

PARISH PROFILE 2026

ST NICS CHURCH DURHAM





Summary

Our heart is to see many people encountering Jesus, learning from him, and working with him. In the heart of the city, for Durham, and from the heart of the city, for the world. An associate minister will help us to work towards this vision.

We believe that this is an incredibly exciting time for St Nics. In this season of transition and growth, we are praying for God to call the right person who will increase our capacity to respond to all that He is doing.



St. Nics at a glance

St Nics is a large Church of England Church, with over 350 people regularly attending.

We are a city-centre church, playing a visible role in the life of Durham.

St Nics has a growing staff team, with seven members of employed staff who oversee a large team of volunteers across our Sunday and weekly program

We have multiple congregations (3 each week) which include over 100 children and young people under 16.





“St Nics sits right in the heart of the city, and so it has a responsibility to be a place that keeps God at the centre.”

To be a church that pursues God above all else, and proclaims the simple, profound, and transformational Gospel of Jesus Christ. My heart is to see people’s lives changed by Jesus Christ, through his Spirit, and to see Jesus worshipped and glorified. That’s it, really. I believe that everything else comes after that.

There is work to be done: we need to shift from functioning like a smaller church to a bigger one, so that more people can get involved in Christ’s church and his mission, and we

need to start being more proactive in mission: both evangelism & church planting, and work with the most broken and marginalised.

But the foundation is Christ. It must start there; we must increasingly become a people and place where God is. For me this looks like us growing as a congregation in our affection for Christ, seen above all in our times of gathered worship, where we want to increasingly give space for Jesus to be at work among us by his Holy Spirit. And it looks like us growing in our everyday discipleship, with the whole congregation empowered to serve and to lead.



Statement from the Vicar

My name is Will and I’m the Vicar of St. Nics.

In September 2026 I’ll have been vicar at St Nics for 3 years. I am married to Vikki, and we have 4 children: Iris & Jonah (14), Jesse (13), and Huck (9).

I love being the vicar of St Nics, and consider it to be an incredible privilege. There are a lot of complexities to leading a church like St Nics. And yet, the task for me has always felt quite clear.

Info about the church



Average Sunday Attendance

9am | 95
11am | 114
630pm | 65



Students

94 Students in our student
WhatsApp group

30 attending weekly student
night



Small Groups

23 Small Groups
190 people in a Small Group



Regular Givers

149



Kids

71 (Under 11s)



Youth

35



Our Team

St Nics is served by a committed staff team, overseen by Standing Committee (which currently functions as a senior leadership team). We gather as a paid and volunteer staff team every Tuesday for Staff Meeting where we encourage one another, share learning, and pray.

Standing Committee

Will Foulger | Vicar
Hannah Wilkinson | Senior Leader
(ordinand)
Churchwardens
Treasurer
PCC Secretary

Paid Staff

Operations Manager | 32 hours
We are currently advertising for new Head of Operations Role

Operations Administrator | 20 hours

Worship Lead | 20 hours
We are currently advertising for new FT Worship Lead Role

Worship & Students | 20 hours

Children and Families | 25 hours

Students Lead | 20 hours

Youth Enabler | 35 hours

Tech Co-ordinator | 5 hours

Interns (MEVs)
In 2025-26, we had 2 interns with us

Cleaner | 20 hours

Clergy

Curate (started in 2025)

Volunteer Leads

(Pastoral) Care Team Lead
Small Group Pastors
Buildings Lead
Kids Volunteer Lead (x2)





The Parish & Durham

We love the North East! it is a brilliant place to live and work. Durham itself is full of beauty, shaped by the very tangible history of the Cathedral, Castle and ancient churches, all held within the parameters of the River Wear. We are a city surrounded by green spaces. Out of Durham, but close at hand, people from our church will regularly travel up into the hustle and bustle of Newcastle, the ancient beauty of Northumberland, the beaches of East Durham, or the mountains of the Lake District. Durham has excellent transport links: the A1(M) lies 3 miles from the city centre and the East Coast main line station is within walking distance of the church with direct links to all parts of the country. Durham is well known for its excellent primary and secondary schools.

The geographic parish is relatively small approximately 1,200 houses lying within 1.5 miles of the church – comprising professionals and students, together with some retired and long standing residents. The parish includes a substantial proportion of the commercial centre of Durham. Major redevelopments close to the church have provided new student flats and accommodation, a library, theatre and cinema, restaurants, pubs and night clubs. The main employers in the area are local government, the Passport Office, the Prison Service, Land Registry, National Savings, NHS Hospital Trust and Durham University.

