

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

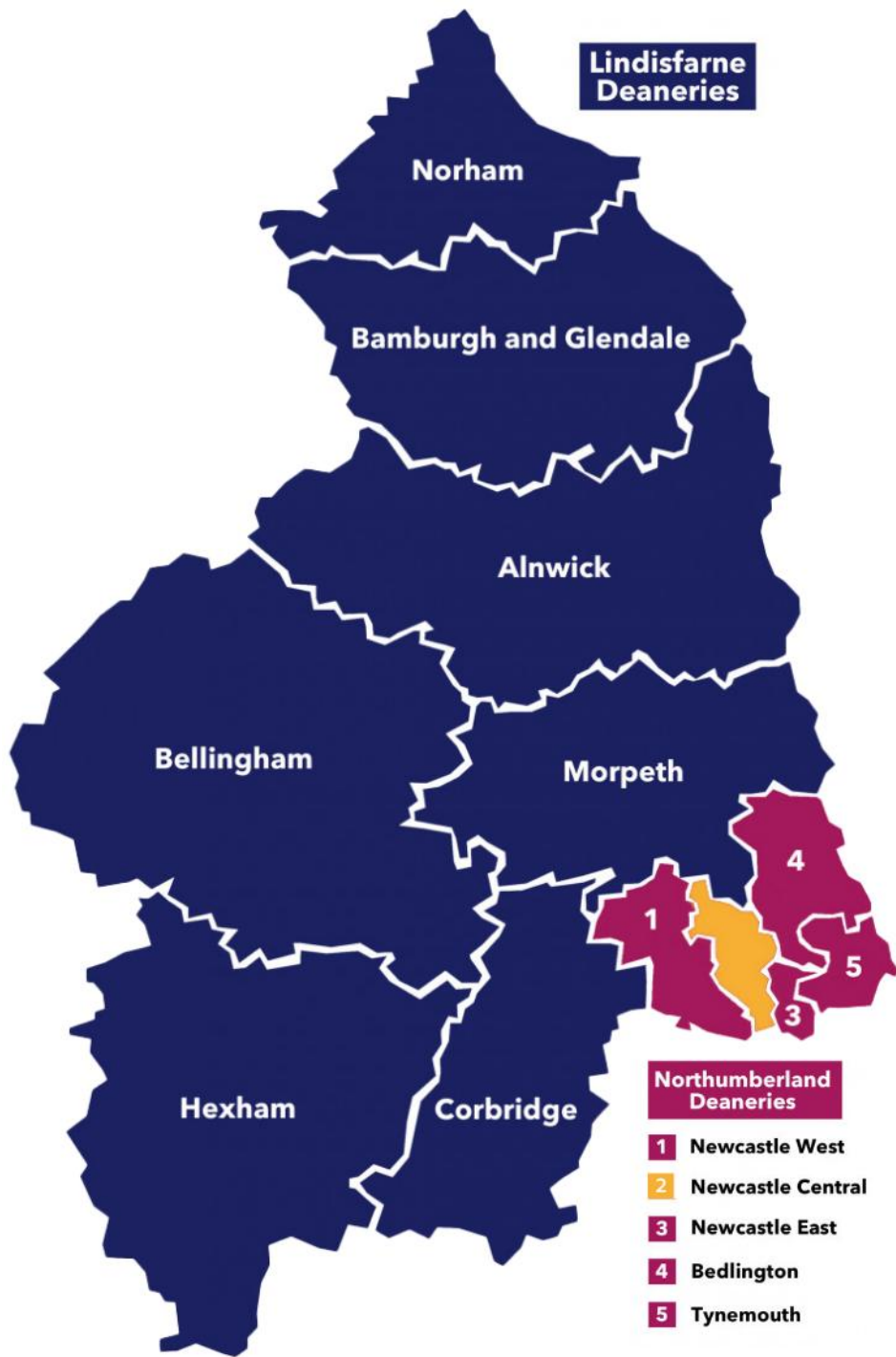
The Diocese of Newcastle is the Church of England's most northerly Diocese. Formed in 1882, the Diocese covered an area almost equivalent to the then County of Northumberland. With 169 parishes across 2,110 square miles, the Diocese covers the local authorities of Northumberland, Newcastle, North Tyneside 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.



