

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 (for CoGS)

1. Name of Parish: *Willington Team*
2. Name of Parish church(es) *Church of the Good Shepherd*
3. Name of other C of E churches/centres for public worship in the parish *St Mary the Virgin, St Pauls*
4. Group of parishes in which you work (formally or informally):
5. Deanery: *Tynemouth*
6. Population: *10851 (2021 census)*
- 7.(a) Number on Electoral Roll *ER 46 LEP 68*
- (b) Date of APCM at which this number was declared: *7 April 2025*
7. Attendance at worship at each church:

Average Sunday Communicants 57
Average Sunday attendance 60
Average weekday Communicants 8
Average weekday attendance 8
8. Occasional Offices:

Number of baptisms in the last 12 months: 8
Number of persons confirmed in the last 12 months: 3
Number of weddings in the last 12 months: 0
Number of funerals in church in the last 12 months: 0
Number of funerals taken by clergy not in church in the last 12 months: 3

II. The Local Community

- 1.(a) Briefly describe the population in terms of any predominant age and/or social groups, the ethnic mix etc: *Population 10851 (2021 census). Age mix (approx.) 17 and under 19%, 18-64 57%, 65-74 14%, 75 and over 10%. Predominately white British, with very small percentages of other ethnic groups. Home owners are about 65%, with about 35% renting, having either social housing or private rentals.*

- (b) Are there any special social problems, e.g. high unemployment?
*Unemployment rate is about 4.8% and tends to be in pockets. Some social problems caused by alcohol and drug abuse
Some antisocial behaviour, markedly reduced in recent years in great part due to the engagement of the Minister.*

2. Please list:

Local schools:

*Hadrian Park Primary School Battle Hill Primary School
Tyne Metropolitan College of further education*

Youth centres: Battle Hill Community Centre

Hospitals: No hospital in district; GP practice in the Battle Hill Health Centre

Nursing/residential homes, sheltered housing:

*Sheltered housing 2 (Mayfield Park, Spring View)
Nursing homes 1 (Charlton Court)*

Places of worship of other faiths: Wallsend Baptist Church

Local businesses:

Largely food retail and take-away shops; Northumbria Police North Tyneside located within the church district

Neighbourhood initiatives:

Wallsend Churches Working Together, Battle Hill Community Centre

Local associations:

Kings Road Residents Association,

Any civic responsibilities of local clergy: None

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

- 1.(a) What percentage of the congregation lives outside the parish? *30%*
- (b) Describe the congregation in terms of age, employment, culture, ethnicity and gender:
Age <40: 3 41-60: 10 61-80:34 >80: 21 Predominantly retired. Predominately White UK 16 male, 52 female
2. Please describe the tradition of your church and give details of robes/vestments worn by officiants:
Local Ecumenical Partnership between Anglican, Methodist and URC denominations. Robes/vestments normally worn at Sunday 9.30am family communion, Sunday 6pm service normally Free Church style.
3. Give details of Sunday services with times and form of service used:
*9.30 am Family Communion with Seasonal service books which include both Anglian and Methodist forms of prayer.
6pm evening Worship with Free Church formats.
Four Sundays a year normal Sunday services are suspended, and replaced with a single service at 11am, aimed at bringing both morning and evening congregations together. These services are normally held at times in the year of some significance either for this church or the church at large.*

4. Give details of weekday services:
Wednesday 9.30am Holy Communion
5. List any authorised ministers (e.g. Reader, Church Army Officer, Ordained Local Minister, Non-stipendiary Minister, Curate in training, retired Clergy):
One Associate Priest (currently on a long-term absence), two Methodist Local Preachers, one Authorised Lay Pastoral Minister
- 6.(a) What is the average weekly giving of those aged 16 years and older, and what proportion of the giving is gift aided:
Average giving is £10.62 each, with 84% gift aided.
- (b) When did the parish last have a stewardship campaign:
A formal (and very successful) Stewardship campaign was mounted in the late 1980's. Since that date our Finance Group has maintained the culture created at that time by advising by a letter every two years to each member advising a broad view of our financial position, and asking that they review their own giving, both in the light of that information, and their own financial situation. It is made evident in the letter that we recognise that this may result in a drop in their contribution, should that be necessary. To date, this has always resulted in a generous response.
7. How does each church supplement direct giving in order to meet financial needs (eg fundraising events, hall lettings, occasional offices, investments):
Fundraising events, hall lettings and occasional offices
- 8.(a) Give details of expenses paid to the incumbent, and state whether this covers them in full.
Housing expenses (council tax and water) paid in full at £2692. working expenses (telephone, car mileage, etc) claim paid in full, £828. (Usually around £1100, but the incumbent had a three-month sabbatical in 2025)
- (b) Is there an annual discussion about the level of expenses as part of the budgeting process: *Yes*
9. What amount of Share has been (a) requested and (b) paid:
Last year: *Requested £23400, paid £25000.*
Current year: *Offered £25000, with review in September*
Next year: *Offered 25000, with review.*
We also pay 'share' to Methodist and United Reformed Churches -£6000 in 2025
- 10.(a) Is there any capital project in hand at the moment: *none*
- 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. *included*

