



DIOCESE
OF DURHAM

CHRIST CHURCH

NEW SEAHAM

Parish Profile 2025



Belong - to the Christ Church Family

Believe - in Christ as saviour

Become - the person God intends you to be

Bless - others everywhere

INTRODUCTION

We're a family friendly Church where visitors and newcomers, young and old, always find a warm welcome... we're all about building family and community.

We hold a Communion service each Sunday at 10.00am in the Church. On the last Sunday of the month we celebrate an interactive lay-led "Growing Together" service.

We have a clear vision for the mission of the church and have been able to significantly develop our missional activities during the last 12 months. We have a real passion for mission with all ages from young children to older members of the community and have seen substantial growth in the past 12 months.

Towards the end of 2023 Hope Family church began to work with the congregation of Christ Church with the aim to revitalise the church.

In January 2024, the Curate from Hope Family Church took on the role of leadership, revitalisation, and church planting at Christ Church Seaham, with Rev Gavin Ruston as Priest in Charge.

Initially there was a small core group of volunteers who offered additional support from Hope Family Church, however as the congregation returned to Christ Church, this support withdrew as members of Christ Church Parish stepped into these roles.

Under the leadership of the Curate, Christ Church has grown from strength to strength.

On arrival of the new incumbent, Christ Church New Seaham will no longer be part of the Hope Family Church network and any future involvement would be at the discretion of the new incumbent and the PCC of Christ Church New Seaham.

**“YOU FEEL THE
WELCOME AS
YOU COME IN”**

WHO WE NEED

People Person – loving, approachable, good listener and charismatic

Deep personal faith centred on prayer

Strong leadership skills – willing to take a leap of faith

Team player – accepting of all and able to engage all in mission

Servant-hearted

A good sense of humour

Good organisational skills and a forward thinker

Passion for work with children & young people
(including schools work)

Passion for intergenerational missional opportunities

Passion for all of our community and social justice

WORSHIP



Services

We currently have three weekly services.

A Communion service every Sunday at 10.00am in the Church.

The 'Take-5' service on Sunday at 5pm is a café style service which allows time for worship and reflection.

We have a short communion service at 11.30am on Tuesdays in our Community Hub know as 'The Well' in the Church Hall.

There is a midweek morning prayer service on Wednesdays at 9.30.

On the last Sunday of the month we celebrate an interactive lay-led "Growing Together" service.

We also run the occasional worship night to allow people the space to pour out their praises to God.

9 → 32

Increase in Usual Sunday Attendance
Oct 2023 → Oct 2024

**Weekly Services to suit your style
at Christ Church Seaham**

**Sun 10am - Welcome, Worship & Word
Communion Service**

**Sun 5pm - 'Take-5' Cafe Church
explore a theme ...chat ... contemplate**

**Tue 11.30am - Short Communion service
at The Well, (Church Hall)**

MISSION, DISCIPLESHIP, AND COMMUNITY

Mission

The desire for people to believe in Christ, to become the people that God intends us to be, so that we might bless others is at the heart of everything that goes on in our church. Whether that is in terms of spiritual growth or numerical growth in those attending the various services and meetings held each week, we seek to try and help everyone belong at Christ Church and see our family grow.

This past July we worked with UK/USA Ministries. We are very keen to continue to build not only on the missional work achieved by the group, but also to forge stronger ties with the group from Michigan and UK/USA ministries.

Looking ahead, we are keen to establish a group for bereavement support, as well as developing opportunities for Christian Meditation.

One limitation we face is the capacity to deliver all of the activities and develop more. We are confident that as the church grows the team of people able to run and support sessions will increase enabling them to develop further.

The parish is in an area of high deprivation and are keen to support the community who are in need. The Well is aimed at meeting those by providing support in terms of food through Fareshare and working with partners such as Dementia UK, NHS Trust, Social Prescribers, Age UK & Age Concern. As part of the harvest festival the church collected food items which were sent to Addictions NE for their distribution.

Discipleship

A regular Prayer Walk around the community takes place on a Friday and attracts people from The Well, Sunday congregation and recently others have joined who had no previous links with the church.

A session each Tuesday evening focusses on “going deeper” with God and is aimed at discipleship. As part of the session they eat together as Jesus frequently did with his disciples. Alpha courses and confirmation sessions have also taken place during the week when appropriate. Recently a number of people have been baptised and confirmed

We recently started a Sunday School for children which takes place every 2nd Sunday of the month.



Members of the church at a confirmation service this year

MISSION, COMMUNITY, AND DISCIPLESHIP

Community

A Community Hub called “The Well” takes place each Tuesday in the hall and is focused on those who are genuinely in need - whether that be by providing a pay as feel café, distributing FareShare Food or simply just being a warm and welcoming space. There are links with a number of external partners who provide much more focused support when required.

One unexpected outcome during the second week of running The Well, was the decision to hold a Communion service each week. The Well is attended by 30-50 people each week and a number of those are now attending other services.

