

PARISH PROFILE



**HOLY TRINITY
CHURCH
SEATON CAREW**

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INTRODUCTION



Heavenly Father

We thank you with all our hearts for your loving care over our Parish during this time of vacancy

Please guide us as we begin the search for our , new Priest in Charge, who will love your people, spread your word and lead us and our community with wisdom and joy.

We ask that you prepare the heart and mind of the person you know we need and that they hear your calling so that they may answer with joy and passion.

Keep us patient and active in this transition period. Guide our leaders and all those who make decisions and help us pray for them.

Through Jesus Christ our Lord – Amen



This is a great opportunity to become the new Priest in Charge of Holy Trinity Seaton Carew & St John the Baptist Greatham.

The two parishes operate independently but are supportive of one another. They are in close proximity so commuting between the two is easy. Both parishes have their own PCCs who look after the running of churches and organise the social events.

Both churches are in overall good condition but because of their age do require regular maintenance. Both are supported by their community although there is scope to increase attendance.

Both Churches have seen an increase in weekly attendance and at Seaton this is from younger people which is really encouraging!

INTRODUCTION CONT.

We enjoy great links with our local CofE primary, Holy Trinity School, who attend Church on a weekly basis during term time. Special services Christmas, Easter etc are extremely well attended. Holy Trinity holds a Christmas Tree Festival over a weekend which has grown from strength to strength and is now a much-loved feature in our calendar.

There are some lovely walks within the vicinity of Seaton Carew and Greatham, you have the best of both worlds right by the beach and in countryside and you are only 20 minutes away from the picturesque scenery of North Yorkshire. There are great transport links by road, with Middlesbrough, Sunderland, and Newcastle all in easy reach. There are three airports close by - Tees Valley, Newcastle and Leeds Bradford. It's a great place for families and for single folk.

There are new housing estates being built close to both Churches. The community would love to see the Priest being visible in the area. There is great support from retired clergy. Both PCCs are supportive and are open to new ideas and change. You will find the congregation warm and welcoming and willing to assist wherever possible.

This is a great place to be, and we look forward to welcoming you.



ABOUT THE CHURCH

Worship & Discipleship

Presently Holy Trinity holds a **Family Communion Service** every Sunday at 11.00am. The congregation usually number 26-36 people. Mostly of a more mature age although we have seen an increase in younger folk attending on a regular basis. The service is followed by coffee, biscuits and a raffle on the last Sunday of the month.

Trinity Tots held 2nd Sunday each month, young children receive a Bible teaching in the Parish Centre and then join the main service at the end.

Each Monday a **short mid-day prayer service** is held in Church and on the 1st Monday of each month a service of Holy Communion.

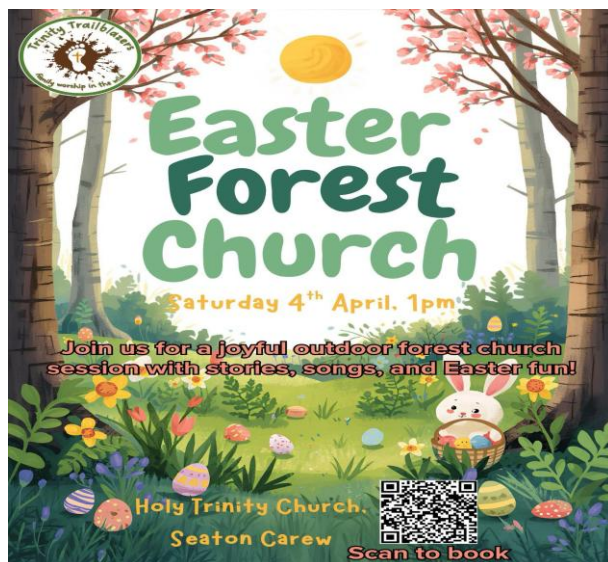
Wednesday during term time, the children from our C of E school attend and lead the service, re-enforcing the close link between the school and the Church.

Outdoor Forest Church is held quarterly in the grounds where the children have fun outside toasting marshmallows by a campfire, and looking after the bug hotel and there is a recently installed hedgehog house.

Baptisms are held monthly at Holy Trinity; this too presents a missional opportunity for us.

Special services e.g. Easter, Christmas, Remembrance Day, and children's first Communion are extremely well attended.

We have a **Facebook** page, with 1000 followers where we advertise services and events with photographs showing the fun we've had !



MISSION & COMMUNITY



Holy Trinity Church is the only Church in Seaton Carew. Everyone regards it as 'their Church'. Events are well attended from community members as well as churchgoers. The Church acts as a collection point for the Hartlepool Food Bank. Pet blessing services have been held in the Church grounds and have proved to be very popular with everyone. Additional courses have been open to all for Advent, Easter and adult confirmation classes.

The Church welcomes visitors and there are a couple of books that have been written about the history of the Church. The local shops support by donating prizes, supporting events, and displaying our posters in their windows.

We have entered into a partnership with the local cricket club and community hub to support one another and to provide a warm space, cup of tea and a biscuit in the colder months.

