

Parish Profiles

Haltwhistle

Greenhead

Beltingham with Henshaw



SEPTEMBER 2021

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Holy Cross Church, Haltwhistle & St Cuthbert's Church, Greenhead

In the Diocese of Newcastle

Our Shared Mission Statement

Our Church is a place of love and learning,
of holiness and hospitality, of friendliness and fellowship,
of mission and outreach
and a place of generosity and goodness.

Welcome to our parish profile

The document you are about to read was put together shortly after the departure of our last incumbent in July 2018. It has been recently edited and updated.

The past three years have brought many changes. The global pandemic has affected the whole of life. The financial situation of the Church of England and the Diocese of Newcastle demands new ways of being church.

What has not changed is the faithful witness to Christ of our congregations through worship, prayer, and community service; their generosity in offering their gifts in practical ways; and their hope for a pastor who will bring fresh energy and vision to these distinctive communities.

As church communities we are “on board” with the changes that we know must come in these next few years.

We look forward to working much more closely with each other, and the neighbouring parishes of Beltingham and Henshaw, in the expectation that together we will become a single benefice within the next two or three years.

We recognise that, particularly in Haltwhistle, our witness will be strengthened by partnership with Christians of other traditions, most notably the Methodist church.

We understand the necessity of developing the range of lay ministry, not merely to “support the vicar” but to express the reality of being the Body of Christ.

All in all, we think our next parish priest can look forward to a ministry that will be both challenging and exciting. The West Tyne Valley is beautiful; it also has a character, shaped by its history, that needs to be understood. The potential is huge – come and help set it free!

You will have our support. And if you decide to go no further, please pray for us before you close this document. Thank you.

The Churchwardens

Haltwhistle

A Brief History of Haltwhistle



Huatweutl (Old English for the high place between the two waters – the Tippalt and Haltwhistle Burn) is situated in the Tyne Gap – the link between east and west sides of the North Pennines which had been created when the glaciers on the High Pennines formed the South Tyne and flowed north until it hit the hard rock of the Whin Sill and turned east to flow into the sea. It is also where the pre-Roman Maidenway (the road that brought lead out of the North Pennines) meets the Ulster to Tyneside Stanegate – the itinerant preachers' road which runs parallel to Hadrian's Wall. The road was probably used by St Patrick, St Cuthbert and St Paulinus who would camp and preach at gatherings at Bewcastle and Simonburn and maybe Haltwhistle. While there is evidence of Christian gatherings on this route during the Roman occupation and after, there is also evidence of pre-Christian burials in the 7th Century in the valley just north of Haltwhistle at Wydon Eals.

Between the dark ages and Medieval times cross border relations were reasonable and farming quite prosperous. Haltwhistle grew into an important centre where the surrounding population could exchange goods and small businesses developed including woollen products. King John considered it important enough to grant a charter to hold a market and shortly after this the monks of Arbroath built the church. This peaceful period was destroyed by Edward (the Hammer of the Scots). He spent about 6 months with his retinue at Lanercost in 1312 (on his way he stopped at Braidley Farm) taking much of the produce of the farms in the Tyne Gap to feed his army).

The Border Country was overtaken by plagues, Border Reivers and religious conflicts – Bishop Ridley from Willimoteswick was burnt at the stake by Bloody Mary for his Protestant beliefs and in the 1580's Haltwhistle was razed to the ground by the Armstrong's in a feud with the Ridley's. The town featured in several border tales the most famous being "The Fray of Haltwhistle 1597".

The Jacobean period brought some peace and many of the farms and Bastles up the valley were improved.

In the 17th and 18th Centuries Haltwhistle isolated itself from the Cromwellian Civil War and '15 and '45 Jacobite Rebellions.

A lot of new farms were developed out of the Enclosure Acts during the prosperous years of the Napoleonic Wars, and it is noticeable that several farms were named after Napoleonic War Battles.

Haltwhistle's main period of growth came with the railways in the 1850's. This major innovation enabled coal mined in and around Haltwhistle and lead from the North Pennine to be sold to a wider industrially developing world. The town's central position in the Border's growing railway network further enabled a number of farming and textile suppliers to thrive. Haltwhistle was a bustling centre of enterprise and innovation. Until disaster struck.

The Great Depression of the 1920's closed many of the mines. The rate of unemployment rocketed to over 50% throwing many, many families into despair. However, such is the nature of the people of Haltwhistle that all was not lost. Alston's lead mines had encouraged a subsidiary industry to grow up. Paint and varnish manufacture had a strong foothold in the area. In the 1930s, as tensions in Europe increased the British Government's need for grey paint for the new ships the Navy were turning out in great numbers played a significant role in saving and reinvigorating the town's folk. Further, Haltwhistle's remoteness encouraged other wartime industry to find a home here. In particular, Kilfrost the strategic antifreeze manufacturing industry, was brought here from London to avoid the bombing. Kilfrost remained and today is a major employer in the town exporting antifreeze around the world.

In the time since the war some of Haltwhistle's dirty industries have closed. Quarrying Hadrian's Wall's Whin Sill has been forbidden. This, though, has created opportunities for industries which need unpolluted air. Consequently, new factories have opened, small enterprises have started up and the high street, whilst not what it was in former days, has survived, unlike those of other small towns.

Until 1960 the main provider of housing in the area was the local council with little private housing being built. After 1960 there was an increase in the provision of private housing by local builders. And so, there is a good mix of affordable housing, homes for working families, and those who have come to the end of their working lives. In recent years with the upgrading of the A69 Haltwhistle has found favour as base for those wanting to commute for work to Carlisle, Hexham, and Newcastle.

Information in the County Council Development Plan notes that "There has been no increase in the population of Haltwhistle in recent years and so the town has the lowest number of under 15s in the county."



The town is becoming increasingly dependent on tourism attracting visitors to Hadrian's Wall particularly, but also acting as a hub for visiting the beautiful North Pennines. It is after all The Centre of Britain!

Holy Cross Church Buildings

There is sound documentary evidence to show that Christian worship has taken place in Haltwhistle for the past 800 years but as you will see from reading our Christian journey there are indications that it goes back much further.

When the church was built it would have been a bare shell with rushes on the floor, and possibly benches along the walls for the infirm or elderly. It is a fine example of early 13th century architecture. Indeed Holy Cross is such a fine, beautiful and interesting building that it has Grade 1 listing. Its importance lies in it being of one style built in one period.

