

PARISH PROFILE

HOLY TRINITY

JESMOND



Opened up to God
and opened out to others

By way of introduction...

Holy Trinity is not a church which is in the habit of standing still for too long! Our commitment to being opened up to God and opened out to others has guided our growth over the last 10 years or so. It has been a particular joy to welcome an increased number of young families, some of whom have come to know us as a result of Messy Church and Trinity Tots, our parent and toddler group. In the same period we were sad to see the closure of our sister church, St Barnabas and St Jude. However, as a result, we have strengthened our relationship with some of the older members of our local community who now regularly come to our Sunday services and to Vintage, our weekly lunch club in the church hall.

We have grown spiritually through excellent teaching, through meeting in small groups and through meeting together as a church mid-week during Lent and, throughout 2019, on a monthly basis throughout the year. For many our Lent meetings have been a highlight of the year and an opportunity to deepen our relationship with Christ and with each other.

We strive to make all those we encounter feel welcomed and included, inspired by our passion to share with others the good news of Jesus' love for us. We strongly believe that a sense of belonging is an important first step towards believing in Jesus as our saviour.

Our new vicar, Rev Tim Sanderson arrived in February 2020 and we are now trusting God for the next phase of our life together. We believe that God can do immeasurably more than we ask or imagine. We want to learn more about how to be Christ's disciples in our homes, in our working lives and in our local community as well as how to apply our faith in the context of broader social and national issues. We are excited and expectant about discovering what the Holy Spirit can do in and through us.

This current time shaped by COVID-19 has been a time of challenge and opportunity as many have looked to the church in fresh ways for help, support and answers.

Through the establishment on weekly on-line service broadcasts, small group zoom meetings, daily email bible reflections, and a new pastoral support system, we have been able to navigate the changing landscape and begin to explore what it might mean to be church in a new context.



Who We Are

Our values

Holy Trinity is a warm, welcoming, lively, evangelical Anglican church situated close to the centre of Newcastle upon Tyne. We seek to be, first and foremost, opened up to God, to be attentive to what He is saying through His word and to listen to the leading of the Holy Spirit. As we surrender our lives to Him and allow Him to set the agenda, we seek to live out our faith by being opened out to the needs of others both in our parish and in the communities in which we live and work.

‘Opened up to God and opened out to others’

As a church we are working out our calling to be opened up and opened out through three major priorities:

1) Offering attractive Jesus-focussed worship.

Demonstrated in our Sunday services and other corporate gatherings.

2) Developing confident Biblical discipleship.

Demonstrated through our small group network and our work with children and young people.

3) Pursuing creative Spirit-led mission opportunities.

Demonstrated in our community engagement, mission and outreach.



Who We Are

Our congregation

As a congregation we gather together from across the city as well as from our local community. While remaining true to our Anglican roots, our church family consists of people from many different church traditions and denominations. This is something we value as we believe it enriches our life together. We also come from different walks of life, have a range of views on current affairs and are at different stages of faith. Regardless of these differences in opinion, background, creed or status, we seek to respect, welcome and offer hospitality to everyone who comes through our doors. Over a good cup of coffee we love to share our individual journeys of faith or towards faith as we seek to explore together what it means to be a follower of Jesus Christ here in our own small corner of Newcastle.

We currently have 174 people on the electoral roll with an average Sunday attendance of 211 across both our services, including children and young people. We are predominantly a gathered congregation with only a small number of people who worship with us living in the parish. Demographically we would probably be described as mainly white, middle-class with a good mix of busy professionals, families with young children, empty nesters and those in various stages of retirement. Another thing we value and celebrate here at Holy Trinity is the multi-generational make-up of our congregation with ages ranging from 0 to 99 years old, all worshipping God together.

Over the last decade we have seen some exciting periods of growth but, in more recent years, our attendance figures have remained relatively flat. We can identify a number of reasons why this might be the case. It has been increasingly difficult to attract new people and those seeking to explore faith to events like Alpha, Just Looking (a one off event for those wanting to know more about the Christian faith) and services with a more evangelistic emphasis. There has also been a huge change in the attendance habits of the congregation with a significant number of people, for a variety of reasons, choosing to attend church every other week or on a more ad hoc basis. This decline in the habit of weekly attendance means that Holy Trinity has a core of committed attenders and a fringe of those who attend less but still identify with us and very much see Holy Trinity as their church.

