



THE DIOCESE OF
DURHAM



PARISH PROFILE - SUNDERLAND ST CHAD
(WEARMOUTH DEANERY)

The Parish of Sunderland St Chad (Wearmouth Deanery).

Parish Profile

Contents

Welcome to the Parish!

1. Our Diocesan Vision – An introduction from Bishop Paul
2. Overview
3. Worship
4. Seasonal
5. The Congregation
6. Mission and Community Engagement
7. Helping people develop their faith
8. Occasional Offices
9. Safeguarding
10. The Future
11. Readiness for Mission
12. Our Buildings
13. Finance
14. The Vicarage
15. The Role
16. More details and useful contacts

Welcome to the Parish!

We are looking forward to welcoming and supporting a new priest who will work with us 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 our local vision of being a welcoming and inclusive church, reaching out to the whole community in Jesus' name.

We are hoping to find someone who can nurture and encourage our church in mission, who will help us to strengthen and extend our existing links with local schools and work collaboratively with the wider group of congregations that together form the Annunciation Group of Churches.

St Chad's is a church with a long standing commitment to serve its community and to be a welcoming Christian presence for the people of Farrington and East Herrington, praying and working together to serve God and extend his Kingdom.

We look forward to meeting you and working together to make the love of Christ known to everyone in our parish.



I, Our Diocesan Vision - An introduction from Bishop Paul

At the end of 2019 we gathered representatives from every parish, including St Chad's and from the wider Wearmouth 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 here in the Diocese of Durham. 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 resolved to maintain and sharpen our three priorities and (in response to the voice of our children and young people) we discerned that we should add a fourth, *Caring for God's Creation*.

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.

For the communities around St Chad's this feels particularly relevant. We sense the importance of **Energising Growth** – in discipleship and in the number of people following Christ. 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 Chad's we are looking for someone excited by and wanting to be part of this vision who can help nurture and grow the congregation in number, discipleship and reach. 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, Overview

St Chad's is a welcoming and inclusive church in the modern catholic tradition, serving the communities of Farringdon and East Herrington, as part of the Group of the Annunciation comprising St Mary and St Peter's (serving Springwell and surrounding areas) and St Mary, St Thomas' and St Oswald's (with churches serving South Hylton, Pennywell and Grindon).

Much of our joint community is Estate based ministry. There is a daily commitment to the Offices and as far as possible, clergy and others pray them together across the Group. Eucharistic worship is the our heart of the life of our churches, with Eucharistic worship every Sunday in St Chad's, St Mary and St Peter's and St Oswald's, in addition to three weekday across the group of churches.

St Chad's has a deep commitment to serving its community and to developing vocations as a training parish for assistant curates and as a host church for Ministry Experience Volunteers (from the national MEV scheme) since 2015.

Our clergy enjoy good collegial support and seek to care for and uphold each others' ministry as a ministry team of Priests, Reader and Lay ministers.

Together we are praying for a new Priest to come and join us – able to deepen our discipleship, extend mission further and join with us in service, welcome and prayer.

3, Worship

St Chad's strives to be an outward looking church. We enjoy welcoming visitors and new people to worship with us and engage with wider activities in life of the church. All who come into our church speak of the warmth, friendship and welcome received.

Our current pattern of worship is -

Sunday	0800	Monthly (in the lady chapel)
Sunday	0930 Eucharist	Weekly, followed by refreshments.
Tuesday	Morning Eucharist	Weekly (open to all Annunciation group churches)

Following on from our 9.30 Sunday service we encourage people to join together for a coffee, biscuit and a chat. This is an opportunity to get to know each other and welcome new people to our church. For those who find it difficult to attend church we also offer Home Communion.



4, Seasonal

In addition to our normal pattern of worship, St. Chad's offers a range of additional services in line with the church calendar particularly through Advent and Lent. Our Christmas Eve carol service is particularly popular, filling the church for the active re-telling of the Christmas story.

5, The congregation

Our church has a strong, committed congregation who attend regularly worship and are actively involved in the life and ministry of the church. Whilst our numbers have reduced since the Pandemic we have enjoyed welcoming newcomers to our church over the past months.

At St. Chad's we believe in the importance of including **children** into our worshipping congregation and encourage their participation in the delivery of church services alongside adults.

6, Mission & Community Engagement

St. Chad's is pro-active in working to develop a positive partnership with local schools. Our schools regularly visit the church and at Christmas produce wonderful artwork to decorate the church. Schools engagement has been a significant way we have served and reached out to our community which we are particularly keen to redevelop with the help, support and leadership of our new Priest.

Social Events – In addition to providing refreshments after the Sunday morning service, we hold a monthly community coffee morning and offer the hall for the use of a wide and varied range of community organisations. Before the pandemic there were many regular activities run by the social committee, such as fairs, children's parties, beetle drives, burns night suppers, pantomime, etc. The church is also used for regular concerts by local choirs.

