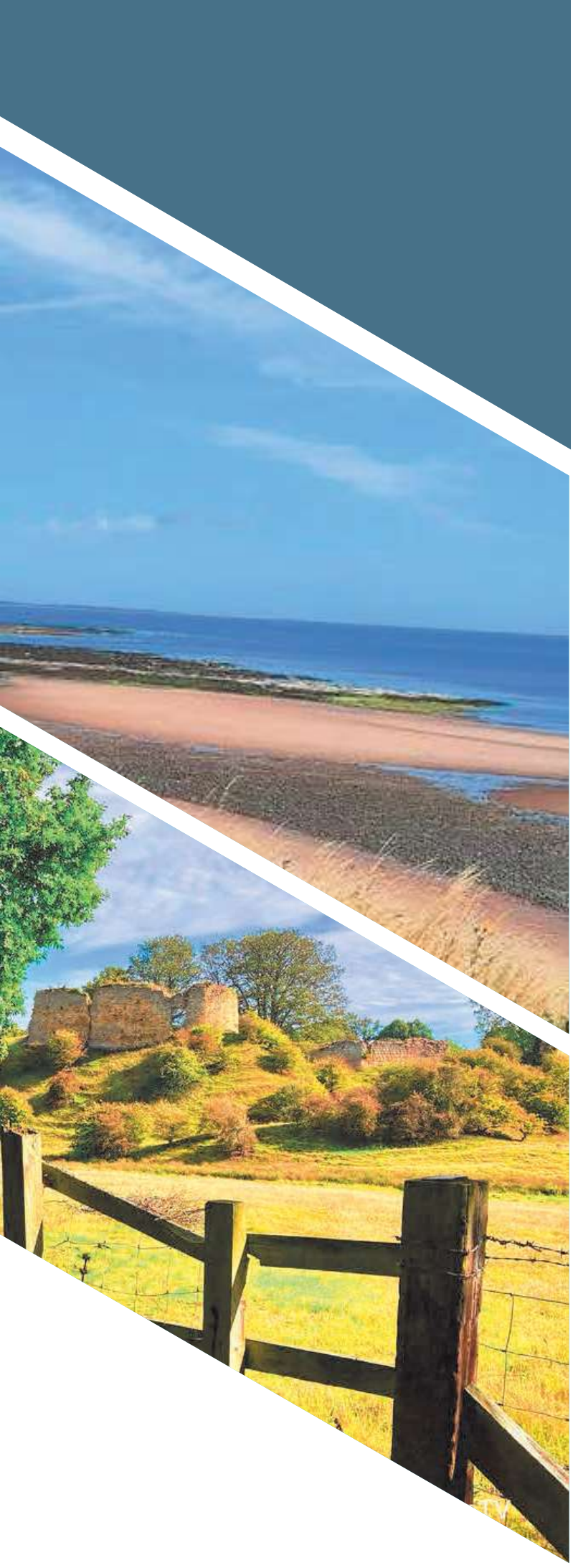


A MINISTRY OF PRESENCE, CREATIVITY AND SHARED LIFE

FULL TIME
STIPENDIARY
ASSOCIATE
PRIEST FOR
MISSION

UPPER WANSBECK AND LYNE VALLEY

MORPETH
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THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND
DIOCESE OF NEWCASTLE

Seeking.
Sharing.
Sending.

WELCOME TO NEWCASTLE DIOCESE

The Rt Revd Dr
Helen-Ann Hartley
Bishop 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.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.