Some interesting features of Holy Cross:

- The nave and aisles make the main body of the church into a square and the chancel is disproportionately long in comparison with the nave.
- In Jacobean times box pews were installed for the local gentry. In 1870 Haltwhistle's prosperity enabled the whole church to be restored and Robert Johnson an architect from Newcastle was appointed to carry out a major restoration. The oak pews were replaced by pitch pine; the stone parapet to the

nave was removed and the west wall rebuilt and the roof replaced. By this time the rich and influential were much in favour of stained glass as a fitting memorial and hence stained glass windows by the William Morris Company were included in the restoration. These were based on designs by Burne Jones, Madox Brown, Philip Webb and Charles Kempe.

- Where the vestry is now was once the main entrance to the church rather than the present south door. Visitors are also much intrigued by the font which dates from the 17th century. The carving on it looks quite primitive and not very well executed.
- The water stoup located by the vestry door is the oldest object in the church. There are various theories as to its origin and it remains a mystery. We now keep holy water in it!
- There are also many interesting memorials and gravestones dotted around inside the church.



In 2010 the west end of the church was reordered to provide toilet facilities and a kitchen. It proved to be a challenging project as many wanted the church to remain as it was. However the changes were managed well and the work completed. The facilities and the opportunities they now provide have confirmed that this was a positive change and is widely accepted as such. It is used by the Mothers' Union for weekly soup lunches

for the community and it is also used for light refreshments following services. It is now available for hire for meetings or small gatherings. Hadrian Singers our local choir meet in the church every week and they also hold their Annual Meeting there.

The churchyard

Surrounding the church is a well kept churchyard with many ancient stones. The local history society has mapped the churchyard and an indexed file is kept in church. The wooden/stone shed by the main gate is where the hearse was kept many years ago. The local Council maintains the grounds of the church.



The Vicarage



Further west along Eden's Lawn is the Vicarage. It is a semi detached, 3 storey house, set in its own grounds with a garage and space to park at least 2 cars.

On the ground floor there is a south facing lounge overlooking the garden, a separate dining room and a kitchen. All the rooms have high ceilings. The study has its own entrance and can be quite separate from the main rooms but is still accessible.

Below stairs are cellars. The two upper floors house 4 bedrooms, 2 toilets and one bathroom and shower. There is also a toilet attached to the study. The house is in good decorative

order. Vehicular access is from a side road off the main street and there are open views across the countryside from the south facing windows and the garden.

The photograph of the Vicarage shows the south facing side of the house.

Holy Cross Church Community

We have approximately 80 members on our electoral roll. The average attendance at worship on Sundays is 30 and higher on feast days. We have an average of 24 communicants on Sundays. We are predominately over 60 and retired. Most members of the congregation live in the town of Haltwhistle, with a few coming from the surrounding rural area. We have a mix of social groups.

Our church tradition is modern catholic using Common Worship and other forms of authorised liturgy. We observe the Church's calendar of Festivals and Feast Days. Worship is predominantly Eucharistic. We have a full set of liturgy vestments. We have several people who assist in worship – readers, intercessors, administrators of the Chalice, Offertory, Procession and Servers. We also have people willing to lead worship on an occasional basis and one person is licenced to administer communion by extension and Home Communion. We have been encouraging other people to think about joining this group. We are keen that our Wardens and Sidespersons welcome visitors and friends to our church and help them to feel at home.

We have an organist who is well capable of playing most things.

Saints Days and Holy Days

All Souls. All Saints.

Ash Wednesday (with the imposition of Ashes)

Daily services in Holy Week may include Stations of the Cross, Compline and Holy Communion.

Maundy Thursday. With washing of feet, stripping of Altar, and Watch of the Passion.

Good Friday Procession of Witness through the town.
Final hour at St Cuthbert's Greenhead

We also have

Occasional ecumenical services
And The Haltwhistle Burn



Currently we have someone who produces the pew sheet Crosstalk, the monthly magazine Outlook, the Service lists and carries out general clerical duties such as photocopying.

BAPTISMS: average 7 per year,
WEDDINGS: average 2 per year.
FUNERALS: average 17 per year.
MONTHLY HOME COMMUNICANTS: presently 4

Our Church Activities

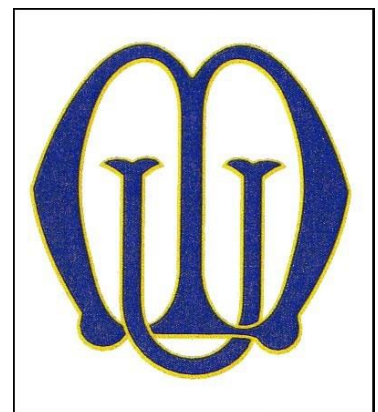
As a congregation we are active with Messy Church – a churches together initiative which takes place once a month in the Methodist Hall and once a year in Holy Cross.

We have regular study groups during Advent and Lent which are Priest led. We also join with our Roman Catholic and Methodist friends for bible reading etc. Quiet days and retreats have been an important part of our spiritual life. For a variety of reasons there has not been the opportunity for these, but there is still a thirst for these kinds of activities which would be welcomed by several members of the congregation.

In relation to Education and Youth work the priest visits schools in the area and the schools have been invited to use the church for worship and as a teaching centre. The uniform organisations have traditionally had a pattern of attending services. This, however, has declined in recent years, but we are still delighted to welcome them to church on Remembrance Sunday.

We support Christian Aid, ACS, British Legion, the West Northumberland Food Bank and The People's Kitchen in Newcastle. It is a sadness that the Food Bank is needed in our community.

We have an informal pastoral care team where members of our congregation visit the sick in their homes and one of us visits Haltwhistle Memorial Hospital each week.



We have an active Mothers' Union which organises outings, teas and speakers. The members work hard to help church finances and organise soup lunches.

PATTERNS OF WORSHIP

SUNDAY:

8 am. Holy Communion except last Sunday of month is BCP.

9.30 am. Sung Eucharist, Common Worship

WEEKDAYS:

Thursday 10 am. Holy Communion.

During the time of the Covid Pandemic

In line with Government regulations and in keeping with the other churches in Hexham Deanery we suspended face to face worship during the times of lockdown. During those times we have joined with the Zoom worship offered by the Area Dean at St. John Lee parish. This has been a helpful way of keeping our congregations together. There is a hope that online worship will continue. Either locally offered or as part of a Deanery service.

Community Involvement

We have representatives on the Haltwhistle Partnership, and Chamber of Trade. One member of our congregation works in our local primary school.

Our previous priest and two members of our congregation were trustees of Haltwhistle Partnership. We also have two parish council members.

Relationships with Neighbouring Parishes

Two members represent us on the Deanery Synod.

