

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:*
Kingston Park
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):*
None at present
5. *Deanery:*
Newcastle Central Deanery

6. *Population:*
At the 2021 census, the population was 7261; new building has added to this figure and there are currently about 3450 households. A recently approved planning application will add around 900 homes to the parish.

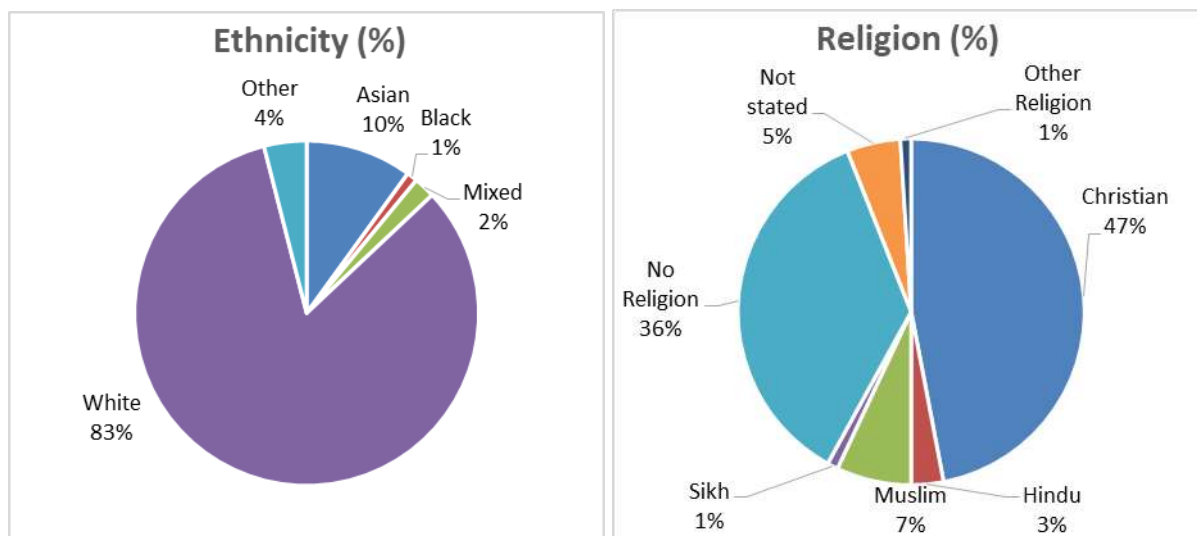
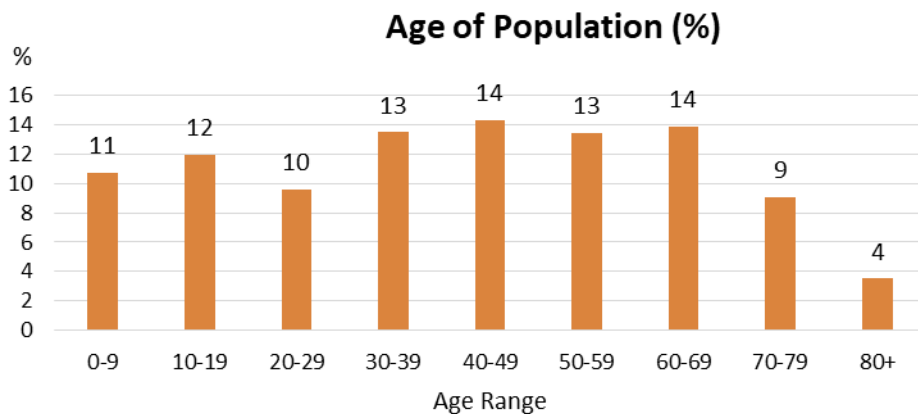
As a Local Ecumenical Partnership, we record our membership on a Common Roll. At our Annual Meeting (21 04 2024) this consisted of 86 members (Anglican 33, Baptist 10, Methodist 25, United Reformed 8, Joint 10).