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:
Two glass panes in roof window needed replacement, total cost £2691 (incl scaffolding costs of £1572)
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? none*

V. Outreach and Mission

1.(a) *What are the regular mission and outreach activities of the parish:*

'Little Shepherds' Baby/Toddlers group; 'Hot Chocolate' youth group; Holy Communion and other services at Charlton Court Nursing Home; school visits and assemblies; advertising on Facebook, member of Rising Sun Neighbours (local churches working together for outreach to families using the Rising Sun Country Park, to deliver monthly Forest Church services, carol singing, and have an active presence at the summer and Christmas Festival days.

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

Clergy attendances with uniformed groups using the church; 'Kids Rock' service every half term, aimed at young families; delivery of 'Open the Book' assemblies in school; partnership with the two local schools; Carol singing at local shops, and in Rising Sun Country Park.

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

Regular and varied preaching, Lent and Advent courses.

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

'Honest to God' group, initially established to enable people to discuss the challenges of living out the Christian faith, but has shown its potential in encouraging people to leadership role, its members having led some services, and been involved with leading of Lent and Advent groups.

2.(a) *Please give details of support for the church overseas:*

Mainly through responses to regular charity appeals to Christian Aid, Cafod, Ripple Effect, etc, with a dedicated collection within church. Part of an annual donation from church funds is also given, to a maximum of 5% of disposable income

(b) *How much is given annually: in 2025, £422*

3.(a) *Give details of support for home missions and charities:*

Mainly through responses to charity appeals with a dedicated collection within church. Part of an annual donation from church funds is also given, to a maximum of 5% of disposable income

(b) *How much is given annually: in 2025 £795*

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:*

All are welcomed on entry

(b) *If so, please describe:*

Warm welcome given to all, a play area for young children is set aside, together with seating for parents.

6. *What part does the church play in community care:*

There is a steady demand for pastoral care from the vicar for individual needs such as house blessings, mental health issues, etc. The vicar has provided support and also signposted individuals to relevant care organisations. Additionally the church has provided Warm Spaces and a Community Foodbank/shopping facility when a need was identified.

- 7.(a) Are there Lay Eucharistic Assistants who take communion to the sick: *Yes*
- (b) If so, who are they: *Julann Fielding, Gordon Ripley*
8. What work does the church undertake with young people, other than in church based organisations (eg open youth work):
Hot Chocolate youth group, run by North Tyneside Council in Battle Hill Community Centre, with church input.

VI. Ecumenical Relationships

- 1(a) Involvement in local Council of Churches:
Rev Julie Mooney is chair of Wallsend Churches working Together which has an active witness in the community twice a year, organises an annual fellowship social gathering, runs Open the Book in 10 schools (delivering Bible stories to 3,000 children every half term) and actively supports the charity Walking With North Tyneside.
- (b) Is there a formal covenant with any other denomination?
Church of the Good Shepherd is a Local Ecumenical Partnership with Anglican, Methodist and United Reform Church
2. What informal ecumenical contacts are there?
Informal links with local Baptist Church

VII. Church Education and Social Provision

- 1.(a) Name of Church School(s), if applicable: *none*
- (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:
Young People:
Adults: *'Honest to God' group 5 people, Lent and Advent courses 6 to 12*
- 2.(a) Give details of house/prayer groups: *none*
- (b) Are the leaders clergy or lay:
- 3.(a) How do you rate the strength of lay leadership: *We have two Methodist Local Preachers who lead worship*
- (b) To what do you credit this strength or the lack of it: *Lay leadership is weakening due to aging membership*

IX. Mission

1. *List areas of church life which you consider in need of development:*
2. *What are the main areas of mission that you think the new priest should prioritise in their ministry:
To continue in community engagement to offer to people the hope and peace we share in Jesus.
To be a guide in being more effective in reaching out to people (both in church and outside the church) to promote this message.*
3. *In summary, what are the top three challenges with which you and the new priest need to engage:
Increasing congregations and active membership
Identifying and encourage new and younger leaders
Managing the expectations placed upon clergy, churchwardens and church stewards.*

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:

Ideally:

Inspirational preacher

A good pastoral visitor

Friendly, approachable and down to earth

Experienced in some form of people management outside the church

Experienced in parish ministry

Experienced in working with families and young people

Be prepared to fully engage in WCWT, delivery of Open the Book assemblies and outreach to children and families

Essential:

Must be actively supportive of this Local Ecumenical Partnership