Our previous priest attended Chapter meetings.

We have occasional joint worship with St Cuthbert's Greenhead and 2 joint PCC meetings each year.

Ecumenical Relationships

We are committed to Churches Together in Haltwhistle.
Committee meetings are quarterly.

We value greatly the contribution Haltwhistle Methodist Church makes to the life of our town. We seek to work with them as much as we can when opportunity arises.

The Civil Parish of Haltwhistle

The town of Haltwhistle has a population of approximately 4000 and includes around 900 under eighteens. This population is predominantly white British with a small number of other ethnic groups. It is a small market town, between the major centres of Carlisle (25 miles west) and Newcastle (36 miles east). Communication and commuting are excellent as we have an hourly bus service east and west and a similar train service. We are situated just off the A69.

Local industries now consist of haulage contractors, a plastics factory, Kilfrost and tourism together a variety of smaller shops. There are several small businesses on local industrial estates. Half day closing, Wednesday and Saturday still applies here. There is a strong farming community in the surrounding rural areas of the town. Haltwhistle is known as “The Centre of Britain” and is very definitely “The Gateway to Hadrian’s Wall” with an extremely popular Walking Festival. There are 2 hotels, several guest houses and a Tourist Information Centre. We are within easy reach of Hadrian’s Wall and some magnificent walking country at the west end of the very beautiful Tyne Valley.

Church Activities Within the Community Open to Everyone

WEEKLY:

- Monday morning prayer group.
- Wednesday soup lunches.

MONTHLY:

- Messy church
- Coffee mornings
- 100 club draw.
- Distribution of Magazine Outlook supported by local businesses.

THROUGHOUT THE YEAR:

- Summer and Christmas Fayres.
- Concerts
- Afternoon Tea.

Community Activities in Haltwhistle

- Monthly over 60s luncheon club.
- Weekly community drop in.
- Youth club strongly supported by the Town Council and the Haltwhistle Partnership.
- Weekly Saturday morning coffee mornings (one per month is Holy Cross). These are very well supported by the Community and rare to raise less than £500.
- Cubs and Brownies based at the local school.
- Monthly memory café for those with Dementia or memory problems & their family and friends.

The newly built hospital retains the name of the original War Memorial Hospital which was part of the town’s memorial to those who died in the First World War.

Education is provided by the Haltwhistle Wise (We inspire success and excellence) Primary Academy which caters for children from 3 to 11. Secondary schools are Haydon Bridge High, Queen Elizabeth High School, Hexham or William Howard School in Brampton. Our schools are a highly valued part of our community enabling our children to have the best start in life.



The Market Place

Facilities in Haltwhistle

- Variety of small shops and two supermarkets.
- Bank and Building Society
- Library
- Leisure Centre with outdoor swimming pool.
- Pubs, hotels, and guest houses.
- Cafes
- Garage
- Medical Centre
- Newly built community hospital.
- Nursery and primary school.
- Hourly bus service to Carlisle and Newcastle.
- Train station with regular services to Carlisle and Newcastle

The People of Haltwhistle

We asked the Haltwhistle community how they would describe themselves to someone new to the area and this is what they said – “Haltwhistle is one community. It is a rural, friendly, caring, and close community but not an especially churchgoing one. However, it is very supportive of the church and works hard for good causes. The Holy Cross church congregation in conjunction with our good friends from Haltwhistle Methodist Church work hard to maintain a meaningful Christian presence in the town. Haltwhistle is very welcoming but it can be cautious of new people and take time to get to know them.”



Our Involvement with Hexham Deanery

The Parishes By The Wall Mission and Ministry Partnership

Haltwhistle is the geographical centre of Britain.

It is also at the centre of a very exciting development in the life of the Parishes By The Wall. For some four years now the benefices of Haltwhistle and Greenhead, Haydon Bridge with Beltingham and Henshaw, and St. John Lee with Warden and Newbrough i.e. The Parishes By The Wall (Hadrian's of course!) have collectively been exploring and developing ways of working together. This is much more than swapping pulpits every so often. This is a root and stock growth in Licensed ministry, lay ministry and ecumenical partnership. It is about asking how can we be church better together? How can we release the power of God's love into our communities? How can we be inspired by the Holy Spirit to live as Christ here today? It is about transforming our churches and communities for the benefit of all of God's people.

This innovative project is endorsed by the Diocese and is part of the Diocesan Transformation Strategy.

So what has happened so far?

For the last four years, we have been doing the groundwork. Firstly, by simply recognising the potential that these partnerships can re-lease and by agreeing that this is, inspired by the Holy Spirit, the way God wants us to go forward. That in itself was a major step for-ward for a group of parishes that have in times past been quite insular. Out of that positive decision has grown a genuine appreciation of those who worship in parishes other than our own. This has been strengthened of late by The Parishes By The Wall sharing in Zoom worship together Sunday by Sunday during the lockdown.

Further, we have sat down with the Churchwardens and other leaders of the parishes and worked out with them where our collective strengths lie and how we can build on those. For instance, working with children and young people has been a particular

strength for Haydon Bridge parish. This strength has been extended across traditional parish boundaries by involving neighbouring parishes in the pro-programme of activities created for our children and young people. There has been an active increase in hosting, leading and supporting children's work. St. John Lee has expertise in pastoral care. The Reader at St. John Lee is an Anna Chaplain and has been part of a group developing ways of caring pastorally across our parish boundaries. We have also recognised that leading worship is an area we can work on together, as is parish administration. Out of these discussions has come a programme of lay leadership development work which is leading to members of our congregations completing Authorised Lay Ministry training and eventually ALM accreditation.

This work is by no means complete. There is still much more to do. There are areas of our common life on which we need to seek guidance from the Holy Spirit. Particularly importantly we feel is our growth together spiritually and prayerfully.

How do the parishes of Haltwhistle and Greenhead, Beltingham and Henshaw fit into this?

In recognition of the changes that the Parishes By The Wall project are engendering a recent meeting of Churchwardens came to the conclusion that for it to be most effective it needed to have two foci. Parishes By The Wall West centres on Haltwhistle, including Greenhead and the parishes of Beltingham and Henshaw, which have until now been part of the Haydon Bridge Benefice. There will be one fulltime stipendiary clergy person living in Haltwhistle and supported by other licensed ministers both lay and ordained. Parishes By The Wall East centres on Haydon Bridge and includes Warden and Newbrough and St. John Lee. Here again there will be one fulltime stipendiary clergy person supported by other licensed ministers both lay and ordained. The role of the incumbents of PBTW East and West will be to further develop this initiative by growing and strengthening the laity in their parishes to take on areas of ministry that will enable them and their communities to flourish. Discerning who the key leaders are in each church will be significant. As will be recruiting people to work as part of a pastoral care team, and other areas of ministry. These are not the only possibilities or priorities. The main focus of this project is enabling the people of God to be the people of God in these

parishes irrespective of where they live and which church they regard as their “home” church.