There are services held in local care homes where residents are unable to attend Church and Pastoral visits are made for folk who are unwell and unable to attend Church in person. The community love the fact that there is a Church on their doorstep with so much history and love the sound of the bells.

We blessed with a well equipped Parish Centre with modern kitchen facilities. The centre is well used by the community and is an asset to the Church. It provides a valuable stream of income.

Classes held consist of Pilates, Well being, Mother & Toddler, Zumba, Baby Yoga, Relaxation, Art Classes, children's parties, dance, and arts and crafts. We also use it for coffee mornings, quizzes, pie and pea nights, games nights afternoon teas, and other social events. We still have scope for a few more classes in the Parish Centre. Bookings are looked after by our Deputy Churchwarden.

Our new Priest will love being part of the community and will be well supported by everyone.



PEOPLE



Holy Trinity has a full PCC consisting of 16 members. There is a mix of long serving members and newer members. There is a good mix of age groups which adds a healthy dynamic.

We are an engaged, supportive and collaborative team. A very welcoming team with a clear vision of looking after our buildings and our people.

The PCC organise a range of activities and have a dedicated sub team for social events. The wider congregation is full of willing volunteers who are more than happy to help, run stalls, bake, and assist wherever they can. It never ceases to amaze just how supportive everyone is. Events are well attended and we are always looking to the next event.

We have the support of retired clergy so we can cover when our new Priest in Charge needs to take time off.

We have a good range of ages and abilities with everyone bringing different skills, readers, servers, musicians, DIY, gardening, admin, flower arranging etc. We are currently lacking an organ/piano player. Finding one would enhance our worship as we are currently playing music through a speaker via Bluetooth.

We are extremely grateful that we do have some music to support our services.

THE BUILDINGS



Holy Trinity Church is a Grade II listed building built in 1831. The Parish Centre is attached to the East side.

In 2012 it was placed on the Heritage at Risk list but thanks to massive fundraising and grants extensive repair work was carried out. The church is now in a generally sound condition and we are diligent about keeping on top of issues that crop up.

Both the church and parish centre have undergone refurbishment. It provides a good space with a kitchen, foldaway tables and chairs, good storage and modern toilet facilities. The central heating system was replaced 18 months ago.

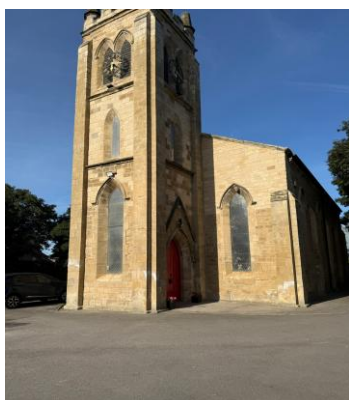
There is a small memorial garden in front of the Parish Centre with these grounds kept very tidy by volunteers. There are large grassed areas around a tarmac car park. We would like to extend the car park at some point in the future.



Repairs to our beautiful stained-glass windows are the next priority – some of the saddle bars have rusted and need to be replaced and we have started fund raising for this. We will seek to obtain grants to help with the costs.



There is a vicarage which comes with the post, likely to be a 4 bedroomed detached property on a lovely residential housing estate and is situated on the south side of Hartlepool on the Fens Estate in between Holy Trinity and St John the Baptist. There are good schools and excellent transport links nearby. There is a railway station at Seaton Carew and a bigger station in Hartlepool.



FINANCES



We are blessed by the generosity and commitment of our Church family. Most of our income comes from voluntary giving and collections during services. Decrease slightly, the willingness of the congregation to support the life and mission of the church remains strong and encouraging.

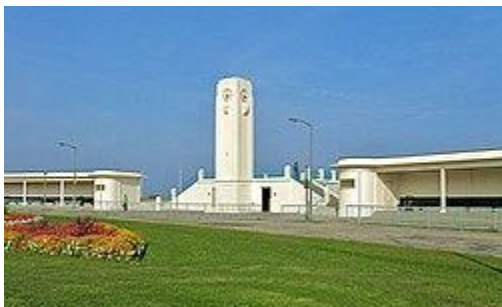
The Parish Centre is a valued community resource and provides a regular source of income. Alongside this, we enjoy bringing people together through a variety of social and fundraising events, including Summer and Christmas Fayres, Christmas Tree Festival, pie and peas, quizzes, and a recently well attended musical evening featuring a ladies choir.

We are committed to good stewardship of the resources entrusted to us. We have paid our Parish Share in full over the last few years. With support from the Diocese, we have adopted the Data Developments online accounting system helping us to manage our finances efficiently which makes accounting, gift aid claims, and annual reporting simpler and more effective.

We have a card reader for contactless donations and QR codes on every pew.

We see our finances not just as numbers, but as a reflection of the generosity, fellowship and shared commitment that enable Holy Trinity to continue serving our congregation and community for years to come.

