



CHRIST CHURCH WALKER PARISH PROFILE 2026



TABLE OF CONTENTS

Welcome to the diocese of Newcastle!	3
Purpose of the document	7
1. Description of our Church	7
2. The Church community	9
3. Statistics	9
4. Local Authority Statistics	10
5. The Local Community.....	14
6. Links with Schools	15
7. Links with Other Institutions	17
8. The Church Buildings.....	18
9. The Vicarage	22
10. Patterns of Worship.....	22
11. Church Traditions.....	22
12. Church Activities	23
13. Our Church Team.....	23
14. Lay Participation	24
15. Finance	26
16. Our Parish Vision For The Future.....	26
c) The New Incumbent.....	27
APPENDIX A – Draft plan for new Church Hall	29

WELCOME TO THE DIOCESE OF NEWCASTLE!

Thank you so much for your interest in this role, and I hope you enjoy reading the information contained in this brochure and will find it helpful for your discernment. I am three years into being Bishop of Newcastle and I rejoice in this calling. Our diocese is a vibrant and varied blend of parishes, chaplaincies, schools, and ministry-contexts and is home to diverse geographical contexts with rich history and Christian spirituality. Our Northeast region is known for its friendliness and creativity, in city, coastal and rural areas. Our Diocese has responded to the challenges and joys of our region with imagination and resolve, mindful of our own financial challenges but undeterred in our hope and trust in God's generous provision. Shaped by the Five Marks of Mission and upheld by the dynamics of seeking, sharing, and sending, we are attentive to the need to speak the good news of God's Kingdom, and to be faithful stewards of our environment.



You will be joining us at a crucial point in our mapping out and implementation of vision and strategy: to be confident Christians enabling more and different people to experience life in all its fullness. Your role in this will offer opportunities to grow and develop in your own ministry. The Diocese of Newcastle has a long and proud history of inclusion and speaking up for the vulnerable and marginalised. We are the only diocese in the Church of England to have a paid chaplain to the victims and survivors of Church-based abuse, and our work with victims and survivors has been upheld as pioneering and ground-breaking. We also have a paid chaplain to the LGBTQI+ community, and our Diocesan Synod passed a motion in 2025 to express its full support for progress towards full inclusion of LGBTQI+ people.

Following a refresh of our Diocesan vision, to be confident Christians enabling more and different people to experience life in its fullness, we are working towards a bid to the National Church for strategic funding. Additionally, having received a generous legacy from the 10 Bishop of Newcastle (+Alec Graham) we are in the process of establishing a new 'Bishop of Newcastle Foundation' and developing a new partnership with the Community Foundation Northeast (a major philanthropic convenor in our region). It is hoped this will enable parishes across the diocese to bid for funding for projects that are within areas of interest to Bishop Alec (education, and children and young people being two such areas). Additionally, the diocese is undertaking a major review of its governance structures to ensure we are working efficiently across all areas of our engagement in God's mission, and to reduce silo working.

