

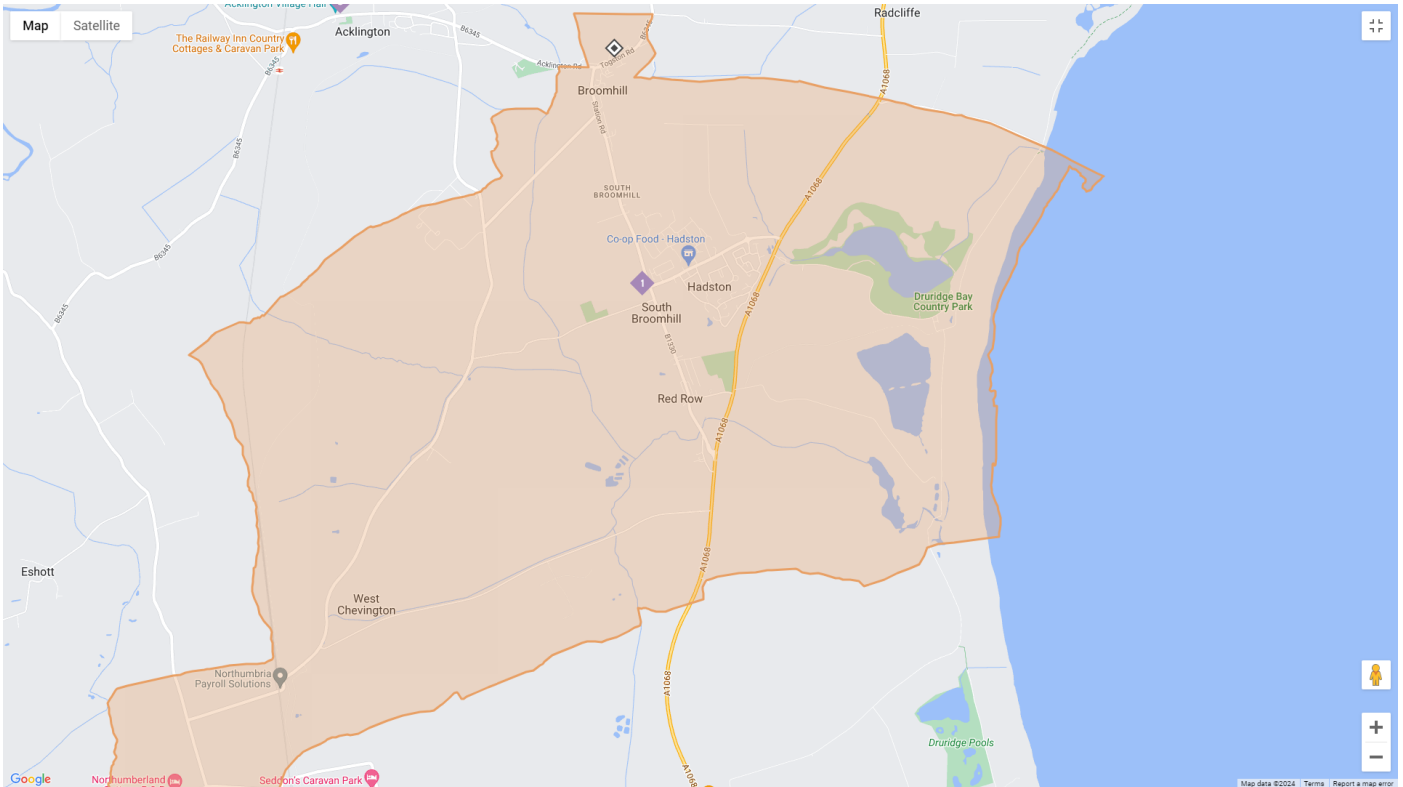
DIOCESE OF NEWCASTLE

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.

