



The Parish of Cramlington St. Nicholas'
Newcastle Diocese
Parish Brochure

2024

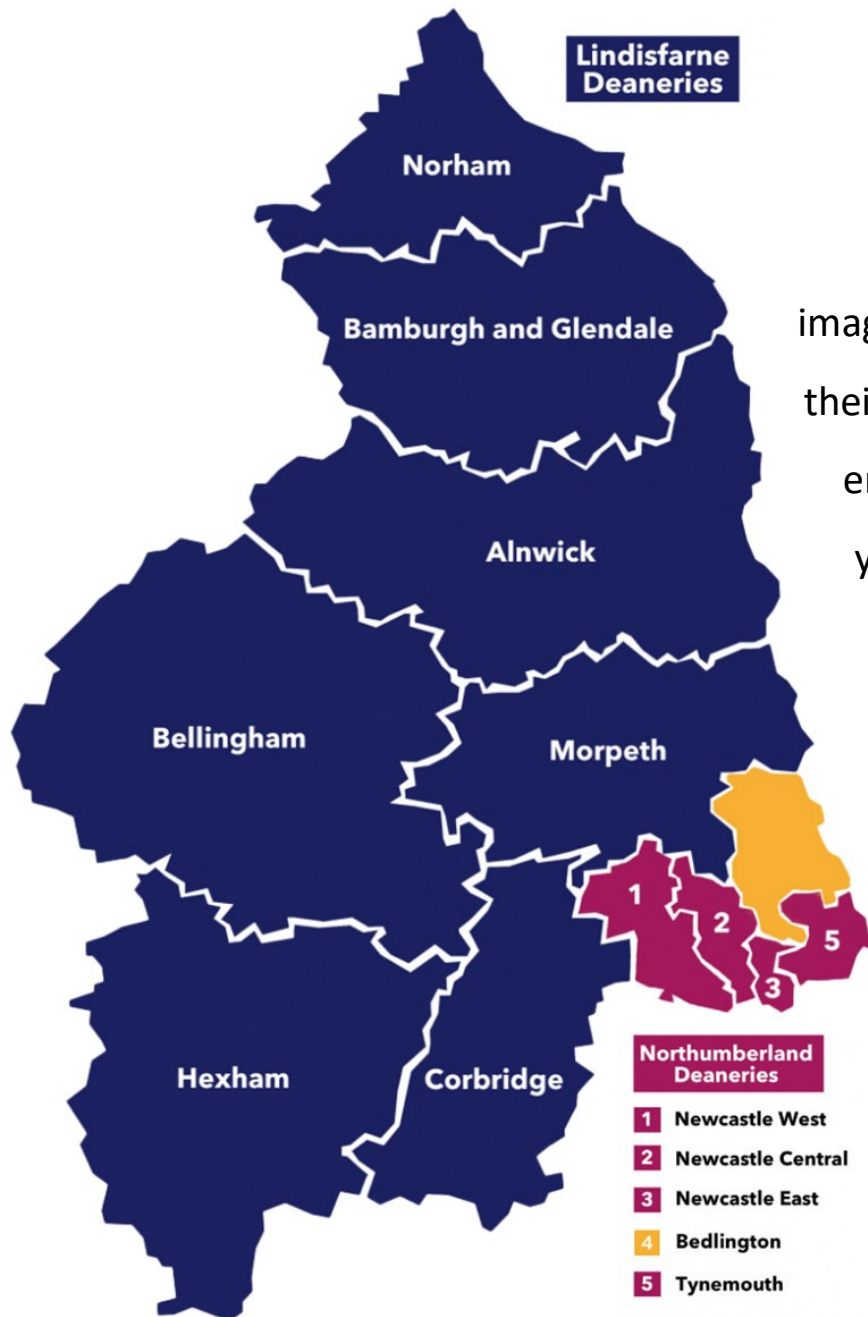


Welcome to the diocese of Newcastle!

Thank you so much for your interest in this role, and I hope you enjoy reading the information contained in this brochure and will find it helpful for your discernment. These are exciting and challenging times in the Diocese of Newcastle. Exciting because we are at an early stage of a new season, challenging because like many dioceses we face conversations about our future and how best we use and deploy our resources. Our Deanery Development work has engaged every parish and benefice in renewed conversations about mission and ministry, and we are in a process of entering a new phase in that work, mapping out our renewed strategy and vision. Our outward facing values of 'seeking, sharing, sending' stem from a commitment to be a Church turning outwards in mission and ministry, and younger and more diverse by: **SEEKING** through being open to God's transforming love; **SHARING** through being generous with God's transforming gifts; **SENDING** through being engaged in God's transforming work in the world.



The Rt Revd Dr Helen-Ann Hartley
Bishop of Newcastle



I am looking for clergy who are excited about the opportunities and challenges we face, who are happy to work collaboratively and imaginatively with colleagues, and who can inspire communities to roll up their sleeves and get stuck into God’s mission, by affirming, enabling, and encouraging lay and clergy together. As your Bishop, I am committed to your wellbeing and development, and I would love to explore with you whether God may be calling you to this role.

The Diocese of Newcastle is the Church of England’s most northerly diocese. This Diocese in the ‘land of the Northern Saints’ was formed in 1882 and comprises **169** parishes across **2,110** square miles. The Diocese covers the local authorities of Northumberland, Newcastle, North Tyneside and also small parts of County Durham and Cumbria.

The **12** deaneries within **2** archdeaconries serve a population of about **831,600** people across a variety of communities ranging from sparse rural to large inner-city areas of deprivation.