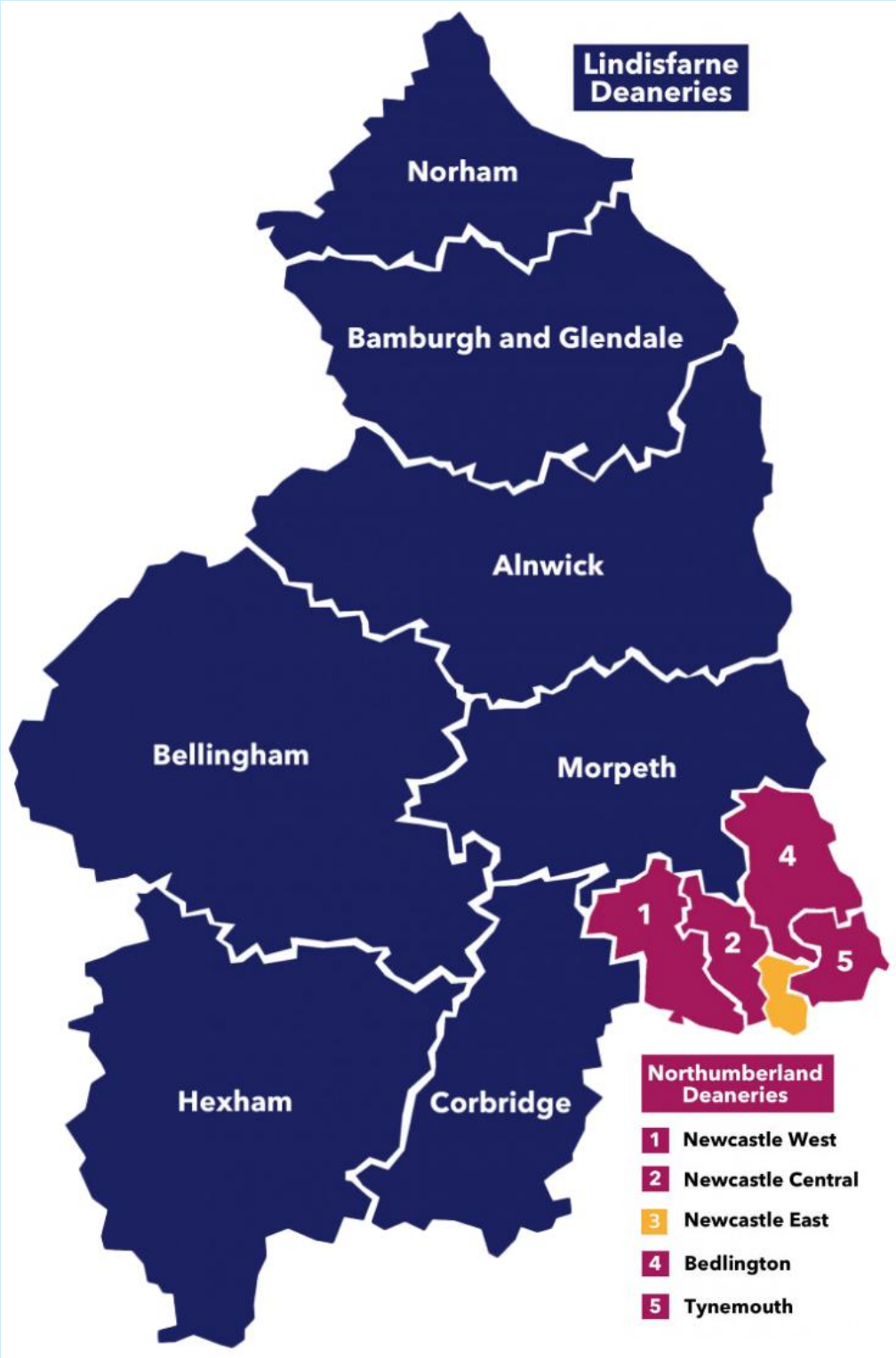
The Rt Revd Dr Helen-Ann Hartley
Bishop of Newcastle

The Diocese of Newcastle is the Church of England's most northerly Diocese. Formed in 1882, the Diocese covered an area almost equivalent to the then County of Northumberland. With 169 parishes across 2,110 square miles, the Diocese covers the local authorities of Northumberland, Newcastle, North Tyneside and also small parts of County Durham and Cumbria. Under the episcopal leadership of our Diocesan Bishop, The Rt Revd Dr Helen-Ann Hartley and the suffragan Bishop of Berwick, The Rt Revd Mark Wroe, we are resourced by two Archdeacons, and a team of lay and ordained officers who support the development of mission and ministry across the Diocese. Our Cathedral, under the leadership of The Very Revd Lee Batson, is a vibrant place of worship and outreach and plays a vital role in the life of the City of Newcastle.

There are 12 deaneries within 2 archdeaconries (Lindisfarne and Northumberland), which serve a population of 831,600 people across a variety of communities ranging from sparse rural to market towns, coastal, suburban, and larger inner-city areas. We have a current cohort of 95 stipendiary clergy (office holders), 20 self-supporting clergy, and 47 Readers, alongside a number of chaplaincies, pioneers, and new and emerging worshipping communities. A small administration team is based at Church House, North Shields. Church House is also the base for the Joint Education Team and Joint Communications Team (serving the Dioceses of Durham and Newcastle), the Lindisfarne College of Theology and a Religious Resources Centre.

The Diocese has recently increased its resourcing of safeguarding in the light of its INEQE safeguarding report, which was published in 2024. Our new Director of Safeguarding works alongside two assistant staff members in the areas of case work and training, with separate administrative support. The Diocese and its Cathedral are rightly proud of their work with the victims and survivors of church abuse, and we are the only Diocese in the Church of England to resource a chaplaincy to victims and survivors of church abuse.

The Diocese also has a new chaplaincy support for the LGBTQI+ communities, which is part of our diocesan-wide commitment to foster a climate of inclusion and welcome.



PURPOSE OF THE DOCUMENT

The following statements describing the conditions and needs of the parish have been prepared by the PCC of Christ Church Walker (also known as Walker Parish Church) in accordance with the Patronage (Benefices) measure legislation 1986.

