

DIOCESE OF NEWCASTLE
PATRONAGE (BENEFICES) MEASURE 1986

Statement prepared by the P.C.C. describing the Church's ministry and mission within the parish

The Church of St Maurice in the Parish of Ellingham in the Benefice of Beadnell, Ellingham, & North Sunderland.

Seeking: Sharing: Sending



St Maurice's Church, Ellingham

This form is designed to give an overview of a parish to be used in a vacancy for the appointment of a new parish priest. It will be accepted as the 'statement describing the conditions, needs and traditions of the parish' required by the Patronage (Benefices) Measure 1986. Additional information may be given by way of printed documents or written submissions.

Introduction to our Benefice

The Benefice became a legal reality in March 2020 adding Ellingham which had been previously linked with Bamburgh to the existing Benefice of Beadnell & North Sunderland. Our previous incumbent had been appointed in Autumn 2019 in anticipation of this.

Within a few days of this happening, the Communities in the Parishes entered the first of the Covid Pandemic Lockdowns which would dominate the way we worked into 2022 and beyond.

Covid meant we had to work together from the beginning and seek to support each other as much as possible. We had regular meetings of Wardens, physically when possible and virtually otherwise and learnt to consult PCCs by email etc. Working together has brought greater fellowship and joy particularly in joint worship.

We have been most fortunate in the period since 2019 a dedicated Vicar with the strong support of his wife, who was innovative in responding to challenges particularly during Covid and in caring equally for three parishes. He maintained regular worship and pastoral care through careful timing of services, online podcasts, community outreach and joint services. The sensitive use of digital technology has also been important in enhancing our worship. This included provision of appropriate international church music during worship.

We experimented with outdoor services when these became possible and alternated services on Sundays and Wednesday due to a desire not to compress things after the lockdowns in 2020 and 2021.



Worship at St Maurice's

Post Covid our regular pattern emerged which each Parish using the same service seasonally and across the period of ordinary time. There is a common Tradition of Open Catholic Eucharistic Worship, but most would see themselves as simply CofE

Sundays

09.00 Eucharist at Beadnell except 5th Sunday using two retired Priests Each Month (20—30 people)

09.15 Eucharist at Ellingham (4th Sunday Lay Led M.P.) one retired priest on 2nd Sunday (7-10 sometimes 16 people with couples preparing for Marriage)

10.30 Eucharist at North Sunderland except 5th Sunday led by the incumbent always (20—30 people)

On the 5th Sunday a United Eucharist revolves around the Benefice plus United Eucharists for Patronal Festivals

Wednesday 10am Eucharist at Beadnell (12-18 people)

Worship online Since Covid

During Covid and afterwards Sunday and latterly Daily Worship, "Reflections" has been available online at <https://www.youtube.com/@TonyMacpherson>. This was very widely accessed during the pandemic but is still accessed now

Teaching and Study

The focus of teaching and preaching since the benefice began has been around the Churches being Salt and Light for their communities. Building upon the influence of the Northern Saints in this Cradle of Christianity but also on the teaching of St Paul and the courage and witness of St Maurice and his Legion.

Each Church now has interpretative boards about this heritage. Each week there is a meditation online and during the pandemic there was daily reflection and teaching. In person Study groups have not been as successful as hoped in 2025/26 but the annual Lent gathering Cross on the Coast continues to be well supported in person as it was online in 2020/2021.

We are ready for the new incumbent to build upon this and to lead us into new understanding of both our heritage and witness to each community.

Each Church has completed the 101 survey and continues to be accessible to all whilst taking a conscious decision not to compete with existing Community halls. In each village church members are active in the governance of the Community Halls. The Beadnell WI, Ellingham Village Hall and Seahouses Hub they are our partners and not competitors

Age Profile

These are the figures from the 2021 census

	Parish: Ellingham: St Maurice	Parish: North Sunderland: St Paul	Parish: Beadnell: St Ebba
Parish population (2021 census)	333	1,685	416
Area (square miles)	11.5	4.6	6.8
% aged 0-4	3.7	2.2	1.9
% aged 5-19	8.4	11.9	9.0
% aged 20-29	3.6	7.4	5.0
% aged 45-69	47.8	38.7	38.8
% aged 70 and over	24.0	27.0	35.2
% Asian ethnicity	0.5	0.2	0.2
% Mixed ethnicity	0.8	0.6	0.3
% Other ethnicity	0.2	0.2	0.0
% Christian	63.1	63.2	66.4
% Jewish	0.0	0.0	0.3

	Parish: Ellingham: St Maurice	Parish: North Sunderland: St Paul	Parish: Beadnell: St Ebba
% Sikh	0.0	0.0	0.0
% No religion	32.7	31.1	27.2

They show us that the vast majority identify as Christians but that we are predominantly older communities and for us as churches growing younger may begin with people aged 40-70.

