

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: St John's Church, Whorlton*
2. *Name of Parish church(es) St John's Church, Whorlton*
3. *Name of other C of E churches/centres for public worship in the parish: N/A*
4. *Group of parishes in which you work (formally or informally): N/A*
5. *Deanery: Newcastle West*
6. *Population: The 2021 Census stated the population of the Chapel Ward of Newcastle was 9,331, which covers the majority of the Parish.*
- 7.(a) *Number on Electoral Roll: 64*
- (b) *Date of APCM at which this number was declared: April 2025*
7. *Attendance at worship at each church:*

Average Sunday Communicants 31
Average Sunday attendance 33
Average weekday Communicants N/A
Average weekday attendance N/A
8. *Occasional Offices:*

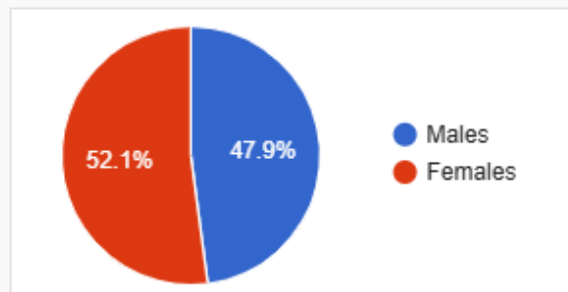
Number of baptisms in the last 12 months: 39
Number of persons confirmed in the last 12 months: 3
Number of weddings in the last 12 months: 5
Number of funerals in church in the last 12 months: 5
Number of funerals taken by clergy not in church in the last 12 months: 5

II. The Local Community

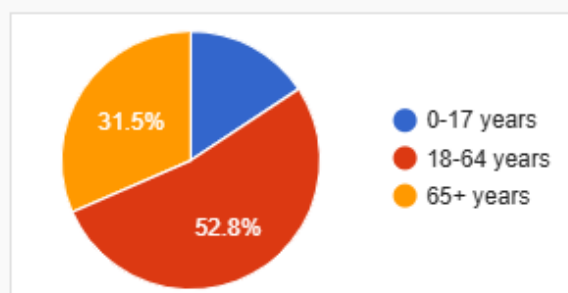
1.(a) Briefly describe the population in terms of any predominant age and/or social groups, the ethnic mix etc:

This information is from Chapel ward, which covers the majority of the ward.

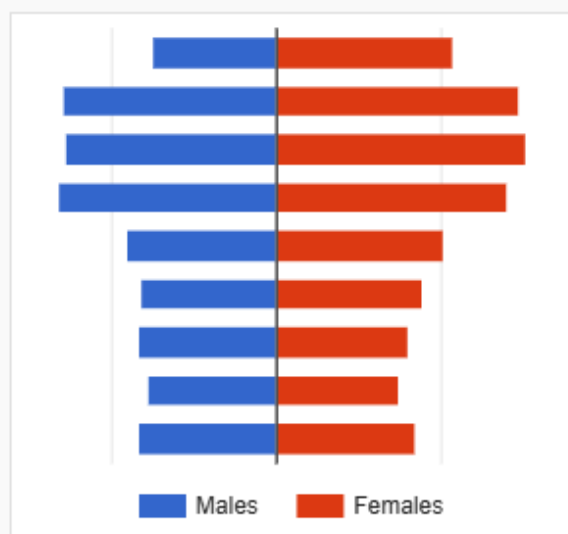
Further information about the population structure:



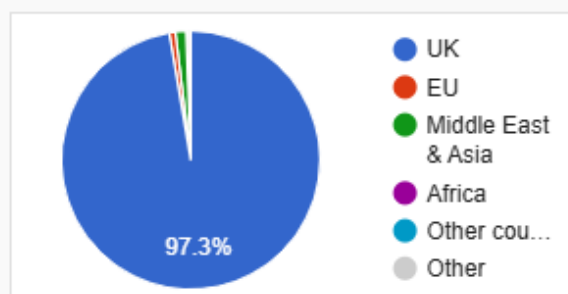
| Gender (C 2021) | |
|-----------------|-------|
| Males | 4,470 |
| Females | 4,860 |



| Age Groups (C 2021) | |
|---------------------|-------|
| 0-17 years | 1,464 |
| 18-64 years | 4,924 |
| 65+ years | 2,942 |



| Age Distribution (C 2021) | |
|---------------------------|-------|
| 80+ years | 913 |
| 70-79 years | 1,390 |
| 60-69 years | 1,403 |
| 50-59 years | 1,362 |
| 40-49 years | 967 |
| 30-39 years | 863 |
| 20-29 years | 823 |
| 10-19 years | 767 |
| 0-9 years | 842 |



| Country of Birth (C 2021) | |
|---------------------------|-------|
| UK | 9,083 |
| EU | 71 |
| Europe (other) | 6 |
| Middle East & Asia | 124 |
| Africa | 27 |
| Other country | 23 |

