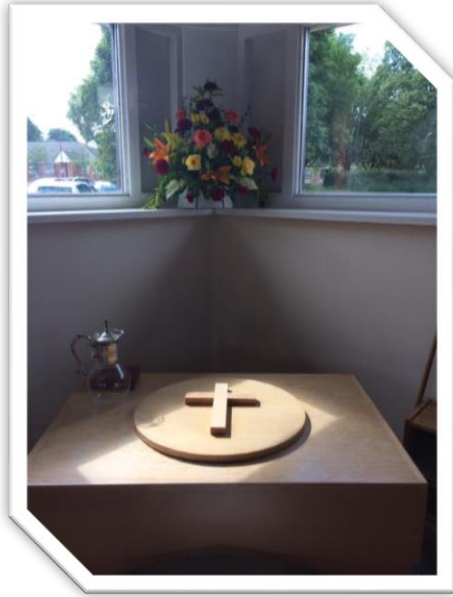


**ST. WILFRID'S CHURCH,  
NEWBIGGIN HALL  
PARISH PROFILE**

May 2022





Thank you for taking the time to find out about us.

In this booklet we have set out a description of our church, its people and our vision for the future.

We hope this will give you some insight into who we are and whether we are the right church for you.

### **Our Mission Statement**

St. Wilfrid's Newbiggin Hall aims to deepen the faith of the existing worshipping community, to make Christ's presence known in all areas of the parish, and to minister effectively to this population.

Our last Mission Action Plan was carried out in 2016 and it ran to the end of 2019. COVID restrictions and a long vacancy means that we are now ready to review this and we're looking for a new Priest to lead us in this process in 2016 our priorities were:

### **Spirituality and Vocation**

To develop a monthly prayer and discussion group.

### **Children and mission commitment**

Develop an annual celebration of baptism service inviting previous families to further engagement with church through Little Flock and Sunday school.

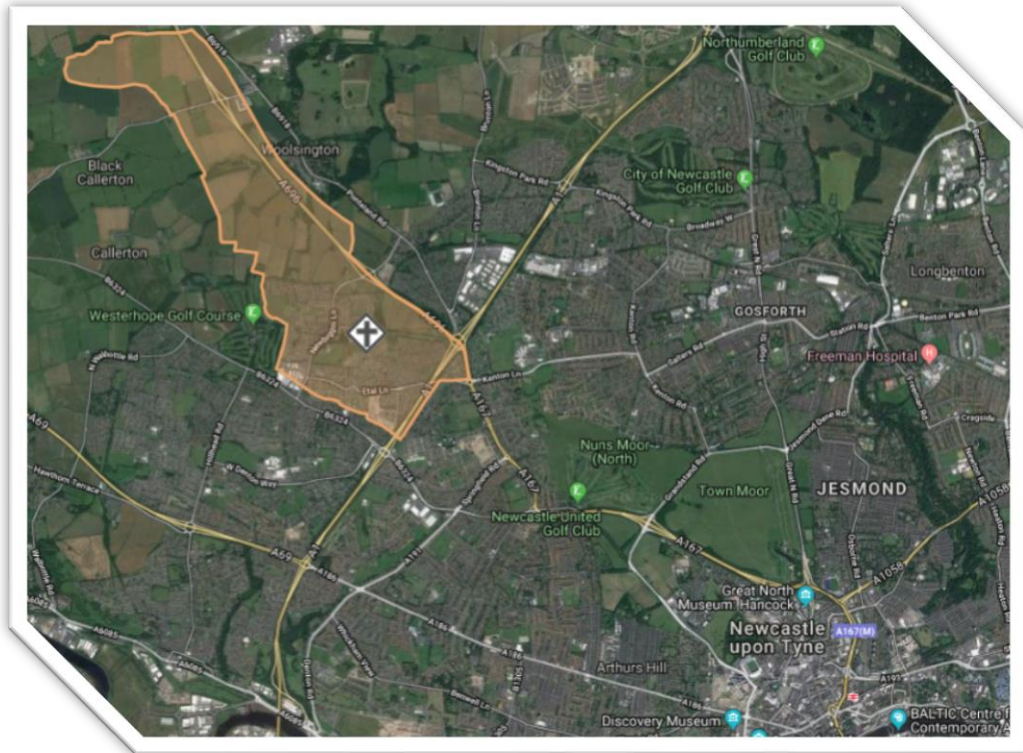
### **Growth in numbers and mission commitment**

To see through to completion our development plans for the church building to make it more versatile and welcoming for the whole community.

