**Parish Profile**

**THE CHURCH OF**

**THE GOOD SHEPHERD**

**BISHOPWEARMOUTH**

***A place to belong! A place to call home!***

***A growing, vibrant, & flourishing Anglo-Catholic Mission Community.***

***A place to belong and a place to call home!***

**We are a Society registered parish under the episcopal care of the Bishop of Beverley in the Diocese of Durham.**

**Overview**

***A growing, vibrant, & flourishing Anglo-Catholic Mission Community.***

The church is situated in the Ford Estate, in the centre of a large housing development. There is one church building which is used for various services, and community events. We have 32 people registered on the electoral roll and a usual Sunday attendance is between 20-30 people. The population of this parish is **6187**. The Good Shepherd parish, which includes Ford Estate in Sunderland, is characterized by high levels of deprivation. The parish ranks 228th out of 12,178 parishes in terms of overall deprivation. The parish has been held in plurality with the parish of St. Mary Magdalene, Millfield for 38 years. We have two schools that we serve and minister to, Highfield Academy and North View. We also minister to two nursing homes, Saint Marks and Village Care Home where we have several elderly people, who in times past attended our church and still have a strong connection with.

Our PCC has a strong and clear sense of vision and purpose, as stated we describe ourselves as a growing, vibrant, and flourishing Anglo-Catholic mission community. We don’t leave mission to the priest, everyone is involved. We want our church to become a community hub of the Ford Estate which we serve for everyone to belong and call home.

**Diocesan Priorities**

Challenging Poverty – The Ford Estate ranks in the country as one of the most deprived. Our church is a food bank collection point. The Church Wardens provide meals for the elderly, socially isolated, and vulnerable people within our congregation. We have lent collection boxes to support ‘The Little Sisters of Hati’.

Energizing Growth – Looking to the future, the church would like to set up various groups for the community we serve like Parents and Toddlers, Youth Club, Sunday School, and a lunch club. The congregation is committed to developing a culture of invitation, hospitality and welcome to encourage mission and evangelism alongside our sister church St. Mary Magdalene and other Society churches and the See of Beverly.

Caring for God's creation – We are at present working towards becoming Net Zero church. The PCC have embedded various changes within our church in our aim to achieve this goal.

We demonstrate care for God's creation through various actions, by reducing our environmental footprint, and promoting sustainable practices. We also educate our members about environmental stewardship and encourage them to make conscious choices that protect the planet.

Engaging with children, youth & 18-25s – We have created an inclusive and welcoming atmosphere where all young people feel valued and accepted, regardless of their background or beliefs. Our plans when our church building becomes fit for purpose is to establish various groups for younger members of the congregation to engage with these young people by organising age-appropriate activities, such as bible studies, prayer groups, retreats, and social events, to cater to the diverse interests of the youth.

Mission – We are a community engaged with mission. We are a church that includes everyone in mission within our community. We are a growing, vibrant and flourishing Anglo-Catholic mission community.

Finance – We have a healthy attitude to giving. But we are aware that we can improve in several ways that will allow people to give to the church. We do not carry large reserves of money but always meet our needs and aim to meet our guided pledge and improve on what we give each year. Renovation work to the church building is our priority now and we are always seeking funding sources for renovation work as well as our constant fundraising efforts.

Buildings - We have one church building which is used for various services, and community events. The PCC would love to increase the use of our building, but we are aware that to undertake this we need to make the building fit for purpose. The lack of a community hall is a challenge as is funding to carry out renovations. Kitchen and toilet facilities also need upgrades to make accessible for non-ambulant people. Members of the congregation and visitors find the church welcoming and attractive. Work is in progress to plaster the interior walls of the church and the replacement of windows and doors to the church building. There are various other building projects that must be completed to the church building when the funds become available, but the church has a clear plan and vision regarding the church building.

Current service patterns are Sunday Service, Tuesday afternoon service, Thursday morning service, Tuesday evening prayer, Wednesday morning and evening prayer and a Saturday morning mass.

**Housing**

We have a vicarage on the church grounds that has recently been renovated. With a front and large back garden and outbuilding within the grounds of the vicarage. All fencing in and around the church and vicarage have all been recently replaced. The two schools within the vicinity of our church are Highfield Academy and Hill View School. Our secondary feeder school is Academy 360.

**Person Specification**

The vision for our church is to have a priest in charge that will help our church move forward in mission. To help us to answer the call of our Lord Jesus to be his missionary disciples. To guide and strengthen everyone in our church community to share his love with everyone we meet. To give us the courage to reach out to help others. To continue and build upon what we already believe that we are a growing, vibrant and flourishing church. A place to belong and call home!

Link to our A Church Near You Website: -

[The Good Shepherd Church, Bishopwearmouth (Ford Estate) - A Church Near You](https://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/13719/more-information/)

 

 