



DIOCESE OF NEWCASTLE

PATRONAGE (BENEFICES) MEASURE 1986

Parish of Newcastle St Ann PCC

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

1. The Local Community

Please describe the size and physical features of the parish, the industry, the principal institutions, all schools, and the general category (e.g. UPA inner city, UPA housing estate, urban, suburban, market town, commuter village, village/rural).

Also details of any predominant age and/or social groups, the ethnic mix, and any special social problems, e.g. unemployment, etc.

St. Ann's Parish is a mix of local council properties, student purpose-built blocks of accommodation, along with private flats along the Quayside – some of which are short term lets.

The parish stretches from Melbourne Street in the west along the Quayside as far as Hoult's Yard in the east. This includes the vibrant Ouseburn Valley Conservation Area and all its arts and cultural venues, pubs and restaurants.

There are 2,387 people in the parish and is ranked 990/ 12,161 in terms of deprivation. It is above average in terms of the younger age profiles in the Diocese with 5% of the parish being over 70 years old. In the last census 47% of the population said they were Christian.

2. The Church Community

Please give details of the congregations

e.g. any predominant age/social groups, what proportion live outside the parish.

The Electoral Roll consists mainly of retired people with the occasional student usually at the start of term time.

The usual Sunday attendance consists of up to 10 to 12 persons.

Weekday services are usually around 5.

Several local residences attend annual fund-raising events and bi-annual fayres.

3. Statistics

Population : 2387

Electoral Roll: 16

Average Sunday Communicants: 10

Average Sunday attendance: 12

Average baptisms per annum: 1

Average Confirmations per annum: 1

Average weddings per annum: 1

Average funerals per annum: 0

Average house communions for the sick or housebound: 0

4. Church Buildings

Please give details of the churches and licensed places of worship.

St. Anns was built in 1768 from designs from William Newton on a previous medieval site from 1334 known as the “Keelmens” church. It is also a daughter church of All Saints Church.

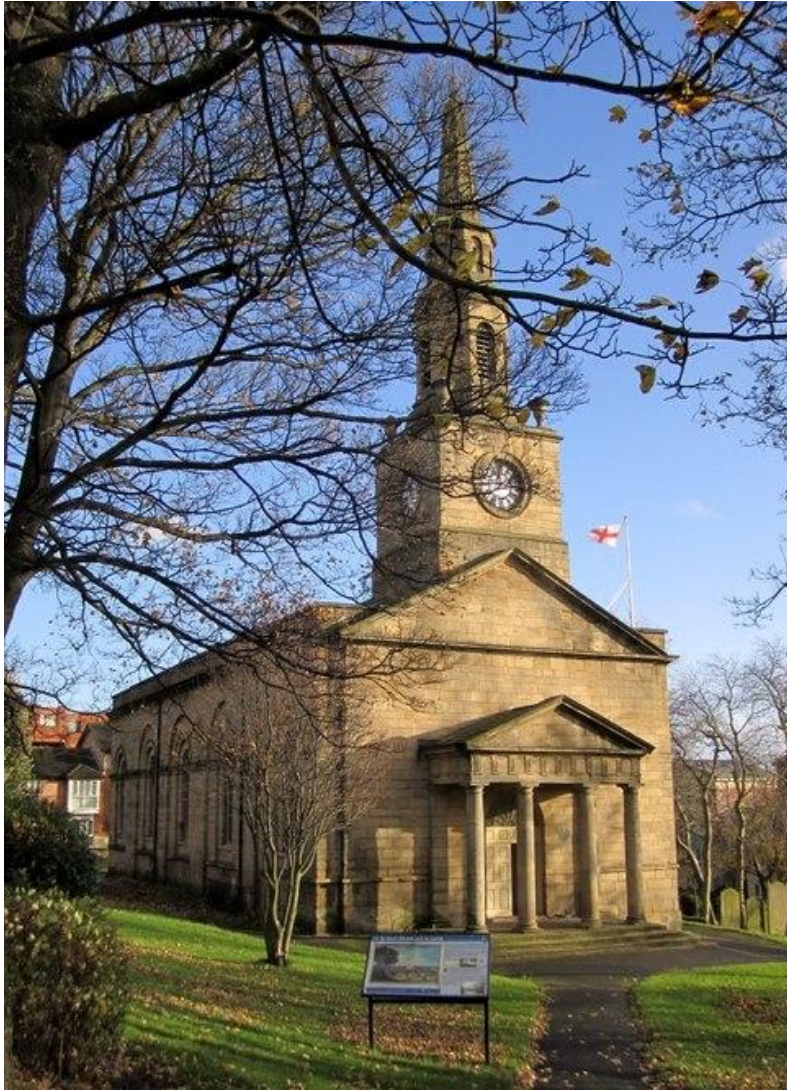
The church building is Grade I listed- <https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/list-entry/1355222?section=official-list-entry>

The church has a distinctive rectangular shape with west porch and shallow east apse. The decorative west tower includes four clock faces and decorative urns. The Tuscan tetrastyle porch with pediment presents a grand entrance to the building. The tower contains a single bell linked to the tower clock. A flagpole is also attached to the roof.

