

# St John the Baptist Church Greatham



PARISH PROFILE 2026



“ Growing in faith  
Serving our community  
Sharing the love of Christ ”



---

## Contents

|                                    |    |
|------------------------------------|----|
| 1. The Diocese of Durham           | 3  |
| 2. Our Church – An Overview        | 4  |
| 3. What We Can Offer               | 6  |
| 4. Who We Are Looking For          | 7  |
| 5. Our Church Life                 | 8  |
| 6. Primary School                  | 10 |
| 7. The Parish and Surrounding Area | 11 |
| 8. Organisation                    | 12 |
| 9. Practical Information           | 13 |

---

## 1. The Diocese of Durham

St John the Baptist, Greatham lies within the Diocese of Durham, a diocese with a rich Christian heritage stretching back over 1,300 years to the ministry of St Cuthbert and the early Northern Saints. Today the Diocese seeks to support parishes in sharing the Gospel, serving their communities and encouraging growth in discipleship and faith.

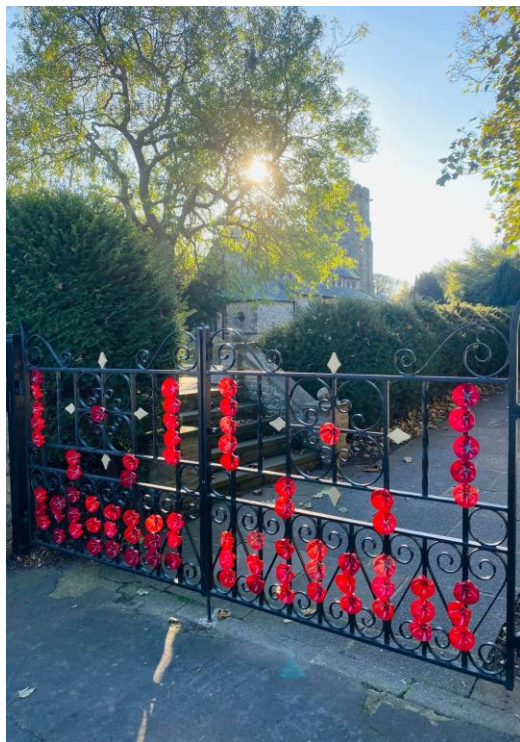
The parish is part of the Hartlepool Deanery and values the support, fellowship and encouragement that comes from working alongside neighbouring churches. Positive relationships with fellow clergy and lay leaders provide opportunities for shared learning, mutual support and collaboration in areas such as schools ministry, safeguarding, training and mission.

The Diocese offers practical support through specialist officers and training in areas including children's and youth ministry, stewardship, communications, church buildings and parish development. Greatham welcomes these opportunities and values the partnership between parish, deanery and diocese in enabling the church to flourish.

Whilst proud of its own identity and traditions, St John the Baptist seeks to play an active role within the wider life of the Diocese of Durham. We are looking for a priest who will value those wider relationships, whilst helping us continue to grow in faith, deepen our engagement with the village and build on the many opportunities for mission that lie ahead.

## 2. Our Church – An Overview

Greatham is a thriving village with a rich history, a strong sense of community and an exciting future. Whilst proud of its heritage, the village continues to grow through new housing and welcomes new residents alongside families whose connections with Greatham stretch back through many generations.



At the heart of the village stands St John the Baptist, a beautiful Grade II listed church dating from the late twelfth century, built on the site of an earlier Anglo-Saxon place of worship. For more than 800 years the church has been central to the spiritual, social and community life of Greatham and continues to play an important role today as both a place of worship and a welcoming centre for village life.

Greatham enjoys a wide range of amenities, including a thriving Community Centre, local shops, a popular village pub, garden centres and excellent transport links to Hartlepool, Teesside and the wider region. Surrounded by attractive countryside, public footpaths and bridleways, the village offers the benefits of rural living whilst remaining well connected. Community pride is evident throughout the year, reflected in the success of Greatham in Bloom, the annual Greatham Feast and other events that bring together residents, local organisations and the church.

