

Parish Profile for: Great Aycliffe Parish, Newton Aycliffe.

This form should be completed by all training parishes, to be supplied to prospective ordinands. Please provide information under the following headings. Parishes may prefer to produce their own profile, but it is strongly recommended that a completed copy of this form be included as a summary with such a profile. If this is not done, it is expected that all such information will be included within the profile produced.

1. General Information

Parish(es)

- a) St. Clare's Church, Newton Aycliffe,
- b) St. Andrew's Church, Aycliffe Village,
- c) St. Elizabeth's Church, Woodham
- d) St. Francis' Church, Horndale.

Diocese (and area, if relevant): Auckland Deanery, Durham Diocese

Incumbent's name, preferred style, address and telephone number:

Rev'd Ann Anderson
St. Clare's Rectory
St. Cuthbert's Way
Newton Aycliffe

Style Middle of the road Anglican -

Email address (if any): a.ann007@btinternet.com

Date of ordination: June 2003

Length of time in present parish (es): 9 months (appointed February 25th 2018 as Team Rector)

Other responsibilities and duties currently undertaken by incumbent:

- Diocesan Synod member
- Ex- Officio Governor at St. Francis' Church of England Aided Junior school
- Governor at Aycliffe Village Primary School
- Chaplain to NADF Church meeting at St. Elizabeth's Church.

Previous posts and experience of incumbent, including details of experience with previous curates.

Rector of the Parish of Hetton Lyons with Eppleton, St. Michael and St. Nicholas, Hetton-le-Hole from January 2007 to February 2018.

- 1) Training incumbent from June 2010 to November 2013; the curate went onto take up the post of Associate Minister to the Anglican Church on Portland.
- 2) Training Incumbent from June 2014 to October 2014; sadly the curacy did not work out and the curate went onto serve the rest of her time in what is now my current parish.
- 3) Training Incumbent to a curate whose T.I. took Maternity leave for one year, March 2017 to March 2018. A slightly tricky situation as we were five miles apart and the congregation looked to the curate as though they were the new priest in charge. There was a major building project in one of

the churches and several difficult pastoral situations. I continued her training and supervision weekly to give that extra support and contact and completed her final report. She is now Priest in Charge in her own role of responsibility.

2. Nature of post

Please tick which are applicable:

- Training post for deacon who expects to be ordained priest

3. The context: the parish setting

The Parish of Great Aycliffe currently encompasses the area of Newton Aycliffe, Aycliffe Village, Brafferton, Aycliffe Industrial Estate, parts of School Aycliffe, Coatham Mundeville and Preston-le-Skerne.

The total population of the area approximates to 35,000 and the parish is continuing to grow as new housing developments appear. We are a mixed parish with pockets of deprivation but through the expansion of local industry there are also parts of the parish which are considered to be thriving. Ethnicity of the area is almost exclusively white European.

Facilities in the area include:

- two Academy schools (11-16 years)
- nine infant/junior schools (one Church of England and two Roman Catholic)
- four community centres and one youth centre
- two leisure centres and three golf clubs
- a number of local health centres and two substantial hospitals within a few miles
- seven nursing homes
- a number of smaller shopping centres and a larger unit within the town centre
- additionally there is a Young People Centre and Walworth Special School.

In general the whole area has easy road and rail access, a local airport and a major port within 15 to 20 miles. There is a range of open spaces e.g. wetlands, a 5 mile circular walk through fields and woods and a number of nature reserves.

It is within easy reach of Durham City, York, Newcastle, Sunderland and Teesside. Junction 59 on A1M and the East coast mainline are a short drive away.

4. The Church(es)

Please indicate how many Church of England churches lie within the relevant parish(es) or benefice(s): there are three churches each offering a centre of worship for the parish.

Ecclesiastical tradition: if there is more than one church please indicate the tradition in each church:

The parish consists of four churches namely

St Andrew's Parish Church in Aycliffe Village who worship in a middle of the road churchmanship style
St Clare's Parish Church in Newton Aycliffe town centre who worship as above with some more catholic practices; at the same time on the second Sunday they use a screen and worship less formally with a hint of contemporary worship songs in a "family" service.

St Elizabeth's licensed worship centre in Woodham (Newton Aycliffe) Middle of the road churchmanship. St Francis Chapel within a school in Horndale (Newton Aycliffe). Celebrates the Eucharist each Wednesday with a form of the Eucharist in Iona style in their tiny chapel.