Initial discussions by the PCC held on the 9th June 2021 as the first step towards a new MAP, key priorities identified were:

Building our confidence, using our new development for growth, encourage young people, having a presence in the community, increase

our links with the schools, combating social isolation, helping with mental health issues, breaking down barriers, providing a place for young people to interact, provide training opportunities for the local community, to survive as a Church, return to normality and recover post covid.



## About us

St Wilfrid's church lies in the Anglican diocese of Newcastle upon Tyne and is the parish church for the community of Newbiggin Hall. The church serves a parish of some 9,000 people. It is our spiritual home and we hope it will become yours. We provide a lot more than just Sunday worship, but it is this worship that sustains us in all our other work.

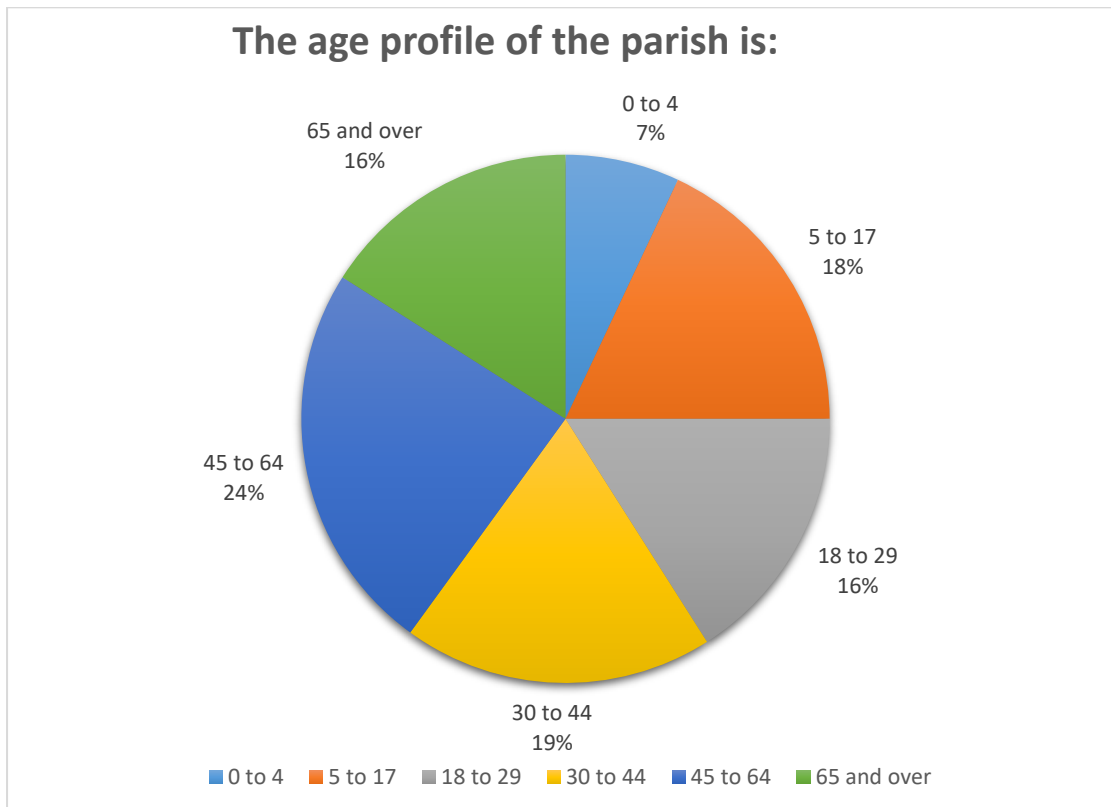
The parish is situated on the outskirts of Newcastle upon Tyne, approximately 5 miles North-west of the City Centre. Regular bus services are available in the parish giving easy access to the City, surrounding areas and Newcastle International Airport. There are good road links to the A1 north and south and the A69 to the west.

The housing in our parish consists of social housing/housing association dwellings and privately-owned homes. It is classed as an Urban Priority Area.

The schools within the parish boundary are recently rebuilt Simonside Primary, Cheviot Primary, Farne Primary and St Marks Roman Catholic primary school. There is also a range of nursery and pre-school provision in the area. A new secondary school (Callerton Academy) is planned adjacent to the Simonside site.