The inside of the church is a large open plan nave space of painted plaster with decorative dado and ornamented plaster ceiling. The reredos is by Ricks ad Charlewood dated 1911 in classical style. One stained glass window was added in the Victorian times as a memorial. However, all other windows are of clear glass. A small kitchen and storeroom have been formed either side of the central entrance door to the rear of the Nave. A vestry, toilet and choir vestry are placed in the western end of the church, accessed from a central entrance bay. Fixtures in the church include monuments to notable former parishioners.

The church has an electronic two manual organ with pedals and built in amplifier. The church as a separate PA system with various microphones and mixing desk used to play music during a service.

The churchyard has been a closed since the 19th century but contains graves of many notable Newcastle industrialists. The church yard is locally listed by the council and is cherished for its tranquillity and harmony within the churchyard space and the fine views it affords of the Tyne. St Ann’s can be seen from the viewing platform of the Baltic Arts Centre in Gateshead and is a welcome splash of green in the urban landscape of the east of the city. The churchyard is a grassed area with trees on all sides of the church and is enclosed by stone and brick walls. On the south side are graves and from this side the river and Gateshead Quayside can be seen. There are two pedestrian accesses to the church which includes steps and one shared pedestrian/vehicle access to the rear of the church. The churchyard is maintained by Newcastle City Council. There is a heritage interpretation panel to the front of the church.



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

No actual church hall, but a designated meeting place at the rear of the worship area. This area has also been used for many church activities over the years.

At the moment, apart from church entertainment evenings, the local narcotics anonymous group meets on a Monday from 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.

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

The churchyard is closed and is "maintained" by the Newcastle City Council. However, there are several local people who help with maintenance of the churchyard i.e. placing birdboxes on trees, weeding, and wildlife observation.

5. Patterns of Worship

Sunday services with times and form of service used.

Sunday – 11 a.m. Sung Eucharist with 4 hymns to recorded music.
Followed by fellowship afterwards.

Weekday services

Tuesday – 10 a.m. Said Communion

6. Church Tradition

Please describe the tradition of your church

Anglican worship with vestments.

No incense.

Festivals and Holy days with a mixture of traditional and modern hymns.

7. Church Activities

Regular groups for Bible study/other study/prayer

Lent and advent groups have been held in the vicarage.

Children & Youth Work/Sunday School/Uniformed organisations

Children's Messy church is held several times per year.

<p><i>Clubs/Societies</i></p> <p>Men's Group- along with Christ Church</p>
<p><i>Support of home and overseas missions</i></p> <p>Christian Aid USPP</p>
<p><i>Social work/Caring for others</i></p>
<p><i>Faith Sharing events or programmes</i></p> <p>Lent lunches with St. Dominics (Catholic) Shieldfield Methodist Church, German Lutheran Church.</p> <p><i>Parochial charities</i> St. Vincents Centre Christian Aid UNICEF</p>
<p><i>Any other</i></p>
<p>8. Ministry</p>
<p><i>Does the parish/locality have a Local Ministry Group? If so, how long has it existed, what are its main responsibilities?</i></p>
<p>Shieldfield Churches Together</p>
<p><i>List any additional authorised ministers (e.g. Reader, Church Army Officer, Ordained Local Minister, Non-stipendiary Minister, Curate in training, retired Clergy)</i></p>
<p>None.</p>
<p><i>Please indicate current lay involvement in:</i></p>
<p><i>a) worship (e.g. Lesson reader, intercessions, administration of communion, serving, other)</i></p> <p>Lesson readers Intercessions Administration of communion Serving</p> <p><i>b) administration (e.g. pew sheet or magazine production, secretarial assistance, registers, other)</i> Fortnightly newsletter with Christ Church https://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/16226/news/notice-sheet/grid/</p> <p>PCC secretary is responsible for minutes and agenda production. Churchwarden operates as church treasurer at present.</p>

c) pastoral work (e.g. baptism preparation/visiting, home communion, visiting housebound or in hospital, other)

St Ann's has a strong tradition of pastoral ministry, with the Parish Priest expected to take a central role in the Battlefield community by attending and participating in community events, including volunteering at community events. The Priest visits members of the congregation at home and when in hospital and is a visible presence in and around the parish.

