

The Parishes of Stainton with Hemlington, Hilton and Brookfield

Stokesley Deanery: Archdeaconry of Cleveland: Diocese of York



Brookland Park- Miller Homes



St Margaret's Church, inside and out



Stainton Village

Welcome

Could you work with us to see Jesus transform lives?

Our mission is ***“to Know God, to Show God and to Share God”***

Our three parishes, Brookfield, Stainton with Hemlington and Hilton are held in plurality and the appointee will be an ordained Pioneer Minister, working with the incumbent to make Jesus known, with a particular focus on reaching families and young people in areas of new housing in Brookfield and Stainton. There is a deep desire across the churches of the plurality to share the Gospel meaningfully with children of all ages, their parents and carers. The Plurality is newly engaged in Revitalise – a 2 year Diocesan programme seeking explicit growth- so this is a particularly exciting time in the life of the parishes.

There are some wonderful ministry opportunities in the benefices. There are 5 Primary Schools within the Plurality: 3 in Hemlington (including 1 Roman Catholic School) and 2 in Brookfield (1 RC). The most local schools to both Stainton and Brookfield visit the churches for RE topics and special occasions. There are pubs opposite both St. Peter’s Hilton and St. Peter and St. Paul’s Stainton and wooded areas in the local area (a fishing lake is at the literal centre of Hemlington). The church buildings are valuable assets, with Stainton having a sizeable community room and St. Margaret’s a hall which opens onto the church and a lounge room additionally. Currently Toddlers and their carers meet for play and songs on Mondays at Brookfield and on Wednesdays, Coffee and (Pre-school) Kids at Stainton makes use of the parish room and chancel for play, crafts, stories and songs.

Girl Guides meet at Stainton Church weekly. Baptisms take place regularly at both Brookfield and Stainton. Hemlington couples happily see St. Peter and St. Paul as their wedding church. There are frequent enquiries about Life Events across the churches of the Plurality. Within the benefice of Stainton with Hemlington and Hiton there is both the Larchfield Community, a residential centre for adults with special needs, with bakery, craft & farm shop and café and the Unicorn Centre which offers horse riding for those with disabilities. The Police HQ is situated between these two organisations too. There is incredible variety within the parishes and vast potential for further ministry.

The appointed Pioneer Priest would be expected to be part of a fledgling ministry team (currently Incumbent and ALM) for corporate prayer and pastoral oversight. The appointed person would also be expected to contribute to church life within the plurality by attending parish events and relevant PCC meetings. It is important that there is a basis of trust and understanding linking the ministry led by the appointee with the existing life and mission of the parishes, and so the appointee will take a leading part in an agreed number of Sunday services within the Plurality.

Some more about this post

Until relatively recently, ordained ministry in the Plurality parishes followed a traditional pattern, with each part served separately. Meanwhile, for many years, thought has been given to the possibility of a more effective way of deploying ministry resources in the locality. An opportunity has arisen through pastoral reorganisation and the coming-together of the communities of Stainton, Brookfield and Hemlington (which anciently were within Stainton parish), and Hilton, under the care of one parish priest. Importantly, the social

context has changed, with an accelerating amount of new house building, notably in Stainton and Brookfield.

The purpose of this Pioneer post, then, is set within the Diocese of York's vision of *Living Christ's Story*: to help people grow in Christlike faith, to reach people who currently have little or no contact with the church or who do not identify with its ethos as they perceive it, to grow communities of followers of Christ, and to work within transformed structures.

We are not being overly prescriptive at this stage as to the way that the appointee will work — the discernment of how to fulfil the potential of the post will be ongoing — but we envisage that the appointee will be an identifiable presence particularly in Stainton and Brookfield, and will be known especially to those who move newly into the area. We are making it a requirement that the appointee is a priest because we plan that the ministry will grow to have a sacramental aspect. The work may have elements of new worshipping communities, or of building up and expanding those that already exist; it may include work that is based around our existing church buildings and some that is better located in new venues and those that are less clearly identified with the inherited culture of the church.