Are we all up for this?

All of our thinking and acting has arisen out of shared lay/clergy conversations. This is an organic process that has grown out of shared activities which have enabled a deeper understanding of “their” perspective. Which in turn has led to a willingness to work together for all our benefit. So in short: we are. Are you?

Where Are We Now?

Before identifying our future needs and plans we decided we needed to establish where we are at the present time.

Our PCC carried out a SWOT analysis and we believe this gives a picture of where we are now and also identifies our future opportunities and challenges.

<p style="text-align: center;">STRENGTHS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Good, committed and supportive team in place. • Good relationship between local priests from all denominations. • Our commitment to Holy Cross Church • Our desire to be ecumenical • Our historic building described by Pevsner as “A quite exceptionally complete and well-preserved early English parish church. 	<p style="text-align: center;">WEAKNESSES</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Too few doing too much – difficult to source more volunteers. • Small number of attendees • Apparent lack of commitment to weekly/daily worship • Few children • Communication • Community meeting space hardly used.
<p style="text-align: center;">OPPORTUNITIES</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New Priest – new ideas • A young community gradually being introduced to the church. • More community involvement • Good community meeting space at the back of church. • New Website 	<p style="text-align: center;">THREATS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ageing community • Dwindling numbers of healthy active members. • Lack of young Christian families. • Current Website

Next Steps



Our shared Mission Statement (Present)

That our church is a place of love and learning, of holiness and hospitality, of friendliness and fellowship, of mission and outreach and a place of generosity and goodness.

Our Shared Core Values (These Underpin Our Vision)



WORSHIP

Worshipping God is central to all our gatherings.
We believe Prayer should be at the heart of our life as a church.



COMMUNITY

We believe in and value community.
We are committed to transforming Holy Cross into a hub of positive activity for the whole community.



GROWTH

We are committed to growth both in numbers and in personal discipleship. As we grow, we will strive to accept and embrace the changes such growth may bring.

Our shared vision for the future is to be:



A church for people of all ages, an open church which welcomes everyone. A growing church both in numbers and in personal discipleship. A church which lies at the heart of our community.

Our New Vicar

We asked the community 4 questions and below is a summary of what the Parish told us is important to them:

<p>WHAT ESSENTIAL QUALITIES WOULD YOU LIKE OUR NEW VICAR TO HAVE?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Someone who has traditional worship as their base. • A people person – someone who can relate to people of all ages; play a full and visible part in the whole town and be open and welcoming to everyone. • Someone who is looking for a calling not a career.
<p>WHAT DESIRABLE QUALITIES WOULD YOU LIKE OUR NEW VICAR TO HAVE?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An interest in the Haltwhistle wider community. • Keeness to work with / encourage churches together. • Someone who will encourage young families. • A good speaker. • Enthusiasm OOMPH! • Willing to get involved in everything that is going on and encourage greater participation
<p>WHAT WOULD YOU NOT WANT TO CHANGE AT HOLY CROSS?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Current community activities. • The Church building. • Sunday morning Eucharist service. • Our Catholic tradition.
<p>WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE TO CHANGE TO MAKE HOLY CROSS EVEN BETTER?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction of group meetings e.g. bible studies. • Reach out to the younger generation. • Bring new ideas to build on what we have already. • Transform Holy Cross into a hub of positive activity for the whole town.

Haltwhistle Parish Accounts

Haltwhistle Parochial Church Council
The Church of the Holy Cross, Haltwhistle, Northumberland
Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31st December 2020

	Note	Designated							Restricted Sequestrian Fund	Total 2020	As Restated Total 2019
		Unrestricted Fund	Flower Fund	Kitchen Fund	Restricted Melkridge	Restricted R B Cook	Restricted Building	Restricted Church Hall			
		£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	
Receipts											
Planned giving	a)	11,710	-	-	-	-	-	-	11,710	14,874	
Collections at services	b)	1,461	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,461	6,906	
Other voluntary receipts	c)	2,045	-	-	-	-	-	-	2,045	3,795	
Gift Aid recovered	d)	4,591	-	-	-	-	-	-	4,591	4,309	
		19,807	-	-	-	-	-	-	19,807	29,884	
Activities for generating funds	e)	2,287	-	4,116	-	-	-	-	6,403	8,248	
Investment income		26	-	-	1,232	4,457	1,335	140	7,190	5,669	
Church activities	f)	1,453	-	-	-	-	-	1,917	3,370	14,446	
Legacies		1,275	-	-	-	13,017	-	-	14,292	219,989	
Other receipts		2,217	-	-	-	-	-	-	2,217	524	
TOTAL RECEIPTS		27,065	-	4,116	1,232	17,474	1,335	140	53,278	278,760	
PAYMENTS											
Parish share	g)	26,438	-	-	-	-	-	-	26,438	25,889	
Clergy costs	h)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	304	
Church running expenses	i)	10,557	175	-	-	-	-	-	10,732	14,259	
Mission giving and donations	j)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Building maintenance	k)	-	-	-	-	514	-	-	514	93,951	
Cost of generating funds		200	-	-	-	-	-	-	200	1,130	
Administration costs	l)	115	-	-	-	-	-	-	115	461	
Sequestrian Payments		-	-	-	-	-	-	1,763	1,763	4,322	
Other expenses		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	116	
TOTAL PAYMENTS		37,310	175	-	-	514	-	-	39,762	140,431	
Surplus/ (Deficit)		(10,246)	(175)	4,116	1,232	16,960	1,335	140	13,516	138,329	
Cash at Bank 1st January 2020		101,226	942	-	35,836	66,859	35,416	9,992	250,981	112,652	
Cash at Bank 31 December 2020		90,980	767	4,116	37,068	83,819	36,751	10,132	264,497	250,981	

Haltwhistle Parochial Church Council
The Church of the Holy Cross, Haltwhistle, Northumberland
Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2020

Statement of Assets and Liabilities as at 31 December 2020

46,515	767	4,116	1,232	-	-	10,132	864	63,626	68,919
-	-	-	-	-	36,751	-	-	36,751	35,416
-	-	-	35,836	-	-	-	-	35,836	35,836
44,465	-	-	-	83,819	-	-	-	128,284	110,810
90,980	767	4,116	37,068	83,819	36,751	10,132	864	264,497	250,981

