

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:* **Christ the King, Newcastle**
2. *Name of Parish church(es):* **St Columba's, Wideopen**
3. *Name of other C of E churches/centres for public worship in the parish:* **3 (St Aidan's, Brunton Park; St Matthew's, Dinnington; St Cuthbert's, Brunswick)**
4. *Group of parishes in which you work (formally or informally):*
5. *Deanery:* **Newcastle Central Deanery**
6. *Population:* **10,770**
- 7.(a) *Number on Electoral Roll:* **63**
- (b) *Date of APCM at which this number was declared:* **April 21st 2024**
7. *Attendance at worship at each church:*
Average Sunday Communicants **27**
Average Sunday attendance **27**
Average weekday Communicants **7**
8. *Occasional Offices:*
Number of baptisms in the last 12 months: **7**
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: **8**
Number of funerals taken by clergy not in church in the last 12 months: **5**

II. The Local Community

- 1.(a) *Briefly describe the population in terms of any predominant age and/or social groups, the ethnic mix etc:*
An old colliery village with council housing, 50's and 60's "semi-detached" estates with lots of bungalows and an increasingly aging population, and new modern estates with younger families. Population of mixed ages, largely white British with little ethnic mix.

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

There are fairly low levels of crime. There is some social deprivation, and a relatively high level of children on free school meals. The area is a mix of a fairly traditional working-class community, and newer more aspirational estates.

2. *Please list:*

Local schools: **Greenfields Primary School, North Gosforth Academy, Hazelwood Primary School**

Youth centres: **0**

Hospitals: **0**

Nursing/residential homes, sheltered housing: **Weetslade Assisted Living, Parkside Court Sheltered Housing, Chapelville Sheltered Housing**

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

Local businesses: **CO-OP, Vets, Barbers, Hairdressers, Convenience Stores, Gym, Funeral Director, Library, Dentist, Doctors, Garage, Post Office, Chemist, Podiatrist, Dog Grooming, Public Houses**

Neighbourhood initiatives: **School-run Community Hub (Foodbank, and other community resources); Warm Hub – Church-run drop-in during winter months; Toddler group – held in church;**

Local associations: **Air Training Corps; Women's Institute; Wideopen Junior Football Club; Seaton Burn Cricket Club; Cubs, Scouts, Brownies and Guides – all meeting at St John's URC; Woodland Hall Association – Community Centre; Daverson Hall – Community Centre.**

Any civic responsibilities of local clergy: **Remembrance Parade to War Memorial at Seaton Burn**

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

1.(a) *What percentage of the congregation lives outside the parish?* **5%**

(b) *Describe the congregation in terms of age, employment, culture, ethnicity and gender:*
c.85% retired over 65, c.80% Female, c.95% white, with one Tamil-speaking family.

2. *Please describe the tradition of your church and give details of robes/vestments worn by officiants:*
Modern Catholic – open to further modernisation of their services. Alb, Stole, and Chasuble

3. *Give details of Sunday services with times and form of service used:*
**10.00am, Common Worship with Hymns Parish Eucharist;
Currently once a month 8.00am, Common Worship Holy Communion**

4. *Give details of weekday services:* **Wednesday 9.30am, Common Worship Holy Communion**

5. *List any authorised ministers (e.g. Reader, Church Army Officer, Ordained Local Minister, Non-stipendiary Minister, Curate in training, retired Clergy):* **Part of a team ministry comprising Team Rector (St Aidan's, Brunton Park), Team Vicar (St Matthew's, Dinnington and St Cuthbert's, Brunswick), and Curate in training; a Children and Families worker working across the parish, with hours set-aside to develop**

work at St Columba's; one Authorised Lay Worship Leader; one retired priest associated with St Columba's, two further retired priests within the team and able to offer support.

- 6.(a) *What is the average weekly giving of those aged 16 years and older, and what proportion of the giving is gift aided:* **Around £15 a week; we have 26 gift aided contributors**
- (b) *When did the parish last have a stewardship campaign:* **During the interregnum, this year, with a letter, leaflet and talk from the Diocesan Generosity Advisor - previously some years ago.**
7. *How does each church supplement direct giving in order to meet financial needs (eg fundraising events, hall lettings, occasional offices, investments):* **Fund Raising – with several events held through the year. Hall Lettings.**
- 8.(a) *Give details of expenses paid to the incumbent, and state whether this covers them in full.*
No expenses were previously claimed, however the DCC would of course cover future expenses in full.
- (b) *Is there an annual discussion about the level of expenses as part of the budgeting process:*
No, as the previous incumbent claimed none
9. *What amount of Share has been (a) requested and (b) paid:*
Last year: **30,000**
Current year: **30,000**
Next year: **30,000**
- 10.(a) *Is there any capital project in hand at the moment:* **A planned stained glass window for the chapel in memory of a generous legacy gift.**
- 10.(b) *If so, please give brief details with costs and state how they are to be met:* **A sum of £5000 has been set aside from a Bequest.**
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 state of repair**
- (b) *Please give details of any major maintenance needed following the last Quinquennial Inspection:*
None as of August 2024, however the need to set aside a budget for potential major roof repairs in future was raised at the inspection.
2. *Please give details of church halls and any other ancillary buildings (and an indication of the level of their use).* **Church Hall: in use 5 days per week**
3. *Is there a churchyard to maintain and who is responsible for its maintenance?* **Yes, though it is largely a car park. Maintenance is by a church member.**

V. Outreach and Mission

- 1.(a) *What are the regular mission and outreach activities of the parish:*
Community outreach through weekly Warm Hub during colder months. This is well attended and reaches the wider community. Also an annual Christmas Tree Festival, Summer and Christmas fairs,

Film and Quiz afternoons, Coffee Mornings, Musical evenings, and other events throughout the year. Engagement with Greenfield Primary School, with regular visits to the church around festival times. Our Children and Families Worker is developing this, and will also be taking a church Open the Book team into the school.