Electoral roll number(s):

- St. Andrew's: 34
- St. Clare's: 69
- St. Elizabeth's 21
- St. Francis' 4

:

If a Team Ministry, Group Ministry or LEP, please give a general description of it: Pattern of Sunday worship (please indicate services, times, forms of service used, and 'usual' Sunday attendance'): The rota for clergy lead services is as follows:

	St. Elizabeth's	St. Clare's	St. Andrew's
1 st Sunday	9.30am Holy Communion	10am HC 12md Holy Baptism 1pm Holy Baptism	11am HC
2 nd Sunday	9.30am Holy Communion 6.00pm Meditation 1.30pm Holy Baptism 2.30pm Holy Baptism	10am HC (family)	11am HC
3 rd Sunday	9.30am Holy Communion	10am HC	11am HC 12.45pm Holy baptism 1.45pm Holy Baptism
4 th Sunday	9.30am Holy Communion	10am HC	11am HC
5 th Sunday	9.30am Holy communion	10am HC	11am HC

Weekday services: each Wednesday Eucharist at St. Francis, and Café Church each Thursday 9.30am at St. Clare's. Each first Friday of the month there is a 9.30am Eucharist at St. Andrew's Church. Each third Saturday Messy Church happens at St. Clare's with attendance at between 60 and 100. Each first Wednesday at 7pm at St. Elizabeth's Church we hold a Healing Eucharist.

Occasional Offices: approximate numbers p.a. of baptisms, weddings and funerals across the three operational churches (2017):

- Weddings – 17
- Baptisms – 105
- Funerals including direct to crem - 89

Pattern of daily offices: Morning Prayer rotates around the churches at 8.30am, Evening prayer on a Monday at 4.30pm. These are in the form of the Celtic/Northumbrian Community.

Staff or team members: One Team Rector and one Team Vicar, one APA at St. Clare's Church, one Lay Reader who works across the parish. One lay person who has completed the Wings for Worship preaching module, he preaches six times per year. One Children and Youth Worker (voluntary) who heads up Shine Choir (60+ children) and the Messy Church Team of a 12 lay members.

Lay involvement is healthy and enthusiastic. There are intercessors, readers and chalice assistants at the three churches too.

House, study and prayer groups: we have three healthy Bible Study/discipleship groups.

Parochial organisations: each church has a separate DCC, PCC has a standing committee. We have two teams who take Open the Book to Four schools on a fortnightly basis. The Pastoral Team headed up by our APA carries out services in many of our Nursing Homes four times a year. An active Mothers Union meet regularly as do the Womens Fellowship. A Missional leadership for Growth team meet regularly in order to pray and guide the church forward.

Areas of particular mission and ministry of parish (es) (e.g. schools, hospitals, industry, prison, youth, elderly people, single parents, homeless, healing):

As mentioned- Open the Book, and Discipleship Groups which are missional.

Assemblies in St. Francis School fortnightly.

We have a regular "Open the Door" couple of weeks when the doors at St. Clare's (a town centre church) are open and quiet time and refreshments are on offer, plus someone there is needed for pastoral support. (This coincides often with parents dropping off children at dancing class in the Fellowship Hall or Unity Hall at St. Clare's.)

Each Thursday afternoon St. Andrew's Church is open as a Registered Small Pilgrim Place. There is a re-ordering project just beginning there to put in place toilet and kitchen facilities in this grade 1 listed building.

Opportunities for the development of fresh expressions of church:

We are developing and changing gently the Café Church at St. Clare's Church.

It has been a certain hope for a few years to establish a missional group up at St. Francis' where the impact of church in a deprived area is actually minimal. This is a priority.

Particular future plans already established:

The re-ordering of St. Andrew's will allow more interaction with Aycliffe Village Primary School and a growing active Scouts group.

There are ongoing plans created by the MLG group for outreach into the town centre. (Open the Door) and establishing a prayer tree station in the town centre pre- Christmas, pre- Easter etc..

Congregation(s) mainly communal or mainly gathered:

At St. Andrew's Church the congregation are mainly from Aycliffe Village. At the other churches they are gathered; however Café church is a lovely mixture from across the areas, including Village.

Areas and types of co-operation with other local churches (either Anglican or ecumenical):

Churches Together in Great Aycliffe is an active organisation comprising the Anglican, Roman Catholic, Methodist and two free churches. United services are held during Christian Unity Week, Pentecost and Holy Week. A service for Women's World Day of Prayer is organised ecumenically.

Have any of the resolutions under the Priest (Ordination of Women) Measure been passed? N/A

5. Vision and Priorities

How does the church in the relevant parish (es) see itself?

St. Andrew's Church

St Andrew's is a Grade I listed building, one of the oldest in the area. The original church was built in Saxon times and much of the Saxon stonework is still visible. Overall the fabric of the building is judged to



be in good repair. The church has an open churchyard which is still used quite regularly. A number of headstones in the ancient churchyard are listed, as is the War Memorial.