'I like how our church is quite children friendly – some churches have a lot less children. It's got quite a variety of ages and they have children's groups on and there's a holiday club in the summer.' (Iona, aged 8)

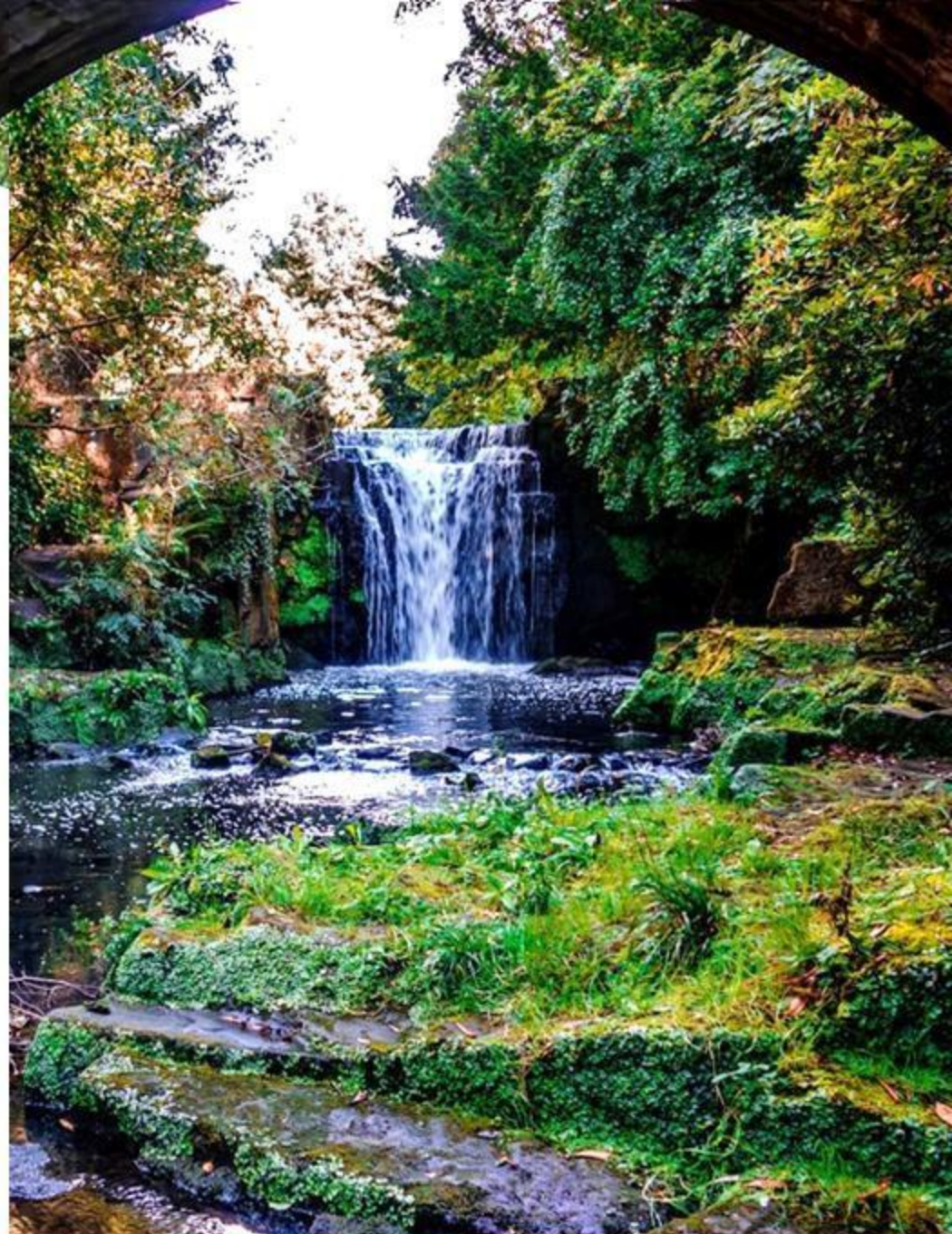
Where We Are

Jesmond and the parish

Jesmond lies approximately one mile to the east of the city centre. It is a mostly prosperous locality with some very leafy areas such as Jesmond Dene. Holy Trinity Church is situated at the southern end of Jesmond Dene and has historically been quite a small parish. In 2017 the parish was enlarged to include most of the former parish of St Barnabas and St Jude.