About Our Town

Cramlington is a town of about 35,000 people with a demographic younger than the county average. 2024 marks the 60th anniversary of the original village being designated a New Town. Further information about the town can be found here <https://www.cramlingtontowncouncil.gov.uk/>

Our location in south east Northumberland puts us 5 miles from the coast, 10 miles from the busy city of Newcastle and 13 miles from the MetroCentre, one of Europe's largest indoor shopping centres. The church is situated in the heart of Cramlington village, around which the new town has grown. There is an extensive local bus network and an excellent cycle path network.

For more general information on Cramlington visit <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cramlington>.



About Our Town

The town has a wide range of amenities including a shopping centre with several supermarkets and large national retailers, a cinema, and a recently refurbished leisure centre.

Cramlington has excellent road connections, with the A1, A19, A189, running along its edges. We are a 20 minute drive from Newcastle International Airport.

Cramlington Railway station is mainly served by local trains between Carlisle, MetroCentre, Newcastle and Morpeth. Newcastle is around 3 hours from London by train, 85 minutes from Edinburgh and 3½ hours from Birmingham.

The town has one senior school, Cramlington Learning Village, 8 primary schools (including Cragside Church of England school), and Hillcrest specialist school.



The region is steeped in Christian heritage, and Northumberland has more castles than any other English county.

Other attractions in Northumberland include;

- Northumberlandia – located in Cramlington is the world’s largest land sculpture in female form
- multiple English Heritage and National Trust sites including Vanburgh’s Seaton Delaval Hall (just 4 miles away) and large parts of Hadrian’s Wall – a World Heritage site.
- Alnwick Castle and Garden
- Howick Garden – home of Earl Grey
- the Cheviot Hills
- Kielder Water - the largest man-made lake in the UK
- Kielder Forest - largest man-made woodland in England
- Northumberland International Dark Sky Park - the largest Gold Tier Dark Sky Park in Europe
- extensive unspoilt beaches



It has to be one of the best parts of the country and a great place for families to thrive. For further information visit <https://www.visitnorthumberland.com/>

St Nicholas' Church

Ours is a busy, active parish which, thanks to significant lay involvement has a variety of groups meeting regularly, runs Cramlington Parish Social Ministries from the Hope Centre and hosts one-off events both social and/or fundraising.

Worship

We have three regular services each week;

- Sundays at 10:30am
 - This is our main service, in a contemporary style with Holy Communion twice a month.
 - You'll find a music group including singers and a range of instruments and lay people leading the service, reading lessons and leading intercessions. Children's activities are provided in the Parish Centre during the service.
 - This service is streamed live on our YouTube channel:
<https://www.youtube.com/@cramlingtonparish4395/streams>
- Sundays at 8am
 - A quieter, more traditional Holy Communion service.
- Wednesdays at 8am
 - A mid-week service offering a traditional Holy Communion Service.



About Our Worship

We have an active **online presence** with our bright and attractive parish website containing information on the services and many activities in the Parish. Find us at <https://www.cramlingtoncofe.org/>

We have several active Facebook pages and we are on Instagram. Our main Facebook page is here: <https://www.facebook.com/cofe.cramlington>

Prayer support is offered via a Parish prayer chain on WhatsApp, there is a weekly prayer breakfast and occasional prayer evenings or days to support a specific need. Life Group members provide opportunities for prayer support within the group.

Life Groups are an integral part of life at St Nicholas', currently there are seven groups with around 50 members in total. These lay led groups, meet weekly or fortnightly, with programmes to meet their needs. Groups typically include, Bible study, prayer, worship, outreach socialising and taking the lead on a Parish event.

Groups have organised events including an 'open house' in aid of TEAR Fund and a Strawberry Fayre to raise money towards the roof work. Many of them contributed Scarecrows to our recent Harvest Thanksgiving.



About Our Ministry

The Hope Centre, located in the town centre, is the base for Cramlington Parish Social Ministries (CPSM).

The Foodbank is affiliated to the Trussell Trust and provides around 35 parcels weekly in response to referrers such as Social Services, doctors, schools and the Job Centre, feeding about 75 people every week.

Around 40 volunteers are involved, from St Nicholas', other churches or who have no current church connection.

The work is supported by cash and 'in kind' donations from individuals, businesses and regular donations from Greggs, M&S, Sainsbury's, Asda and Aldi in the town.

As well as the Foodbank, there is a baby equipment bank which operates by referral from a Midwife or Health Visitor.

The School Uniform bank is available to anyone, free of charge, on request.

The Friendship In Grief group is one of several who use the meeting rooms in the centre.



There are a range of other activities happening in the parish, both regular and occasional.

Here is a sample of recent events:



About Our Church

The Church Building

St. Nicholas' was built in the mid-1800s replacing a previous chapel which became too small for purpose. There are mentions of chapels on the site dating back to 1135. The church is a focal point within Cramlington and the Church tower remains a prominent landmark to the present day.

The Parish Centre

The Parish Centre is attached to the back of the main church building. Originally built in the 1970s, it was extensively renovated in 2008. It currently comprises a hall with attached kitchen, toilet facilities and a small office. The Parish Centre is currently used for church events and groups as well being available for hire to the wider community.



About Our Rectory

The Rectory is a modern detached house with a lounge, separate dining room, kitchen, utility room and downstairs cloakroom/toilet. There are four bedrooms and one bathroom upstairs. There is a large office area separated from the living areas and a meeting room with separate access and car parking. This space is currently hired out to local community groups.

The Rectory is situated a 10-15 minute walk away from the Church.

There are also two further premises under the care of the church. Cateran Way, a four bedroomed house with separate meeting facilities and Lindsey Close which was previously used by our Curate. Both of these are rented out currently.

For an interactive map of the area go to: tinyurl.com/cramlington

