

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.

Willington Quay team Ministry
St Mary's
St Pauls

I. Parish Information

1. *Name of Parish:* Willington Quay Team Ministry
2. *Name of Parish church(es)* St Mary the Virgin, Howdon; Church of the Good Shepherd, Battle Hill; St Paul's Community partnership, Willington Quay
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):*
Wallsend Churches Working together, Methodist and URC Circuits
5. *Deanery :* Tynemouth
6. *Population:* Total for Willington Quay Team Ministry 24,366
- 7.(a) *Number on Electoral Roll St Mary's* 71
- (b) *Date of APCM at which this number was declared:* 29.03.2026
7. *Attendance at worship at each church: St Mary's*

Average Sunday Communicants 44
Average Sunday attendance 48
Average weekday Communicants 18
Average weekday attendance 18
8. *Occasional Offices:*

Number of baptisms in the last 12 months: 32
Number of persons confirmed in the last 12 months: none
Number of weddings in the last 12 months: 2 and a wedding blessing and a renewal of vows
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: 17

II. The Local Community

1.(a) *Briefly describe the population in terms of any predominant age and/or social groups, the ethnic mix etc:*
We have a wonderfully diverse population, with many different ages. There are people from different ethnic groups and asylum seekers.

(b) *Are there any special social problems, e.g. high unemployment?*
The NE28 postcode is mixed but it does contain areas of high deprivation. High unemployment because of the closure of the traditional industries. Poverty, limited life chances and dependency on benefits. Lower life expectancy, up to 10 yrs less than someone who lives in a more affluent area in the north-east.

2. *Please list:*

Local schools: Stephenson Memorial school, Denbigh, St Aiden's, Churchill community comprehensive,

Youth centres: Howdon hub, True colours theatre, YMCA and kids club at St Paul's, scouts, brownies and sea cadets at St Paul's, other local guiding and scout organisations locally

Hospitals: North Tyneside General Hospital, Urgent care hub at Cramlington

Nursing/residential homes, sheltered housing: Windsor Grange, Eldon Court, Croftdene, Ferndene, Holmside, Iona Court, Rosebank Hall,

Places of worship of other faiths: St Aiden's Catholic church

Local businesses: Darren Perrson funeral directors, Bloomin Lush florists, Aldi's, Herron's, Arkwright hardware, 2 pharmacies, assorted shops and hairdressers, pubs and clubs

Neighbourhood initiatives: Howdon Matters, Tin on the wall, Mauritania pub gives food away and does charity work

Local associations: North Tyneside Council, Howdon Library

Any civic responsibilities of local clergy: Lead civic procession and remembrance service on Remembrance Sunday

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

1.(a) *What percentage of the congregation lives outside the parish? 10%*

(b) *Describe the congregation in terms of age, employment, culture, ethnicity and gender:*
Total who attended over the year were 178, 0-17 32, 18-69 61, 70 plus 85
25 joined St Mary's over the last year and 21 have left.
Huge range, we have doctors, nurses, students, care workers, retired people and those at school and college. There are some who are unemployed at the moment and some who are ill.

2. *Please describe the tradition of your church and give details of robes/vestments worn by officiants:*
Low church, friendly. welcoming atmosphere.
Clergy wear albs and stoles, Pat as reader usually wears smart normal clothes apart from special occasions when I wear an alb and my reader scarf. Our servers come up at the peace and do not wear robes. Our choir stopped with the pandemic.

3. *Give details of Sunday services with times and form of service used:*
8.15am, 10am, 11.30am baptisms, faith at five 5pm once a month. Service booklets with a choice of liturgy for all the seasons and four appropriate hymns at 10am service, we have an organist. Occasional creative services of the word at 10am led by Pat.
4. *Give details of weekday services:* Monday 2pm. Holy Communion uses same service booklets
5. *List any authorised ministers (e.g. Reader, Church Army Officer, Ordained Local Minister, Non-stipendiary Minister, Curate in training, retired Clergy):*
Associate Priest. Kim Wears, Reader Pat Bragg
- 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 weekly giving is £14.72, The Tax recovered from the Gift Aided donations in 2025 amounted to £4578. This represented 10% of total receipts for the year. The monies from which we receive Gift Aid partly comes from the 24 contributors to the Monthly Parish Giving Scheme. (There were no joiners during the year however there was 1 leaver.) The other components are donations received and that made at the Collection Plate through Services such as Baptisms/Weddings from which we claim through the Gift Aid Small Donation Scheme (GASDS).
- (b) *When did the parish last have a stewardship campaign:*
7 years ago, we plan to get Leanne Conway-Wilcox (Generous Giving Adviser) to come later this year
7. *How does each church supplement direct giving in order to meet financial needs (e.g. fundraising events, hall lettings, occasional offices, investments):*
Social events, beetle drive, primary school bangers, open days, two fetes a year, baptism families, raising money from the Millennium windows, collections after funerals.
- 8.(a) *Give details of expenses paid to the incumbent, and state whether this covers them in full.*
- (b) *Is there an annual discussion about the level of expenses as part of the budgeting process:*
Yes, we encourage our clergy to claim their full expenses.
9. *What amount of Share has been (a) requested and (b) paid:*
Last year: £19,000 paid in full
Current year: £20,000 requested
Next year: Not yet set
- 10.(a) *Is there any capital project in hand at the moment: toilet and draft proofing front doors*
- 10.(b) *If so, please give brief details with costs and state how they are to be met:*
Grant for £1500 for toilet which will fully cover the work.
11. *Please attach a copy of the latest statement of accounts. Attached for St Mary's*