The population of the new parish is between 5,500 and 6,500. The additional area used to be occupied primarily by students but there seems to be an evolving scenario of homes being occupied by a mixture of students, older people, families and young professionals. Holy Trinity has worked with Together Newcastle and the Church Urban Fund to understand this change in our parish and what it means for us as a gathered congregation by engaging in a process called 'Know your Church, Know your Neighbourhood'.

'The great thing about Newcastle is that you have all the benefits of a vibrant city but it's only 20 minutes to the coast and countryside'



Opened Up to God

Whenever we meet together, be it at our Sunday services or in smaller groups, we seek to be opened up to God and to walk in obedience to His call on our lives.

Our Sunday services

On Sundays we meet at 11.00 am and 6.30 pm. Our worship is informal and lively with a mix of contemporary songs and traditional hymns, usually led by a band of musicians. The clergy at Holy Trinity do not usually wear robes on Sundays.

Preaching from the Bible is a key part of our worship time together. We believe the Bible is God's living word which always has something to say to us. Our aim is to communicate the good news about Jesus in engaging and relevant ways that can be applied to our daily lives.

Warm hospitality is also very important to us and so is good coffee! Refreshments are served after the morning service and this time often extends long after the more formal part of our worship has ended. In the evening refreshments are served before the service. We work hard to ensure people feel welcome and comfortable and that differing needs are met wherever possible. We are proud to be a Dementia Friendly church.

The 11.00 am service is relaxed and welcoming with lots of young families coming along to take advantage of our thriving children's and young people's ministry. During morning services there are age appropriate activities for children and young people from 2 to 14 years, supported by a dedicated team of volunteers. We also offer a crèche space for children under 2 years along with their parents or carers.

During the COVID-19 crisis we have been creating 11.00am on-line service broadcasts which we intend to continue into the future.

'There is always something in the teaching at HT each week to take away and apply to your everyday life.'

Our congregation at the evening service is smaller than that for morning worship. In the evenings we have provided opportunities to engage with God in a variety of ways by offering services that are quieter and more reflective, services where we engage with aspects of contemporary culture and current affairs and services that are more upbeat and music led.

From time to time we also hold Café Church services. These services are more informal and interactive where people can collect a drink and something to eat before the service begins and then join together around tables to help facilitate discussion and prayer.

Opened Up to God

Our style of worship

*'We really like the different styles of music we have at HT
– from old hymns to more recently written songs.'*

Holy Trinity has a team of talented musicians and technicians (sound and visuals) who help lead us in worship each Sunday. Over this past year it has been really encouraging to see many of our young people getting more involved in leading and playing.

At Christmas an invitation is extended to anyone who enjoys singing to form a choir which then performs and leads the carol singing at our two well attended Carols by Candlelight services.

While we enjoy a high level of skilled musicianship at Holy Trinity, we would love to see our worship experience deepen and our prayer is that our worship will always be marked by a sense of God's presence and life-changing power.

*'It is often when
I'm singing or listening
to the band that I feel
closest to God.'*

Opened Up to God

Our work with children and families

We believe all ages should have the opportunity to grow in their faith and our ministry to children and their families is very important to us. This work is headed up by Steph Sanderson who works as part of the staff team 2 days a week. She is a qualified primary school teacher and is responsible for coordinating our team of volunteers, engaging with the parents of our younger children, overseeing the work with the children on a Sunday as well as running Messy Church and Trinity Tots. Every year during the summer we run a week of Holiday Club which attracts children from both the church and the local community.

'I like all the really fun stuff we do in the groups, like parties and stories. I like the all age services because we do interesting things and the stories are well explained.' (Calum, aged 10)



Opened Up to God

Our youth work

At Holy Trinity we are committed to inspiring young people to play their full part in the life of the church and the community. We have a lovely group of young people who are actively engaged and keen to grow in their faith. Emily Emmerson-Finch works 2.5 days a week as our Youth and Outreach Worker. Emily will work alongside our team of volunteers to teach, mentor, encourage and equip our young people in their journey of faith. She will also seek opportunities to increase our community engagement. We are looking forward to discovering more ways in which our young people can become fully integrated into our church community.

'It's great when we get to lead a service and mix things up a bit, knowing our leaders won't let it go too wrong!'



