

A welcome from Bishop Paul Ferguson



Thank you for looking at the details of the post of parish priest for Stokesley with Seamer.

This is an excellent opportunity for Market Town ministry. As well as having a substantial residential population, Stokesley serves a substantial commercial hinterland stretching into the Cleveland hills, paralleled by the catchment area of its secondary academy. The post will suit a priest who is committed to ecumenical partnership and collaboration with deanery colleagues.

Stokesley parish church is located at a corner of the market place and there is opportunity for developing further the existing ministry of welcome and engagement. It offers an open well-proportioned liturgical space that can be used imaginatively.

Seamer is typical of small villages, where farming is still important and light industry has grown up alongside.

Visibility in this 'town and country' community, and communicating through deed as well as word that the priest is dedicated to loving the people of the parish and building them up in Christ's name, are essential to ministering effectively in this setting. Please do consider whether God may be calling you here.

+ Paul Whitty

THE PARISH OF STOKESLEY WITH SEAMER

www.stokesleyparishchurch.org.uk

About Stokesley

The Domesday Book of 1086 recorded "a church and priest" in Stokesley. The Church of St Peter and St Paul is a Grade II listed building and the oldest building in town. It is just off the Plain and has a medieval tower and chancel, a Georgian nave built around 1777, colourful 20th-century stained glass and woodwork carved by the Mouseman of Kilburn. Stokesley was granted a charter to hold fairs in 1223 by Henry III. The historic High Street, with fine Georgian Architecture including four grade II listed buildings, is lined with independent small shops and restaurants. The River Leven passes through the town behind the houses to the south of the High Street and provides a scenic and pleasant recreational area. Other facilities include both primary and secondary schools, a leisure centre with a swimming pool, a medium-sized supermarket, show-ground, health centre, industrial estate, library, police and fire stations. September's Stokesley Agricultural Show, first held in 1859, is one of the largest one-day shows in the north of England. A weekly market is held on Friday on the Plain. A farmers' market takes place on the first Saturday of each month, when the church runs a popular coffee and cake morning in the church.

The Parish Priest we are praying for

We are looking for a priest who will value the traditions of the Church of England and is:

- An enthusiastic and experienced leader with a natural and freely-expressed relationship with Jesus Christ who will approach the parish with fresh eyes and ideas

- A person of faith who is reflective and prayerfully expecting to see the Holy Spirit at work in their life

- An inspiring preacher, leader and communicator who will

be a visible presence in our community with strong interpersonal and pastoral skills, able to adapt to different audiences and groups

- Welcoming – open to all regardless of ethnicity, ages, sexual orientation, cultures and socio-economics and encouraging to those who are not regular churchgoers

- Encouraging participation in all aspects of church life. A team worker / capable manager encouraging lay leadership and a vibrant hub of parish activity

- Comfortable working with the young. Interested in investing in children and celebrating with families across generations, forming links to school and education and generally championing our goal of increasing the congregation

- Knowledgeable of scripture and its application to contemporary life and interest in sharing this knowledge in discussions and house groups and of nurturing and growing ministry programmes

- Supportive of the mission and work of the Mothers' Union and its Stokesley Branch

- Keen to be part of Churches Together in Stokesley



Worshipping God, following Jesus, and showing God's love to all.

About Seamer

Also mentioned in the Domesday book, Seamer is a rural village supporting a small farming community, 2 miles from Stokesley with a population of 610. There are two churches in the village, a Methodist Chapel and the Anglican Church, St Martin's. St Martin's is an 1822 rebuild of a medieval church which was located in the same place. It still retains some 14th century stained glass and is now grade II listed. The village also has the King's Head pub, and a duck pond on the village green. Also in the wider parish are the small villages of Newby, Newby Grange, Tame Bridge and Cold Pool.



St Martin's Seamer



The Seamer village pond

More about our location



Stokesley is on the northern edge of the North York Moors, within easy reach of both the Yorkshire Moors and Yorkshire Dales national parks and the Heritage Coast with its seaside towns including Whitby. There are good rail connections to the East Coast main line and Transpennine line from Northallerton which is about 30 minutes' drive away. Teesside Airport (formally Durham and Tees Valley) is 10 miles away and Newcastle and Leeds Bradford airports are within easy reach.

