

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:* Blyth St Cuthbert
2. *Name of Parish church(es)* St Cuthbert's
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):* None
5. *Deanery:* Bedlington
6. *Population:* 39,731 (2021 census)
- 7.(a) *Number on Electoral Roll* 84
- (b) *Date of APCM at which this number was declared:* 16 April 2024
7. *Attendance at worship at each church:*

<i>Average Sunday Communicants</i>	60
<i>Average Sunday attendance</i>	65
<i>Average weekday Communicants</i>	15
<i>Average weekday attendance</i>	15
8. *Occasional Offices:*

<i>Number of baptisms in the last 12 months:</i>	10
<i>Number of persons confirmed in the last 12 months:</i>	0
<i>Number of weddings in the last 12 months:</i>	2
<i>Number of funerals in church in the last 12 months:</i>	7
<i>Number of funerals taken by clergy not in church in the last 12 months:</i>	4

II. The Local Community

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

From 2021 Census:

The median age for Blyth is 41.

19.0% of people in Blyth (Northumberland) (town) are under 16 years old, and 19.8% are aged 65 and over.

97.3% of people identified with a White ethnic group, 1.1% as Asian, Asian British or Asian Welsh, 0.3% as Black, Black British, Black Welsh, Caribbean or African, 0.8% with Mixed or Multiple ethnic groups, and 0.5% with other ethnic groups

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

We do have high unemployment, a number of homeless, families needing support with food and housing, substance misuse. No better or worse than any other town in the country.

2. *Please list:*

Local schools in the Parish:

Primary & First Schools & Academies

Croftway Primary Academy

High Schools

Special Schools

All Age Academy

Bede North Academy

Bede South Academy

Youth centres:

Hospitals:

Nursing/residential homes, sheltered housing:

Nursing/Residential Care Homes

Ridley Park Care Home

Rowan Court

Thomas Knight Nursing Home

Sheltered Housing

Bader House

Nye Bevan House

Patterson House

Pembroke Court

Rowan Court

Learning/Disability Centres

Places of worship of other denominations and faiths:

Central Methodist Church
Kingdom Hall of Jehovah's Witnesses

Local businesses:

The Port of Blyth is a thriving area, at the forefront of renewable energy, with Catapult (developing offshore renewable energy), and continuing development of training and industry projects.

There are a number of small retail parks in Blyth. A town centre cinema and cultural venue is due to be completed Summer 2025. We also have a number of cafés and small restaurants.

Neighbourhood initiatives:

Friends of Crofton Field
Friends of Ridley Park
Heart of Blyth project
Learn the Ropes maritime heritage wellbeing courses

Local associations:

Uniformed groups – Scouting, Guiding, Police Cadets, TA
Drama, music and singing groups
Craft, photography, hobby groups
Sports groups

Any civic responsibilities of local clergy:

Currently none, though occasional civic services are held in our church.

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

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

16.5%

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

Our congregation age range is mainly 40s to 90s, a mix of couples and individuals, occasional children. Ethnicity is mainly white British, with some regular attendees who are asylum seekers. Congregation is mostly retired, with some employed and a few unemployed.

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

Our church tradition is traditional Anglican "middle of the road".

Officiants wear vestments of a chasuble and stole, colour according to season.

Acolytes wear a white alb. We have a robed choir who wear a cassock and surplice, as does our reader.

3. *Give details of Sunday services with times and form of service used:*
 Sunday 9.30 am Sung Parish Communion based around Common Worship Holy Communion Order One
 Fifth Sunday Parish Communion 9.30 am, hymns led by Music Group
4. *Give details of weekday services:*
 Thursday 10 am Said Holy Communion, using Common Worship Holy Communion Order One
5. *List any authorised ministers (e.g. Reader, Church Army Officer, Ordained Local Minister, Non-stipendiary Minister, Curate in training, retired Clergy):*
 One Lay Minister, one retired Clergy with PTO
- 6.(a) *What is the average weekly giving of those aged 16 years and older, and what proportion of the giving is gift aided:*
 £396.69, most of which is gift aided
- (b) *When did the parish last have a stewardship campaign:* 2020
7. *How does each church supplement direct giving in order to meet financial needs (eg fundraising events, hall lettings, occasional offices, investments):*
 Fundraising
- 8.(a) *Give details of expenses paid to the incumbent, and state whether this covers them in full.*
 Travel expenses, and a discretionary fund. This wasn't claimed by our last incumbent.
- (b) *Is there an annual discussion about the level of expenses as part of the budgeting process:*
 Discretionary fund discussed annually along with charitable giving.
9. *What amount of Share has been (a) requested and (b) paid:*