Our work with students

Despite being situated in an area of the city where many students choose to live, Holy Trinity has only a few students. The few who do find their way to us are welcomed and valued as part of our church family and we often find they are willing and keen to get involved in many different aspects of church life.

One student who came to try us out and ended up staying is Adam Dixon. While studying for a degree at Newcastle, he volunteered to be our Student Coordinator. Adam attended Freshers' Weeks, set up a student adoption scheme and became a point of contact for any students coming to take a look at Holy Trinity. While we didn't see a significant increase in the number of students attending, we did feel more organised and better prepared. This is certainly an area we would love to develop and build on in the future.

'Holy Trinity provided a space where I could escape the student bubble and be treated like a person and not just a student.'



Opened Up to God

Our small groups

One of our priorities is developing Biblical discipleship that gives people confidence to believe that Jesus can transform our daily lives.

One of the ways we do this is through our small group network. We aim to provide access to small group discipleship for all who want it by offering a wide choice of groups which share the common aim of following Jesus. These small groups meet at different times and in different places across the city, giving everyone the chance to get to know each other better and offering a place to talk honestly about life and faith.

Groups range from traditional Bible studies to special interest groups but all are united around five key principles: being Biblical, prayerful, missional, regular and in tune with the overall direction and vision at Holy Trinity. We often link our Sunday service themes to small group materials and study questions. The Sunday sermons are also available as an online resource and are greatly valued.

Dot Lee joined the staff team to become our volunteer Discipleship Coordinator at the end of 2018. Since then we have seen an increase in the number of people expressing an interest in attending a group. However, there are still a significant number of people who don't belong to a small group and we would really like to try to develop new groups and find new ways of encouraging our congregation to commit to journey with one another in this way.

'Because I am away a lot at weekends, my small group is the way I keep connected.'



Wednesdays @ HT

Once a month in 2019 we gathered together as a whole church family on a Wednesday evening. A simple meal was provided in the church hall with our main time together taking place afterwards in the church building. As well as providing an opportunity for worship, fellowship, discussion and prayer, these meetings were a useful way of passing on information and gathering feedback from the wider congregation on a number of issues.

Simple Sunday Lunch

On the second Sunday of each month, directly after the morning service, we provide a simple lunch for anyone who would like to come. This, together with Wednesdays @ HT, provides a valuable way for us to get to know each other better, particularly for those who are new to Holy Trinity.

Opened Up to God

Monday Prayer Hour

Usually on Monday mornings at 9.30am a committed group of between 15-20 people, including the staff team, meets together to pray for the needs of the church, the community and the wider world. Members of the group take it in turns to lead each week, ensuring a wide range of themes, styles and creativity.

Our Monday prayer hour underpins all the work we do at Holy Trinity but we recognise that not everyone can make a Monday morning meeting. We would very much like to explore different ways of encouraging our corporate prayer life and to raise expectations of what God can do when we pray together.

'Monday prayers is a lovely way to start the week.'



Opened Up to God

Pastoral care

Some of the pastoral care at Holy Trinity comes through the small group network. In addition we have a group of volunteers who regularly visit and support members of the congregation as the need arises. We are also conscious of the need to support our leaders and those who take responsibility for the numerous activities we are engaged in.

Safeguarding

We recognise that none of us is invulnerable but that there is a particular need to care for those whose vulnerability is increased by situation, disability or reduction in capacity. It is recognised that this increased vulnerability may be temporary or permanent and may be visible or invisible but that it does not diminish our humanity.

We see safeguarding as the responsibility of the whole church community and we strive to do all we can across all our activities to create a safe space for all. Our policy, 'Safeguarding Children and Vulnerable Adults', outlines our procedures regarding the safeguarding of children, young people and vulnerable adults. It is intended to be a dynamic policy, designed to support the church in being a safe, supportive and caring community for children, young people, vulnerable adults, survivors of abuse, communities and those affected by abuse.

We are committed to following the national Church of England guidelines set out in 'Promoting a Safer Church' and following the Newcastle Diocese safeguarding procedures. For further information, please see <https://htj.org.uk/new-here/safeguarding-gdpr/>



Opened Out to Others

Jesus said to his followers: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, strength and mind, and love your neighbour as yourself" (Mark 10:27). That's in essence what being opened up and opened out means. It is two parts of the same thing - we believe that, when we are opened up to God, we are also opened out to others. This principle is very much owned by the leadership of the church and the wider congregation. It explains who we want to be and why we do what we do.

