

“Parish” Profile for the Parishes of Stainton with Hemlington, Hilton and Brookfield

Stokesley Deanery : Cleveland Archdeaconry : York Diocese

2023 recruitment - Incumbent

**St Peter and St Paul's
Parish Church of
Stainton with
Hemlington**



**St Peter's
Parish Church of
Hilton**



**St Margaret of
Scotland
Parish Church of
Brookfield**



2nd February 2023

An Introduction by the Bishop of Whitby

Thank you very much for your interest in the post of Vicar of Stainton with Hemlington, Hilton and Brookfield.

Our intention is to appoint a vicar, and then as soon as possible and in consultation with the appointee, to recruit a second minister who will have a pioneer role in the parishes.



The parishes are vacant following the decision of the last priest to take up a new ministry in our partner diocese in South Africa.

The parishes are varied, comprising both historic villages and 20th-21st century housing estates of different characters, including continuing new construction. In some parts there is a remaining strong sense of the mutual belonging of community and church: in others, opportunity for establishing and building an awareness of the presence and importance of what the Church of England can offer.

We would encourage potential applicants to look at the material on *Living Christ's Story* on the York Diocesan website, and to consider how it will relate to church life, ministry and mission in these parishes.

This is a post for a priest who has confidence in working with a ministerial colleague and in expanding a team of lay leaders. I hope you will consider whether God may be calling you to this interesting and developing post.

+ Paul Whitty

Appointment is subject to satisfactory episcopal reference, enhanced DBS disclosure, and eligibility to work in the UK

Welcome

If you are looking at this profile, you are obviously interested in us.

We are equally interested in you. Could you work with us to spread God's word?

Our mission is

“to Know God, to Show God and to Share God”

The York Diocesan Vision for the period 2021-2031 is called **“Living Christ’s Story (LCS)”** and commits us to:

- Becoming more like Christ;
- Reaching people we currently don’t reach:
- Growing Churches of missionary disciples; and
- Transforming our structures and finances

In accordance with our Stokesley Deanery LCS Plan we are hoping to appoint two ordained Priests: an Incumbent for our three Parishes which are held in Plurality; and an interim Pioneer Minister to work with the Incumbent.

Our three parishes are held in plurality and the appointee to this post will be Incumbent.

In addition, the Diocesan Mission and Pastoral Sub-Committee has approved the appointment of an **interim ordained Pioneer Minister** for a period of three years (with the possibility of renewed appointment for a further three years), to work with the Incumbent to offer parish ministry with a particular focus on reaching families and young people in areas of new housing in Brookfield and Stainton with Hemlington. The Pioneer Minister would also be expected to become involved in church life in the plurality, taking services occasionally, attending PCC meetings to report on progress and developments, and to share news.

We intend also to appoint a children and youth worker to offer one day a week working in Hemlington, an area of significant deprivation.

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. Also, originally St Timothy’s Hemlington was a “daughter” Church of Stainton until it became a Parish in 1993; subsequently St Timothy’s Church developed structural faults which were not economic to repair and was closed for public worship. Hemlington Parish was re-united with Stainton to form the Parish of Stainton with Hemlington in March 2021.

Each parish has its own distinct identity which we wish to retain, always respecting one another’s individuality while working together. We are looking for a spiritual leader who can help us to best share our strengths both within our Church families and in serving our local communities.

The COVID-19 pandemic

During the periods of Covid lockdown we maintained contact with Parishioners and Friends of the Churches with an electronic e-Newsletter which was accompanied by a "Worship-at-home" sheet containing the Collect and post-Communion Prayers, the Lectionary readings and some intercessory prayers (hard-copies were delivered to a small number of people who are not "Tech-savvy"). We were pleased to open Stainton Church for Public Worship on every Sunday that such services were permitted by the Government. Public Worship at Brookfield Church resumed on 27th September 2020. The 9.30am services were streamed via Facebook. Hilton Church services resumed at Pentecost on 23rd May 2021.

We look forward to welcoming a new priest (man or woman) to our Plurality who will:

- **Nurture our faith through worship, giving priority to our gathering at weekly Sunday Eucharists:**
- **Provide support to help us grow spiritually and learn more about the Gospel:**
- **Guide us in exploring new and inclusive ways of worship in response to changing needs of local residents:**
- **Lead us in the challenge of reaching and serving all local residents, but particularly new residents in the extensive new housing developments both recently-built and planned for our communities:**
- **Help us renew our ministry to young families to reflect the resurgent demographic that is bringing children back into our communities:**
- **Encourage us as lay people to discover our gifts and to use them to build up our churches and bring others to a living faith:**

