

DIOCESE OF NEWCASTLE

PATRONAGE (BENEFICES) MEASURE 1986

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

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.

I. Parish Information

1. *Name of Parish:* **Cambois**
2. *Name of Parish church(es).* **St Andrew's**
3. *Name of other C of E churches/centres for public worship in the parish.* **None**
4. *Group of parishes in which you work (formally or informally):* **United Benefice of Bedlington, Cambois & Sleekburn**
5. *Deanery:* **Bedlington**
6. *Population:* **approx. 950**
- 7.(a) *Number on Electoral Roll* **10**
- (b) *Date of APCM at which this number was declared:* **1st April 2025**
7. *Attendance at worship at each church:*

Average Sunday Communicants = 14

Average Sunday attendance. – Communion Service (once a month) = 16

Morning Prayer other Sundays = 9

Average weekday Communicants = Communion on Wednesday once a month = 6

Average weekday attendance = Communion services = 6, Morning Prayer = 5

8. *Occasional Offices:*

Number of baptisms in the last 12 months: 1

Number of persons confirmed in the last 12 months: 0

Number of weddings in the last 12 months: 0

Number of funerals in church in the last 12 months: 4

Number of funerals taken by clergy not in church in the last 12 months: 0

II. The Local Community

- 1.(a) *Briefly describe the population in terms of any predominant age and/or social groups, the ethnic mix etc:*
The median age for Cambois parish is 40.7 years
13% of people in Cambois are under 16 years old, and 40.7% are aged 45-69, 15% are aged 70 or over.
99.1% of people identified as white ethnic.

- (b) *Are there any special social problems, e.g. high unemployment?*
Cambois parish deprivation ranking is 546. There are a number of families and elderly needing support from surrounding food banks and help with housing. However, the situation is similar to that which is found in other ex-mining towns in South-East Northumberland, where little investment has been made in employment or community. There is limited public transport to Cambois and connections around, although there are discussions to increase bus services being held with the local authority and bus companies, in line with the building of the new data centre by QTS. This investment and their commitment to supporting the community has been welcomed by those within Cambois and the surrounding areas

2. *Please list:*

Local schools: **Cambois Primary School**

Youth centres: **none. Although the Tute (a local community charity in the ex-Mining institute) holds toddler groups and occasional youth events.**

Hospitals: **None in the parish.**

Nursing/residential homes, sheltered housing: **None in the parish.**

Places of worship of other faiths: **None in the parish.**

Local businesses: **There are public houses, a café, social clubs, Charlton's Bar & Restaurant and fish & chip takeaway, various businesses within an industrial estate, energy company, plant hire company, cabling company. There is to be future investment of a data centre beginning later in 2025, by QTS.**

Neighbourhood initiatives:

Local associations: **the Tute, Cambois Camera Club. Sea Cadets based in Ashington but have links to Cambois.**

St Andrew's has good links with the Tute, Social Club and Camera Club, which was strengthened in September 2024 with a community event called Hidden Depths in which St Andrew's played a big part. This was an innovative heritage and arts project organised by the Tute aiming to uncover the fascinating history of 'Cambois, a Northumberland coastal village', and was very well attended by not only the local community but people from further afield. This helped bring St Andrew's to the forefront and visibility in the community.

Any civic responsibilities of local clergy: **Remembrance Day Services at the War Memorial, there has also been occasional civic services held in our Church, such as Sea Sunday with Sea Cadets.**

III. The Church Community (please give details for each church)

- 1.(a) *What percentage of the congregation lives outside the parish?* **50%**
- (b) *Describe the congregation in terms of age, employment, culture, ethnicity and gender:*
Our congregation age range is mainly 50 to 90s, a small number of couples with the majority being individuals. Ethnicity is mainly white British. The congregation is mainly retired, with some employed and a few unemployed.

2. *Please describe the tradition of your church and give details of robes/vestments worn by officiants:*
Our tradition is traditional Anglican “middle of the road”. Our tradition has been that officiants wear vestments of a chasuble and stole, colour according to season, although our last incumbent often preferred cassock alb & stole.

