



Will you walk with us?

Holy Trinity Darlington



Holy Trinity Darlington

A bit about the town



Darlington—a great place to live!

Darlington is an historic market town in the south of County Durham. It lies on the River Skerne which is a tributary of the River Tees and is considered the gateway to the Tees Valley and wider North East.

The town has great **travel connections**. It is well connected for road and rail travel; the A1 (M) and A66 are on the outskirts of the town and the East Coast Mainline runs through Darlington station. This makes for easy access to local regional cities of Newcastle, York, Leeds and Durham and the national capitals of London or Edinburgh are just over 2 hours away by train. For air connections, Teesside International Airport is a regional airport within 15 minutes' drive of the town centre, connecting us to the rest of the world. Other airports nearby are Newcastle Airport and Leeds Bradford Airport.

There is fantastic **natural scenery** on the doorstep, Teesdale, Weardale, the North York Moors, Durham coast and the Yorkshire Dales are all within an hour's drive. Perfect for getting away from it all for a while and still being home in time for supper.

Darlington is a town full of **history and culture**. It is believed that Darlington was originally an Anglo-Saxon settlement. During the 19th century, Darlington prospered as a result of the development of the railways and the philanthropy of several notable Quaker families. Much of the architecture in the town centre was built in this period, and the residential area to the west of the town centre where Holy Trinity is located was also expanded during this time. This year we celebrate the 200th anniversary of the railways.

The town has good **nurseries, schools and colleges** and Teesside University has a campus in the centre of the town.



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There is an active **arts scene** in the town. In particular, the beautiful recently refurbished Edwardian theatre, the Hippodrome, and the children's theatre, the Hullabaloo, both have varied programmes of high quality theatre, opera, music and dance touring nationally, as well as a much-loved annual family pantomime.

Darlington has an **active ecumenical scene** with church leaders meeting monthly to pray together and Churches together events including Break4Lent, Good Friday Act of Witness and Thy Kingdom Come prayer walks.

2025 marks the **bi-centenary** of the opening of the Stockton to Darlington railway and this year will be an exciting time for the town as we mark this milestone. Hopetown is the centrepiece of the regeneration of several key railway heritage locations and a great place to visit. The East Coast Mainline station is being upgraded to improve facilities for passengers and provide a new integrated transport hub.



Darlington has long been a centre for engineering thanks to our railway heritage. Sadly, little railway engineering remains, but there are still several large engineering firms based in the town (for example Cummins). Other major employers in the town are EE/BT, Department of Education, along with other public administration, health



service and education and service sectors. The excellent road links have encouraged several distribution companies to establish themselves here, most recently Amazon. An exciting new investment has established the **Darlington Economic Campus** bringing 1,100 roles with HM Treasury and other government department and agencies to Darlington.

For a provincial market town, Darlington has an **attractive town centre** with a bustling array of independent shops, bars and restaurants and a modern multiplex cinema. The Victorian covered market's ambitious plans for redevelopment are underway with pop-up eateries and regular events. The Dolphin Centre sports and leisure facility in the market place has a swimming pool, gym and numerous other facilities to maintain your fitness.

The town's **Member of Parliament** is currently Lola McEvoy (Labour). In the last 45 years, Darlington has been a Labour seat for 30 years and a Conservative seat for 15 years.

The town's population is over 100,000 with unemployment at around 5%, which is marginally higher than the national average but relatively low for the North East. From a local government perspective, Darlington is a unitary authority.

Darlington—a great place to live!



Holy Trinity Darlington Could this be you?

We very much hope that you would consider walking with us at Holy Trinity on our journey. Our aim is to share with you our understanding of our Christian mission through an introduction to our parish and our church.

We have a commitment to develop our church, to grow in our discipleship and to further our service to the community. We are seeking to find someone who is able to lead us and, importantly, work with us in achieving our objectives and help us to flourish as disciples who share God's love with the people we meet. We envisage the successful applicant having the ability to lead and manage a parish, work with volunteers, parishioners and young people and able to develop a culture of discipleship and mission. We wish for you to consider the following as essential leadership language: "Please", "Thank you", "Well done", "Sorry" and finally "What do you think?".

