

## 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: **North Shields**
2. Name of Parish church(es) **Christ Church, St. Augustin's**
3. Name of other C of E churches/centres for public worship in the parish **Salvation Army/ St Columba United Reformed Church/ North Shields Baptist Church/ St. Cuthbert's RC Church/ St. Joseph's RC Church/ Iglesia Ni Cristo/ North Shields Methodist Church**
4. Group of parishes in which you work (formally or informally): **St. John's Percy Main/ Church of the Holy**

**Saviour Tynemouth**

5. Deanery: **Tynemouth**
6. Population: **34,423 (2011 census)**
- 7.(a) Number on Electoral Roll **122**  
(b) Date of APCM at which this number was declared: **28/04/2024**
7. Attendance at worship at each church:

*Average Sunday Communicants (CC) 45 (St.A) 20*

*Average Sunday attendance (CC) 50 (St.A) 20*

*Average weekday Communicants (CC) 12*

*Average weekday attendance (CC) 12*

8. Occasional Offices:

*Number of baptisms in the last 12 months: (CC) 35 (St.A) 3*

*Number of persons confirmed in the last 12 months: (CC) 2 (St.A) 2*

*Number of weddings in the last 12 months: (CC) 5 (St.A) 1*

*Number of funerals in church in the last 12 months: (CC) 4 (St.A) 2*

*Number of funerals taken by clergy not in church in the last 12 months: 12*

#### II. The Local Community

- 1.(a) Briefly describe the population in terms of any predominant age and/or social groups, the ethnic mix etc: **(St.A) Mixed population, young people in flats, young people with school age children, people of working age, retired. High proportion of owner occupiers. Private rental accommodation. No obvious ethnic groups. (CC)**

**As other church, but more ethnic groups represented, and families with children.**

**(b) Are there any special social problems, e.g. high unemployment? Higher than the national average of those not going onto/completing higher education.**

**2. Please list:**

**Local schools: Christ Church C of E Primary School/ Spring Gardens Primary School/ King Edwards Primary School/ St Cuthberts RC Church/ Southlands Special School/ John Spence High School**

**Youth centres: YMCA/ East End Youth & Community Centre/ Stages School of dance/ Tynemouth Scouts**

**Hospitals: Health centres and Doctors surgeries - no hospital in the parish.**

**Nursing/residential homes, sheltered housing: Acorn House/ Appleby Care Home/ Edith Moffatt House/ The Ferns Care Home/ Holmlea Care Home/ Kingfisher Care Home/ Linskill Park Assisted Living/ Primrose Lodge Care Home/ Anchor housing - Laurel Court, Kings Court, Norfolk Court.**

**Places of worship of other faiths: Jehovah's Witness Kingdom Hall**

**Local businesses: Mixed - retail (nail bars/ charity shops/ Turkish barber shops/ supermarkets) small industrial estates, fishing businesses, thriving hospitality area on the Fish Quay. North Tyneside Business Forum.**

**Neighbourhood initiatives: VODA/ Hub community garden/ Active North Tyneside Community Fund/ Heritage action zone/ Let's Talk Climate connections North Tyneside**

**Local associations: Blyth & Tyne Model Railway Association/ VODA/ North Tyneside business forum/ North Shields and District Catholic Club/ Terminus social club/ Tynemouth Disabled and ex-servicemen's club and institute/ The Union Club/ The Royal National Mission to Deep Sea Fishermen**

**Any civic responsibilities of local clergy: Officiating at civic services.**

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

**1.(a) What percentage of the congregation lives outside the parish? (CC) 50% (St. A) 30%**

**(b) Describe the congregation in terms of age, employment, culture, ethnicity and gender: (CC) Predominantly older/retired/female/white, but not exclusively. Children and young people (have 6 children for confirmation this year). Family groups. Some black and Asian members of the congregation, Ukrainian. Weekly school assembly. (St.A) Mainly female, retired, white, none under the age of 60; predominantly 70-90 years old.**

**2. Please describe the tradition of your church and give details of robes/vestments worn by officiants: The catholic tradition, but not high catholic. Minister wears full vestments - chasuble, stole, cassock alb. St Augustins has a robed choir and is more Anglican.**

**3. Give details of Sunday services with times and form of service used: (CC) 10am communion service using common worship. (St.A) 10 am communion service (as CC). Has twice monthly 6pm service of the word.**

**4. Give details of weekday services: CC - 9.30 a.m. communion service on Wednesdays, school assembly service 9am Thursdays. (None at St.A)**

