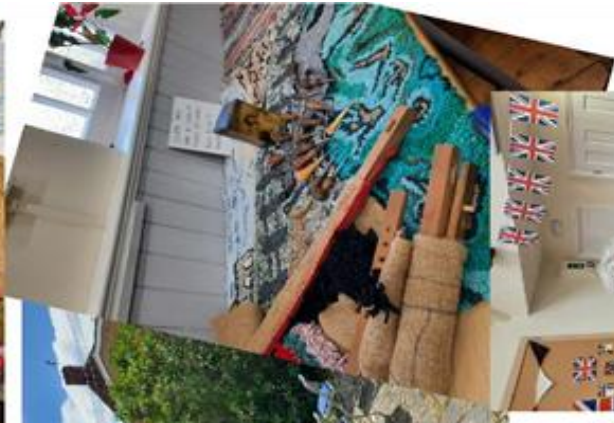


Weetslade Parish Profile



Welcome to the diocese of Newcastle!

Thank you so much for your interest in this role, and I hope you enjoy reading the information contained in this brochure and will find it helpful for your discernment. I am three years into being Bishop of Newcastle and I rejoice in this calling. Our diocese is a vibrant and varied blend of parishes, chaplaincies, schools, and ministry-contexts and is home to diverse geographical contexts with rich history and Christian spirituality. Our Northeast region is known for its friendliness and creativity, in city, coastal and rural areas. Our Diocese has responded to the challenges and joys of our region with imagination and resolve, mindful of our own financial challenges but undeterred in our hope and trust in God's generous provision. Shaped by the Five Marks of Mission and upheld by the dynamics of seeking, sharing, and sending, we are attentive to the need to speak the good news of God's Kingdom, and to be faithful stewards of our environment.



You will be joining us at a crucial point in our mapping out and implementation of vision and strategy: to be confident Christians enabling more and different people to experience life in all its fullness. Your role in this will offer opportunities to grow and develop in your own ministry. The Diocese of Newcastle has a long and proud history of inclusion and speaking up for the vulnerable and marginalised. We are the only diocese in the Church of England to have a paid chaplain to the victims and survivors of Church-based abuse, and our work with victims and survivors has been upheld as pioneering and ground-breaking. We also have a paid chaplain to the LGBTQI+ community, and our Diocesan Synod passed a motion in 2025 to express its full support for progress towards full inclusion of LGBTQI+ people.

Following a refresh of our Diocesan vision, to be confident Christians enabling more and different people to experience life in its fullness, we are working towards a bid to the National Church for strategic funding.

Additionally, having received a generous legacy from the 10 Bishop of Newcastle (+Alec Graham) we are in the process of establishing a new 'Bishop of Newcastle Foundation' and developing a new partnership with the Community Foundation Northeast (a major philanthropic convenor in our region). It is hoped this will enable parishes across the diocese to bid for funding for projects that are within areas of interest to Bishop Alec (education, and children and young people being two such areas). Additionally, the diocese is undertaking a major review of its governance structures to ensure we are working efficiently across all areas of our engagement in God's mission, and to reduce silo working.

The Rt Revd Dr Helen-Ann Hartley
Bishop of Newcastle

The Diocese of Newcastle is the Church of England's most northerly Diocese. Formed in 1882, the Diocese covered an area almost equivalent to the then County of Northumberland. With 169 parishes across 2,110 square miles, the Diocese covers the local authorities of Northumberland, Newcastle, North Tyneside and also small parts of County Durham and Cumbria. Under the episcopal leadership of our Diocesan Bishop, The Rt Revd Dr Helen-Ann Hartley and the suffragan Bishop of Berwick, The Rt Revd Mark Wroe, we are resourced by two Archdeacons, and a team of lay and ordained officers who support the development of mission and ministry across the Diocese. Our Cathedral, under the leadership of The Very Revd Lee Batson, is a vibrant place of worship and outreach and plays a vital role in the life of the City of Newcastle.

There are 12 deaneries within 2 archdeaconries (Lindisfarne and Northumberland), which serve a population of 831,600 people across a variety of communities ranging from sparse rural to market towns, coastal, suburban, and larger inner-city areas. We have a current cohort of 95 stipendiary clergy (office holders), 20 self-supporting clergy, and 47 Readers, alongside a number of chaplaincies, pioneers, and new and emerging worshipping communities. A small administration team is based at Church House, North Shields. Church House is also the base for the Joint Education Team and Joint Communications Team (serving the Dioceses of Durham and Newcastle), the Lindisfarne College of Theology and a Religious Resources Centre.