Schools

There are two primary schools in the benefice, a church school at Ellingham where the Vicar is a governor and the school at Seahouses where there are good relations

Each school has regular “open the book” visits and regular Collective Worship at Ellingham plus occasional visits to Seahouses - there is definitely potential to increase contact at Seahouses. Primary school numbers fluctuate from 90-120 over the years, but these include children from at least 3 benefices. The other primary schools are in Embleton and Belford and parent cross boundaries by choice. There is a secondary school at Alnwick. Ellingham school uses the churchyard at St Maurices and also holds services during each year in St Maurices. Seahouses School has Christmas service normally every other year in St Pauls where Busy Beas Nursery is also involved in visits and Services.



Ellingham Church of England Primary School

Messy Church

Originally part of Farne Churches Family and Youth Organisation is now coordinated from St Pauls - children numbers vary from 4-10

Vision for the Future

The last seven years have been a productive period in establishing a new Benefice, weathering the Pandemic and laying the foundations for the future. We seek now to grow as Church Communities serving our Villages and Hamlets and growing as a Family in the Benefice

1. Ellingham Parish Information

Name of Parish	Ellingham
Name of Parish church	St Maurice
Name of other C of E churches/centres for public worship in the parish	N/A
Group of parishes in which you work (formally or informally)	Benefice includes St Ebbas Beadnell and St Pauls North Sunderland. Also, informally with the Farne Churches
Deanery	Bamburgh and Glendale
Population	333
7.(a) Number on Electoral Roll	15
(b) Date of APCM at which this number was declared	23rd April 2026

Attendance at worship at each church:

Average Sunday Communicants	9
Average Sunday attendance	10
Average weekday Communicants	N/A
Average weekday attendance Neighbourhood initiatives:	N/A

Occasional Offices:

Number of baptisms in the last 12 months:	2
Number of persons confirmed in the last 12 months:	0
Number of weddings in the last 12 months:	9
Number of funerals in church in the last 12 months:	1
Number of funerals taken by clergy not in church in the last 12 months:	1

II. The Local Community

1.(a) Briefly describe the population in terms of any predominant age and/or social groups, the ethnic mix etc:

Ellingham Parish is a most attractive area in which to live, work and worship; being strongly rural in character and the location of a number of historic buildings including the Church of St Maurice.

Farming is the main local industry within the parish but the location of prestigious holiday and wedding venues at Ellingham Hall and Doxford Hall Hotel and Spa as well as the local Pack Horse Inn and Carnaby's Café and Shop, illustrate how desirable the area is to visitors as well as residents.

A number of parishioners commute to Tyneside and other centres because of employment, though there is the opportunity for remote working.

Being a place of unspoiled natural beauty, it is within a tourist area (e.g. within a ten-mile radius are located Alnwick Castle and Gardens, Bamburgh Castle, Seahouses and Alnmouth, the foothills of the Cheviots and slightly further the Holy Island of Lindisfarne.



Ellingham Hall



The Pack Horse Inn

While North Northumberland is a cherished destination for retirement, the heart of Ellingham remains vibrant and youthful. Ellingham Church of England Primary School, which is now part of the Pele Trust family of schools, is thriving with 45 pupils currently on roll. The journey begins at age two in our 'Wellies & Wonder' forest school-based, outdoor nursery, moving through to the main school for ages 3–11

The link between the Church and School is a living one: the Vicar serves as an ex officio Governor and leads regular acts of worship. Throughout the year, the church building comes alive with children's voices for our Easter, Harvest, Christmas, and Leavers' services. You'll often see the pupils walking the footpaths

(b) Are there any special social problems, e.g. high unemployment?