The statements are intended to provide supporting information for prospective clergy who are interested in the current Vacancy for a Vicar.

1. DESCRIPTION OF OUR CHURCH

Christ Church Walker, is an Anglican urban church located in the heart of the parish of Walker in the east end of the City of Newcastle upon Tyne. The parish boundaries cover much of the electoral wards of Walker and Walkergate. Much of the area has seen a great deal of deprivation over the years, however, in recent years the area has seen a significant amount of re-development in modern new housing. This development work is still continuing.



The Church is set on the edge of the scenic Walker Park and is located within the boundaries of Walker Churchyard, which dates back to the mid-19th century and was, at one time, reputed to be the largest churchyard in Europe.



The Church building also dates back to 1848 and contains many of its original features. The Church was built through the generosity of local industrial families, such as those involved in heavy engineering and shipbuilding in the area. Many of the artefacts and features of the Church bear testament to the names and generosity of those families. The Church buildings are now 170 years old and need an ongoing amount of regular maintenance and loving care.



The Church has an ageing congregation which has reduced in recent years. Attendance by young people and children has also decreased. **The PCC are seeking a new incumbent who will be able to offer practical solutions to address these issues.**

The following link will provide a short drone footage video of the church exterior and interior.

<https://wpcinfo.top/drone-view>

The website wpcinfo.top also contains a series of pages about the history of the church and the interior details.



2. THE CHURCH COMMUNITY

The Church congregation is ageing (average age 65 years plus) and attendance by young people and children has reduced.

70% female

25% live outside the Parish boundary

The diversity of culture in the Walker area is represented in the congregation.

3. STATISTICS

The Church Electoral Roll census is to be renewed in spring 2026. The statistics below are taken from the previous census.

Population in Parish	:	approximately 12,000
Electoral Roll	:	27
Average Sunday attendance	:	30
Average Sunday Communicants	:	30
Average baptisms per annum	:	25
Average Confirmations per annum	:	0
Average weddings per annum	:	4
Average funerals per annum	:	2
Average house communions for sick or housebound	:	0

Byker, Walker and Walkergate Ward Profiles :

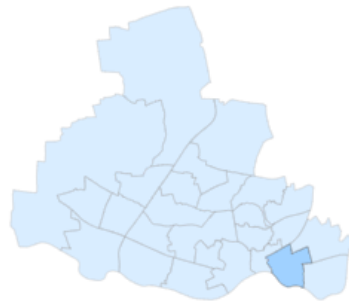
The information below (in the following three pages) is an extract from ward profiles published by 'Know Newcastle' and can be found within the following webpage link.

[JSNA: Ward profiles | Newcastle City Council](#)

Search a postcode/ward below or click a ward on the map.
Click the X icon to reset a search.

Search

Postcode Ward Name



Byker

Ward Name

5820

Number of Females

6215

Number of Males

Data Sources:
CENSUS 2021
NOMIS
LG Inform

Health Satisfaction Level	%
% of residents reporting very good health	42.00%
% of residents reporting very bad health	2.40%
% of residents reporting good health	30.60%
% of residents reporting fair health	17.20%
% of residents reporting bad health	7.80%
Total	100.00%

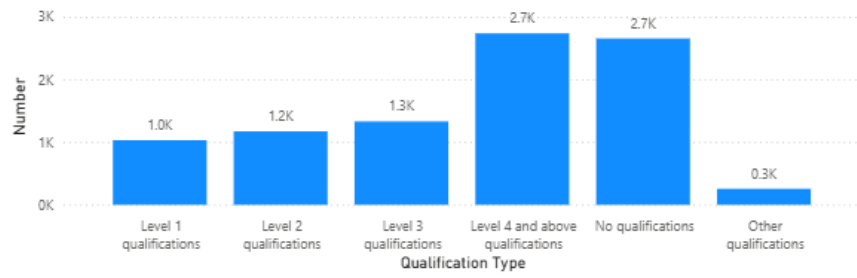
85.8

Percentage of residents who speak English as a main language

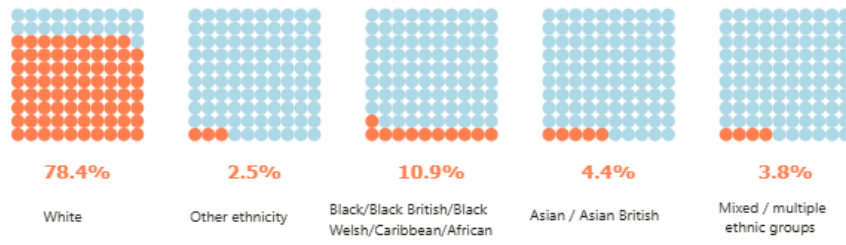
60.5

Percentage of households with no access to a car/van

Number of Qualifications



Residents by Ethnicity Type (%)



50.4

Percentage of Economically active (excluding Full-time ...)