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

**2024), Barbara Bennett - reader Emeritus, Alison Cunningham - ALM**

- 6.(a) What is the average weekly giving of those aged 16 years and older, and what proportion of the giving is gift aided: **(CC) £440, 88% gift aided. (St.A) £253, 80% gift aided.**
- (b) When did the parish last have a stewardship campaign: **Probably pre-covid. Talk given by Diocesan Generous giving team member Dennis Fancett.**
7. How does each church supplement direct giving in order to meet financial needs (e.g. fundraising events, hall lettings, occasional offices, investments): **(CC) Fundraising events include coffee mornings, summer fair, Christmas fair, fish and chip suppers, beetle drives, plasticine morning etc. Hall let out for social events, regular hire by uniformed services. A few weddings a year. (St.A) Fundraising events include coffee mornings, concerts, regular weekly hire by local groups/ organisations.**
- 8.(a) Give details of expenses paid to the incumbent, and state whether this covers them in full. **Currently both churches only giving expenses to visiting clergy.**
- (b) Is there an annual discussion about the level of expenses as part of the budgeting process: **By the finance committee.**
9. What amount of Share has been (a) requested and (b) paid:  
Last year: **(CC) Requested £38,000 - paid in full**  
Current year: **(CC) Requested £40,432 - expected to be paid in full**  
Next year: **(CC) Requested £41,645 - expected to be paid in full**
- 10.(a) Is there any capital project in hand at the moment: **(CC) None, (St.A) Renewal of audio equipment in church**
- 10.(b) If so, please give brief details with costs and state how they are to be met: **(St.A) Stage 1 complete, total project £4,700 to be met through fundraising.**
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: **(CC) Good state of repair - internal decoration next priority, internal and external sandstone. (St.A) Good state of repair - replacing/renewing heating next priority.**
- (b) Please give details of any major maintenance needed following the last Quinquennial Inspection: **(CC) Hoppers need sorting, this is in hand.**
2. Please give details of church halls and any other ancillary buildings (and an indication of the level of their use). **(CC) The parish centre is attached to the church and is in use most nights (uniformed organisations, occasional concerts, social activities etc.) (St.A) No church hall, the back of the church is used for meetings, activities, social events.**
3. Is there a churchyard to maintain and who is responsible for its maintenance? **(CC) Churchyard maintained by North Tyneside Council. Garden of remembrance maintained by CC congregation. (St.A) No churchyard, garden maintained by congregation.**

**V. Outreach and Mission**

- 1.(a) What are the regular mission and outreach activities of the parish: **Various events are organised with different themes to bring people into the church/hall e.g. plasticine event, model railway exhibition. Fairs for**

**the whole community. Work is underway, led by Rev. Rae Caro, for an outreach on the Fish Quay. Very strong and enthusiastic Mothers Union.**

**(b) What are you doing to help people find out about Jesus: Through the link with the church school, regular weekly assemblies in the church, our ALM going into school on a regular basis to talk to various classes about Jesus. Christmas services, particularly the Christingle, are very popular often with standing room only.**

**Both churches have local schools visiting on a regular basis. Every social event starts with prayer and the clergy are always present. Other groups who use the church/Hall get involved with the social events e.g. the bellringers. At St. Augustins it is on a more informal basis. Deaf community coffee mornings regularly.**

**(c) What are you doing to help grow people in discipleship: With both congregations being predominantly older, there is a focus on the children at the school and Sunday school, it is very informal and individualistic. (i.e. an individual child showing a particular interest). At both churches there are many members of the congregation involved in the running of the church and the services, e.g. flowers, reading, intercessions, serving etc.**

**(d) What are you doing to grow people in leadership: With the age of the congregation this is currently limited to a few individuals, e.g. the member of Christ Church congregation who did the ALM course. All are encouraged to do what they can and use their various skills.**

**2.(a) Please give details of support for the church overseas: The Mothers Union is the main way the church supports churches overseas. Lent course and collection gave the donation to Gaza via Friends of the Holy Land. There is also the regular Christian Aid week, and the Christmas shoe box appeal.**

**(b) How much is given annually: Varies year on year, e.g. Christian Aid £340, Samaritan's purse £420.**

**3.(a) Give details of support for home missions and charities: Nothing regular, depends on requests or particular events.**

**(b) How much is given annually: Varies.**

**4.(a) Does the parish have an overseas link: Not the parish, but the Diocese does.**

**(b) If so, please state where/who Botswana and More (Norway)**

**5.(a) Is there an organised system of outreach and welcome to new families: Only informally. (b)**

**If so, please describe: Through baptism.**

**6. What part does the church play in community care: Visits to homes and individuals by clergy. 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): None currently**

## **VI. Ecumenical Relationships**

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

**(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: **Christ Church Primary School**

(b) Aided? **Voluntarily aided**

Controlled?

Foundation?

(c) Number of pupils on roll (approx.): **185**

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

## VIII. Lay Education and Participation

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

Children: **School work 185/Sunday school 10**

Young People:

Adults: **ALM - 1, Lent course - 15, Safeguarding courses - 4**

2.(a) Give details of house/prayer groups: **none**

(b) Are the leaders clergy or lay: **n/a**

3.(a) How do you rate the strength of lay leadership: **Though not numerous, all lay leadership is done with great enthusiasm.**

(b) To what do you credit this strength or the lack of it: **Support from the clergy and a real sense of community within the church congregation, though aware that more are needed to undertake lay leadership.**

## IX. Mission

1. List areas of church life which you consider in need of development: **Lay leadership/encouraging new members into the congregation/Sunday School expansion and development.**

2. What are the main areas of mission that you think the new priest should prioritise in their ministry: **Links with other denominations/home visits to the sick and elderly/Fish Quay project.**

3. In summary, what are the top three challenges with which you and the new priest need to engage: **Enlarging the congregation and opening the church to the wider community. Encouraging more interaction with the school and creating alternative worship opportunities for children's worship.**

## 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 church needs to uphold its traditions while knowing it needs to move into the future. We need someone who respects those traditions but is not afraid to face the challenges that change might bring. We need someone who is passionate and enthusiastic, but not afraid to be provocative and broadminded. To encourage the children and youth people of the community into the church, while not disrespecting or ignoring the older members of our congregations. Someone who recognises the importance of our link with the school and will continue and encourage it. To move us forward and save us from becoming**

**Wetherspoons!**

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

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

**A people person, not afraid to shake things up but also to not upset the regular 'proceedings' that work well and have been long established. Keen, eager and athletic so as to be able to manage the two churches and open up to the wider community. Someone not looking for a quiet life leading to their retirement! Able to bridge the gap between the generations.**