There are no specific social or economic pressures, but local services are very limited in particular public transport, lack of local shops and no Post Office. in common with so many small rural communities. The Parish/Community of Ellingham (including Doxford, Tynley, North Charlton and Chathill) has a vibrant and inclusive Monthly magazine edited by a member of the PCC and published and funded by Ellingham Community Trust

2. Please list:

Local schools:	Ellingham Church of England Primary School
Youth centres:	None
Hospitals:	Alnwick Infirmary
Nursing/residential homes, sheltered housing:	None in Parish
Places of worship of other faiths:	None in the Parish
Local businesses:	Ellingham Estates Farming, Carnaby's Restaurant, Ellingham Hall - Wedding Venue, Doxford Hall Hotel and Spa, The Packhorse Inn, Game Bird Shooting. Home Based consultancy

Neighbourhood initiatives and Local associations

A Community Trust funded by contributions from the operators of the Wandylaw Wind Farm

Ellingham Village Hall. The Hall hosts special events and many regular activities including Villages Quizes, Table Tennis, Yoga and Tai Chi.

Ellingham Parish Council.

Leek Club



Ellingham Village Hall

Any civic responsibilities of local clergy:

Governor of Ellingham School

III. The Church Community

(please give details for each church)

1.(a) What percentage of the congregation lives outside the parish?

10%

(b) Describe the congregation in terms of age, employment, culture, ethnicity and gender:

Median Average Age 80 +, some retired some still working, Male and female White Caucasian

2. Please describe the tradition of your church and give details of robes/vestments worn by officials:

Vestments are worn applicable to period in the year or specific Festivals,

3. Give details of Sunday services with times and form of service used:

Clergy led Eucharist 9.15 am.

One Sunday each month is lay led with no Communion.

Occasional Joint Benefice Services on a rotation basis starts at 10.00am

4. Give details of weekday services:

None

5. List any authorised ministers (e.g. Reader, Church Army Officer, Ordained Local Minister, Non-stipendiary Minister, Curate in training, retired Clergy):

Rev Judy Glover (retired Clergy)

6.(a) What is the average weekly giving of those aged 16 years and older, and what proportion of the giving is gift aided:

£6.00

(b) When did the parish last have a stewardship campaign:

An initiative this last year and this year to develop Friends of St Maurices Church to raise interest in giving time, money and talents.

7. How does each church supplement direct giving in order to meet financial needs (eg fundraising events, hall lettings, occasional offices, investments):

Fund raising events and applications, Fees, Donations and sale of produce.

8.(a) Give details of expenses paid to the incumbent, and state whether this covers them in full.

£2912.34

(b) Is there an annual discussion about the level of expenses as part of the budgeting process:

Yes

What amount of Share has been (a) requested and (b) paid:

Last year:	£4177.00
Current year:	£4596.00
Next year:	Estimate £4850

10.(a) Is there any capital project in hand at the moment:

Yes, New Tea point, internal water supply and some replastering.

10.(b) If so, please give brief details with costs and state how they are to be met:

Estimate £12,000 from Grants and own Funds

Please attach a copy of the latest statement of accounts.

IV. Church Buildings

(please give details for each church)

1.(a) What is the general state of repair of the churches:

Generally sound condition Church Buildings and Churchyard

There is a main Church Building and a Church Yard and grounds, which are the responsibility of the PCC; the latter is the subject of joint Educational / environmental project with Ellingham School, there are no ancillary buildings such as a Church Hall etc.

There is a wooden eco toilet in the Church grounds for Church and School Forest School use which is maintained by a member of the PCC.

The Church and Church yard is the responsibility of the PCC of St Maurice Church and is situated about 1/4 mile from the village centre.



The Lychgate, St Maurice's

It is a stone Victorian Church and built in the Gothic style. There have been three previous churches on the site, the first built in about 1150, the present one built and consecrated in 1862 AD,

The present church was built by the generosity of Rev Charles Thorpe (vicar 1855-1880). Not much has been altered since it was consecrated. The spectacular windows date from 19th century some of which are memorials to the Baker Cresswell family of Preston Tower. Three of the windows are particularly interesting - the Benedicite, the Te Deum and one featuring construction i.e. the ark, the Temple in Jerusalem, Durham Cathedral and Ellingham Church. Unifying these in Christ in the carpenter's shop. The wooden font cover, pulpit and rood screen were created by local men in 1920s.

St Maurices has benefited from generous grants from the Ellingham Community Trust and the Diocesan Repair and Improvement scheme enabling the PCC to upgrade the main electricity supply and heating system .as well as various repair works to Church fabric.

The Lychgate has benefited recently from substantial repairs, funded by grant from the Runciman Trust and two local families.