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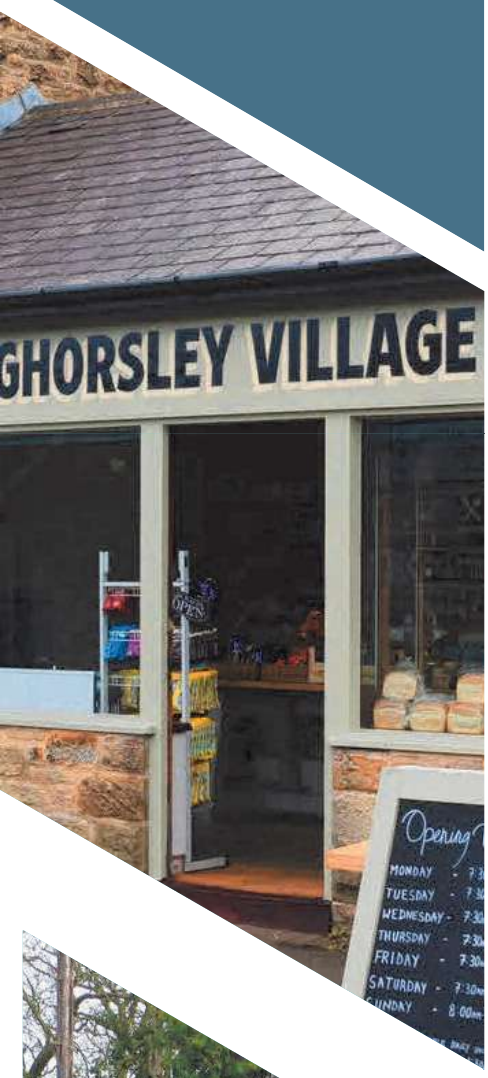
Following a refresh of our Diocesan vision, to be confident Christians enabling more and different people to experience life in its fullness, we are working towards a bid to the National Church for strategic funding. Additionally, having received a generous legacy from the 10 Bishop of Newcastle (+Alec 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 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.





ABOUT US

The Upper Wansbeck and Lyne Valley Churches offer a distinctive and rewarding context for ministry across rural Northumberland and its coastal communities. These benefices bring together a diverse group of parishes, including Mitford and Hebron; Hartburn with Meldon, Bolam, Whalton, Netherwitton, Longhorsley, Longhirst and Ulgham; and the coastal communities of Widdrington, Cresswell and Lynemouth.

This is a place where community really matters. Our churches are woven into village and neighbourhood life through schools, cafés, toddler groups, lunch clubs, pastoral care, village events and informal gathering spaces. Worship is varied in style and expression, shaped by local context, and there is openness to new and emerging ways of being church alongside faithful, traditional patterns.

We are seeking someone who enjoys relational, visible ministry and who is curious, collaborative and open to the movement of the Spirit. This group values team working, shared discernment and the gifts of lay and ordained people serving together. There is real encouragement to nurture existing ministries, to experiment, and to help shape new worshipping communities in response to local need.

If you are drawn to a ministry that is rooted in place, rich in relationship and open to creative mission, the Upper Wansbeck and Lyne Valley Churches offer space to grow, to lead with imagination, and to make a meaningful difference across a wide and beautiful area.

The breadth and variety of worship across our communities will, we hope, enable any partners and families of candidates to find a church where they feel at home.

www.mitfordandwansbeckchurches.com









Welcome to the parishes of St Mary Magdalene Mitford and St Cuthbert's, Hebron

In plurality since 2021, together we form a creative, outward-looking community with a strong culture of hospitality and a growing confidence in exploring new ways of being church. We are rooted in tradition, yet intentionally open to change, experimentation and mission shaped by local context.

Worship lies at the heart of our life together and is expressed in a broad and imaginative range of styles, from contemporary, band-led services to traditional worship with pipe organ. Alongside this, we are developing accessible, relational spaces for faith through Café Church, home groups and a much-loved Storytime Church, which offers a natural point of connection for children and families. These gatherings provide fertile ground for deepening discipleship and for nurturing new worshipping communities.

Mission is woven into everyday parish life. Strong links with our church primary school have opened pathways for deeper engagement with parents and families, while community-led initiatives such as sewing and craft groups, carols in the pub, Buskers' Nights and music events create natural spaces for invitation and conversation. A weekly Wellbeing Café offers an inclusive, compassionate presence for older adults, carers and those at risk of isolation.

Pastoral care is shared across both parishes and supported by a committed Anna Chaplains team. At Hebron, the church also functions as the village hall, hosting social evenings, community suppers and celebrations —making it a lively hub with significant potential for further missional imagination.







Welcome to the parish of St Andrew's Hartburn with St John the Baptist Meldon

Formed in 1939, the Parish of Meldon and Hartburn brings together two Grade I listed medieval churches. Meldon is a simple 13th-century church, now serving as a Chapel of Ease, while St Andrew's, Hartburn is one of the grander churches in the county, largely dating from the 13th century.

The parish serves a scattered rural community of hamlets, farms and larger houses, with a population of around 200 people. Though small in number, the parish has a strong sense of identity and an openness to invitation and engagement.