We hope that you can see that we are a vibrant and active church looking for a special person to help us to continue to open hearts and minds to the love of God. We hope that you will consider our vacancy prayerfully and we look forward to meeting you should you decide to apply.





Holy Trinity Darlington Our new Associate Minister

Over the past 5 years we have had some highs and lows, but throughout which we have experienced God marvellously at work in our church. We believe that we will continue to see this as we move into a new season, with a dedicated Associate Minister to walk alongside us on the next stage in the life of our church.

WE PRAY OUR NEW ASSOCIATE MINISTER WILL:

 LOVE	<p>Be full of love for God and for others as a natural outflowing of their own faith</p> <p>Support and enable people to grow as disciples nurturing new and established Christians</p> <p>Intentionally build relationships to discern gifting</p>
 LISTEN	<p>Listen to the needs of our community and establish strong relationships including identifying People of Peace</p> <p>Listen to God's calling for our parish and pray with us</p>
 LEAD	<p>Work collaboratively with us to clarify our priorities and mission so that we can grow as a church</p> <p>Lead us in our worship and continue to explore and develop new ways of worship to enable more people to join us in faith</p> <p>Provide spiritual leadership, developing a culture of lay ministry rooted in discipleship</p>
 LEARN	<p>Be focused on growth and development of our church family, both in number and faith</p> <p>Learn and understand the gifts that our church family have and encourage people of all ages to use their talents</p> <p>Champion ministry among children, young people and families ensuring as a church we grow younger</p>
 LAUGH	<p>Be part of our community, laugh with us, cry with us and, most importantly, walk with us</p>



Holy Trinity Darlington The whys and wherefores

Holy Trinity church in Darlington is served by Priest in Charge, Rev'd James Harvey who is also Priest in Charge of St Cuthbert's church in Darlington. He has served in these capacities since April 2021. Over the past 4 years, both churches have grown and further developed their potential. Over one third of both congregations are made up of people new to the churches and there is a corresponding feeling of dynamism, change and 'what next?'

St Cuthbert's Church, along with its assets of an iconic building, a market square location and a rich history, is undergoing significant change in order to enable the church to realise its full potential. This involves vision casting, culture change, new processes and a significant building project. These have made significant demands on James' time and leadership. As a recently designated Resourcing Church, James also oversees a staff team designed to enable growth at St Cuthbert's. The Associate Minister post at Holy Trinity is designed to release James' capacity to focus solely on St Cuthbert's and to release Holy Trinity to flourish into its next chapter.

Holy Trinity Church has its own assets of a thriving Sunday service, committed laity to enable the church to operate and a willingness to embrace change. It is a unique post: full time, one church, five years, extensive autonomy but with the oversight of James and the support of being part of the St Cuthbert's/Holy Trinity staff team. James remains the Priest in Charge, however the role of the Associate Minister is to oversee the day-to-day workings of the church, to review and refresh vision, to lead the church in new avenues of discipleship and mission, to develop leadership within the church and to act as the primary and focal minister at Holy Trinity. James has a releasing and empowering style of leadership, alongside faith-filled aspirations.

The post is under Common Tenure and the funding comes from the Diocese of Durham Transformation grant from the Church Commissioners. Under the Associate Minister there is an expectation Holy Trinity will grow in number, discipleship, finance and its ministry to children and families. To support the latter there is a Children and Families worker at Holy Trinity who spearheads work with children and young people.

Holy Trinity Darlingtonmore wherefores

Holy Trinity is a separate parish to St Cuthbert's, with its own make up and vision. However, over the past 3 years, there has been increasing amounts of joint working between the two churches, especially in small groups (currently 7 groups and 28 people from HT part of these) and work with children, young people and families. This has been very fruitful and a positive experience for all involved. The Associate Minister will be entirely dedicated to ministry at Holy Trinity, but will need to play their part in working across both churches where there is existing joint ministries.

