

BENEFICE PROFILE

**The United Benefice of Kirkwhelpington with Kirkharle and Kirkheaton,
and Cambo**



<https://3kirksandcambo.org>

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Statement by the Bishop

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. These are exciting and challenging times in the Diocese of Newcastle. Exciting because we are at an early stage of a new season, challenging because like many dioceses we face conversations about our future and how best we use and deploy our resources. Our Deanery development work has engaged every parish and benefice in renewed conversations about mission and ministry, and we are in a process of entering a new phase in that work, mapping out our renewed strategy and vision.

Our outward facing values of 'seeking, sharing, sending' stem from a commitment to be a Church turning outwards in mission and ministry, and younger and more diverse by: **SEEKING** through being open to God's transforming love; **SHARING** through being generous with God's transforming gifts; **SENDING** through being engaged in God's transforming work in the world. I am looking for clergy who are excited about the opportunities and challenges we face, who are happy to work collaboratively and imaginatively with colleagues, and who can inspire communities to roll up their sleeves and get stuck into God's mission, by affirming, enabling, and encouraging lay and clergy together. As your Bishop, I am committed to your wellbeing and development, and I would love to explore with you whether God may be calling you to this role.



The Rt Revd Dr Helen-Ann Hartley
Bishop of Newcastle

The Diocese of Newcastle is the Church of England's most northerly diocese. This Diocese in the 'land of the Northern Saints' was formed in 1882 and comprises **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.

The **12** deaneries within **2** archdeaconries serve a population of about **831,600** people across a variety of communities ranging from sparse rural to large inner-city areas of deprivation.



Our Vision

As a united Benefice rooted in the historic and pastoral landscape of Northumberland, we are committed to preserving the rural character and deep spiritual heritage that define our communities. Our churches serve as sacred spaces and centres of community life, offering continuity through life's milestones and the rhythms of the Christian calendar. Recent years have seen encouraging signs of revival in worship, pastoral care, and through engagement with schools and local institutions. Looking ahead, we aspire to further growth – spiritually and numerically – through capital improvements, renewed fundraising efforts, and the development of more welcoming and versatile church buildings. Our vision is to ensure that our churches remain vibrant, accessible, and deeply connected to the lives of those they serve, offering a place of faith, fellowship and hope for generations to come. As a Benefice:

- We work to help all parishioners own their church both as sacred space and as common ground – a place of human meaning
- We see the continuing expectation that the church will sanctify the cycle of life events for all families through the Occasional Offices, as well as noting the continued and increasing attendance at the major Church Festivals of Christmas, Easter, Rogation, Harvest and All Souls
- We see the warmth of a pastoral relationship that many parishioners expect and welcome. We value the informal door-step exchange with them as we deliver [The Chimes](#), our Community and Church magazine. We see a church eager to develop pastoral intelligence and practical Christian neighbourliness – a church alive to the special pastoral needs of the dispersed communities of a rural upland landscape
- Members of all our churches are active in the institutions of rural life: the village halls, School, the Women's Institute, a [Community Orchard](#) and much more. As members of the church, we are ready to engage in group or community action in the concerns of all, in social issues, poverty, hunger, ill-health, the environment and education
- We see increased engagement with school children, and see opportunities to continue working with them, both in class and in church, and of touching the lives of children with the love that Jesus specifically demonstrates for them
- We continue to reorder and upgrade our churches (e.g. recently at Kirkwhelpington and Kirkharle), to ensure improved heating, lighting and welcome to congregations and visitors. More has yet to be done across our churches, but as we aim to increase the footfall of visitors to our churches and encourage more diverse use of the buildings for participants of all ages in their own cultural pursuits, we will consider further needs for development to match wider expectations. We also note the increase of visitors from countries worldwide who appreciate the spiritual and historical links connected with our churches

The New Benefice Priest

What are we looking for?

