



# Bishop Auckland Parish

## St Andrew's + St Anne's

### Additional Information - May 2023

Thank you for taking the time to explore these roles, and prayerfully discern whether God is calling you to join us here in Bishop Auckland. You have the opportunity to join us at an exciting time, as we look to build upon the work of the last few years. Funding from The Frank and Phyllis Scotto Trust is enabling us to create two new ministry focused positions to expand our current provision.

We are currently looking to recruit three individuals:

- Parish Administrator (existing role)
- Growing Faith Mission Leader (new role)
- Community Mission Leader (new role)

The role descriptions and person specifications for these roles are available on our website [www.baparish.church/vacancies](http://www.baparish.church/vacancies).

We hope the information contained within this booklet will give you an understanding of our church and the mission and ministry that you may be involved in. Role Descriptions and Person Specifications for these roles are available separately.

As God's church in this place, Bishop Auckland Parish is seeking to love and serve the community, and share the Good News with them. We have two church buildings that have stood and served the community for centuries, congregations that are made up of faithful worshippers and newer members, and have more children in and around the church than we currently have the resources to fully engage with.

We are committed to our priorities of: *loving God, loving others, loving our community* through all of our mission and ministry.

## Our Community

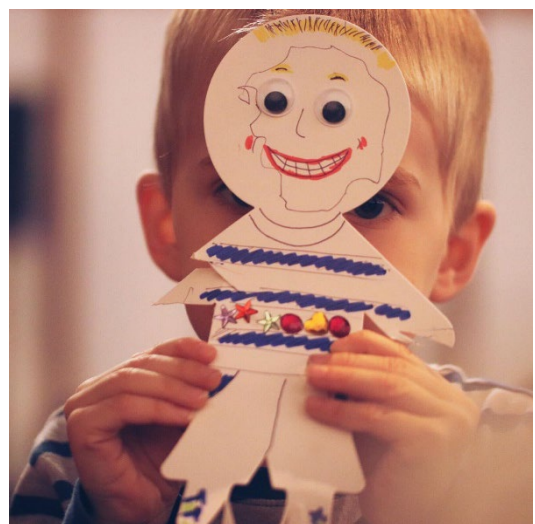
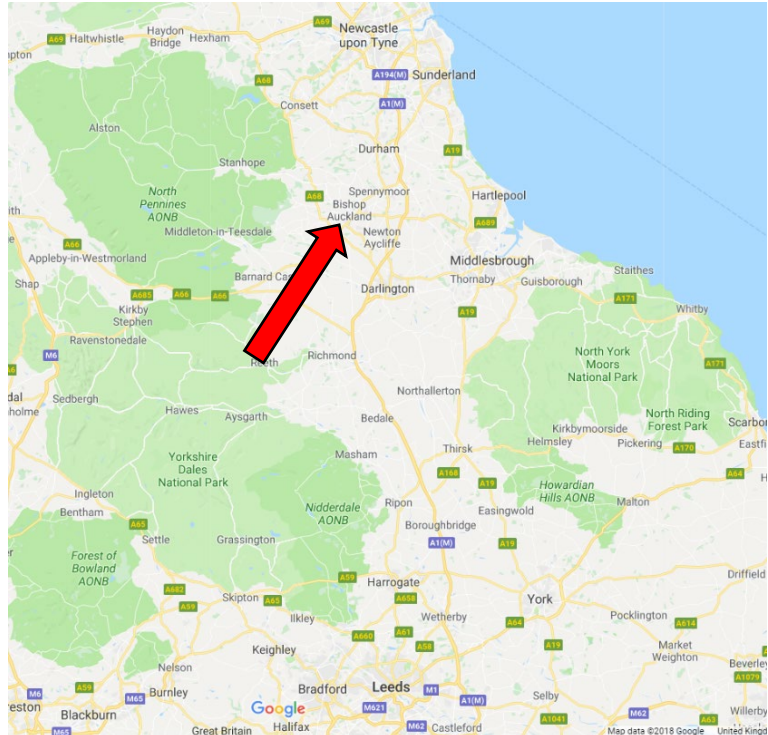
Bishop Auckland is a market town, ten miles South West of Durham. It has a population of approximately 25,000 people, but it also serves several smaller surrounding villages and towns.

There are eight schools providing primary level education, three secondary schools with associated sixth forms, and a college.

There are higher than average levels of unemployment and poverty, in all its forms.

Over the last decade a heritage focused charity, The Auckland Project, has been working in the town, following the purchase of the Auckland Castle, and have opened several heritage/tourism attractions, providing hundreds of local jobs by. It is forecast that the town will receive 750,000 each year once the attractions are open.

There continues to be new housing development and the local property market is very affordable.





## Our Church

We firmly believe that the church is the people, not the buildings; and as such we currently describe ourselves as *'one church, three congregations, two buildings'*.

Our church family gather every week, with services ranging from contemporary and band-led, through to traditional organ-led or spoken, alongside other occasional alternatives. Our two main services are *Sunday Gathering*, which meets at 11am in St Anne's; and our 9am Holy Communion in St Andrew's. We currently also have a mid-week communion on a Thursday.

We also meet together throughout the week in 'home groups' that span our congregations, and through other age-specific discipleship activities.



