

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: **St Michael with St Lawrence Byker**
2. Name of Parish church: **St Michael's Church**
3. Name of other C of E churches/centres for public worship in the parish - **St Michael's Centre, Raby Cross. A converted shop at the bottom of Byker that the Church has been renting from the Council since 2000, and which is available to other community groups.**
4. Group of parishes in which you work (formally or informally): **Mission Initiative Newcastle East made up of St Silas Byker, St Martin's Byker, Christ Church Walker, St Oswald's Walkergate and St Anthony of Egypt Walker.**
5. Deanery: **Newcastle East**
6. Population: **5615**
- 7.(a) Number on Electoral Roll **21**
- (b) Date of APCM at which this number was declared: **April 2019**
7. Attendance at worship at each church:

Average Sunday Communicants	4
Average Sunday attendance	4
Average weekday Communicants	0
Average weekday attendance	0
8. Occasional Offices:

Number of baptisms in the last 12 months:	2
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:	0
Number of funerals taken by clergy not in church in the last 12 months:	3

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 Parish, to the east of Newcastle City centre, stretches from Allendale Road towards Walker down to the Quayside where there is a marina and industrial estate. Most of the Parish lies within the 'Byker Wall' a distinctive urban estate that sprawls from the top of Byker hill to the bottom. The estate built in the 1960s is of particular architectural interest and is grade 2 listed.

There is a small percentage of private housing mainly situated in the more affluent St Peter's Basin area near the quayside. The majority is social housing owned by Karbon Homes, which runs and develops the estate: There are large numbers of families with children in 3-4 bedroomed houses but also a significant number of couples and single tenants living in high rise flats. The population is multicultural with a significant Black and Ethnic Minority Community.

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

The Byker Estate ranks highly in nearly all markers of social deprivation. The Church Urban Fund ranks the area as the 27th most deprived parish of 12,239 in the UK. For child poverty, it ranks as the 17th most deprived of 12,239. Educational aspiration and attainment are low, as are health and employment. There is a great deal of anti-social behaviour and petty crime on the estate. People comment on the lack of aspiration among young people and there is a great deal of fear between residents and some young people who also live in the area. Young people lack role models and the high percentage of single parent families demonstrates the absence of father figures for many young people.

2. Please list:

Local schools: Two local Primary Schools: Byker Primary and St Lawrence's RC School

Youth centres: The Lighthouse Project based at the Church will be open in May 2025

Hospitals: 0

Nursing/residential homes, sheltered housing:

Byker Hall Care Home, Balmoral Court and a number of sheltered accommodation blocks. including Avondale House offering supported accommodation to military veterans. The Church has good links to them all, and in the past has offered occasional services.

Places of worship of other faiths:

Local businesses:

There are a number of new and upcoming businesses around Byker and in the Hoults Yard Industrial Estate near to the Church. The Church is also close to Shields Road, a shopping high street.

Neighbourhood initiatives:

There is a Byker Mutual Aid Association that formed in the Pandemic that the Church supports.

Local associations:

Any civic responsibilities of local clergy:

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

1.(a) What percentage of the congregation lives outside the parish? **Most of the congregation now live in the Parish.**

(b) Describe the congregation in terms of age, employment, culture, ethnicity and gender:

Currently there is a small, multicultural and diverse Sunday morning congregation. The age range is from 60 to 5. Most of the congregation works locally.

2. Please describe the tradition of your church and give details of robes/vestments worn by officiants:

Worship is informal, Eucharistic and open to both traditional and contemporary styles of music. Recent clergy have not robed. It has been described as informal, joyful and messy (in a good way)

3. Give details of Sunday services with times and form of service used:

Sunday Parish Eucharist 11.15am, Common Worship, but there is openness to try other times.

4. Give details of weekday services: **0**

5. List any authorised ministers (e.g. Reader, Church Army Officer, Ordained Local Minister, Non-stipendiary Minister, Curate in training, retired Clergy): **0**

6.(a) What is the average weekly giving of those aged 16 years and older, and what proportion of the giving is gift aided: **£10, mostly gift aided.**

(b) When did the parish last have a stewardship campaign: **2018**

7. How does each church supplement direct giving in order to meet financial needs (eg fundraising events, hall lettings, occasional offices, investments): **The Church does get occasional income from the Hire of the Centre. We have also recently received a recent legacy of £24,000.**

8.(a) Give details of expenses paid to the incumbent, and state whether this covers them in full. **The PCC will always try to pay any expenses.**

(b) Is there an annual discussion about the level of expenses as part of the budgeting process: **Yes**

9. What amount of Share has been (a) requested and (b) paid:

Last year: **4000**

Current year: **4000**

Next year: **4000**

10.(a) Is there any capital project in hand at the moment: **Yes**

10.(b) *If so, please give brief details with costs and state how they are to be met:*

The Lighthouse Project to develop St Michael's Church is underway and is due to be completed by May 2025. This has been financed mainly through the Government's Youth Investment Capital Fund. The Lighthouse Project is operated by the St Michael's Centre Partnership Byker, a Charity that runs in partnership with the Church. The PCC nominates two trustees to its board.