St Andrew's is characterised by a high standard of music and a clear commitment to outreach, with music seen as a key strength for mission. Regular concerts, festivals and special services attract people well beyond the regular congregation and provide natural opportunities for welcome, encounter and witness. These include the Sharp Festival: a celebration of the Rev. John Sharp –(late 18thC incumbent and regionally noted Philanthropist/abolitionist) – with a choral evensong, talk and a quartet concert. Traditional hymns and liturgy remain central to the worshipping life.

The parish is also active in community engagement through the Hartburn Community Project. This supports a popular monthly lunch club for elderly residents, alongside regular film nights, an annual Christmas market and musical events. Together these activities offer a strong pastoral presence and fertile opportunities for relational mission in a rural setting.









Welcome to the parish of St Mary Magdalene, Whalton

The church has a strong sense of identity and outward-facing connection, attracting visitors from across the world, including members of the wider Ogle diaspora, particularly from the eastern United States. These links offer natural opportunities for welcome, hospitality and sharing the story of faith with a wider audience.

Worship is shared across a wide and geographically dispersed parish partnership, yet the church hosts Sunday services at least twice a month and a variety of other gatherings. Regular school services provide a key missional opportunity, allowing the church to engage with children, families and staff, and to nurture faith in a context that is both relational and formative. The church is at the heart of village life and plays an active role in the annual Whalton Village Show, a rural event that engages the whole community and is the highlight of the year. This, alongside other local activities, provides tangible opportunities for mission—meeting people where they are, building relationships, and connecting faith with everyday life.

Parishioners take pride in the church and contribute generously to its care, while churchwardens enable worship and mission to thrive. Together, this creates a confident, welcoming and distinctive parish, ready to build on strong relational foundations and to develop imaginative mission in both worship and wider community life. With an established and active community centred around the village hall—including toddler groups, Burns Suppers and annual ceilidhs—there is real opportunity to deepen connections, explore faith creatively and grow new expressions of church rooted in shared life.



Welcome to the parish of St Giles Netherwitton

Netherwitton is a beautiful stone-built village set seven miles from Morpeth, serving both the village itself and the nearby hamlet of Nunnykirk. While rooted in a strong rural identity, the parish is outward-looking and well connected, with a deep commitment to community life, hospitality and mission.

St Giles' is known as a welcoming and engaged church, with an active PCC and a strong culture of pastoral care. Relationships matter here: people value conversation, shared coffee after worship, and being present to one another in everyday life. The congregation enjoys a regular rhythm of worship, with particular warmth and generosity around festivals and special occasions.

There are significant missional opportunities through our school links. Children and families are connected with local Church of England schools in Longhorsley and Rothbury, and there is openness to developing deeper relationships through seasonal worship, visits and family-focused initiatives. These links offer fertile ground for imaginative engagement with parents, carers and the wider school community.

Although there is no church hall, the village hall—run as a local charity—is the social heart of the area, hosting coffee mornings, quiz nights and community events, providing natural spaces for connection and outreach.

Netherwitton also benefits from a valued connection with The Roost, a diocesan missional community led by a pioneer priest. Shared prayer times and occasional celebrations enrich parish life and offer encouragement, learning and inspiration for those exploring fresh expressions of faith.







Welcome to the parish of St Andrew's Bolam

St Andrew's Church, Bolam may be an ancient building, but its heart is firmly rooted in community, welcome and mission. Serving a small, scattered rural population, St Andrew's has become a natural gathering point not only for residents but for the many walkers and cyclists who pass through the village on their way to nearby Bolam Lake and its visitor centre.

In response to this steady flow of visitors, we've created a simple refreshments area where people can pause for a cup of coffee and a biscuit, rest tired legs, and enjoy the peace of the church and churchyard. It's a small gesture, but one that opens doors to conversation, connection and quiet reflection. Bolam is a popular choice for couples looking to be married in the area and it is a joy to see returning couples for years after the big day.

We enjoy the unique and peaceful ambience of the building and utilise it to host choral events at Advent and during Lent, partnering with local choirs and musicians.

Family life is at the centre of our worship. Monthly family services bring all ages together, and throughout the year we host churchyard clear-ups and community bonfires. Families work side by side caring for this ancient space, planting native species and ending the day gathered around the fire, sharing food and stories.

