



DIOCESE OF NEWCASTLE

PATRONAGE (BENEFICES) MEASURE 1986

Parish of Saint George, Cullercoats 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.

Cullercoats is suburban and has an area of approximately 0.6 mi², is largely flat and extends 1100 yards inland from the sea; the Parish extends for 1400 yards North to South. There is a harbour and some beaches. It is suburban commuter-land with the old part (east of the Metro railway line) having a village-like quality. The parish has mixed owner-occupied and social housing with some private letting and some holiday accommodation. There is almost no industry apart from a limited amount of fishing; the major occupation within the parish is Hospitality.

The population (2021 census) is 6591. (Source of these data and others: Church of England Data Services)

Age Distribution		Ethnicity		Religion	
0-4	5.0%	Asian	1.1%	Buddhist	0.3%
5-19	14.9%	Black	0.1%	Christian	51.0%
20-29	7.0%	Mixed	1.2%	Hindu	0.2%
30-44	18.5%	White	97.2%	Jewish	0%
45-69	34.3%	Other	0.4%	Muslim	0.6%
>70	20.4%			Sikh	0.1%
				Other	0.3%
				No religion	42.2%
				Not stated	5.2%

There are two schools and an outstation of a Special Educational Needs School (post 16). The first school is a Primary school. This Primary School is Mixed with 432 pupils 8.8% of whom have free school meals. It is a North Tyneside Community School.

The second school is a Secondary school (11 – 16). Marden High School is mixed with 910 pupils (11 – 16 years) 13.3% of whom have free school meals. It is a Foundation School supported by The North Tyneside Learning Trust. Neither school is a church school but the church has good relations with both of them.

Woodlawn School, a Special needs school, is an outpost of a school in the parish of St. Peter, Monkseaton which parish provides any pastoral care.

The Dove Marine Laboratory, an institution of Newcastle University, is located at Cullercoats Harbour. The Crescent Club (CIU affiliated) is on the sea front.

There is an Inshore Rescue Boat station of the RNLI. The Parish provides a Rogation Service each year in which the lifeboat (and other boats) are blessed.

Cullercoats Tennis Club is opposite the church. Tynemouth Aquarium, a visitor attraction, is in the parish. Cullercoats Football Club, which was founded in 1915, is in the parish. They field teams of all ages and sexes.

2. The Church Community

Please give details of the congregations

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

The congregation at 08.00 is mainly aged >50.

The congregation at 9.30 is of mixed age with older people and children making up most of the congregation. There is a mixture of all social classes.

Congregations at weekday services are of various ages.

The congregations are eclectic with some 50% living outside the parish.

3. Statistics

<i>Population;</i>	6,591
<i>Electoral Roll;</i>	163
<i>Average Sunday Communicants;</i>	66
<i>Average Sunday attendance;</i>	74
<i>Average baptisms per annum;</i>	23 (ignoring 2021 – Covid)
<i>Average Confirmations per annum;</i>	8
<i>Average weddings per annum;</i>	7
<i>Average funerals per annum;</i>	19
<i>Average house communions for the sick or housebound;</i>	4 per month regular, 13 sporadic in 2023:

4. Church Buildings

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

St. George's is a Grade 1 Listed Building designed by John Loughborough Pearson. It was built in 1882-4 as a memorial to the 5th Duke of Northumberland by his son, the 6th Duke. It was consecrated by The First Bishop of Newcastle, The Rt. Revd. Ernest Wilberforce, on 16th December 1884. The organ, by Lewis, followed a few months later. There are four bells in the tower but they are only capable of being chimed.

The church is in the Revived Gothic Style with spectacular vaulting. Pearson preferred a church without a Rood Screen and St. George's is so styled. There is a low stone barrier (wrongly described by Pevsner as a Communion rail) marking the division between nave and chancel. The church was designed with a High Altar only, without chapels. A Lady Chapel, located in the north transept, was erected in 1912 furnished with an "English" Altar. From 1924 The Blessed Sacrament has been reserved in a chapel located in the west gallery. The Altar is, again, of "English design". In 1934 The High Altar was replaced with an English Altar as part of the re-ordering at the Church's half century and in memory of Fr. John Gregg who died at the beginning of his ministry.