9. Finance

Have you had a parish funding campaign recently?

Is use made of Gift Aid and/or an envelope scheme?

Is the Parish Share paid regularly and in full?

Are there any major debts? Give details of expenses paid to the incumbent, and state whether this covers them in full. Please attach a copy of the latest statement of accounts.

2024 Parish Funding Campaign support by Diocese Generous Giving Team.

Gift Aid used by five parishioners.

Parish Share fully paid every year for over 10 years.

There are no outstanding debts to the Church.

The Incumbent's expenses paid in 2024 totalled £610.

10. Community involvement

Describe the involvement of the church in:

Schools (e.g. Governors, leading assemblies etc.)

Bi yearly parish fayres are well supported by community members.

Other institutions (Industry, Old People's Homes, Hostels, Civic life etc)

Annual Law Courts carol service.

Friends of Saint Anns – Support group dealing with the history of the church, and maintaining the fabric of the building. Annual heritage talks are held in church about the building and Quayside area. Saint Ann also takes part in annual national Heritage Open Days with exhibitions held about the area

11. Relationships with neighbouring parishes

We have a beneficial mutual relationship with the joint parish of Christ Church in Shieldfield, holding joint study groups, shared worship and shared social events.

Are you aware of how these relationships fit in with any Deanery Plans, and the implications such Plans may have for future ministerial deployment in your parish?

We have identified the following objectives contained in the Central Deanery Plan where St. Ann's Parish could be involved:

- work more closely with Christ Church to sustain ministry and mission and Northumbria University students
- work with Holy Trinity Jesmond on further developing Messy Church;
- create youth group and sustain Messy Church;
- new opportunity for outreach to community during the day;
- look to encourage concerts/events to encourage new people into church;
- working with local community and Friends of St. Ann to develop use and activity of churchyard;
- to explore generous giving options; and
- to seek support in assessing costs of running the church etc.

12. Ecumenical Relationships

Working with:
Churches Together
St. Dominics R.C. Church
Shieldfield Methodist Church
German Lutheran Church

13. The Parish and the future

What plans does the P.C.C. have for deepening the spiritual life of the members of the congregation, and for engagement in outreach to those who do not attend church?

To continue and encourage members of the congregation to engage with local communities and encourage support of your local church.

We look to be open and welcoming and arrange events to encourage the wider community into the church. The Friends of St Ann have assisted in arranging heritage talks in church to encourage as many people in the church building from all sections of the community.

We are also working with the Ouseburn Trust to engage with and participate in events focussed in the Ouseburn Valley.

What is lacking which needs to be pursued in the next 5 years?

Over the next 5 years we are looking to develop a closer relationship with Northumbria University and its students, as well as the local Battlefield community. To achieve this, we would like to increase our

outreach support role in the community and to engage with the multi-cultural diverse residents in our parish.

We also need to continue our fellowship across the Benefice by hosting events to develop a deeper faith and support social change.

14. The new incumbent

In the light of the factors set out above, what are the qualities and attributes the P.C.C. would wish to see in the new incumbent?

We would hope the new incumbent would look at ways to encourage more people to support the church. St Ann's has a strong tradition of sacramental Anglo-Catholic worship. A new incumbent would need to embrace the Church's traditions, whilst looking at new ways to ensure it can be attractive to a younger multi-ethnic Anglican tradition congregation. The congregation recognises the need to embrace change to remain relevant in a fast-changing world. However, this should not be at the expense of traditional worship patterns. Twice-weekly services are considered a vital aspect of the Church's Christian witness, reinforcing its commitment to community and faith. The new incumbent will need to be the spiritual leader for church members and the wider community and being able to engage with the large student population in the area. This will be achieved through understanding the diverse spiritual needs of the diverse communities that make up the parish and developing this as part of the Church's inclusive ministry.

It is important that the incumbent becomes a strong visual presence in the Battlefield community with a leading role in encouraging wider community participation.

15. Parsonage

Age, number of bedrooms, heating, garden etc.

Any additional information.

Built in the 1950s, close to both churches and on a local bus route the substantial brick-built house has:

Downstairs - Living room, dining room, kitchen, study/cloakroom, and utility room.

Upstairs – 4 bedrooms (one with dressing room), family bathroom – separate WC.

Gas central heating – recently rewired.

Outside – Detached garage.

