

# St Martin of Tours with St Cuthbert Middlesbrough

## Parish Profile 2020

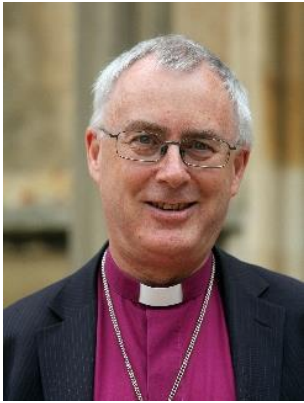


*St Martin of Tours with St Cuthbert  
7 Whinney Banks Road  
TS5 4LA*

<http://stmartinschurch.btck.co.uk/>

*‘Opening an opportunity for all to know God’s love by prayer, word and deed’*

## A Welcome from Bishop Paul Ferguson



Thank you for looking at the Parish Profile for St Martin with St Cuthbert.

The parish encompasses a community that has been undergoing significant change, with much recent house building. The worshipping congregation has able lay leadership and has taken many steps to explore mission opportunities as well as to improve the interior of the church – already a fine worship space – for flexible use and a more welcoming atmosphere.

There is a true willingness in the parish to move on to the next phase of its life and mission. This is a ministry post for a priest who is thoroughly committed to the Church of England's presence in a town which has experienced multiple deprivation, but in a specific setting where there is realistic scope for development and growth. Certainly in this parish I have always found a sense of hope and a readiness to work hard with the priest.

This appointment is now open to clergy already serving in the Diocese of York. It is subject to a satisfactory Enhanced DBS Disclosure, up-to-date Safeguarding training, and bishop's reference.

Please do contact me (01642 593273) or the Archdeacon of Cleveland, the Ven Amanda Bloor (01642 706095) if you would like to have an informal conversation about this post.

+ Paul Whitty

## Section one: Summary

Thank you for reading our Parish Profile. We hope it will enthuse you sufficiently to want to find further information from the people of our parish and perhaps pay us a visit. Our last incumbent has retired and now we have the task of appointing a new priest to lead our committed church here at St Martin of Tours, Middlesbrough. We have tried to make this profile informative, colourful, honest and helpful. Should you wish to have any further information, have any queries or would like to visit us please do not hesitate to ring either of the Church wardens. We do actively encourage interested people to visit, have a look around and speak to people actively involved in the parish.

We welcome you to St Martins, Middlesbrough as you consider how God is guiding you. We are a friendly, caring and welcoming family. St Martins is a busy place at times during the week with services and support for the community. Prayer is one of our key aspects as our mission statement says, we are 'opening an opportunity for all to see God's love by prayer, word and deed' and we have re-started our House Group prayer meetings. Sunday is the day we gather to worship Jesus, to be inspired by God's word, moved by the music and celebrate with family and friends. We are a church family from toddlers to elderly people. All in all our faith is challenged, maybe not enough, as we look to grow following the LYCiG model. We specialize in Coffee/tea, scones and biscuits and cakes if we have something special to celebrate. Our aim is to be loving and generous in an inclusive way. We'd love to welcome an incumbent who will become part of our loving family – to inspire us to be more like Jesus, be more confident in our faith and witness and stay with us as we explore new ways of using our buildings and gifts.



### Briefly what we can offer you?

We offer a parish that:

- has a small but loyal and faithful congregation.
- is open to new ideas.
- understands trusting in and waiting upon God.
- is on the threshold of change and is keen to move forward.
- has supportive Church Wardens and colleagues.
- has exciting challenges and opportunities
- has close links with the Local churches and school.
- has buildings in a good state of repair.

