

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: *Kirknewton*
2. Name of Parish church(es) *St Gregory the Great*
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): *Cheviot Benefice*
5. Deanery: *Bamburgh & Glendale*
6. Population: *662*
- 7.(a) Number on Electoral Roll *17*
- (b) Date of APCM at which this number was declared: *18 May 2025*
7. Attendance at worship at each church:

Average Sunday Communicants *14*
Average Sunday attendance *12*
Average weekday Communicants *n/a*
Average weekday attendance *n/a*
8. Occasional Offices: figures for calendar 2024

Number of baptisms in the last 12 months: *nil*
Number of persons confirmed in the last 12 months: *nil*
Number of weddings in the last 12 months: *1 (2 in 2025)*
Number of funerals in church in the last 12 months: *3*
Number of funerals taken by clergy not in church in the last 12 months: *?*

II. The Local Community

- 1.(a) Briefly describe the population in terms of any predominant age and/or social groups, the ethnic mix etc: *Many are retired, elderly and white. The exception is Milfield village which has a more mixed age grouping, with new housing and people coming in from Tyneside.*
- (b) Are there any special social problems, e.g. high unemployment? *Not really.*

2. Please list:

Local schools: *Wooler*

Youth centres: *Wooler*

Hospitals: *several in the south east of the county. A new one is to open in Berwick.*

Nursing/residential homes, sheltered housing: *Wooler*

Places of worship of other faiths: *Wooler*

Local businesses: *Wooler*

Neighbourhood initiatives:

Local associations:

Any civic responsibilities of local clergy: *Not known*

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

1.(a) What percentage of the congregation lives outside the parish? *Most*

(b) Describe the congregation in terms of age, employment, culture, ethnicity and gender: *Retired, elderly, white, equal gender.*

2. Please describe the tradition of your church and give details of robes/vestments worn by officiants: *Neither High nor Low Church. Officiants usually wear A/B/stole. Vestments are available.*

3. Give details of Sunday services with times and form of service used: *11.00 am every Sunday. Alternate between Holy Communion and Lay led services*

4. Give details of weekday services: *None*

5. List any authorised ministers (e.g. Reader, Church Army Officer, Ordained Local Minister, Non-stipendiary Minister, Curate in training, retired Clergy): *Rev Judith Dobson PTO and Reader Sara Bedwell*

6.(a) What is the average weekly giving of those aged 16 years and older, and what proportion of the giving is gift aided: *The weekly giving is quite small, usually by visitors. A number of the regular congregation donate by standing order with Gift Aid; six do so monthly, three quarterly, and one half yearly. These donations, which have increased since our September 2024 Generous Giving campaign, should now provide just over £3,700 per annum.*

(b) When did the parish last have a stewardship campaign: *September 2024*

7. How does each church supplement direct giving in order to meet financial needs (eg fundraising events, hall lettings, occasional offices, investments): *Some fundraising, donations, several funerals, and an occasional wedding.*

8.(a) Give details of expenses paid to the incumbent, and state whether this covers them in full. *Telephone and travel expenses, council tax, and water rates are all paid through the Benefice bank account, funded by the four parishes in proportion to Parish Share.*

(b) Is there an annual discussion about the level of expenses as part of the budgeting process: *The budget is prepared by the Benefice Treasurer then is circulated to the other three treasurers for comment. Major costs, being council tax and nwl rates, are easily budgeted.*

9. What amount of Share has been (a) requested and (b) paid:

Last year: *£8,250*

Current year: *offered £8,250, but may not reach that amount.*

Next year: *provisionally offered £8,250.*

10.(a) Is there any capital project in hand at the moment: *No. But will need to tackle bad pointing on tower in due course.*

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

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

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

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

(b) Please give details of any major maintenance needed following the last Quinquennial Inspection: *Nothing major.*

2. Please give details of church halls and any other ancillary buildings (and an indication of the level of their use). *None.*

3. Is there a churchyard to maintain and who is responsible for its maintenance? *Yes, the PCC.*

V. Outreach and Mission

1.(a) What are the regular mission and outreach activities of the parish: *None*

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

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

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

2.(a) Please give details of support for the church overseas: *None.*

(b) How much is given annually: *Nil.*

3.(a) Give details of support for home missions and charities: *None.*

(b) How much is given annually: *Nil.*

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:* **No.**
- (b) *If so, please describe:*
6. *What part does the church play in community care:* **Support amongst parishioners.**
- 7.(a) *Are there Lay Eucharistic Assistants who take communion to the sick:* **No.**
- (b) *If so, who are they:*
8. *What work does the church undertake with young people, other than in church based organisations (eg open youth work):* **None. Not many young people in the parish, except possibly in Milfield.**

VI. Ecumenical Relationships

- 1(a) *Involvement in local Council of Churches* **None.**
- (b) *Is there a formal covenant with any other denomination?* **Many years ago there was one with the Methodist Chapel in Milfield, but the Chapel has now closed.**
2. *What informal ecumenical contacts are there?* **Any will be through Rev Judith and/or Reader Sara.**

VII. Church Education and Social Provision

- 1.(a) *Name of Church School(s), if applicable:* **Not applicable.**
- (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: **None.**
Young People: **None.**
Adults: **None.**
- 2.(a) *Give details of house/prayer groups:* **Occasional prayer group.**
- (b) *Are the leaders clergy or lay:* **Sara Bedwell – Reader.**
- 3.(a) *How do you rate the strength of lay leadership:* **Very good.**
- (b) *To what do you credit this strength or the lack of it:* **good training.**

IX. Mission

1. List areas of church life which you consider in need of development: *New Vicar to visit parishioners.*
2. What are the main areas of mission that you think the new priest should prioritise in their ministry: *as point 1.*
3. In summary, what are the top three challenges with which you and the new priest need to engage: *Increasing the congregation, especially among younger people; addressing our lack of activity with Milfield; and strengthening the financial position of the parish.*

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: Visit parishioners; increase the congregation.