



YOUR CURACY
AT ST AIDAN'S
AND
ST COLUMBA'S,
HARTLEPOOL

WHO WE ARE...



We are a welcoming, and warm Anglo-Catholic parish based in the centre of Hartlepool. We enjoy our traditions like our robed choir and full liturgy with sung eucharist and incense, but we also love innovating and trying new things. As we often say at Aidan's - lets give it a go and see what happens! We are proud of being an Inclusive Church with a heart for social justice.

WHO WOULD BE TRAINING YOU?



Your TI would be Mother Becky, the priest of Aidan's and Columba's. Mother Becky is an able and approachable priest, who enjoys working collegiately. She has 20 years experience of helping learners to thrive from her previous work as a primary school teacher, college lecturer and SENCO. Becky has a good understanding of neurological diversity and would be able to bring this into how training is offered. While a curate Mother Becky was involved in the Derby Diocese training programme for LLMs where she worked as a group tutor supporting readers with their courses and assignments. As a comparatively new priest Becky still remembers what it is like being a curate and so can see things from both sides. She loves music, and the latest instrument she is learning is the viola; she enjoys learning Biblical Greek and Hebrew and hiking and pilgrimages, especially the Camino.

WHO ELSE WOULD BE TRAINING YOU?



It takes a whole parish to train a curate and so there would be lots more people involved in your development. Both churches pride themselves on the supportive and encouraging way they work with their clergy and curates. Key people you would also be learning from would be Ray, our LLM (reader), Lesley, our Children's Authorised lay minister, Kathrine, our fab administrator, Claire, our Kitchen Outreach lead worker and Patrick, our mission team worker. Other people who would be contributing would be Helen and Jane, our church wardens, Brian, our sacristan, Alex, our choir director/ organist and Gillian, our parish school head, where you would be on the governing board. You would be nurtured by so many of our lovely parishioners as well, who would be delighted to meet you.

THE CHURCHES- AIDAN'S



St Aidan's is our main church, and is housed in a beautiful and well maintained Oxford Movement building in the heart of the town. As well as our Sunday morning Family Eucharist with Children's Worship we have a midweek lay-led informal eucharist 'Bread for the Soul', weekly Compline service and morning prayer services on Monday, Thursday and Friday as well as our Pub Theology discussion group. We are a growing church and have a healthy Sunday congregation which has numbered in the last year between 45 and 70. We are a diverse group with a good mix of ages, genders and backgrounds. Our weekly worship is augmented with special services such as: Benediction, Advent Darkness into Light, Stations of the Cross and Stations of the Resurrection. We have strong links with our parish school and run a weekly Open the Book assembly as well as three masses a term and special services through the year. plus preparation classes for first holy communion.

THE CHURCHES— COLUMBA'S



Columba's is a small modern estate church located towards the edge of Hartlepool. Having become fragile in previous years, it is now the focus of replanting and revitalisation and in the first 6 months of this we have made significant headway. It is a rewarding and exciting place to minister as we see life come back into the building and start to build a lay team. If you like to experiment and be creative then this is a place you will enjoy. Regular services and activities at Columba's include: Family Wellbeing evening, Morning prayer, Tuesday Eucharist, Cell group, Sewing Bees, Evening Bible course (currently Romans), Spiritual Oasis, Wellbeing through the Bible group, Men's Group, Kitchen outreach and Meditation sessions. We are currently developing a Sunday evening service and are hoping to launch a community garden and music group. There is already a real community sense and strong bonds growing between people at Columba's and it is a great place just to hang out.

WHAT MAKES US TICK?



Aidan's cares for its community and we put our heart and soul into St Aidan's Kitchen which is our weekly outreach where we offer a warm welcome, a hot meal and groceries to around 100 people each week, helped by our local mosque. We also run a Friday morning cafe which gives people a space for connection and food.

We identify with the proud tradition of mission in the Anglo Catholic part of the church from the Oxford Movement right back to the Celtic Saints and actively look for ways to reach beyond our walls.

Discipleship is an increasingly big part of our life together and we have 2 weekly cell groups as well as study courses and other groups. We enjoy each other and laugh a lot. Although we take our faith and spirituality seriously, we don't take ourselves too seriously!

At the heart of everything we do is the eucharist which feeds everything else which happens.

WHAT COULD WE OFFER YOU DURING YOUR CURACY?



Our parish is an incredibly rich and varied setting for a curacy. You would be encouraged to follow your own calling in what you focus on, but here is some of what you might get involved in:

- Estate outreach and church planting
- Developing liturgical Anglo-Catholic worship for a new generation
- Social justice at our Kitchen outreaches, cafes and other groups and activities
- Developing artistic or musical outreach or worship
- Getting involved in our thriving children's worship (10-20 children each Sunday)
- Developing links with our parish schools

WHERE WOULD YOU BE LIVING?

A curacy with us offers you a chance to gain skills and experience ministering in an area of significant deprivation, but Hartlepool punches above its weight and is a fantastic place to live. On your days off you could visit the marina, with its restaurants and bars; the excellent art gallery and relax in its cafe, the farmer's market, or the elegant headland with its historic legacy of the Celtic Saints. You are spoiled for choice when it comes to beautiful sandy beaches and nature lovers will enjoy looking out for seals, dolphins and sea birds. For a day out you can choose between the Lake District, the North York Moors or Northumberland and Holy Island. Hartlepool is a friendly town where you rarely leave your door without seeing someone you know.



WHAT WE WOULD LOOK FOR IN A CURATE

- Someone who is comfortable with 'giving things a go'
- Someone who is self-reflective
- Someone who is happy to work in two very varied expressions of the Anglo Catholic tradition
- Someone who is able to communicate their own needs proactively
- Someone who can link their faith to real life
- Someone who can laugh, forgive and compromise
- Someone who is outgoing and comfortable to connect with a wide range of people



WHAT OTHER PEOPLE SAY ABOUT US...



- ‘You aren’t like other churches’ (Kitchen guest)
- ‘You have given me back my life’ (participant in our Columba’s planting)
- ‘Becky has this wonderful ability and skill to engage with and relate to people’ (congregation feedback for clergy review)
- ‘You are very good people and we appreciate everything you do’ (Kitchen guest)
- ‘Becky is very good at encouraging others to participate in appropriate ways’ (Clergy review feedback from parish LLM)
- This place feels like home- I don’t want to leave (group participant)
- ‘Through patience and encouragement Becky has the ability to find your gifts and skills and discover strengths you never knew you had’ (congregation feedback for clergy review)



**WE HOPE TO HEAR FROM YOU
SOON**

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION OR TO DISCUSS THIS
OPPORTUNITY PLEASE CONTACT:
ANNWEN.STONE@DURHAM.ANGLICAN.ORG**

**TO SEE WHAT WE GET UP TO IN THE PARISH
IN REAL TIME...**



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