

Parish Profile

St. Edward The Confessor

Kingstone, Barnsley

Diocese of Leeds



November 2022

The Parish Needs

We are an outward-looking congregation and the focus of our mission is to serve the whole community in this part of Barnsley. We welcome people of all ages and backgrounds to our services and events. We welcome women as priests in our church.

The PCC has agreed that our mission priorities at the moment are to work with local schools and to address social isolation in the parish.

During the Covid-19 pandemic we opened the church (when allowed) for private prayer and services, using a risk assessment which was regularly reviewed. Members of the PCC stayed in contact with the congregation by phone, email and letters.

We are part of the Benefice of Central Barnsley and have enjoyed the rich diversity of services and churchmanship in the other four churches. We hold a fortnightly Bible Study Group which includes participants from across the Benefice. PCC members attend meetings of the Benefice Mission Group and Benefice PCC. St Edward's is a regular host for Benefice services which include all five churches.

We take safeguarding very seriously and review and update our Safeguarding Children and Vulnerable Adults policies every year.

We are a middle-of-the-road church seeking a prayerful priest with good preaching, teaching and leadership skills.

We need a priest who is committed to our mission and has energy and enthusiasm to meet the challenges we face.

We are looking for a priest who will engage with the parish and with local partnerships, and who is committed to collaborative ministry and encouraging lay participation.



Altar and Pews

The Parish

Parish Boundary

Kingstone is a suburban area one mile from Barnsley town centre. It is mainly residential with a mixture of housing, including two new housing estates and two residential/nursing homes.

There are three primary schools (including one which is Roman Catholic), a large comprehensive school (rated good by Ofsted) and a special school (rated outstanding by Ofsted). Trinity Academy St Edward's is a new school which is due to be built about 500m from the church; we are already making links with them while they are in their temporary building in the town centre. We have good contact with existing schools through church visits and Christmas carol services, and are organising a walk-through Christmas Story in church over three afternoons in December for 100+ pupils.

Barnsley Fire Station is also in the parish.

The parish is bounded by St George's parish to the north and St Peter's parish to the east. The M1 motorway forms the western boundary while parishes on the southern boundary are in the diocese of Sheffield.



Parish Boundary

The Church

St Edward's church was built in 1902 in the neo-gothic style and is visible for miles around as it sits at the top of a hill. Trips up the tower are popular as there are extensive views over Yorkshire. It is one of two Packer churches in the country and is Grade II listed. Its splendid stained glass windows are much admired.

The nave has seating for around 400 people and is used for brass band and choir concerts because of the marvellous acoustics. For example, on our latest Gift Day we enjoyed an afternoon concert with the local U3A Brass Ensemble and Kilnhurst Community Choir. We not only raised money but were able to open the church to local residents who might not normally attend services.

The church is accessible and has a new disabled toilet which was completed just before the Covid-19 pandemic

The church hall was sold in 2004 and meetings and events are now held in the vestry which has an integral kitchen and toilets and can seat about 40 people. There is also a small vicars' vestry.



View from Locke Park

The church, vestry and churchyard are well maintained; cleaning and grounds maintenance are done by members of the congregation. A quinquennial inspection has just been carried out by our new architect and no serious concerns were raised.

Our Website

We have recently updated our website: www.stedwards-barnsley.org.uk

Services

Sunday at 10.30am: **Parish Eucharist** using Common Worship with sermon. On the first Sunday of the month at 10.30am we have a lay-led **Service of the Word**. We have an organist at most of our services; otherwise music for hymns is played on a computer.

Refreshments are served after the service to enable the congregation to socialise.

Recently we held a special Covid-19 Memorial Service and a Commemoration Service on the eve of the Queen's funeral. We have special services at Christmas, for example Carols round the Tree, which is lay led.

Churchmanship is central, the sacrament is reserved in the Lady Chapel and vestments are worn for all services.

Baptisms are held regularly on Sundays each month. In 2021 we had 4 funerals, 11 baptisms and 2 weddings, this year (2022) we have already had 14 funerals, 27 baptisms and 6 weddings.

We have a weekly pew sheet with notices and information and the appropriate readings. This document is printed for Sunday services and also emailed to 42 people.



Our Friendship Club Christmas Lunch

Congregation

The average attendance on Sunday is 20 and there are 45 people on our electoral roll, many of whom are unable to attend church due to ill health. Members of the congregation are resilient, loyal and committed to St Edward's and to each other. Many people have been attending St Edward's for decades but are pleased to give a warm welcome to newcomers.

Members of the Team

The PCC meets regularly and is committed to working with our new priest and clergy colleagues. Church resources are well-stewarded and leadership is distributed to support services and mission.

There is lay involvement in Sunday services, for example readers and intercessors.



Computer Course in the Vestry

Parish Organisations

Until the Covid-19 pandemic, the St Edward's Ladies Guild and the St Edward's Friendship (Lunch) Club met regularly in the vestry. Since August 2021 we have been holding a well-attended weekly 'Coffee Club' which is open to everyone and includes crafting and chatting.

The vestry is used as a polling station for both local and national elections and Kingstone Ward councillors sometimes attend the Coffee Club.



Coffee Club -- Knit and Natter

We support the local food bank, either by regular financial donations or by special events – our last Harvest Lunch donated food and over £100 from ticket sales and a raffle.

We are currently in discussions with the Worsbrough and District Flower Club regarding organising a four day flower festival in June 2023, which will attract visitors from across the region.

Our Events Committee organises several events through the year, for example Spring and Christmas Fairs, not only to raise money (£2740 in 2021) but to provide an opportunity for us to meet people and talk to them about what the church can offer them.

We are linked with Tairo parish in Mara diocese as part of the diocese Tanzanian Link and hold a yearly Mara Evening (when possible) when we share a meal and enjoy a talk or presentation about Mara.

We are members of Churches Together in Barnsley. We have good support and links with Friends of Locke Park, a local community group; Locke Park is the town's park and is within the parish boundary.

On behalf of the Benefice we are making links with churches in Barnsley's twin town of Schwäbisch Gmünd (near Stuttgart). At the recent civic service at St Mary's to celebrate 50 years of town-twinning, the archdeacon spoke to our visitors in excellent German.



Benefice Walking Group leaving from St Edward's Church

Finance

It is still the intent of the PCC to save the Fabric Fund for the upkeep of the fabric of the church and to put it towards the re-ordering of the church, which will enable greater use of our facilities by both the congregation and the local community.

Our planned giving (standing orders and weekly envelopes) increased after a stewardship campaign in 2019 and we have about 17 regular donors. We are diligent with our expenditure and continually look for ways in which to save money and to increase our receipts.