First, we recognise that not everyone will have lived and worked in a sparsely populated rural community such as this – the experience may be unfamiliar and strange, but not, we are confident, unattractive. There is little anonymity in settled rural society, though still a good deal of reticence and tact between neighbours. Many deeds of kindness by stealth will help the poor, the sick or the bereaved, but few will overtly proclaim their difficult circumstances or ask for help. The community, though small in number, will be resourceful and ready to work together to achieve much through common purpose. It is usual to find that individuals with energy and initiative can act across a number of different organisations – in the Church, with the School, the Village Hall Committees, the Women's Institute or the Parish Councils – making an enhanced opportunity to get things moving. A readiness to support and collaborate with others and to enjoy working with them will give weight to the engagement of the Church in the community.

The Benefice is ready to step forward with greater confidence and clarity of purpose. We seek to strengthen our presence and impact within the wider community through more visible engagement, ambitious project leadership, and a revitalised approach to fundraising. Our rural setting is rich with stories, traditions, and resources that reflect a deep sense of place and belonging. These materials – historical, cultural, and spiritual – offer a powerful foundation for shaping and sharing our identity. What we need now is imaginative leadership to help project this heritage boldly and creatively into the life of the community.

With this preamble in mind, we are looking for someone who will be comfortable to be:

VISIBLE AND APPROACHABLE: open, friendly and welcoming, ready to participate in the community and appreciate rural life and culture, with an instinct to collaborate in initiatives for the common good. Working through the four churches of the Benefice spread through the central Northumbrian countryside, embracing the flexibility already enjoyed by the community and congregation.

OBSERVANT, prayerful and faithful as pastor of a flock; compassionate and discreet, tactful and sensitive to the individual and, at the same time patient and resilient, with a capacity to manage expectations calmly and with humour.

COMMITTED AND ENGAGED within the wider context of Church life, taking a delight in a shared enterprise – our vision for the congregations, pastoral care in the community, supporting other clergy across the Deanery, and inspiring and guiding the contribution of lay members. Knowing when and how to delegate tasks to others to protect time and energy will be important. We expect good communication and IT skills, and experience in sound management of church resources.

LOOKING AHEAD WITH HOPE AND VISION: Your ministry will help us shape a more welcoming and attractive church presence, enhancing our buildings, strengthening our stewardship, and increasing our visibility in the wider community. We are a Benefice with strong identities and a clear sense of purpose, ready to complete the projects we have begun and to share more boldly the rich history, culture, and faith that define us. With a wealth of untapped material and potential, we are looking for someone who can help us project our story outward, attract new visitors, and explore our relationships with key partners such as the National Trust and local landowners.

Our invitation:

Do you feel drawn to serve in a beautiful, rural corner of Northumberland, among small but deeply rooted communities with a strong sense of identity and purpose?

We are looking for a priest who is:

- Inspired by rural ministry – someone who finds joy in the rhythms of village life and the pastoral care of close-knit communities
- A leader in worship and prayer – able to nurture the spiritual life of our congregations and deepen faith across all ages
- A nurturer of vocation – ready to engage and equip others to serve, helping lay people grow in confidence and ministry
- A communicator of generosity – who can inspire sustainability and stewardship across our parishes
- Ready for a new challenge, to help us: Grow in Christ – *individually*; live faith fully – *together*; bring good news – *to others*

If you are future-focused, community-minded, and ready to make a lasting impact, and this vision excites you, we would love to welcome you into our Benefice and explore the future together.



Profile and Work of Morpeth Deanery

Morpeth Deanery is a diverse and dynamic area within the [Diocese of Newcastle](#), encompassing a broad range of communities from the urbanised towns of the former industrial east coast to the more rural and agricultural areas further inland. The Deanery's central hub is the historic market town of Morpeth, which serves as a key administrative and commercial centre for the beautiful surrounding villages and countryside.

The work of the Deanery is deeply rooted in mission, pastoral care, and collaborative ministry, responding to the varied needs of its communities. In the more populated eastern parishes, churches engage with large congregations and community outreach programmes, supporting initiatives that address social deprivation and changing demographics. Meanwhile, in the western, more rural parts of the Deanery, including the Benefice of Kirkwhelpington, Kirkharle Kirkheaton, and Cambo, the focus is on sustaining and invigorating ministry in dispersed and sometimes isolated communities. The challenge is to nurture growth and strengthen connections within these scattered communities, ensuring that ministry remains vibrant, visible, and deeply rooted in the life of each parish.