The Diocese has recently increased its resourcing of safeguarding in the light of its INEQE safeguarding report, which was published in 2024. Our new Director of Safeguarding works alongside two assistant staff members in the areas of case work and training, with separate administrative support. The Diocese and its Cathedral are rightly proud of their work with the victims and survivors of church abuse, and we are the only Diocese in the Church of England to resource a chaplaincy to victims and survivors of church abuse.

The Diocese also has a new chaplaincy support for the LGBTQI+ communities, which is part of our diocesan-wide commitment to foster a climate of inclusion and welcome.



**DIOCESE OF NEWCASTLE
PATRONAGE (BENEFICES) MEASURE 1986**

Statement prepared by the P.C.C. describing the Church's ministry and mission within the parish

This form is designed to give an overview of a parish to be used in a vacancy for the appointment of a new parish priest. It will be accepted as the 'statement describing the conditions, needs and traditions of the parish' required by the Patronage (Benefices) Measure 1986. Additional information may be given by way of printed documents or written submissions.

I. Parish Information

1. *Name of Parish: Weetslade*
2. *Name of Parish church(es): Church of the Good Shepherd, Burradon; St Paul's Church, Dudley*
3. *Name of other C of E churches/centres for public worship in the parish:*
4. *Group of parishes in which you work (formally or informally): St John's, Killingworth (informally).*
5. *Deanery: Bedlington*
6. *Population: 8,548 (2021) probably over 9,000 (2025)*
- 7.(a) *Number on Electoral Roll: St Paul's (32); COGS (26)*
(b) *Date of APCM at which this number was declared: 19th April, 2026*
7. *Attendance at worship at each church:*

Average Sunday Communicants: St Paul's (14); COGS (16)
Average Sunday attendance: St Paul's (14); COGS (19)
8. *Occasional Offices:*

Number of baptisms in the last 12 months: St Paul's (1) COGS (3) 2025 update
Number of persons confirmed in the last 12 months: 0
Number of weddings in the last 12 months: 0
Number of funerals in church in the last 12 months: St Paul's (2); COGS (3) 2025 update
Number of funerals taken by clergy not in church in the last 12 months: 0

II. The Local Community

- 1.(a) *Briefly describe the population in terms of any predominant age and/or social groups, the ethnic mix etc:*

The population of Weetslade Parish was 8,693 in 2021 & is probably over 9,000 now after some new estates have been built. The population is largely English of white ethnicity approximately with about 2.7% a diverse mix of other ethnic groups. 34% of the parish community live in social housing & 34% live in lone parent households. 21% of the population are older resident aged 65 or over. Around 46% identify as Christian and 48% as no religion.

(b) *Are there any special social problems, e.g. high unemployment?*

Weetslade is a former mining community and, unfortunately, the parish can be classed as having pockets of deprivation. From 2021 figures the parish was 1,634 out of 12,154 where 1 is the most deprived parish. Our community is underserved with social and community resources and venues, particularly for younger people. We have experienced some anti-social behaviour and vulnerable young people in the community have become the target of drug dealers. Our church and members of the community work actively with local authorities and police to push for greater support for our villages.

2. *Please list:*

Local schools: Burradon Community Primary School; Fordley Community Primary School

Nursing/residential homes, sheltered housing:

Heatherfields Residential Home; Kirkdale Court (sheltered accommodation);
Supported living houses (Dudley); Moordale Sheltered Accommodation.

Our parish has several local businesses, including:

Sterling factory
EPS Packaging Company
Ferguson's Transport
Help Hire Machinery
General dealers (food). 4
Chinese, Indian, and PizzaTakeaway 4
Hairdressers 5
Barbers 2
Fitness/gyms 2
Garages 3
Social Clubs 2
Pubs 3
Fish and chip shops 2
Charity shop 1
Butchers 1
Tanning Salon 1
Doctors Surgery 1
Chemist 1
John Willis Sams Centre - Health, Library, Cafe.
Church Hall

Local associations: Burradon and Camperdown Community Association

Any civic responsibilities of local clergy: Pre-Covid our vicar was a School Governor at Burradon Community School.