St Andrew's is the oldest church, steeped in history and a very traditional worship space in Aycliffe Village. It is very popular for weddings and baptisms, but it is not considered a museum! This beautiful building has so much potential for growth of the living stones- the church- as the relationship between the church and local school develops and community can be created in the re-ordered space of this beautiful old building. Recent new families with five children off hope of more to come once the building is more hospitable.

St. Clare's Church

St Clare's is the other Parish Church, at the very heart of the town. It was dedicated in 1955, replacing Clarence Farm, which served as Newton Aycliffe's first church from 1950. The church stands in the centre of Newton Aycliffe adjacent to the shopping centre. The building includes clergy and choir vestries, Lady Chapel and Parish Office. There are two large halls, one of which has a stage, projector, screen and sound system. WiFi has been installed throughout the building and funding was obtained for a major refurbishment of the stage equipment, which is complete. There is a small, well-stocked library in the memorial room, additional toilets including disabled facilities and baby changing facilities, and a large modern kitchen. To the rear of the kitchen is a garden with soft fruit bushes, fruit trees and vegetables. A sheltered garden between the church and halls was revamped into a beautiful Peace Garden some years ago and provides a peaceful outdoors area in good weather. Both church and halls have a large storage capacity.

There is a hustle and bustle about St. Clare's Church which is wonderful; the DCC are keen to capitalize on this; this is the town centre church where Remembrance Sunday and the Mayor's Civic Carol Service takes place. The DCC can see its' opportunity for mission. Lay people work hard to reach out through Kidz Flicks, Shine Choir, Messy Church, Parish Youth and Noah's Ark Toddlers.



St. Elizabeth's Church

St Elizabeth's church is a more modern building dating from 1986, to serve the Woodham area. It offers an intimate and flexible worship space, within a warm environment. It was built in conjunction with the community centre at Woodham. It was designed by Tony Stringer and the furniture was made from white ash by Northumbrian craftsman. It is a very flexible worship space, seating up to 100 people. Modern stained glass windows enhance the building as a place of worship. The church was dedicated to St Elizabeth of Hungary in the same year and serves as an outreach centre for the people of Woodham. Being a modern building it benefits from gas heating and double glazing in the hall. It incorporates a small kitchen area which is extremely useful for the various functions held within the well-equipped meeting room, with a screen and projector.

The average attendance is currently 20. It is largely an older congregation. Significant support is given to a number of charities. We are fostering ties with the local shop owners.



Outreach involves-

Knit and Natter sessions on Monday afternoons during term time. The items produced go to premature babies, prisoners' children, Shoe Box Appeal and a local baby charity, Lifeline.

A group of 12 ladies meet each Monday to play board games, for friendship and fun. This social group is open to all in the community. They also organise day trips and away days.

*A free to use **Toddler Group** meets weekly on Tuesdays during term time. An average of 10 children attend, with their accompanying adults.*

*On Tuesday evening, **Newton Aycliffe Deaf Fellowship** meets regularly for a BSL worship service using the BSL Daily Devotions for structure. This is followed by socialising, bingo and a raffle. Attendance is between 9 and 25 people. Newcastle Deaf Club visits four times a year. This is a much needed ministry for the region's Deaf Community and with more volunteers it will continue to grow.*

On the first Wednesday of each month, there is a Healing and Eucharist service which is led by lay and ordained people. On other Wednesday evenings a discipleship group meets to share food, prayer, Bible study and friendship.

There is no provision as yet, for the children of this large area of new family houses. The harvest is plentiful...

***Rubicon** is the Parish bereavement group, held at St Elizabeth's Church on Thursday afternoons. It is led by the Parish Reader, Mrs Jan Carr. This is a support and social group for all who have been recently bereaved. The group also provides signposting to other local services if required e.g. counselling, benefits and medical services.*

The church hosts seasonal lunches. This is an outreach ministry with church members volunteering, cooking and serving the meals, for about 20 people with 10 being regulars.

St Elizabeth's has an allotment locally, growing flowers and vegetables for use in and by the church.

St. Francis' Church, a part of St. Francis' Church of England Aided Junior School

The school was built about 1970 and part of it began to be used as a worship centre in 1971. This continued until 1981 when additional building including a hall, Sanctuary and Lady Chapel were incorporated.

There is presently no Sunday service, a small congregation meets for worship on a Wednesday morning, and some of them worship at St Clare's on Sunday. A team from the parish delivers Open the Book fortnightly in both St Francis school and the feeder infant school, Horndale Infants. Currently assemblies are delivered fortnightly and some teaching offered each liturgical season.