THE PARISH OF SEATON CAREW



Seaton Carew is a traditional seaside village situated roughly 3 miles south of Hartlepool on the North East coast and north of the River Tees estuary. It's one of the oldest seaside settlements in the North East. By the 1800s the resort was popularised by wealthy Quaker families from Darlington who came to enjoy the long sandy beach and the sea air. Seaton Carew's most distinctive landmark is the Grade II listed 1938 Art Deco bus station. **There is an estimated population of 7194 (2021).**



The beautiful long sandy beach has a splendid promenade offering scenic views, it's a haven for dog walkers, joggers, or just for strolling. There are colourful beach huts, play area, amusement arcades, ice cream shops, bars and cafes and of course fish and chip shops. You can walk the length of the promenade to Hartlepool Marina and National Museum of the Royal Navy. For nature lovers, RSPB Saltholme provides excellent bird and seal watching opportunities, alongside cycle paths and scenic walks. The area is part of the England Coast Path. There is a Championship Golf Course founded in 1874 and Hornby Park Community and Sports Club which offers a variety of sports and social activities.



Right next to the Church is Holy Trinity Church of England Primary School. A Church School has been in existence since 1840. It's a mixed Academy serving children aged 3-11 years. A Church School in the truest tradition with strong Church links. Rated 'Good' by Ofsted 2023 and 'Good' by SIAMS 2019.

There are extremely good transport links with Seaton Carew having its own railway station with services to Hartlepool, Middlesbrough, Newcastle, Sunderland and direct links to Kings Cross in London. Bus routes operate throughout the day and it's close to the A689 and A19 for road travel.

THE PARISH OF SEATON CAREW CONTINUED



There has always been a strong feeling of community in the village, many residents say it's a very friendly place to live and there is always something going on whether that be with Church, School, local pubs, social club, sports club, or the local library (community hub). You will be made to feel welcome immediately and will take no time at all to 'feel at home'.

THE FUTURE



We are excited about the opportunities that lie ahead and believe we are well placed to serve current and future generations. Whilst we recognise the challenges facing Churches we see significant potential for growth in worship, community engagement, and mission. We are a welcoming Church at the heart of the community where people encounter God, build relationships and find support throughout life's journey.

We have identified opportunities to strengthen links with schools, and the growing housing developments around us, and to deepen our relationships with young people and families.

We wish to expand our partnerships across the wider Deanery, sharing resources, skills and ideas.

We would like to make fuller use of our Church buildings we can host a wider range of community events such as concerts, festivals, exhibitions, and more family activities.

We have a vital role to play in bringing people together and offering both practical and spiritual support. We are keen to further development our practical outreach initiatives, suggestions from our Parish consultation included being a hub for uniform exchange, community lunches, activities for older folk, and those suffering from loneliness or/and hardship. To realise these ambitions our buildings may need to be adapted and would need careful planning, consultation and investment but being respectful of our heritage and the needs of contemporary mission.

We are realistic about the challenges ahead. Maintaining our historic buildings, attracting new generations to Church life, and developing sustainable patterns of ministry will require commitment, prayer and imagination. However, we have a strong sense of hope and possibility within the Parish. God is calling us to build on our strengths and to embrace these new opportunities and to grow as a Church that will serve this community with confidence, generosity, and faith for generations to come

THE FUTURE IS ALWAYS BEGINNING NOW - LETS JUMP START IT TOGETHER

WE ASKED THE CONGREGATION WHAT THEY WANT TO SEE FROM THE NEW VICAR



WE ASKED WHAT DO YOU NOT LIKE ABOUT OUR CHURCH

- Good sense of humour
- Someone who is approachable
- Ideas for growth
- Kind and friendly
- Someone who helps everyone find their place in church
- Helpful
- Bring a smile to everyone's face
- Good rapport
- Enthusiasm, patience, preferably long service
- Clear vision for future
- Respect for tradition
- Energetic and motivational
- Someone who can connect with young people
- No organist at present
- Lack of younger worshippers
- Choir only on special occasions
- Why change a winning team
- Don't like singing parts of the service prefer to speak the words
- Nothing negative at all
- An earlier service would be nice in addition to normal

WE ASKED THE CONGREGATION WHAT THEY LIKED ABOUT OUR CHURCH



- Friendly
- Welcoming
- Warm
- Friendly and inclusive
- Can feel God's presence as soon as come in the door
- Everything
- Everyone is very friendly and helpful
- Beautiful and well maintained
- Brings back childhood memories
- The wonderful Church Family
- A Great service
- The dedication of the people who keep the Church running
- The inclusiveness of everyone
- The enthusiasm of the people
- Everyone is approachable and they remember me
- A place of calm, peace and serenity
- Lovely bright light and beautiful building
- The congregation making everyone welcome
- The windows are spectacular

WHO WE ARE LOOKING FOR



KEY QUALITIES

- An excellent communicator who can talk on any level with any age group. Must be a good listener and empathetic person.
- An enthusiastic person who will lead from the front with a shared vision for our Parish and Community.
- Someone who is community focused and able to build on existing relationships as well as establishing new ones
- A person who is good with children and able to strengthen our links with local primary schools, and over time develop into the secondary schools.
- A person of faith and prayer who is approachable and welcoming to all
- Someone who is digitally literate who can help with our digital presence both in practical terms and media terms

CONTACT DETAILS

For further details or for an informal chat
please contact one of the Church wardens

Jackie Hamilton 07922922824
(Holy Trintiy Seaton Carew)

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