

DIOCESE OF NEWCASTLE

PATRONAGE (BENEFICES) MEASURE 1986

Parish of St Peter Cowgate PCC

Statement prepared by the P.C.C. describing the Church's ministry and mission within the parish



1. The Local Community

Please describe the size and physical features of the parish, the industry, the principal institutions, all schools, and the general category (e.g. UPA inner city, UPA housing estate, urban, suburban, market town, commuter village, village/rural).

Also details of any predominant age and/or social groups, the ethnic mix, and any special social problems, e.g. unemployment, etc.

St. Peter's Parish is located in the West End of the City of Newcastle upon Tyne. There are three distinct communities that make up the parish; Cowgate, Blakelaw and North Fenham,

It is a densely populated area with approximately 8,450 residents (2011 census) - 8,641 in 2018 as updated by the Church of England Research and Statistics Unit.

The Church Urban Fund Lookup Tool (see Appendix A) using government information <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/english-indices-of-deprivation-2019> indicates that based on the Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) 2019 Cowgate ranked 198 out of 12382 Church of England Parishes making it among the most deprived in the country and 7th most deprived in the Diocese.

There is no industry in the area.

INSTITUTIONS

There are 2 Primary Schools in the parish. Thomas Walling and Hilton Primary Academies

Cragston House which is a residential psychiatric unit for those with long term mental health problems.

Pavilion Court Nursing Home which cares for the elderly in need of residential care.

There are *four sheltered housing accommodation blocks*, two in Cowgate and two in Blakelaw.

Cowgate : *Highmoor Court, The Dales*

Blakelaw : *Holly Court, Park View Grove.*

There is an NHS "Walk-in Centre" and doctor's surgery on Ponteland Road and another Doctor's Surgery and Dental Practice on Springfield Road.

POPULATION / SOCIAL GROUPS / SOCIAL PROBLEMS

The population age range is mixed.

The population of the Parish is predominantly white British (88.1%); Asian (6.3%); Black (3.4%) and Mixed (1.3%).

As shown in Appendix A the CUF report indicates high levels of child and working age poverty, in particular, and high levels of residents who have no qualifications.

2. The Church Community

Please give details of the congregations

e.g. any predominant age/social groups, what proportion live outside the parish.

Approximately 50% of the congregation are over 70 years old, the majority of whom have spent all or most of their lives in the parish. A number have not returned to Sunday worship at the end of the pandemic and 4-5 now receive home communion.

The Covid pandemic has affected adversely the number of people who attend on Sunday and these have not returned to pre-pandemic levels. This has been particularly apparent in the number of children who attend on a regular basis – now usually only 2 -4.

The congregation is predominantly local with about 37% living outside the parish boundary

3. Statistics from 2021

Population: 8,450 (2011 census) ; 8,641 (updated 2018)

Electoral Roll 46

Average Sunday Communicants 25 :

Average Sunday attendance 25 (40 in 2019): 2-4 children

Average baptisms per annum 20 in 2020

Average Confirmations per annum 1-2

Average weddings per annum 1 (2020) – 0 (2021)

Average funerals per annum 9 (2020) ; 8 (2021)

Average house communions for the sick or housebound 4-5 per month

See Appendix B – Statistics for Mission Dashboard for more detailed statistics

4. Church Buildings

Please give details of the churches and licensed places of worship.

The Church was consecrated in 1953. It is a single storey, single aisle brick building with an aluminium roof. The metal framed windows are glazed in polycarbonate. It has gas central heating. There is seating for 160. The main features of the Church are the carved Christus Rex (by Kathleen Parbury, a famous local artist), Stations of the Cross and statue of Our Lady and Child and the Divine Compassion. The screen separating the nave from the chancel depicts the symbols of the 11 apostles and St. Paul. The Church has recently been redecorated and is in relatively good order. The latest quinquennial report advised the redecoration of the external window frames and it is hoped to put this in hand during the next year. The toilet facilities require updating and the Architect advises the installation of hot water and reconfiguration of the facilities to improve accessibility. The PCC feel that it would also be helpful to improve kitchenette/servery facilities and create a more flexible space at the back of Church.