3.7

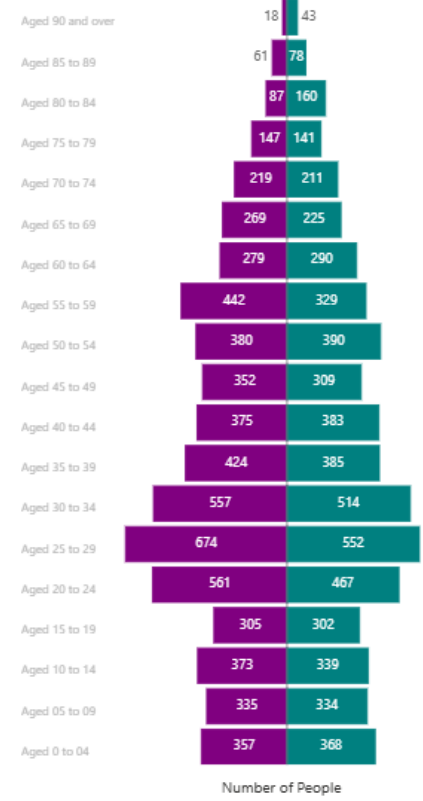
Percentage of Economically active and a Full time Stud...

45.9

Percentage of Economically Inactive

Male
Female

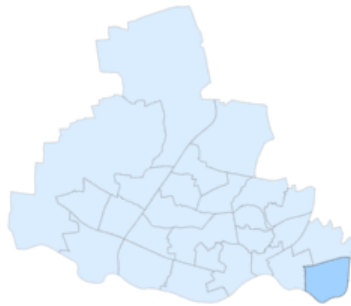
Gender by Age (5 year bands)



Search a postcode/ward below or click a ward on the map.
Click the X icon to reset a search.

Search

Postcode Ward Name



Walker

Ward Name

6187

Number of Females

5633

Number of Males

91.4

Percentage of residents who speak English as a main language

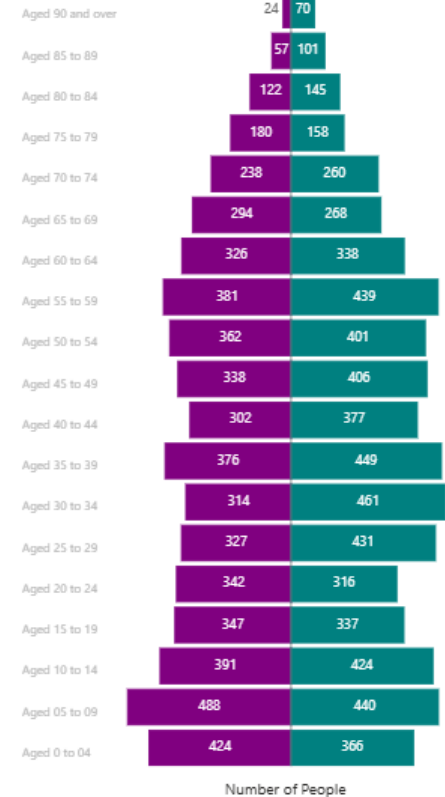
55.0

Percentage of households with no access to a car/van

Data Sources:
CENSUS 2021
NOMIS
LG Inform

Male
Female

Gender by Age (5 year bands)

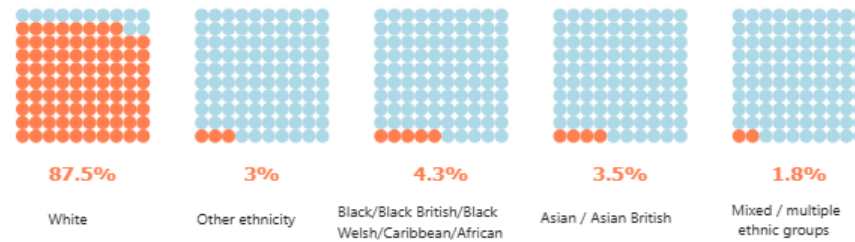


Health Satisfaction Level	%
% of residents reporting very good health	39.84%
% of residents reporting very bad health	2.70%
% of residents reporting good health	30.83%
% of residents reporting fair health	17.72%
% of residents reporting bad health	8.91%
Total	100.00%

Number of Qualifications



Residents by Ethnicity Type (%)



48.8

Percentage of Economically active (excluding Full-time ...)