The activities we have prioritised are a response to local need and our desire to share God's love in our neighbourhood and beyond.

Messy Church

Usually, once a month on a Saturday morning we run a thriving and well attended Messy Church. Through Messy Church we seek to engage more deeply with the existing network of young families who come along to Trinity Tots as well as to reach out to our wider community.

Many of the families who come to Messy Church do not come to church on a Sunday but see Holy Trinity as 'their church'. We would like Messy Church to be recognised as a worshipping community in its own right where the members of the 'congregation' are gently encouraged to connect more with God.

'We love coming to Messy Church and are sad when it's time to go home.'

Trinity Tots

Trinity Tots is our toddler group for babies and pre-school children. Every Friday morning during school term time all who come are given a warm welcome, a friendly cup of tea or coffee and space and time to chat with other parents, grandparents and carers while the children play or do craft activities.

Trinity Tots has always been a very popular and well attended toddler group. Our team of volunteers is committed to building good relationships with those who come and they often get to know many of the parents or grandparents really well over the years as a succession of siblings attend the group on their journey to big school!

It has also been very encouraging to see many of our Trinity Tots families coming along to Messy Church and some going on to ask to have their children baptised here because of the welcome and friendship they received both at Messy Church and Trinity Tots.



Opened Out to Others

Vintage

The word 'Vintage' speaks of something that is special and of high quality and this is what we aim to provide for the guests who attend our weekly lunch club for seniors. Held during term time in the church hall, Vintage has been running for eight years.

Usually each week a team of volunteers turns the venue into an inviting space with bunting and fresh flowers, provides a delicious home cooked two course dinner and creates an atmosphere where everyone is welcomed, known and cared for.

Most of the people who attend live in or near the parish and many would say that they used to attend church growing up but no longer do so. Despite this loss of connection with the faith of their past, all who come along appreciate the opportunity to share their concerns, to have the team pray for them or with them as appropriate, to say grace before eating or take away with them the encouraging verse of scripture which is written up on the blackboard. Vintage is a place where people encounter the love of God through the warm hospitality and friendship on offer every week.

Each month there is also an opportunity to share communion after lunch for those who wish to.



Opened Out to Others

Know Your Church, Know Your Neighbourhood

When our parish was enlarged in 2017 to encompass most of the parish previously covered by St Barnabas and St Jude, we engaged in a facilitated process called 'Know Your Church, Know Your Neighbourhood' in order to make prayerful decisions about our mission in this new area.

Since Holy Trinity is a gathered community of people from the Newcastle area, most of whom do not live in the parish, we realised in the course of this process that our neighbourhood consists primarily of those people with whom we interact on a daily or weekly basis. The process challenged us to think, however, about how we can let people in the newly expanded parish know that we are their local church and what we can offer them. We look forward to working with curate to develop a strategy to connect with those who live in the new area.

Opened Out to Others

Alternative Christmas Market

We regularly hold an Alternative Christmas Market in November where there is an opportunity to buy fairly traded, ethical and locally sourced Christmas gifts in the church and visit the pop-up café in the church hall. The stall holders tell us that they always look forward to working with us and it is an excellent way to welcome local people and passers-by into our church.

HT walks

'The walking group makes me feel part of the HT family.'

'I like the welcome and the informality.'

We organise walks on a Saturday once a month in order to get some fresh air and enjoy the coast and countryside of Northumberland and Durham. The walks are open to anyone who would like to come along and we regularly have about 15 – 20 people who are keen to stretch their legs. Some go to other local churches and some go to none. Walking is a great way to get to know people and chat about what's going on in each other's lives.

Mission Partners

We support 5 different Mission Partners around the world in prayer, financially and by raising awareness of their valuable work. It is great to welcome them to our services at regular intervals to hear what they have been doing and how we can continue to offer them our support.

We also raise funds during Christian Aid week and last year took part in the Big Quiz to raise funds for Tearfund.

Opened Out to Others

Baptisms, weddings and funerals

Holy Trinity has a relatively small parish and so the demand for baptisms, weddings and funerals has always been low compared with other parishes in the diocese. Despite the small numbers, many people who attend occasional offices at Holy Trinity comment on the warm welcome and hospitality they receive. There are a number of people, now part of the church family, who decided to come to Holy Trinity because we had married them, baptised their children or taken the funeral for a relative or loved one.