Please give details of church halls and any other ancillary buildings (and an indication of the level of their use).

There is a church hall of brick and timber construction dating from 1973. It was extended in 1993 to incorporate an annex with a further kitchen and separate toilet facilities.

The church hall is used regularly by the following organisations on a weekly sessional basis:

Kids Kabin (a Newcastle based children's community charity that works in disadvantaged neighbourhoods in the North East)

Ahmadiyya Muslim Association

The small hall and office is currently used exclusively by Sporting Chance North East <https://scne.org.uk/> a local not for profit organisation that provides educational and sporting opportunities for disadvantaged young people in the North East.

The hall has in the past been booked by various dance and exercise groups but there are none who use the hall currently.

Is there a churchyard to maintain and who is responsible for its maintenance?

There is no churchyard, but there are large grounds surrounding the church and church hall.

The PCC has entered into a contract with the Local Authority to cut the grass and weed pathways etc.

The Church owns the adjacent property, 5 Druridge Drive. This property was the original vicarage. The PCC is responsible for its maintenance. It is currently rented to a Church family.

5. Patterns of Worship

Sunday services with times and form of service used.

0915 Sung Eucharist Parish Eucharist

1800 Evening Prayer & Benediction (this has not been maintained during vacancy)

Weekday services

Monday 1900 Said Eucharist

Wednesday 1000 Said Eucharist

Thursday 1900 Said Eucharist (we have tried to maintain this during the Vacancy)

Friday 0900 Said Eucharist

6. Church Tradition

Please describe the tradition of your church

St. Peter's is rooted in a modern catholic tradition.

Sacrament and scripture are at the heart of the worshipping tradition. Pre-Pandemic we had a full serving team but this has not yet returned.

7. Church Activities

Regular groups for Bible study/other study/prayer

Advent and Lent Study Groups, which are based around prayer, scripture and current issues. Some have included the use of an appropriate Film. During the Pandemic many of the discipleship/seasonal courses have not been able to run because of the difficulty parishioners have had accessing zoom and other such platforms

Children & Youth Work/Sunday School/Uniformed organisations

The Church has no uniformed organisations and currently is not directly involved in any childrens/youth work.

Prior to the pandemic the Church ran the Lantern Group, a youth discipleship group for young teenagers which was sustained by lay people and clergy collaborating to plan and run the group. It was not possible to restart post pandemic.

Whilst with the Parish (and during times when it was permissible in line with Covid restrictions) the Children and Families Missioner started Sporty Church which regularly had 6 - 8 young children as a means of outreach to non-Church children. When the Children & Families Missioner left it was not possible to continue this.

Clubs/Societies

None

Support of home and overseas missions

Support is given to international disaster emergency appeals through ad hoc collections, eg, Christian Aid.

Faith Sharing events or programmes

As above Advent and Lent study groups.

Social work/Caring for others/Parochial charities

West End Refugee Service

Macmillan's

West End Food Bank

People's Kitchen

Sporting Chance North East

Any other

We have been used as a training parish for different forms of lay and ordained ministry.

The Church was happy to be involved and be part of the training. We were enriched by the different perspectives brought by the individuals.

8. Ministry

Does the parish/locality have a Local Ministry Group?

If so, how long has it existed, what are its main responsibilities?

No

List any additional authorised ministers (e.g. Reader, Church Army Officer, Ordained Local Minister, Non-stipendiary Minister, Curate in training, retired Clergy)

1 Reader Emeritus who is currently housebound

1 Licensed Reader

5 Eucharistic Ministers (2 of whom currently take out home communions)

Please indicate current lay involvement in:

a) worship (e.g. Lesson reader, intercessions, administration of communion, serving, other)

Reading lessons for the Eucharist

Intercessions

Serving

Eucharistic Ministry

b) administration (e.g. pew sheet or magazine production, secretarial assistance, registers, other)

A weekly notice sheet is produced by a member of the PCC.. She also produces leaflets and posters as necessary.