Over the past decade, Morpeth Deanery has sought to adapt to the challenges facing the Church in rural and urban settings alike. Key initiatives have included:

- Clergy and lay collaboration: encouraging teamwork between clergy, retired ministers, and lay leaders to ensure regular worship, pastoral care, and community engagement across all parishes
- Mission and outreach: supporting projects that strengthen church involvement in local communities, including food banks, social groups, and youth initiatives
- Structural reorganisation: experimenting with new models of ministry, such as linked benefices and larger ministry areas, to manage resources better and sustain effective pastoral care
- Support for isolated parishes: providing assistance to more remote churches in maintaining a rhythm of worship and pastoral presence despite clergy shortages

Our past experiences of working with neighbouring deaneries that share a similar rural ethos and collaborative ministry model, has contributed to our sense of purpose and vision for our place within the Church landscape.

What We Offer You

1. Our Church Tradition in Practice

Our Benefice follows a broad, central Anglican tradition, shaped by the use of Common Worship and a deep sensitivity to the pastoral and liturgical needs of our rural communities. Worship is reverent, inclusive, and accessible, supported by seasonal Order of Service booklets and printed pew sheets that include lectionary readings and psalms, particularly helpful for those with hearing difficulties.

While we do not currently offer choral services, congregational hymn singing and sung responses are much-loved part of our liturgy. The liturgical tradition of the Benefice is that vestments are worn.

2. A Pattern of Worship

Our Benefice enjoys a stable and favourable pattern of worship, rooted in Anglican tradition and responsive to the life of our rural communities. We maintain a regular rhythm of Sunday services, held in rotation across three churches – Kirkwhelpington, Kirkharle, and Cambo – with occasional services at Kirkheaton, the future role of which is currently under consultation with the Diocese.

There is potential to reintroduce a midweek service as has been done in the past, offering further opportunities for reflection and prayer during the week. We also see scope for more community-specific services, such as Harvest celebrations based at Cambo or Kirkwhelpington, which would reflect the specific agricultural and seasonal life of those parishes.

Our worship calendar includes the greater festivals, such as Advent, Christmas, Easter, Pentecost, Ascension Day and All Souls, and special services including Christingle and Remembrance Sunday, which are well-attended and deeply valued by the wider community. These occasions offer moments of renewal, outreach, and shared celebration.

Additional house and prayer groups, such as our Lenten Reflections and Bible reading groups feature periodically in our worship for some members of the community.

Looking ahead, we are committed to the continuing renewal and expansion of our worship life, ensuring it remains vibrant, inclusive, and rooted in the spiritual needs of our congregations. We would welcome the opportunity to revisit opportunities for ecumenical worship that used to form an important part of our community, for example with the Methodist Chapel at Scots Gap. We currently have numerous informal ecumenical relations through The Chimes magazine, Cozy Kitchen and Fridays at the Gap. Several parishioners occasionally attend church services elsewhere (e.g. the methodist chapel, or the URC in Great Bavington, which also hosts an annual Rogationtide walk).

3. Lay involvement in Services

Lay participation is a valued and visible part of worship across our Benefice. Currently our formal lay ministry consists of one Authorised Lay Minister.

Members of the congregation regularly contribute by preparing churches for services, reading lessons, leading intercessions, and welcoming worshippers as greeters. There is a strong tradition of volunteer support that ensures services are well-prepared and warmly delivered.

We are fortunate to have two volunteer organists within the Benefice, with access to others when needed. Although we do not currently have a choir, local choirs such as the 'Wannie Liners' can be invited to support special services, adding musical richness to our worship.

This active lay involvement reflects the collaborative spirit of our congregations and their commitment to sustaining a vibrant and inclusive worshipping life. Periodically, this is led by a worship committee, which meets approximately four times per year.

4. Local Ministry and Pastoral Care

Pastoral care in our Benefice is deeply woven into the fabric of rural life – it is quiet, steady, and personal. **We are blessed with two locally-resident retired clergy with PTO** who take services and offer support and collaboration in developing ministry across the community, working alongside lay members to extend care and presence. Supervision and training, such as for Authorised Lay Ministry, reflect our commitment to nurturing future lay leaders, with safeguarding training and opportunities for leadership in worship and intercessions forming part of the wider development landscape. The Diocese's strategy for training lay members offers further scope for growth in this area.