	General Fund	Flower Designated	Kitchen Designated	Melkridge Restricted	R B Cook Restricted	Building Restricted	Church Hall Restricted	Sequestrian Fund Restricted	Total 2020	As restated Total 2019
	£	£		£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Community account	14,928	767	-	1,232	-	-	-	864	17,791	11,295
Business Reserve account	31,587	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	31,587	-
										47,632
Cumberland account	-	-	4,116	-	-	-	-	-	4,116	-
Cumberland Term Deposit	-	-	-	-	-	-	10,132	-	10,132	-
Total cash and bank funds										9,992

Standard Life Investment
 CBF investment - Melkridge CBF investment - RB Cook

Greenhead



The Parish & Local Community

The small village of Greenhead in west Northumberland sits on the edge of the Northumberland National Park, an area of outstanding natural beauty. The course of Hadrian's Wall (a UNESCO World Heritage Site) runs through the edge of the village and the area is steeped in history, from Romans, to coal mines and railways, via the border Reivers. With the Tipalt Burn meandering through the village, some lovely old buildings (many constructed with stone taken from Hadrian's Wall), spectacular walks on the doorstep, an abundance of flora and fauna, and a thriving, friendly community, Greenhead is an idyllic place to live.

The residents of Greenhead Parish, which covers a large number of outlying farms and Blenkinsopp Castle Home Park, numbers between 300 and 400 people. Local employment is provided mainly by livestock farming and tourism. There are good links to Carlisle, Hexham and Newcastle by road via A69 and by rail. The nearest station is in

Haltwhistle, just 3 miles away. This provides good opportunities for employment outside the immediate area. The population is made up of a mix of elderly/retired, young people and families with younger children and is predominantly of white British origin.

Greenhead has been an ecclesiastical parish since 1892 and the beautiful church of St Cuthbert was originally built as a Chapel of Ease in 1827 to 1828, during the incumbency of the Rev N J Hollingsworth. Greenhead was within the parish of Haltwhistle, but St Cuthbert's Church served the rapidly increasing local population, who were working in the Blenkinsopp colliery and on the construction of the Newcastle-Carlisle railway. Designed by Newcastle architect John Dobson, the church was built on land donated by the then Lord of the Manor of Blenkinsopp, Colonel Coulson. The Chapel was extended in 1900 by Colonel Edward Joicey in memory of his father, also Edward. The Nave was restored, the Chancel built and the tall slender spire was added.

Greenhead boasts a tea room (popular with locals and visitors alike) and a pub (which also offers B&B as well as running the hostel which is situated in the old Methodist Chapel). The centrally-situated village hall is used by many community groups including the WI, Calico Hinnies (craft group), the church (domino drives, harvest supper and Christmas party), art, keep fit and Pilates classes, the youth club and monthly farmers' market, as well as for tea dances, private parties, quiz nights and musical events. There is a defibrillator attached to the external wall of the village hall.



Greenhead Village Hall, set up ready for the Harvest Supper

There is an annual Duck Race on the Tipalt Burn, traditionally organised by the Village Hall Committee but there is a movement to make this more of a whole community event involving all elements of village life (school, church, pub, tea room etc).

Greenhead Primary School is a church school and the children have regular services in St Cuthbert's. The church family are working enthusiastically to maintain strong links with the children and staff, going into school and the adjacent nursery as often as possible, and organising services that involve the children and their families.

The members of the regular church congregation and PCC are very keen to increase and strengthen the links with the community and in 2018 organised a number of events. In the Spring, we had an exhibition of Easter Gardens in the church, with contributions and exhibits from all across the community – schools, youth groups, the WI, the churches in Haltwhistle, as well as many local individuals.

We hosted a well-attended Harvest Supper in the Village Hall in October. In November, we joined forces with the WI to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the Armistice. Ladies from the WI and the church knitted over a hundred poppies to adorn the village war memorial and decorate the church (some of the ladies also went into the school to teach the children how to knit the poppies and make felt poppy wreaths so that they, too, could contribute to the commemorations).

On Remembrance Sunday, the community turned out in force to remember the fallen at the War Memorial and they filled the church for the service that followed, with some of the village children reading out the names of the 21 soldiers who gave their lives during the first world war. We are also in the process of



putting together a booklet about the lives and families of these 21 young men, copies of which will be available in church for all to read.



Preparing for the Christingle Service, December 2018

On 16th December, St Cuthbert's was filled with light as we gathered for our annual Christingle Service, this year celebrating the 50th Anniversary. The service was attended by a large number of local children and their families, and following the service we hosted a Christmas party in the village hall with refreshments, a magician and a visit from Santa Claus. Much fun was had by all, young and old alike!

It is our aim to build on these events and we have a host of ideas for the coming months.

The Church Community

St Cuthbert's has a small, friendly, loyal congregation and although a number of our congregants are elderly, we are all young at heart and work together well as a team to keep the church running smoothly, and maintain school and village links. Most live within the parish but there are one or two who have moved to nearby parishes and still attend services at St Cuthbert's on a regular basis.

Worship

There is a weekly service of Holy Communion taken from Common Worship, commencing at 11.00 am, but we have plans to introduce more variations to the pattern of service to include regular Family Services and occasional Evensong.

We have occasional weekday services, mostly in conjunction with the village school who also use the church for termly assemblies.

As we are a small congregation, we do not fit into the category of either high or low church.

Bible Study is done in conjunction with Holy Cross, mainly during Advent and Lent.

Mission support is by Lent Boxes for the Additional Curates' Society and through Christian Aid envelopes. We also donated to the Children's Society from the proceeds of our 2018 Christingle Service. Harvest goods are donated to the West Northumberland Food Bank, or the People's Kitchen in Newcastle.

The PCC organises fund-raising Coffee Mornings and Domino Drives, as well as occasional raffles.



One of the Easter Gardens from our exhibition last Spring

We also regularly host special exhibitions in the church such as Flower Festivals, Christmas Tree Festivals and Easter Gardens Exhibitions, to name but a few. This year we are planning to hold a traditional Church Fete in conjunction with an exhibition in the church over the August Bank Holiday weekend.

Ministry

We have seven regular lesson readers and one administrator of the Chalice.

We have recently appointed a Safeguarding Officer who has updated our Safeguarding Policy and several members of the PCC are undergoing training. We are a dementia friendly church.

There is a weekly Crosstalk for Holy Cross and St Cuthbert's which is handed out at the morning service and we have a joint monthly free of charge parish magazine, Outlook, which is produced in-house. The young and relatively new editor lives in Greenhead and the magazine is financed by advertising. The Greenhead distribution (of approximately 150 copies) is organised and handled by several members of the congregation.