Help with our worship

- **Nurture our faith through worship, giving priority to our gathering at weekly Sunday Eucharists:**
 - *On the first Sunday of each month the three Churches join for Holy Communion in rotation.*
 - *At Stainton and Brookfield on the second, third, fourth and fifth Sundays the service is Holy Communion.*
 - *At Hilton on the second and fourth Sunday the service is Holy Communion; on the third Sunday the service is Morning Praise led by a Lay Minister; and on the fifth Sunday the service is Evensong.*
 - *There is a mid-week Eucharist at Brookfield at 10.00am on Wednesdays.*
 - *We mostly use Holy Communion Order 1 and prefer our Priest to wear Eucharistic vestments.*
 - *We welcome people for the Occasional Offices: marriage, baptism and funerals.*
 - *At Stainton we have re-ordered space in the Church; and at Brookfield there are moveable chairs enabling a flexible worship space.*

Help with our spiritual growth and learning

- **Provide support to help us grow spiritually and learn more about the Gospel; and to guide us in exploring new and inclusive ways of worship in response to the changing needs of local residents:**
 - *At present: At Stainton there are joint events with Stainton Methodist Church including an open-air "Big Sing" in the summer, Village Carol Service and other acts of community worship. A Branch of the Mothers' Union at Stainton meets monthly.*
A fortnightly ecumenical "Christians in Hilton" study group was a casualty of the Covid pandemic and its return is keenly awaited.
Also casualties of the Covid pandemic were Brookfield's joint services with Trimdon Avenue Salvation Army and St Clare's Roman Catholic Church .
All three Parishes support their local Foodbanks.
 - *Our vision: is to provide more varied opportunities for worship; to use time and resources creatively and flexibly to meet local needs in all age groups. We recognise that there is a rich variety of opportunities for fellowship, growth and study together – lay led or otherwise.*

- **Encourage us as lay people to discover our gifts and to use them to build up our churches and bring others to a living faith:**
 - *At present:* lay people serve as Churchwardens and PCC members, Eucharistic ministers, and in many other roles. There is one Authorised Lay Minister (ALM).
 - *Our vision:* is to be known as Churches where every member is valued, and newcomers can quickly find a home.

Help with our ministry and mission to others

- **Lead us in the challenge of reaching and serving all local residents, but particularly new residents in the extensive new housing developments, both recently-built and planned for our communities:**
 - *At present:* Brookfield has a weekly Thursday 'Drop-In / warm space' and various occasional social and fund-raising events including coffee mornings, lunches, afternoon teas, and concerts.
 - *Our vision:* is to discover how we might best communicate with and become known to the families moving into our areas now that we can no longer leaflet the entirety of our parishes. We use existing community publications, our ACNY pages and our Plurality website (<https://staintonhiltonbrookfieldchurches.org.uk>) to 'speak' to our Parishioners and we are looking at ways of using social media to better effect.
- **Help us renew our ministry to young families to reflect the resurgent demographic that is bringing children back into our communities:**
 - *At present:* 'Coffee & Kids' is a weekly pre-school Parent and Toddler drop-in at Stainton which has been running since 2015 and we organise seasonal children's activities and services. A pre-school Parent and Toddler drop-in at Brookfield has been running since November 2021 and has attracted a committed group of parents/carers and their children. Across the Plurality we hold targeted services to mark Mothering Sunday, Harvest, Christingle and nativities. We have established links with two local primary schools (curriculum visits and carol services).
 - *Our vision:* is to find ways to share the Gospel meaningfully with children of all ages, their parents and carers.

Further information:

- The three Parishes are of different size.
 - The initial numbers on the new 2019 Electoral Rolls were: Brookfield 67; Stainton 35; and Hilton 21. The numbers for the 2022 revisions were: Brookfield **65**; Stainton with Hemlington **47**; (the Roll was increased in March 2021 by the merger of the Stainton and Hemlington Rolls) and Hilton **21**.
 - The average attendances at services in October 2022 were: Brookfield **37**; Stainton **24**; and Hilton **7**.
 - The civil populations from the 2021 Census are: Brookfield **8,274**; Stainton/ Thornton/ Maltby and Hemlington **10,168** and still growing. Hilton remains static at **402**.

Church members are predominantly retired people. Few children attend at present, which precludes regular children's work (apart from the two Toddler Groups) in any of our churches.

- At Stainton and Brookfield we have PA systems with hearing loops to support the hearing impaired.
- In the past we have paid our Parish Shares / Freewill Offering to the Diocesan Common Fund, and have often paid more than we have been asked for. At Stainton and Hilton our budgets are balanced only by fund-raising activities and dipping into our reserves; we are keen to engage with generous giving and to explore all avenues of fund-raising (eg providing digital/contactless giving at Occasional Offices) to put the accounts onto a more sustainable footing and to increase our support for the wider mission of the Church.