At some unknown time a statue of St. George was placed on the organ case facing west along the south aisle; originally it was intended to form part of a shrine to St. George. In 1953 an Altar was set up before the Statue of St. George for the Coronation (1953) Vigil. This Altar was replaced in 1972 with a plain modern wooden altar facing west for celebration *versus populo* (all the other altars in the church are *ad orientem*). The chapel is (anomalously) called St. George's Chapel.

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

The Church Hall is on the opposite side of Beverley Gardens to the church. It is equipped with kitchen and toilets (including disabled). It is used for coffee after the Parish Eucharist on Sundays and the Thursday Eucharist.

Parish events, such as the Harvest Supper are held in the hall. The choir club meets on Fridays. The hall is used by the Guides and related organisations. (The Scouts have their own hall nearby.) The Mothers' Union meets monthly in the hall after The Office in Church. The PCC meets in the hall. Various groups, such as dancing and the Local History Society use the hall. The hall is available for external booking, for example for children's parties.

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

There is no burial ground. The church is surrounded by an open grassed area; ashes are interred there. There is a cross, erected in 1969, overlooking the interment area. The War Memorial for The First World War was erected in the churchyard in 1921. It is located between the apse and the church boundary. It now commemorates the Second World War as well. The War Memorial is Grade 2 Listed and is the property of North Tyneside Council. The PCC is responsible for its maintenance.

5. Patterns of Worship

Sunday services with times and form of service used.

07.30 Morning Prayer	Common Worship
08.00 Eucharist	Common Worship CW Order 2 Trad. language
09.30 Parish Communion	CW Order 1 contemporary language
16.00 Evensong	BCP.. (First Sunday)*

Weekday services

Monday	09.00 Eucharist	CW Order 1 contemporary language
Tuesday	19.00 Eucharist	CW Order 1 contemporary language
Thursday	10.00 Eucharist	CW Order 1 contemporary language
Saturday	10.00 Eucharist	CW Order 1 contemporary language

*Before Covid, Evensong was every week at 18.30 with Benediction on the First Sunday. There was a Friday Eucharist at 12 noon but this was discontinued because of poor attendance post Covid. Normally festivals are celebrated on the day and not transferred to Sunday.

Times during the vacancy (due to shortage of priests):

Sunday	08.00 Eucharist	CW Order 2 Trad. language
	09.30 Parish Eucharist	CW Order 1 contemporary language
	16.00 Evensong	BCP (First Sunday)
Tuesday	19.00 Eucharist	CW Order 1 contemporary language
Thursday	10.00 Eucharist	CW Order 1 contemporary language

6. Church Tradition

Please describe the tradition of your church

The Church is Anglo-Catholic, using Common Worship and The Book of Common Prayer. The Church has a strong Musical and Choral tradition.

The PCC has passed a resolution requesting a male priest under the House of Bishops Declaration on the Ministry of Bishops and Priests: we are under the episcopal care of the Bishop of Beverley. Since the beginning of the vacancy this has been reviewed by the PCC and its continuation agreed unanimously.

7. Church Activities

Regular groups for Bible study/other study/prayer

The Faith Discussion Group; see below.

Children & Youth Work/Sunday School/Uniformed organisations

Work with children takes place at the Choir Club. Because of the lack of children since Covid the Sunday School is suspended. Children's workshops take place at Christmas, Easter and other festivals.

There are Scouts and Guides in all age-groups and pastoral work occurs there. They attend Church Parades for festivals.

Clubs/Societies

There is a branch of The Mothers' Union. There is a "Knit and Natter Group".

Support of home and overseas missions

Social work/Caring for others

There is a parish Pastoral Committee which organises parish visiting. The members take Communion to many of the sick / housebound. The Parish Reader was a voluntary chaplain at North Tyneside General Hospital and maintains contact with the hospital Chaplaincy team.I.

Faith Sharing events or programmes

The Faith Discussion Group meets monthly to share views and discuss theological matters in a friendly, informal environment.

Parochial charities

The Cullercoats Educational Trust is able to help groups and individuals at St. George's and St. Paul's, Whitley Bay with funds for studies promoting Christian religious activities and with helping to achieve religious, social and physical education goals.