Relationships with Neighbouring Parishes

The Parish and Benefice Church Wardens have a good working relationship with Holy Cross. When the church choir at Holy Cross was active it included several members from St Cuthbert's.

- We currently have 15 on the Electoral Roll.
- Average Sunday Communicants: 10
- Average Sunday attendance: 10
- Average baptisms per annum: 3
- Average Confirmations per annum: Joint with Holy Cross
- Average weddings per annum: 2
- Average funerals per annum: 6
- Average house communions for the sick/housebound: 2

Church Buildings and Fabric

There are no ancillary buildings owned by the church.

The heating system has recently been overhauled and upgraded. Repairs have been made to the pointing, and the guttering is cleared annually.

The churchyard is closed, and maintained by the Local Authority who are responsible for grass cutting and maintenance of the walls and monuments.

Finance

An envelope scheme is in place. Although it can be a struggle, we are committed to paying 100% of our Parish Share.

A copy of the 2020 Accounts are attached.

The New Incumbent

The PCC conducted a survey of the congregation and community, asking participants to write down three words that would best describe the qualities they would like to see in the new incumbent. This is a list of the most frequently used words:

- Good communicator
- Humorous
- Speaks Loud and Clear!
- Ambitious (for Greenhead, not personally!)
- Approachable
- Social/Outgoing
- A good listener
- Compassionate/Kind/Caring
- Good with Families
- Has empathy with children

In summary:

We would like someone who interacts and communicates equally well with the elderly as well as with children, with a warm and friendly personality and a good sense of humour!

Someone who is willing to be a team player – we play hard as well as working hard together and would ideally like someone who will play with us as well as pray with us!

We have an ageing congregation, so we need someone who will make regular home visits, where necessary.

We look forward to welcoming the new incumbent into our thriving little church family.

Greenhead Church Accounts

GREENHEAD PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL:

Financial Statement for the Year Ended 31st December 2020

General Fund Receipts and Payments Account

RECEIPTS	2020	2019	PAYMENTS	2020	2019
Church Collections	1,017.65	2490	Repairs & Maint	105.00	2170
Envelope Scheme	1,220.00	1319	Heat & Light	1,536.74	1103
Covenants	2,999.00	3214	Insurance	2,385.95	2198
Tax Refund on Gift Aid	2,049.11	8178	Clergy Exps	550.80	550
Harvest Supper		288	Organist	96.00	414
All Things Bright&Beautiful		518			
Coffee Mornings/Christingle Raffle/Concert		1665	OBLIGATIONS		
Duck Race Day/Steeplechase/Partnership Exhibition			Parish Share	9,636.00	9774
Donations	2,855.00	1306	Capitation Fee		
Fees & Charges	279.00	1094	Miscellaneous	810.47	691
Misc.	531.97	3			
TOTAL INCOME FOR THE YEAR	10,751.73	21063		15,120.76	16908
Excess of Receipts over Payments:		-4,369.03			
Cash & Bank deposits at 1st January 2020	5,896.21				
Cash & Bank deposits at 31st December 2020	1,527.18				

Approved by members of Greenhead Parish at its AGM on:

Signed Independent Examiner: *MAD*

Signed:

Date: 17/4/2021

Signed Church Warden:

GREENHEAD PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL:

FABRIC FUND

Statement for the year e 2020

Date	Item	Receipts	Payments
31/03/20	Interest	8.57	
		8.57	0.00
	Excess of Receipts over Payments:	8.57	
Cash & Bank deposits at 1st January 2020		1,446.29	
Cash & Bank deposits at 31st December 2020		1,454.86	

Statement of Assets & Liabilities as at 31 December 2020

ASSETS	General Fabric		Totals £	
	Fund £	Fund £	2020	2019
Cash				
Current A/c	1,527.18	1,454.86	1,527.18	5896
Deposit A/c			1,454.86	1446
TOTALS	1,527.18	1,454.86	2,982.04	7342

It is estimated that there is £2500 in tax to be recovered from the Inland Revenue. This Tax claim will be received during 2021

Church fixtures are included in the Inventory and vested in the wardens on special trust.

LIABILITIES - NONE

The Parish of Beltingham with Henshaw



All Hallows, Henshaw



St. Cuthbert's, Beltingham

Welcome to our Parish Profile

We are a warm and caring congregation with a strong sense of fellowship. Our parish offers a sound basis on which to take forward an agenda for development and growth. Our new Vicar, male or female, will be an engaged member of our community, demonstrating a caring nature, and above all, will be a spiritual leader. We want to broaden and deepen our church community, and the PCC will give wholehearted support to our new incumbent and work in partnership to serve the current and future needs of our parish. You would be truly welcome in our midst.

This profile has been prepared as we are gradually emerging from the lockdown caused by the pandemic. We have worshipped in a number of different ways during this period, which has stimulated new ideas and fresh perspectives on how “church” can work in many different situations. This is an exciting time for our new Vicar to grasp the opportunities presented and take our parish forward. Are you the person we need?

Anne Galbraith
Adrian Storrie
Churchwardens



*The Ancient Yew at St Cuthbert's, Beltingham,
6th in the Woodland Trust Tree of the year 2020*

The Local Community

The parish is rural, covering about 20 square miles. There is a railway station with trains to Newcastle and Carlisle and also a regular bus service. The main population lives in the adjoining villages of Bardon Mill, Redburn, Tow House, Henshaw and Thorngrafton. There are also scattered hamlets at Ridley and Beltingham and a significant number of isolated farms.

Within the parish, there is a garage, public house, Starbucks cafe, the Errington Reay pottery and a village shop/cafe which acts as a central hub in the village. The village hall is a comparatively recent development in the centre of Bardon Mill, where a number of recreational pursuits including cafe scientifique, yoga, concerts, and fundraising



events take place. The hall is also let for private functions and is adjacent to a well kept and popular play area for children. The public house, the Bowes Hotel, has recently been fully renovated and refurbished, with dining facilities and letting rooms.

Tourism is very important in the area, and is boosted by the Roman Wall, which is a World Heritage site. Housesteads Fort and Visitor Centre and Vindolanda are both within the parish, as is the landmark tree at Sycamore Gap. More recently, The Sill



has opened. It is the Northumberland National Park's visitor centre and is the UK Landscape Discovery Centre. It also houses a new Youth Hostel. There is a considerable amount of local provision of bed and breakfast accommodation and self-catering accommodation. However, a significant proportion of the working population in the parish work outside the parish.