We hope to appoint a priest who honours the gifts of the past to the church's current and future mission, whilst looking for new opportunities; someone who is excited about the future prospects of the work to which God calls us, and energised by seeing an awareness of Christ's love freshly awakened in people; and who delights in being part of their journey of faith.

This is a fixed term post of 3 years initially with the possibility of an extension for a further 3 years. Local, housing will be provided in Coulby Newham. 31 Grange Wood is a four/five bedroom detached property in a peaceful cul-de-sac location with an enclosed garden to the rear. The property has a driveway suitable for parking two cars and an integrated garage. Internally the property is very spacious with four reception rooms, four bedrooms and three bathrooms.



Informal visits and conversations are very much encouraged.

The History of the Plurality of Parishes

The ancient parishes of Stainton and Hilton have been a joint benefice since 1997. Hilton church has been described as “a 12th Century little gem”, while the first known Vicar of Stainton was installed in 1247. Originally, St Margaret’s Brookfield was a “daughter” Church of Stainton until it became a parish in 1988. Each parish has its own distinct identity, and we always respect one another’s individuality while working together.

Hemlington is a modern town which was created in response to the expanding needs of Middlesbrough in the early 1970s, and consists of a range of private and social housing, although the majority are rented. In 2015, it was recorded as having a population of 6557, and this is rising due to a large new development, which is estimated to be completed by 2024.

There has been a Church of England presence in Hemlington since 1971. Originally, the church of St Timothy’s began as a house church, before moving to Viewley Hill, a local primary school, and then finally to the new church building at the end of 1980. Unfortunately, due to structural problems, the church was closed in 2019 and demolished in 2023. At one time, St Timothy’s had a vibrant worshipping community, and was engaged in a good level of outreach, including hosting a foodbank, addressing holiday hunger through providing activities and meals, and various different groups. The adjacent library and community hub (including Community Living Room) continue to serve the residents of Hemlington.

The Geography of the surrounding area

The parishes of Stainton with Hemlington, Hilton and Brookfield are situated on the southern outskirts of Middlesbrough. Historically we were all part of the North Riding of Yorkshire and we remain within the ceremonial county of North Yorkshire.

Our countryside is superb. The parishes are only a 20 minute drive away from the quiet sandy beaches of the North-East coast. There are quaint fishing villages to visit and 'Heartbeat country' around Whitby. Or travel south for 20 minutes to the North York Moors National Park with wonderful views of hills and moors, a steam railway, market towns and villages.

The River Tees forms the northern boundary of this region and of the Diocese of York as it winds its way from the Pennine Hills to the North-East coast and the North Sea, passing through small towns and villages until it reaches the larger towns of Stockton and Middlesbrough. There is industry here at the river’s lower reaches, but not the dirty industries of the last century, and **Teesport** is now one of the largest commercial ports in Britain. There are open spaces, public parks, hills, lanes, woodland and a White Water sport centre at the Tees Barrage in Stockton; there is also a choice of Nature Reserves including the RSPB Reserve at “Saltholme” between Middlesbrough and Hartlepool. The Tees Estuary, only a few miles to the North-East of Middlesbrough, has a colony of breeding seals and a great variety of birds. 7000 salmon and 13,000 sea trout annually migrate upstream through the estuary.

Middlesbrough and Stockton provide a range of facilities, including shops, retail and leisure parks, restaurants, bars, nightclubs, cinemas, galleries, museums and sporting clubs, international water sports at the Tees Barrage, and Middlesbrough Football Club’s “Riverside

Stadium". There are rail links to all major centres; and Teesside International airport is an easy 8 miles away. There is good road access North/South via the adjacent A19 and East/West via the A66. A wide range of nurseries, schools, colleges and Teesside University provide education at all levels.

Thank you for taking the time to read this profile.

If you would like more information about this exciting new post, please contact our Vicar, Rev'd. Laura Wild 01642 598621

rev.laura.wild@gmail.com

Archdeacon Amanda Bloor 01642 706095

or Bishop Paul Ferguson 01642 593273

We hope that you will be inspired to find out more and feel that God is calling you to work with the benefices of Brookfield and Stainton with Hemlington and Hilton as we continue to know God, show God and to share God with our neighbours.

If so we look forward to hearing from you!