Parish map taken from A Church Near You 4 January 2024



I. Parish Information

- 1. Name of Parish:**
Chevington
- 2. Name of Parish church(es)**
St John the Divine
- 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):**
We have no formal links with other parishes, but informally

- members of our congregation have worked with the Messy Church group in Acklington/Shilbottle/Warkworth (ASW) benefice
- Anna Chaplain (Margaret Weaver) from Acklington/Shilbottle/Warkworth (ASW) visits 2 residential care homes in our parish and is supported by lay people from our congregation
- We held a joint celebration of our patronal festival with the neighbouring parish of St John the Divine, Acklington which was well attended.
- We have begun sharing news and events with St Cuthbert's Amble.
- Our rota for Sunday cover is also shared with St Cuthbert's and we support each other in filling in the gaps if needed

5. *Deanery:*

Alnwick

6. *Population:*

4,250 (last updated 2018)

7.(a) *Number on Electoral Roll*

39

(b) *Date of APCM at which this number was declared:*

24th April 2023

7. *Attendance at worship at each church:*

Average Sunday Communicants 15

Average Sunday attendance 15

Average weekday Communicants 0

Average weekday attendance 0

8. *Occasional Offices:*

Number of baptisms in the last 12 months: 8 infants, 2 adults

Number of persons confirmed in the last 12 months: 1

Number of weddings in the last 12 months: 1

Number of funerals in church in the last 12 months: 14

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 is predominately white, British in ethnicity.

The older part of the parish houses people who have lived here, in some cases, for generations, there are newer estates (built in past 10-15 years) and the people there are more likely to be new to the area and commute for work.

Within Chevington and the surrounding communities,

14% of the population are aged 65+,

23% of the population state their day-to-day activities are limited by Health conditions, and 8% claim they are in either bad or very bad health.

In 2021, 24% of people had a limiting long-term illness compared with 18% across England.

22% of children were living in poverty compared with 17% across England.

In recent years the building of new housing in the parish has seen an increase in people moving from the south to our area due to the popularity of Northumberland and its affordability.

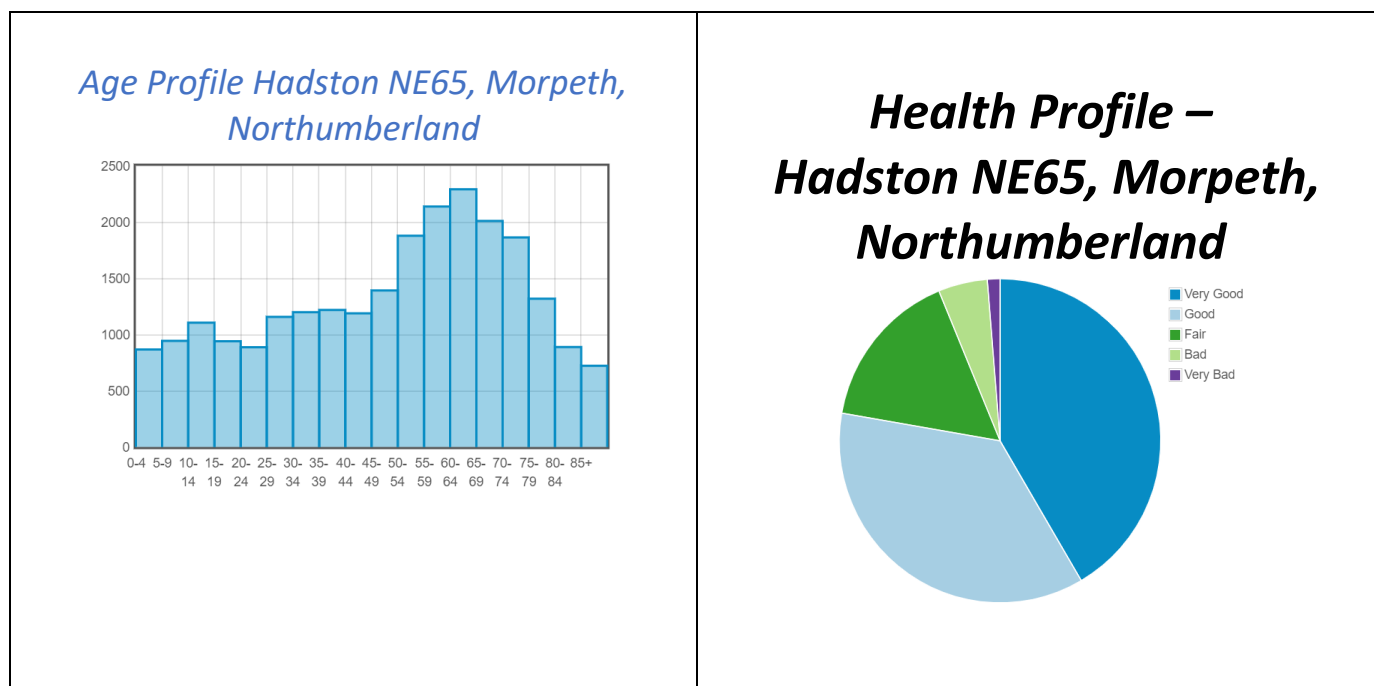
Since Covid the ability for people to work from home has made living here possible for many people.