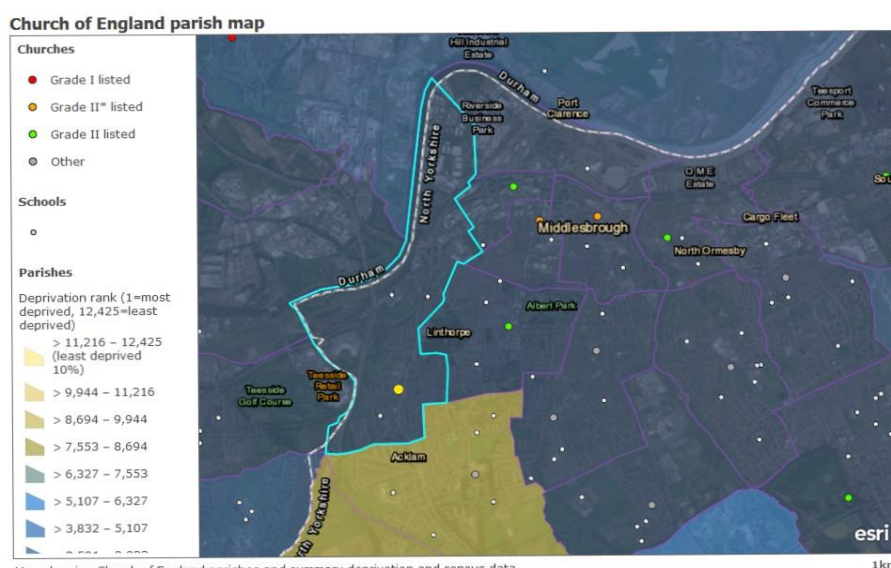
## Section two: What we are praying for in our next vicar

At Parish level, we would be looking for someone who is an Inspirational Leader, Team–Builder, relational and collaborative. If you have these gifts, or God is developing them in you, and you would be excited by the challenge of moving St Martins, Middlesbrough forward in our life together under Him, then we would like to explore with you whether you are being called to lead us in fulfilling and building on this vision. We seek a gifted preacher and teacher whose thinking is deeply rooted in Scripture, trusting its authority, and earthed in the realities of life. We seek a passionate and discerning leader committed to be a person after God's own heart, faithful to God's word and responsive to the Holy Spirit. We are an active church, looking to grow with devout, gifted and talented people in our congregation to support you in your ministry. We seek someone who can develop new, traditional and all-age worship styles whilst recognising that worship is central to our witness and welcome. We look for a warm, natural communicator, able to get alongside all age groups. So, although we look for a strong leader, we seek a person of humility who strives to live under the authority of Scripture, prayerfully dependent on God, and filled by the Spirit, who envisions, enables, relates and teaches in the power and love of Jesus and for His glory.

It is important that our new minister :-

- continues to encourage the spiritual growth and prayer life of our congregation.
- is involved in our local community and schools.
- continues to support and develop our pastoral care.
- helps us to meet the needs of people living in an urban area of Middlesbrough.
- has a vision of how our Church life and witness can be developed.
- brings new ideas for developing our Worship services, in order to appeal to young people in our Community as we grow our Church

## Section three: About the parish



*St Martin of Tours,  
Middlesbrough.*

*Situated in an  
urban area of  
Middlesbrough.  
Covering areas of  
Whinney Banks,  
Linthorpe, Acklam,  
Newport and  
Middlesbrough  
West*



St Martin's has a remarkable past and potentially a wonderful future. This year 2019 marks the 80<sup>th</sup> year of serving the community. The site is well chosen, lying between a former Council Estate and the mostly private housing to the East of Acklam Road. Neither area exists separately but both are potential rich grounds for Christian Ministry and service. We are an urban parish that has shown some decline in the past but new builds are happening in the Whinney Banks (Acklam Green) area so the population is on the up. It is a multicultural area. There are two primary schools and one secondary school in the parish. One primary school we have very close links to, the other has adequate links through the good ministry of a neighbouring parish. The link we have with Whinney Banks School is essential and brings many creative and significant benefits, as displayed in the altar frontal here. A gift for our 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary and made by the pupils.



### *Some Facts and Figures*

**The Parish has a  
population of 9,235  
in 1.6 sq miles.**

**24.4% are aged  
between 45-64**

**There are 3,688  
occupied households  
in the parish**

**82.4% give  
their  
ethnicity as  
white**

**5,787 people  
per sq mile**

**60.4% say  
they are  
Christian**

In the Deprivation rankings, out of 12,425 the parish is ranked 603. (1 being the most deprived area)

(If you require further statistics, our church code on ACNY is 643507.)