Our approach to pastoral care is shaped by the nature of rural life, where kindness by stealth is often preferred over overt displays of need and giving. There exists a strong informal intelligence network (*i.e.* through friends, neighbours, clergy, and wider networks) who quietly support one another, especially the elderly and frail, without fanfare. This stable and interconnected community allows pastoral care to flourish naturally, often through personal visits, quiet exchanges, and a shared presence.

We extend explicit invitations to recently bereaved families to attend our All Souls service, and offer ongoing care more broadly through our community magazine (The Chimes), Cambo School networks, and the Cozy Kitchen initiative. Our ministry is lived out through active involvement in the institutions of rural life (*e.g.* village halls, the WI, the School, and local events) where church members are often leaders and organisers, embodying a living belief in the community. This quiet discipleship, without display, is a hallmark of our tradition.

As part of our commitment to encouraging participation in parish life, we welcome new residents, support farming communities, and encourage participation in the life of the church. The farming network, with its long-standing associations and generational continuity in the area, represents a hidden strength of our Benefice, one we may look to celebrate more openly in the future.

5. Children, Schools and Young People

Our ministry with children and young people is rooted in strong, trusted relationships with our local school and families, and reflects our commitment to nurturing spiritual growth through creativity, presence, and pastoral care. See Appendix 1 for more information about our commitment to safeguarding.

Cambo County First School (ages 4 to 9 years) and nursery, located just outside the village, is our major civic responsibility, and a key strand of our pastoral mission. The Church and School enjoy a close and active partnership, with monthly clergy visits, termly services at Holy Trinity, and a deeply moving Armistice Day ceremony held in the churchyard, where children gather around the war memorial to lay tributes and offer prayers. The School draws children from a wide rural catchment and is a hub of intergenerational connection.

Our engagement with young people extends beyond formal worship. During the village fêtes and shows, the Church is decorated with children's artwork and writing, celebrating their voices and creativity. While we do not currently run youth groups within the church, we support and value the work of the Kirkwhelpington Youth Club, an active local initiative for those aged 8 to 18 years, meeting regularly in the Memorial Hall.

Further, we do not currently offer structured Christian education for older youth, and our focus remains on school-aged children, where we continue to build meaningful connections and offer spiritual support. These initiatives reflect our belief in open, inclusive, and creative engagement, helping young people feel seen, valued, and part of the wider church family. A key example was the initiation of a Sacred Trail for Easter, which highlighted the key elements of the Easter story, interpreted for children. This was presented and replicated with different themes in different locations.



6. Collaboration in the Community

Collaboration is a cornerstone of life in our Benefice, where the church is not only a place of worship, but a vital partner in the social, cultural, and civic life of our villages. Our congregations are deeply involved in the institutions and rhythms of rural life, contributing to a shared sense of purpose and belonging.

A key example is The Chimes, our bi-monthly church and community magazine. Produced locally, it is distributed by-hand to around 500 households (and sent digitally to around 80 recipients) and shared in local business premises and online. It serves as a vital link for communication, pastoral outreach, and community storytelling.

The Benefice's digital outreach includes pages for all churches on 'A Church Near You', our own Benefice website, and a Holy Trinity Parish Facebook page.

Our churches maintain strong links with village halls, which host a wide range of events and gatherings. We support and participate in local events, including the Kirkwhelpington Village Show and Cambo Fête, where the church runs stalls, displays children's artwork, and contributes to the festive atmosphere. The Community Orchard at Cambo, adjacent to Holy Trinity Church, is a shared space that reflects our commitment to environmental care and community wellbeing.

We are proud to support a variety of local clubs and initiatives, which offer warmth, hospitality, and companionship, particularly during the winter months (e.g. Wannie Ladies Group, formerly British Legion womens section), and is a valued expression of our pastoral care in action.

Our churches are also engaged in social action across the parishes, regularly supporting local and national charities through fundraising and collections. These have included Crisis Newcastle, Wansbeck Valley Foodbank, the Great North East Air Ambulance, Christian Aid, and the Ukraine Appeal, among others.

