



The Diocese of Durham

The Parish of St. Andrews, Leam Lane. Parish Profile 2022



*The Parish of St Andrews, Leam Lane
(Gateshead Deanery).*

Parish Profile

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Welcome!

We are looking forward to welcoming and supporting a new priest who will work with us in aiming to fulfil the Diocesan priorities of ***Energising Growth, Caring for God's Creation, Engaging with Children, Youth, Young Adults*** and ***Challenging Poverty*** and to realise the aims and objectives of the Gateshead Deanery Plan.

We are hoping to find someone who can nurture and encourage our church in mission, who will help us to continue our existing links with local schools and help us to both renew and strengthen our commitment to the young, to families, indeed to people of all ages.

We hope for a priest who will help us to build on our existing ecumenical links and maintain our fellowship with our Locality Partners of St. Thomas, Eighton Banks and St. Mary, Heworth. We hope too for someone who will help us re-build the firm foundation set in relation to our friends in the ZINAFE Fellowship. We understand that this requires work from us all.

We are not looking for a saint (we couldn't live up to that!) but we would like a normal human being, faults and all, one who will lead us in prayer, who has the stamina needed to accept the challenges of working with and among ordinary people; someone who can also accept the financial challenges of working in a large parish in the North East (a region not known for financial riches) but one which abounds in the strength of character of its people.

On a personal level it is equally important that whoever is appointed recognises that they can't do everything, that it is vital to acknowledge the importance of taking time both for their own well-being and professional/spiritual development. Someone who will do the best they can for the parish, and will help us to do the same.

We look forward to meeting you.



1, Our Diocesan Vision (an introduction from Bishop Paul)

At the end of 2019 we gathered representatives from every parish, including St Andrews and from the wider Gateshead Deanery, for **The Waymark Conference** - to pray, talk, share stories and reflect on how we might best respond to God's call to us to be his Church. We reflected on our learning from our previous vision and priorities. We agreed to maintain our Vision

'From the Tyne to the Tees and the Dales to the Sea, blessing our communities in Jesus' name for the transformation of us all'

Through prayer, conversation and sharing our stories we began to discern maintaining, but sharpening, our three priorities. Through the voice of our children and young people we discerned that we should add a fourth, Caring for God's Creation. This was in response to the question, *'How shall we focus our energies, prayers and resources over the next five years?'* Together we sensed this is **God's** call on us.

The result is our missional strategy which we describe as **Renewing Pilgrimage** – an opportunity and invitation for each of our parishes to step out in faith together, responding practically to the call to **Challenge Poverty, Energise Growth, Care for God's Creation** and **Engage with Children, Youth and Young Adults**.

In making this a reality it will look different in every community. In some places it will come about in collaboration with others. Nobody is expected to do everything immediately or alone, but we are all invited and expected to find ways to respond relevantly.

In Leam Lane this feels particularly relevant. We sense the importance of **Energising Growth** – in discipleship and in the number of people served by and engaging in the life of our churches. We also sense the importance of **Challenging Poverty, Engaging with Children and Young People** and **Caring for God's Creation** in an area with lots of families, with some significant pockets of poverty, and with deeply rooted communities that still look to, and are open to, the local church.

In praying for a new Priest for St Andrews we are looking for someone excited by and wanting to be part of this vision. The **Waymark Prayer** sums up this hope -

Loving God, guiding the people of Durham Diocese faithfully through the years:

***We thank you for saints who have marked our path,
young and old, known and unknown, from all places and in all walks of life.***

***Help us to find your way in our generation:
transformed by your truth, sharing your life, blessing our communities.***

Through Jesus Christ our Lord,

Amen

We look forward to meeting together and sharing in this with you.

In Christ,

+Paul

Bishop of Durham

2, Our Church

St. Andrew's, Leam Lane came into being in 1960 as the District Church in the Parish of St. Mary, Heworth, and later became a parish in its own right.

The overall churchmanship tends to be on the middle to slightly higher side, depending on the residing incumbent, and this is where, in the main, the majority of the congregation feel at ease.