3. *Give details of Sunday services with times and form of service used:*
Our Sunday services are joint with one of our United Benefice Churches St John’s Sleekburn and alternate in location.
1st & 4th Sundays at St John’s – 1st Sunday Holy Communion Common Worship, 4th Sunday Morning Prayer @ 10.30am
2nd & 3rd Sundays at St Andrew’s. – 2nd Sunday Morning Prayer, 3rd Sunday Holy Communion Common Worship @ 10.30am.
Fifth Sunday is a United Benefice Eucharist – location is rotated between the three churches in the United Benefice.

4. *Give details of weekday services:*
Wednesday: 10.45 a.m Common Worship Said Eucharist
(During the vacancy Eucharist is held when visiting clergy are available, otherwise the service is Morning Prayer led by one of our Ministry Team)

When our midweek Wednesday service is a Morning Prayer service led by a Reader or Warden, rather than a sermon we discuss the Bible passage amongst ourselves and share the service .

5. *List any authorised ministers (e.g. Reader, Church Army Officer, Ordained Local Minister, Non-stipendiary Minister, Curate in training, retired Clergy):*
Two Licensed Readers, Two Readers with PTO, One Ordinand in Training who work within the United Benefice. One member of the team undertakes volunteering as a hospital chaplain, whilst another is an Anna Chaplain. There is a full-time Hospital Chaplain resident in the parish

- 6.(a) *What is the average weekly giving of those aged 16 years and older, and what proportion of the giving is gift aided:*
In 2024, average weekly giving of £40, of which 39% is gift aided.

- (b) *When did the parish last have a stewardship campaign:*
In 2024 we had a United Benefice Generous Giving service in which one of our Readers preached on Generosity in faith, spirit and financial.

7. *How does each church supplement direct giving in order to meet financial needs (e.g. fundraising events, hall lettings, occasional offices, investments):* **Fundraising & social events, occasional offices, restricted investment income.**

- 8.(a) *Give details of expenses paid to the incumbent, and state whether this covers them in full.*
As a United Benefice we have always paid our share of the incumbent’s expenses and in full.

- (b) *Is there an annual discussion about the level of expenses as part of the budgeting process:*
There is an annual item on our PCC agenda, which includes a recommendation that expenses are claimed as regularly as possible. Monthly income is discussed at regular PCC meetings.

9. *What amount of Share has been (a) requested and (b) paid:*
Last year: £5,000
Current year: £5,000
Next year: £5,000

10.(a) *Is there any capital project in hand at the moment:* **On going repairs with the Church; repointing, roof repairs, window repairs, internal painting. There is ongoing process of reorganising the vestry, removal of the old broken organ, and obtaining a new portacabin which is used as the church hall.**

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

Diocese supplied a grant for £9,000 towards the repointing and roof repairs. Donation of £30,000 from data centre company QTS who will be investing in the Church and community.

11. *Please attach a copy of the latest statement of accounts.*

Provided as separate attachment.

IV. Church Buildings (please give details for each church)

1.(a) *What is the general state of repair of the churches:* **The Church is in a stable state and the recent repointing, painting and roof repairs have secured a good state of repair, with ongoing work with the windows repairs, as well as a new portacabin.**

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

Roofing repairs, repointing, internal painting, which are in progress and accounted for. Other items such as drainage, windows and the portacabin (used as church hall) are in progress.

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

Portacabin used as a church hall. It is used regularly after services for refreshments, every month for coffee mornings and fairs, a hub for the gardening group and any other activities or events.

3. *Is there a churchyard to maintain and who is responsible for its maintenance?* **NO**

V. Outreach and Mission

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

School connections and services, links with the local the school for assembly and other lessons, links with Sea Cadets for Sea Sunday services and activities, engagement with local community, fund raising and social events, monthly coffee mornings/fairs, gardening group, wood collection or delivery for those who are unable to afford heating as several houses in the area do not have mains connection and are struggling with fuel poverty, Christmas Tree Festival, Christmas Sing-a-long, Christingle services with school and congregation.

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

There is a Faith on Thursday group (based at St John's, Sleekburn) but is attended by members across the three churches as well as other churches and is open to anyone.

Thought for the Week Booklet published quarterly, with reflections upon the lectionary bible readings, again this is a United Benefice venture and is distributed across the Benefice, the community and wider in the deanery and local hospital chaplaincy.