Any other

There is a *Friends of St George's* with the objective of raising funds for the maintenance of the church. Non-perishable food is collected regularly for *The Bay Foodbank* and the food given at Harvest is given to *The People's Kitchen*. Used stamps are collected for *Sight Research UK*. Several members of the congregation volunteer for charities, for example. *Cruse Bereavement Support*, *Cullercoats RNLi* and *Walking With in North Tyneside* (a Charity for refugees and asylum seekers).

8 Ministry

Does the parish/locality have a Local Ministry Group? No.

There is a Think Tank which has a similar function.

If so, how long has it existed, what are its main responsibilities?

The Think Tank was formed in 2006 and has prepared, *inter alia*, The Mission Action Plan.

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

There is one Reader with pto and two retired priests with pto, one of whom has commitments at other parishes..

Please indicate current lay involvement in:

a) worship (e.g. Lesson reader, intercessions, administration of communion, serving, other)

There is a serving team and the choir.

Lay people read lessons, lead intercessions and administer Communion. There is an overlap in roles.

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

There is lay assistance with Baptism and Marriage Registers. The weekly newsletter is produced by members of the congregation. It is distributed as hard copy in church and by email.

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

Baptism preparation etc. is carried out by The Mothers' Union and others. Pastoral visiting, hospital visiting and home communions are carried out by the Pastoral Group and others.

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.

The last parish funding campaign was in 2020.

The parish uses gift aid, envelopes and the national parish giving scheme,

The parish share for 2023 was paid.

The incumbent's expenses have been paid in full (as requested).

There are no major debts.

10. Community involvement

Describe the involvement of the church in:

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

The retired Vicar was a governor of Marden School and conducted assemblies from time to time. He provided pastoral support when requested. The church hosted services for the school. When there was a curate he fulfilled a similar role for Cullercoats School.

The church host services for Kings Priory School at times such as Christmas. This is a function of the seating capacity if St. George's. Services are provided for other local schools and various local organisations.

The church is used as a venue for community musical events by, for example, Backworth Male Voice Choir and Northern Sinfonia. Other similar events take place from time to time.

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

There is little industry. However, there is a service of blessing of the lifeboat and fishing boats at Rogationtide.

There is one Care Home in the parish. Residents are visited by request. There are other homes outside the parish at which parishioners live and they receive pastoral care. There is Council Sheltered Housing on the seafront.

11. Relationships with neighbouring parishes

St. George's is a "resolution parish" and this presents difficulties with exchanges with neighbouring parishes. However, non-Eucharistic events, for example of The Mothers' Union, are attended by the nearby parishes and St. George's people go to their events. The Methodist Minister has preached in St. George's and this has been reciprocated.

The Parish Reader has conducted services and preached at other churches in the deanery.

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?

The parish is aware that St. George's is likely to be seen as a half-time post and this may present problems in filling the vacancy.

12. Ecumenical Relationships

There is one other place of worship in the parish, Cullercoats Methodist Church. There are three just outside the parish boundaries. These are St. Mary's Roman Catholic Church, St. Hilda's, Marden and The Cullercoats Fishermen's Mission, which also hosts The Coast Congregational Church. The Coast Congregational Church is part of the Congregational Federation and not part of the URC. St Hilda's originally was a daughter church of St. George's and later one of the churches in the now dissolved Cullercoats Team Ministry.

The Methodist Church is part of the Whitley Bay and Tynemouth Circuit. The RC church is clustered with Whitley Bay RC Church. Both churches look to outside Cullercoats. There is no "Churches Together in Cullercoats". However, St. George's has good relations with both the Methodists and The Roman Catholics. The local churches have run joint Lent Courses and have joined together for worship. There have been exchanges of pulpits with the Methodist 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?

The Mission Action Plan agreed in 2023

- Deepen our Discipleship
corporately : in our common liturgical life.
individually : identifying opportunities to explore our faith and grow as disciples.
collectively : to work with other churches to help us with this.
- Engage with young couples and families. (“Pulling those on the periphery into the centre”)
- Community Engagement (“Taking the centre to those on the periphery”)
- Honouring our Responsibilities
for developing our culture of making our church a safe place for everyone.
for maintaining and celebrating our heritage, particularly our building and musical tradition. for the flourishing of the church in the Diocese, notably in our financial support.
for becoming more conscious of environmental issues & the need for action in all areas of our common life.