Other community links

Holy Trinity has developed a track record of creative engagement with our community through all of the activities described above as well as through other events such as art fairs and hosting plays. We advertise our Christmas and Easter services in the parish and have a good response to this.

We have built good community links through our activities such as Trinity Tots, Messy Church and Vintage but we have not been so successful in recent years in helping people to move on to explore faith in a more personal way. This is an area where we are seeking direction and energy to grow as we long to see more people come to faith.

All of these activities depend on the goodwill and hard work of a large number of church members. Many members of our congregation have busy work and home lives but, despite this, very many people devote time and energy to our church activities. In addition it is important to us to recognise that God has called us to be opened out wherever we are and whatever we are doing.

GIVING LIGHT

God has delivered us from the dominion of darkness and has given us a place with the saints in light.

You have received the light of Christ; walk in this light all the days of your life.

Shine as a light in the world to the glory of God the Father.

Go in the light and peace of Christ.
Thanks be to God!



Our Buildings

The church

We are so grateful for a wonderful building in which we can meet, worship and learn together and from which we provide a wide range of hospitality to our community.

Sitting almost on top of the Coast Road (A1058), Holy Trinity is a highly visible landmark. Not as old as it may first appear, it was part of the Jesmond Church Extension Scheme in the early 1900s which was a missionary endeavour to meet the needs of the fast-growing population of Newcastle at the time.

Following the First World War, the foundation stone was laid in October 1920 and, two years later, the church building recognisable today was completed. On 24 September 1922 the Bishop of Newcastle consecrated and dedicated the 'War Memorial Church of the Holy Trinity'.

The choice of chairs rather than fixed pews has been a substantial and lasting blessing. It has offered congregations a most helpful flexibility in the use of the nave space. It is used for a wide variety of events and activities including: ceilidhs; cafés; fashion shows; theatre performances; fair trade markets; holiday clubs; Messy Church and even live coverage of the London 2012 Olympics.

'I love that our church looks traditional from the outside but is so flexible inside.'

Over the years, various changes have been made to the interior of the building, including: a new platform area at the front; a reordered side chapel space; modern toilet facilities in the former choir vestry area; a servery for refreshments in the north west corner of the nave and glazed porch doors.

These adaptations and improvements have increased the effectiveness of the church's space whilst preserving its internal character. All our facilities continue to be maintained to a high standard so that the building can go on serving and enhancing the worship and mission of Holy Trinity in the community and beyond. It is a grade 2* listed building.

We are grateful to our forebears for the legacy of a church building which was built for mission and which continues to help the current generation of God's people to grow and build church today.



Our Buildings

Centenary celebrations

A Centenary Planning Group was established in March 2018 and has been meeting bi-monthly. In November a rationale, guiding principles and a strategy for the centenary were agreed by the PCC. It has been decided that we will commemorate both the laying of the foundation stone in October 2020 and the consecration of the nave in September 2022. During the intervening two years we will use the centenary theme in our regular festivals and services as appropriate and, in addition, we will provide a few well-chosen and resourced events in 2022. We pray that God's name will be glorified and his kingdom extended through the centenary celebrations.

The church hall

This is situated behind the church on Churchill Gardens. It contains a number of rooms for hire, including a medium-sized hall which was built by members of the congregation in the early 1980s. The building has remained in its present form since then.

The church hall is one of the few communal meeting places within the parish and is well used by a wide range of groups from the local community. However, it is now seriously inadequate. The space available is too small and inflexible, the building fabric is poor, and access is unsatisfactory. An analysis of current and future needs of many groups in our neighbourhood and the church itself has convinced us that the hall has to be replaced by a parish centre providing larger, more versatile and more accessible accommodation together with up-to-date facilities of good quality.

Plans for a parish centre were drawn up in 2006 and planning permission was granted by the local authority. The first phase of the centre – the installation of the servery, the new toilets and the reordered side chapel – was completed in 2012. We remain committed to the second phase of the parish centre scheme which is to redevelop the church hall.