There are Bible Study groups covering Lent, Advent, the Gospels, Pilgrimage, and other themes, The United Benefice has regular Bible Study groups, Lent and Advent studies as well as studies on Faith journeys, The Gospels, The Creeds, Living in Love and Faith; as well as film nights looking at faith-based ideology from secular films. A Pub Group meets monthly in our local Wetherspoons as a pastoral group for support and bible study, and an Outrageous Women's Bible Study Group who meet monthly for Bible Study discussions, pastoral needs, reflective faith sessions as well as charity events and recently hosted a prayer day. Both of these groups have members from all our churches in the United Benefice as well as other Churches. Baptism visits by the incumbent.

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

There is a Mother's Union at Cambois, although the membership is small. There are Bible Study groups covering Lent, Advent, the Gospels, Pilgrimage, and other themes, which are open to the United Benefice and further and are held at the different churches. There is also an Outrageous Women's Bible Study Group who meet monthly within the United Benefice and hold Bible Study discussions, pastoral needs, reflective faith sessions as well as charity events.

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

Some of the congregation have attended earlier versions of the Diocese lay ministry pastoral online sessions and use these skills and gifts within the Church and community.

When our midweek Wednesday service is a Morning Prayer service led by a Reader or Warden, rather than a sermon we discuss the Bible passage amongst ourselves and share the service.

The Sunday and Wednesday Bible readings are read by members of the congregation and have a rota for intercessory prayers.

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

Children's Society through the Christingle Services

(b) *How much is given annually:*

Amount varies depending upon collection.

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

Women's Refuge, Cat & Dog Shelter, Dementia Awareness, Children's Society through the Christingle Services and respond to disaster appeals and any one-off events through special fund-raising events.

(b) *How much is given annually:*

Amount varies depending upon collection. the Women' Refuge is collection of good, toiletries etc. rather than monetary value.

4.(a) *Does the parish have an overseas link:* NO

(b) *If so, please state where/who*

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

YES

(b) *If so, please describe:*

We have a sides person to welcome people each service. A copy of the United Benefice Parish Magazine is distributed to the community as well as the Thought for the Week. We have a Facebook page informing of services, events, community links, and the Thought for the Week is published on the page, the page has a good following. Our churchwarden visits and connects with the local business, club and community, as well as interaction through the community gardening group and open church.

Our coffee mornings and fairs are good outreach.

The 1st St. Cuthbert's Brownies have visited St Andrew's helping with the rewilding of the garden. We hope to expand this with connections to the school in line with our gardening plans.

The Church garden and portacabin have been hired by the Bedlington Hope Church for a pool baptism service, which was family orientated.

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

A small number of the congregation receive home communion, have pastoral care visits to check on them when needed. Wood collection or delivery for those who are unable to afford heating as several houses in the area do not have mains connection and struggling with fuel poverty. The Church garden is always available for people to sit in as some of the houses around do not have gardens so the space is open to them. We often have donations of food, clothing etc. that are available for the community to take.

The Ministry team support the incumbent in care home visits, school visits and services as well as home communion, and a member of the team undertakes volunteering as a hospital chaplain, whilst another is an Anna Chaplain.

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

(b) *If so, who are they:*

The Licensed Readers administer home communion which has been previously consecrated.

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

Our previous incumbent had good connections with Cambois Primary School and the children come to the Church for some services, such as Harvest Festival, Easter and Christmas. Our Licensed Readers have aided and led them as well as involvement from the church congregation.

We have connections to the Sea Cadets for the Sea Sunday services.

We put on activities for young people at our monthly coffee morning/fairs, and special events.

We have no direct church youth work activities at present, this is an area we have identified to work on.

VI. Ecumenical Relationships

1(a) *Involvement in local Council of Churches*

We are part of Churches Together in Bedlingtonshire and work together during the year supporting the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, Lent Lunches, Market Place Act of Witness on Good Friday, Easter Sunrise service, Advent Carol service, Remembrance Sunday, Walking Nativity and quiz nights. St Andrew's have an informal ecumenical contact with Bedlington Hope Church who have previously used the Church garden for an event. We also enjoy good relationships with our neighbouring parishes in the Deanery and take an active part in the Deanery Synod activities, with members of our United Benefice part of the Deanery Development Group, a Diocese initiative.

(b) *Is there a formal covenant with any other denomination?* **NO**

2. *What informal ecumenical contacts are there?*

A member of our United Benefice ministry team works at Bedlington Salvation Army and this connection has resulted in donations to Annual Toy Service and Food Bank. St Andrew's have an informal ecumenical contact with Bedlington Hope Church.

