

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: Longhirst
2. Name of Parish church(es) St. John the Evangelist
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): Bothal with Pegswood
5. Deanery: Morpeth
6. Population: 435 (from the 2021 census)
- 7.(a) Number on Electoral Roll 29
- (b) Date of APCM at which this number was declared: 24.04.2023
7. Attendance at worship at each church:
Average Sunday Communicants 30
Average Sunday attendance 30
Average weekday Communicants None
Average weekday attendance None
8. Occasional Offices:
Number of baptisms in the last 12 months: One
Number of persons confirmed in the last 12 months: None
Number of weddings in the last 12 months: None
Number of funerals in church in the last 12 months: Three
Number of funerals taken by clergy not in church in the last 12 months: None

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 consists of the main Village and eight outlying hamlets; Fawdon, Longhirst Colliery, Old Moor, Longhirst Station, Ulgham Lane High Steads, Middle Steads and Broomhaugh; together with the much more recent developments around Longhirst Hall, of Micklewood close and Lawson Villas.

The populations of the main Village and Old Moor are predominantly retired as is that of Longhirst Colliery though this hamlet provides housing for ex-miners from the whole of the north of England, few if any having any historical links with Longhirst. Our population profile shows a fewer than average incidence of children and young people.

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

Social isolation

2. *Please list:*

Local schools: **None**

Youth centres: **None**

Hospitals: **None**

Nursing/residential homes, sheltered housing: **None**

Places of worship of other faiths: **None**

Local businesses: **Quicklawn, Northeast Grains, Barnacre holiday cottages, Longhirst Golf Club, Morpeth Hockey, Tennis and Cricket club, Ferndene Cattery, Caravan Park.**

Neighbourhood initiatives: **A Vibrant Village Hall, the Mid Northumberland U3A, the Village newsletter 'the Longhirst Leader' the biennial Open Gardens Weekend.**

Local associations: **The Longhirst Parish Association (a secular charity that manages the Village Hall) the Longhirst Wildlife and Community Trust.**

Any civic responsibilities of local clergy: **The annual remembrance service at the war memorial in the centre of the village.**

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

1.(a) *What percentage of the congregation lives outside the parish?* **Around 50% because the parishes of Longhirst and Bothal with Pegswood work together.**

(b) *Describe the congregation in terms of age, employment, culture, ethnicity and gender:* **Predominantly retired , mixed gendered, white British.**

2. *Please describe the tradition of your church and give details of robes/vestments worn by officiants:* **Middle of the road, relaxed and inclusive with officiants wearing cassock, surplice and stole.**

3. *Give details of Sunday services with times and form of service used:* **9.30am on the first and third Sundays of the month (the 2nd and 4th Sunday services are at Bothal, and 5th Sunday services are at Pegswood.)**

4. *Give details of weekday services:* **None**

5. *List any authorised ministers (e.g., Reader, Church Army Officer, Ordained Local Minister, Non-stipendiary Minister, Curate in training, retired Clergy):* **1 Authorised Lay Minister.**

- 6.(a) *What is the average weekly giving of those aged 16 years and older, and what proportion of the giving is gift aided: 100 per week !00% gift aided*
- (b) *When did the parish last have a stewardship campaign: none*
7. *How does each church supplement direct giving in order to meet financial needs (e.g., fundraising events, hall lettings, occasional offices, investments): Spring, Summer and Autumn church Fairs, A Christmas Coffee Morning, Broth and Beetle evenings, Wildlife watch days, Afternoon teas in Church members' gardens, biennial Open Gardens weekend. Music Society*
- 8.(a) *Give details of expenses paid to the incumbent, and state whether this covers them in full. £432 in 2022/3 - paid in full*
- (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: In full.
Current year: In full.
Next year: In full.*
- 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: N/A*
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: Good.*
- (b) *Please give details of any major maintenance needed following the last Quinquennial Inspection: None*
2. *Please give details of church halls and any other ancillary buildings (and an indication of the level of their use). N/A.*
3. *Is there a churchyard to maintain and who is responsible for its maintenance? We have an open churchyard, and the PCC is responsible for it.*

V. Outreach and Mission

- 1.(a) *What are the regular mission and outreach activities of the parish: The Longhirst Lunch Club.*
- (b) *What are you doing to help people find out about Jesus: The Rectors articles in the Longhirst Leader.*
- (c) *What are you doing to help grow people in discipleship: Bible classes Advent courses and Lent courses.*
- (d) *What are you doing to grow people in leadership: The Rector's and the PCC's support of H. Jackson on her ALM course .*
- 2.(a) *Please give details of support for the church overseas: None.*

- (b) *How much is given annually:* **None.**
- 3.(a) *Give details of support for home missions and charities:* **Annual toy service for the Cedarwood Centre & Carol Singing for various charities.**
- (b) *How much is given annually:* **Circa £1,500.00p.**
- 4.(a) *Does the parish have an overseas link:* **No.**
- (b) *If so, please state where/who* **N/A.**
- 5.(a) *Is there an organised system of outreach and welcome to new families:* **the Church and the community cooperate to welcome new individuals and families.**
- (b) *If so, please describe:* **Through the medium of ensuring that they are included in the distribution of the Longhirst Leader.**
6. *What part does the church play in community care:* **the church was instrumental in setting up the lunch club and enables its continuance. Its members are also involved and encouraged in neighbourly visiting.**
- 7.(a) *Are there Lay Eucharistic Assistants who take communion to the sick:* **No.**
- (b) *If so, who are they:* **N/A.**
8. *What work does the church undertake with young people, other than in church-based organisations (e.g. open youth work):* **None at present, previously a weekly Youth Group was held in the village which ran successfully for a number of years.**

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?* **Some Catholics and Methodists worship with us.**

VII. Church Education and Social Provision

- 1.(a) *Name of Church School(s), if applicable:* **None.**
- (b) *Aided?* **None.**
Controlled? **None.**
Foundation? **None.**
- (c) *Number of pupils on roll (approx.):* **\\ N/A.**
- (d) *If aided, does the PCC support the school:* **N/A**

VIII. Lay Education and Participation

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

Children: **None.**

Young People: **None.**

Adults: **Bible study and sermons.**

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: **Enthusiastic and strong.**

(b) To what do you credit this strength or the lack of it: **Team working and cohesion.**

IX. Mission

1. List areas of church life which you consider in need of development: **Integration of those living in the new Housing developments around Longhirst Hall and the rest of the community .**

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

3. In summary, what are the top three challenges with which you and the new priest need to engage: **This benefice has two separate parish identities, with a tradition of working together. This needs to be maintained and enhanced.**

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 need a priest who is prayerful, accessible, relaxed, inclusive, able to work as part of a team and able to relate to parishioners with a spectrum of ages and backgrounds.