Until 2015 Holy Trinity provided service leaders and preachers for services at St Barnabas and St Jude's Parish Centre in the neighbouring parish of Sandyford. Sadly, as a result of dwindling numbers, worship ceased on that site in 2015 and, in 2017, the parish boundaries changed to include within Holy Trinity's parish most of St Barnabas and St Jude's parish. The Parish Centre became the responsibility of our PCC and was sold at the beginning of 2019. The sale proceeds are held on trust and it is hoped that, by the grace of God, these funds will provide the foundation needed to kick start the fund raising campaign for phase 2 of the parish centre scheme.



Working with the Diocese, the Deanery and other Churches

The Diocesan Vision

The diocesan website explains the five year diocesan vision: growing church bringing hope, and states that it expresses “a deep longing to see worshipping communities grow in numbers, in prayer and discipleship, in serving our communities, above all in making a difference - sharing the hope we have, which is the power of God to transform us and our world. Underpinning the vision are three core values - Generous, Engaged, Open. They express the spirit in which the vision is meant to be approached and in which the activities to support it should be carried out.” At Holy Trinity we do all we can to play our part in contributing to and supporting the diocesan vision as we endeavour to be opened up to God and opened out to others.

The clergy are part of the central deanery chapter and synod and have attended the diocesan clergy study days which are held once a year. More locally, there are bi-monthly opportunities for the Jesmond Church leaders to meet over coffee for prayer and conversation. Three times a year they attend an ecumenical gathering of church leaders - the Tyneside Leaders Forum.

Deanery Synod

Holy Trinity is fully represented at Deanery Synod and one of our PCC members serves as its secretary. She is also a member of the Diocesan Synod and the Diocesan Mission and Pastoral Committee. Reports from the Synods are a standing item on Holy Trinity's PCC agendas.

Training and briefing sessions are provided by the diocese on such matters as safeguarding, building maintenance, finance, insurance and legal issues, and the relevant members of our church readily attend these.



