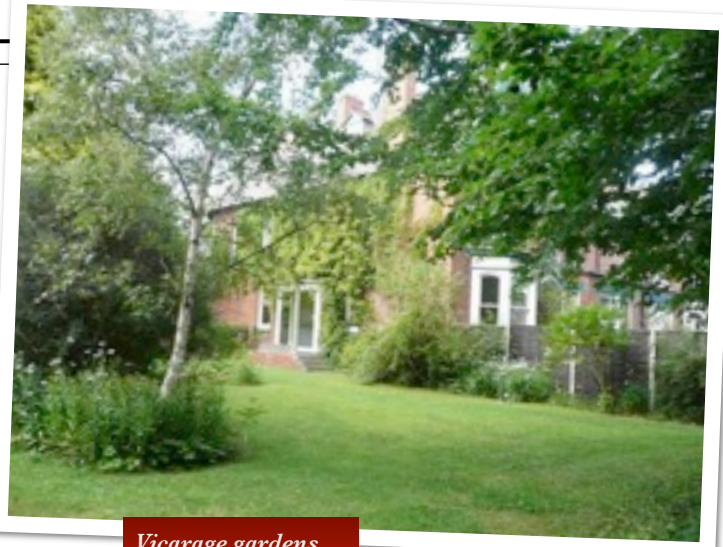
Ground floor: Hall, Study, Lounge, Dining Room, Cloakroom, Kitchen, Utility Room.

First floor: 4 Bedrooms, Dressing Room, Bathroom, Sep WC.

Second Floor: 4 further attic rooms, Bathroom.

Externally there is a double garage with storage over and a potting shed.

The house stands in attractive wooded grounds with a site area of approx  $\frac{3}{4}$  acre. Many of the mature trees are subject to tree preservation orders.



*Vicarage gardens.*

For many years events such as the Summer Fete and youth barbecues have taken place in the grounds. The PCC recognises that such a large garden could prove to be a mixed blessing to a new incumbent and is willing to discuss ways of minimising the time and effort involved in the ground's maintenance, should he/she be willing to continue to share the grounds with the parish.

In recent years extensive discussions have taken place with the Diocese regarding the viability of the current Vicarage, with a view to building a modern replacement in the grounds. In the current economic climate, no redevelopment opportunities arise. The diocese has agreed to fund maintenance and improvement works to the current property. The old range cooker, which provided domestic hot water, is being removed along with the old central heating boiler. A modern high efficiency condensing gas boiler is to be fitted, thereby considerably reducing likely running costs.

#### 41 Arncliffe Gardens, TS26 9JF

This attractive mature terraced house, situated in a popular residential road in the heart of the parish, has traditionally been used to provide accommodation for the curate and his/her family. The property is currently let. There is no mortgage on the property.

The house was built around the turn of the last century and the accommodation briefly includes:-

Ground Floor: Hall, Lounge, Dining Room, Kitchen, Study/Office.

First Floor: 3 Bedrooms, Bathroom.

Externally, there is a small front forecourt and 40' rear garden.

In recent years the central heating has been upgraded and the kitchen and bathroom have been refitted.

#### 161 Burbank Street, TS24 7JW

This is another substantial property built around the turn of the last century. It is mid terraced and situated in the area of the parish covered by the Burbank Community Church, and is occupied by the community worker. Like Arncliffe Gardens, the house is owned by the parish and there is no mortgage outstanding.

The house has been well maintained and has had improvements to the heating system carried out along with a major upgrading of the external front façade.

The accommodation includes:-

Ground Floor: Lounge, Dining Room, Bathroom

First Floor: 2 Bedrooms, Study

Second Floor: Attic Bedroom.

Externally there is a small front forecourt and a rear yard leading to gated back street.

# Youth and Children's Work

## IN BRIEF

### COMMUNITY

Assemblies, RE lessons, Holiday Clubs, Toddler's services, interaction with uniformed organisations.

### CROWD

Bridge Builders and Matt's Mates after school clubs, Be Free youth club

### CORE

Sunday Club, Pathfinders, Youth Fellowship.

### OTHER

'Mini-Missions', Mission weeks with Americans, Summer camps and Mission trips to Moldova

Stranton and Burbank Community Church have a long history of commitment to the nurture and development of the young people of the parish. For a number of years the church has employed a full time youth worker – one of the first churches in the diocese to do so. Prior to this, gap year students who specialised in youth ministry were taken on.

The work with children and young people is overseen by the 'Youth and Children's team', a sub-committee of the PCC.

Our work with children and young people is broad, but our groups fit together to draw people from different backgrounds into a deeper understanding of the Christian faith. Our groups and activities could be categorised as

'community', 'crowd' and 'core'.

**Community:** these groups and activities aim to show off the church and the Christian faith as relevant, lively and genuine. They are often the first point of contact and children, young people and families who discover something here can be drawn into other groups that can offer them a deeper understanding of the Christian faith. We also run a couple of holiday clubs during the year, and visit the toddlers group.

**Crowd:** these groups are designed to offer children and young people the chance to start following Jesus, and are predominantly filled with people from outside the church. This includes an after school club for primary aged children, and 'Be Free' is an outreach group for 10-14

year olds. These 'crowd' groups see around 50-60 young people each week.

**Core:** These groups are filled by children and young people who have a Christian faith, or are genuinely searching, with the aim of nurturing rather than evangelising. Often these groups have children from 'church' families making up most of the numbers, but as our 'Crowd' groups have become more established over the past few years we have seen more people attend from outside the church. This includes a Sunday club for children, Pathfinders for 10-14s, and Youth Fellowship for 13 to 18 year olds. These groups see around 25-30 children and young people per week.