VII. Church Education and Social Provision

1.(a) *Name of Church School(s), if applicable:* **NONE**

(b) *Aided?*
Controlled?
Foundation?

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

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

VIII. Lay Education and Participation

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

Children: Cambois Primary school children come to the Church for some services, such as Harvest Festival, Easter and Christmas. The school has approximately 130 pupils.

Young People: No regular activities, yearly attendance of about 6-10 Sea Cadets for the Sea Service.

Adults: There are Bible Study groups covering Lent, Advent, the Gospels, Pilgrimage, and other themes, which are open to the United Benefice and further and is held at the different churches. Attendance ranges from 10-20.

2.(a) *Give details of house/prayer groups:* There are no definite prayer groups, but there has been United Benefice Prayer Days. There is a Mother's Union at Cambois, although the membership is small. There are United Benefice Bible Study groups covering Lent, Advent, the Gospels, Pilgrimage, and other themes, which are open to the United Benefice and further and are held at the different churches. There is also an Outrageous Women's Bible Study Group who meet monthly within the United Benefice and hold Bible Study discussions, pastoral needs, reflective faith sessions as well as charity events. There is a Faith on Thursday group (based at St John's, Sleekburn) but is attended by members across the three churches as well as other churches, and is open to anyone. The Faith on Thursday group also have an allocated access WhatsApp group for connection, fellowship and pastoral care, as well as prayers as required.

(b) *Are the leaders clergy or lay:*

Mostly led by Licensed Readers but is often shared with some of the lay members of the groups. Faith on Thursday group is mostly led by lay members of the congregation.

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

Excellent.

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

Our Ministry Team comprising our Licensed Readers, Ordinand in Training are committed to providing first class worship/study groups etc. within the whole United Benefice and in furthering and supporting the gifts of the lay members of the congregation.

St Andrew's has a small congregation for services support but are dedicated and faithful in all they do in their faith, for the church and community and have good skills.

IX. Mission

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

Bring more people and families into faith and church, covering all ages and backgrounds. Building our links with the community and surrounding areas. Supporting those in deprivation as well as pastoral care. Build on the unity and faith of our United Benefice and communities.

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

We look to:

Church Growth

- continuing further engagement with the residents of the parishes within the United Benefice;
- by reaching more people, encouraging them to attend church and to be "Church" in the community;

- in line with the Diocesan values of Growing Younger in the church, increase and strengthen ministry across all age groups and inspire more lay participation;
- growing youth engagement in new opportunities to explore faith by strengthening school relationships and ministry to families;

Spiritual Growth

- re-engage with the local community through creative spiritual outreach to engage new-comers to explore and deepen faith;
- provide engaging discipleship through Bible study, prayer groups and discipleship courses to help deepen faith and walk alongside people whatever their background.

Leadership & Lay Ministry

- build on the progress and “unity” achieved following the creation of our United Benefice;
- a strong innovative leader who is proactive in raising up the laity, equipping and empowering them to take on greater roles in ministry, mission and outreach;
- Good stewardship of our limited financial resources and our volunteers attend Church, to be ‘church’ in the community, expand or renew their faith, as well as those new to faith.

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

- continuing further engagement with the residents of the parishes within the United Benefice;
- by reaching more people, encouraging them to attend church and to be “Church” in the community;
- re-engage with the local community through creative spiritual outreach to engage new-comers to explore and deepen faith;

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.

XI. The new parish priest

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

- An experienced priest who can be a training incumbent to our ordinand in training who will serve her curacy with us.
- A person with leadership skills, who communicates well and can work alongside as well as support our Ministry Team, Churchwardens, PCCs and committed congregations as a team within the United Benefice.
- Someone who is experienced in working with children and young people who is confident in school settings as well as with youth ministry.
- A person who can connect with the residents and communities within the United Benefice and is able to build trust with people both outside and within the church demographic;
- Someone who is committed to prayer and guided by the holy spirit, with an awareness of the needs and culture of the local community.
- A person who is an enabler and encourager, willing to be an agent of change and embrace new ways of doing church with a heart for evangelism.
- An enthusiastic person with good listening and communication skills who will provide spiritual growth, pastoral care, offer affirming religious guidance and promote faith.