The population is some 4,700, however there are two major housing developments underway in the town, with 178 new homes being built at Stokesley Grange and 225 new homes at Tanton Fields.

The town also has Roman Catholic and Methodist churches. The Rectory, with four bedrooms and four reception rooms, has rural views and is within five minutes' walk from the church.



The Pack Horse Bridge and the River Leven in Stokesley

Our mission in the church community

The congregation has been looking prayerfully at extending our vision as a parish. We believe our church is full of wonderful people at all stages in the journey of faith where God is always with us. The Eucharist is important in church life as is All Age Worship and the seasonal church festivals. We see ourselves as:

What are our challenges?

In common with many Anglican parishes, our congregation is ageing. Many who had been enthusiastic and keen volunteers are now moving into the later stages of retirement, and we recognise that we do not have enough volunteers to do all the things we would wish.

We would like to reach out to the new housing estates, and there is much support for improving our communication by reviving the Parish Magazine and welcome literature. Our children's activities are at a low level and we know there would be demand if we could do more.

There is also enthusiasm for more small groups, and with support there are members of the congregation who would welcome the opportunity to increase our outreach work and be at the heart of both our communities.

We are working with the Generous Giving advisor during the vacancy.

- Christians with a shared belief
- a help in times of need and supportive of local charities
- welcoming
- serving God in our church and local community
- offering friendship and helping the local community both through church and secular activities
- making and nurturing disciples
- enthusiastic in all that we do.

The new incumbent will have the assistance of both an active Reader and organist.

The Parish has welcomed the ministry of both men and women and wishes to see that pattern continue.

Our community



Worshipping God, following Jesus, and showing God's love to all.

The church and its buildings



A window in Stokesley Parish Church

Both church buildings are in good repair. A Quinquennial inspection took place at Stokesley Parish Church in 2019 with no major faults found and one will take place at Seamer Church in 2020. Recent work on Stokesley Parish Church includes replacing the heating system (at a cost of £40k) and installation of a new toilet. The parish has significant reserves, boosted since our 2019 year end with the sale of a 3 bedroom home which had previously been a long term let. One of the early tasks of a new Parish Priest would be to help the congregation to consider the best way these funds can be put to use with our church mission and buildings. We have two open churchyards and a closed churchyard. We do not have a church hall, and use Stokesley Town Hall for many church events including Sunday School, PCC and MU meetings and our annual Autumn Fair.