(Diocese ID – 43) (Deanery ID – 43303) (Benefice ID – 43/239BP)

If you want to know more and are into figures, stats about the Parish and our financial report can be found on the church website under ‘Stats’:- <http://stmartinschurch.btck.co.uk/>

## Views of the Parish from the Church Tower.

East



South



West



North





## Section four: About the Church

### **The Church and its people, its Community and its buildings.**

St Martin's has had in former times a rich High Anglican tradition. The six candles on the altar suggesting that tradition. In this respect it has stood alongside many other parishes in the Middlesbrough Deanery over many years. We would now describe ourselves as a parish with central churchmanship. With some concession to the High Anglican, incense at Festivals, Servers and formality at the Eucharist. But, also a flexibility to less formal worship and certainly a commitment to the nudgings (is this a real word?) and urgings of the Holy Spirit.

We have 50 on our Electoral Roll which was renewed this year. Our finances are in good order and our Free Will Offer is always paid in full.

We have an effective Worship Team which has had much success in creating modern English service books (everything in one place) and assisting in our non-eucharist services held throughout the year led by our Church Warden/Worship Leader.

The Baptism Team offers a wonderful ministry and service to those who approach the church for baptism. We have a very open policy for this and welcome all comers. This is an agreed preparation process, which is relaxed and informative. There have been many new links made with parishioners by this process and we believe that it will have very long-term results. We try to enable families to be relaxed and welcomed and often adult potential Godparents have been convinced to be baptised themselves in order to feel more aligned with those they love.

The huge step forward comes in the attention to Youth Ministry. The PCC financially support a local Youth Ministry Team (Big Kids). During this year we have welcomed, supported and enjoyed the ministry of an American assisted by TVYfC. (Tees Valley Youth for Christ) She has helped develop our Youth Ministry and we are continuing to do this for the foreseeable future as part of our five-year plan. There is a considerable association now and gatherings of young people with other churches, Anglican and Methodist.

The Ministry to the Homebound or those in residential centres has been important to us and we have a very willing and supportive Pastoral Team who provide visits and/or home communion. There is a very important link to the Apple Mews Residential Home, Burlam Road.

We also have the occasional wedding.



At a discussion amongst our worshippers during a Morning service recently we asked ourselves certain questions and here are the results : -

**What type of a church are we?**

A middle of the road church where the Eucharist is celebrated weekly and incense used on special occasions. However, more relaxed non-eucharist services are used normally on the 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the month

**Why do we need a Vicar?**

A Vicar is important, as the incumbent needs to be the Head of the family, to be our Spiritual Teacher and Guide, confident to talk about the scripture and lead us in our Mission of *'opening an opportunity for all to know God's love by prayer, word and deed'*

**Who should the Vicar be?**

Male or female, young or old does not matter as long as they are friendly, family orientated, a good listener and would follow our traditions of worship. Healthy would be good as the incumbent should be willing to get involved in all aspects of the Church.

**Parish Life.**

Over the last 5 years our Baptism team has met baptism candidates and families and Confirmation classes and service have taken place. Advent Study groups and Lent Courses are held (with Lent Lunches after). A Thanksgiving for the Healing Ministry of the Church is held four times during the year. A Drop-In facility has been started on a Wednesday morning after our mid-week service and it is hoped to expand this during the coming months (Dementia Friendly and Warm Welcome initiatives). A Youth work initiative has started called 'The Hut' for 7-11 yr olds and is run weekly during school term time. (with Big Kids) School links are also a very important part of the Church's work. A Police Memorial service has been held in church. Regular social activities take place in the church and yearly outings, the most memorable being our anniversary trip to Tours, France.

**A Month in the life of St Martin of Tours –**

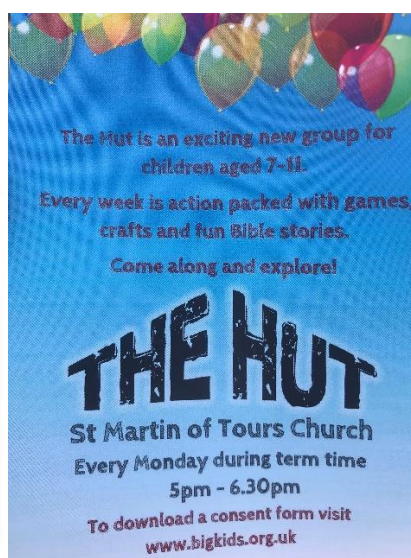
Our Sunday worship starts at 8am with a said Communion Service (Common Worship Order 2). It's an aging group of between 6 and 10 who regularly attend.