Looking ahead, we are eager to draw on Eco Church resources to shape more outdoor worship, celebrating creation in every season and continuing to grow as a welcoming, outward-facing rural church







Welcome to the parish of St Helen's Longhorsley

St Helen's stands at the heart of Longhorsley's vibrant and deeply rooted village community. Set within a predominantly rural parish where farming shapes both landscape and identity, the village is also home to many who commute for work, creating a rich blend of tradition and outward-looking energy.

Our present church building, formerly the village Church School, has served the parish since the 1960s, when the earlier church—now a peaceful ruin just beyond the village centre—was closed. The adjacent graveyard remains open and well loved, maintaining a strong sense of continuity between past and present. Village life is active and relational. Alongside the pub, shop, first school, hotel complex and nearby mobile home park.

The annual village fayre is a highly attended and much loved event. The Village Hall is a lively hub hosting toddler and playgroups, carpet bowls, art and craft groups, theatre visits, a Warm Hub and a regular lunch club. A monthly coffee morning in church is well supported and valued as a place of welcome and connection. Wingates hamlet also enjoys its own thriving Village Hall and programme of activities.

St Helen's is fully embedded in this life. Our close partnership with the school is central to our mission, and our growing Messy Church is becoming a flourishing family ministry. Monthly shared worship at Netherwitton reflects our commitment to collaborative, outward-facing ministry. The church is not simply in the village—it is part of its lifeblood.







Welcome to the CLUWES Parishes in the Lyne Valley

Since forming a group of benefices in 2023, our churches have been steadily growing together in fellowship, mission and shared purpose. We value the rhythm of gathering for joint worship, coming together for every fifth Sunday and on major feast days, which strengthens our sense of being one Christian community across our villages. Working together allows us to learn from one another and share good practice in areas such as safeguarding, finance, worship and community outreach across the seven villages and three schools we serve. We encourage one another to look over our church walls and deeply into our communities where we offer holiday clubs, youth clubs, Messy Wednesday, meeting spaces for the isolated. One exciting development has been a shared monthly family service at Holy Trinity, Widdrington.

Shaped around a Godly Play-style story, with creative activities, prayer and refreshments, it regularly welcomes families from several villages and has brought great joy and encouragement to our congregations.

Another source of encouragement is our discipleship group, affectionately known as the “God Squad.” Originally formed from a confirmation class, it now gathers thirteen regular members from across the three churches, offering a supportive space for learning, discussion, prayer and pastoral care.

As we look ahead, we are excited about welcoming Longhirst into our group and discovering new ways to deepen our shared mission through the energy and gifts of our dedicated lay leaders.



Welcome to the parish of St Bartholomew Cresswell with St Aidan Lynemouth

Serving the villages of Cresswell, Ellington and Lynemouth, we are a welcoming, inclusive and good-humoured congregation with a strong commitment to our communities. Church life extends well beyond Sunday worship as we seek to share fellowship, care and practical support with those around us. Throughout the week we host a range of activities including coffee mornings, lunch clubs, a toddler group called Cresswell and Ellington Tiddlers, a monthly quiz night and a variety of seasonal and community events that bring people together.

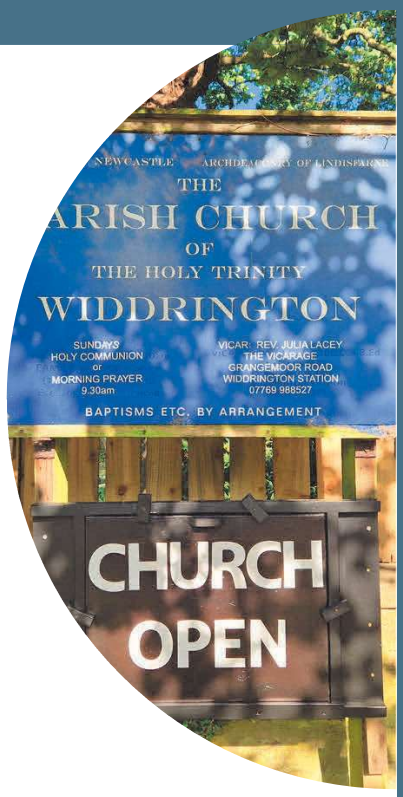
We are especially passionate about maintaining a Christian presence in Lynemouth following the closure of St Aidan's Church in 2012 Once a month we gather at the Miners' Welfare Institute for St Aidan's Sunday, a café-style service that creates a relaxed and welcoming space for families and younger people to explore faith together.