There are three new Foundation governors on the Governing Body of St Francis School and a recent SIAMS inspection found the school to be Good in all four judgements.

Since an accidental fire, the school has responsibility for the insurance and maintenance of the building. The loss of St Francis as a viable worship space has left a void in what is the area of greatest social deprivation in the parish.

It will be an exciting challenge to consider how that might best be addressed, perhaps by setting up a mission and outreach centre in the Horndale area.

What is the vision of mission?

We have a faithful committed MLG group who meet regularly around God's Word to discern the way forward. We have permission from the Bishop to deviate away from the Eucharist to explore different forms of worship as we travel towards a time when the church being the priesthood of all believers, exercising their gifts and sharing ministry will be essential. Through this lens the MLG group have a vision for more facilitating of lay people to realise and exercise their gifts; the growth in the depth of understanding and number of our Discipleship groups; for a missional group in the Horndale area, more Open the Door opportunities in the town centre; Messy Church and provision for children in St. Elizabeth's church and St. Andrew's Church growing it's groups and becoming a community.

What are the incumbent's and PCC's vision and priorities? Please indicate whether the incumbent and PCC jointly share these priorities or whether there are significant differences.

We have worked through the resource "PCC Tonight" and are at a point where we understand each other well and can talk easily with one another. We share the above hopes and dreams.

6. How does the incumbent understand the role of training?

I see the role of training as equipping someone to be ready to take up the role for which they have been called; the discernment of that calling being a part of it all. Whether it is a role of responsibility, or to be part of a team, we need to know that the curate in training is equipped, competent, capable and ministers out of a depth of spirituality and understanding that will sustain him/her to be a minister of the Church of England.

I would look forward to guiding a person and observing them grow and develop into the priest God called them to be. No one knows what that will look like in the beginning! It is a work of the Holy Spirit, and is certainly not a clone of me.

7. What is the likely role of the curate in future plans?

Discerning a curate's gifting is an important part of answering this question. I would aim to create, with them, a training plan that excited them, blessed them and challenged them just enough in a supported way. After a time it would become clear how much of the exciting mission opportunities the curate could be involved in. Obviously care needs to be taken to ensure the training plan, while adding to the overall mission of God in the parish, must also equip the curate to successfully fulfil the required aims and objectives of someone able to take up a role of responsibility.

8. Area of particular responsibility for curate training:

This would be discerned with the curate according to the thoughts outlined above. I see the purpose of a curacy as equipping someone to be ready to take up the role for which they have been called; the discernment of that calling being a part of it all. Whether it is a role of responsibility, or to be part of a team, we need to know that the curate in training is equipped, competent, capable and ministers out of a depth of spirituality and understanding that will sustain him/her to be a minister of the Church of England.

However, if the curate was comfortable being involved in setting up the missional group at Horndale or duplicating the central Messy Church up at St. Elizabeth's Church, that would be great. I would hope the training plan would offer opportunities for freedom to flourish as a minister but in a supported way.

9. Accommodation: please give details indicating whether house/flat, number of bedrooms, garage, availability of study, garden, etc.

There may be both a diocesan curate house located in an area of new housing, semi detached three bedroomed houses in the Woodham area (near St. Elizabeth's), and a very good four bedroomed detached vicarage next to St. Francis' School in the Horndale area. Each has a study, garage and garden.

10. Any additional information the incumbent feels it is important to give at this stage:

Great Aycliffe, with its' four churches, each totally different, and varying in churchmanship, though fairly low catholic in the main, its' economic make up a complete mix, (we have upper middle class families at Woodham and families in the town who live in poverty) is a unique rich training opportunity. Our Foodbank operates twice each week, our Place of Welcome once per week. We have lots of occasional offices; roughly eight funerals each month and we still get enough weddings to give someone a good training experience. We are a team. The Team Vicar here would offer a nurturing support, as would the Lay Reader and my husband who has Permission to Officiate. Any curate here would be **in training**, not seen as another pair of hands, but able to observe, try out, and learn in a very supportive exciting and varied setting. We have adopted the practice of meeting with the Wings for Worship Lay preacher to look at scripture in a relaxed way on a regular basis to help us all in our preparation. There is then, a strong sense of "team", a curate would hopefully never feel isolated or overburdened because of that team ethos. I bring the experience of training three other curates, I have learnt from those different experiences and I hope I am a better training incumbent for them. Lastly, I bring humility to the role, I believe this to be a privilege, a role where God is massively at work, the T.I. simply following his lead.



11. Who should be contacted in the first instance:

After 1st October 2018 - The Revd Dr Alastair Prince
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