1.5

Percentage of Economically active and a Full time Stud...

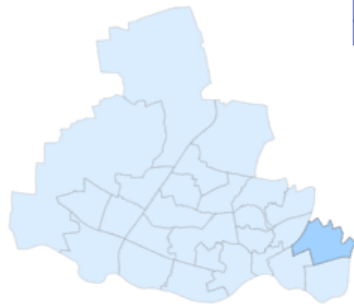
49.8

Percentage of Economically Inactive

Search a postcode/ward below or click a ward on the map.
Click the X icon to reset a search.

Search

Postcode Ward Name



Walkergate

Ward Name

6241

Number of Females

6171

Number of Males

Data Sources:
CENSUS 2021
NOMIS
LG Inform

Health Satisfaction Level	%
% of residents reporting very good health	41.14%
% of residents reporting very bad health	1.80%
% of residents reporting good health	34.73%
% of residents reporting fair health	16.52%
% of residents reporting bad health	5.81%
Total	100.00%

94.6

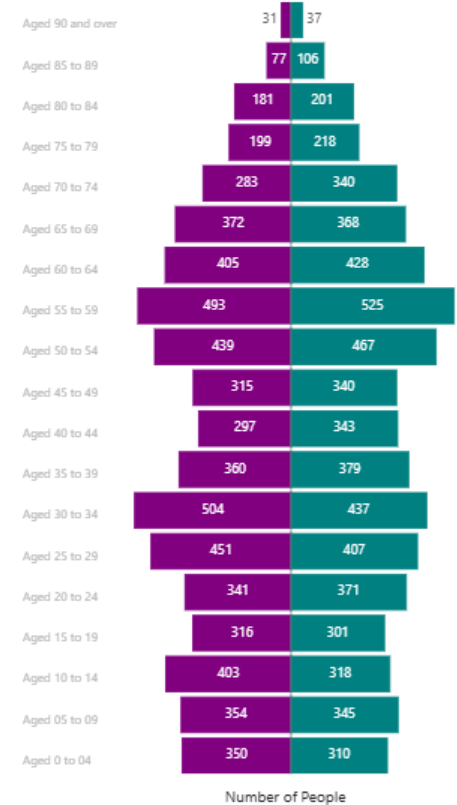
Percentage of residents who speak English as a main language

38.0

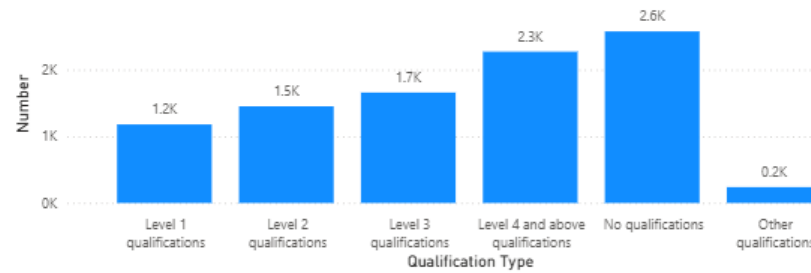
Percentage of households with no access to a car/van

- Male
- Female

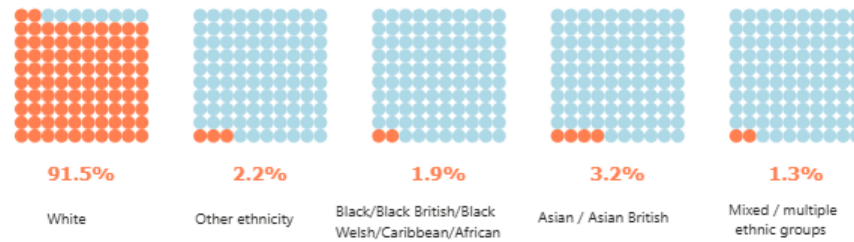
Gender by Age (5 year bands)



Number of Qualifications



Residents by Ethnicity Type (%)



55.4

Percentage of Economically active (excluding Full-time ...)

1.8

Percentage of Economically active and a Full time Stud...

42.8

Percentage of Economically Inactive

5. THE LOCAL COMMUNITY

A map of the Parish Boundaries is attached below at the end of the section.

The Church is located within one of the highest areas of deprivation in the City (and indeed nationally).

Industry

Some light industry and commercial premises remain, but the main heavy industries such as shipbuilding and engineering, which provided jobs for the local community have gone. However, some new 'green energy' and offshore industries have begun to develop along the banks of the river.