Service in the community. As well as running a **warm space** St Chad's has strong links to the Hope4All initiative at Pennywell (which a number of our parishioners are actively involved with as volunteers and support the local foodbank with a collection point in the church.



7, Helping people develop their faith

St Chad's has a deep commitment to welcoming to people of all ages, unconditionally accepting all.

We are committed to helping all age groups to deepen their discipleship, running regular Lent and Advent courses, providing confirmation courses where required, welcoming children to Communion from an early age and providing spiritual support to care homes and sheltered accommodation residents within our parish.

8, Occasional Offices

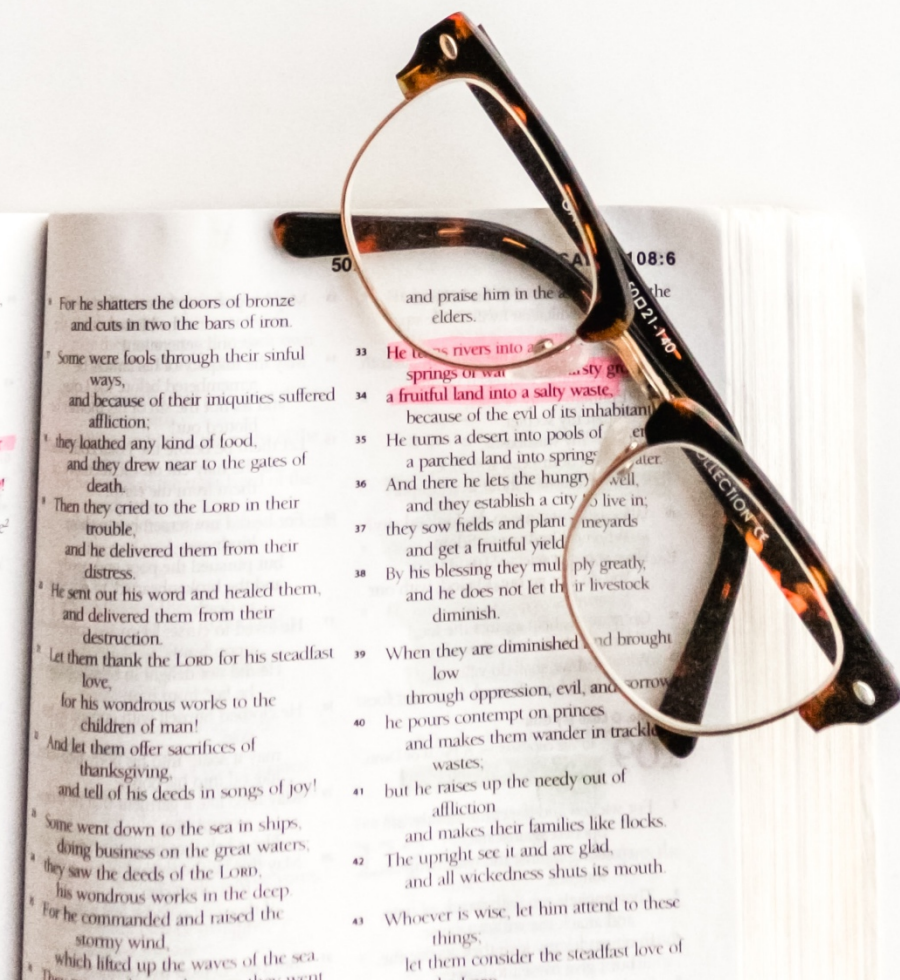
Occasional Offices are an important element of our life and service as a church. In a typical year St. Chad's conduct approximately 25 funerals per year, 6 weddings and 50 baptisms

9, Safeguarding

There is an established culture of Safeguarding at St. Chad's. The church has its own Safeguarding Officer and follows Diocesan guidelines. Safeguarding is a standing item on the PCC agenda, and policies are reviewed regularly. The parish has recently registered with the Parish Safeguarding Dashboard.

10, The Future

As we look forward we are keen to develop provision for young people throughout the parish and would like to extend the support we provide for all in need in the local community, e.g. by developing a dementia cafe, working with those struggling with the cost of living crisis through initiatives such as credit unions, school uniform assistance, etc.



