

# Parish Profile for the Appointment of a Team Rector for the **Churches of the Gornal and Sedgley Team Ministry**



[www.gornalandsedgley.org.uk](http://www.gornalandsedgley.org.uk)



## The prayer

O Gracious Father, God of our past, present and future:  
give us calm strength and patient wisdom  
as we search for a priest for your people.

Grant us the courage and understanding  
to bring forth a priest who will lead your flock,  
tend your sheep and nurture us  
in word, sacrament and holiness of life;  
who will support our growth  
as a loving and sharing community.

We ask this,  
seeking a discerning heart and awareness of your will,  
in Jesus' name,

**Amen.**



## **WELCOME**

The Gornal and Sedgley Team Ministry are looking for a new Team Rector to come and lead us as we walk through God's Kingdom together.

The vacancy has arisen following the retirement of our Rector. We hope our parish profile will give you a taste of life, work and worship in our three churches.

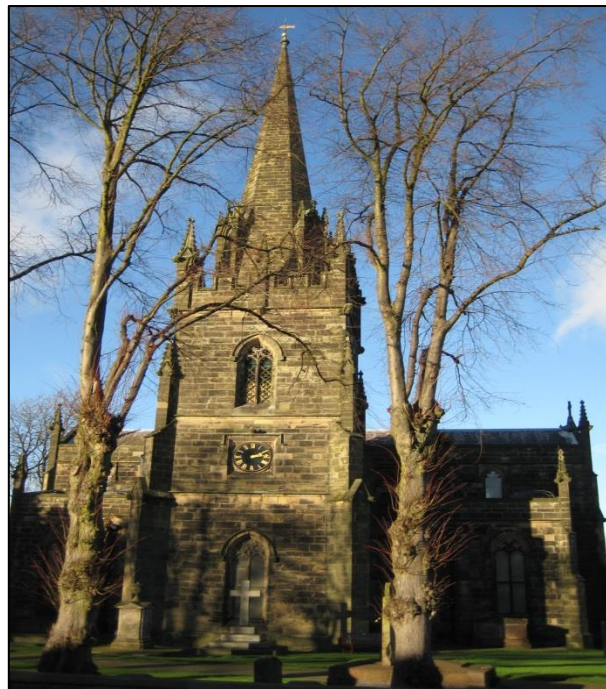
Thank you for taking time to find out about us. A full person specification is included at the end of this document. If you require any further information then please do not hesitate to contact:

**The Venerable Nikki Groarke**  
**Archdeacon of Dudley**  
**01905 - 773301**

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*“Our churches  
want to be at  
the heart  
of our  
communities”*

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## **INTRODUCTION**

The Gornal and Sedgley Team Ministry comprises the parish churches of All Saints Sedgley and St Peter's Upper Gornal, with St Andrew's, The Straits.

We have been working together as a team since 2005, although All Saints and St Andrew's have been linked together since 1995. The parish serves a population of approximately 28,000.

## THE TOWN

Sedgley is located on the edge of the West Midlands conurbation. We are very fortunate to have the countryside of Staffordshire on our doorstep and Shropshire to the west. We have good transport connections to the local area and further afield.

There is easy access to the motorway network and direct rail travel to both Birmingham and London close by. The West Midlands is best known for its manufacturing and industry.

Sedgley has a good mixture of age groups living and working here. There is a wide variety of housing in the area. This ranges from social housing, to the popular Brownswall, Northway and Straits estates, to larger individually designed homes.

A major new development on the edge of Sedgley with our neighbouring village of Gospel End is Baggeridge Village. Located next to Baggeridge Country Park this offers a selection of luxury homes.

Sedgley has been working since March 2006 to become a Fair Trade Town, and we are delighted that we achieved this status in January 2015. Sedgley churches support Fair Trade and we have monthly in church sales that take place after the services.



## OUR FACILITIES

Sedgley, Gornal and The Straits have a selection of great local facilities:

- The popular Mill Theatre which hosts regular musical and dramatic performances.
- A good variety of shops, supermarkets and a library.
- A gym and fitness centre.
- Selection of clubs, uniformed organisations, societies (such as local history), and several social organisations.
- Cafes, pubs and restaurants offering a wide variety of food.
- A golf club and academy.
- Several doctors' surgeries and close to a hospital.
- A nature reserve working in partnership with a local college.
- 8 primary schools and 2 secondary schools.
- A local Food Bank awarded with the Queen's Golden Jubilee award.
- Himley Hall and Park which hosts regular events throughout the year.
- Baggeridge Country Park.
- Close to the countryside.
- Easy access to the cities of Birmingham and Wolverhampton.

