

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:* **Scremerston**
2. *Name of Parish church(es)* **St Peter the Apostle**
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):* **Benefice of Scremerston, Spittal and Tweedmouth (BeSST)**
5. *Deanery:* **Norham**
6. *Population:* **509 (2021 Census)**
- 7.(a) *Number on Electoral Roll* **18**
- (b) *Date of APCM at which this number was declared:* **May 7th 2024**
7. *Attendance at worship at each church:*

Average Sunday Communicants **14**
Average Sunday attendance **14**
Average weekday Communicants **0**
Average weekday attendance **0 (no mid-week services)**
8. *Occasional Offices:*

Number of baptisms in the last 12 months: **1**
Number of persons confirmed in the last 12 months: **0**
Number of weddings in the last 12 months: **0**
Number of funerals in church in the last 12 months: **4**
Number of funerals taken by clergy not in church in the last 12 months: **0**

II. The Local Community

- 1.(a) *Briefly describe the population in terms of any predominant age and/or social groups, the ethnic mix etc:*
Predominantly white, British, under 14: 13%; 15-29: 14% 30-44: 13%, 45-64: 35%, 65+: 25%
- (b) *Are there any special social problems, e.g. high unemployment?*

Limited public transport; no local shops; isolated older folk.

2. *Please list:*

Local schools: **Scremerston First School (due to become a full primary school)**

Youth centres: **0**

*Hospitals:***0**

Nursing/residential homes, sheltered housing: **Armstrong Court sheltered housing - 28 units)**

Places of worship of other faiths: **Kingdom Hall (Jehovah's Witnesses)**

Local businesses:

Farming, holiday lets, self-employed artisans, Outdoor Sports Store with café, Holiday Camp with public restaurant & activity centre Berwick Rugby Club and Hall with catering.

Neighbourhood initiatives:

Christmas Lights, Santa's Tour for Children with refreshments afterwards in church, Summer Fete, Fund-raising for local charities

Local associations:

Scremerston Community Action Group, Knit & Knatter Group Fortnightly Coffee Morning

Any civic responsibilities of local clergy: **None**

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

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

66% (Many members have strong family connections with the village and especially the churchyard)

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

Congregation ranges in age from 30's to 80+

Employment: Book-seller, shop assistants, domestic helpers; early retired and retired.

Culture: Long histories of life in North Northumberland

Ethnicity: white

Gender: even balance between women and men

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

Low CofE; Common Worship for all services; Choir Dress with Cassock Alb and Stole for Holy Communion, full set of seasonal colours for altar frontals. Chasubles for festivals

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

First and fifth Sundays: Morning Worship at 11:00am

Third Sunday: Holy Communion at 11:00am

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):*

Retired Clergy with PTO: Rev Linda Chapman, Rev Mic Johnson

Readers: Gordon Chapman (PTO), Phil Rowett

Authorized Lay Worship Leaders: Jennie Ritchie, Barbara Donaldson

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

Collections (Fortnightly): £6.70

Gif-aided giving: £340 per month

(b) *When did the parish last have a stewardship campaign: **October 2024***

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

Street Collection for Churchyard, Church lettings, Occasional offices.

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

Incumbents expenses covered by Tweedmouth Parish on behalf of the whole Benefice

(b) *Is there an annual discussion about the level of expenses as part of the budgeting process: **No***

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

Last year: (a) **£8400** (b) **£8400**

Current year: (a) **£8400** (b) **£6100**

Next year: (a) **£6600**

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:*

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:*

St Peter's Church is generally sound. Effective heating system. Interior needs repainting. Having recently dealt with wet rot under some floorboards, there may well be further problems. Quinquennial inspection is due in 2025.

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

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?*

The PCC is responsible for our active open churchyard. There is grave space for several more years.

V. Outreach and Mission

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

Warm hub on alternative Thursday mornings, Church stall at annual village fete.

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

Try Praying campaign; church is open every day for prayer, pick-up literature, pastoral care in community.

- (c) *What are you doing to help grow people in discipleship:*
Oasis study group, extended after-church fellowship where people are increasingly demonstrating the Body of Christ in action.
- (d) *What are you doing to grow people in leadership:*
Two members are embarking on training in Pastoral Care
- 2.(a) *Please give details of support for the church overseas:* **None**
- (b) *How much is given annually:* **N/A**
- 3.(a) *Give details of support for home missions and charities:* **N/A**
- (b) *How much is given annually:* **N/A**
- 4.(a) *Does the parish have an overseas link:* **No but Benefice does on our behalf**
- (b) *If so, please state where/who*
- 5.(a) *Is there an organised system of outreach and welcome to new families:*
With Baptism families now in the mix we hope to progress in this rea.
- (b) *If so, please describe:*
6. *What part does the church play in community care:* **Warm Hub for those struggling with heating.**
- 7.(a) *Are there Lay Eucharistic Assistants who take communion to the sick:* **Yes**
- (b) *If so, who are they:* **Elizabeth Thoday in training, Jennie Ritchie**
8. *What work does the church undertake with young people, other than in church based organisations (eg open youth work):* **Nothing at present.**

VI. Ecumenical Relationships

- 1(a) *Involvement in local Council of Churches* **Incumbent normally involved with Berwick Churches Together**
- (b) *Is there a formal covenant with any other denomination?* **No**
2. *What informal ecumenical contacts are there?* **Personal, Lent Lunches**

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: **None**

Young People: **None**

Adults: **None**

- 2.(a) *Give details of house/prayer groups:* **Oasis study group (meets fortnightly)**

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

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

- (b) *To what do you credit this strength or the lack of it:* **Long experience, strength of fellowship, sense of mission, team spirit.**

IX. Mission

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

Deepening prayer life, encouraging study amongst our older members, pastoral care.

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

Outreach generally, particularly developing the work for younger age groups.

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

Prepare to be present and approachable in the community of Scremerston.

Supportive and encouraging to the congregation as they learn to reach out.

Develop strong links with Scremerston School and associated families.

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.

Scremerston is a strong well-established village rather than being extension of an urban or suburban development. The church has solid links with this local community who increasingly see the church building as the “hub” of the village and a meeting place for local groups. For a long time, a weekly pattern of morning services, both Holy Communion and Morning Worship, sustained a growing and faithful congregation drawn from the village and from those with strong family links to the church and churchyard. In 2023 the worship pattern was changed to 2 evening services a month. As winter drew in and evenings darkened the congregation dwindled to low single figures and giving was equally reduced. After a year the pattern has been changed back to 2 morning services a month and the congregation has grown back to the old levels with a number of newcomers attracted by the warm supportive fellowship to be found at every service. The congregation longs for the new incumbent who will support this local congregation in being a source of support and hope for the whole village.

XI. The new parish priest

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

A person of empathy, skilled in 2-way communication with all groups, faithful in preaching the Word of God. Essential that the person has experience of a diverse multi-parish ministry