11, Readiness for Mission

As part of our preparations for the appointment of a new incumbent we (along with all churches in vacancy in the Diocese) undertook the Vacancy Audit Process, working with an external facilitator to appraise our readiness for an appointment and to review our missional health. Over the course of several weeks the congregation worked with a facilitator and our Archdeacon to consider four key areas of the church's life -

- Our Mission
- Finance & Generosity
- Leadership & Governance
- Buildings for Mission

Comments from the Facilitator –

Area	Facilitator comments	Action points
Mission	St Chad's has had strong links with the schools in the parish in the past, but this has stalled during covid. Groups meet during Lent and Advent, and there is preparation for communion and confirmation. There is also an annual outreach service to families who have had a funeral service in the church or crematorium during the past year. The PCC recognized that most of the groups exist for church members and more seeker groups could be set up in the future. The church has good links with other churches in their group and ecumenical partners. Their commitment to caring for God's creation is impressive, and the St. Chad's forum is a place where issues surrounding poverty are highlighted and support is offered. St. Chad's tithes 10% of income to give to charities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Re institute schools work • Strengthen links with groups that use the hall, (eg. Uniformed organisations). • Re-start visits to the care homes. • Start some new initiatives with appropriate support. • Apply for the Eco Church award. <p>Other - There is an awareness that some parts of the parish (e.g. Farringdon) do not readily identify with St. Chad's as their parish church – the new incumbent will need to address this.</p>
Finance & Generosity	The church has held regular stewardship campaigns and new members have been encouraged to join the planned giving scheme. The church has done a good job in ensuring that gift aid is fully utilised. Some generous givers have died and income has fallen, especially during the pandemic. Reserves are being used to help meet the parish share pledge. Building maintenance is met through a separate deposit account. The PCC is well informed about the financial situation.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To continue St. Chad's generous giving (a new stewardship campaign might be helpful). • To discuss the possibility of encouraging legacies to the church. • Help givers through using a card reader in church following baptism services etc. and to offer online giving.
Leadership & Governance	From my observation and the final report, I believe that leadership and governance are extremely healthy. Safeguarding is taken very seriously and the PCC has a conscientious rep.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Update the 'induction document' that is given to new PCC members.
Buildings for Mission	The church and hall are in good condition and the hall is well used. The church has regular Sunday services, occasional offices, and is used by local schools for eg. Carol services.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop a maintenance budget based on an average of the costs of the previous five years. • Continue to replace halogen bulbs with LED as a work in progress.

12, Our Buildings

The Church Building - The church is well maintained and in good order. There is a pipe organ which is available to an organist or can be played via electronic uploading of music which is our current position on Sundays since our organist moved on. All major works highlighted by the last QI have been carried out and prior to Lockdown, we undertook some upgrading work outside and added a small and discreet kitchen area which is in-keeping with the church's décor and an accessible toilet. The church is a flexible space offering the ability for various types of worship in the building. We recently hosted a training event for the Diocese which worked very well.

The Church Hall - St Chads Hall was opened in 1964 and is next to the church with a decent sized car park at the rear., comprising of a large hall (with a stage & storage underneath) a smaller meeting room (The Green Room – rented out to external community groups) a kitchen, recently renewed toilets and disabled facilities. The hall is used most days for a wide variety of groups including toddlers, guides, dancing, art, table tennis etc. We have a contract with the NHS for their Steps to Fitness programme and Sunderland Council use the hall for the local elections producing income for the church general fund. We would like the hall to be more effectively used for mission and outreach

13, Finance

St Chad's has had an active stewardship programme in place for over twenty-five years which is normally reviewed every five years. Ninety-five percent of the regular donations come from the stewardship programme. We are one year overdue for running a new stewardship campaign as we felt last year was not appropriate and may well have been counterproductive. We have in the past few years lost some of our more generous donors, meaning that our parish share in recent years has had to be reduced. A priority once a new incumbent is in place will be to work together to revisit the stewardship programme

Over the course of the past year we have undertaken a major upgrade of our electrical system and boiler in the hall to reduce gas costs (met from reserves).

Full accounts are prepared each year and are currently audited by Murray Lamb CA. With prudent spending controls by the officers of St Chad's, and generous stewardship from parishioners, St Chad's finances should remain strong. We strive to continue to tithe to our chosen charities and pay our parish share payments in full.

14, Vicarage

The Vicarage is adjacent to the church building. It is a large four-bedroom house in a quiet street, close to schools. It has a large garden and has recently been decorated.

15, The Role

As a church we are thankful for our areas of strength but recognise our need for further growth and development and the potential around us for growing mission and ministry. We are praying that God will call the right person to join us – someone who will share our enthusiasm and excitement; to build on our gifts and help us move forwards – with God's energy, strength and grace to prayerfully guide and support us into the next stage of our story as a church, serving Christ in this community.

16, Further Information

Enquiries about this post can be directed to the **Archdeacon of Sunderland**, The Ven. Bob Cooper at Archdeacon.of.Sunderland@durham.anglican.org

Information about our **Diocese** is available at <https://durhamdiocese.org/>

Details about **St Chad's church** are available online at <https://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/13739/>

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>