<i>Last year:</i>	£25,000
<i>Current year:</i>	£25,000
<i>Next year:</i>	£25,000
- 10.(a) *Is there any capital project in hand at the moment:* None
- 10.(b) *If so, please give brief details with costs and state how they are to be met:*
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:*
 Church is in fair state of repair
- (b) *Please give details of any major maintenance needed following the last Quinquennial Inspection:*
 Boundary walls and railings in need of repair/replacement

2. *Please give details of church halls and any other ancillary buildings (and an indication of the level of their use).*
Double storey church hall, with good use.
3. *Is there a churchyard to maintain and who is responsible for its maintenance?*
Yes – this is maintained by our Holy Weeds Gardening Group, and Northumberland County Council.

V. Outreach and Mission

- 1.(a) *What are the regular mission and outreach activities of the parish:*
Community Food & Friendship led by members of our congregation, with a monthly afternoon worship service in Community Food & Friendship hub.
- (b) *What are you doing to help people find out about Jesus:*
Daily Bible Readings readily available
Outreach groups in local restaurant/hotel
Taking services out to residential homes
- (c) *What are you doing to help grow people in discipleship:*
Growing pastoral work. Bible study groups at Lent and Christmas. Training for intercessors. Confirmation instruction classes.
- (d) *What are you doing to grow people in leadership:*
Developing pastoral teams. Encouraging authorised lay ministry (ALM).
- 2.(a) *Please give details of support for the church overseas:*
Our Mothers' Union supports overseas work, and has close links to Bundaberg in Australia.
- (b) *How much is given annually:*
- 3.(a) *Give details of support for home missions and charities:*
We hold monthly coffee mornings to support local charities, as our charitable giving. These generally raise £100 - £150 each time.
- (b) *How much is given annually:*
£1300 for 2024
- 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:*

(b) *If so, please describe:*

We have welcomers situated at the church entrance on a Sunday morning

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

Communion taken into the home, care homes and hospitals.

Pastoral workers in our congregation work with Blyth Community Food & Friendship, Charity Shops and also with asylum seekers.

7.(a) *Are there Lay Eucharistic Assistants who take communion to the sick:*

Yes

(b) *If so, who are they:*

We have designated congregation members, and our Lay Minister, who are able to administer home communion previously consecrated.

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

We have recently run Junior Choir Workshops and also School Holiday Drama workshops, but these have not been well attended.

Schools come into our church at Easter, Harvest and Christmas to hold their own celebrations with support from our own congregation members, music group and our Lay Minister.

Our church hosts special services (memorial, carol) for an Addiction Recovery group, and a learning disability centre.

VI. Ecumenical Relationships

1(a) *Involvement in local Council of Churches*

We are involved in Churches Together in Blyth, and work together with services throughout the year. These include Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, Town Carol service, and Civic Services.

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

2. *What informal ecumenical contacts are there?*

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):*

Currently none

Children:

Young People:

Adults:

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

We have Lent and Advent house groups, and occasional bible study in between times.

- (b) *Are the leaders clergy or lay:*

Lay

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

Excellent

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

Our reader is very energetic and forward thinking.

IX. Mission

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

More and better schools involvement, special needs

Follow on for baptisms, weddings and funerals

Expand on prayer groups and bible study

Integrate church groups' involvement more into church life

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

Community and outreach.

Also as listed above in IX. Mission 1.

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

Encouraging youth into our church family.

Engage with local community of all ages.

Flexibility to work with other parishes.

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.

We would like to maintain our strong traditions of music and worship. Music is a very important part of our church tradition, enhancing our worship.

Maintain and develop our pastoral role within our Parish.

XI. The new parish priest

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

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.