It is difficult to assess the long term effects of the Covid Pandemic and vacancy on attendance patterns but it is fair to say that numbers of regular communicants have been relatively stable over the past two years, the main parish Eucharist seeing between approximately 28 and 35 communicants

Worship at St Andrews

In any 'normal' year our **normal pattern of services** would be:

Sundays

- 8.00am Said Eucharist
- 10.30am Sung Eucharist
- 12 noon Baptisms (fortnightly at present)
- 2.00pm Zinafe Fellowship Service (monthly)

Weekdays

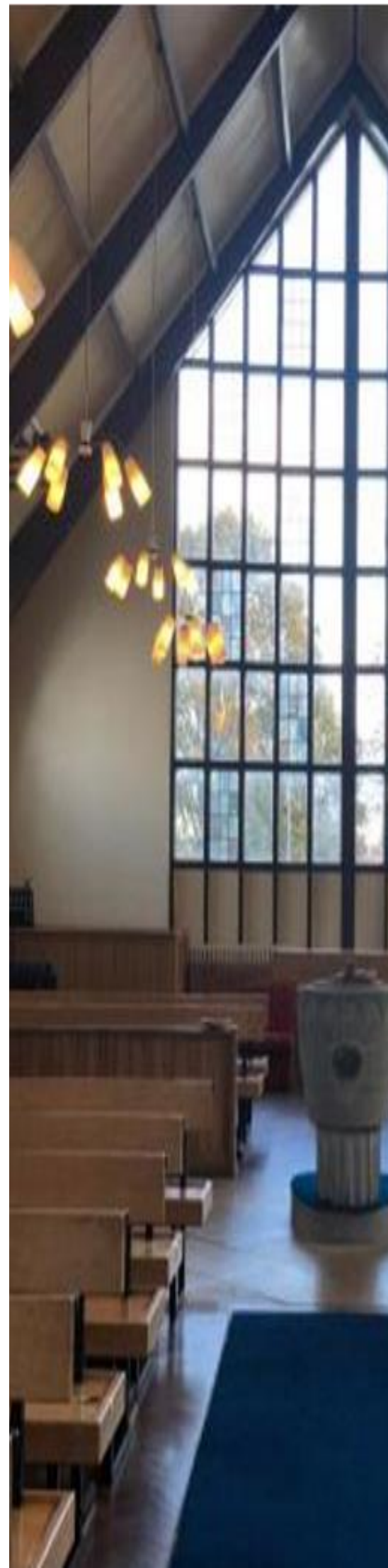
- Tuesday 9.30 Said Eucharist
- Thursday 9.30 Said Eucharist

In addition, Holy Communion is taken to those who are housebound or resident in the local Care Home.

Our **Seasonal Services** include:

- Stations of the Cross and Holy Week mid-week evening services;
- All Souls Service
- All Saints Service
- Christingle Service
- Carol Services
- Light the Lights Memorial/Celebratory Service
- Schools' services throughout the year.

Our **All Souls'** and **Light the Lights** services serve many people who have had a loved one's funeral in church who, whilst not regular attenders, see St. Andrew's as 'their' church. We welcome this.



3, Our Congregation

Our congregation participate in a range of ways, participating in worship and working to serve the wider community through outreach and community activities. Our volunteers include -

- Licensed Pastoral Assistants
- Those licensed to administer Communion by Extension
- Sidespeople/Greeters
- Sacristan/Grass Cutter
- Treasurer
- Paid Organist
- 2 Deanery Synod Representatives
- P.C.C. members
- Cleaning Teams
- Intercessor and Reading Teams
- Social Team
- Birthday Card distributor
- Flower Arrangers

The **Zimbabwean National Anglican Fellowship (ZINAFE)** (North East Branch) was licensed by the Bishop of Durham in 2017 to be affiliated to St. Andrew's, and this has proved to be a very positive relationship and allowed for them to conduct services in their own Shona language. Covid has put a temporary halt to these services and needs to be restarted as soon as possible. We miss their infectious enthusiasm.



4, Engaging with the community: How do we play our part in the Community?

4.1., Baptisms

As can be expected of a large parish, we have a large number of baptisms throughout the year, and we see Holy Baptism as very much part of our service to the community. Baptism services tend to be very well attended and for many it can be their first experience of visiting a church, so it is vital that these families are made to feel welcome. To assist in removing any sense of separateness parents and others are invited to attend the main Sunday Eucharist prior to the baptism taking place. Average baptism numbers in any one year tend to be around 40, though this can vary.

4.2., Local Schools

Of the five primary schools in the parish we have governor representation on two of these (White Mere Community Primary and Colgate Primary). The previous incumbent was also a governor at Lingey House. As a result of these connections, a number of schools hold seasonal services in church. Year groups have visited the church also and previous incumbents have paid regular visits to schools as part of their curriculum.

In addition to the five primary schools the parish also includes Hill Top School for Children with Special Educational Needs and Heworth Grange Academy (situated very close to the parish boundary) which many of the local children attend from 11-16.