Our parish boasts one of the county's best beaches and open spaces (Druridge Bay Country Park).

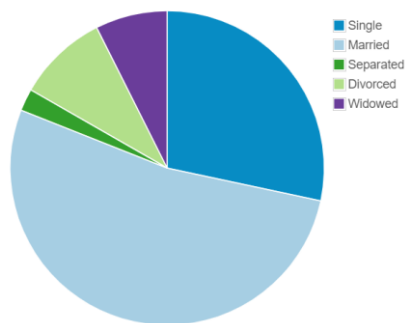
(b) Are there any special social problems, e.g. high unemployment?

Of the working age population in Chevington, 46% are classified as economically inactive, of those 13% are retired and 6% are long-term sick or disabled.

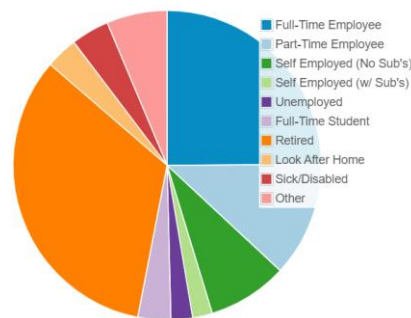
13% have never worked and have been long term-unemployed.



*Relationship Status Hadston NE65,
Morpeth, Northumberland*



**Economic Activity
Status Hadston NE65,**



2. Please list:

Local schools:

Broomhill First School

This is a small school with a nursery / reception class, a year 1 / 2 class and a year 3 / 4 class total number of children approximately 50

Red Row First School

Slightly larger than Broomhill with separate classes for each year group, total children approximately 80

Both schools currently cater for children from nursery age to Year 4; over the next 2 years, that will change to expand to include years 5 & 6

In Amble parish there is James Calvert Spence College which is where the majority of our children complete their education.

Youth centres:

Hadston House Youth and Community Project – Youth service runs three evenings per week, both term time and holidays, with a summer programme that offers a wide range of activities and experiences for young people. The average attendance is 40 young people per session. This service is for children aged 9 – 18.

Family Hub Hadston – offering pre-school five half days a week term time. All maternity/midwife appointments and health checks. Baby and toddler groups for parents covering a wide range of targeted sessions.

Northumberland Army Cadet Force – two evening sessions per week, supporting young people and skill development, cadets support and attend annual remembrance service and have good links with St. John's

Redrow Welfare is a base for grassroots football and sport. The welfare has a new 4G MUGA pitch installed by East Chevington Parish Council in 2022 and a full-size pitch.

Redrow Raptors is a local football team run for children aged 5 - 11.

Hospitals:

None

Nursing/residential homes, sheltered housing:

Elpha Lodge – care home for 24 adults with physical disabilities

Hazelmead – on the same site as Elpha Lodge, providing care for 5 adults with learning disabilities

Stonehaven – care home for 3 adults with physical disabilities or mental health conditions

Heatherdale – care home for 36 older adults, many with dementia or physical ailments which prevent them from living independently

Places of worship of other faiths:

There are no places of worship of other faiths, but there is another Christian place of worship – Hebron Hall

Local businesses:

North Broomhill

The Trap (pub), Togston Terrace Social Club, Beautician, Electrician, Joiner, B&B

Between North Broomhill and Hadston lies Broomhill Farm and also The Old Bath House (former miners baths from the local deep coalmine), this contains an art collective, an engineering firm and a sign writer

Hadston Industrial Estate

Stellex (Aluminium fabrication) and two MOT and car garages

Hadston

The Precinct consisting of CO-OP, a Boots Chemist, a convenience shop, a Hairdresser, a Barber, an Indian Takeout, a Post office, a Paper shop, Furniture repair and refurbishment and a chip shop.

Coquet Medical Group has a centre with GP and nurse services; they have a second centre in Amble.

East Chevington Institute (Working men's club style locally known as 'The Tute').

There are also 2 taxi firms, a painter and decorator, a plasterer and tiler, a plumber, a handyman service, at-home nail technician and beautician, a professional photographer, a professional artist, B&Bs and Holiday lets.