There is a parish website:

www.parishesbythewall.org.uk with Facebook and

Twitter, and also a parish council website: www.bardonmillparish.co.uk. A glance at the map will give an indication of the size of the parish, but the majority of the population live within a ribbon through Bardon Mill and the adjoining villages.

There is one school, situated next to Henshaw Church. It is a Church of England aided primary school with 69 pupils. It is joined in a Federation with the school in Greenhead which has 51 pupils. The latest Ofsted report ranks both schools as Good, with the Nursery at Henshaw being rated Outstanding. The new Vicar would be an ex officio governor of the schools.

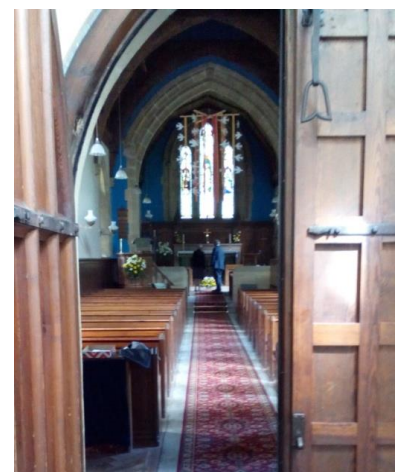
Recent figures suggest that 15% of the people in the parish are aged 30 – 34, 27% are aged 45 – 49, 12% are aged 65 – 74. 99% of the community speak English as their main language and 98% were born in the UK. There is no reason to suppose that these figures have changed to any great extent.

The Church Community

In pre Covid times, the church was regularly attended by about 35 people, most of whom would be over the age of retirement. The congregation is largely middle class and white. During the summer, there are occasional visitors who are holidaying in the area. A small number of our congregation live outside the parish. There are a number of supporters in a wider group who participate in social functions and fund-raising events.

Statistics

Population of the parish, circa 1,200
Electoral Roll of the parish – 90
Average Sunday communicants: 32
Average Sunday attendance: 34
Average baptisms per annum: 6
Average confirmations per annum: 1
Average weddings per annum: 2
Average funerals per annum: 6
Average house communions for sick – no regular pattern.



Church Buildings

The church at Henshaw (NE47 7EN) is Grade 2, built in 1889/90. It is a typical lovely Victorian Church. It is single span and in normal times it seats about 115 people. It has a modern electronic organ, installed about 17 years ago as a generous gift from a parishioner at a cost of £55000. The church has an adjoining church room, about 300 sq ft in size, with separate toilet and kitchen facilities. The room is let for meetings of community groups and is used for Messy Church, Storybook Church and coffee and fellowship after services.

The church at Beltingham (NE47 7BZ) is Grade 1 listed, built in the late 15th Century. It has a single span and seats about 90. It has beautiful stained glass windows, an attractive lychgate, and a tranquil location. There are no toilets or catering facilities and parking is limited. The PCC has obtained planning permission to create a small car park within the cemetery at Beltingham, but a decision to progress this is currently on hold, pending the appointment of a new Vicar.



Beltingham has two churchyards, one around the church which is closed other than for the private burial ground of the Bowes Lyon family. The other is adjacent to the church and has an area set aside as an Ashes Memorial Garden.

Both of these churchyards are the responsibility of the PCC, but the Henshaw churchyard is closed, and is the responsibility of Northumberland County Council.

Both churches are in very good condition, as reported in recent Quinquennial Reports.

Patterns of Worship

Pre Covid, the typical pattern of services was a Eucharist at 9.30 am, alternating between All Hallows' and Beltingham. There were no weekday services on a formal basis, but

Evening Prayer was regularly said at 5 pm on Thursdays in All Hallows'. Special services would include those held on Ash Wednesday, Holy week communions and the Last Hour on Good Friday, an Easter Day Vigil, Ascension Day, St Cuthbert's Day, All Souls service, Carol Services, Crib Service, schools assemblies and celebrations, and a Remembrance Day Service at the Village War Memorial, attended by about 100 local residents. There has also been an informal service of carols and light hearted readings between Christmas and New Year.

Post lockdown, and during our vacancy, we have changed our service time to 10.30 am. This means that we are holding a service at the same time as Haydon Bridge, so if parishioners wish to join a Communion service when we have a service of morning prayer, that opportunity exists there or in other local churches.

Church Tradition

The church tradition is very much middle of the road. We are open to new ideas, sensitively introduced. The congregation has shown its readiness to espouse new forms of worship during lockdown. As the period of lockdown went on, we developed a pattern of offering a streamed Morning and Evening prayer every day of the week. On Sunday mornings, the streamed service was enhanced with hymns and a reflection. Not only was this offered via Facebook streaming, but also by Zoom, where participants could hear the service by telephone if they could not tune in with a computer or tablet. The numbers participating in these services were high, and we believe that some were from outside our parish, or within it but not regular attendees at church.



Church Activities

During the last 6 or 7 years, a healthy engagement with Lent groups, prayer walks, retreat days and other study or prayer groups has developed. Some of these are lay led.

There has also been an exciting development, God's Tent, taking church to older children and their parents, pitching the tent in various locations in the beautiful countryside on our doorstep.



There is a healthy Mothers' Union, linked with the parish in Haydon Bridge. It is very active in supporting a range of local and wider needs and causes. Newcomers are welcomed, and its members value the support and interest of the Vicar.

Before Covid, we ran Messy Church and Storybook Church, both supported by volunteers from the parish. Some helped with catering and others with the organisation and leading of activities. This was something developed and encouraged by the Vicar in both Henshaw and Shaftoe School.

We support home and overseas mission, by making special collections or donations during the year to causes such as Christian Aid, the Bishop's Christmas charity, West End Refugee Service, the People's Kitchen, the Church Army, the Children's Society and Tynedale Hospice at Home. Our church is also a collecting point for donations to the West Northumberland Food Bank, to which we also make cash donations. We have supported initiatives in our church school with funding. Through encouragement from church members, there is an established coffee morning in the village shop and also a monthly lunch in the Bowes Hotel.



There is no formal organisation of pastoral care within the parish, but it is a regular item on the PCC agenda, and action is taken when need is identified, eg lifts to church, shopping or visiting. Home communion can be arranged where desired.

There is a parochial charity, the Bowes Lyon Trust, which was created in 1948. It covers relief of pressing cases of poverty or distress in the parish, and repair of Beltingham church and burial grounds. Grants are made at the discretion of the Vicar and the Churchwardens. It has capital of £26K and in 2020 had an income of £699, of which £252 goes to our neighbour parish of Haydon Bridge with the remaining £447 available for use in our parish.