We are also delighted to partner with Beyond Youth, a diocesan initiative serving our villages and nearby communities. The weekly youth club at Lynemouth Pavilion regularly welcomes around 25 young people and includes a thriving young leaders programme.

Our beautiful church overlooking Druridge Bay is open daily and receives many visitors and holidaymakers. We see this as a wonderful opportunity for hospitality and mission. We are also developing links with our two primary schools and hope to grow these relationships further in the future.







Welcome to the parish of Holy Trinity Widdrington

Serving Widdrington Village and the farming communities around Druridge Bay, we work closely with St John the Baptist, Ulgham and the Churches Together group in Widdrington Station to share in mission and ministry across our villages.

Our beautiful 12th-century Grade I listed church has long been a place of worship and prayer for people from Widdrington and beyond. Many in our congregation have deep family connections with the church, while others have discovered it more recently and feel drawn to it as a spiritual “thin place”. Now that the church is open daily, members of the wider community and visitors are able to experience its peace and beauty. We see this as an exciting opportunity for hospitality and mission, and we would love to help more people discover the warmth of our community and the life-giving joy of faith.

Working alongside St John the Baptist, Ulgham, and our Methodist, Baptist and URC neighbours, we have a strong partnership with the Church of England school in Widdrington Station. Together we lead a much-loved monthly Messy Wednesday service for families.

Our Churches Together partnership also brings great joy through shared services, a joint choir and collaborative pastoral care. Recently we discovered several species of bats living in the church, inspiring us to care for our eco-friendly churchyard and explore how we might become a local beacon for creation care and sustainable living.







Welcome to the parish of St John the Baptist Ulgham

Serving the villages of Widdrington, Stobswood and Ulgham. We may be a small church, but we hold firmly to Jesus' promise: *"Where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I among them." (Matthew 18:20)*. We are a warm, supportive and lively congregation who enjoy worshipping together and welcoming others into our community. Many of us are older in years but young in spirit, always willing to try new ideas that deepen our faith and help us reach out to others.

Worship is at the heart of our life. We gather for Sunday services at 11am, alternating between Holy Communion and a Service of the Word, with a joint benefice service on fifth Sundays. Our worship is supported by a committed team of associate lay ministers, readers, intercessors, musicians and volunteers, and we value the richness of the church year, reflected in our liturgy and seasonal worship. Alongside this, we enjoy fellowship through social events and shared activities that strengthen our life together.

Our communities are diverse and changing. Ulgham includes families, commuters and retired residents, while Widdrington Station and Stobswood are vibrant villages with a mix of young families, professionals, asylum seekers and long-standing residents. There are pockets of deprivation and isolation. We seek to be an active and visible Christian presence through close links to the local school and community groups and by leading or supporting projects like the Widdy Food Pantry, Messy Wednesday, the Youth Club, Widdrington Foodbank, Rendez Vous Café and much more.







Welcome to the parish of St John the Evangelist Longhirst

St John the Evangelist, Longhirst, is a welcoming parish church rooted in a traditional central Anglican pattern of worship. Holy Communion is celebrated twice monthly, alongside Book of Common Prayer Evening Prayer, with services supported by a committed congregation who actively share in readings, intercessions, and hospitality. Music and liturgy are valued, with organ-led worship and occasional use of the carillon enhancing the rhythm of church life.

The church has a strong sense of community, expressed through close relationships, faithful pastoral care, and a culture of lay involvement, including an Authorised Lay Minister. Worship is reverent yet accessible, with an emphasis on belonging and participation.

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Missional opportunities centre on deepening community engagement and growing a more diverse and sustainable congregation. The parish hosts well-supported events such as festivals, coffee mornings, and a monthly lunch club, offering natural points of connection with local residents. There is particular scope to build relationships with newer households, engage families and younger people, and respond creatively to an ageing population.

With good links to village organisations and a collaborative spirit, the church is well placed to develop its outreach, nurture faith through small groups and gatherings, and continue to serve as a visible, caring Christian presence in the community

OUR TEAM





The Associate Priest for Mission will join a committed, collaborative and well-established team serving the parishes of the Lyne Valley and Upper Wansbeck Benefices. Alongside two incumbents, the ministry team includes 16 Readers and Authorised Lay Ministers who play a vital role in leading worship, preaching and pastoral care across the benefice. Their gifts, experience and local knowledge are a significant strength, enabling a rich and varied pattern of ministry.