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

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 understand that this is likely to be a half time post.

We are looking for a male Priest (not necessarily a member of the Society but who is sympathetic):

- Who has a burning desire to serve the Lord Jesus and his people and a strong belief in the power of prayer;
- Who is nurtured in the catholic faith and will maintain our tradition and high standard of inspiring sacramental worship;
- Who is an approachable, sociable, friendly pastor with a sense of humour;
- Who can bring the faith alive to people of all ages and will walk with people at critical times of their lives;
- Who is community focused and will be actively involved in representing Our Lord and his church to the community;
- Who can regenerate areas of church life after the pandemic and will enable others in their discipleship and contribution to parish life;
- Who has great enthusiasm for the development of strong active links with our local schools and success in the area of developing child centred activities;
- Who is prepared to embrace the mission opportunities the parish offers;

15. Parsonage

Age, number of bedrooms, heating, garden etc.

The vicarage is next to the church. It is a substantial, detached five bedroomed Victorian house, built at the same time as the church. There is on-road parking for visitors but which is often occupied by dog walkers and tourists. There is a detached double garage at the rear. At the side and rear of the house is a garden, mainly given over to lawn, surrounded by flower borders and hedges and a few trees. The garden is occasionally used for parish garden parties or barbecues. Inside, the house comprises an entrance hall leading to the study, dining room and lounge and a downstairs cloakroom. The entrance hall then leads to the kitchen equipped with an Aga and a utility room. Upstairs there are five bedrooms (four large and one small), a bathroom and a stairway leading to the attic space (which is not used): this can also be reached from the outside by a stair from the ground floor. The property has gas central heating.

The vicarage is Grade 2 listed and reverts to The Duke of Northumberland if no longer required by the church.

Any additional information.

NOTES

1. The P.C.C. Secretary should convene a meeting of the full P.C.C. as soon as practicable and in any event within 6 months of receiving notice of the vacancy. This meeting (or meetings) **shall not** be attended by the outgoing incumbent, his wife, the presenting patron, or any representative of the presenting patron.
2. The statement to be prepared is a public document and must be owned by the P.C.C. though it may delegate the detailed preparation to specified persons in the light of discussions in the P.C.C.
3. The headings given in this document are only a guide and the P.C.C. should consider any other matters relevant to the local situation.
4. The prepared statement is to be sent to the presenting patron and the Bishop as soon as practicable and in any event within 6 months.
5. Before the meeting of the P.C.C. is summoned for this purpose the bishop, or his appointed representative, will meet with the Churchwardens and Secretary of the P.C.C. to discuss the procedures which will lead to the appointment of the new incumbent.

ST GEORGES CULLERCOATS RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS 2023

BALANCE C/F 01/01/2023

	£	£
HSBC Balance	17719.35	
Petty Cash	392.68	
CBF Deposit Fund	45000.00	
	63112.03	63112.03

RECEIPTS

Direct Giving Income		
Planned giving & CAF	47944.47	
Collections	6613.58	
Tax Refund	5745.88	
Misc donations, church box	3855.59	
Gift Aid specific donations	1490.00	
	65649.52	65649.52

Voluntary Income (Fund Raising)		
Harvest Supper	192.60	
Church Flowers	309.84	
Diary Sales/Bookstall		
Penny Jar	121.85	
Coffee Mornings	1349.19	
Church social committee	240.00	
Concerts	1716.00	
Craft sales		
Fayres	1478.54	
Palm crosses	50.00	
Choir CDs		
Candle Stand	290.27	
xmas party	50.00	
	5798.29	5798.29

Investment Income		
CBF Deposit fund	1721.18	
	1721.18	1721.18

Charitable Trading Income		
Church Hall Rent	700.00	
Wedding/funeral fees	14276.00	
Traidcraft		
Parish Magazine		