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

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

COGS – 32%

St Paul's – 35%

- (b) *Describe the congregation in terms of age, employment, culture, ethnicity and gender:*
Our congregations are made up of mainly retired people. There are more female than male congregants and the majority are aged over 70. The majority of the congregation are white, with a traditional English former mining culture. There are a couple of congregants with black and bi-racial ethnicity.
2. *Please describe the tradition of your church and give details of robes/vestments worn by officiants:*
Our church is not particularly high church but is traditional. Officiants robe according to the season in the Church Calendar. However, we don't 'stand on ceremony' and are relaxed, warmly welcoming of all.
3. *Give details of Sunday services with times and form of service used:*
St Paul's, 9am, Communion Service or Service of the Word
COGS, 10.30am, Communion Service or Service of the Word
4. *Give details of weekday services:* We don't currently have any weekday services.
5. *List any authorised ministers (e.g. Reader, Church Army Officer, Ordained Local Minister, Non-stipendiary Minister, Curate in training, retired Clergy):* Reader, Shirley Morgan
- 6.(a) *What is the average weekly giving of those aged 16 years and older, and what proportion of the giving is gift aided:* £3 (St Paul's), £5.50 (Church of the Good Shepherd) at St Paul's 9 out of 15 regular givers gift aid and at COGS 15 out of 21 regular givers gift aid.
- (b) *When did the parish last have a stewardship campaign:* Over 15 years ago
7. *How does each church supplement direct giving in order to meet financial needs (eg fundraising events, hall lettings, occasional offices, investments):*
Fundraising events are held in the Parish include coffee mornings, Bingo, Summer and Christmas Fairs, and Social/Music Evenings. St Paul's Hall is available for hire.
- 8.(a) *Give details of expenses paid to the incumbent, and state whether this covers them in full.*
Visiting vicars received £880 from each church. (2025)
- (b) *Is there an annual discussion about the level of expenses as part of the budgeting process:*
Budgets are discussed at every PCC meeting and then the APCM meeting involves discussion of expenses.
9. *What amount of Share has been (a) requested (offered) and (b) paid:*
2024: £13,000 offered and £13,000 paid
2025: £14,400 offered and £10,200 paid
2026: £14,400 offered.
10. *Please attach a copy of the latest statement of accounts.*

Church of the Good Shepherd

Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2025

Receipts and Payments Account

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	TOTAL 2025 £	TOTAL 2024 £
RECEIPTS				
Voluntary receipts:				
Planned giving	£5,763		£5,763	£5,587
Collections at services	£717		£717	£505
All other giving/voluntary receipts	£811	£7,270	£8,081	£1,357
Gift Aid recovered	£1,534		£1,534	£1,556
Total voluntary receipts	£8,826	£7,270	£16,096	£9,005
Activities for generating funds	£1,995		£1,995	£1,872
Investment income				
Church activities				
Other income	£2,364		£2,364	£568
TOTAL RECEIPTS	£13,184	£7,270	£20,454	£11,445
PAYMENTS				
Church activities:				
Diocesan parish contribution	£5,700		£5,700	£6,500
Clergy and staffing costs	£954		£954	£154
Church running expenses	£5,746	£8,078	£13,824	£4,816
Mission giving and donations				
Total church activities	£12,401	£8,078	£20,479	£11,470
Costs of generating funds				
Major capital expenditure	£40		£40	
Other expenditure	£892		£892	£3,118
TOTAL PAYMENTS	£13,333	£8,078	£21,411	£14,588
Excess of receipts over payments	-£149	-£808	-£957	-£3,143
Transfers between funds				
Cash at bank and in hand 1 January	£2,263		£2,263	£5,406
Cash at bank and in hand 31 December	£2,114	-£808	£1,306	£2,263

Statement of Assets and Liabilities

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	TOTAL 2025 £	TOTAL 2024 £
Cash funds				
Bank current account	£2,114	-£808	£1,306	£2,264
Deposit funds				
Total cash funds	£2,114	-£808	£1,306	£2,264
Other monetary assets				
Gift aid recoverable				
Investment assets				
Investment fund shares at market value				
Assets retained for church use				
Liabilities				