The nearby Druridge Bay Country Park (known locally as 'the lakes') has a café and Visitor Centre.

Red Row

Blacksmiths - renowned for creating many gates for HM's estates. Also a road construction contractor, The Gingerbread Coffee House, Chinese Take-out, The Brick Club (social club), a travel agent and a landscape gardener

West Chevington

Caravan and Campsite, Dog boarding kennels, Luxury self catering holiday lets, B&Bs and a retired greyhounds charity (rehoming)

Neighbourhood initiatives:

Druridge Bay Community Centre (Northumberland County Council) The Centre has a sports hall, equipped kitchen, and lounge for rent 7 days per week. Many groups use this space to run activities.

St John's uses the centre to run monthly coffee mornings, bingo and annual fairs in summer and winter.

A weekly Bingo (Fridays) has run for 40 plus years with good links to St. Johns both in attendance and having a church member leading the committee; H.E.L.P Bingo (Hadston Entertainment and Leisure Project) also helps to run monthly church bingo.

Druridge Bay Craft Club, run and attended by church members and supporters, meets weekly on Wednesdays, often making items for charity and donations to church funds.

Exercise Class meets weekly and is attended by church members.

A music appreciation group (OPAL) meets monthly

There is a branch of the Womens' Institute

Two Carpet Bowls teams meet weekly using the sports hall.

Annually, East Chevington Parish Council holds a panto for locals, charging a minimal ticket price. Always well-attended, 2023's Jack and the Beanstalk saw 140 adults and children enjoy a fun-filled evening. Church members volunteered to set up seating etc.

The Fitness Gym attached to the centre allows for a staffed gym space and holds the local boxing club. Druridge Bay Boxing Club (members of the club have gone professional).

Hadston House Youth and Community Project

Hadston House is a multi-delivering organisation with a sister site in Blyth (Briardale House) with good links to St. John's both in supporting and having church members running services (an active church member leads Youth Service, although this is not a church-run youth group it is run with a Christian ethos for the care, support and guidance of local young people ages 9 to 19)

Hadston House delivers older person services from lunch and activity groups, meals on Wheels, and community Café, and has support staff available to assist with anything from housing to filling.

Within Hadston House, AIM Northeast is available for training, employment and further education support for young people aged 16-25.

A monthly coffee morning takes place that's built to set the day trips arranged for older people each week; some of these trips range from shopping in Cramlington to visiting a Northumbrian Whisky distillery; destinations are decided by the users.

Luncheon clubs run three days per week and are filled with activities, entertainment, and meals. Creating an enjoyable space for older people in and around our local area.

Hadston House operates a community bus, used mainly by Hadston House for transport to and from older person activities and day trips, youth service activities and trips, but often used by other community groups such as Redrow Raptors, Druridge Bay Boxing Club, Redrow First School and has been used by the church.

Northumberland Army Cadet Force – Young people take part in activities such as fieldcraft, adventure training, first aid, music, sports, and shooting. The opportunity to go on an annual camp and expeditions. The Army Proficiency Certificate (APC) training syllabus teaches leadership skills and discipline, giving self-confidence. YP learn a wide range of transferable skills, such as the ability to command, make decisions under pressure, plan and organise, and work as an effective team player as well as independence. Young people can

also gain valuable qualifications such as the Duke of Edinburgh's Award, BTEC First Diploma in Public Services or Music or the ILM Certificate in Team Leading. Our local force is well-attended, and around 20 cadets meet twice per week.

Local associations:

Allotment Association – running, developing, and encouraging home grown local produce across three sites Redrow, Hadston and North Broomhill. Supporting a strong pigeon racing tradition. With profitable garden shop.

Karbon Homes – housing association managing the affordable housing in our parish.

Any civic responsibilities of local clergy:

Remembrance services

The last incumbent took part and led some of the ANZAC Day service (Chevington Cemetery holds the North East's Memorial and graves) (Annual).

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

1.(a) What percentage of the congregation lives outside the parish? 15%

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

St John's congregation consists of mainly retired members; those of the congregation who are working age are employed.

The congregation is mainly white British and 80% female; the majority are aged 60+

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

We are 'middle of the road' Anglican, generally officiants wear alb, stole and chasuble to celebrate the Eucharist.

We have an organ, but no organist, our music is provided on CD and members of the congregation take turns in managing this.

