

## 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: **Amble**
2. Name of Parish church(es) : **St Cuthberts Church**
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): **Informally with Chevington**
5. Deanery: **Alnwick**
6. Population: **5860 (Amble) and 230 (Hauxley)**
- 7.(a) Number on Electoral Roll **79**
- (b) Date of APCM at which this number was declared: **21<sup>st</sup> May 2023**
7. Attendance at worship at each church:  
  
Average Sunday Communicants - **50**  
Average Sunday attendance - **52**  
Average weekday Communicants - **7**  
Average weekday attendance - **7**
8. Occasional Offices:  
  
Number of baptisms in the last 12 months: **18**  
Number of persons confirmed in the last 12 months: **1**  
Number of weddings in the last 12 months: **2**  
Number of funerals in church in the last 12 months: **24**  
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 population of Amble is around 6000 and has remained static despite the new build of 776 properties since 2016 with further applications which could result in another 121 new builds (Source: The Ambler). This suggests a sizeable second home and holiday let sector and the caravan park accounts for additional seasonal residents. The population up to the age of 55 is lower than the**

***national average; that above the age of 55 is higher than the national average. 45.1% are classed as economically inactive. 98.7 % identify as white, 57.3% identify as Christian and 23.3% as being disabled under the Equality Act.***

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

***Amble is a town of contrasts with high levels of poverty and unemployment. There is insufficient private rented accommodation or affordable homes (house prices having accelerated at a greater rate than the national average) resulting in younger people moving out of the area.***

2. *Please list:*

*Local schools:*

***Our schools are currently undergoing a reorganisation from three tier to Primary and Secondary. Plans have been agreed for a new build Secondary School and expansion of our two existing Primary Schools, both of which have nurseries attached. All of our schools are currently rated "Good" by Ofsted.***

*Youth centres:*

***Amble Youth Project***

***Amble Cadets***

***Youth sections of various clubs and organisations***

*Hospitals:*

***Northumbria Specialist Emergency Care Hospital, Cramlington***

***Wansbeck General Hospital***

***Alnwick infirmary (general care and rehab for the elderly)***

***Amble Health Centre for GP consultation and general nursing care***

*Nursing/residential homes, sheltered housing:*

***Dolphin View - residential nursing home***

***Dolphin Court - sheltered and extra sheltered accommodation***

***Oswald Court – sheltered accommodation***

***Anchor Housing – sheltered accommodation***

***Individual supported living homes***

*Places of worship of other faiths:*

***Other faiths : None***

***Other Christian places of worship : Hauxley Chapel (Ecumenical), Sacred Heart & St Cuthberts RC church, Trinity Methodist Church, St Marks URC, Harbour Lights Church (non-denominational)***

*Local businesses:*

***Various businesses providing most essential supplies and services are located in the main street, the Harbour area and the retail park. Since 2015 the main shopping street has lost some long established businesses but a new Supermarket has opened on the retail park.***

*Neighbourhood initiatives:*

***Amble Town Council is in the early stages of developing a Neighbourhood Plan.***

***Amble Development Trust oversee regeneration projects in the town***

*Local associations:*

**Local Government:**

***Amble Town Council***

***Northumberland County Council***

**Amble Development Trust**  
**MP –Anne Marie-Trevelyan (Conservative)**

**Arts**

**Northumberland Theatre Company**  
**Dry Water Arts Centre**  
**Highlights Theatre (sponsored by St Cuthberts Church)**  
**Harbour Lights Community Choir**  
**Various arts and craft based hobby groups**

**Sports Organisations**

**Coquet Shorebase Trust**  
**Coquet Yacht Club**  
**Amble Football Association (with a strong junior section)**  
**Amble Kick Boxing (also with a strong junior section)**  
**Amble Bowls Club**  
**Amble Leisure Centre (with swimming pool and gym)**

**Charitable Organisations**

**Amble and Warkworth Rotary Club**  
**RNLI**  
**Amble Food Bank**  
**Northumberland Citizens Advice (drop in office in Amble)**  
**Northumberland Wildlife (Reserve at Hauxley)**  
**Amble WI**

*Any civic responsibilities of local clergy:*

***In conjunction with Coquet Churches Together leading the annual Remembrance Day service in the town square and one of the churches***