11. *Please attach a copy of the latest statement of accounts.*

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

1.(a) *What is the general state of repair of the churches: **In good repair***

(b) *Please give details of any major maintenance needed following the last Quinquennial Inspection: **Issues in the 2019 quinquennial will be dealt with through the Lighthouse Project.***

2. *Please give details of church halls and any other ancillary buildings (and an indication of the level of their use). **The St Michael's Centre is used by local groups and youth groups run by MINE Youth.***

3. *Is there a churchyard to maintain and who is responsible for its maintenance? **No***

V. Outreach and Mission

1.(a) *What are the regular mission and outreach activities of the parish: -*

Supporting Youth work in the Estate through the work of MINE Youth.

Working and supporting the Byker Mutual Aid Group that meets at the Centre.

Working with the Deanery and MINE Churches in organising Easter and Christmas events and activities.

Developing our relationship with the Eden Group from St Thomas' Newcastle.

(b) *What are you doing to help people find out about Jesus:*

Through being a presence in the Community

(c) *What are you doing to help grow people in discipleship:*

We work with the MINE Churches in organising regular discipleship courses and seasonal courses . Alpha and the Start Course have been used in the past.

(d) *What are you doing to grow people in leadership:*

In the past we have supported members of the congregation to grow as leaders through encouraging them to learn about community organising through Citizens UK and engaging with the training opportunities offered by the Diocese. This is an area that we would like to develop further.

2.(a) Please give details of support for the church overseas: **We don't currently have any Mission partners overseas.**

(b) How much is given annually: 0

3.(a) Give details of support for home missions and charities: **We don't currently support any charities financially.**

(b) How much is given annually:

4.(a) Does the parish have an overseas link: **No**

(b) If so, please state where/who

5.(a) Is there an organised system of outreach and welcome to new families: **No**

(b) If so, please describe:

6. What part does the church play in community care:

7.(a) Are there Lay Eucharistic Assistants who take communion to the sick: **No**

(b) If so, who are they:

8. What work does the church undertake with young people, other than in church based organisations (eg open youth work):

Supporting children and young people has always been an important part of the life of the Church. A company of the Boys Brigade was started by the church in 1895 and ran continuously until 2020. 10 years ago, the church began a regular Youth Cafe from its centre, providing a safe space for young people to drop into after school. This developed into MINE Youth, working with the other Churches in MINE, that offers regular safe spaces for young people to meet and also undertakes detached youth work on the Estate. Currently MINE Youth employs one part time Youth worker based in Byker.

VI. Ecumenical Relationships

1(a) Involvement in local Council of Churches **No**

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

2. What informal ecumenical contacts are there?

Through the work of MINE and other networks we do have some links with other denominations.

VII. Church Education and Social Provision

1.(a) Name of Church School(s), if applicable:

(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:

Young People:

Adults:

2.(a) Give details of house/prayer groups: **There are currently no House groups but there has been in the past**

(b) Are the leaders clergy or lay: **In the Past there have been Lay leaders**

3.(a) How do you rate the strength of lay leadership: **This is an area that the Church would like to develop**

(b) To what do you credit this strength or the lack of it:

IX. Mission

1. List areas of church life which you consider in need of development:

We as a church are 'committed to being an active Christian presence in the Byker Community, sharing God's love, forming relationships and learning together.' Our Mission is encapsulated in the St Michael's prayer:

**Loving Father we thank you for your presence here in Byker
and your faithfulness to us over the years.**

**As we continue our walk with you
help us walk with others;**

**showing the good news of Jesus Christ,
using our buildings, resources and talents**

**so that we can worship you and serve our community,
reaching out with love and welcoming all people.**

**Encourage us as we seek to grow together and know you more and give us strength as we seek to be true to
you, loving towards others and loyal to the Gospel.**

Amen

We have gone through a very difficult time since the pandemic. The congregation is fragile but we have remained hopeful for the future, looking forward to the opportunities that the Lighthouse Project and a new redeveloped worship and community space brings. We have a huge opportunity for mission, building on the work that the church and MINE has grown over the past 10 years.

We want to grow our congregation and build for a sustainable future by being a community where everybody feels welcome.

We want to develop the ministry of the Church especially with young people.

We want to identify and equip new leaders and enable them to share God's love to the people of Byker.

2. *What are the main areas of mission that you think the new priest should prioritise in their ministry:*

Supporting our Partnership with the Lighthouse Project and helping the Church to be a welcoming and loving place for the community.

Working and organising with the Community to support those who are in need when we can. Working in partnership with other organisations.

Working with young people in Byker. Building on the work of MINE Youth and our strong tradition of supporting and welcoming young people on the Estate. Exploring new ways we can be Church to young people.

3. *In summary, what are the top three challenges with which you and the new priest need to engage:*

Growing the Church in numbers ensuring there is a future for the congregation

Working towards the Church being financially sustainable

Working in a challenging and changing context and equipping and discipling new leaders

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 asked the congregation and here it was they said:

We would like someone...

Who is passionate about working with young people and families. But is also happy to engage with older people too

Who is passionate about making a difference - Byker is such a unique community

Who understands the importance of partnership working

Who is well organised

Who is a people person

Who understands the need to work with people rather than working for people or doing things to people.

Who is self-driven, entrepreneurial and can improvise.

Who is not afraid to try things and make mistakes. Someone who will keep trying and hoping.

Who asks for help