The parish benefits from an excellent relationship with Greatham Church of England Primary School, one of our greatest strengths. Clergy are actively involved in collective worship, seasonal services and school life, and we are keen to continue developing this valued partnership. The village is also home to The Greatham Foundation (formerly the Hospital of God), established in 1273 and still providing residential care, community support and charitable work today. Together, the school and the Foundation provide significant opportunities for pastoral ministry, community engagement and mission.

Our congregation is warm, welcoming and increasingly active within the community. Average Sunday attendance has grown steadily in recent years to around 30–40 people, supported by committed lay ministry, strong pastoral relationships and an active programme of social and fundraising events. We are encouraged by this growth and believe there are many opportunities to build further on the excellent foundations already in place.



The PCC recognises its responsibility as custodian of this remarkable church building and has invested significantly in its care and conservation. All urgent immediate repairs identified in the 2016 Quinquennial Inspection have now been completed. Recent projects have included the complete restoration of the historic bells and bell frame, repairs to tower masonry and leadwork, improvements to drainage and rainwater goods, repairs to historic stonework, installation of a new oil-fired heating system, upgraded LED lighting and a range of other conservation works.

The churchyard surrounding St John the Baptist is now closed for new burials and provides a peaceful place for reflection and remembrance at the heart of the village. The churchyard is cared for by the PCC, with Hartlepool Borough Council undertaking the regular grass cutting. The parish also has responsibility for the village cemeteries, with the old cemetery now closed for new burials and the new cemetery remaining open. The parish maintains the burial registers and supports families with burial and plot enquiries, reflecting an important continuing aspect of the church's pastoral ministry.



As with any historic church, maintenance remains an ongoing responsibility. However, the focus has now moved from addressing major structural and fabric issues to a programme of planned conservation, enhancement and routine maintenance. The PCC is committed to caring proactively for this beautiful building, ensuring that St John the Baptist continues to serve both the worshipping community and the wider village for generations to come.

Above all, we seek to ensure that this remarkable building remains a living church at the heart of a living community.

---

### 3. What We Can Offer

In preparing this Parish Profile, members of the congregation and PCC reflected on the life of St John the Baptist, identifying both the strengths we value and the opportunities we believe God is placing before us.

Our strengths:

- We are a friendly and welcoming church with a strong sense of community and belonging. Visitors and newcomers are made to feel at home, and fellowship is an important part of our church life.
- Perhaps our greatest strength is that the church is woven into the life of the village. Through our close relationships with Greatham Church of England Primary School, the Greatham Foundation, local organisations and community events, we have the privilege of sharing in the everyday life of Greatham.
- We enjoy positive relationships within the wider community and are recognised as an important part of village life, regularly supporting and participating in local events, celebrations and charitable activities.
- Lay involvement is one of the great strengths of St John the Baptist. Readers, Servers, Authorised Chalice Assistants, Churchwardens and many other volunteers play an active part in worship, pastoral care, hospitality, fundraising and the day-to-day life of the parish.
- We have a committed PCC, an active Social Committee and a congregation willing to contribute their time, skills and experience to support the mission and ministry of the church.
- We are privileged to worship in a well-maintained Grade II listed church. Through careful stewardship and significant recent investment, all urgent immediate repairs identified in the 2016 Quinquennial Inspection have been completed, providing a sound foundation for the future.
- We value our heritage and traditions whilst remaining open to new opportunities for outreach, growth and engagement within the community.

Opportunities and challenges:

- To strengthen our engagement with the wider parish and encourage more residents to see St John the Baptist as their church and a place of welcome for the whole community.
- To build upon our excellent relationship with Greatham Church of England Primary School and develop further opportunities for children, young people and families to grow in faith and become part of the worshipping community.
- To welcome and integrate new residents moving into the Greatham Meadow development, helping them to become part of both the church family and the wider village community.
- To build upon our strong relationships with the Greatham Foundation, Community Centre and other village organisations, enabling the church to play an even greater role at the heart of community life.
- To develop and expand our pastoral ministry, ensuring that older members, those living alone and families alike feel supported, valued and connected to the church community.
- To encourage more people to explore faith, discover their gifts and become actively involved in the worship, ministry and mission of the parish.
- To continue growing the congregation in a sustainable way whilst maintaining the warm, supportive and welcoming character that is so highly valued by church members and the wider village.