We have a set of stations of the cross and during Lent we observe Stations each Friday.

We have a number of members of the congregation who take part in services by reading, leading intercessions, serving and administering the chalice.

3. Give details of Sunday services with times and form of service used:

10am Eucharist, Common Worship

4. *Give details of weekday services:*

Monthly (Third Thursday) afternoon church – this is an informal service usually on a theme appropriate to the month consisting of hymns, reading and short talk and followed by tea and cake.

Average attendance is 15 with residents from Heatherdale Care Home attending when weather permits.

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

We have a licenced lay reader, Cynthia Bishop, who lives in Shilbottle (9 miles away).

Margaret Weaver, Lay reader, preaches several Sundays each year and runs our care home services. Margaret is licenced to the ASW benefice, but lives in our parish and has had long connections with our church being licenced here prior to joining ASW.

We have a retired priest living in the parish who mainly worships at St Cuthbert's Amble but helps out regularly with events in our parish and leads Sunday worship on our rota.

Over our period in vacancy we have been helped by a number of retired clergy who live in Shilbottle, Warkworth and Hauxley.

6.(a) *What is the average weekly giving of those aged 16 years and older, and what proportion of the giving is gift aided:*

£4.90

(b) *When did the parish last have a stewardship campaign:*

Unknown – more than 10 years ago.

7. *How does each church supplement direct giving in order to meet financial needs (eg fundraising events, hall lettings, occasional offices, investments):*

We have two regular (monthly) social events – a bingo evening and a Saturday coffee morning - which are well attended by members of the local community and these also supplement our direct giving.

We hold 2 major fundraising 'fairs' each year – summer and Christmas.

All of these events are held in the Druridge Bay Community Centre in the centre of Hadston

In 2023 we began to open the church building daily and have received over £100 in donations as a result.

8.(a) *Give details of expenses paid to the incumbent, and state whether this covers them in full.*

We pay the expenses of our lay reader – which covers travel and miscellaneous purchases.

We pay a fee and travel expenses for any of the visiting clergy who lead our Sunday worship - this money is refunded from the Diocese while we are in vacancy

(b) *Is there an annual discussion about the level of expenses as part of the budgeting process:*

Not currently, expenses to date have been low and not a concern to the PCC and Treasurer.

9. *What amount of Share has been (a) requested and (b) paid:*

Last year: 2022 £6000 – paid in full

Current year: 2023 £6000 – paid in full

Next year: 2024 offered £7000

10.(a) *Is there any capital project in hand at the moment:*

Major repair to flat roof on kitchen/vestry extension which had suffered many years of water incursion. Roof was replaced in August/September 2022; interior refurbishment now underway with interior decoration completed September 2023 and new kitchen installed in December 2023.

10.(b) *If so, please give brief details with costs and state how they are to be met:*

Cost of roof and interior works estimated at £13,000

Money was raised through a combination of local fundraising and donations plus applications to charities. We raised the full £13,000 needed within 3 months.

11. *Please attach a copy of the latest statement of accounts.*

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

1.(a) *What is the general state of repair of the churches:*

We have some issues with the nave roof which are under review by our building team. Generally church is in need of some repair which is consistent with the age of the building (built 1858).

(b) *Please give details of any major maintenance needed following the last Quinquennial Inspection:*

Urgent work identified was the flat roof which is almost completed

Church noticeboard was replaced in 2021

Outstanding works

- Survey/maintenance of nave roof
- Condition survey of bellcote masonry
- Lightning protection system

2. *Please give details of church halls and any other ancillary buildings (and an indication of the level of their use).*

None

3. *Is there a churchyard to maintain and who is responsible for its maintenance?*

The churchyard is closed for burials and is maintained by Northumberland County Council.

V. Outreach and Mission

1.(a) *What are the regular mission and outreach activities of the parish:*

School assemblies conducted by Cynthia Bishop and Sheila Orgill in both first schools.

Broomhill school is visited twice per month, Red Row school monthly.

Both schools have invited us to help with specific Christian topics – e.g. making Christingles in preparation for Christmas and Easter activities.

Red Row school hold their annual carol service in church – attended by 200 people in December 2023.

Broomhill school are planning to hold an Easter service in church in 2024.

Our social events – bingo and coffee mornings – while raising funds for church are much more important in getting church members involved and visible in the community and providing a place where local people can meet.