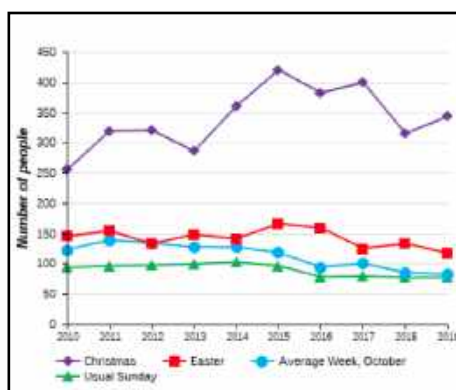
The church and its people



Afternoon tea in the Town Hall



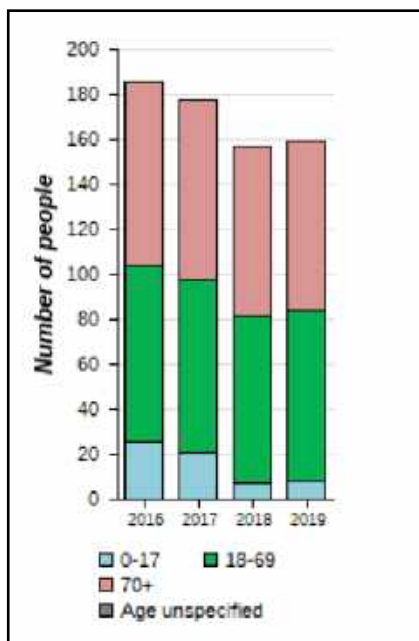
Cleveland Archdeaconry MU Festival



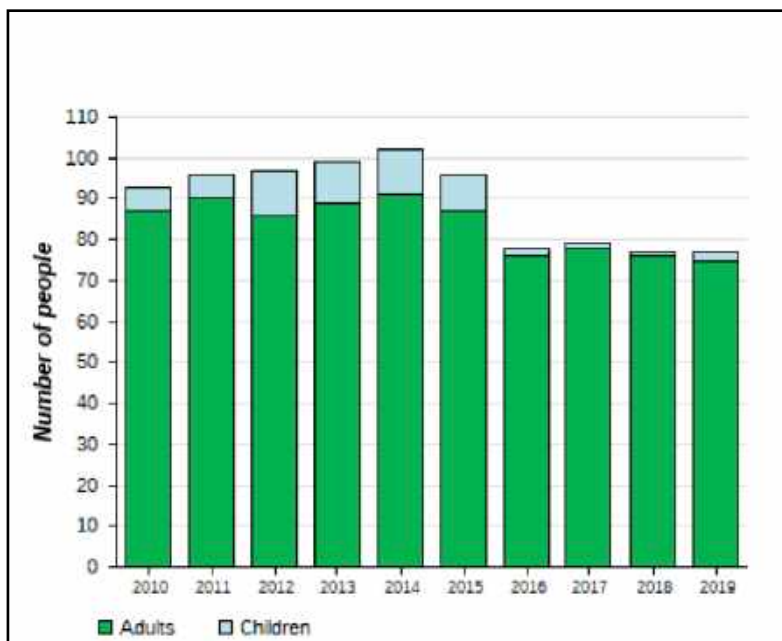
Our average attendance

Worshipping God, following Jesus, and showing God's love to all.