The Diocese is committed to engaging with Children, Youth and Young Adults as one of our Diocesan Missional Priorities and provides support to churches and clergy wanting to develop childrens, youth, schools or chaplaincy work through the MDM team based at Cuthbert House.

4.3., Social Activities

St Andrews hosts a variety of social and community events throughout the year including -

- Summer and Christmas Fairs
- Afternoon Teas
- Wine and Cheese Evenings
- Dinners
- Concerts

All these activities are open to the wider community and are usually well attended.

4.4., Gateshead Foodbank

We have had a connection with this foodbank from its inception. One member of the congregation was a volunteer at the distribution centre for over eight years which gave us insight into the many financial and social problems which are rife in the Gateshead area. Church members are invited to bring donations to church and a volunteer delivers these contributions to the warehouse on a regular basis.

4.5., Other points of outreach

Recent years have seen the church hall used as a centre for local elections. In addition, as part of our contribution to the wider community, particular **charities** are nominated each year to receive funding raised from Sunday and mid-week Coffee. **Ecumenical links** with both the local Roman Catholic and Methodist Churches have been maintained over many years. Good Friday sees an ecumenical gathering of the three churches prior to each one's individual service.

5, The Parish Prioritisation Process

As part of preparing Parishes in Vacancy for a new clergy appointment, every Parish in the Diocese of Durham goes through a missional review, known as the Parish Prioritisation Process. By undertaking this, PCC's (supported by their Archdeacon) have the opportunity to review their journey, identify any areas of challenge and consider how God might want them to focus in Mission and outreach as the church moves forwards.

5.1., What Are We Good At?

- Social Activities – normally run on monthly basis throughout the year, which contribute greatly to our annual income.
- Paying the Parish Share. Even though Covid severely restricted our income, we did pay our promised contribution in full.
- Welcoming visitors to church, especially the many baptism families as well as wedding and funeral families. Children baptised in church receive a card on their birthdays until they are eligible to start school.
- Memorial Services – e.g. *All Souls' Service; Light the Lights Service.*

5.2., What could we do Better?

- Focus more on Mission, particularly by renewing our energies into drawing in more young people, perhaps by re-introduction of a family service
- Utilise each person's skills more
- Learn to "think outside the box" more
- Put more emphasis on Confirmation
- Focus on developing work with families.

5.3., What about Future Mission?

As a parish we have recognised the potential (and local need) for opening a **Dementia Café**. A few members have attended an information giving session to raise our own awareness and explore the possibilities. We realise we would need help with this, but we have two members who are interested.

We feel also we might explore, with the agreement of a new incumbent, the possible re-introduction of a form of a **Family Service**.

We recognise too, that we do not make enough use of **social media**, and that more use of our Facebook page would help promote the church.

6, Buildings for Mission

6.1., The Church

Opened in 1961, the church building is modern in style, is light and airy with a real sense of openness, without losing its sacred atmosphere. The church has been recognised as a good example of early 1960s architecture. Most of the major fittings are moveable, which gives flexibility to accommodate either large or small gatherings as the occasion demands. The interior has within the last 12 years been re-wired and re-decorated, and new boilers have been installed to service the church, vestry and sacristy. The vestry, too, has been re-decorated, carpeted and new furniture installed. Attached to the vestry are a small kitchen and W.C.s.

If we had to describe the atmosphere of the church, it would perhaps be “happy” or “warm”. Both visitors and clergy alike have commented in this way. One long standing church member commented that when she walks in she feels like she has “come home”.

The exterior of the church building is in need of some re-decoration but this will be carried out as soon as finances allow. `

6.2., The Church Hall

This building is attached to the main building by means of a link passage, and has a useful room to the rear of the stage which can be used for meetings or divided off into two rooms as the occasion demands. These can be accessed by a separate door or through the main hall, depending on need. The main hall is large, with a stage and plenty of storage space. In addition, there is a large kitchen and separate toilet facilities. The structure of the hall is sound, and all windows and doors have been replaced within the last few years, as well as a partial re-wiring and a new boiler fitted. New flooring to the hall entrance, kitchen and passageway have recently been installed. The windows of the hall look onto an enclosed lawned area which can be used for some social occasions in the summer months.

The hall is let out on a regular basis to various groups. The facilities on offer are also advertised on our Facebook page and our Hall Booking Clerk administers enquiries/bookings.



6.3., The Vicarage

The St Andrews Vicarage is a pleasant, spacious, detached family home in good repair, having been newly re-furnished, adjacent to the church (but not connected). The ground floor comprises an entrance lobby and main hall which gives access to a cloakroom, downstairs toilet, study, dining room and living room with large windows and patio door. The kitchen has new units and a walk-in pantry and a utility room leading into the rear of the premises.