In the old churchyard there are three sandstone pinnacles lying having fallen from a previous church built in 1805. There are 3 War Grave Commission headstones for men killed in action in WW1. There are no new burials in the old churchyard. The new burial ground is on the Southwest of the footpath leading from the Lychgate to the church. A low wall divides the new from the old. The new churchyard has been in use since 1967.

The church land is accessed from a car park at the end of a single-track road. The Lychgate and gravel path lead up to the church and the churchyards. Many local families are buried in the graveyard, and the graves are tended and regularly visited.



The path from the Lychgate to the church

(b) Please give details of any major maintenance needed following the last Quinquennial Inspection:

None

2. Please give details of church halls and any other ancillary buildings (and an indication of the level of their use).

No ancillary buildings except a separate Wooden Eco toilet

3. Is there a churchyard to maintain and who is responsible for its maintenance?

Yes. The PCC is responsible

V. Outreach and Mission

1.(a) What are the regular mission and outreach activities of the parish:

No regular outreach other than Community participation of PCC and members of the Congregation.

(b) What are you doing to help people find out about Jesus:

Too few PCC members to undertake formal process (PCC of 5 soon to be 4 as at end of July 2026)

(c) What are you doing to help grow people in discipleship:

PCC too small to undertake formal process

(d) What are you doing to grow people in leadership:

PCC too small to undertake formal process

2.(a) Please give details of support for the church overseas:

None from PCC but Personal donations to e.g. UNICEF, Water Aid, Christian Aid

(b) How much is given annually:

Personal donations unspecified

3.(a) Give details of support for home missions and charities:

None from PCC

(b) How much is given annually

N/A

4.(a) Does the parish have an overseas link:

No

(b) If so, please state where/who

N/A

5.(a) Is there an organised system of outreach and welcome to new families

PCC members aim to meet new residents to the Parish to welcome them to the parish and invite them to attend Church.

Every person attending Church is given a warm personal welcome. All are welcome including animals.

At Festival times in particular every house receives a specially designed notice inviting members of the community to attend Church and giving the times of the services.

(b) If so, please describe:

6. What part does the church play in community care:

A PCC Member is a Trustee of Bellview Care Charity which supports elderly care in the area; PCC Members care for elderly relatives and friends in the Parish.

7.(a) Are there Lay Eucharistic Assistants who take communion to the sick:

No

(b) If so, who are they

N/A

8. What work does the church undertake with young people, other than in church-based organisations (e.g. open youth work):

No demand because of population age profile and a PCC too small to undertake formal process

VI. Ecumenical Relationships

1(a) Involvement in local Council of Churches

Yes. Farne Churches and PCC member attending Sacred Spaces.

(b) Is there a formal covenant with any other denomination?

No,

2. What informal ecumenical contacts are there?

Work with Farne Churches and PCC member attending Sacred Spaces

VII. Church Education and Social Provision

1.(a) Name of Church School(s), if applicable:

(b)

Ellingham Church of England Primary School

Foundation? Part of the Pele Trust family of schools

(c) Number of pupils on roll (approx.):

45

(d) If aided, does the PCC support the school:

Not financially, School holds services in Church and has a Forest School in the Churchyard

VIII. Lay Education and Participation

What education and training work takes place in the church for the following (give approx. numbers):

Forest School in the Church yard

Children 45

Young People: N/A

Adults: N/A

2.(a) Give details of house/prayer groups:

None

(b) Are the leaders clergy or lay

N/A

3.(a) How do you rate the strength of lay leadership:

Strong for a very small PCC

(b) To what do you credit this strength or the lack of it:

Local strong long-standing commitment from a very small group of local people.

Community meetings have been held to establish more Community support. Already there is some assistance from none churchgoers to maintaining the Church Yard.

There are no specific social or economic pressures, but local services are very limited in particular public transport, lack of local shops and no Post Office. in common with so many small rural communities.

The Parish/Community of Ellingham (including Doxford, Tynley, North Charlton and Chathill) has a vibrant and inclusive Monthly magazine edited by a member of the PCC and published and funded by Ellingham Community Trust.

IX. Mission

List areas of church life which you consider in need of development:

Increase the Congregation

What are the main areas of mission that you think the new priest should prioritise in their ministry:

Increase the Congregation

In summary, what are the top three challenges with which you and the new priest need to engage:

Increase the Congregation, improve pastoral care and engage with the community.

X. Additional Information

Please add here, or on another sheet, anything else which you would like the Patron and the Bishop to know about the conditions, needs and traditions of the parish.