The Associate Minister will live within the parish of Holy Trinity, work from home and have access to the office facilities in St Cuthbert's.



Who are we?

We are a church family full of life and energy looking forward to growing in number and discipleship as we seek to join with God in His mission to our town. We are an all-age community of ordinary people (70 adults and 7 children – 2024 stats) who seek to live as followers of Jesus in the midst of the complexity of modern life. We view ourselves as a warm and welcoming group with a wealth of skilled and generous people.

Our parish is situated on the edge of the town centre and is a walkable distance into the town centre. Housing in the parish is largely Edwardian and Victorian streets with a range of property types from terraces to family homes. Within our parish we have the Memorial Hospital, St Teresa's Hospice, several outstanding nurseries, two good primary schools and an excellent sixth form college.

Our church building may be a listed building (grade II*) but it is a comfortable and practical venue, with useful spaces, and a high quality audio and visual offering.

We have a great deal of lay involvement, and many take an active role in the life and work of the church as: leaders of discipleship groups, intercessors, readers, members of the music group, leaders and helpers of children's groups, organising events and fundraising, caring for the fabric of the church, arranging flowers, seeing to our finances and helping with administration, serving tea and coffee, bell ringing, and being part of the network of pastoral care.

We are truly blessed with the people in our church family and all the time that they give willingly to our church.

Holy Trinity Darlington PCC Members



James Harvey
Priest-in-Charge
Likes: long walks, sport, beer, cooking and being challenged.



Steph Price
Pioneer Priest
Likes: Jesus, live entertainment, sunshine.



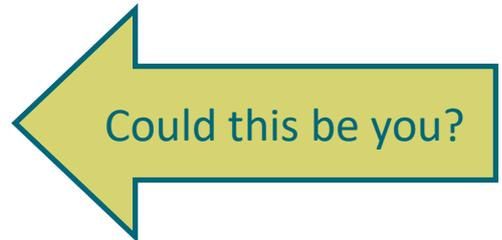
Mary Yasini
Curate
Likes: Coffee, museums, picnics.



Dionne McCreedy
Children & Families Worker
Likes: Walking in the pennines, whisky, cooking.



Associate Minister



Eleanor Blackburn
Churchwarden
Likes: Red wine, dogs, singing.



Stan Renwick
Churchwarden
Likes: Family time, holidays in Scotland, Aberdeen FC.



Robert Eden
Secretary
Likes: Italy, lamb chops, Darlington FC.



Caroline Stewart
Treasurer
Likes: Cocker spaniels, bread making, Australia.



Tracy Dunn
Safeguarding Administrator
Likes: a good book, days out with family, listening to music.



Helen Morgan
Safeguarding Officer
Likes: Faith, family & friends, music.



Lis Bows
PCC member
Likes: Family & friends, U3A, crafts.



Pru Farrier
PCC member
Likes: William Boyd novels, cryptic crosswords, flower arranging.



Mary Grimes
PCC member
Likes: Beading, dancing, volunteering.



Pauline Huntley
PCC member
Likes: Crosswords, Tai Chi, volunteering at Raby Castle.



Jonathan King
PCC member
Likes: Singing, theatre, country walks.



Kath Wood
PCC member
Likes: Gardening, beautiful skies, entertaining.

Holy Trinity Darlington What do we know about ourselves?



OUR STRENGTHS

- Warm, **welcoming**, kind and friendly group of people
- Our Sunday morning **worship** is rich, varied and engaging
- Vibrant and varied **musical offering** blending contemporary and traditional
- A new **audio visual** system and tech team supporting services
- Provision for all ages of **children** 0-18 with groups throughout the week for each age and stage
- Commitment to **prayer**
- We offer regular **hospitality**—coffee after the service, tea for messy church children, pizza at the youth groups, seasonal family-style feasts, mulled wine after carols, and so much more
- Open minded and **willingness** to try new things
- Improving range of ages and diversity enabling more **potential for growth**
- Many committed people with a wide variety of **talents**
- Location and building—our **facilities** are excellent
- **Financially** we are well placed—we have sufficient reserves and break even annually