St Paul's Church

Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2025

Receipts and Payments Account

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	TOTAL 2025 £	TOTAL 2024 £
RECEIPTS				
Voluntary receipts:				
Planned giving	£3,571		£3,571	£3,577
Collections at services	£1,112		£1,112	£906
All other giving/voluntary receipts	£277	£1,700	£1,977	£2,276
Gift Aid recovered	£1,158		£1,158	£1,758
Total voluntary receipts	£6,117	£1,700	£7,817	£8,517
Activities for generating funds	£2,962	£3,136	£6,098	£3,425
Investment income				
Church activities				
Other income	£3,172		£3,172	£7,681
TOTAL RECEIPTS	£12,251	£4,836	£17,087	£19,623
PAYMENTS				
Church activities:				
Diocesan parish contribution	£4,500		£4,500	£6,500
Clergy and staffing costs	£1,262		£1,262	£592
Church running expenses	£10,174		£10,174	£7,437
Mission giving and donations				
Total church activities	£15,936		£15,936	£14,529
Costs of generating funds				
Major capital expenditure				
Other expenditure	£265		£265	£2,396
TOTAL PAYMENTS	£16,201		£16,201	£16,925
Excess of receipts over payments	-£3,950	£4,836	£886	£2,698
Transfers between funds				
Cash at bank and in hand 1 January	£3,212	£400	£3,612	£914
Cash at bank and in hand 31 December	-£738	£5,236	£4,498	£3,612

Statement of Assets and Liabilities

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	TOTAL 2025 £	TOTAL 2024 £
Cash funds				
Bank current account	-£738	£5,236	£4,498	£3,612
Deposit funds				
Total cash funds	-£738	£5,236	£4,498	£3,612
Other monetary assets				
Gift aid recoverable				
Investment assets				
Investment fund shares at market value				
Assets retained for church use				
Liabilities				

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

- 1.(a) *What is the general state of repair of the churches:* Both churches are in a decent state of repair.
- (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).*
St Paul has a Church Hall which is used regularly by the church and for hired use by the local community. Every Thursday morning (Coffee morning) and evening (Bingo); Monthly Coffee Club with speakers; Monday Young Peoples Club 11-16years Out of Sight Hub; Tuesday Gamers Club; Wednesday Young Peoples Club 11-19 years Inspire Youth & also hired on occasions by the Indian community and 3-4 times a year by a Quilting Group as well as for church social events and entertainment.
3. *Is there a churchyard to maintain and who is responsible for its maintenance?*
Both churches have gardens and carparks but no churchyard. They are maintained by local volunteers.

V. Outreach and Mission

- 1.(a) *What are the regular mission and outreach activities of the parish:* Our social events
- (b) *What are you doing to help people find out about Jesus:*
Pre-Covid, we went into the local schools to run Christian services. We held Children's Praise events at the church throughout the year, which were well attended by local families and children already connected to the church via the Christian Clubs that took place within the school, led by our incumbent and volunteers.
Currently our coffee mornings are very successful. Christmas and Summer fairs at both churches invite the community into the church and help us to build relationships. The local community are very supportive of the events that take place at both churches.
Members of the church congregation are very involved in the community, with several holding positions as trustees of the local Burradon Community Forum. We liaise with those responsible for running the community Facebook page regularly, inviting local people to our services and other Church events. Our annual Christingle Services, in particular, see large participation from the surrounding community.
- (c) *What are you doing to help grow people in discipleship:*
Our churches are open to the local primary school children, who visit annually as part of their curriculum activities. These sessions teach children about the faith, the history of our churches and how the Church is used by worshippers. Schoolchildren usually go to St Paul's at Easter, Pentecost, Harvest & Christmas.
- (d) *What are you doing to grow people in leadership:*
As we have been without an incumbent for some time, we are working as a team to keep things going. People are taking responsibility in new roles and areas, developing leadership skills and experience out of necessity. The parish has worked well together in weathering this period of interregnum.
- 2.(a) *Give details of support for home missions and charities:* We support The Children's Society with collection boxes & Blind Veterans by purchasing their poppies for Remembrance Day.

(b) *How much is given annually:* £243 was raised for The Children's Society for 2025.

3.(a) *Is there an organised system of outreach and welcome to new families:* No, but we provide family friendly packs for children if they do attend a service and a 'pop-up' Sunday School is offered when children attend with their families.