- (a) *Number on Electoral Roll:*
73
- (b) *Date of APCM at which this number was declared:*
21 04 2024
7. *Attendance at worship at each church:*
Average Sunday Communicants
We currently have c. monthly Sunday Holy Communion 80
Average Sunday attendance
80
Average weekday Communicants
10
Average weekday attendance
10

8. *Occasional Offices:*
Number of baptisms in the last 12 months:
 Three
Number of persons confirmed in the last 12 months:
 Two
Number of weddings in the last 12 months:
 None
Number of funerals in church in the last 12 months:
 None
Number of funerals taken by clergy not in church in the last 12 months:
 Four

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 figures in this section are based on 2021 census data. (Data from Church of England Research and Statistics Unit.)

- (b) *Are there any special social problems, e.g. high unemployment?*
 The area is not noted for any particular social problems, though there have been some issues with vandalism, antisocial behaviour and other crime. There is some concern in the community about the lack of activities for teenagers and a need for activities to reduce social isolation and bring people together.

2. *Please list:*

Local schools:

Kingston Park Primary School

Youth centres:

None.

Hospitals:

None in the parish. The RVI and Freeman Hospitals are the main hospitals in the wider area. There is also a Psychiatric Hospital near by, that serves a wide area including the parish.

Nursing/residential homes, sheltered housing:

Cranlea (Anchor Housing) care home is located next to the Church Building. We take services there on a monthly basis.

Places of worship of other faiths:

None.

Local businesses:

There is a considerable number of businesses in the Parish, particularly retail businesses. There is a large Tesco, a shopping area opposite the Church building, including a recently opened Aldi and a retail park. We have received support for projects from the Tesco Community Champion.

Neighbourhood initiatives:

N/A

Local associations:

Kingston Park Community Association, which runs the local community centre

Any civic responsibilities of local clergy:

None at present

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

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

c. 50%

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

Age: 0-17 17.5%, 18-69 56.24%, 70+ 26.25%

The congregation includes an increasing number of people from diverse ethnic backgrounds, including people from China or of Chinese heritage (including Hong Kong) and people from Africa. A number of asylum seekers from different backgrounds worship with us. As suggested by the age profile there are a number of retired and semi-retired people as well as people in a variety of employment. No one gender predominates.

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

There is a wide spectrum of theology and liturgical traditions within the people of St. John's. The type of vestments used would be at the discretion of the ministers but with sensitivity to the various traditions of the congregation and the needs of the occasion.

3. *Give details of Sunday services with times and form of service used:*
 10.00 Morning Worship. The form varies; it is generally informal with limited written liturgy and is usually led by one or more of our team of Worship Leaders/Preachers. There are occasional all age services and other specials such as Café Church. Currently there is a Sunday Eucharist about once a month, which does tend to be more of a formal liturgy; the celebrants come from each of our traditions; children are welcome to take communion; non-alcoholic wine is used and currently the elements are taken out to the worshippers in their seats. Music is mostly provided by the worship band.
4. *Give details of weekday services:*
 Wednesday 12.30 Eucharist. A short spoken service.
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 Methodist Minister, Deacon Jill Henderson (shared with another Church), with whom the appointed Priest would jointly minister at St. John's.
 List of others: two Readers; two fully accredited Methodist Local Preachers (one of whom is also a URC Assembly Accredited Preacher) and a Local Preacher On Note; three Supernumerary Methodist Ministers.
- 6.(a) *What is the average weekly giving of those aged 16 years and older, and what proportion of the giving is gift aided:*
 2022: £1131. 62 regular givers; 45 gift aid.
 2023: £1243. 67 regular givers, 53 gift aid.
- (b) *When did the parish last have a stewardship campaign:*
 There is an annual process encouraging the congregation to consider their (financial) giving. Some years it is a letter to each person and other years there is more of a 'campaign'. Other forms of stewardship are considered from time to time.
7. *How does each church supplement direct giving in order to meet financial needs (eg fundraising events, hall lettings, occasional offices, investments):*
 The building is used intensively for a range of church-based and commercial/charitable/community-based activities. This is a welcome source of income (and also more broadly part of our mission). Such fundraising events as there are tend to be for other organisations. Any income from occasional offices is very welcome but is not part of our budgeting process, the provision of the service is more important than the financial gain. We endeavour to be good stewards when it comes to investment income, i.e. maximising the return with the constraints of sufficient money being available for mission at relatively short notice and the investments being as ethical as possible, rather than investment being a major income stream.
- 8.(a) *Give details of expenses paid to the incumbent, and state whether this covers them in full.*
 Ministers' expenses will be paid subject to receipts, mileage at HMRC rates, an agreed percentage of phone costs for church business (for the last long-term minister this was 25% of annual charges). Council tax and water rates are paid.
- (b) *Is there an annual discussion about the level of expenses as part of the budgeting process:*
 Yes, this is part of our budgeting process.