The first floor comprises a single, front facing bedroom, a double room with fitted wardrobe, a master bedroom with double fitted wardrobe, a further double bedroom with hand basin, a bathroom with shower and a separate w.c. with hand basin. The loft is accessed via a pull-down ladder and is partially boarded.

The front of the property comprises a short driveway leading to the garage. The gardens to the front and side of the property are walled off and the garden to the rear is a safe space, fenced off from the church areas.



7, Giving, finance and generosity

What is our attitude to Giving?

We feel our church has a reasonably positive attitude to giving, but if we are honest we depend greatly on social events to subsidise weekly contributions. However, we were pleasantly surprised when the church re-opened following lockdown at the amount of people who had continued to set aside their church packets and this says a great deal about individual commitment. We also have a church member who deals with Gift Aid claims.

A close eye is kept on our financial position, and the Treasurer reports regularly to the P.C.C.

In terms of financial planning, priority is always given to our Parish Share. Prior to the Covid outbreak we have prided ourselves on paying our full parish share. Though we, like many churches had to reduce the amount of contribution we could promise, we did manage to fulfil this promise. Any legacies left to the church tend to be very small amounts and ring-fenced for particular memorial items.

We do not have an annual maintenance plan as such, any repair costs usually taken from our main income. Like all churches, energy costs are a major concern to us.



8, Wider Relationships - The Deanery

As part of Gateshead Deanery's Five Year Plan each of the individual parishes has committed to work together in partnership and as a **single locality area** in order to focus together on our Diocesan priorities of

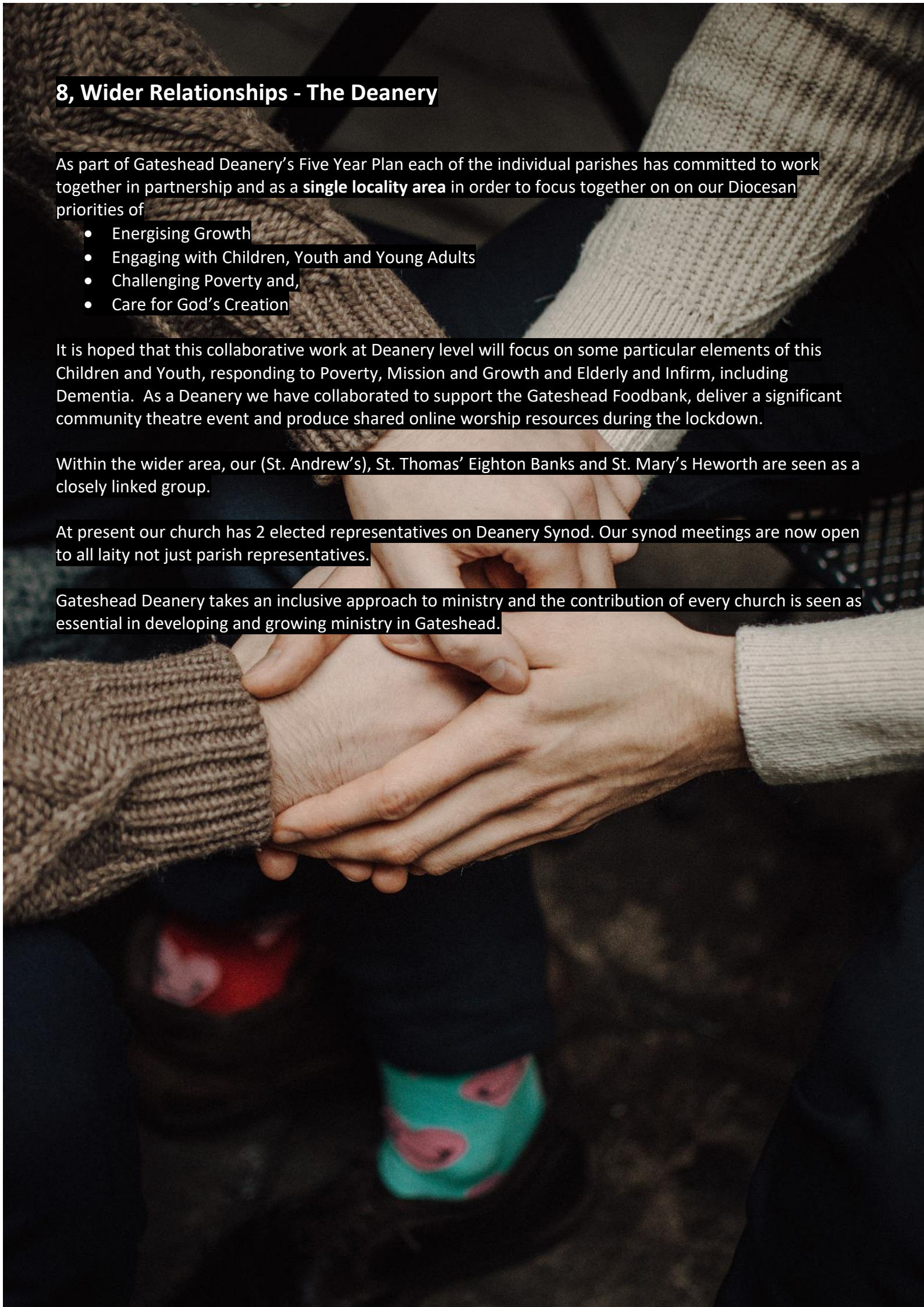
- Energising Growth
- Engaging with Children, Youth and Young Adults
- Challenging Poverty and,
- Care for God's Creation