THE BENEFICE OF CHRIST CHURCH WITH SAINT ANN NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE

Parish Profile



ALL ABOUT CHRIST CHURCH AND SAINT ANN

1. Where and Who are we?

The Parishes of Christ Church and Saint Ann are situated on the western side of Newcastle City Centre, and which includes Northumbria University City Centre Campus. The Parishes contain some of the most diverse and young populations in the Diocese and the established Battlefield and Shieldfield residential communities.

The Benefice includes a varied mixture of residential and commercial uses, each with their own distinct character and including: the busy western half of Newcastle City Centre, Northumbria University campus and student accommodation blocks, the popular Quayside area and Ouseburn Valley Conservation Area which is home to a range of arts,

crafts, music venues and leisure venues. A total of 11,343 people were recorded as living in the benefice in the 2021 census.

We celebrate and embrace our mixed multi-cultural community. This diversity is reflected in our congregations.

Our Parish vision is to act as a visible Christian presence in our community with our churches being living places of worship used and enjoyed by our local communities. To achieve this, we have been working to broaden our role in the community and make our church buildings more adaptable. We regularly arrange events to encourage wider engagement of the Church in the community. Examples of Church engagement with the community include:

- holding carol services aimed at students, Law Courts staff
- holding social evenings with shared food, drink and entertainment;
- barbeques for students in Freshers' week
- hosting annual Friends of St Ann's local history lectures
- working with Wild Ouseburn Project to encourage ecology diversity of St. Ann's church grounds
- participating in events such as National Heritage Open Days and 'The Late Shows' events – hosting concerts for groups like Newcastle University Wind Band



Newcastle University Wind Band Concert at Christ Church

2. Our Parish Profiles

- Christ Church Parish is home to 8,956 people and ranks as 2,988 most deprived Parish in England of 12,178. It has one of the youngest demographics in the Diocese, with only 2.8% of its parishioners over the age of 65. The Parish has a very high proportion of people living on their own- 53.7%. At the last census 26.2% of the population identified as Christian.

-Saint Ann's Parish is home to 2,387 people and ranks 990/ 12,161 in terms of deprivation index. It is above average in terms of the younger age profiles in the Diocese with 5% of the parish being over 70 years old. In the last census 47% of the population said they were Christian.

3. Our Church Community

	Electoral Role	Sunday attendance	Midweek attendance	Baptism	Wedding	Confirmation
Christ Church	14	14	5	2	2	1
Saint Ann	16	12	5	1	1	1
Total	30	26	10	3	3	2

Christ Church uses *A Church Near Your* website and Facebook to publicise events online.

Saint Ann uses its own dedicated website www.saintannbattlefield.org.uk alongside *A Church near You* to raise the profile of the Church and its activities and Facebook to promote individual events.

Fund raising and social events are held throughout the year, including:

-Christ Church Saturday morning coffee mornings are held twice a year in the church hall to raise church funds.

-Saint Ann's Summer and Christmas fayres -

-Saint Ann's social nights such as Burns Night, Oktoberfest Dinner Party and Shrove Tuesday Pancake Party to encourage social interactions and fellowship across both congregations.



The Friends of Saint Ann



Lecture held by Friends of St Ann's

The Friends of Saint Ann works alongside the PCC in maintaining and enhancing the church and its churchyard. The activities of the Friends include dedicated events designed to highlight the historic and cultural significance of the church and attract visitors to ensure that the building continues to be a place of worship, learning, and enjoyment.

The Friends is funded through its membership, which currently numbers about 40 (26 individual members, eleven family members and one corporate member), and by applying for grants for special projects. One such grant included a Heritage Lottery grant towards the celebration of 250 years in 2026. The Friends is managed by a committee of up to six members of whom the Priest in Charge is the Chair and two appointed by and represent the PCC.