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

- 1.(a) *What percentage of the congregation lives outside the parish? **Less than 10%.***
- (b) *Describe the congregation in terms of age, employment, culture, ethnicity and gender:  
**The majority of the regular congregation are white British (this reflects the make up of town's population). The age profile is mainly over 50, and many are over 70.***
2. *Please describe the tradition of your church and give details of robes/vestments worn by officiants:  
**We could be described as traditional middle of the road (neither high church nor low church). Worship leaders wear robes (or uniform in the case of the Church Army officer). We no longer have a robed choir. Our hymns are mainly traditional in style, some more modern than others.***
3. *Give details of Sunday services with times and form of service used:  
**8:00 a.m. Holy Communion (either Common Worship or BCP)**  
**9:30 a.m. Holy Communion with hymns and sermon**  
**First Sunday of month 3:00 or 4:00 p.m. Café Church (in local Tea Rooms)**  
**Second Sunday of the month 4:00 p.m. Evensong (either Common Worship or BCP)**  
**Third Sunday of the month 11:15 a.m. Holy Baptism***
4. *Give details of weekday services:  
**Wednesdays 9:30 a.m. Holy Communion (Common Worship)***

5. List any authorised ministers (e.g. Reader, Church Army Officer, Ordained Local Minister, Non-stipendiary Minister, Curate in training, retired Clergy):  
**Two Lay Readers**  
**One Church Army Evangelist**  
**Four Retired Clergy**
- 6.(a) What is the average weekly giving of those aged 16 years and older, and what proportion of the giving is gift aided:  
**There is a wide variation, but the overall average is £9.41 per regular donor per week. 89% of regular donations are gift aided.**
- (b) When did the parish last have a stewardship campaign:  
**The last stewardship campaign as such was about 1995. However, since then we have held an annual Season of Thanksgiving and Commitment in which we encourage members of our congregation to review their regular giving in a spirit of thanksgiving for God's generosity to us. The season culminates in "Commitment Sunday" on the Feast of Christ the King.**
7. How does each church supplement direct giving in order to meet financial needs (eg fundraising events, hall lettings, occasional offices, investments):  
**We let out the Parish Hall to several local organisations (e.g. Dancing Academy, Slimming World, etc.). We run at least two major fundraising events per year (Summer Fair and Christmas Fair), sometimes also a Spring Fair.**  
**We hold Coffee Mornings in the back of the church twice per month.**  
**We have performances in the Parish Hall at which we run a raffle and operate a bar.**  
**There are many other "ad hoc" events that present opportunities to raise funds**
- 8.(a) Give details of expenses paid to the incumbent, and state whether this covers them in full.  
**The parish pays Council Tax, Water Rates and Internet Charges for the vicarage. The last incumbent never claimed expenses above these.**
- (b) Is there an annual discussion about the level of expenses as part of the budgeting process:  
**No.**
9. What amount of Share has been (a) requested and (b) paid:  
**Last year: 2023: Requested £31,820 Paid £31,820**  
**Current year: 2024: Requested £33,856**  
**Paid to date (as at 17 Jan 2024): £2,821 (= one twelfth) by Standing Order**  
**Next year: 2025: Forecast £34,700**
- 10.(a) Is there any capital project in hand at the moment:  
**No.**
- 10.(b) If so, please give brief details with costs and state how they are to be met:  
**Not Applicable.**
11. Please attach a copy of the latest statement of accounts.  
**Attached.**

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

- 1.(a) What is the general state of repair of the churches: **The church is in a good general state of repair and is well maintained by the PCC.**
- (b) Please give details of any major maintenance needed following the last Quinquennial Inspection: **None. All recommended works have been completed. Desirable works are being addressed in the Mission Action Plan.**
2. Please give details of church halls and any other ancillary buildings (and an indication of the level of their use). **Amble Parish Hall is located in an adjacent street some 300 yards from the main church building. It is the largest community venue in Amble and comprises a main hall with stage and proscenium and a well equipped kitchen. The hall is well used by the church for fundraising and social events, is hired out regularly to various community groups and is a regular venue for Highlights Rural Touring Theatre.**
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:
 

**Hosting "Café Church" once a month in a local café during normal opening hours, attended by members of local churches and casual visitors**

**Fortnightly coffee mornings in church**

**Spring, Summer and Christmas fayres plus occasional social and fundraising events provide valuable opportunities for outreach**

**Liason with local schools ("Experience Easter" in schools, taking Christingle into first schools and inviting schools to use the church building for their own events (eg. Christmas plays / services)**

**Hosting Highlights Rural Touring Theatre approx. four times per year**

**Weekly online service; daily prayers on website / Facebook**
- (b) What are you doing to help people find out about Jesus:
 

**One to one contacts by team members and the congregation**

**Use of Facebook and website for daily prayer and weekly online service**
- (c) What are you doing to help grow people in discipleship:
 