The registers are maintained by the incumbent.

c) pastoral work (e.g. baptism preparation/visiting, home communion, visiting housebound or in hospital, other)

Home communions

Visiting housebound

9 Finance

Have you had a parish funding campaign recently?

Is use made of Gift Aid and/or an envelope scheme?

Is the Parish Share paid regularly and in full?

Are there any major debts? Give details of expenses paid to the incumbent, and state whether this covers them in full. Please attach a copy of the latest statement of accounts.

It is some time since we had a full parish funding campaign but there is an There is an envelope scheme and giving is subject to Gift Aid.

In recent years we have paid our Parish Share in full.

We have no debts currently.

10. Community involvement

Describe the involvement of the church in:

Schools (e.g. Governors, leading assemblies etc.)

The incumbent was governor at one of the two primary schools in the parish. In the past Clergy have taken regular school assemblies and worked in classes at one of the two schools and one of the schools come to Church at Christmas and occasionally at Easter for their end of term services and nativity plays. The schools visit the Church at other times as part of the curriculum.

Other institutions (Industry, Old People's Homes, Hostels, Civic life etc)

Clergy have led a form of worship, as appropriate, with Holy Communion, at Pavilion Court Nursing Home.

11. Relationships with neighbouring parishes

We are part of the West Deanery and take part in occasional joint services, etc

Are you aware of how these relationships fit in with any Deanery Plans, and the implications such Plans may have for future ministerial deployment in your parish?

The Diocese is committed to a programme of Deanery Development in which the deanery will take an active role in its own development. For three years our previous Incumbent was half time Priest in Charge of St Wilfrid's Newbiggin Hall and continued as half time Vicar of St Peter's. The ministry in the Parishes was supported by a curate (and for one year a second curate) and a Child and Families Missioner who worked across both Parishes. We understand that this pattern may continue.

12. Ecumenical Relationships

The Parish is a Member of Churches Together in Fenham although of late has not been very actively involved.

13. The Parish and the future

What plans does the P.C.C. have for deepening the spiritual life of the members of the congregation, and for engagement in outreach to those who do not attend church?

Continue to focus on collaborative ministry and the deepening of discipleship..

Continue to build on links with the community through collaboration with Sporting Chance North East.

What is lacking which needs to be pursued in the next 5 years?

The encouragement of more people to become involved in the day to day responsibility for the functioning of the church e.g. fundraising, maintaining fabric etc.

Finding new ways of strengthening our congregation including partnership with community groups.

Recently at our PCC we took part in a type of Emmaus walk which helped us to focus on what our missional response might be following the pandemic, and how the church might serve the wider community as we move back into some kind of normal way of life.

In our recently produced Diocesan Self Review the following priorities were identified.

Growth in spirituality, numbers and missional commitment

Development of work with young people

Discovering and promoting lay and ordained vocations

Respond to the poverty and austerity experienced in the parish

14. The new incumbent

In the light of the factors set out above, what are the qualities and attributes the P.C.C. would wish to see in the new incumbent?

The PCC would like a priest with a modern catholic background and with leadership strengths. We hope that the new incumbent will encourage lay leadership and be willing to continue the connection with Sporting Chance North East. We would like to see our next incumbent take an active role in the life of the two Primary Schools in the parish.

Recent experience of lay and ordained colleagues valued contribution would, either as permanent appointments or as placements.

15. Parsonage

Age, number of bedrooms, heating, garden etc.

Any additional information.

The vicarage was purpose built in the early 1970s.

Four bedrooms, separate dining room, study and downstairs toilet/shower room.

The house is mainly in a good state of repair.

There is a large garden.



MISSION STATEMENT

At St. Peter's we are called to be a worshipping community that is a sign of God's loving presence in Cowgate, Blakelaw and North Fenham. We are here for each other and for anyone needing friendship, support and prayer. We welcome everyone in Jesus' name.

