

Blyth St Cuthbert



Parish Profile
January 2025

Welcome to the diocese of Newcastle!

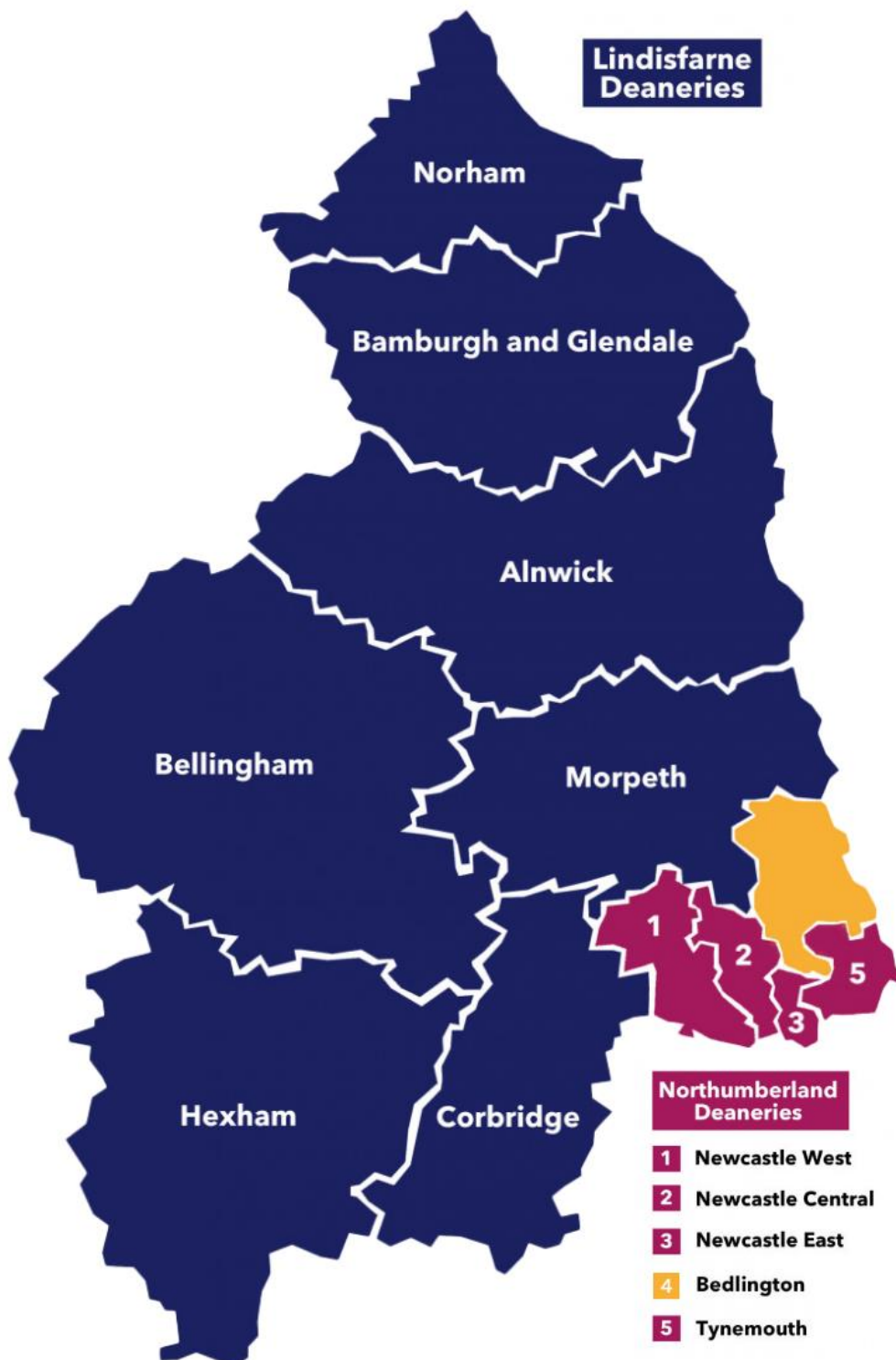
Thank you so much for your interest in this role, and I hope you enjoy reading the information contained in this brochure and will find it helpful for your discernment. These are exciting and challenging times in the Diocese of Newcastle. Exciting because we are at an early stage of a new season, challenging 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

Our Parish

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.



Blyth is situated in south east Northumberland and is part of the Diocese of Newcastle in Bedlington Deanery. Although there is a small area of rural occupation, the deanery consists mainly of post-industrial villages and towns.

The Parish of St Cuthbert encompasses mainly private housing, a smaller amount of social housing. There is also sheltered accommodation, care home, schools and an academy.



Located to the south of Blyth centre, close to the quayside, our parish is flanked on the east by the River Blyth and North Sea. The Port of Blyth is a thriving area, at the forefront of renewable energy. There you also find the RNLI, Royal Northumberland Yacht Club, the Blyth Tall Ships Enterprise (alongside the tall ship Williams II which is berthed there), Catapult (developing offshore renewable energy), and continuing development of training and industry projects, as well as a new hotel.