(b) Are there any special social problems, e.g. high unemployment : None

2. Please list:

Local schools: Westerhope Primary, Studio West secondary school, Thomas Bewick School, Beech Hill Primary, Milecastle Primary, Knoplaw Primary, Walbottle Campus

Youth centres: Denton Youth & Community Project, D2 Youth Zone

Hospitals: Newcastle RVI / Freeman

Nursing/residential homes, sheltered housing: Whorlton Grange Residential Care Home / Wheatfield Ct

Places of worship of other faiths: Westerhope Methodist Church / St Marks RC at Newbiggin Hall, John Vianney RC church at Chapel House

Local businesses: Palatine Beds / FareShare North East / CF Motoring Services Ltd – Westerhope / Castle Peak Group Business management consultant / Westerhope Small Business Park

Neighbourhood initiatives: 2,500 new houses

Local associations: Chapel House and District Community Association (CHADCA), Westerhope Community Centre (The Tute)

Any civic responsibilities of local clergy:

- *Parochial Governance: Local clergy are involved in the governance of the parish, including the formation of the Parish Church Council (PCC) and the appointment of churchwardens.*
- *Safeguarding Responsibilities: Clergy must adhere to safeguarding policies and have a duty to protect vulnerable individuals within their community.*
- *Community Engagement: Local clergy often engage in community activities, including volunteering, advocacy, and participating in local council meetings to address community issues.*
- *Legal Obligations: Clergy have legal responsibilities, such as ensuring the proper care and maintenance of church buildings and adhering to church regulations.*

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

1.(a) *What percentage of the congregation lives outside the parish? 63 on electoral roll 19, are not resident which is 30% of the roll.*

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

| Age | | % | | | % |
|----------|--|--------|--|-----------|-------|
| under 18 | | 9.00 | | Retired | 71.0 |
| 20+ | | 2.00 | | Working | 19.0 |
| 40+ | | 9.00 | | Education | 10.0 |
| 50+ | | 5.00 | | | 100.0 |
| 60+ | | 17.00 | | | |
| 70+ | | 34.00 | | | |
| 80+ | | 21.00 | | Female | 76.0 |
| 90+ | | 3.00 | | Male | 24.0 |
| | | 100.00 | | | 100.0 |

English speaking – 100 %

2. *Please describe the tradition of your church and give details of robes/vestments worn by officiants: Traditional robes – colours are altered to suit the ecclesiastical diary*
3. *Give details of Sunday services with times and form of service used: 8.30am Holy Communion and 10.00 am Holy Communion service*
4. *Give details of weekday services: Friday prayer held on Zoom*
5. *List any authorised ministers (e.g. Reader, Church Army Officer, Ordained Local Minister, Non-stipendiary Minister, Curate in training, retired Clergy): Bob Conway retired priest.*
- 6.(a) *What is the average weekly giving of those aged 16 years and older, and what proportion of the giving is gift aided: £9.45*
- (b) *When did the parish last have a stewardship campaign: Over 10 years ago.*
7. *How does each church supplement direct giving in order to meet financial needs (e.g. fundraising events, hall lettings, occasional offices, investments): Hall rental, two church fairs, social events, interest from investments, and grants where we can.*
- 8.(a) *Give details of expenses paid to the incumbent, and state whether this covers them in full. Council tax, water, mobile phone and broadband, travel in connection with work.*
- (b) *Is there an annual discussion about the level of expenses as part of the budgeting process: No*
9. *What amount of Share has been (a) requested and (b) paid:*
Last year: £31,920
Current year: £31,920
Next year: £31,920
- 10.(a) *Is there any capital project in hand at the moment: Defibrillator in church car park was completed in December 2025.*
- 10.(b) *If so, please give brief details with costs and state how they are to be met: £3,000 has been raised via a just giving page for the supply and installation of the defibrillator, enclosure and stand. Our latest statement of accounts is attached.*

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

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

All aspects of our 2020 Quinquennial report have been addressed. We have received the 2025 Quinquennial report. The inspection was undertaken in September 2025 and no major issues were identified.