## 4. Who We Are Looking For

We are seeking a priest who is prayerful, approachable, enthusiastic and has a heart for pastoral ministry and mission. We hope to welcome someone who will work collaboratively with the congregation, encouraging people to recognise and use their gifts whilst helping us discern God's vision for the future of our parish. We are not looking for someone to do everything alone, but for someone who will encourage, equip and inspire others as we continue to grow together in faith.



We value good communication, thoughtful leadership and a willingness to engage with people of all ages and backgrounds. We are looking for a priest who will be an active and visible presence within village life, building relationships across the community and strengthening the already positive partnerships we enjoy with Greatham Church of England Primary School, the Greatham Foundation, local organisations and neighbouring churches.

We seek a priest who will nurture faith, provide compassionate pastoral care and support people through both the joys and challenges of life. We hope they will help

us welcome newcomers into the life of the church and continue to develop our ministry with children, young people and families, encouraging greater participation in worship and creating opportunities for people of all ages to explore and deepen their faith.

As a congregation, we are eager to continue growing both spiritually and numerically. We would like to make greater use of our church building for worship, fellowship and community activities, whilst building on the strong relationships we already enjoy within the village. We hope our new priest will encourage us to be confident in sharing our faith and to continue reaching out to those who may not yet see the church as their spiritual home.

We value our place within the wider Church and seek to play an active role within the Hartlepool Deanery and Diocese of Durham. We welcome a priest who values collaboration, is willing to share knowledge and experience, and is keen to learn from others as we work together in God's mission.

Above all, we are looking for someone who will become a valued part of our church family and the wider community of Greatham. We hope to welcome a priest who will value what God is already doing here, bring fresh encouragement and ideas, and help us continue to share God's love with compassion, wisdom and joy for generations to come.

We value who we are as a church and seek to become more fully the church God is calling us to be. Serving the whole village of Greatham with confidence, welcoming new generations into the life of faith, and sharing the love of Christ with all who call this community home.



## 5. Our Church Life

The worshipping life of St John the Baptist is centred on our weekly Holy Communion service at 9.30am each Sunday. Our services typically last around 45 minutes and combine a reverent sacramental tradition with a warm and welcoming atmosphere. Rooted in the Anglican tradition, our worship is accessible, prayerful and



inclusive, seeking to engage both regular worshippers and those exploring faith for the first time. Fellowship continues over tea and coffee after the service, providing an important opportunity to welcome visitors and strengthen friendships within our church family.

Alongside our Sunday worship, a midweek Holy Communion service is held each Wednesday evening at 7.00pm in the historic Hospital of God Chapel adjacent to the church. This quieter service offers space for prayer, reflection and fellowship in an intimate setting.

Alongside our regular pattern of worship, the church has an important ministry through baptisms, weddings and funerals. These occasions provide valuable opportunities to support people at significant moments in their lives and often create lasting pastoral relationships with families across the wider parish.

Like many churches, the COVID-19 pandemic brought significant challenges to our patterns of worship. We are encouraged, however, by the steady growth we have experienced since reopening. Sunday attendance now typically ranges between 30 and 40 people, with both long-standing members and newcomers contributing to the life of the congregation.

Many people describe St John the Baptist as a place of peace, belonging and welcome. We value the supportive relationships within our congregation, where people care for one another not only through worship on Sundays, but also through friendship, prayer and pastoral support throughout the week.



Music plays an important role in our worship. Our organist recently left to take up a new position as a music college director, and we are actively seeking a replacement.

Whilst we do not currently have a choir, there is enthusiasm within the congregation to develop our musical life further as the church continues to grow.

Lay ministry is one of the great strengths of St John the Baptist. Readers, Intercessors, Servers, Authorised Chalice Assistants, Churchwardens and many other volunteers make an invaluable

contribution to worship and the wider life of the parish. We actively encourage people to discover and use their gifts in serving God, the church and the wider community.

Our close relationship with Greatham Church of England Primary School is one of the great strengths of our parish. Clergy regularly lead collective worship, school services and seasonal celebrations, maintaining strong relationships with pupils, staff and families. We are excited by the opportunities to build further on these links and to continue developing our ministry with children, young people and families.