Blyth also has a very popular sandy beach with a small retail park, the Phoenix Theatre and Ridley Park. Within Blyth we also have Blyth Golf Club, Blyth Cricket & Rugby Club, Croft Park football ground (Blyth Spartans) and a Sports & Leisure Centre. There are also facilities for athletics, running and water sports.

Our Church

Tradition and Services

St Cuthbert's Church is traditional Anglican, with worship patterns of a Parish Communion service, led by our Choir, on Sundays at 9.30 am, and a Said Holy Communion service on Thursdays at 10 am. We have the occasional celebration BCP Evensong, and a "Fifth Sunday" service led by our Music Group. Our services are usually followed by refreshments and fellowship.



We offer a variety of seasonal services, and have strong numbers of baptisms, though fewer weddings and funerals. We have 85 names on our Electoral Roll, and average a regular 80 congregation over our weekly services.

Our Church Building and Grounds

St Cuthbert's Church building is a beautiful Grade II* listed building with a well maintained closed church yard, with a small Garden of Remembrance where interment of ashes continues.

People have worshipped on the site of St Cuthbert's Church since 1751 at Blyth Old Church (the original Chapel of Ease), which was the first recorded place of worship in Blyth. This was replaced by our present church which was consecrated in 1885.



Management

St Cuthbert's Church Wardens and PCC oversee day to day responsibilities. We strive to maintain financial sustainability. Our PCC is at the moment made up of a Vice Chair, two Church Wardens, Treasurer, Secretary and six congregation members.

Teams

We have a Local Ministry Team who meet regularly to develop our worship patterns both in church and community. This group is currently supported by a recently retired Priest with PTO and our Licensed Reader, also with PTO. Our Lay Reader also conducts funerals when requested.



A team of acolytes, intercessors, readers and sidespersons help to make our services run smoothly.

St Cuthbert's has a good musical heritage, with a pipe organ (with two organists) and a robed choir. We also have a peal of 8 bells, and a bell ringer.

Our Home Communion Team is in the process of rebuilding, and primarily work with sheltered homes in our Parish, and since covid we are continuing to reconnect with the homes. We have good links to a first school in our parish who hold their own teacher led services in our church at Easter, Harvest and Christmas, with the support of our Choir Mistress and Lay Reader.

Groups and Activities

Our Mothers' Union meet monthly, working to support families both at home and overseas.

We have a good range of activities within our church – flower arranging, craft, walking and ballroom line dance groups, along with monthly coffee mornings fundraising for either our own church or local charities. Our Holy Weeds men's gardening group nurture our church grounds, and also evolved into a men's support group.

We have an Annual Christmas Tree Festival, held in the first full week of December, which involves local businesses and community. This is also a celebration of music, with concerts held throughout the festival and leading up to Christmas.

Information on our activities can be found in our weekly Newsletter on our Facebook page. Special services and events can also be found on A Church Near You.



Intercessor Training

Vicarage



St Cuthbert's Vicarage, situated on Ridley Avenue, is a large four bedroom semi-detached house with a study, rear access garage and gardens. It is on a pleasant tree lined road less than five minutes' walk from our church, close to local shops, amenities, park, beach and quayside.

There are good transport links, and a railway station is soon to be completed with trains to Newcastle upon Tyne.

St Cuthbert's Hall

Our hall stands in the church grounds behind our church. A large two storey building built in 1926, with two spacious function rooms, the upper also having a small stage, a mezzanine room and also a fully fitted catering kitchen, office and toilets. There is a lift between floors for disabled access.

The building is well used by both our church and community, and is available for function hire. Some of the groups not mentioned previously include fund raising events, martial arts, Northumbrian Venturers (War Gamers), Weight Loss group, asylum seeker support group, rehearsal space for theatre groups, Brownies (not attached to our church).



Outreach Groups

We have close links to Blyth Community Food & Friendship Blyth, a charity supporting local families with food, care, support and advice, and also provide a warm space, shower facilities and a Thursday Morning Breakfast Club. This initiative came from our congregation, and is led by them. Community Food & Friendship have premises a mile away from our Church. They hold a “Four@Four” praise service on the fourth Sunday of the month on their premises, which is very well attended.

We have a regular bible study which meets throughout the year in the Commissioners Quay Hotel on the quayside. We also have a bible study house group who meet in Advent and Lent.

Vision

Our Church aims to continue to be a fountain of hope, of encouragement, belonging and service to Christ and to our Community.

We would like to increase our presence in the community, remain welcoming to all ages, whilst maintaining our traditions.



Our New Vicar

Our hopes and aspirations are for someone with the leadership skills to encourage and increase our numbers. An optimist and motivator, a communicator who can work with and lead a willing team, yet be receptive to ideas.

We look to someone who can be to us an example of prayer and spirituality, being themselves prayerful with spiritual maturity.