Cubs and Scouts meet in the church hall on a Friday evening and we have established good links with them and the church, with the Curate being made an honorary Scout!

We are keen to meet both the physical and spiritual needs of the community and are always looking at ways in which we can serve.

We have strong links with the local primary schools who attend the church for services at the various festivals and are open for input into the RE lessons and assemblies. At present, our Curate has joined the governing body of West Lea Primary with whom the strongest links are established.

Looking into the future we hope to link with the Duke of Edinburgh Award group within the local secondary school and run a breakfast club for students on their way to school. It is envisaged that these links, and the links with the Scout Group will lead on to the establishment of a regular youth group and youth church on a Sunday.

We also run Church Mice Toddlers, a weekly toddler group for parents and little ones and we hope to see this develop as numbers and capacity of the church team allows.



MISSION, COMMUNITY, AND DISCIPLESHIP

CHRIST CHURCH
SPRING FAIR
Palm Sunday, 13th April,
2.00pm - 5.00pm
craft stalls in church hall,
afternoon teas in church
with Trimdon Brass Band
enjoy traditional Easter family fun



Every Tues 10am-2pm

The Well
WELCOME & WELLNESS
AT CHRIST CHURCH HALL

optional
short communion
service, 11.30am

Friendly banter,
table top
activities & games

Free
Book Exchange

Hot drinks and
snacks
(pay as you feel)

Do some crafting
or simply chill & chat

**DROP IN
& ENJOY A
CUPPA &
GOOD
COMPANY**

CHRIST CHURCH HALL
STATION ROAD
SEAHAM
SR7 0BH



Thursdays, 10am-11.30am

(term time)

0-3 yrs
free entry

Christ Church Hall,
Station Road, Seaham,
SR7 0BH

CHURCH MICE TODDLERS



FOLLOW US ON FB
CHURCH MICE TODDLERS, OR
CHRIST CHURCH, NEW SEAHAM



THE BUILDINGS

The Church

Christ Church is a spacious, Grade II Listed building which incorporates a basic servery and an accessible toilet with baby changing facility.

Use of the church building is currently limited by the ineffective heating system and the fixed pews which reduces the flexible use of the space. During the winter months the parish supply blankets and hot water bottles to ensure that anyone who feels the cold is able to worship in a more comfortable environment.

We are due a QI Report and anticipate some building work in the not too distant future.



The Well

The church hall is located approximately 20 yards to the west and is a late 1990's building which has a large meeting room / hall, a smaller meeting room, a well-equipped kitchen, and toilets.

FINANCES

We have a very positive attitude to giving and believe that we create an environment that allows them to give generously through regular conversations and strong leadership. Some of our congregation have a limited income and give generously from what they have.

The accounts are presented to the PCC monthly and they are fully aware of the finances of the church. A full set of accounts were prepared by the treasurer and these were independently examined. These were presented at the APCM and an overview is available on the noticeboard. The current link with Hope Family Church ensures that we are kept up to date with any changes to the financial reporting process. We do not have a written reserves policy but maintain sufficient reserves to meet any likely urgent demands on our finances.

INCOME	
2024	£30,732

EXPENDITURE	
2024	£27,413

THE PARISH

Lying on the rugged Durham Heritage Coastline, Seaham is a town with a rich history and developing future. The town developed from the building of the harbour, which saw millions of tonnes of coal flowing through it.

Christ Church is located on the western edge of Seaham, having been built by the Londonderry family as a place of worship for the miners of Seaham Colliery which was situated opposite the church in 1857.

Seaham has rail links with Hexham, Newcastle, Sunderland, Hartlepool, and Middlesbrough. Come December there will also be a direct train from Seaham to London King's Cross. It also has bus links with Durham, Sunderland, Chester-le-Street, and Peterlee.

The parish of Christ Church has several primary schools and a high school. The high school is built upon the former colliery site, being part of the regeneration of Seaham.

As well as walks along the coast, Seaham boasts a slew of restaurants, cafés, and a luxury spa hotel.



Location of New Seaham in County Durham



THE ROAD AHEAD

Opportunities

- There is an exciting opportunity to continue to grow and develop ministry at Christ Church, for example establishing links within care homes within the Parish.
- We have established a small Sunday school which takes place every second Sunday of the month. The challenge is to facilitate growth within this ministry, in terms of ministry team, and also grow numbers within both children and youth ministry.

Challenges

- To recognise, develop and raise up new leaders within the church, in order to grow a ministry team.
- To deliver effective missional work and discipleship.
- Continue to grow and sustain numbers within the church.



WILL YOU HELP US TO

Belong to the Church Family?

Believe in Christ as Saviour?

Become the People God intends us to be?

Bless others everywhere?



CONTACT DETAILS

To enquire about this post, please get in touch with

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<https://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/13499/>



<https://www.facebook.com/christchurchnewseaham/>



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