Through all these partnerships, formal and informal, we strive to be a church that is present, generous, and engaged, working alongside others to enrich the life of our villages and to serve the needs of all who live here.



The Parish Communities

Kirkwhelpington with Kirkharle and Kirkheaton

Our extensive Parish, centred on the village of Kirkwhelpington (a conservation area) and the hamlets of Kirkharle, Kirkheaton and Capheaton, is set in a predominantly pastoral landscape with mixed woodland and scattered farmsteads. Many of the residents are retired and some families have lived in the area for generations. However, the appeal of life in the country has attracted new residents over the last thirty years or so and an estate of fourteen new houses has been established in Kirkwhelpington. About three-quarters of the houses in the village are owner occupied and one quarter housing association properties, with only a small number of private landlord-let accommodation here and at Kirkharle village two miles to the south.

The local economy depends heavily upon the farms, some of which have farm-labourers' cottages alongside the farmhouse. There is some local employment in businesses like the creative arts centre at [Kirkharle Courtyard](#), guesthouse or bed and breakfast establishments and tourism services. The Post Office is situated in the centre of the village in the Memorial Hall and there are small grocery stores in the neighbouring villages of Belsay, Otterburn and Kirkharle Courtyard. The local doctor's practice is at Scots Gap, part of the Cambo Parish. Local bus services are limited and most households have at least one car, but it is possible to commute by bus to Ponteland and Newcastle (or travel north to Jedburgh). Newcastle International Airport is twenty-five minutes away just beyond Ponteland, and there are good main-line rail connections at Morpeth, Hexham and Newcastle. Young children attend either Cambo First or Belsay Primary schools and then go on to Morpeth or Ponteland for middle or secondary school education. The population of the village and its hinterland is about 500.

Village life can often seem quiet and uneventful, but in fact there is usually more going on than meets the eye. In Kirkwhelpington, since the Post Office is located in the Memorial Hall, residents meet each other and pick up local news. Essential goods like milk, bread, newspapers, magazines and cards are available and visiting vans provide meat, fish and vegetables, as well as library services. Various activities take place in the Hall including the youth club, carpet bowls, traditional country music club, Pilates and yoga classes, and the art club. The Northumberland Touring Drama Group host productions each year and the Hall acts as a base for the annual Village Industrial and Horticultural Show. To the rear of the Hall is a well-equipped children's play area and sports field.

With the rollout of digital high-speed broadband by B4RN, the villages are becoming more and more connected. The world of digital communication, internet shopping and working from home has become firmly established, making village life more attractive. There is greater activity and variety in the housing market resulting in a wider range of socio-economic bands including families and young people, as well as newly retired people from further afield. The area has become a magnet for tourism with sites like Wallington and Capheaton, Belsay and Kirkharle Courtyard within a short distance of each other. The countryside is popular with cyclists, walkers (often using St Oswald's Way which passes through Kirkwhelpington from Heavenfield to Holy Island). The hamlet of Kirkheaton lies six miles to the south of Kirkwhelpington. The majority of the residents live around the village green with the remainder on the four local farms, two of which operate from within the village. A haulage firm is the only other enterprise and most residents commute to work elsewhere, every household having at least one car. Public amenities comprise the small church and a post-box. Population about 60.

Cambo

Cambo shares many qualities with the Three Kirks but has a distinct identity shaped by its historical connection to the [Wallington Estate](#). The Parish was established in 1842 from the western part of Hartburn, which included a 13th-century Chapel of Ease near the site of the present church. Today, the Parish aligns closely with the Wallington Estate, now owned by the National Trust.

At its heart, Cambo is a model estate village with elegant 18th and 19th century architecture. It is a designated Conservation Area with no scope for expansion, and the village itself has a population of around 60, with approximately 450 in the wider Parish. The church stands prominently on the highest ground, visible from all directions, and remains a central landmark.

The village hall, owned by the community, hosts a wide range of activities including bowls, yoga, snooker, quizzes, music nights, amateur dramatics and meetings of the Women's Institute and Cambo Young Farmers. The village boasts a wonderful community orchard in front of the church, and annual events such as apple pressing and the fête draw the village and neighbouring communities together. Cambo County First School, just outside the village, serves a broad rural catchment and maintains strong ties with the church.