## **UPPER GORNAL & THE STRAITS**

Gornal is reached by the main road from Sedgley. St Peter's Church stands on the main road at the centre, which features a shopping precinct, doctors and several pubs.

Upper Gornal Methodist Church is located here and this is where our local Food Bank is based, which is well supported by all three churches in the team.

The Straits is a short drive from Sedgley, through a short area of farmland. Here there are a few shops on the main road.

St Andrew's Church stands prominently on the main road, and the Straits housing estate spreads around the church. This is also where the popular Straits Primary School is located and a small doctors surgery.



## **THE VICARAGE**

All Saints vicarage is a spacious detached property built in the 1960's.

The accommodation downstairs comprises a living room, dining room, kitchen/breakfast room, study and cloakroom. Stairs lead off the dining room to the upstairs accommodation. This comprises four well-proportioned bedrooms and a family bathroom.



Outside there is a large driveway leading to a garage and carport. The front garden encircles the property with several mature trees, and the back garden is private.

The vicarage is close to the shopping facilities in Sedgley. St Peter's Church in Upper Gornal is 1.7 miles away, and St Andrew's the Straits is 2 miles away.



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***The vicarage stands  
opposite All Saints  
parish Church and is  
close to the centre of  
Sedgley***

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## **SEDGLEY AND GORNAL TEAM**

Each of our three churches has its own unique characteristics, both physically in the structure of the buildings and also within the different congregations.

All three churches have separate strengths in community involvement which are naturally reflective of the skills and assets of the different congregations.

Whilst worship most weeks takes place separately, the churches rotate venues to come together for a team service several times throughout the year.

There are also regular meetings throughout the year for joint celebrations and events.

This year the churches have held joint services to celebrate and support confirmations, patronal festivals, choral events and Fair Trade.



## **THE MINISTRY TEAM**

The team consists of two clergy and a lay minister who rotate amongst the three churches to ensure that all regular services are covered and the specific needs of local congregations are met.

The Team Rector post is an especially important position, as there is a significant element of leadership within the role in co-ordinating and supporting the contribution of other team members. It is therefore considered key to our continued success with a team ministry approach.

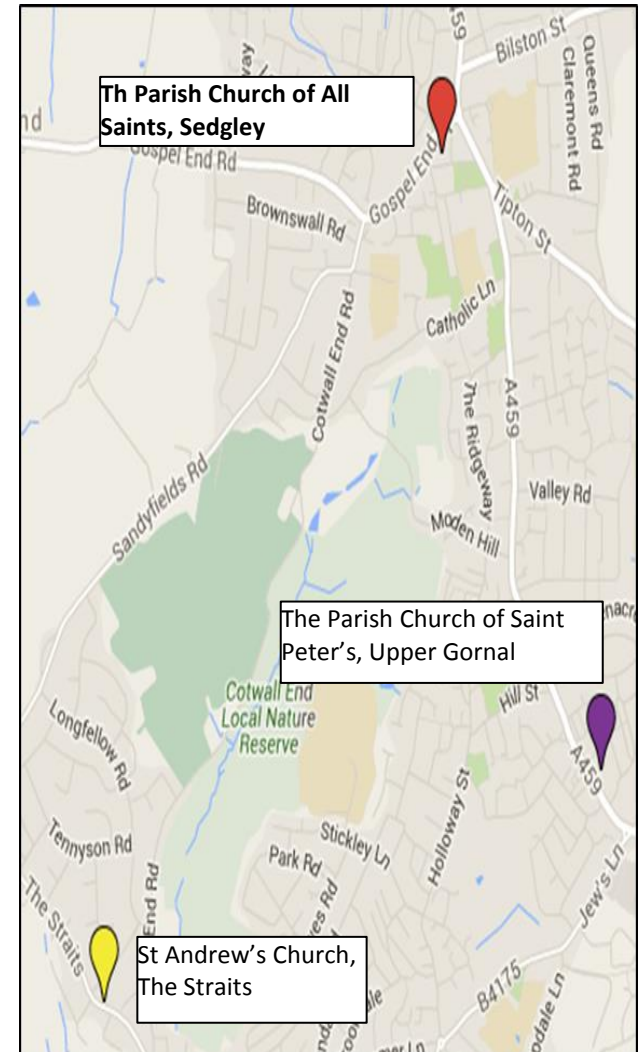
In addition to the Team Rector, the team is supported by a Team Vicar. The current post holder is moving within the diocese in May, and the new Team Rector will be involved in appointing his replacement, and consulting over where the Team Vicar's areas of special responsibility might be.