It is hoped that this collaborative work at Deanery level will focus on some particular elements of this Children and Youth, responding to Poverty, Mission and Growth and Elderly and Infirm, including Dementia. As a Deanery we have collaborated to support the Gateshead Foodbank, deliver a significant community theatre event and produce shared online worship resources during the lockdown.

Within the wider area, our (St. Andrew's), St. Thomas' Eighton Banks and St. Mary's Heworth are seen as a closely linked group.

At present our church has 2 elected representatives on Deanery Synod. Our synod meetings are now open to all laity not just parish representatives.

Gateshead Deanery takes an inclusive approach to ministry and the contribution of every church is seen as essential in developing and growing ministry in Gateshead.



Appendix 1. Getting to know our Parish and the wider region

Leam Lane

Leam Lane lies on the western side of Gateshead, about 3 miles south of Newcastle upon Tyne and just a 20 minutes drive from the beaches of Shields and Marsden.

Originally part of Felling Urban District Council and since subsumed into Gateshead Metropolitan Borough, Leam Lane was once known as one of the largest local housing estates in Europe, built to house the workers of the huge local port, shipping building and coal businesses that once dominated the region.

Today many of these homes are privately owned homes, purchased as part of the government's *Right to Buy* scheme. Alongside these, new building is extending and changing our community which is now about 58% owner occupancy, with an overall population of around 8,000.

Locally we are well served by

- 5 Primary Schools and 1 school for Children with Special Educational Needs
- 3 Churches of varying denominations
- G.P. and Dental Practices and Local Health Centre
- Community Centre/Library
- Care Home
- 2 Public Houses, 1 C.I.U. Club
- Centrally located shopping square
- Local Park with Bowling Green, Tennis Courts and Lake
- Excellent transport links
- Universities in Newcastle, Sunderland and Durham
- Incredible shopping, leisure and heritage facilities close by in Newcastle and Gateshead.

St. Andrew's, Leam Lane is the second largest parish within the Gateshead Deanery yet retains a clear sense of community and of belonging.

The wider region

The North East is an exciting place to live, learn and be part of God's mission. There is a huge amount to see and discover from heritage centres, to outstanding countryside and the action of our cities. Find out more by visiting <https://www.visitnortheastengland.com>



Appendix 2. Useful contacts

The Parish, the post and the Diocese

- **Enquiries about this post** can be directed to the **Archdeacon of Sunderland**, The Ven. Bob Cooper by emailing Archdeacon.of.Sunderland@durham.anglican.org
- Information about our **Diocese** is available at <https://durhamdiocese.org/>
- Details about **St Andrews** are available online at www.achurchnearyou.com/church/13671/
- Find out more about our **Deanery** at www.gatesheaddeanery.com/churches or through our facebook page at: www.facebook.com/GatesheadDeanery/

Education

Our primary schools

- Roman Road Community Primary School - <https://romanroadprimary.org/>
- St. Augustine's Roman Catholic Primary School - <https://staugustinesprimary.org/>
- White Mere Primary School - <https://whitemereprimary.org/>
- Lingey House Primary School - <https://www.lingeyhouseprimary.org/>
- Colgate Primary School - <https://colgateprimary.org/>

Secondary Schools

Students from our community are well served by a number of local secondary schools which include our local secondary school **Heworth Grange** <https://www.heworthgrange.org/> and further afield schools including **Cardinal Hume**, **Emmanuel College** and **St Joseph's** Hebburn.