Retail

Retail outlets in the area are mainly confined to small shops (e.g. newsagents and convenience stores). However, a new Aldi supermarket has recently opened in the area. The main supermarkets and retail outlets are either in Byker or Wallsend (about 1.5 to 2 miles away).

Transport

Roads in the east of the City are reasonable and not subject to significant congestion. However, roads towards the City Centre can become congested, particularly at rush hour times.

Public transport services are also reasonable. There are a number of frequent bus services which serve the area from early in the morning till late at night and provide links to the City and to Wallsend (about two miles away to the east. A local Metro rail service also serves the east of the city, but the nearest station is about 1.5 miles away.

Housing

Housing in the area is a mix of private and Local Authority accommodation. Much of the housing was built in the 1920's and 1930's to accommodate the increasing population who worked in the many local engineering and shipbuilding industries. However, in recent years, the Local Authority has supported the building of new

housing, which has enhanced the area. Most of the buildings are either semi-detached or terraced. 50 new affordable homes are to be built opposite the church in the next year. Most of the high-rise flats in the area have now been demolished.

Walker Christ Church – Map of Parish Boundaries



6. LINKS WITH SCHOOLS

The Church has built strong links with many of the local schools. The incumbent priest will hold an ex-officio position on the governing body of the local C of E Primary Academy School (Central Walker C of E Primary School) and members of the

PCC sit (or have previously sat) on the governing bodies of some of the other schools in the local Multi-Academy Trust (NEAT), which is a CofE sponsored Trust. Children from the local schools (particularly Central Walker School) visit the Church for services at Christmas and Easter and at the end of the school year.

The following quotes are from the senior leaders of the NEAT Multi-Academy Trust and the Co-Headteachers of Central Walker CE Primary School (part of NEAT). They illustrate how much the NEAT Academy Trust values its links with the church....

“We are very proud of the relationship we have developed with Father Phil and the wider church community. We have benefited greatly from Phil's hands -on approach to working with us, not just as a governor at two of our schools, but as a wider strategic partner of our trust.

As a mixed MAT, we are very proud of our values, which very much align to the church values and vision and live and breath these in all we do. It is essential for us that the successful applicant has not just an understanding but a belief that the continued relationship between the church and our schools and MAT is integral to the success of the role- we believe it is!”

*Debi Bailey – Director of School Improvement
Steve Haigh – CEO,
NEAT Mixed Multi-Academy Trust*

“We really appreciate the close relationship between our school and the church and see the vicar as an important part of our community. Their support with collective worship and helping children explore Christian values - makes a real difference - especially as many of our pupils wouldn't otherwise have the opportunity to learn about Christianity in a meaningful way. Working together to nurture our shared Christian vision is deeply valued and integral to the life of the school.”

*Dawn Day & Faye Kerr
Co-Headteachers (Central Walker CE Primary Academy School)*

7. LINKS WITH OTHER INSTITUTIONS

Over the years, the Church has established good working links with other institutions in the area. Particular local organisations that the Church has had good links with are:

- Kids Kabin a local provider of support for young children
- The City of God Church Nearby church who operate a local food-bank
- Tyne & Wear Citizens a part of the Citizens UK initiative
- The Bostey (local youth centre, part of St Anthony of Padua RC Church (about to close))
- Pride in Place A new initiative (run by Newcastle Council, which has been allocated funding to support and improve the area for the local community)

8. THE CHURCH BUILDINGS



Church from the East, showing the Lych Gate



Walker Parish Church (Christ Church) is a beautiful Victorian style Church building, originally built in 1848. The building is in a reasonably good condition for its age, although the roof has required some repair in recent years. Some plaster-work has also needed attention due to problems with dampness.

Church Interior and Baptism Font

Many of the original features of the Church were paid for through the generosity of the local industrial families. Sadly, the magnificent Foster and Andrews Organ was damaged by water and its internal mechanisms had to be removed.

Today, we use a modern hi-fi audio system and computer to provide music, and services are supported via two projectors and screens to run PowerPoint presentations for the services.



Chancel, Choir Stalls and Organ front (Organ interior mechanisms now removed)



The original oak-screen, choir stalls and mosaic floor still remain in the Chancel. The main body of the Church was re-ordered around the year 1998, with new carpeting and light oak chairs replacing the original pews. The original High Altar remains, but a modern moveable Nave Altar is used for general services.

Nave Altar, Rood Screen & High Altar

Heating & Lighting

The Church is heated by a gas central heating system, with supplementary fan heaters. Unfortunately, one of the two gas boilers has broken down beyond repair. The Diocese have advised that we should seek a green alternative and a project is underway to consider the costs and options available. It is expected that a major fundraising exercise will be required to support a new heating system.