We are also fortunate to have our dedicated and enthusiastic Licenced Lay Minister who is based within St Andrew's church on the Straits, but leads on the provision of a "whole church" approach to support and care to the sick and infirm.

The clergy are assisted across the churches by our Authorised Lay Ministers which include a worship and music leader, children and youth leader and a pastoral worker.

## **ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT**

Administrative support is provided by the Parish Administrator who supports the team for 10 hours each week based at the parish office at All Saints.



## **The Diocese of Worcester**

The Diocese of Worcester covers 671 square miles and covers parishes in Worcestershire, the Metropolitan Borough of Dudley plus several more in northern Gloucestershire, south east Wolverhampton and Sandwell. It has 175 parishes, 280 churches, around 120 stipendiary and 30 non stipendiary clergy and 170 Licensed Lay Ministers (Readers).



The vacancy is within the Kingswinford Deanery, in the Archdeaconry of Dudley in the diocese of Worcester.

The Bishop looks to appoint applicants who will work collegially with clergy and lay people in the deanery to encourage and sustain the wider mission and ministry of the church. It is normal for a priest to have a ministerial interest wider than that of the benefice itself, which can occupy around 10% of total working time.

There is also a growing number of Authorised Lay Ministers (ALMs), who are being trained to both support and resource ministry in their own locality.

The perception of Kingswinford deanery is that of an affluent area, free from social disadvantage and an attractive place to live. In reality there are pockets of deprivation within the Kingswinford Deanery, some of which are within the Gornal and Sedgley Team.

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### ***Kingdom People***

As a diocese, we are committed to mission in every aspect, seeking to bring the good news of God's love in Jesus to all who live in our cities, towns and villages and to make the gospel relevant to their everyday lives.

We are developing creative new patterns of ministry in these changing times. Although there are fewer stipendiary clergy than in the recent past, more people are offering licenced and authorised lay ministry than ever before.

Differences in "churchmanship" are not divisive in this diocese, which possess a genuine "family feel".

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We are implementing an imaginative "Kingdom People" vision and resource, which seeks to help churches become better at their core task of proclaiming the Kingdom.

As Kingdom People, our vision is for a church that enables its people to be:

- Deeply rooted in prayer and the study of the scriptures
- Renewed and transformed by regular worship
- Equipped to witness to the gospel of love, compassion, justice and freedom
- Dedicated to helping children, young people and young adults to belong and be nurtured in faith
- Devoted to growing deeply in discipleship, offering our time, talents and money to God.
- Resourced and release to minister to others.
- Ready to engage with and serve our community.

## All Saints Sedgley

All Saints Church was rebuilt by the Earl of Dudley between 1826 and 1829, replacing the previous medieval church.

It stands in the central part of Sedgley in a prominent position, and the tower and spire are visible for miles around.



The west end of the church was reordered in 2005, creating a narthex, separated from the nave by a glass screen, giving a much more welcoming entrance to the church.

At the same time pews were removed from the back of the church to create an area for socialising particularly after services.

A kitchen was also created at the rear of the baptistry, cleverly concealed by decorative panelled doors.

The church has a seating capacity of approximately two hundred, and the interior and exterior are in excellent condition.

There are 156 on the electoral roll. The congregation is predominantly elderly although we do have some middle-aged and younger members. The average Sunday attendance is a hundred. The church finances are stable and the parish share is always paid in full.

Across the road is the Church Hall which was built in 1954. The building has a large central meeting room, kitchen, lounge, toilets and storage area.

The building has been upgraded in recent years being decorated and adding new tables and chairs, it is now in a very good condition. The Parish Administrator has an office in this building.



All Saints has three Sunday services, Said Eucharist at 8am and Sung Eucharist at 10:30am, both using Common Worship, and Evensong at 6:30pm using the Book of Common Prayer.

The fifth Sunday in the month is a Team Service at one of our three churches.

We conduct on average 15 weddings, 30 baptisms and 15 funerals each year. The church celebrates various festivals throughout the year with special services at Easter and Christmas, as well as the popular Christingle Service and the Remembrance Day Service all attracting significant numbers of people. In recent years we have hosted a Civic Service for Dudley Council.

Each week the church is open for coffee. Everyone is welcome at this drop-in session held at the back of church every Friday from 10.30 a.m.-12.30 p.m.

Several of the local schools hold their carol services in church and we have also hosted the Service for Christian Unity.

The Life Exhibition has visited Sedgley several times and this provides ecumenical outreach to over 700 school children during the week of the event.



The 'Open the Book' team take Bible stories into two local schools on a monthly basis. The project involves church members from across the team ministry who enact stories from the Bible, each story ending with a reflection and prayer.