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

The churches play an integral role in community care, providing opportunities for people to find community and friendship. We hold a Coffee Club (once a month) at St Paul's church, which is well supported and a COGS member has recently started up a crafting group since retiring. St Paul's also have regular Coffee Mornings on Thursdays and COGS hold Easter & Autumn fundraiser Coffee mornings as well as the Christmas and Summer Fairs. Those running these sessions work hard to provide a community supportive environment, and their efforts have been rewarded by the response of the community to this initiative. St Paul's currently have more attendees at their Coffee Morning than at their weekly services. Bingo evenings have also proved popular with the local community with regular attendees.

6.(a) *Are there Lay Eucharistic Assistants who take communion to the sick:* We did have one member who was licensed, but this has not been done recently.

(b) *If so, who are they:* Val Rimmer (Church Warden, St Paul's Church)

VI. Ecumenical Relationships

1(a) *Involvement in local Council of Churches:* Lenten lunches and Churches Together services used to be offered but have lapsed in recent years.

(b) *Is there a formal covenant with any other denomination?* No.

2. *What informal ecumenical contacts are there?* Annitsford, St Johns RC Church

VII. Church Education and Social Provision

1.(a) *Name of Church School(s), if applicable:* None

(b) *Aided?*
Controlled?
Foundation?

(c) *Number of pupils on roll (approx.):*

(d) *If aided, does the PCC support the school:*

VIII. Lay Education and Participation

1. *What education and training work takes place in the church for the following (give approx. numbers):*

Children: School children come into both churches as part of their curriculum to learn about the Church.

Pre-Covid we had occasional Away Days at Shepherds Dene as well as Lent Lunches, Lent and Advent courses.

- 2.(a) Give details of house/prayer groups:** We don't have house/prayer groups. We have an informal Whatsapp group populated by many members of the church, through which we circulate prayer requests, inspiring reflections/sermons/hymns, and general sharing of people's well-being.
- (b) Are the leaders clergy or lay:** There is no leadership of this group, it's an informal virtual space where everyone has equal access.
- 3.(a) How do you rate the strength of lay leadership:** We feel our lay leadership is strong. We have a Reader who can lead services and members of each congregation, who are able to & take responsibility for the successful running and flourishing of the Parish. We are fortunate to have so many enthusiastic and dedicated non-licensed/formal lay leaders within both churches in the Parish.
- (b) To what do you credit this strength or the lack of it:** Our strength is that people are determined to keep the churches going. Most of the people who are dedicated lay leaders have been part of the community since childhood. These two churches are the only religious and Christian places of worship left in the Parish and there is strong support both from within the church and from the local community, who value the church as a place to baptise, marry and lay their loved ones to rest.

IX. Mission

1. *List areas of church life which you consider in need of development:*
 - Outreach and Mission
 - Youth Work and youth leaders to connect with the young people in the surrounding community. We are passionate about the need to develop a mission to the youth in our Parish.
 - A church hall or similar resource in Church of the Good Shepherd would greatly enhance our service to the community and congregation.
2. *What are the main areas of mission that you think the new priest should prioritise in their ministry:*
 - Engaging children and young people
 - Family services and events
 - Sense of community, revive links with existing community groups, sharing Christian values with those outside the church walls.
 - Someone who will go out and invite people, connect with the local community and help the church to further embed itself into the life of the community.
3. *In summary, what are the top three challenges with which you and the new priest need to engage:*
 - Growth of faith, commitment and vision for outreach, and bringing in families from the villages.
 - Breaking through the apathy of people towards the Church and Christianity.
 - Discipleship of congregation

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.

Our congregations are warm and welcoming. The members of Church of the Good Shepherd and St Paul's Church are committed to both the needs of the parish churches and the wider community. We are keen to support the incoming priest and work alongside the successful candidate in their work and vision for our parish.

We are excited to share in God's mission for each parishioner and those who are currently outside the church walls.



XI. The new parish priest

List the qualities and skills you would like to see the new priest:

- A people person, able to relate to people of all ages.
- Energetic
- Enthusiastic
- Someone with vision and ideas
- Traditional Christian values
- Ability to innovate with technology and new ways to connect with this generation
- Someone who is passionate about Mission.
- Someone with resilience
- Someone who is able to build consensus with the existing parishioners.
- Ability to bring people into the vision for the churches.

The Vicarage

The Vicarage is a modern, four-bedroomed property with 3 downstairs reception rooms and a kitchen-diner. It has a large, sunny and easy to maintain garden. The vicarage is on a residential street but within walking distance of Burradon church.