9. *What amount of Share has been (a) requested and (b) paid:*
 We have an agreed formula for paying our Parish Share/Assessments to each of the denominations and we pay that in full.
 Total payments to all denominations 2022 £60,893
 Total payments to all denominations 2023 £64,493
 Total payments to all denominations 2024 £67,910
- 10.(a) *Is there any capital project in hand at the moment:*
 We are in the process of reviewing options to renew heating boilers within the building.
- 10.(b) *If so, please give brief details with costs and state how they are to be met:*
 We are currently seeking estimates; a figure of £33,000 is the absolute minimum that will be required, and costs could be much higher (may be as much as £133,000). We have some reserves earmarked for this and will be seeking grants. Faculty is about to be granted for the works and this has led us to re-examine the options, not just like-for-like replacement.
11. *Please attach a copy of the latest statement of accounts.*
 Attached as appendix to the Profile.

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

- 1.(a) *What is the general state of repair of the churches:*
 The building is 40 years old and is in reasonable order. As stated above, a major project is underway to renew the original heating system. Over the next few years we anticipate a continuing need to spend on building works.
- (b) *Please give details of any major maintenance needed following the last Quinquennial Inspection:*
 The recent Quinquennial Inspection was completed in July 2024, the works recommended are mostly minor items of repair. There are some longer term works recommended that we will look to plan over the coming years.
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?*
 No.

V. Outreach and Mission

- 1.(a) *What are the regular mission and outreach activities of the parish:*
 Living Word, online bible study particularly aimed at enquirers
 Tiny Tots, toddler group
 The Hub, drop-in
 The Beacon, drop-in coffee morning
 Monthly service at the local care home
 Community Craft Group
 Messy Church
 School holiday craft mornings
 Summer Community events on the green
 Carol Singing

- (b) *What are you doing to help people find out about Jesus:*
We use our activities, particularly the above, to make connections and build relationships. We have held enquirers courses e.g. Simply Christianity and Alpha and are planning another Alpha Course for the New Year.
- (c) *What are you doing to help grow people in discipleship:*
Junior Church
Small Groups
Sunday Worship, which includes from time to time sermon series geared to the needs of the congregation
- (d) *What are you doing to grow people in leadership:*
This is an area we need to develop. We have a Methodist Local Preacher in training and others are exploring vocations. We recently did an exercise to encourage people to use their gifts and talents.
- 2.(a) *Please give details of support for the church overseas:*
We give 10% of our income to charities each year, one quarter of that is given directly to Overseas Mission (to each of our four denominations in a four yearly cycle). Often one or more of the other charities will also be concerned with Overseas Mission.
- (b) *How much is given annually:*
2023 (from 2022 income) £2350
- 3.(a) *Give details of support for home missions and charities:*
See 2(a) and in addition we raise money for Christian Aid, Action for Children, Salvation Army and occasional other charities. We support a local food bank and asylum seekers in a local hotel. We participate annually in Operation Christmas Child
- (b) *How much is given annually:*
2023(from 2022 income) £7080
- 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:*
This is very much something we are hoping our new ministers will help us develop.
- (b) *If so, please describe:*
N/A
6. *What part does the church play in community care:*
We run a toddler group, a craft club, and two drop-in sessions, all aimed at combatting social isolation.
- 7.(a) *Are there Lay Eucharistic Assistants who take communion to the sick:*
At present this is handled by our retired ministers and is something our Deacon is wanting to do.

(b) *If so, who are they:*

N/A

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

None

VI. Ecumenical Relationships As an LEP we are ecumenical. Geographically we are some distance from any other churches except the small independent church that meets in the community centre.

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

There is not a local Council of Churches structure covering this parish; however, North East Churches Acting Together (NECAT) is the sponsoring body for our LEP.