**Other:** we have also run other less frequent events, such as playing host to teams of evangelists from America, sent our



Above - A group from Texas learn Cricket from our Boy's Brigade. Right - The whole of Stranton School turn out for a Harvest Festival service.



own young people on mission trips to Moldova, and we regularly take increasingly large numbers of young people to summer Christian camps.

### Changes and Challenges

The current youth and children’s worker has been in post for six years full time but is reducing this to eight hours from October 2010 as he takes up further study. The Youth and Children’s team are currently looking at ways to continue youth work in the church.

Another challenge is to discover how we can best support our young people from YF into adulthood in the context of the wider church community.



### Egg-heads

Egg-heads is a very long standing and very successful kids’ club run over five days before Easter and is organised by the uniformed organisations but includes any primary age young people.

The young people play team games with an Easter theme, Easter crafts, watch an Easter story DVD and take part in a team quiz. Parents are invited to the last session and prizes are awarded. The leaders of the uniformed organisations help plus volunteers, and up to sixty children attend every session,



*Top - Young people catch the train home in Moldova, after a hard fortnight. Bottom - Youth Fellowship and Be Free have a joint weekend away at Middleton-in-Teesdale, July 2010.*

## Parish Administration

The parish administrator is currently based at the church office in the vicarage for five mornings per week and occasionally helps with vicarage hours.

All enquiries for baptisms, weddings and funerals are received via the office and the administrator deals with them, liaising where necessary with vergers, organists and funeral directors. She also keeps the relevant registers up to date.

The administrator also compiles the monthly Church magazine and does printing and photocopying. She currently prepares the rotas for sidepersons, readers and intercessors.



## Social and Fundraising events

These include:

- \* Christmas party held in the yacht club
- \* Christmas and Summer Fairs
- \* Days out
- \* Pie and Pea supper
- \* Theatre group
- \* Angel Festival, Kings and Shepherd Festival involving congregation, groups, uniformed organisations and local schools
- \* Weekends away - although this has not taken place this year because of costs
- \* Pentecost party



*Fundraising has included an 'Angel Festival' (top) and Summer fairs (above).*

## Ward Jackson School

Ward Jackson School is a small community school on the edge of the Burbank estate and close to the church.

The school started the formal consultation to become a Church of England Voluntary Aided School in March 2010. The previous incumbent, supported by the Chair of Governors, Church Leader of Burbank Community Church and the Headteacher of the school, started this process.

We enjoyed the full support and excellent guidance from the Director of Education for the Durham Diocese.

The parents and governors all support this venture and we are now awaiting the government's formal approval of our application. The school hopes to re-open as a Voluntary Aided church school in Jan 2011.

# P.C.C.

The PCC meets about five times per year, with a standing committee and sub committees for music & worship, mission and children's and young people.

It consists of:-

- ★ Incumbent and Assistant Clergy
- ★ 2 Churchwardens
- ★ 4 Deanery Synod representatives
- ★ 15 members elected on a 3 yearly cycle

## Finance

A summary of the last three years accounts is shown below. The parish incurred a deficit in each of 2007 and 2008, but returned to financial surplus in 2009. The forecast for 2010 is for break-even.

YEAR TO 31ST DEC	2007	2008	2009
INCOME	£168 358	£162 645	£189 835
EXPENDITURE	£174 581	£181 252	£184 487
SURPLUS(DEFICIT)	£(6 223)	£(18 607)	£5 348

Since 2001, the Parish has had substantial ongoing financial commitments to funding its two full time lay posts (Parish worker for Burbank Community Church and Youth Worker) and a part time Secretary/Administration Assistant: The full time posts have been funded to some extent from non recurrent and short term Charitable Grants and one off Donations (shown as restricted income) and the level of parish commitment through recurring giving does not meet the full cost of these ministries. This area presents the greatest financial risk to the Parish. The PCC has appointed a Local Giving Officer to stimulate future giving.

The PCC has always met its full parish share and has supported overseas mission to the extent of around £9,000 p.a. in recent years, through long established overseas mission partners. This activity is at most financial risk if long term recurrent giving is not addressed.

The Parish hall operates with a high level of financial autonomy, with day to day responsibility delegated to a management committee (as a subcommittee of the PCC), providing a valuable community as well as a Church resource. Its accounts are consolidated within the Parish accounts. In recent years, along with its own fundraising activities, the hall has attracted a number of development grants that have enabled it to modernise some of its facilities and operates as long term financial break-even.

## The Future

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At a recent meeting of the PCC it decided that in considering a new incumbent some of the things we would be looking for would be:

- ★ Someone for the parish who shows delegation and trust
  - ★ Spirit filled, prepared to step out in faith
  - ★ Able to make good relationships/a communicator
  - ★ Someone who appreciates the importance of non church youth work
  - ★ Leadership to help people to work together
  - ★ Enabler and open to new ideas
  - ★ Management leadership
  - ★ Strong sense of God and recognised as someone who prays and has wisdom
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Immediate challenges a new incumbent would face:

- ★ The role of the SMDT needs to be reviewed in the light of the missionary priorities to be agreed between the new incumbent and the PCC (see p 9)
- ★ The new incumbent may wish to address with the PCC the issue of the number and type of services on a Sunday and their timing (see p 10).
- ★ The previous incumbent, a gifted musician, also acted as musical director. Another organist belonging to the church community recently emigrated. Ad hoc arrangements for musical leadership of the worship group, direction of the choir and provision of organists need to be reviewed with prayer and longer term arrangements made.
- ★ Working with the Youth and Children's Team, the Treasurer and others with ministries of fund raising and mission, the new incumbent will have to review the leadership and resourcing of youth work (see p17/18).