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

- 1.(a) *What is the general state of repair of the churches:*
Very good and we have recently put new windows in the care centre with the help of a £ 14,400 grant.
- (b) *Please give details of any major maintenance needed following the last Quinquennial Inspection:*
None

2. *Please give details of church halls and any other ancillary buildings (and an indication of the level of their use).*
Care centre at St Mary's is used 4 times a week, St Paul's used 5 days a week
3. *Is there a churchyard to maintain and who is responsible for its maintenance?*
Church garden is maintained by Ed Dodds, Church wardens, Pat and Charles Bragg, Anna Fletcher, Ann Hardesty

V. Outreach and Mission

- 1.(a) *What are the regular mission and outreach activities of the parish:*
Carol singing in nursing homes, open the book, to 3 schools each half term, 24 visits, social events and fetes, visits from schools into church, Draw Near for Lent books, we have distributed over a hundred to St Mary's and St Paul's and wider community
- (b) *What are you doing to help people find out about Jesus:*
Kim is well known and well respected throughout the parish and often has conversations with people and is requested to take funerals. Pat often has conversations through the local walking group. Pat does Prison Fellowship work and is helping to pilot a new restoration course under prison chaplaincy. Presence on social media. We get feedback that St Mary's is a very warm welcoming place where people feel at home and explore their faith.
- (c) *What are you doing to help grow people in discipleship:*
Preaching, many discussions at coffee time, offer lent and advent courses, faith at five, preparation for baptism and confirmation, junior church
- (d) *What are you doing to grow people in leadership:*
Training pastoral visitors, training new people to help with reading, serving and welcoming.
- 2.(a) *Please give details of support for the church overseas:*
Ripple effect charity, twinned a garden in Kenya
Pastor Sylvester and his church in India,
- (b) *How much is given annually: £200*
- 3.(a) *Give details of support for home missions and charities:*
Children's society, Christingle on Christmas eve
Royal British Legion, St Oswald's hospice, Transforming Communities Together Tyne to Tweed.
- (b) *How much is given annually: £250*
- 4.(a) *Does the parish have an overseas link: no official link*
- (b) *If so, please state where/who*
- 5.(a) *Is there an organised system of outreach and welcome to new families:*
We follow up our baptism families with invitations to Little Shepherds playgroup and to special services, Christingle etc.
- (b) *If so, please describe:*

6. *What part does the church play in community care:*
 Visiting care homes and pastoral care, around 200 visits annually, pastoral visitors do 48, funeral and baptism visits by clergy, taking Easter and Christmas services in care homes, hospital and sick people visiting as needed. Lunch club at St Pauls, Digi drop in, Fare share and pop-up shop, armchair yoga,
- 7.(a) *Are there Lay Eucharistic Assistants who take communion to the sick: 2*
- (b) *If so, who are they: Anna Fletcher and Diane Davison*
8. *What work does the church undertake with young people, other than in church-based organisations (e.g. open youth work):*
 Open the book as above, school visits, St Paul's boxing club, YMCA work, Kid's club, toddler group, affordable birthday parties, Christmas, Easter and summer school holiday play schemes with food.

VI. Ecumenical Relationships

- 1(a) *Involvement in local Council of Churches*
 Wallsend Churches Working Together, carols and Easter services
- (b) *Is there a formal covenant with any other denomination? COGS*
2. *What informal ecumenical contacts are there? As above*

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: Junior church. 2-10
 Young People: Start course in November as baptism preparation at Talking Donkeys 8
 Adults: Draw Near for Lent booklets, Advent and Lent courses, training to read at services, intercession training, welcoming and serving
- 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: outstanding*
- (b) *To what do you credit this strength or the lack of it:*
 Strong faith, good teamwork and balanced lives with interests outside the church

IX. Mission

1. *List areas of church life which you consider in need of development:*
Junior church: we have many baptisms, some go the Little Shepherds at COGS, we sometimes feel that we struggle to get the families back, although we had 116 people at the Christingle service with many families.
2. *What are the main areas of mission that you think the new priest should prioritise in their ministry:*
3. *In summary, what are the top three challenges with which you and the new priest need to engage:*

Challenges will be managing change as the Willington Team and St John's are joined together. Some people may be upset and unsettled and need help and reassurance. We hope to be honest and realistic and manage the expectations of the congregations. We will need to reduce the number of services across all our churches as our staffing levels will be lower than in the past, there may not be a service in a particular church on a given Sunday. We take Clergy, Reader and Churchwarden wellbeing seriously and encourage our clergy to take their days off and regular holidays and retreats.

Another challenge is the amount of administration involved in running a District Church Council for St Mary's, a Management Board at St Paul's, an Ecumenical Church Council at the Church of the Good shepherd and a PCC for both the Willington Team and St John's. We do not have the funds for a Parish Administrator. Julie, Kim and Pat have husbands and family responsibilities for children and grandchildren which are important and are priorities for them.

We want to continue to place a strong emphasis on ministry and outreach, to build up our youth work whilst continuing to value and care for our older members. We have a strong tradition of practical care and support, especially through all the work at St Paul's Community Partnership and Walking With, a local charity supporting asylum seekers. Our congregations support many people in a quiet respectful way, truly Christian faith in action. We want to continue to do good pastoral care and to keep building long term relationships with people inside and outside of the church. There are good safeguarding policies and officers in place.

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:

We consulted with our congregation and the attributes we are looking for in a new Team Rector are friendliness, approachability, compassion, humility and a forgiving nature with a good sense of humour. We would like them to have deep spiritual maturity and be able to deliver theology in an interesting and down-to-earth manner. They will need good leadership skills to both guide the congregations and support healthy churches which encourage spiritual growth. We are looking for clear and precise communication skills and good organisational skills. As a person from St Paul's said, "Someone with a heart for those in the greatest need."