This is a valuable way of taking the Word to the next generation and building links with our local schools.



Other groups which meet regularly in the church hall include the Art Club, Rainbows, Brownies, Zumba, Tai-Chi, Yoga and Gentle Exercise. To see all of our organisations please see [gornalandsedgley.org.uk](http://gornalandsedgley.org.uk)

We hold a number of social events throughout the year which include concerts, skittles evenings, cream tea afternoons, summer and Christmas Fayres, barn dances, an annual Macmillan Coffee morning, Christmas Tree Festival, Children's Society Fair and occasional Flower Festivals.



The Junior Church has a group of around eight children attending and a dedicated team of helpers. They put on various sketches on Bible themes throughout the year, culminating in the Nativity which the congregation thoroughly enjoys.

Other organisations within the church include the Noah's Ark Toddler Group, Mothers' Union, Men's Society, Ladies' Society and Youth Group.



The local outlet for the Black Country Food Bank has been operating as 'Springs' at Upper Gornal Methodist Church since 2012 and brings together volunteers from Upper Gornal Methodist Church, St. Peter's Upper Gornal, All Saints Sedgley and St Andrew's the Straits.

Last year 316 adults and 214 children were fed, the children also receiving Easter eggs and Christmas selection packs.



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## ST. ANDREW'S CHURCH

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In 2014, the centenary of the Church was celebrated.

When it was built in 1914, members were told that if they looked after the Church, then it should last 30 or 40 years.



Throughout the year All Saints charitable giving includes a variety of charities which in 2014 were: United Society, Church Mission Society, the Children's Society, The Island York, Little Brothers of the Good Shepherd Wolverhampton, New Beginnings Dudley, Mercy Ships and White House Cancer Support Dudley.

In addition to this we have a charity of the month to which we donate. These have included High Flyers, Thai Baking Project; Embrace the Middle East and Langdale & Ambleside Mountain Rescue.



These are traditional Holy Communion services except for one Sunday in the month when the service is Family Worship.

We are an ageing congregation with an electoral roll of 30 and an average Sunday attendance of about 25. We do have a young family who attend regularly; the parents were confirmed in Worcester Cathedral in 2013. We pray this will expand. We have always paid our parish share in full.



In fact the building is still in good condition, although some windows had to be replaced in 2015, and some smaller windows will also need replacing soon. It holds about 100 people. A hall is attached to the Church.

Services are at 9.30 a.m. on Sunday and 7 p.m. on Wednesday.

Each week, there is a meeting of Moms and Toddlers, called Little Angels, with organised activities. About 20 families attend, and because of its popularity, there is sometimes a waiting list of those wishing to join. This is probably the reason we now have quite a lot of baptisms in church. We had 2 weddings in 2015 and usually 2 or 3 funerals a year.

We hold 2 Fayres a year. They are very successful, well supported by the local community, and each raise about £2,000, more than many of the larger local churches.

The congregation bring food for the local food bank, and in fact we are one of the biggest givers in the district.



Church is also well supported for occasional special services. For example, the Christingle service on Christmas Eve was so popular that we now have 2 services in the afternoon.

Ten years ago, members of the Straits Community Church asked whether they could share our buildings, after being told that they could no longer hire buildings at the local school, something they had been doing for 40 years.

The request was welcomed by members of St. Andrew's and has worked extremely well. The arrangement has been a huge help financially to St. Andrew's, in that we have been able to jointly spend a lot of money bringing the buildings up to date. It also means that costs of energy bills, etc. are shared.

The Straits Church holds services in the Hall on Sundays, and with meetings throughout the week, the hall is used on numerous occasions.

Once a year there is a joint service celebrating the coming together of the two churches.

St Andrew's has an enthusiastic choir of 6 that have sung in other churches and accompany the LLM to retirement homes on special occasions. We have a digital hymnal that accompanies them.

Many of the families living on the Straits have spent all their lives here, and the local shopping centre of Lower Gornal, just half a mile from the church is typical 'Heart of the Black Country'.

People are extremely friendly. If you shop there for a while, it isn't long before one of the shop workers calls you 'love' or 'darling'.

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## ***ST PETER'S, UPPER GORNAL***

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The Church itself was built in 1838 and has a seating capacity of 250. It is of simple rectangular design and is constructed of local Gornal stone. Currently it suffers from a number of significant problems – erosion of the stonework, water ingress through the roof and an old, inefficient central heating system in poor condition.

Rectification of these and other deficiencies would involve considerable costs which could not be funded via the current offertory input.