While the close-knit estate community of the past has evolved, Cambo retains a quiet strength. Some residents and volunteers still work at Wallington, though many have retired or moved in for the charm of the cottages and gardens. The estate welcomes over 230,000 visitors annually and offers shops, a café, and walking and cycling routes. There is perhaps opportunity to work with the National Trust to raise the profile of the village and its historic church.

Scots Gap, just a mile away, complements Cambo with essential rural services including a livestock mart, agricultural store (where you can buy milk, eggs, pies and household and gardening items), doctor's surgery and dispensary, and a Methodist chapel. It has seen recent housing growth, unlike Cambo, and has a population of around 150.

Bus services link Cambo with neighbouring villages and on to Morpeth, once a day on a Saturday only. Saturday services are also in place during summer months, shuttling visitors from Newcastle to Belsay and Wallington.

The surrounding landscape is dotted with farms and cottages, supporting agricultural and forestry work. Despite challenges in the farming sector, there is a sense of resilience and opportunity. Cambo's potential is greater than ever given the more diverse range of time and talent within our community, not just as part of the estate, but as a village with a rich heritage and a future worth investing in.

The Churches

St Bartholomew's, Kirkwhelpington

The church is a Grade II* listed 13th century (perhaps even earlier) building with a low broad tower, long nave and chancel. It was altered in the 15th century and then again in 1895. Excavations reveal that the church originally had aisles and transepts.

Extensive work was undertaken in 2002 to strengthen the tower and to relay the churchyard path to an easier gradient. In 2021 the PCC initiated a further programme of work including a new lighting scheme to show the timber roof structure of the nave, redecorate the chancel, fitting a new carpet throughout the nave, remove the two rear pews, reposition the font and install a server against the north wall west end of the nave. A WC was installed in the north side of the vestry with waste carried to a trench-arch soil disposal system outside. It is hoped that the church will become more attractive and accessible for services and events for the community.

The celebrated antiquary John Hodgson wrote his History of Northumberland during his incumbency here between 1823 and 1834. The distinguished engineer Sir Charles Parsons and his wife Katherine are buried in the churchyard. The church has a capacity of about 130.

The church is in good order having recently been rewired, and having new kitchen and lavatory facilities being installed. A project to renew the chancel floor is currently underway.



St Wilfrid's, Kirkharle

The church was built in the decorated style of the 14th century and is a listed Grade I building situated in the midst of farmland close to the Kirkharle Creative Arts Visitor Centre. It witnessed the ravages of the Border Reiver years. Lancelot 'Capability' Brown the renowned Landscape Gardener was baptised here in 1716. In 2016 the PCC held a special weekend of events to celebrate the tercentenary of his baptism. A development programme of the land surrounding Kirkharle was launched in his memory.



A great number of visitors come to this church, which is aided by its location on a number of documented walking trails. As a result of a successful bid to the Heritage Lottery Fund, the PCC has been able to undertake essential masonry repairs and install an efficient oil heating system. New lighting has been installed to show the magnificent Irish oak hammerbeamed ceilings of the Nave and Chancel, and a small server has been fitted in the vestry. The churchyard is maintained by the PCC. The church has a capacity for 60 people, with space for extra chairs. In recent years, the church has hosted very well attended music concerts, as well as numerous community events (e.g. lecturers, training days and school visits).

St Bartholomew's, Kirkheaton

A 13th century church built as a Chapel of Ease to Kirkwhelpington, St Bartholomew's was rebuilt in 1753 and in 1867 the chancel was enlarged and a vestry added. The interior was altered for the first vicar of the Oxford Movement in the north of England. There is an attractive and unusual bellcote, mentioned by Pevsner. The building is in excellent condition and has a capacity of 60. The graveyard is maintained by the PCC with the help of a contractor.

The future of this church is currently in discussion with the Diocese of Newcastle, due to a declining local population and difficulty with access.