AREAS FOR DEVELOPMENT

- Review our **vision** and strategic planning
- Developing and embedding a **discipleship** pathway
- **Ministry** and mission to *all* of our parish including the areas that have been neglected.
- **Discern** the gifts of new and existing people so that we involve a wide range of talents in all that we do
- **Grow** our numbers
- **Engage** with more people in the local community
- **Pastoral care** for the whole church family regardless of age
- Work on engagement with local schools, colleges and the hospice to build stronger **community links**
- Use our **church buildings** for a wider variety of purposes

In 2022 we discerned our current vision by listening and seeking to gather views from across our congregation and our community. From more than 70 different responses we developed our vision, values and priorities. Because of the consultative nature of the process, the vision we discerned belonged to everyone:

Holy Trinity aims to be a flourishing, active and diverse congregation serving our community and rooted in God's love.

From all our consultation and conversations, we identified six priorities to drive our activity and channel our resources. Our priorities at this stage are:

- ◆ ***Children, young people and families***
- ◆ ***Building the involvement and leadership of the laity***
- ◆ ***Events and Festivals***
- ◆ ***God's creation***
- ◆ ***Differentiated ministry***
- ◆ ***Growing in prayer and faith***

We have focused on some of these more than others.

Over the past year or so, we have identified that this is the right time to review our vision and priorities to ensure we are fully focused on God's call for Holy Trinity in this season. This is one of the key roles for the Associate Minister early on, so that their insight, gifts and skills can also shape the way forward for Holy Trinity in these next 5 years.



Children, young people and families

Current aim: Enable more children, young people and families to discover God's love, follow Jesus in their daily lives and be a full part of the Holy Trinity church family.

Progress: dedicated Children and Families Worker, Jam Club, S Club 11, Youth Group, Holiday Clubs, Messy



Building the involvement of the laity

Current aim: Enable all people to explore their strengths, gifts and talents in the life of Holy Trinity.

Progress: lay involvement in lots of spaces, including leading services, governance, leadership courses, small groups, children's ministry, prayer ministry and tech.



Events and Festivals

Current aim: To build an intentional presence in our community.

Progress: Carol singing in the park, Christingle, Heritage Open Day, Quiz night, Festivals, Good Friday Act of Witness, Palm Sunday Procession.



God's Creation

Current aim: To explore our God-given responsibility to care for and nurture Creation and to increase our connection and contribution to nature.

Progress: Bronze A Rocha award



Differentiated Ministry

Current aim: To understand the needs of each member of the whole and wider church family according to their stage of faith journey and tradition and develop relevant and engaging services and activities.

Progress: 9.30 worship, The Four, All-Age worship, home groups, Mothers' Union.