Adjacent to the church is the Church Hall which was built in 1936 in red brick and tiled and flat felted roof sections.

The building has a large central assembly hall, a lounge and bar, bottle store, print room/storage area, kitchen and toilets. This building also requires some renovation work.



St Peter's, which has an ageing congregation, usually holds two Sunday services, both Eucharistic said at 8.00am and sung at 10.30am. On the first Sunday of each month an "All Together" service is held in the 10.30am slot which targets younger people.

This service is also used as a Baptism service when necessary. The average at the Sunday services is 48.

A said Eucharistic service is also held at 10.00 a.m. on Wednesday mornings, with an average congregation of 17.

The regular services are augmented by the normal occasional offices with funerals averaging 12 per year and one wedding each year. The church festival services at Easter and Christmas and other special occasions, (for example Remembrance & Christingle) usually attract significantly larger congregations.

At various times of the year, open air services are organised in the shopping precinct opposite the church, often in conjunction with the local Methodist church.

The electoral roll currently numbers 72, with a significant number of members living beyond the parish boundaries. The church finances are relatively stable with the parish share being paid in full.

The church organises, or is involved, in a wide range of activities. The Sunday School has suffered from a serious decline in attendees in recent years and at present only two children are involved regularly.

The Social Club, which meets in the Church Hall on Friday evenings, arranges a number of events throughout the year. These include Burn's Supper, barn dances, quiz, garden party, various beetle and other drives and the Spring and Christmas Fayre.



The church sponsors very active Beaver, Cub and Scout groups and provides facilities for well supported Rainbow, Brownies and Guide operations. Total numbers involved are approximately 100.

The church has an active Card and Craft Club, provides assistance for the Gornal and Sedgley Cancer Support Group, and is a major contributor to the Team's "Open the Book" group.



Furthermore church members are involved each week in operations at the local Food Bank. The Team Vicar, who has been based here, has been chaplain to the local Fire Service station located within the parish, and has regularly visited two local care homes.

Charitable giving is based on 5% of the previous year's offertories. In addition a Garden Party is organised, the proceeds being donated to a nominated charity.

A Christmas card event is arranged for Macmillan Nurses, a fund raising event for the Children's Society, and a Lent/Easter Smartie Tube appeal is undertaken by us.

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## ***Our vision for the future***

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Our vision for the future is to continue to ensure that our churches remain at the centre of our community.



**Himley Hall Lake and Parkland**

We would like to reconnect with people in our area from all walks of life, those of faith, of different denominations from ourselves and those with no faith.

We would like to increase our collaboration with other churches, to broaden our experience of approaches to worship and community involvement.

We seek to increase the number of younger people and families that are involved in our work, and recognise that this may involve doing some things differently to increase our accessibility to others.

We have some excellent musical and choral aspects to our churches and would like to build on these strengths, to help us to realise our ambition to keep the church at the heart of our community.

We would like to plan the best use of our church spaces in the future to support us with these aims.

This may involve examining new or different approaches to the order of some of our worship spaces, or perhaps the development of new facilities that would encourage and support interaction, discussion and sharing with others.



**Himley Hall**

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# *Person Specification*

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After prayer, reflection and discussion, the three churches have identified the following characteristics that they would welcome and value in a new rector.

## Essential characteristics

- Able to communicate with people at all levels in a variety of situations, including those of other denominations.
- Able to recognise talent in others and encourage its development.
- Has experience of working with youth/school initiatives and can demonstrate commitment to bringing young people and families to church.
- Confident and flexible leadership approach.
- Approachable pastoral carer who can support our churches and community in a compassionate and dedicated manner.
- A lively preacher of the bible who can make it relevant to modern society.
- Comfortable with a range of worship styles.
- Outgoing character, willing to be involved with local activities across the team.

- Can show a commitment to supporting the musical development within the churches.
- A facilitator of change.

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## Useful websites

### Parish website

[www.gornalandsedgley.org.uk](http://www.gornalandsedgley.org.uk)

### Worcester diocese website

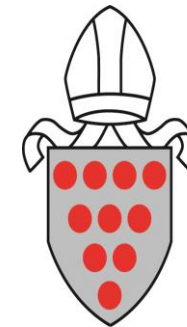
[www.cofe-worcester.org.uk](http://www.cofe-worcester.org.uk)

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\* Statements of financial activities for year ended 31 December 2014 are available on request

Thank you for taking time to find out about us. If you require any further information then please do not hesitate to contact:

**The Venerable Nikki Groarke**  
**Archdeacon of Dudley**  
**01905 - 773301**



THE CHURCH  
OF ENGLAND  
DIOCESE OF  
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