### *Sunday Gathering*

*Sunday Gathering* is our inter-generational congregation that meets in St Anne's Church. It brings together people of all ages for a relaxed, contemporary service, with band-led worship. The congregation has a near 50/50 split with children and adults; has a greater proportion of men than women; and high percentage of people from a non-church background.

## Our buildings

We currently have two church buildings: St Anne's and St Andrew's.

St Anne's church is situated in the Market Place, at the North end of the town. Alongside our services, it also houses most of our mid-week activities, and the parish office from which this post will be based. We are currently working towards significant improvements to the building, including removing the pews to make the space more functional.



St Andrew's church is located towards the South East edge of the town. A large 13<sup>th</sup> Century church, it is seen as the primary church for many in the community and has a substantial number of baptisms, weddings and funerals each year.

Whilst the roles are based in the Parish Office, there is an expectation that they will work across our two church buildings, and across the community as required.

## **Our Current Ministry to Children, Young People and Families**

Our current 'Sunday' provision for children and young people in church is focused around our *Sunday Gathering*.

We have good relationships with three local primary schools (including St Anne's CofE Primary School that the church is responsible for), with the church conducting weekly collective worship and hosting visits and services in our churches. We are seeking to grow relationships with the local secondary schools and have hosted visits and exhibitions as part of outreach events. Several members of the congregation are serving as governors in the local schools.



For young families our 'Blessed Beginnings' is a distinctively Christian group for parents/carers and 0-4s, that takes place in St Anne's on a Tuesday. Offering sessions in the morning and afternoon we normally see 40 children and their parents each week.



For primary aged children (4-11s) we offer Kingdom Kids each Wednesday afternoon. A session for the whole family that includes games, bible stories, worship songs, prayer, and food.

Our young people (11-18s) meet on a Thursday evening for fun and discipleship and pizza.

For those in our community: our annual Christingle and Crib services across our churches are well attended by the community; and we have an annual Pancake Party. During school holidays we run a variety of events that have included Family Film Clubs, Play sessions, and our much-needed uniform bank.





As a church we are associated with New Wine and will be attending the summer conference in Maidstone with several church families.

### Wider Mission and Ministry

St Anne's has become a hub for our outreach and missional activities. Over the last winter we offered a 'Warm Hub' to provide a warm space and food for those in need. In May we transitioned this into our Connections group which now meets each Thursday after our Communion service for refreshments, fellowship and lunch; and features a Knitting Group.



We also utilize the Market Place location of St Anne's Church to engage with several community events, particularly the Food Festival and holding a Christmas Tree Festival alongside Bishop Auckland Christmas Town.





Our graffiti wall, started in 2021 allows us to make a visible impact on the Market Place.

The high number of visitors to the town means we regularly have people coming in to see the church, and this is something we would like to build upon.

We also lead Civic events within the town, including the Remembrance Parade; and in the last year have held events to mark both the Jubilee and death of Queen Elizabeth and the Coronation of King Charles.



In partnership with other churches across the town, through the Bishop Auckland Fellowship of Christian Churches (BAFCC), we support a variety of events and look forward to another performance of the Passion Play next Good Friday.



We also continue to provide all the regular functions of a parish, including baptisms, funerals, weddings and other pastoral care.

Our aim is to ensure our ministry and mission fulfills the five purposes of church as set out in Acts 2:42-47: *worship, fellowship, discipleship, service and evangelism.*



## Our team

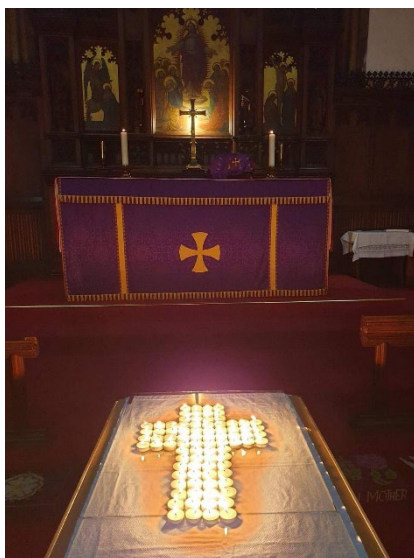
The current vicar, Rev Matt Keddily, arrived with us in 2017, and is supported by several other ordained ministers in the ministry and mission of the parish.

We have a part-time Children & Families Mission Leader, Alison, who will transition to focus on 0-5s and their families after these two new roles have been appointed.

Our work with 11-18's is currently led by our Sessional Youth Worker, Graham.

Our parish administrator is leaving after five years in post. Our new administrator will staff the office five mornings a week.

Alongside these positions there are numerous other people who help provide the varied ministries of the parish.





# Bishop Auckland Parish

## St Andrew's + St Anne's

### Application process & dates

Applications by: 23:59pm 16<sup>th</sup> July 2023

Interviews on: TBC

### For more information contact:

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South Church  
Bishop Auckland  
DL14 6SP

Tel: 01388 604397

Email: [office@baparish.church](mailto:office@baparish.church)

Website: [www.baparish.church](http://www.baparish.church)

Facebook: [Bishop Auckland Parish](https://www.facebook.com/BishopAucklandParish)