**Preaching and small group work, including Lent and Advent courses.**
- (d) What are you doing to grow people in leadership:
 

**Providing opportunities for people to take on responsibilities**
- 2.(a) Please give details of support for the church overseas:
 

**Support for a project for Street Children in Kenya, providing ongoing child sponsorship through personal contact**
- (b) How much is given annually: **£300**
- 3.(a) Give details of support for home missions and charities:
 

**It is the policy of the PCC to give a sum equivalent to 10% of the parish share each year to chosen charities and appeals, including annual donations to the Childrens Society through Christingle and collection boxes.**

- (b) How much is given annually:  
**A sum equivalent to 10% of the parish share, currently £3500 pa.**
- 4.(a) Does the parish have an overseas link:  
**Informal only**
- (b) If so, please state where/who  
**Utugi Children's Centre in Kenya**
- 5.(a) Is there an organised system of outreach and welcome to new families:  
**Informal only.**
- (b) If so, please describe:
6. What part does the church play in community care:  
**Contact and visiting by the pastoral team and provision of home communion.  
Some individual church members work with local organisations (eg. Amble Food Bank)**
- 7.(a) Are there Lay Eucharistic Assistants who take communion to the sick:  
**Yes**
- (b) If so, who are they:  
**Readers, Church Army Evangelist and one licensed member of the congregation**
8. What work does the church undertake with young people, other than in church based organisations (eg open youth work):  
**None at present**

## VI. Ecumenical Relationships

- 1(a) Involvement in local Council of Churches  
**St Cuthberts belong to Coquet Churches Together and are involved in ecumenical consultation and joint activities.**
- (b) Is there a formal covenant with any other denomination?  
**No**
2. What informal ecumenical contacts are there?  
**Members of different churches meet together informally and share in and support each others activities. Café church has become a meeting place for representatives from all local churches to share in worship and outreach together. Regular annual events provide opportunities for working together ecumenically (Good Friday Witness, Remembrance service, Praise and Picnic, Christian Aid, World Day of Prayer, Christian Unity etc).**

## VII. Church Education and Social Provision

- 1.(a) Name of Church School(s), if applicable: **N/A**
- (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: **Experience Easter (250)**

Young People: **None**

Adults: **Lent and Advent Groups - 20**

2.(a) *Give details of house/prayer groups:*

**Courses are run at advent and lent each year, usually at the home of a member of the congregation**

(b) *Are the leaders clergy or lay:* **Predominantly lay but usually with support from clergy**

3.(a) *How do you rate the strength of lay leadership:*

**We have strong teams in the Standing Committee (general leadership), Worship Group leading public worship and spiritual development) and the Pastoral Team .**

(b) *To what do you credit this strength or the lack of it:* **Previous priests-in-charge who valued and enabled teams to develop and take their own responsibility; Personal experience gained through long term service and commitment.**

### IX. Mission

1. *List areas of church life which you consider in need of development:* **Work with children and young people; spiritual development; lay ministry**

2. *What are the main areas of mission that you think the new priest should prioritise in their ministry:*  
**Developing links with people of all ages in the wider community and working with schools.  
Helping church members to grow in confidence in sharing their faith.  
Developing congregational links with Chevington parish.  
Developing and improving the church building to better serve mission needs.**

3. *In summary, what are the top three challenges with which you and the new priest need to engage:*  
**1. How best to engage with the wider community  
2. Successful linking with Chevington parish and working collaboratively  
3. Ageing 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.*

**In 2018 members of the team went on a Leading Your Church into Growth course and brought back useful tools and ways of working for strategy planning.**

**Our Mission Action Plan was first drawn up in 2013, revised in 2016 and most recently in 2023. It forms a basis for looking at all aspects of church life, for planning and for checking on the health of the church. Going forward it will form an item on PCC agendas to consider developing various aspects of church life.**

*The church building is open every day during daylight hours to enable people to spend quiet time in church. It is wheelchair accessible and we receive many visits from tourists, both during the week and at regular services. We have a church trail in the building as part of our Tourists to Pilgrims initiative and one of our church windows is included in the town's Sculpture Trail.*

*We have a prayer table in church where local people and visitors can leave prayer requests.*

## **XI. The new parish priest**

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

*Having consulted the congregation as a whole:-*

*A priest would need good communication and outreach skills and be able to work with schools and the wider community. They would also need to be willing and able to work collaboratively with existing teams and be able to encourage both parishes to work together.*

*At a personal level we seek someone who is kind, patient, loving, compassionate, spiritually mature and with a sense of humour; someone who is community minded, approachable, sociable, inclusive, cooperative and collaborative.*