St Nics congregation is a gathered congregation drawn mainly from an area within a radius of approximately 5 miles from the church, including the colleges of Durham University, large areas of private housing, and a number of the older established mining communities from the villages surrounding Durham City.

The relative affluence of the city is in marked contrast to many of the surrounding villages. House prices in Durham City are relatively high compared to the rest of the county, and accommodation near the historic centre is mostly student accommodation or privately owned housing.



Our Vision

We launched our 10 year vision last year. Based on Jesus' invitation in Matthew 11:28-30, we said we wanted to see:

Many people encountering Jesus, learning from him, and working with him. In the heart of the city, for Durham, and from the heart of the city, for the world.



So, in the next 10 years, we seek to become a place where this is happening all the time. To be a church where many people are taking up Jesus' invitation: encountering God for the first and latest time, learning to live increasingly Jesus-shaped lives, and working with him to make a difference.

And we want to do this in a way that has impact in the city and region, but also much wider than this, into the nation, and world.

You can find out more about our vision – and watch our vision video – [here](#).





Our theory of change is God. We believe that it is as God moves among us – communally and individually – that things change. Lives and communities are transformed.

Over and above all else therefore we are seeking to be a place where God is at the centre: where he is welcomed, enjoyed, hungered for, sought after, talked about.

In that sense, we have been wary of presupposing concrete outcomes. We have talked a lot more about being than about doing. About becoming a people through whom God can move and bring his transforming power.





We believe that there is great potential here at St Nics, and our vision seeks to capture this.

- There is potential in our **people**. We believe that St Nics can have a significant kingdom impact through the whole church growing in faith and service. We want to see whole life disciples who bring beauty, truth, and goodness in their workplaces, homes, and social spaces. We want to plant churches and congregations and see new people come to know Jesus. And we want to send people across the nation and world to work for Jesus' kingdom.
- There is potential in our **building**. We have an incredible privilege, which comes with a responsibility, to be a church right in the heart of the city. We want to make more of this opportunity, being a church that is more open and used for the benefit of the city. We are currently exploring ways of developing our buildings to make them more accessible.



We have some **values**, that we want to guide all that we do here. These speak of the type of church we want to be. We want to be:

God-Orientated; People-Focused; Real; Astute in Safeguarding; Welcoming; Generous; Ancient Afresh; Healthy.

You can read about our values [here](#).



What Will An Associate Bring?

An Associate Minister will increase our capacity to better fulfil our vision, and in two areas in particular:

To enable us to function more effectively as a bigger church, which raises up leaders...

We believe this is a season of getting our operating system right, as we learn to shift from a 'smaller church' to a 'bigger church' model. (See our recent advertisement for a new Head of Operations role). In particular, we want to harness the potential in our congregations, seeing congregation leadership increasing across the church, and resourcing congregation-led initiatives and outreach. An associate minister will work as part of the leadership team, helping us to transition into this new model. They will increase our ministry capacity in all areas: discipling individuals, leading groups, and line managing both paid staff and volunteer leaders.

...so that we might have impact beyond the church.

The potential for St Nics to have kingdom impact in Durham and beyond, is vast. We want to plant new churches, and/or new congregations so that we might reach new people, open our doors to the city, serve the poor, and equip every congregation member to live lives of justice. We want to re-enliven our connection with international mission partners, as well as with international students. An associate will increase our capacity to do this, able to empower new leaders – be they in formal training, or as volunteers – to serve in these areas.



Who are we looking for?

We have been praying as a congregation and staff team for the person God might be calling to this role. Below is what has come out of these times of prayer. We are looking for someone:

Who is called.

Who loves the Lord. Someone full of the Spirit. Someone who loves Jesus and is hungry for his presence.

Who has a heart; a depth of love for God, for people and who knows how to keep the main thing the main thing.

Who will compliment our current leadership; bringing something new, without pulling in a different direction.

Who is detailed orientated and able to think strategically.

Who demonstrates character: compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness (Col 3:12). A humble follower of Jesus. An encourager; a Barnabas person.

Who helps us look beyond ourselves; to our city, to other local churches, to our neighbours, to international students and mission partners.

Who is able to serve the full breadth of God's people; young, old, new and existing; bringing different generations together.

Who is able to hold together old and new; ancient afresh.

