



*A Parish Profile
for
The Parish Church of St. Mary's, Blyth*



Our Parish

Hello and welcome to our Parish profile

Blyth is a town and civil parish located on the south east coast of Northumberland and to the south of the River Blyth. We are approximately 13 miles north east of Newcastle Upon Tyne and the beautiful countryside of Northumberland is on our doorstep. The town has a population of about 37000. A few new housing developments will cause this figure to rise in the near future. The population is of mixed age, ethnicity and incomes.

We think St Marys' is a great place to be. There are challenges but we want to become more and more a part of our community so that people see the church as being at the heart of things rather than that old building at the top of the market that they used to go to.



The town boasts a beautiful park complete with water features for the children and play areas.



The beach area has undergone regeneration and we now have beach huts for hire, ample parking, seating and a children's play area.



The addition of the Commissioners Quay Hotel has brought visitors to Blyth by providing bed and breakfast accommodation and a welcoming place to eat and drink. We even have our own quite famous football team namely Blyth Spartans whose ground is called Croft Park. The local sports centre has a gym and two indoor pools and facilities for indoor sports.

The Port of Blyth

Located on the East Coast of the UK, the Port is seen as a leading offshore energy support base as well as an important hub for the movement of a range of project, containerised, dry bulk and break bulk cargoes.

A single day's drive from all mainland destinations, the Port is used as a strategic hub by many shippers looking to serve northern England & Scotland.

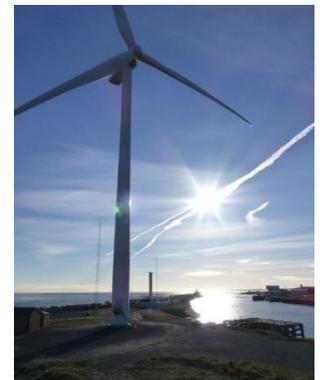
The Port has a subsidiary international logistics provider, Transped, offering a worldwide door to door service together with an award winning training division, Port Training_Services.



Renewable Energy



Blyth is home to National Renewable Energy Centre which is part of the Offshore Renewable Energy Catapult. This is a British technology innovation and research centre for offshore wind power, wave energy, tidal energy and low carbon technologies.



Our Church and Church Hall

St Marys was originally built as a chapel of ease to the Parish Church of St Mary, Horton. In 1864 a schoolroom, parsonage and Chapel were built in the new suburb of Waterloo. In 1896 the chapel became the Parish Church and extensions began in 1897. We have been around for quite some time. The Church building is in good order and plans are afoot to replace the existing wooden interior doors with glass doors thus making coming into the Church less of a 'scary' event.



We try to keep the Church open for two hours each Saturday in the summer to encourage people to come in and have a look around.

We have on average 30 communicants each Sunday, but we very much would like to grow. We are willing to embrace new ideas for example changing of the service times/format or even day.

Our Church hall is attached to the Church by means of a corridor and is in good order. An entrance to our hall is also available without entering the main church building.



Parsonage: St Mary's Vicarage, 51 Marine Terrace, Blyth

A substantial, well-constructed semi-detached house built in brick with slated roof circa 1925. with good size rooms.

Accommodation: ground floor- entrance porch, hall, study, lounge, dining room, kitchen with fitted wall and floor units – good work surfaces, cloakroom with WC and washbasin and extension off for washing facilities.

Wide staircase to first floor- 4 bedrooms, bathroom with WC, staircase to second floor with two attic bedrooms.

All windows have recently been double glazed.

Gas central heating with radiators.

Enclosed yard to the rear with outbuildings.

Garden to the front of the house and a large garden to the side surrounded by mature trees and shrubs.

Brick built detached garage.



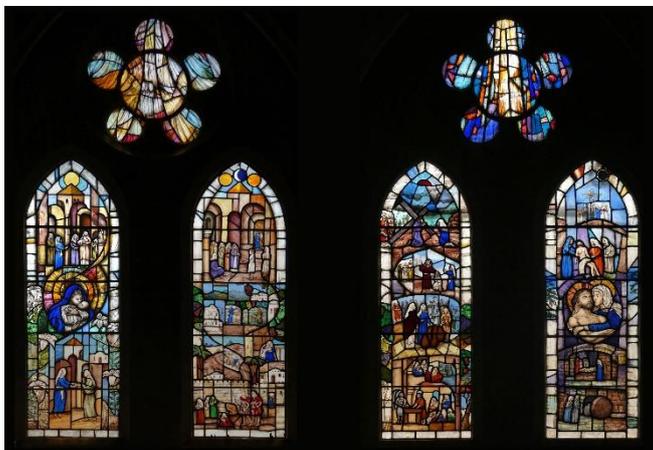
Church Life

We have a said mass at 9.30 Tuesdays and a family service 9.15 on Sunday. Before the interregnum we had a said mass each Friday at 9.30.

Unfortunately, due to the lack of children we have suspended our Sunday School/Club which ran to coincide with the Sunday service.

We have recently completed several projects:

- 'Leading your Church into growth' course.
- Remove and replacement of the old and failing pipe organ with a modern digital organ.
- Installation of 4 new stained-glass windows which depict the life of Christ from birth to death.



Recently a mission task force was set up to look at ways in which we can grow. We are looking at our 'welcome', replacing the current heavy wooden inner doors with glass ones and looking to totally revamp the kitchen.

We are designing a welcome leaflet which can be given to 'newcomers' and have identified and obtained quotes for the new doors. The plan for the doors is about to be put to the P C C and congregation for approval. We also have quotes for a new kitchen and are about to seek outside finance to make this happen.



Our Church and the Community

There are several activities going on at St Mary's which involve a number of external organisations and the general public.

- + Saturday morning coffee
- + Blyth Spirit Womens Institute meet monthly in the church hall
- + Blyth Photographic Society meet monthly in the church hall
- + Northumberland and Durham History Society meet monthly in the church hall
- + Market research organisations regularly hire the hall. St Mary's is ideally placed next to the market place in the centre of Blyth for this activity.

We are active members of Churches Together In Blyth. We subscribe to a joint website with Churches Together in Blyth and we promote our Church through this medium. This is an organisation set up to promote inter faith discussion/co-operation.

Local organisations are also supported by St Mary's:

- + We volunteer on a weekly basis with our local food bank.
- + We currently sponsor two children through World Vision. One of the sponsored children lives in Uganda and another lives in Albania.
- + Our Christian led outreach and charitable works includes Lent lunches and various social events.
- + We also fundraise for Christian Aid.

We have had regular contact with a few local schools, the ATC and also a town centre youth bar 'Silx'.

The Deanery/Mission

Bedlington Deanery

St Mary's is an active member of Bedlington Deanery Synod and has a long track record of supporting deanery synod. St Mary's and all churches in the deanery attended an Imagining the Deanery event and from that produced a directory so that we could all share information about activities that take place in our churches. Churches in Blyth worked together during the 2018 Bishops Pathway Mission, St Mary's volunteers were part of the team that produced an event in partnership with Blyth Tall Ships which was a huge success. As a deanery we know we will be evolving as challenges in today's world of working practices emerge, St Marys will be contributing to discussions at all levels.





What kind of Vicar are we looking for?

- A priest who will maintain our present catholic tradition.
- A person who is organised and can balance Church life with home life.
- A person of prayer with pastoral gifts and energy to expand the mission of this church; a community priest.
- A person with the leadership qualities who will work with us and guide us to go beyond the boundaries of our own church and take mission out to the wider community.
- An approachable person with a good sense of humour, enthusiasm and understanding.
- A good communicator and listener.