PAYMENTS

	£	£
Charitable Giving		
See below for full details	2127.03	
	2127.03	2127.03
Work of the Church		
Expenses & costs:		
Fees & Dues	3276.61	
Parish Share	48000.00	
Vicarage	3482.71	
Vicars Discretionary Fund		
Vicars Expenses	409.30	
Church Insurance	11686.74	
National Churches Trust		
Wedding/funeral fees	7059.00	
	73914.36	73914.36
Maintenance etc:		
Gas	6019.67	
Electric	551.29	
Water rates (church)	122.01	
Boiler Maintenance	432.00	
Fire Equipment	163.80	
Restoration		
General Maintenance	434.40	
	7723.17	7723.17
Services:		
Books, candles, wine, etc	1754.49	
Choir music / robes	127.10	
Piano/Organ Tuning, Fees	1480.56	
Director of Music	4578.08	
	7940.23	7940.23
Admin costs		
Office Depot/Stationery	311.82	
Planned Giving		
Envelopes		
Staff Costs		

	14976.00	14976.00
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Restricted Income		
Restoration Grants/VAT Refunds	2149.76	
Church Maintenance	1804.47	
Organ & Choir Fund	140.05	
Cullercoats Educ Trust	1200.00	
Legacies		
Vicars Discr Fund		
Donations	332.00	
Charities:	2165.56	
See reverse of sheet for full details		
	7791.84	7791.84
Total		95936.83

HSBC Balance	8922.02
Petty Cash	305.68
CBF Balance	45000.00
Balance	54227.70

Balance c/f + Total Receipts	159048.86
Unaccounted Receipts	0.00
BALANCE	159048.86

	311.82	311.82
Hall Costs		
Staff Costs	1087.00	
Water Rates	122.01	
Insurance		
Electric	1562.69	
Maint, New Equip	190.90	
	2962.60	2962.60
Misc		
Petty Cash Items		
Cullercoats Educational Trust	1600.00	
Church Flowers	841.95	
Traidcraft		
Bible Reading Fellowship		
Parish Magazine		
Restricted Donations	7400.00	
Restricted Legacies		
	9841.95	9841.95
		104821.16

Payments	104821.16
Bank Balances	54227.70
	159048.86

Signed:

The Rev Canon A Hughes
PCC Chairman

Andrew Pinkett
Hon Treasurer

W Burgess
Hon Examiner

Restricted Income – Charitable Giving

	£		£
Balance Brought Fwd	99.15	Alzheimers uk	13.48
Alzheimers uk	13.48	RAF Benevolent fund	250.00
RAF Benevolent fund	250.00	Multiple Sclerosis society	95.22
Salvation Army	14.23	Mens Mental Health	20.65
Multiple Sclerosis Society	95.22	Salvation Army	14.23
Newcastle cat and dog shelter	70.82	RNLI	15.00
26 May wedding	31.58	Save the Children	14.25
St Gemmas Leeds	47.51	SPARCS	47.50
Maggies cancer care centre	406.50	St Gemmas Hospice	47.51
4Louis	51.60	Newcastle Cat and Dog shelter	70.82
British Heart foundation	82.21	Neuroendocrine Cancer UK	245.00
Stroke Aid	51.72	Maggies Cancer Centre	406.50
Neuroendocrine cancer uk	245.00	World Wildlife fund	118.08
The Dear Toby Trust	20.00	Macmillan cancer	118.08
St Oswalds Hospice	110.07	British Heart Foundation	82.21
Macmillan cancer	118.08	Stroke Association	51.72
World Wildlife fund	118.08	4louis	51.60
New Hope for Children	149.64	New Hope for Children	149.64
Cancer Research	17.74	St Oswalds hospice	110.07
Bobby Robson Foundation	176.81	Bobby Robson Foundation	89.55
Twins Trust	38.02	Twins Trust	38.02
Forget Me Not	57.25	Forget me Not	57.25

Statement of Assets and Liabilities 31st December 2023

	General Fund(£)	Restricted Fund (£)	Total 2023(£)	Total 2022 (£)
<i>Cash Funds</i>				
<i>Petty cash</i>	306		306	392
<i>HSBC Current Account</i>	5,558	3,364	8,922	17,720
<i>CBF Deposit Fund</i>	25,000	20,000	45,000	45,000
	30,864	23,364	54,228	63,112

Other Monetary Assets

Gift Aid tax refund £5,700

Assets Retained for Church use

The Parish Hall It is not possible to put an accurate valuation on the land and buildings

Liabilities

Director of Music £1,600