Beyond our regular worship, St John the Baptist plays an active role in village life. We support community events, work alongside local

organisations and seek to be a visible, welcoming Christian presence within

Greatham. Through worship, pastoral care, fundraising, seasonal celebrations and community activities, we strive to share God's love in practical ways and to serve the whole village.

Many of our greatest opportunities for conversation, invitation and pastoral care begin through these everyday relationships within the community.

Whilst we value our rich heritage and Anglican tradition, we are equally committed to looking to the future with confidence. We believe God is already at work in Greatham, and we look forward with hope to the opportunities ahead as we continue to grow in faith, welcome new people and serve our community.



## 6. Primary School

Greatham Church of England Primary School is one of the parish's greatest strengths and one of the most important partnerships in our ministry. Situated just a short distance from St John the Baptist, the school enjoys an excellent reputation within the village and is highly regarded for the quality of education and pastoral care it provides.



The school serves children from Greatham and the surrounding area, welcoming pupils of all faiths and none within a distinctly Christian environment. Christian values underpin school life and provide a strong foundation for the close relationship between the church and school.

The links between St John the Baptist and the school are well established and highly valued. Clergy regularly

lead collective worship, seasonal services and celebrations, whilst pupils visit the church throughout the year for worship, learning and special events. The church is represented within the life of the school through Foundation Governance, helping to nurture and strengthen this important partnership.

We see our relationship with the school as one of the greatest opportunities for mission within the parish. We are keen to continue developing opportunities for children, young people and their families to engage with the life of the church through worship, pastoral support and community events.

Whilst many children have positive experiences of the church through the school, we recognise the opportunity to build stronger links with families beyond the school day and to encourage greater participation in the worshipping life of the parish. We hope to develop this area of ministry alongside our next incumbent.

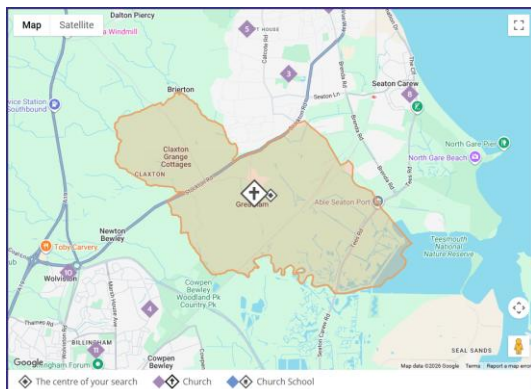


The school is an important part of village life and we look forward to continuing our close partnership as we seek to serve the whole community together.

We recognise that today's pupils and families are tomorrow's church, and we see this partnership as an investment in the future life of the parish.

## 7. The Parish and Surrounding Area

Greatham is a historic village situated between Hartlepool, Billingham and the Tees Estuary. Whilst benefiting from excellent transport links and easy access to nearby towns and cities, it has retained a strong village identity, a rich heritage and a genuine sense of community. The parish extends beyond the village itself, encompassing surrounding farmland, areas of environmental importance and parts of the Tees Estuary.



The village offers a wide range of amenities, including a well-regarded Church of England Primary School, a thriving Community Centre, local shops, a popular village pub, garden centres, sports facilities and a variety of active community organisations. Community pride is reflected in initiatives such as Greatham in Bloom, the annual Greatham Feast and the many events organised by local volunteers throughout the year.

A distinctive feature of village life is The Greatham Foundation (formerly the Hospital of God), founded in 1273 and continuing today as a significant charitable organisation providing residential care, community support and grants. Together with the church, school and other local organisations, it plays an important role in the life of the village.

Greatham is experiencing significant change through the development of the Greatham Meadow housing estate, welcoming new families and creating opportunities for the church to build relationships with residents who may have had little previous connection with Christian worship or parish life. We see this as an exciting opportunity for mission, pastoral care and community engagement.

The wider parish presents an unusual and distinctive setting, where village life sits alongside areas of significant industry and internationally important wildlife habitats. The nearby Teesmouth National Nature Reserve, together with the surrounding countryside, footpaths and bridleways, provides a beautiful natural environment, whilst major employers within the Tees Estuary continue to support the local economy.



