



Two Churches in one Parish

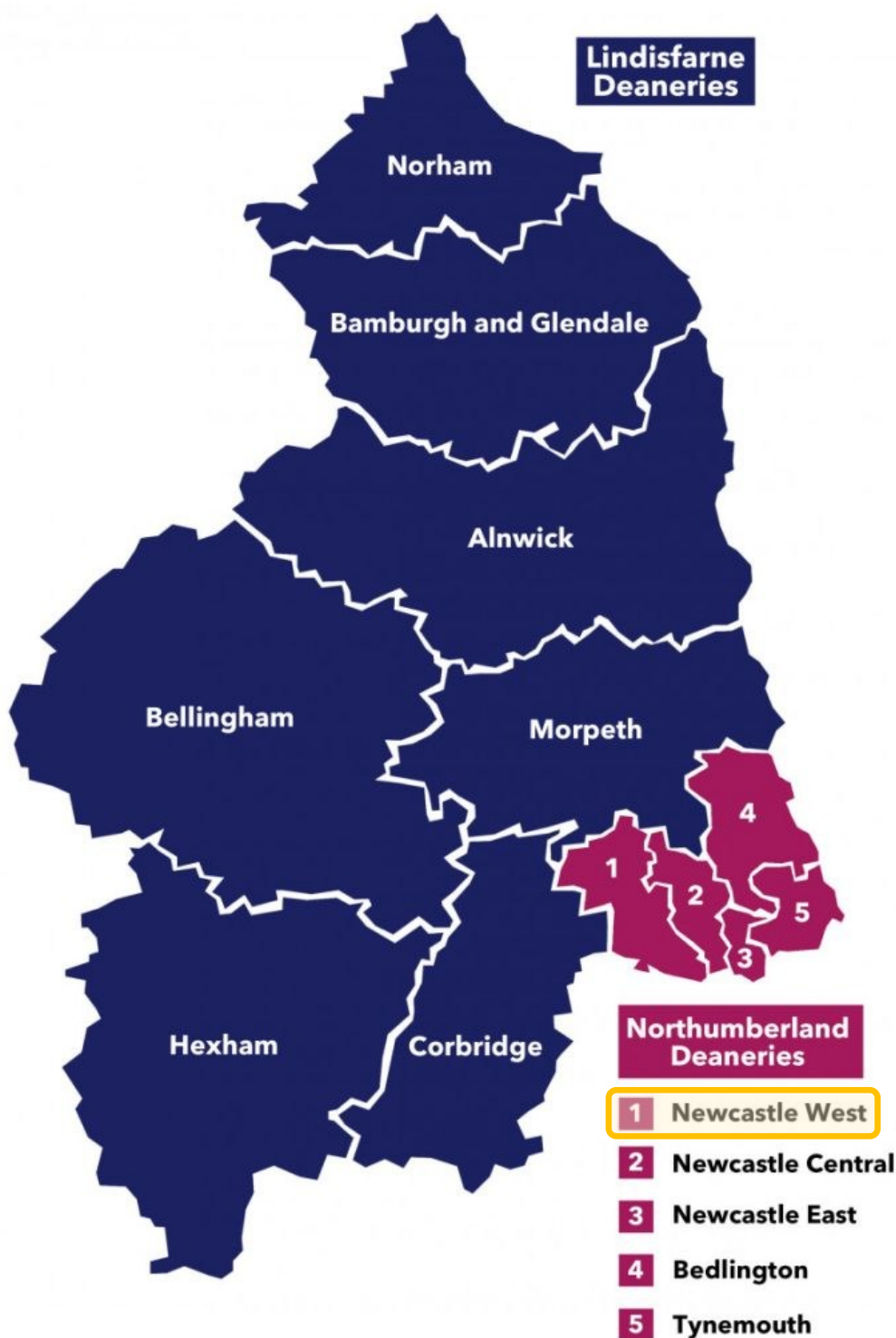
Welcome to the Diocese of Newcastle.

Thank you so much for your interest in this role, and I hope you enjoy reading the information contained in this brochure and will find it helpful for your discernment. These are exciting and challenging times in the Diocese of Newcastle. Exciting because we are at an early stage of a new season, challenging because like many dioceses we face conversations about our future and how best we use and deploy our resources. Our Deanery Development work has engaged every parish and benefice in renewed conversations about mission and ministry, and we are in a process of entering a new phase in that work, mapping out our renewed strategy and vision. Our outward facing values of 'seeking, sharing, sending' stem from a commitment to be a Church turning outwards in mission and ministry, and younger and more diverse by: SEEKING through being open to God's transforming love; SHARING through being generous with God's transforming gifts; SENDING through being engaged in God's transforming work in the world. I am looking for clergy who are excited about the opportunities and challenges we face, who are happy to work collaboratively and imaginatively with colleagues, and who can inspire communities to roll up their sleeves and get stuck into God's mission, by affirming, enabling, and encouraging lay and clergy together. As your Bishop, I am committed to your wellbeing and development, and I would love to explore with you whether God may be calling you to this role.