A new monthly, family oriented service on Sunday afternoons, developed by our Children and Families worker with a team from St Columba's.

Hosting the WI and MU meetings.

Sunday and Wednesday worship open to all.

- (b) *What are you doing to help people find out about Jesus:* **We hope that our life as a church reflects our faith in Christ as we offer pastoral care, support, and community space to those around us. We are particularly seeking to develop our outreach to Children and Families through recently employing a Children and Families worker.**
- (c) *What are you doing to help grow people in discipleship:* **We hold regular Lent groups with the team. We offer opportunities to serve in liturgical roles and grow in faith through our worship.**
- (d) *What are you doing to grow people in leadership:* **We have an Authorised Lay Worship Leader. The Warm Hub is entirely lay-led and developed. One of our young people was invited to join the DCC, and also to lead the Eco Group within St Columba's, though he stepped down when going to University. Lay people play an active role in our liturgy.**
- 2.(a) *Please give details of support for the church overseas:* **In prayer and occasional collections for certain events, and also Christian Aid**
- (b) *How much is given annually:* **To Christian Aid: c.£600 annually**
- 3.(a) *Give details of support for home missions and charities:* **We support the Children's Society financially. We also support the People's Kitchen at Harvest, donate toiletries to a Refugee Charity, donate clothes to a Community Hub in the West End of Newcastle.**
- (b) *How much is given annually:* **Children's Society: c.600 annually.**
- 4.(a) *Does the parish have an overseas link:* **The Mother's Union does**
- (b) *If so, please state where/who:* **MU branch of All Saints Church, Dooralong, Australia**
- 5.(a) *Is there an organised system of outreach and welcome to new families:* **Yes**
- (b) *If so, please describe:* **We have regular baptisms, with a visit and preparation in advance. We are developing new outreach, welcome, and baptism follow-up with our Children and Families worker.**
6. *What part does the church play in community care:* **Our Warm Hub is well used. We support a toddler group that runs in the church. The WI and MU are both well supported. Our community events offer social space for the community. We are hoping to support the local school in developing it's Community Hub.**
- 7.(a) *Are there Lay Eucharistic Assistants who take communion to the sick:* **Yes**
- (b) *If so, who are they:* **2 Lay People**

8. *What work does the church undertake with young people, other than in church based organisations (eg open youth work):* **There is a Parish Youth Group, though currently no young people from St Columba's attending. This is an area that needs developing and our Children and Families worker is helping us.**

VI. Ecumenical Relationships

- 1(a) *Involvement in local Council of Churches –* **There is a Churches Together grouping which includes St John's United Reform Church and Sacred Heart Roman Catholic Church, as well as the CofE churches in the Team Parish. We meet annually for Lent Lunches with this group.**
- (b) *Is there a formal covenant with any other denomination?* **No**
2. *What informal ecumenical contacts are there?* **The North East United in Christ Fellowship, a Tamil-speaking congregation, meets monthly in St Columba's church building. Members of this fellowship also support their local churches, including families at both St Columba's and St Aidan's.**

VII. Church Education and Social Provision

- 1.(a) *Name of Church School(s), if applicable:* **None**
- (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: **Currently none**
Young People: **Currently none**
Adults: **Lent Courses (around 5-6)**
- 2.(a) *Give details of house/prayer groups:* **Currently none**
- (b) *Are the leaders clergy or lay:* **N/A**
- 3.(a) *How do you rate the strength of lay leadership:* **There is strong lay participation, but leadership has not been actively developed or enabled in the recent past.**
- (b) *To what do you credit this strength or the lack of it:* **The culture of the church has historically been very clergy-led. That has largely not changed through recent incumbencies.**

IX. Mission

1. *List areas of church life which you consider in need of development:* **We recognise that we need to grow and reach a new generation if the church is to continue its witness. We have a nucleus of good, willing workers, and need compassionate leadership to enable us in our mission and worship. We have felt a**

lack of pastoral care, and need someone to lead our pastoral care (we don't need an incumbent to do this single-handedly).

2. *What are the main areas of mission that you think the new priest should prioritise in their ministry:*
Children, young people and Families.
Engagement with new estates in the area.
Developing a positive presence in the community.
3. *In summary, what are the top three challenges with which you and the new priest need to engage:*
Attracting new families; providing pastoral support to the current congregation; developing the worshipping life of the church in order to better engage with our wider community.

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. **St Columba's feels it has had a difficult recent past. The experience of a particularly damaging incumbency was followed by Covid, and an incumbent who helped to heal some of the wounds of the past, but was not as gifted in energising us for the future. Despite this, the church is one that has cared for and supported one another through hard times. Our commitment to the church we helped to build 40 years ago, and that has offered us love and support, is strong and deep. We want the church to survive and to flourish for future generations, and are ready to adjust to the challenges of our church's future.**

St Columba's has traditionally held a High-Anglican tradition, but we are aware that this may need to change, or be flexible if the church is to survive. We are willing to experiment and try new things in the service of the church we love.

St Columba's is part of the Inclusive Church network.

XI. The new parish priest

List the qualities and skills you would like to see the new priest: **In our discussions we discerned the term 'Compassionate Leadership':**

We recognise the need to be energised and directed to grow as a church, and to engage with future generations.

We want an incumbent who can nurture, guide, hold and lead a congregation that is bruised by the experiences of the past.

We recognise the real need for good pastoral care, but don't need the incumbent to do it single-handedly.

We need compassionate leadership to enable the potential at St Columba's to be nurtured into life.