At the heart of the village stands St John the Baptist Church, which continues to play an important role in worship, pastoral care and community life. We are proud of our heritage whilst looking confidently towards the future, seeking to serve both long-established residents and those choosing to make Greatham their new home.

We believe Greatham offers an exciting opportunity for ministry: a welcoming village with a strong community spirit, a growing population and a church that is well placed to share the Christian faith and serve its community for generations to come.

---

## 8. Organisation

St John the Baptist benefits from a committed and supportive PCC, currently comprising eleven elected members together with two Churchwardens. All key roles within the PCC, including Chair, Secretary, Treasurer, Safeguarding Officer, Diocesan Synod Representative and Health and Safety Officer, are currently filled, providing a strong foundation for the leadership and governance of the parish.

St John the Baptist is committed to providing a safe and welcoming environment for everyone. The PCC has an appointed Parish Safeguarding Officer and follows the safeguarding policies and procedures of the Church of England and the Diocese of Durham. Safeguarding is reviewed regularly by the PCC and all required safeguarding training is maintained.

The church is also supported by a dedicated team of volunteers who contribute significantly to every aspect of parish life. Lay ministry is one of our greatest strengths, with Readers, Servers, Authorised Chalice Assistants, Churchwardens and many others sharing in worship, pastoral care, hospitality, fundraising and the practical day-to-day life of the church. An enthusiastic Social Committee organises a varied programme of events throughout the year, strengthening links with the wider community whilst raising valuable funds to support the church's ministry.

The PCC is committed to working collaboratively with the next incumbent, recognising that ministry is most effective when clergy and laity work together. We hope to offer practical support, local knowledge, encouragement and a shared commitment to discerning God's direction for the future of St John the Baptist.

The PCC takes seriously its responsibility for the financial stewardship of the parish. Finances are carefully managed by two Treasurers, with regular reports presented at each PCC meeting to ensure good financial oversight and responsible planning.

The church has an Electoral Roll of 36, with 25 members supporting the church through regular planned giving, either by standing order or weekly envelopes. Contactless giving has recently been introduced and is proving a valuable addition to regular giving. Alongside this, our active Social Committee organises a successful programme of fundraising events throughout the year, many of which also strengthen our links with the wider village.

Like many parish churches, we face the ongoing challenge of balancing income and expenditure. The PCC remains committed to meeting its Parish Share responsibilities and was pleased to pay the full Parish Share in 2025. We continue to work towards meeting our 2026 commitment whilst planning responsibly for the future.

In recent years, reserves have reduced as a result of significant investment in the long-term care and conservation of our historic church building, ensuring that all urgent repairs identified in the 2016 Quinquennial Inspection have been completed. Whilst planned maintenance and improvement projects remain, the PCC is committed to careful financial stewardship and to supporting the future mission and ministry of St John the Baptist.

Reasonable ministerial expenses are met by the PCC, and the church also provides the services of a paid organist for Sunday worship.

The PCC is realistic about both the opportunities and challenges ahead and is committed to supporting the next incumbent with openness, encouragement and a willingness to embrace new ideas where they strengthen the mission of the church.

---

## 9. Practical Information

### Accommodation

Accommodation for the new incumbent will be provided by the Diocese of Durham. At the time of preparing this Parish Profile, the property has not yet been confirmed.

We understand that details of the accommodation will be made available during the appointment process.

### Parish Share

St John the Baptist is committed to meeting its Parish Share responsibilities and paid its full Parish Share in 2025.

We continue to work responsibly towards meeting our 2026 commitment.

### Further Information

We warmly welcome informal conversations and visits from prospective applicants. We would be delighted to show you our church, introduce you to members of the congregation and share more about the life of St John the Baptist and the opportunities we believe God is placing before us.

### Contact Details

Our Churchwardens are:

- Keith Wilkinson – Churchwarden
- Norman Swinbourne – Churchwarden

Further information about St John the Baptist, Greatham can be found on our parish webpage.

We also have an active Facebook page, which is regularly updated and monitored. Prospective applicants are very welcome to contact us by message.

- <https://www.holytrinityseaton.org.uk/stjohnbaptistgreatham>
- <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100089751455854>