Most of the main lighting has now been replaced with LED lights, however, the main church lights need to be replaced/upgraded.

The electrical system has recently been inspected and upgraded. However, if an electrical option is selected for the new heating system, then the main three-phase input supply is likely to need to be upgraded.



Narthex area at rear of the Church

Ancillary Buildings.

A Church Hall built in the mid-1980's is attached to the Church and provides a community facility. The Hall is also used for occasional functions and is available for bookings by the community. There is also a small kitchen and coffee bar, and an office. The Church Hall has been used by a variety of regular users over the years, however, there are few users at the moment. The Hall roof, whilst still serviceable, is in a deteriorating condition. The architect has produced draft plans for the re-building of the Hall as a community facility which will include flats/apartments, which could bring in additional revenue. It is hoped that this can be achieved in line with the re-building of new housing in the local area and early discussions on the matter have already taken place with the Local Council. This proposed initiative could present an exciting opportunity for the new incumbent. A copy of the Architect's draft plan for the development of the Hall is attached in **Appendix A**

Churchyard and maintenance



The adjacent Churchyard was at one time reputed to be the largest in Europe and was listed in the Guinness Book of Records. The Churchyard is closed to new burials, but occasional burials of cremation ashes are permitted in a garden of remembrance area behind the Church building. The Churchyard contains a number of monuments to local sporting heroes and industrial disasters. The

Churchyard also contains a number of war graves from both world wars, which are maintained by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission. The Churchyard itself is maintained by the Local Authority (currently limited to grass-cutting only).

We do get occasional requests from members of the local community and from more distant places from families wanting to trace ancestors buried in the churchyard. The official burial records are kept at Woodhorn near Ashington in Northumberland. However, we are fortunate to have some data held electronically, from which we are able to provide occasional information about grave positions. However, it would require a significant effort to convert the data before we would be able to offer this service more widely.



9. THE VICARAGE

A Vicarage Building is available and is located about 10 minutes' walk from the Church. (Address: 105 Middle Street, Walker, NE6 4DB).

The building is a good residence, about 50 years old, comprising:

Ground Floor: A Kitchen with Utility room, a Lounge, a Dining room and a Study

First Floor: 4 x bedrooms, 2 x w.c. Bathroom/Shower

Externally: a detached garage and gardens front and rear

Double glazing and gas central heating.

Overall, the property is in a good state of repair.

The following link will provide a short drone footage video of the Vicarage

<https://wpcinfo.top/drone-view>

10. PATTERNS OF WORSHIP

Sunday Worship

9.30am

Family Eucharist Service

Weekday services

Thursday 9.30am

Eucharist Service

Other Services

- Baptism services are usually held after the Sunday Eucharist service with additional services held as required.
- Funeral and Wedding Services are held upon request

11. CHURCH TRADITIONS

The parish cherishes its catholic roots, but embraces a relaxed atmosphere and an evangelical spirit. Links with the Deanery, other local churches and local schools are celebrated joyfully.

12. CHURCH ACTIVITIES

Regular groups for Bible study/other study/prayer

- Ecumenical Lent and Advent Groups (via the MINE group of Churches)

Children & Youth Work/Sunday School

A Sunday School has until recently been in regular operation, supported by a rota of volunteers. All Sunday School volunteers have undertaken appropriate safeguarding checks and training.

We also regularly celebrate seasonal services with many of the local schools e.g. Christmas, easter and Leavers services.

Fundraising and social activities

- Regular coffee mornings and fund-raising raffles are supported throughout the year.
- Regular giving to a small number of charities such as, The People's Kitchen and PCDC
- Sharing faith with other groups and community events
- Regular Hall users include: The Bostey (charity shop) (Mondays) and the Keyring Group (vulnerable people) (Fridays)

13. OUR CHURCH TEAM

1 x Churchwarden

1 x Verger

PCC Treasurer

PCC Secretary

PCC – currently 10 members

We are also supported by a retired Vicar (Rev Andrew Elder) and a volunteer to support opening and closing and other maintenance duties

Photos of our church team can be found on our website link:

[Meet The Team](#)

14. LAY PARTICIPATION

a) Administrants at Communion/Intercessors

- Administration of Chalice (via rota)
- Intercessions (via rota)

b) Administration (e.g. pew sheet or magazine production, secretarial assistance, registers, other)

- No paid administrative help – all carried out voluntarily by Churchwarden and PCC secretary during the vacancy.
- No magazine at present. This was previously produced through MINE
- Pew sheets are provided for the Sunday Service and include reading sheets from Redemptorist

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

- Our Churchwarden contacts and meets baptism families before baptism services.
- Members of congregation visit sick parishioners and inform Churchwarden / vicar if home/ hospital visit needed or home communion

d) Relationships With Other Parishes

The Church is a member of the MINE Group of Churches (Mission Initiative Newcastle East), which covers the neighbouring parishes of Walker and Byker. Currently three clergy support the six churches in the group.