Holy Trinity Church, Cambo

The present Grade II listed church was built in 1842 to serve the newly created parish, and the fine tower added in 1884 is a landmark for miles around. The exterior is built in good quality sandstone from the Wallington Estate and the interior has plaster and moulded features. There is a fine timber barrel-vaulted ceiling and a generous open feeling with good furniture. The organ is electronic with a console by the choir stalls but the speakers and bass column at the west end. Richly carved 13th century grave covers from the former Chapel of Ease near the site are incorporated in the tower lobby. The vestry is located off the tower lobby on the north side. Plans exist for the installation of a WC in the vestry, though this has not yet been fulfilled. The nearby Village Hall has toilets, and these are available for use when funerals and weddings are planned in the church.

The churchyard is maintained by the PCC with the aid of a contractor and below the tower to the west the Community Orchard provides a pleasant frontispiece to the church. Amongst the graves are those of the Trevelyan family from Wallington Hall, who were responsible for the building of the church. To the north of the village the local authority cemetery is maintained by the Parish Council.

The most recent Quinquennial Inspection (April 2024) reported the fabric of the church to be in fair-to-good condition. Many of the report's recommendations are included within the ongoing development projects.



Your Home, The Vicarage

The Vicarage is a comfortable and well-equipped home, located in the heart of Kirkwhelpington village, just a short walk from St Bartholomew's Church. Surrounded by beautiful Northumbrian countryside, it enjoys far-reaching views to the west, offering peaceful afternoons and striking sunsets.

The house provides generous living space, including two reception rooms, a separate study or office, a kitchen, laundry room, and a ground floor cloakroom. The study is especially practical, with access from both inside the house and a separate entrance, allowing for privacy when meeting visitors or working.

Upstairs, there are four bedrooms and a family bathroom, making the home well-suited for family life or hosting guests. The property also includes a large garage with additional storage, a garden laid mostly to lawn, and a shed. Heating is provided by LPG.

The Vicarage also serves as a practical base for ministry. It is a warm and welcoming home, offering both comfort and convenience in a friendly and supportive village setting.



APPENDICES

Appendix 1

Our commitment to safeguarding

In accordance with the Church of England's safeguarding policy, the parishes of the United Benefice of Kirkwhelpington, Kirkharle, Kirkheaton, and Cambo are fully committed to ensuring the safety and well-being of all who engage with our church communities.

We actively uphold the following principles:

- Promoting a safer environment and healthy culture across all our churches and activities
- Safely recruiting and safeguarding all those with responsibilities relating to children, young people and vulnerable adults
- Responding promptly and appropriately to every safeguarding concern or allegation
- Caring pastorally for survivors of abuse and others affected by it
- Caring pastorally for those who are the subject of concerns or allegations, and others impacted
- Responding to individuals who may pose a present risk to others, ensuring appropriate measures are in place

We seek a priest who shares our commitment to safeguarding and who will help us continue to foster a culture of safety, trust, and pastoral care. Together, we aim to be a welcoming and protective presence in our communities, reflecting the love and compassion of Christ.

Our full safeguarding policies and links to resources can be found on our website:

<https://www.3kirksandcambo.org/safeguarding.html>

Appendix 2

Two Parochial Church Councils serve our Benefice: one for the Three Kirks (Kirkwhelpington, Kirkharle, and Kirkheaton) and one for Cambo. Each PCC typically meets quarterly, with additional meetings held as needed. Matters affecting the whole Benefice are discussed in joint PCC meetings, supported by subcommittees focusing on areas such as worship, buildings, and finance. There are currently six churchwardens, four serving the Three Kirks and two at Holy Trinity, Cambo. All our Churchwardens play a vital role in leadership and the day-to-day life of the churches.

The PCCs' Churchwardens and membership numbers are as follows:

Three Kirks of Kirkwhelpington, Kirkharle and Kirkheaton:

- Canon Geoffrey Purves (Churchwarden)
- Kitty Anderson (Churchwarden)
- Audrey Harrison (Churchwarden)
- Carole Chorley (Churchwarden)
- + 5 additional members

Holy Trinity, Cambo:

- Robin Dower (Churchwarden)
- Elisabeth Bainbridge (Churchwarden)
- + 6 additional members

Appendix 3

Electoral Roll Numbers and Attendance at Worship

Three Kirks (Kirkwhelpington, Kirkharle and Kirkheaton)

Electoral Roll - 53

Average Sunday Communicants - 22

Average Attendance - 23

Easter Day - 65-75

Christmas services attendance: Christingle (40-60); Christmas Day (60-80)

Occasional services 2024: Baptisms - 2, weddings 2, funerals 4, other - 1

Cambo

Electoral Roll - 18

Average Sunday Communicants - 22

Average Attendance - 23

Christmas services attendance: Midnight Mass (varied, 13-50)

Occasional services 2024: Baptisms - 1, funerals - 2, other services - 2

Services are held in rotation and congregations attend at the church on rota for that Sunday. Currently, this is approximately two services per month in Kirkwhelpington, one service per month in Kirkharle and one service per month in Cambo. Occasional services are held in Kirkheaton.