Christ Church (Church of England) Primary School

Christ Church Primary School adjoins the church and thrives on its diversity and is underpinned by Christian values, where everyone is welcome and valued. The school's vision is to shepherd each other in a safe, loving environment, whilst building a solid foundation to encourage and inspire each pupil to reach for their own star. The Church forms an important part of school life, with the Vicar attending weekly collective worship. Pupils also visit the Christ Church for special services and religious education. The Vicar will be expected to be appointed as a Foundation Governors to support the school and help shape its vision and oversee its operation. The school has around 130 pupils and received an Excellent SIAMs assessment in 2022 and has recently passed its OFSTED inspection and achieved strong standards in its inclusion and personal development and wellbeing performance rating.



Christ Church Primary School performing at St Nicholas Cathedral

St Ann's Messy Church



We have held regular Messy Church events prior to the vacancy, normally two to three times during the year. A group of between five and ten children attended. We are looking to restart Messy Church later in 2026.

Benefice Men's Group/Lent Groups/ Study Groups

The Benefice has held a range of Bible study groups held at the Vicarage to help the congregation grow in faith. Men's Groups have also met to encourage social interaction through trips out for pub lunches, day trips to local attractions and film nights.



St Ann's Summer Fete

Church Building Use Community

Both churches are also used regularly by local community groups.

Saint Ann is used weekly by a local anonymous group.

Christ Church Hall is hired weekly by several local groups: All Ways Good Company Circus Skills (three times per week); Bangshee Drumming Group (weekly); Newcastle Gamers Society (bi-monthly); and local Yoga Class (weekly).



All Ways Good Company Circus Skills in Christ Church Hall

4. Our Worship

Both churches follow tradition Anglo-Catholic sacramental forms of worship with a mix of traditional and modern hymns sung and accompanied on the organ or with recorded music.

Weekly Service

Church	Sunday Worship	Mid-week Worship
Christ Church	9.30 a.m. Sung Mass	Thursdays- 12.30pm Said Mass
Saint Ann	11am Sung Eucharist	Tuesdays- 10am Holy Eucharist

Benediction and Holy Hour services are held at Christ Church on Sunday afternoons around main Holy Days. Special Services are also held often with fellowship events taking place afterwards through the year, such as Carol Services and the Eve of Christ the King and Easter Eve.

5. Parish Buildings

Christ Church

Christ Church and its hall are Grade II* listed. The church was consecrated in 1861 and is a fine example of Victorian Gothic architecture. Inside the church there are fine stone carvings, stained and leaded glass. The church buildings have seen significant investment over the past 10 years with the nave and side aisle roofs replaced, the church rewired and heating system installed and the hall refurbished. Further improvements to broaden the use of the church are proposed through a faculty application to create a community room in the side aisle of the church and disabled WC at the rear of the church.



Saint Ann's Church

Saint Ann's Church is Grade I listed and the church grounds are locally listed. The Church was consecrated in 1768 and built in a dignified English Renaissance manner. The church has views across the Tyne to the Glasshouse in Gateshead. The church yard includes war memorial and graves of local dignitaries. The inside of the Church was redecorated in 2018. The rear of the nave contains a small, enclosed kitchen space and storage spaces. The congregation is working with Wild Intrigue as part of the Wild Ouseburn Project to enhance the ecological value of the churchyard.



The Vicarage – 12 Gibson Street is situated between the two churches and is a substantial 1950s detached house with enclosed surrounding garden and detached garage with driveway for two vehicles.

The Vicarage comprises: Ground floor- Living room, dining room, study, WC, kitchen and utility room. First Floor – Four bedrooms- plus dressing room to main bedroom, family bathroom and separate WC.



The property has central heating gas and was rewired in 2025. The interior was redecorated and new carpets laid throughout in 2025.

6. Governance

A fortnightly Benefice Newsletter is distributed to the congregation in both print versions and online.

Christ Church, Shieldfield
with
Saint Ann, Battlefield

Christ Church
Churchwarden
Jon Rippon
07851 001 276

We are currently in vacancy
Contact Details for Benefice:
Christ Church email:
christ86@church@gmail.com
Saint Ann email:
6@resaint17@gmail.com

Saint Ann
Churchwarden
Norma Banks
07581 337 435

NEWSLETTER

Sunday 12 April 2026 – First Sunday after Easter
Sunday 19 April 2026 – Second Sunday after Easter

CHRIST CHURCH
Sundays at 9.30 a.m.
Sung Mass with Sermon
Thursdays Said Mass at 12.30 p.m.