The team is further supported by three retired clergy and one priest with Permission to Officiate, whose wisdom and willingness to serve provide both depth and flexibility. Together, this breadth of ministry allows us to sustain a consistent pattern of Sunday worship across our churches while remaining open to new initiatives and mission opportunities.

Beyond licensed ministers, we are blessed with a dedicated network of volunteers who faithfully care for our buildings, support administration, lead community initiatives and sustain the practical life of our churches. A developing group of schools and community volunteers is also emerging, strengthening our outward-facing mission.

The Upper Wansbeck and Mitford Benefices employs a part-time administrator who supports the incumbent, all parishes and PCCs. They coordinate communication, manage bookings and occasional offices, oversee DBS processes and head up our safeguarding team, providing essential structure and reassurance to our shared ministry

DEVELOPING MISSIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

Across the parishes there are encouraging signs of life where faith, hospitality and community meet in creative and life-giving ways. Many of these initiatives have grown organically from local relationships and needs, and they offer a rich foundation for a priest who is excited by mission and keen to nurture and develop what is already emerging. Each village has its own character and opportunities for engagement, with the church seeking to remain present at the heart of community life.

Mitford

Mitford is home to several developing initiatives that reflect the church's desire to create spaces of welcome, nurture and spiritual exploration.

Bethel Brunch is a new worshipping community that meets regularly in the home of a parent from the local church school. It has grown from a desire among parents for a welcoming space to explore faith while nurturing their children in the Christian values shared by the school. Hospitality and shared conversation are central to this gathering, where families can speak honestly about the joys and challenges of parenting, particularly supporting those whose children have additional needs. Together they explore how God is present in everyday life and how faith can sustain us through both the challenges and the delights of family life.



Woodland Toddlers meets weekly during term time and offers an outdoor gathering for pre-school children and their carers. Currently held in the vicarage garden, it encourages children to discover the wonder of creation through play, exploration and imagination. Inspired by the principles of Forest Church, the group gently introduces families to faith through the beauty of the natural world while fostering care for the environment we share.



Alongside these initiatives, the **Wellbeing Café**, held in Mitford Village Hall and supported by the church and members of the pastoral team, offers a welcoming gathering place particularly for older adults and those who may be vulnerable to isolation. Although still in its infancy, the café has already attracted strong interest from the local community. There is potential to deepen connections with organisations and individuals who support healthy and positive ageing, creating a network of encouragement and practical support. In time, there is a hope that this space may also allow for compassionate conversations about wellbeing in later life, dignity, and end-of-life planning, providing a safe and thoughtful setting where people feel supported, valued and able to reflect on these important aspects of life.



Hebron

Hebron Church has the unique joy of also serving as the village hall, placing the church physically and socially at the heart of village life. The Hebron Community Association organises regular events and gatherings throughout the year, and strong relationships continue to develop between the church and the wider community.

There is real enthusiasm within the village to collaborate more closely, drawing on the creative talents of local residents (with ideas such as a community pantomime already being explored). Together there is a shared desire to sustain the vibrant community spirit of this small but active village where the church remains a central and welcoming presence.

Hartburn

Hartburn benefits from the work of the Hartburn Community Project, a committed group who help fundraise in order to keep the church open and accessible to the wider community. Their activities include monthly lunch clubs, annual concerts and a highly successful Christmas market, all of which draw people into the life of the church building.

Alongside these social gatherings there is growing interest in exploring opportunities that nurture the spiritual life of the community as well. Hartburn has a particularly rich musical heritage and there is a desire to build on this strength, using music both to celebrate the church's history and as a creative missional opportunity that draws people into the building and into deeper engagement with faith.



Bolam

Bolam Church is perhaps the most rural of our churches and welcomes a steady stream of walkers and cyclists who pass through its doors. A self-service refreshment area offers hospitality and a place of rest for travellers exploring the surrounding countryside.

The small but faithful congregation maintains close connections with local families and hosts occasional gatherings in the churchyard, including a much-enjoyed bonfire event. Looking ahead, there is a desire to explore ways of embodying the Fifth Mark of Mission by caring for creation and celebrating the rich natural environment that surrounds the church, rooted in the farming heritage of the area.