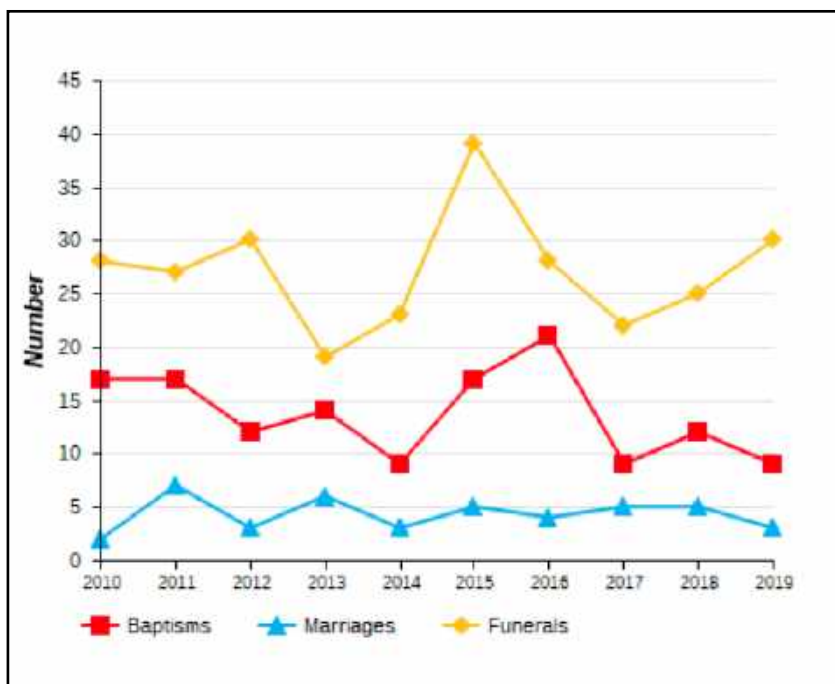
The age profile of our congregation



Average Sunday attendance



Occasional offices

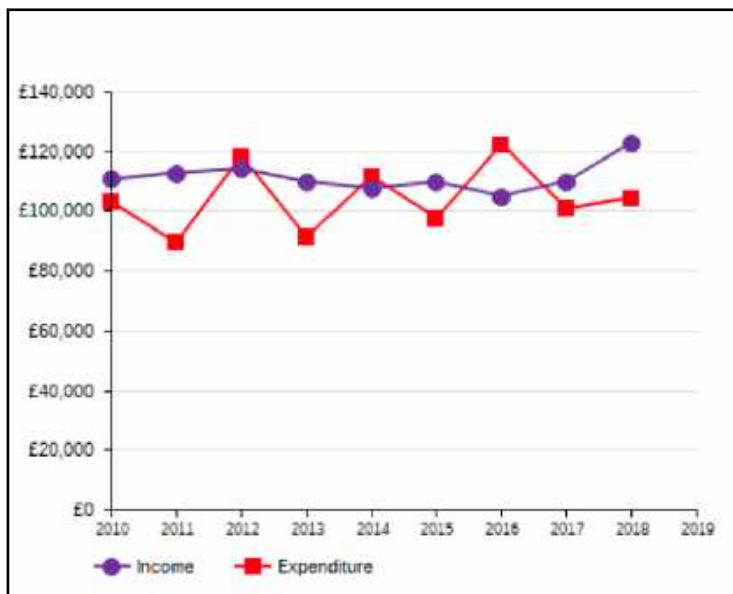


Source: Statistics for Mission Dashboard - York Diocese

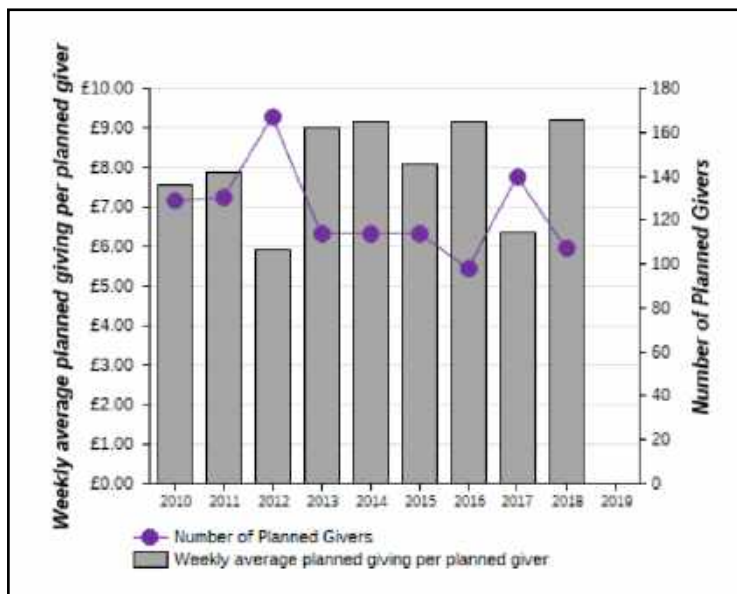
Worshipping God, following Jesus, and showing God's love to all.

Our Parish Finances

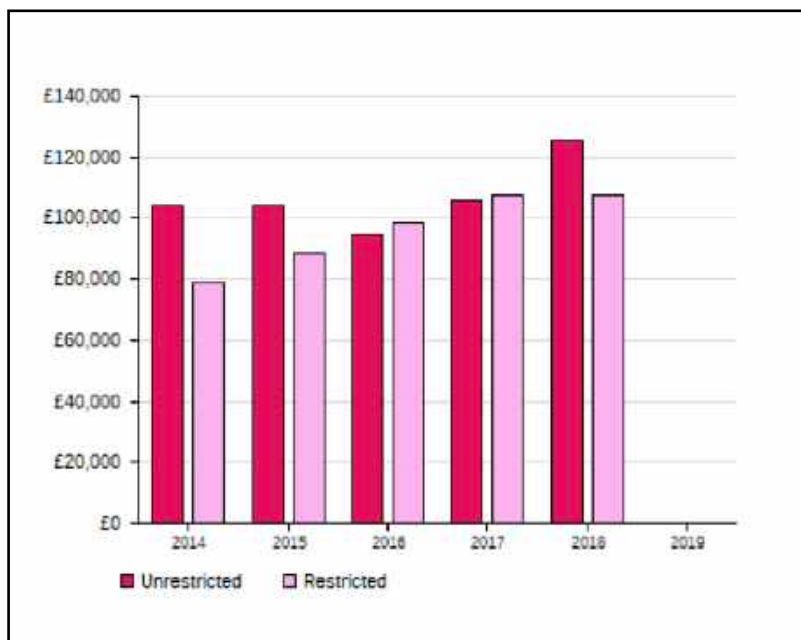
Total income and expenditure



Planned giving and planned givers



Restricted and unrestricted reserves



Note: excludes the sale of Riversdene in early 2020 for £180,000

Source: Finance Dashboard - York Diocese

Do please visit our website www.stokesleyparishchurch.org.uk and search Facebook for Stokesley Parish Church

Worshipping God, following Jesus, and showing God's love to all.