SAINT ANN'S
Sundays at 11.00 a.m.
Sung Eucharist with Sermon
Tuesdays Holy Eucharist at 10.00 a.m.

Readings for First after Easter
Acts 2.14a, 22-32 - Psalm 16 - 1 Peter 1.3-9 - John 20.19-31

Collect
Almighty Father,
you have given your only Son to die for our sins
and to rise again for our justification:
grant us so to put away the leaven of malice and wickedness
that we may always serve you in pureness of living and truth;
through the merits of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

Prayer of Thanksgiving
Lord God our Father,
through our Saviour Jesus Christ you have assured your children of eternal life
and in baptism have made us one with him:
deliver us from the death of sin and raise us to new life in your love,
in the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, by the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ.

THE NEXT TWO WEEKS

Sunday 12th April – Easter 2

9.30 a.m. Sung Eucharist at Christ Church – Fr. Michael
11 a.m. Sung Eucharist at Saint Ann's – Fr. Michael

Tuesday 14th April
10.00a.m. Holy Eucharist at Saint Ann – Rev Jean

Thursday 16th April – Isabella Gilmore
12.30 p.m. Said Mass at Christ Church – Fr. Michael

Sunday 19th April – Easter 3

9.30 a.m. Sung Eucharist at Christ Church – Rev Pauline
11 a.m. Sung Eucharist at Saint Ann's – Rev. Pauline

Tuesday 21st April – Anselm
10.00a.m. Holy Eucharist at Saint Ann – Rev Jean

Thursday 23rd April – St George's Day
12.30 p.m. Said Mass at Christ Church – Fr. Michael

Coming soon....

THE
LATE
SHOWS

On Friday 8th May Christ Church is taking part on the annual Late Shows event. The Church will be open between 5.30 p.m. and 10 p.m. You will be able to hear the Bangshee Drummers in church and see All Ways Good Company ariel skills in the church hall. There are another 25 venues hosting events around Ouseburn and Shieldfield, so come along. Volunteers to act as guides are also required. A free bus service will carry visitors between the venues

Each Parish has its own PCC, with joint Benefice PCCs held when appropriate.

PCC secretaries are responsible for taking and distributing minutes and agendas.

All PCC members have undergone safeguarding training.

7. Finance

Church Income and Parish Share 2025

Church	Gross Income	Parish Share
Christ Church	£26,636	£8,577
St Ann	£22,243	£9,600

Christ Church and Saint Ann have paid their respective parish share for over 10 years. In 2025 the Benefice held a joint Parish Funding Campaign supported by the Diocese Generous Giving team.

8. Our Next Vicar

Do you think you could be called to be our next Vicar of Christ Church and Saint Ann's Church and a leading part of Northumbria University community? Do you think the following could be you?

- A leader to act as a visible Christian presence in our community and grow our churches as living places of worship which are used and enjoyed by our local communities
- Celebrate Common Worship in an Anglo-Catholic tradition in a thoughtful and inspiring manner to deepen our faith. Also to embrace new forms of worship ways to attract a younger multi-ethnic Anglican congregation;
- To be a visible presence on Northumbria University campus, building relationships with students and staff and exploring opportunities for new worshipping communities in the parish churches with the university populations. Also to engage and interact with university students and develop our church community to have a closer relationship with Northumbria University students.
- Confident in leading shared worship in an engaging way with children at Christ Church Primary School to encourage greater integration between the school and Church;
- Experienced at administering and the maintenance of historic church buildings;
- A proficient administrator and communicator for the Church;
- Looking for an exciting opportunity to diversify and grow our congregations to become more mission-and community-focused and to explore opportunities to establish new church groups.

If so, please apply for the Post of Vicar of Newcastle Christ Church with Saint Ann TODAY. You will not regret it!