Within the parish of Bolam lies **Belsay Community School.** At present the church has only a limited connection with the school, yet there is openness to developing a stronger relationship. This presents a valuable opportunity to offer pastoral support to staff and pupils and to explore how the church might accompany and serve the school community in meaningful and creative ways.



Longhorsley

In Longhorsley, a regular coffee morning in the church offers a warm and welcoming place of hospitality where people from across the village can gather for conversation and companionship.

The church building itself is beautifully situated and naturally lends itself to being a place of meeting and community life. There is a growing desire to develop its role as a place of nurture within the village, offering both practical support and opportunities for families to feel at home in the church. In time, there is hope that this space may provide gentle opportunities for people to explore their sense of belonging within the village and the place that faith might hold within their lives.

Whalton

Whalton enjoys a vibrant village life supported by an active community engagement team and a well-used village hall that hosts a variety of local activities and gatherings.

The church contributes to this life through involvement in community events such as the annual village show and by hosting concerts within the church building. Regular toddler groups and the many organisations that use the village hall provide natural opportunities for building relationships with families. The PCC is currently exploring how the church building might be used more fully as a welcoming community space and as a context for developing deeper connections and opportunities for faith to be explored



Cresswell
The village is rich in history and has a Pele tower with a walled garden which are managed by an enthusiastic group of volunteers who are keen to engage more with St Bartholomew. This is a ready-made opportunity for engagement with villagers and thousands of visitors who come to the two caravan parks in the village.



Ellington
Ellington Miners Welfare and the Village Hall are two hubs where much of community life happens: concerts, craft groups, lunch clubs, allotment shows, a small library. We long to engage even more with this village which is steadily growing.
Our relationship with Ellington Primary school is deepening and we would love to nurture the small “school’s team” who have recently begun welcoming classes to church.

Lynemouth
This is an ex mining village with pockets of severe deprivation and isolation. A very committed group of villagers and parish councillors as well as a local community group have been creating opportunities to meet, learn, receive and give support, and we would love to be able to engage more deeply and meaningfully with village life. We also seek to create a space where St Aidan’s - the much loved church which is now closed - can begin to have a second life.

Beyond Youth presents an amazing opportunity to bring a life-giving Christian presence into the lives of the young people in Lynemouth. Their projects include: a youth club, prayer spaces in William Leech Primary school, BeReal for older young people exploring faith, a thriving young leaders programme and fun after- school activities.



Widdrington Station

Widdy, as it is affectionately known, is a growing village with some serious pockets of need and a wonderful community spirit.

With our ecumenical sister communities and committed and dynamic village groups we have been engaging in varied ways with the community; projects include a food bank, a fair share pantry, a youth club, craft groups, coffee mornings.

Our most significant partners are Grange View CofE Primary school, Widdy Welcomes, the library and the two community centres.

Our monthly Messy Wednesdays, held in the school, attract a large number of families. We would love to see these projects develop further and gain fresh life.

Longhirst

The village is made up of different communities, the main village, Longhirst Colliery, Longhirst Hall and Micklewood village. The main village lies mostly along “The Coastal Route” which gains a lot of tourist traffic. Longhirst Hall was built by the coal owners, the Lawsons, in the early part of the nineteenth century when most of the main village was also constructed. The hall now contains many residential appartments. Micklewood village is a recent development (1990s) consisting of some 45 dwellings within the grounds of Longhirst Hall. Both Longhirst Hall and Micklewood village are gated communities.

Although we are a small congregation it is felt that there is a large untapped community in the appartments of Longhirst Hall and the properties of Micklewood village, of residents some of whom are not even aware of the presence of the church. This is an area, we think, could benefit from some sort of mission.

Every two years the village holds an Open Gardens weekend and a flower festival in the church. This event involves nearly all residents and attracts many people to the village.

Our Christmas Eve carol service usually attracts a congregation in excess of 120. We would love to build on these successes, creating more opportunities for joyful engagement with faith.





Bothal Rectory
Pegswood

A detached purpose-built parsonage built in 1977 of traditional construction with brick cavity walls, double glazed upvc windows and tiled roof. Situated in the centre of the village and includes four bedrooms, bathroom, two reception rooms, study, cloakroom, utility and kitchen. Gas central heating with open fire to the living room. Large lawn garden to the rear with single attached garage and storage area to the front with drive having space for 2-3 vehicles and a car charging point.