Working with the Diocese, the Deanery and other Churches

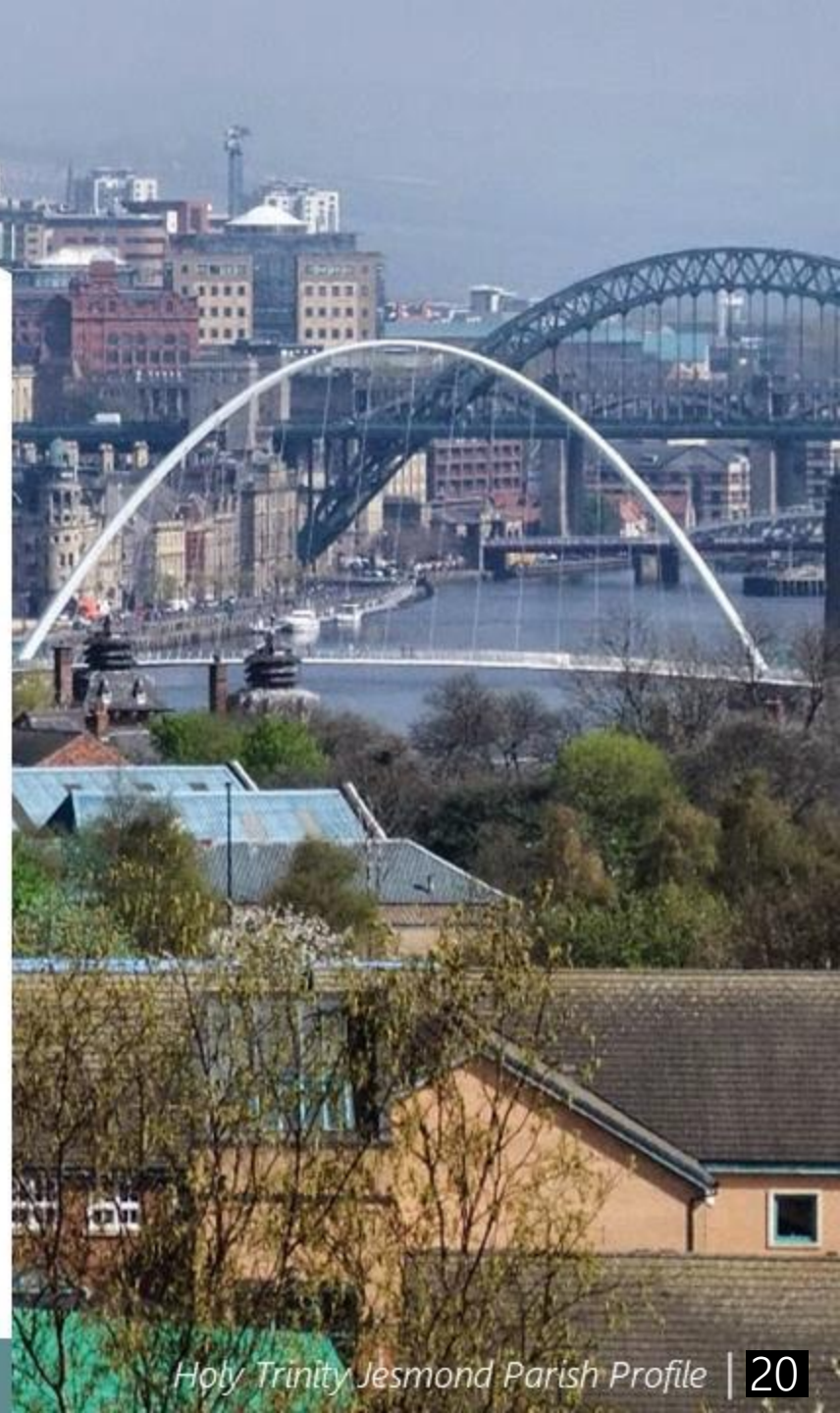
Churches Together in Jesmond

Holy Trinity works with Churches Together in Jesmond and members of the congregation have regularly taken part in activities such as the Good Friday walk of witness. Friends from a local Baptist church help with Vintage, our weekly lunch club for seniors.

Many members of the congregation are personally involved in different areas of diocesan life, for example, as teachers and governors in Church of England schools and as members of an Open the Book team, bringing Bible stories to life in collective worship in schools. Two members of the congregation work at Church House, another is a trustee of the Diocesan Retreat House and another is a former Newcastle Diocesan Director of Education and a Lay Canon of Newcastle Cathedral.

Working with other partners

We work with a variety of outside partners including local councillors, arts organisations, schools and regional and local businesses. We mark Shoebox Sunday each year and Harvest gifts are given to the People's Kitchen, a local charity meeting the needs of homeless and vulnerable people. Members of the congregation serve, volunteer or work for local charities and organisations such as Junction 42 which supports the rehabilitation of offenders and Oasis Community Housing which brings hope to young people facing homelessness. Relevant Holy Trinity activities are included in the programme for the annual Jesmond Festival.



Our Staff Team

We are very fortunate to have a dedicated and able staff team who work together to lead and coordinate the work and ministry of Holy Trinity.

Tim Sanderson is our vicar.

Alison Edwards is our part time Operations Manager.

Steph Sanderson is our Children's and Family Outreach Worker.

Emily Emmerson-Finch is our Youth and Outreach Worker.

Adam Dixon has just joined the staff team for a year as a Parish Worker. Previously Adam worked as a volunteer heading up our work with students.

Dot Lee joined the staff team as a volunteer to help coordinate the small group network.

Steve Booth is our part time Caretaker.

John Clarke and **David Scott** are our Church Wardens.

We are also fortunate to have the assistance of **Colin Smith**, a retired Minister who helps and supports the clergy and staff team when the need arises.

In addition we host various placement students from time to time who enrich our worship together as they gain experience of ministry.



Where We Are Going

The opportunities and challenges ahead

Change can be difficult and we are aware that any adjustments in church culture as well as any increase in number can lead to some feeling left behind or alienated. The issues that we are prayerfully considering now are:

1. Growth

- how we expand our expectations of what God can do in and through us and remain united as we move forward
- how we attract more people to come to know Christ and grow our congregation
- how we grow our numbers but maintain a strong sense of belonging
- if we do increase in number, will we have the staff, volunteers and financial resources to serve a larger congregation?
- if we can't do all the things on our wish list, how will we determine our priorities?

2. Discipleship

- how we develop and deepen our worship and refresh our evening services
- how we continue to be relevant and engage with contemporary culture whilst maintaining our integrity

3. Specific Projects

- how should we build on the work begun with 'Know Your Church, Know Your Neighbourhood'?
- how do we make the most of our centenary celebrations in 2020 and 2022 as an opportunity to engage with our community?
- when should we embark on the second phase of the Parish Centre Scheme?



PARISH PROFILE

HOLY TRINITY

JESMOND



1