- We have an active digital presence via our pages on www.achurchnearyou.com and on our Church Family (Plurality) website www.staintonhiltonbrookfieldchurches.org.uk . Each Parish has a Facebook page but for the time being the pages are dormant (they were managed by our previous incumbents). We are conscious of our need for an active Social Media presence and would hope to develop this further in future.
- All three Churches are generally in good repair, both inside and out.
- We have a positive welcoming attitude towards couples who come asking to be married and to families who come for baptism, seeking to meet them where they are with encouragement and without barriers.
- We have a Plurality Office at Brookfield Church and a part-time Plurality administrator who works eight hours per week.

Sunday Services: The current pattern of Sunday Services is listed below.

Brookfield	Stainton	Hilton
FIRST SUNDAY IN THE MONTH 10.30 am Joint Plurality Holy Communion (<i>churches take turns to host the service</i>)		
REMAINING SUNDAYS 9.30am Holy Communion	REMAINING SUNDAYS 11.00am Holy Communion	SECOND AND FOURTH SUNDAYS 8.00am Holy Communion
WEDNESDAYS 9.30am HOLY COMMUNION		THIRD SUNDAY 9.30am Morning Praise
		FIFTH SUNDAY 6.00pm Evensong

Clergy house

Our Vicarage is situated on Low Lane in Brookfield parish, and is conveniently placed for all three parishes. It is a 4 bedroom detached family house with garage and a large enclosed rear garden. There is a family bathroom, downstairs toilet, a kitchen leading to a dining room, a spacious lounge, and a study.

Parish snapshots

BROOKFIELD PARISH is suburban, situated on the southern edge of Middlesbrough, five miles from the town centre. The older southern section, built between the 1930s and 1950s, was the basis for the original parish; and the northern section was developed from the 1960s into the 1990s in various stages. Housing development within the parish continues with a mix of private owners and private rentals, and more than 1000 new homes are planned over the next ten years. The parish is served by two bus routes and there is a range of local shops. St Margaret’s Church hall is the principal venue for many groups and societies in the parish and the Church receives income from the Hall lettings; on-site car parking is available. As a result of this level of activity, church events attract support from many of our neighbours who are not members of our worshipping community.

STAINTON PARISH was gifted to Guisborough Priory in 1119 AD; our church, which was built on a Norman foundation, has been much altered over the centuries. The parish includes the villages of Stainton, Thornton and Maltby (which are all Domesday villages - collectively with other villages in the area they had 12 villagers , 3 Freemen , 1 priest and 1 church). The villages, which are about six miles from Middlesbrough town centre, were until recently rural, with housing consisting mostly of bungalows or village cottages and many residents being retired. In the last six years a substantial number (400+) of recently built larger homes has increased our population and is changing the demographic, bringing younger working families and more children into the parish. Further housing development is already taking place and more planned over the next ten years. Stainton and Maltby each have one pub in the centre of the village; at Stainton there is a hairdressers and a beauticians.

The Stainton Memorial Hall provides a venue for social events and clubs/societies, including a weekly coffee morning. Stainton Methodist Chapel has a small but active congregation; there is also a recently built Methodist Homes Association care home in Stainton Village; we are pleased to have good relations with our Methodist brothers and sisters and enjoy a number of joint services and events throughout the year.

HEMLINGTON is a mix of private and social housing. There is a small shopping centre, a Baptist church, 2 primary schools, and among the social housing there is a Recreation centre, several Day-centres and a large fishing lake. St Timothy's C of E building stands awaiting demolition in the shopping centre – it had developed structural faults which were not economic to repair. Following the Pastoral Scheme to close St Timothy's Church, Hemlington in February 2021 – a Pastoral Scheme to re-unite Hemlington Parish with Stainton Parish took effect to form the 'new' Parish of Stainton with Hemlington bringing approx 6600 additional people into Stainton parish.

HILTON PARISH is also a Domesday village and has a wonderful 12th century church which can accommodate between 50 and 60 people and provides a beautiful setting for small intimate weddings or baptisms. The village, in a rural setting, has 180 dwellings with a population of approximately 400. There is a modernised Village Hall, a pub and two playing fields, one of which is situated between the Church and the Hall. Community activities take place in the village throughout the year. The church is proud of its long-standing liaison with the Village Hall Committee, which holds social events and regularly invites the Church to share in the organisation and proceeds from these events. A popular Village Lunch, held monthly, was a casualty of the Covid pandemic but it is planned that it will restart in the very near future. 'Christians in Hilton', a fortnightly meeting for Bible study and prayer, also ceased because of Covid; it is hoped that this will also restart in the near future. Hilton is situated five miles from the market town of Stokesley and three miles from the up-market town of Yarm. Both have good schools and sports facilities.

Around and about our three parishes

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**, one of the largest commercial ports in Britain, is now a 'free port'.

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 provides education at all levels.



Vicarage –Brookfield



Hilton main road



Methodist chapel- Stainton

Thank you for taking the time to read this profile.

If you would like more information about our three parishes, please contact us.

We hope that you will be inspired to find out more and feel that God is calling you to work with us as we continue to witness in our communities.

If so we look forward to hearing from you!



Hemlington lake