There are two residential homes in the parish namely Brier Dene and Sovereign Lodge and together with sheltered housing Trevelyan Court and Callerton Court.

The people of the parish are predominantly white British with a small number from other ethnic backgrounds. There is high unemployment in the area.



## **Our Worship**

We are a church family who are committed to serving God through our worship, witness and fellowship. Our work in the local community is an important part of our life as the parish church. The parish has a strong commitment to offering occasional offices in a welcoming and friendly manner. Priority for St. Wilfrid's going forward is to increase attendance at services and further develop our work with children, young people, families and the elderly.



The congregation are mainly middle aged to elderly, although younger families attend the monthly 'Little Flock' group and attend the monthly Sunday school during the parish communion worship. There are regular communion services each Sunday and every Tuesday morning. The parish could be described as Central in tradition.

We have 39 people on the Electoral roll. There are two churchwardens, 10 sidespeople, 8 readers of the scriptures and a number of people who assist with communion and intercessions.

On Sundays at 11 a.m we have a traditional said communion service with hymns. Numbers vary but they are small. With an average congregation of 20. In recent years the numbers in the congregation have remained flat. There is the challenge of fewer able-bodied people who can contribute to the physical aspects of the church.

After each service, there is an opportunity for conversation and coffee in the church.

On the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in each month at 11:30am, we held a 'Little Flock' session led by a group of the congregation. A committed team provided an informal service with a variety of worship styles in order to reach a younger age group of children aged between 1 -7 years old. This is something we hope to re-establish post Covid.



On each Tuesday morning a Communion service is held at 9:30 am

On the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday in the month these services are held at 11am to allow the less physically able to attend. A coffee morning aimed at socially isolated people in the community is organised and run by the church. Nearly 20 people attend this on a regular basis, enjoying fellowship and hospitality within the church. This provides a vital opportunity for members of the community to meet for a social chat and to support each other. This is held on the last Friday of the month.



Reserved sacrament is used when visiting sick or housebound parishioners and when lay people who have permission take communion to the two care homes within the community.



We had a large number of pre-school children attending our 'Little Flock' group; however very few are of school age. We would aim to grow this area of our ministry again through greater contact with the local primary and secondary schools. There are proposals to increase the housing stock near the church; this may be an opportunity for outreach.

The church is used on a regular basis by Newbiggin Hall Community Choir who meets every Wednesday consisting of some members of the congregation but mainly people from the wider community. Attended by 16 people, the group was established with the help of the church and was initially funded a local ward community grant. In its tenth year, the group is now self-funded (finances administered by the church and provides entertainment to the local community at various different events across the year.

We have in partnership with others worked with Newcastle arts council's appointed community artists in residence in recent times.

As part of the link between the Dioceses of Newcastle and Winchester St Wilfrid's is linked with the Parish of St John the Baptist New Arlesford. Well into its second decade the link is valued by both parishes. There are regular exchange visits and despite the cultural differences many lasting friendships have been forged. Covid and interregnums in both parishes have meant that contact is at present minimal.

The church is actively involved with D2 Youth Zone. This has been in existence since 1994 was originally established by St. Wilfrid's. It was known as The Detached Youth Work Project at that time and was partly funded by the Church Urban Fund. It now relies heavily on funding from charitable organisations. D2 offers help and advice to young people in the parish. Some of the issues in which support is given are: welfare rights, employment advice, drug and alcohol awareness and sexual health issues. The aim is empower young people to reach their full potential. There has always been a close link with the church through the involvement of the clergy as a trustee and one of the church wardens is currently the chair of the project's board of trustee/Directors.

During various points in the year, inter-generational afternoon teas are enjoyed and hosted at St. Wilfrid's in conjunction with D2. This is attended by people as young as 14 years old to elderly people aged in

their 90s. The project is designed to increase understanding between the age groups, decrease loneliness and isolation and help older people to feel safer in the community.

Also based In Newbiggin hall is the Galafield Project which is run by Action for Children it houses a toddlers play group/ nursery, a learning hub, Health visiting, Family support, Community midwifery, mental health support, Children's therapies, youth provision, training opportunities, childcare and employability services. St Wilfrid's have in the past partnered them in providing activities during school summer holidays.



## **Our Building**

The Church was built in 1967 to serve the new housing estates at Newbiggin Hall, as a daughter church to St John's Whorlton and designed by Peter Elphick, of Mauchlen Weightman and Elphick: Architects.