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

As well as minor works to address the 2020 Quinquennial report, we have incurred some £65,000 of costs fixing the roof above our organ and various wall and roof repairs in the chancel, securing our bellcote and roof cross, undertaking internal redecoration and repainting the base of the church. This money was funded by grants, a legacy and congregation fund raising.

2. *Please give details of church halls and any other ancillary buildings (and an indication of the level of their use).*
The adjacent church hall is also in a good well-maintained condition. It incorporates toilets and a kitchen. It is used by Slimming World, Dandelions group for autistic children, Saturday Dads, Messy church, dancing as well as church social events and Sunday coffee.
3. *Is there a churchyard to maintain and who is responsible for its maintenance?*
The adjacent closed churchyard is now maintained by the City Council.

V. Outreach and Mission

- 1.(a) *What are the regular mission and outreach activities of the parish: local school visits/ messy church / social event – we have messy church one per month, we have visiting school groups at Christmas from Westerhope Primary and education visits from Knoplaw Primary School. We hold regular social events at our church hall.*
- (b) *What are you doing to help people find out about Jesus: The church is heavily used for baptisms, with some weddings and funerals. We use these opportunities to engage with people about the church and what it represents in the community. We have an excellent webpage via a church near you (acny) and we promote on facebook. We have two prominent signs. We have community and social events which are advertised via acny, leaflet drops, facebook and signs.*
- (c) *What are you doing to help grow people in discipleship: (as above)*
- (d) *What are you doing to grow people in leadership: Verbally encouraging those who show interest in learning more about ministry and the life of the church. The diocese and Lindisfarne Regional Training Programme offer a wealth of courses and information at all levels.*
- 2.(a) *Please give details of support for the church overseas: Operation Christmas Child.*
- (b) *How much is given annually: None from the church*
- 3.(a) *Give details of support for home missions and charities: Christian Aid, British Legion, Peoples' Kitchen*
- (b) *How much is given annually: £150 plus produce to Peoples' Kitchen*
- 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: yes*
- (b) *If so, please describe: leaflet drop invitations introduction to our Church to new housing developments.*
6. *What part does the church play in community care: Monthly visits to the housebound or when called to do so. Monthly visit to Whorlton Grange Care Home.*
- 7.(a) *Are there Lay Eucharistic Assistants who take communion to the sick: Yes*
Once per month and at seasonal events and when called to attend the sick or dying.
- (b) *If so, who are they: TBC*

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

VI. Ecumenical Relationships

- 1(a) *Involvement in local Council of Churches - No*
- (b) *Is there a formal covenant with any other denomination? At Easter we have a walk of the cross on Good Friday between our church and Westerhope Methodist church.*
2. *What informal ecumenical contacts are there? In Interregnum, we are using several vicars from our area to officiate baptisms and weddings.*

VII. Church Education and Social Provision

- 1.(a) *Name of Church School(s), if applicable: N/A*
- (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: Messy Church on a monthly basis
Young People: None
Adults: Safeguarding
- 2.(a) *Give details of house/prayer groups: prayer group is held every Friday*
- (b) *Are the leaders clergy or lay: Bob Conway retired priest*
- 3.(a) *How do you rate the strength of lay leadership: Good*
- (b) *To what do you credit this strength or the lack of it: In Interregnum, we have depended on these persons to maintain our level of service. Members of the PCC have worked well as a team; WhatsApp has been so useful in coordinating efforts of the church volunteers. There is a lot of knowledge, talents and skills that the volunteers have and are willing to share.*

IX. Mission

1. *List areas of church life which you consider in need of development: See below*
2. *What are the main areas of mission that you think the new priest should prioritise in their ministry: See below*
3. *In summary, what are the top three challenges with which you and the new priest need to engage: hospitality to engage with new communities, music, and the environment.*

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.

Historically, Whorlton was perceived as something of a 'country church', serving the 'Village' (Westerhope), right out on the very edge of the city. New estates grew up, and most recently, major developments right on our doorstep! There is a new community to engage with.

XI. The new parish priest

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

Prompted by this, we've been thinking very seriously about who we are and what we stand for. In these discussions, 'conversation, not conversion' - providing Christian company (open to all) - emerged as a touchstone. All are welcome to our worship: weekly, monthly, occasional/seasonal attenders, those new to faith or exploring anew. We've also decided to focus upon hospitality, music, and the environment.

If labels help, St John's is roughly 'middle of the road', attempting a mixture of friendliness and formality.