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

We are a single congregation LEP, participating denominations in addition to the Church of England are the Baptist Union, the Methodist Church and the United Reformed Church.

2. *What informal ecumenical contacts are there?*

There is some contact with the independent church that meets in the community centre.

VII. Church Education and Social Provision

1.(a) *Name of Church School(s), if applicable:*

N/A

(b) *Aided?*

Controlled?

Foundation?

N/A

(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:

Junior Church meets most Sundays as part of our worship. There are 16 children on the register with 8-10 attending regularly (aged from 5-11)

Young People:

Currently no formal provision

Adults:

There have been occasional courses for specific purposes that included education and training; safeguarding training is mandated for many and offered to all; other specific training also takes

place. Some sermon series might be considered to include a large element of education and a lot of the activities of the 'small groups' are related to education and training –see below

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

There are regular prayer meetings (every two months) and a prayer chain; There are a number of weekly 'small groups': an on-line group currently led by one of our Ministers; a group that meets in members' homes and three groups that meet in the church building. There are in addition study groups meeting occasionally e.g. for Lent.

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

Most are lay but the on-line group that began in COVID and has more of a focus on enquirers is led by one of our Ministers.

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

We have a lot of strength in this area, in particular in preaching and leading worship. Our children's worker and Junior Church leaders are very experienced but we are finding it difficult to bring others into this work. We feel a particular weakness in the area of pastoral care. St John's has never been a church where we expect the ministers to do everything; most areas of church life are led by lay people.

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

Contributing factors include the recent growth of the church; a long history of lay participation, strongly encouraged by our ministers; COVID; and some historical events that particularly impacted our pastoral care system.

IX. Mission

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

Developing our vision for growing God's kingdom

Pastoral care both in the Church and in the community

Links with the community including the local primary school

Nurturing individuals in spiritual growth and discipleship, including further development of small groups

Encouraging and enabling members of the congregation to become fully part of the life of St. John's

Work with older children and teenagers

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

The person appointed will work alongside Deacon Jill Henderson, as well as the wider team, and she is already expected to take primary responsibility for pastoral care and community outreach.

Thus the priest appointed will be expected to prioritise the spiritual growth and discipleship of the congregation.

There is also an expectation they will be the 'team leader'. This will involve encouraging vision and direction for the whole church.

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

To help us to articulate and realise our vision for growing God's kingdom, developing work with older children and teenagers, and encouraging and nurturing growth in discipleship.

Re-establishing pastoral care is also one of our top challenges; our Methodist minister will take the lead in this.

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.

Our ecumenical nature is extremely important to us, as is our community focus. Ministers at St John's will encounter people of many denominational backgrounds and none, and a wide variety of viewpoints and traditions. There is a strong feeling in the congregation that our minister should live in the parish.

We have a considerable number of preachers and worship leaders; it is neither necessary nor expected that the ministers will lead all or even most services. This has freed our ministers to use Sunday mornings to make connections with people, especially newcomers and those with particular needs. We cannot over-emphasise how valuable this has been.

XI. The new parish priest

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

We are seeking a minister with the following essential characteristics:

1. A deep and mature personal Christian faith.
2. Able to work well as part of a team of clergy and with other leaders and the congregation in general.
3. Approachable, able to relate well to a wide variety of people.
4. Able to work enthusiastically and sensitively in an ecumenical setting, and with a congregation which encompasses a broad range of traditions and viewpoints.
5. An empowering, enabling leader, able to motivate others, whose approach is genuinely collaborative whilst remaining true to themselves.
6. Committed to supporting the congregation in developing our discipleship and mission, outreach and community relations.
7. Able to encourage and motivate individuals in discipleship, service, and the development and use of their gifts.
8. Good communication skills: able to communicate clearly and with relevance, in an interesting and engaging way.
9. A compassionate person, able to provide pastoral care to people within and outside the church.
10. A passionate leader of worship and encourager of other leaders of worship, able to bring their particular gifts and traditions but also able to encourage other traditions.
11. Concern for and supportive of the development of children's and youth ministry.
12. Able to use information technology such as email, PowerPoint and social media.

Agreed 11 09 2024