The church was built in the Modernist style, using a structural frame of exposed laminated timber portals enclosing an open-one plan

Much of the walling is glazed. In 1989, extensive repairs and exterior remodelling of the church building were carried out, to the designs of Michael Drage: Architect. These were necessitated by the deterioration of roof coverings and window frames, also the need to reduce the amount of glass for heat conservation.



The Church was also remodelled in the winter of 2019/2020 making it even more users friendly. Design was by Christopher J Blackburn RIBA Architect Ltd.



The church is a quadrilateral with its corners at the compass points. The Sanctuary is at the east corner and the four walls face NE, NW, SE and SW. The roof ridge runs across the building from North to South. The church has a vestry, meeting room kitchen and toilet facilities, small hall and large hall.

There is a 1960s build Vicarage next to the church with an attached, but self-contained, parish meeting room, small kitchen and a toilet. This area is accessed either from its own front door or from the vicarage.

### **Our Finances**

There is a well-established finance team consisting of an Accountant, Treasurer, a church warden and a member of the PCC. This team was formed to prevent fraudulent activity after a historical theft. The accountant is responsible for completing the annual reports and accounts and the parish returns and setting and monitoring the budget. A Churchwarden collects and banks our weekly income. A Gift Aid secretary submits our claims annually.

Our charitable giving is both local and worldwide. We regularly give to Christian Aid. A small donation is made to Water Aid via our water bill. Our harvest thanksgiving gifts go to The People's Kitchen in Newcastle to help the homeless. Other charities are chosen by wedding couples

and bereaved families. We support St Oswald's Hospice with the Share a Card scheme at Christmas.

### **Our New Priest**

We are looking for someone who will develop new initiatives for the spiritual growth of the congregation through bible study and engagement with the wider community. We need to reach out to those who are having little or no contact with the Christian faith.

We want a Priest who understands the diverse needs of a parish with areas of high deprivation. They will support and encourage members of the congregation in the on-going ministry and be well able to continue the current blend of traditional and modern worship through Bible-based teaching. We would expect the Priest to encourage discipleship and the spiritual growth of the congregation through prayer, bible study and engagement with all we serve.

### **Qualities and attributes we would like to see in the new incumbent**

- To be a good teacher, able to explain the Bible and apply it relevantly to our lives
- To be able to lead and develop the worship and the prayerful life of the parish in conjunction with others
- To embed the intentions of the Mission Action Plan of the church
- To have the desire to identify, support and encourage new leaders within the congregation
- To continue to foster our strong relationships within the parish, the Deanery, local institutions, schools community organisations. medical Centre and the community
- To be an effective communicator, have well-developed interpersonal skills and be competent with the use of IT software packages
- The ability to foster teamwork within the PCC and congregation
- To facilitate and encourage participation in home groups/fresh expressions to instruct and teach people outside the main services
- Has the pastoral skill to engage with and support individuals in the congregation and the community at significant points in their lives
- Will challenge and nourish theological reflection on local, national and international issues
- To value to each and every member of the parish and welcome them into the church
- To respect our style of worship and churchmanship

To lead and support the developing partnership with Sporting Chance.

### **What we can offer you**

A friendly, welcoming congregation with warm, approachable and enthusiastic people who look out for each other.

Dedicated people that take on essential work of the church, including the church wardens PCC, and sub-committees.

Willing teams of workers in a variety of areas including, but not exclusively, home communion, cleaning teams, social group, Sunday school and 'Little Flock' team.

The Church building is in a good state of repair that is well utilised by the church and the community.

With recent regeneration of Newbiggin Hall now has a new medical centre, a new shopping centre and a new School complex.



### **Redevelopment and the future.**

For many years our church halls have not been fit for purposes and we had reluctantly decided demolish them. It was proposed to install a pod system within the church with a meeting room, toilet and kitchen facility.

£150,000.000 of funding was raised by the congregation and the pod was installed just prior to the 2020 Covid lock down. It was also possible to upgrade much of the Church building giving us the opportunity to better serve both God and the wider community

An agreement with the charity Sporting chance will see them extensively renovate the church halls to meet their needs in return for a long term lease. The halls will help many young people excluded from main stream education a far better alternative to demolishing them.

Under this agreement the congregation and community will still be able to use the halls when available.