St Maurice serves a rural community and a small but well integrated population. The key festivals in particular Christmas, Easter and Harvest Festival, are generally celebrated and supported by the wider community.

Faith Sharing events or programmes

Lenten series of meetings entitled `Cross on the Coast`. Each service has a separate theme and a varied venue and clergy member leading the service

A Christmas Carol Service is held in December and has proved to be a popular event as are the Fund-raising BBQs and Coffee Mornings.

There are occasionally joint services with other Churches in the Benefice which are greatly valued and enjoyed.

Ellingham is also a member of the local Council of Churches (Farne Churches Together) and regular contact is maintained.

PCC members aim to meet new residents to the Parish to welcome them to the parish and invite them to attend Church. At Festival times in particular every house receives a specially designed notice inviting members of the community to attend Church and giving the times of the services.

Fund raising Events have been used as a positive way of encouraging the community to work more closely with the Church.

It is important to continue to work in harmony with our neighbouring parishes to strengthen our combined congregations and to collaborate wherever practicable.

The Diocesan Development Plan and Draft Neighbourhood Plan identifies a need to attract younger families and individuals.

It will be necessary to consider how the Church can reach out to wider community involvement and to consider the longer-term future of the Church.

Ministry

The Church Wardens are licensed to assist with the Chalice at Communion Services within the Parish but a Panel/ rota of retired Clergy in the wider area, take Communion services in the absence of the Parish Clergy.

Lay led services are held once each month and members of the PCC undertake Lesson reading and intercessions, at Communion Services within the Parish.

A Panel/ rota of retired Clergy in the wider area take services in the absence of the Parish Clergy.

The Secretary to the PCC is also Editor of the Parish/ Village Newsletter.

XI. The new parish priest

List the qualities and skills you would like to see the new priest:

The new incumbent

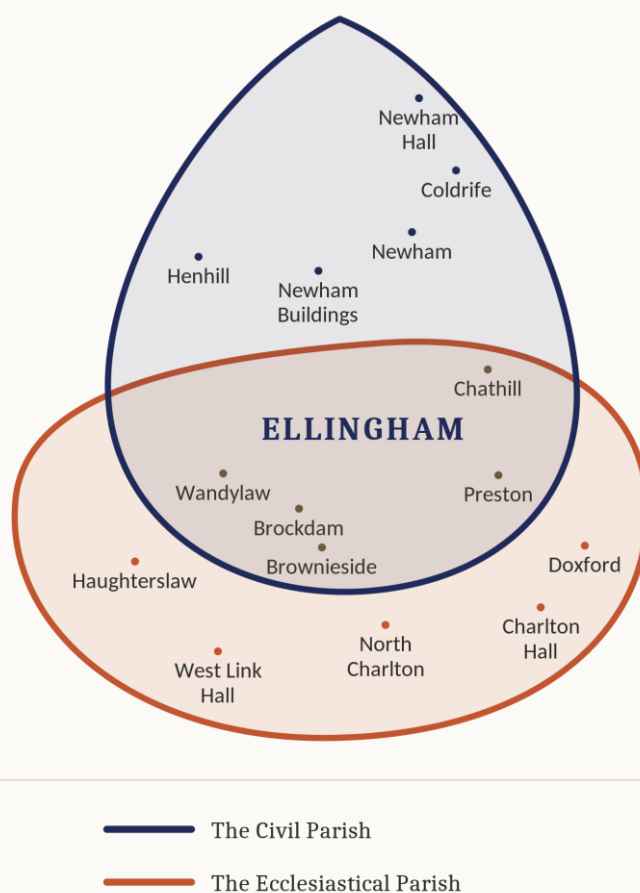
The new incumbent should be able to relate to and work with a wide age group in a rural and coastal setting and be capable of maximising the benefit of digital applications in support of worship and community engagement.

He or she must be creative and innovative and work with the PCC and the Community to develop and implement a strategy for sustainability and to expand and strengthen spiritual life in the Parish. Working with partners to increase the regular attendance at services and outreach as well as encouraging the wider use of Church facilities in harmony with the Village Hall and other local venues.

It is important to work effectively with Church, School and Community and requires sensitivity, energy and to be a good team player.

Good management, administrative and IT skills are desirable. He or she should be innovative but also sensitive to the traditions and needs of a rural community.

THE ELLINGHAM PARISHES



The Parish and Ecclesiastical boundaries are different and overlap as above.