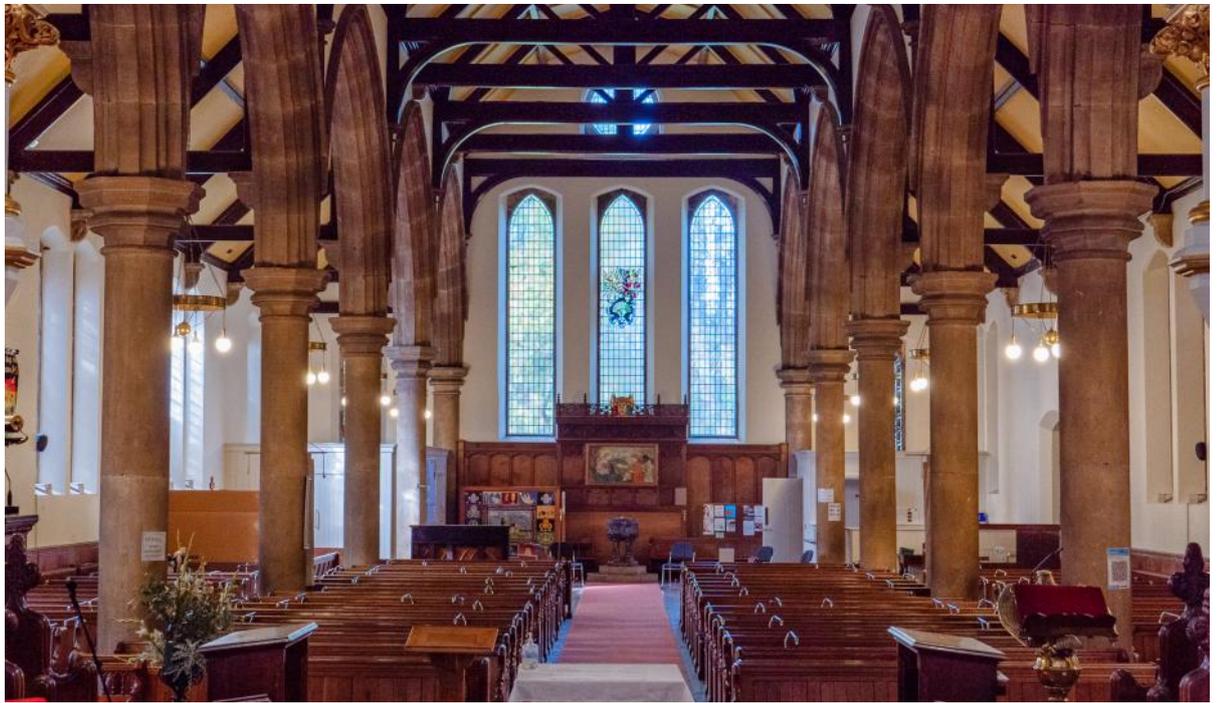


Growing in Prayer and Faith

Current aim: To develop a culture at Holy Trinity of prayer and learning about our faith so that it becomes a regular part of our lives and we feel confident sharing it with others.

Prayer: Prayer breakfasts, prayer walks, Lent talks, Silence Sacrament Sharing Scripture, Women's World Day of Prayer.

Holy Trinity Darlington Our buildings



Holy Trinity church was consecrated in 1838, having been built as a chapel of ease for St Cuthbert's to accommodate Darlington's expanding population in the 1830s.

The building is in very good condition following a recent project to re-roof the nave and update facilities. The main body of the church consists of nave with side aisles (containing the Lady Chapel), choir, historic organ and sanctuary. To the rear of the nave we have removed some of the fixed pews to give us a more flexible space and along with the recently installed servery, toilets and storage space, provide an area around the entrance for coffee and social gathering around the font area at the rear of the building. The church has some fine historic features including stained-glass windows by Edwin Cook and Daniel Cottier and interesting Minton encaustic tiles in the chancel.

The church has a capacity of around 400 – at Christingle services, the Remembrance Day civic service and some weddings and funerals we are full to capacity. Attendance at regular services is around 80.

Our bell tower has a ring of 6 bells and is used as a training resource for local bell ringers.

We have two community halls as part of our estate, Walkington House which is managed by the PCC and Holy Trinity Youth and Community Centre which is run by an independent management committee.





We are in a fortunate position in that our finances are in a relatively healthy position. From a healthy base we are looking to grow in numbers and finance in order that we can sustainably fund other church mission within our community.

We are very blessed to have had some generous legacies in the past which bolstered our reserves and have enabled us to fund building projects and to weather the recent storms of increasing costs and pressures on household incomes. We are blessed to have around 55 regular planned-givers. This regular income, along with Gift Aid recovered, funds a significant part of our normal church activities.

We have a digital screen for contactless donations — we are the top performer in the diocese.

As a PCC we set an annual budget and review our income and expenditure. This careful stewardship of our finances allows us to take remedial action when we see an unexpected shortfall arising.

For the past ten years our parish share commitment has been paid on time and in full. As a PCC we prayerfully consider our annual pledge to the diocese in order that we can afford our commitment.

Our aim is to break even on our 'normal' operations (which excludes depreciation costs and one-off project costs or repairs). In 2024 we achieved this for the 3rd year in a row.