(b) *What are you doing to help people find out about Jesus:*

We have a monthly 'Finding out about Faith' group which talks about many different aspects of being a Christian – from bible study to looking at what we do in church and why

This is an area in which we need development as we have members of the congregation who are actively searching for deeper understanding of what it means to be a Christian

(c) *What are you doing to help grow people in discipleship:*

Monthly 'Finding out about Faith' group

Confirmation classes are run when we have candidates (one person confirmed in 2023)

(d) *What are you doing to grow people in leadership:*

We encourage anyone who wants to explore a leadership role to get involved and we provide support as needed.

2.(a) *Please give details of support for the church overseas:*

None currently

(b) *How much is given annually:*

£0

3.(a) Give details of support for home missions and charities:

We give the proceeds of two of our coffee mornings to charity each year, but the charities chosen depend on circumstances at the time.

In 2023 we gave a donation to DEC for the Turkey earthquake appeal and a second donation to Macmillan Cancer support through their annual coffee morning campaign. We give the collection from our Remembrance Day service to the Royal British Legion.

(b) How much is given annually:

In 2023 we gave a total of £741

- DEC £300
- Macmillan £381
- Royal British Legion £60

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:

No

(b) If so, please describe:

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

Our involvement is through baptisms, weddings and funerals

We hold an annual All Souls service at which we read out the names of those whose funerals have taken place over the past 4 years. We also invite people to add additional names for remembrance and this service is normally attended by 50 people.

We have an annual Carol Service which is again attended by an average of 50 people; in 2023 this formed the conclusion of a Christmas Tree Festival which attracted a lot of visitors over the weekend and we had trees provided by local businesses, schools and care homes.

Since May 2023 we have opened the church daily for people to visit as they please. We know from comments made to members of the congregation that this is appreciated and a number of people do visit regularly.

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

Yes, but we currently have no sick communicants.

(b) If so, who are they:

Cynthia Bishop

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

In 2023 we built on our relationships with the local schools and ran two Messy Mornings – one on the theme of Easter and the other on Creation. These took place in school holidays and were attended by a total of 30 children plus parents. We want to build on this in 2024.

The Hadston House Youth Group is led by a church member, though not specifically as a church project.

VI. Ecumenical Relationships

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

We are a member of Coquet Churches Together which is a local ecumenical group who organise events principally in Amble.

(b) *Is there a formal covenant with any other denomination?*

No

2. *What informal ecumenical contacts are there?*

Coquet Churches Together

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:

Young People:

Adults:

None currently

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

Monthly Finding out about Faith group

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

Lay

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

High, without the strong leadership and determination of our main lay leaders, our congregation may have dwindled.

The support and direction for worship, community activities and initiatives has allowed faith to grow while being in vacancy.

We see ourselves as lucky to have a number of the congregation who want to and do, take part and facilitate worship for others.

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

The overwhelming inspiration of the Holy Spirit – particularly since Covid lockdown began just as we entered our vacancy and it would have been easy to sit back and wither away

IX. Mission

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

Community Outreach – we have good contacts with children through the schools and also with the elderly through our social events. We need to reach people in the 20 – 60 age group and we need to make contact with newer residents in the newer housing estates.

Bringing a new vision to young persons' worship (without excluding or prioritising over the congregation)

Leading in offering help to those in need.

Being open for members to try new things or participate in different aspects of worship. (create a worship team)

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

To be a force for good in the community.

Be present and seen, do things like having a coffee in the Hadston House café from time to time

Build relationships with the whole community.

Develop more activities within the community – possibly using Hadston House and the Family Hub

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

1. Getting known by the newer residents in the parish
2. Making contact with the North Broomhill end of the parish (separated from Hadson and Red Row by ½ mile of open fields)

3. Making more use of the church building – Hadston is the largest village in the parish and the church is on the edge; people don't come up to the church so we need to go to them

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:

They must be a good listener and communicator; able to provide good pastoral support

They must be able to delegate and then let people get on with things – no micro managing but rather a 'light touch' approach

Must be open to suggestions and willing to fully collaborate with laity

We want someone who will build on what is already good and strong in our parish. People have worked hard to build the community within the congregation and we want to build on that, not change everything overnight

We want someone who will value Chevington as highly as Amble (since we expect they will live in Amble)

We want someone who is approachable and friendly, who can laugh and joke with us