Our 10.30am service is a Sung Parish Eucharist and has a congregation, on average of about 32. Occasionally we have some very young attenders which we are looking to provide some Sunday School activities for. The Worship is well organised and delivered. It has musical support from a superb organist (Pipe Organ which is in reasonable order but is needing money spent on it very soon) with 40 something years of experience. Also, an adult choir with considerable ability who support congregational singing. In addition, Chris Greenwood and friends provide acoustic support (guitar, vocals, keyboard and bass) occasionally – for the less formal services or moments.





On Monday evenings, during term time, we have our young peoples 7-11's group called 'The Hut'. (The Church was originally a Hut in the car park.) This is run by Big Kids with the help of some of the church members. This has a fluctuating membership of between 2 and 11.



Tuesday is awakened with the voices of our Tots group. (during term time) where children, pre-school age, bring along whoever is looking after them and play and sing. Fruit and juice is provided for the children, refreshments for older ones is also provided. This is run by church members. Originally, there was a small religious input during the session that needs resurrecting.



The Mothers Union meet on the third Tuesday of the month in the Narthex and have a regular group of 10. Guest speakers come regularly. A local History Group meet twice a month on the afternoon in the Narthex. They see into the church and now feel it is 'their church' and use the quiet of the church for a period of reflection or light a candle. (Monthly House Group Prayer meetings are on a Tuesday evening.)

Our 9.30am Wednesday morning service is usually with communion, but if no one is available to preside, Morning Prayer is said by Chris our Church Warden/Worship Leader. This is followed by our Drop-In from 10 till 12 when the church is open for anyone from the community to call in for a chat, cuppa or a chill.



The local Police call in sometimes or people wanting advice or a hot drink or even lighting a candle for a friend.

Thursday, the church is open for Rainbows and Brownies, 6-7. The sections are sponsored by the Church, but it is an open group.

Friday night is when we have Quarterly Bingo or Quiz night with Pie and Peas. All Welcome.

Saturday is left to the Flower Ladies who decorate the Church to a high standard, but we also have regular Community Coffee Mornings.



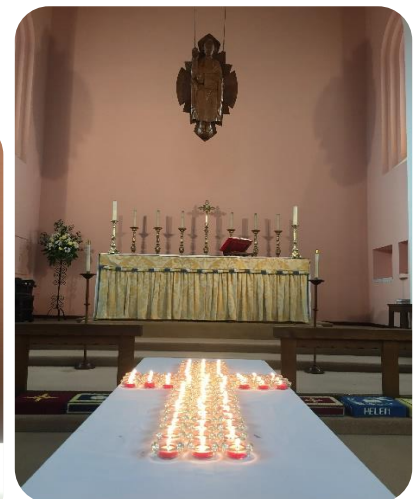
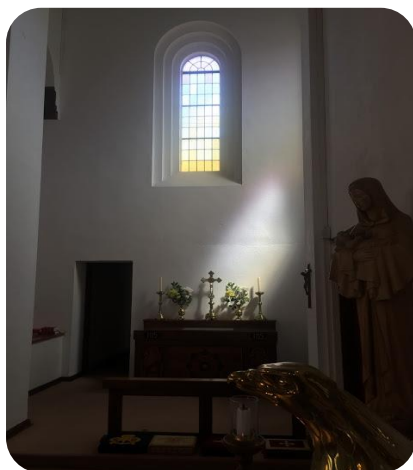


The Church of St Martin's is in very good repair. There are plans now to use some of the monies remaining from the sale of St Cuthbert's Newport to make the building even more efficient and attractive within the community. The plant (Church Hall) associated with St Martin's is considerable but in disrepair. Ideas for the site vary from re-opening one of the two Halls and to dismantle the other or dismantle both and use the space as car parking. There is already a large enclosed space surrounding the church, which could be used very effectively in further extending the church's Ministry.