MINE includes the following churches:

- Walker Parish Church
- St Martin's
- St Michael's
- St Silas'

- St Oswald's

- St Anthony of Egypt

MINE holds regular joint services between its churches along with other events and 'away days' including joint services at special occasions, e.g. Christmas and Easter.

MINE

Mission Initiative Newcastle East, known as MINE is group of six churches. The purpose, which has emerged over the last 30 years, is to allow small economically challenged churches to do together what they would individually not have capacity to do. Congregations support each other, clergy and other staff meet regularly. A series of projects have been undertaken including reordering of buildings, youth work, and community engagement. The largest distance between any of the churches is 1.2 miles. Churches show generosity in allowing resources to be used to focus on individual projects and use the combined size of the group to attract funding and attention not available to smaller single parishes. This asks of each church that they hold the whole area as important and not just the activities of their own parish.

Whilst Christ Church, Walker is the biggest church each church has its strengths. The churches take responsibility for each other, not requiring one church to be the leader. This is reflected in the way the clergy and other team members work together.

NEWCASTLE EAST DEANERY

Walker is one of ten parishes in the smallest but most densely populated deanery in the diocese. As well as the MINE parishes there are three suburban parishes (Heaton, High Heaton & Benton) and one outer estate (Longbenton). The diocesan goals are Seeking (prayer & discernment), Sharing (encouraging generosity) and Sending (community engagement) and the Deanery Development Group working with the key areas for 2025-2028 set by the diocese which are Buildings for Mission, New Worshipping Communities are Growing Closer to God.

We have two representatives for the Deanery Synod.

15. FINANCE

The ageing and reducing congregation has led to an ongoing reduction in regular giving over a number of years. However, the PCC has looked at ways of bringing in additional income through the use of Church facilities and resources. The Church Hall has been used in the past by a number of groups including a number of regular users, which has brought in additional funding. However, there are few Hall users at present.

Other financial highlights include:

- There have been no recent parish funding campaigns
- Gift aid is re-claimed annually
- We use a mix of regular standing orders and an envelope scheme for regular giving.
- We have no major debts
- Incidental expenses for small purchases etc. are repaid in full to the incumbent.
- The Parish Share has been paid in full every year, except last year (2025) when we had to hold some money back for repairs and maintenance.

16. OUR PARISH VISION FOR THE FUTURE

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

The PCC wants to reimagine and reinvigorate the life of the church, so that it is attractive and transformative for the congregation and the local community.

b) What needs to be pursued in the next five years?

- Raising the profile of the church in the local community.
An opportunity for raising our profile has arisen through the Pride in Place project – supported by Newcastle City Council.

- We want our church to be a place that supports and nurtures faith and shares the gospel message in a way that will encourage people to come to the church.
- Recruitment of new and active members of the congregation, who will be able and willing to support the activities of the church, including supporting rotas for intercessions, chalice, cleaning etc.
- Recruitment of new members who can, in time take over some of the senior duties, such as churchwarden, treasurer etc.
- Continuing the good work of developing strong links with the local schools and care homes.
- We need to find innovative ways of raising significant funds to maintain and develop the church buildings. Particular short-term challenges include the provision of a new heating system and new lights. In the medium to longer-term, the church hall needs to be developed into a community-based parish centre.

C) THE NEW INCUMBENT

What qualities and attributes would the P.C.C. like to see in the new incumbent?

We would love to work with someone:

- With a passion for leading ministry both inside and outside the church
- Who can build on further community initiatives
- Who is pastorally aware
- Who will be able to inspire and lead us in worship both pastorally and spiritually.
- Is a good communicator
- Is friendly, approachable and committed to relaxed forms of service to reflect the needs and culture of the local community
- Is able to develop ways of bringing in new members into the congregation and to develop links with young people and families in the area.
- Who is a priest that will lead us by example and inspire in us with enthusiasm for witness and mission.
- Who is a priest who will teach and preach the Christian faith and help us to serve God with joy and courage.

- Who is able to take forward the ideas and initiatives expressed in this document, especially in working with the local schools, the Deanery and the MINE Group of Churches.

APPENDIX A – DRAFT PLAN FOR NEW CHURCH HALL