The Three Kirks and Cambo currently act as separate PCCs under the combined Benefice. They both report finances separately. The churches have not participated in a stewardship campaign recently although historically the parishes have and remain engaged in charitable giving. This has mostly focussed on local charities; we also have an online regular giving portal.

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CAMBO PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL
General Fund Accounts as at 31 December 2024

<u>Total Year</u> <u>2023</u> £		<u>Year to Date</u> <u>2024</u> £		<u>Total Year</u> <u>2023</u> £		<u>Year to Date</u> <u>2024</u> £
	<u>INCOME:</u>				<u>EXPENDITURE:</u>	
55.00	COLLECTIONS AT SERVICES	182.80		10,000.00	PARISH SHARE	10,000.00
-	REGULAR DONATIONS (Non GA)	-		829.80	UPKEEP OF CHURCH	795.00
4,020.00	GIFT AID: Bankers Orders	4,000.00		-	UPKEEP OF SERVICES	426.00
10.00	Envelopes	25.00		1,268.00	UPKEEP OF CHURCHYARD	1,052.00
-	Donations	250.00		1,302.72	SHARED BENEFICE EXPENSES	10.00
2,221.72	Small Donations Scheme	1,751.55		2,361.76	INSURANCE	2,389.15
1,562.93	TAX RECOVERY on GIFT AID	1,509.79		1,851.52	HEATING & LIGHTING	1,974.13
1,335.00	FEES	823.00		29.98	PRINTING, STATIONERY, SUNDRIES	-
717.21	DONATIONS (Non GA)	1,200.00		184.00	DONATIONS	-
63.19	WALL BOX DONATIONS	95.06		130.00	FEES PAID: Support Costs	-
226.78	INVESTMENT INCOME	1,259.23		-	INVESTMENT EXPENSES	-
260.00	FUNDRAISING INCOME	464.74		-	FUNDRAISING EXPENSES	-
-	OTHER: Other Income	-		-	OTHER: Water Rates (Church)	-
	Pastoral Committee Income				Pastoral Committee Payments	
100.00	Restricted Income				Restricted Payments	
-	Tfrs from Fabric Fund	-		441.00	Fees Paid to Diocese	542.00
10,571.83	TOTAL ORDINARY INCOME	11,561.17		18,398.78	TOTAL ORDINARY EXPENDITURE	17,188.28
5,000.00	GRANTS & LEGACIES	-		-	MAJOR WORKS	-
£ 15,571.83	TOTAL INCOME	11,561.17		£ 18,398.78	TOTAL EXPENDITURE	17,188.28
	BALANCE AT 01/01/2024	36,188.20			BALANCE AT 31/12/2024	30,561.09
		£ 47,749.37				£ 47,749.37
	<u>REPRESENTED BY:</u>					
	Debtors	£1,506.86				
	Creditors & Pre-Payments	-£2,121.80				
	CASH IN HAND	£0.00				
	BARCLAYS BANK PLC	£9,140.89				
	CBF Church of England Deposit Fund	£21,028.92				
	NEWCASTLE DIOCESAN SOCIETY Stock	£1,006.22				
		£30,561.09				

Appendix 5 - Parish Activities

Mention has been made of activities in the parishes. These include the Kirkwhelpington Show in September, which is followed the next day by an act of worship in the show tent, and an annual Rogation Sunday walk.



Cambo church hosts carol services annually, which add to the musical life of the area.

The annual Burns Night Supper is always well attended and provides for much fellowship and merriment.



If the weather is clement outdoor celebrations are held to celebrate local and national sacred and civic occasions.