The church is due its quinquennial inspection next year (2020) but as just said it is in good repair. Interior decoration is required in the office areas but as we are looking to replace the lower sections of windows in the very near future this can be looked at after this. The church space has been transformed recently by removing the heavy old pews and replacing them with chairs. The space that can be created by moving the chairs is amazing.



The building still has a very prayerful feel about it which most people comment on. It is often said by newcomers into the church that they thought we were a closed building but are amazed when looking inside.





The Vicarage is not situated in the Parish. It is a four bedroomed detached house with two reception rooms, kitchen and a large study. Gardens and garage. A lovely family house.

## Section five: The wider context

We believe St Martins is unique and special, has its own identity and churchmanship, is part of the community and contributes to the overall mission within the Diocese and Deanery.

### **Welcome to the Diocese of York in the Church of England;**

- A family of 607 churches and 125 schools in 470 parishes
- Committed to the praise of God through Jesus Christ and service to others
- Led and guided in their faith and work by the Archbishop of York

In 2017 the adopted goals of the Diocese were ‘*Reaching* those we currently don’t, Move to *Growth*, and establish *Sustainable* giving’

### **The Deanery.**

The Middlesbrough Deanery is made up of seventeen parishes with a variety of different traditions. The Deanery covers a wide area from Thornaby in the west, across Middlesbrough to Grangetown in the east. Over recent years the parishes in the Deanery have begun to work in a more co-operative and collective way with the Area Dean and the Deanery Leadership Team developing a Mission Plan which includes a strategic planning group being established. Clergy and laity have begun to work across parish boundaries and co-operate in mission initiatives. Five years ago, a Deanery Fellowship was started by members of our congregation here which involves monthly meetings with interesting speakers. The aim of the fellowship was to cross parish boundaries and share faith and ideas of other Christians in our town so that we can support one another. A Deanery Conference was held in 2016 with more than 90 parish representatives attending and the level of optimism and enthusiasm for developing mission in urban parishes was encouraging. In recent years the Deanery has been at the forefront of developing a number of practical initiatives. The network of Food Banks has been established throughout the area and key members of the Deanery have been at the centre of the church’s positive response to refugees and asylum seekers. The Deanery has identified priorities for mission in the area and these have included the urgent need for new Christian communities in Coulby Newham and Brambles Farm. There will also be a focus on working productively with Middlesbrough College and the University of Teesside and their student bodies, and the extension of mission to the elderly within the Deanery.

### **Middlesbrough & Teesside**

Middlesbrough has a population of around 140,000 and is part of the larger built-up area of Teesside, which has a population of around 375,000. While the steel and chemical industries which used to dominate employment have reduced significantly, the area is still a stronghold for the engineering and process industries. There is a wide range of shops in the centre of Middlesbrough and the nearby Stockton retail park, as well as two cinemas and a variety of restaurants etc and of course Middlesbrough Football Club is a source of great passion and pride for many!

## Surrounding area

Middlesbrough's industrial past means it sometimes has a negative image in the national press, but it is a great place! Not only are the people among the friendliest in the country, but we are also closely surrounded by beautiful scenery. We are roughly 10 miles from both the beaches of Saltburn and Marske and from the North Yorkshire Moors National Park.



## Further afield

We are roughly an hour's drive away from York, Whitby, Durham and Newcastle, and just 30 minutes from Darlington which is on the East Coast Main Line, with fast trains running to London and Edinburgh. We are also just two hours away from the Lake District.

The Final Word: - from our retiring Vicar, the Rev David King.

*'I have to pay tribute to the church family, who remain resilient, confident and creative. There has, in my time, always been wonderful support from churchwardens, PCC and congregation. Those same people have had to face considerable changes over these last 20 years, possibly longer. We have had a wonderful experience of the LYCIG adventure. This has produced a large number of developments and much progress. The congregation have learned much about themselves and discovered many possible new ways forward. However, as in so many situations, learning doesn't always result in attitude change. I hope that a newly appointed person, together with the Ministry team, might keep up the challenge to continue to grow and to change into who He wants us to be.'*



*'Opening an opportunity for all to know God's love by prayer, word and deed'*