Ministry

The parish benefits from sharing with Haydon Bridge parish the services of Revd Gill Alexander, Associate Priest. Gill came to the parishes as a Curate, and has recently been confirmed in her new role. There is significant lay involvement in worship, with parishioners delivering readings, leading prayers and intercessions, and assisting with communion. The streamed service of Morning Prayer has continued to be offered by the Churchwarden and Deputy Warden on Facebook on Tuesday and Thursday mornings. During the interregnum, the Churchwardens and Deputy Warden are also



involved with leading services of Morning Prayer with Reflection.

Three members of our congregation have recently attended the on line Authorised Lay Ministry Course run by the Rector of Hexham Abbey, Rev David Glover, and the Vicar of Corbridge, Rev David Kennedy. On completion of Safeguarding training and receipt of DBS check, they will be eligible to receive certification from the Bishop.

There is a regular monthly parish newsletter, which was previously delivered to about 180 homes in the village. Since the beginning of the pandemic, that has become an

emailed version, which is also posted on the parish website. Some copies are printed and delivered to those without access to IT.

Finance

We have always met our parish share in full, and both last year and this year we are paying early and have given extra. Over the last 6 years, our parish share giving has grown by 40%.

The parish has £194k of cash and investments, with £56k of the investments being restricted, and £68k of cash being designated. The designated element was changed after the 2020 year end.

We are heartened by the support of our congregation, and note that our plate giving increased by 7% during the Covid period.

The Parish and its Future

For the future, we would like to develop and consolidate the progress we have made during lockdown by offering worship in a variety of ways.

We would like to progressively develop the relationship with Henshaw school, engaging in ways which would lead to greater involvement with parents and fostering a desire for baptism and confirmation of the children.

We would like to take advantage of the amenity offered by the village hall, recognising its central position in the village as compared with the church, which is located at the outmost edge, to offer activities with universal appeal at key times of celebration.

We would like to be a church of invitation, encouraging those who already support us at our fundraising events to be drawn into the regular congregation.



We want to continue our practice of welcoming newcomers to the parish with a welcome letter and leaflet about our churches and our worship.

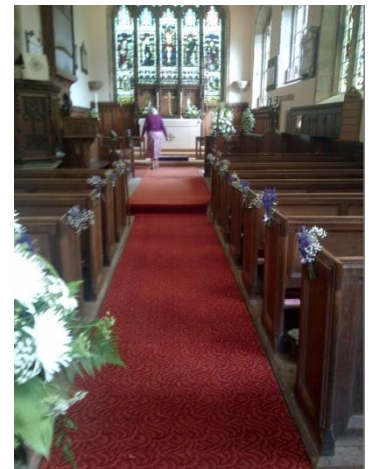
What needs to be pursued in the next five years?

Our mission action plan had run its course just before the start of the pandemic, and plans were put on hold to start the processes of discussion and consultation. This therefore provides an excellent opportunity for us to work with a new incumbent to refresh our mission action plan.

Our new Vicar

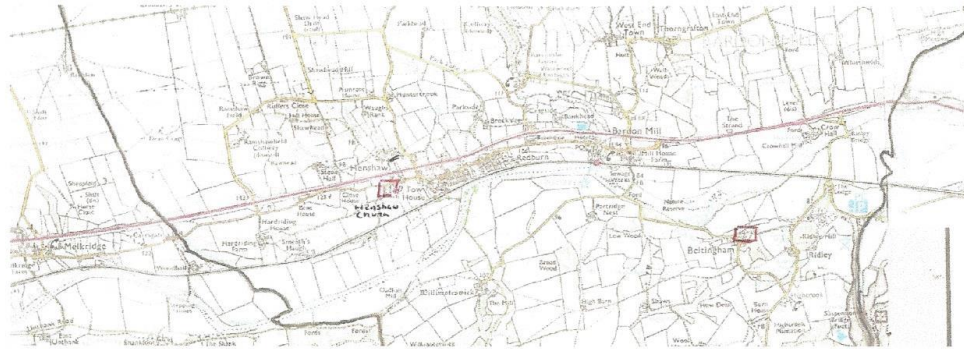
In the new Vicar of either gender the PCC would hope to find:

- A personable, enthusiastic, competent and caring Vicar who would enjoy being part of our community
- Above all, a spiritual leader, not only of the current congregation but also for the wider community of all ages
- Someone who would be committed to devoting a fair part of their ministry to each parish in the Benefice
- Someone who is an effective organiser and delegator, who would work with the PCCs to develop a capable team, to help lead the parishes during a period of challenge and change.
- A person who is competent with modern technology, in order to maximise on developments made during lockdown in our worship patterns.



Beltingham with Henshaw Accounts

St. Cuthbert's, Beltingham with All Hallows', Henshaw				
Summary Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2020				
	Non-Designated Funds	Designated funds	TOTAL 2020	TOTAL 2019
	£	£	£	£
RECEIPTS				
Voluntary receipts:				
Planned giving	22,429	-	22,429	20,980
Collections at services	2,361	-	2,361	5,426
All other giving/voluntary receipts	4,762	1,228	5,990	6,908
Gift Aid recovered	7,122	200	7,322	7,661
Fundraising - net of costs	4,231	-	4,231	4,013
Other Income	4,836	2,379	7,215	8,669
TOTAL RECEIPTS	45,741	3,807	49,548	53,657
PAYMENTS				
Church activities:				
Parish Share (100%)	26,731	-	26,731	25,716
Clergy costs	5,300	-	5,300	4,918
Church running expenses	9,879	1,925	11,804	17,269
Mission giving and donations	322	593	915	858
Other expenditure	-	-	-	1,616
TOTAL PAYMENTS	42,232	2,518	44,750	50,377
SURPLUS/SHORTFALL	3,509	1,289	4,798	3,280
Unrestricted reserves at 1 January	15,450	53,212	68,662	65,382
Surplus/shortfall for year	3,509	1,289	4,798	3,280
Unrestricted reserves at 31 December	18,959	54,501	73,460	68,662
BALANCE SHEET				
	Non-Designated Funds	Designated funds	TOTAL 2020	TOTAL 2019
	£	£	£	£
Bank accounts				
Non-Designated reserves (for day to day use)	18,959		18,959	15,450
Designated reserves (set aside for specific purposes)		54,501	54,501	53,212
Investment assets				
Investment fund shares at market value	-	56,300	56,300	51,642
Endowment fund shares at market value	-	64,535	64,535	60,354



How to find us
The boundary of the parish.