The Rt Revd Dr Helen-Ann Hartley Bishop of Newcastle



The Diocese of Newcastle is the Church of England's most northerly diocese. This Diocese in the 'land of the Northern Saints' was formed in 1882 and comprises 169 parishes across 2,110 square miles. The Diocese covers the local authorities of Northumberland, Newcastle, North Tyneside and also small parts of County Durham and Cumbria. The 12 deaneries within 2 archdeaconries serve a population of about 831,600 people across a variety of communities ranging from sparse rural to large inner-city areas of deprivation.



All about Newburn Parish

Located in the Tyne Valley on the western edge of Newcastle upon Tyne, Newburn Parish is home to **St Michael and All Angels**, in Newburn and **St Mary the Virgin**, in Throckley.

St Michael's church building is Grade I listed and some parts date back to Norman times. Following the fire of 2006 the roof was replaced, the peal of bells recast and a modern artwork commissioned for above the nave. St Mary's was built in 1886-1887 to accommodate a growing congregation. We operate very much as one parish and share all aspects of our church lives.

We aim to be a:

Community in which we value all people, our local environment and God's Earth, sharing
Hope in God's certain promises demonstrated through the life, death and
Resurrection of Jesus.
In him we find life in all its fullness, life which we aim to
Share with others, working
Together as one body.

We are on the western edge of the Newcastle Diocese, within the Newcastle West Deanery and offer a unique blend of rural and urban accessibility; Northumberland National Park, Kielder Forest, and Hadrian's Wall are all on our doorstep offering excellent walking, cycling and outdoor activity opportunities.

Our parish is located close to the A1 and the A69, offering excellent transport links North and South, as well as West across to Carlisle. We are approximately 8 miles from Newcastle City Centre, 4 miles from the Metro Centre and around 15 miles to the coast and the beautiful beaches of North Tyneside and South Northumberland.

The villages in our parish are well served by regular bus routes linking us to the city centre and local shops multiple times an hour as well as a bus west towards Hexham and Carlisle. Our closest train station is at Blaydon, offering links to Newcastle Central Station and the East coast mainline.

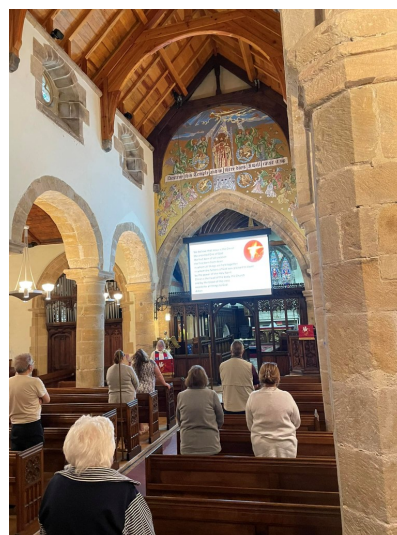


Our Worship

As we operate as one parish, the style of worship in both churches is the same. We encompass a broadly central tradition with evangelical roots. We enjoy traditional hymns as well as more contemporary worship songs in each service. We prefer a balanced liturgy with structured services but delivered warmly and informally. We enjoy biblical sermons that teach us faithfully and practically, and are inclusive, thoughtful and Spirit-led.

We have a sound system and projector screen in both churches, which we use at every service. We have a small but effective technical support team within the congregation who can operate the system, plan services on PowerPoint and play worship songs and hymns where appropriate. We have an organ in both churches but generally only the organ at St Michael's is used weekly.

We have one service in each church weekly, currently 9.30am at St Michael's and 11am in St Mary's. We also have a monthly Contemporary Worship service in St Mary's and have a joint Parish service in one of the churches when there is a 5th Sunday. We welcome children in the churches and have an All Age Family Communion once per month. We are supported by three retired clergy who conduct services each month for us, and as we encourage lay ministry, we have our own lay ministry team who deliver a family friendly service of the word as well.



Groups and Activities

We have worked hard in recent years to build a strong community outreach programme of events. We have regular weekly groups including Noah's Ark and our Prayer group, monthly sessions such as Messy Church, Bethany and a Faith Discussion group, and frequent community invitational events such as Lego Mornings and fairs.



Noah's Ark is held in our Parish Hall every Wednesday during school term time. It attracts families with children from birth up to school age and provides a safe play space, time for singing and refreshments.

Messy Church is held in our Parish Hall on the first Saturday of the month. It is aimed at primary school aged children and combines themed arts and craft activities with a story from the Bible and a meal for the children.



During the Half Term school holidays, in February, May and October we host a Lego Morning in the Parish Hall. We have a huge collection of donated Lego which we put out for free play. Attendance has been as high as 50 families and it has proved very popular, especially for the home made cakes and refreshments provided.

Our monthly Bethany group is attended by a group of our older residents and members. It starts with a short time of worship and prayer and includes an activity such as a quiz, game or craft followed by drinks and cakes. It is a time of refreshment for body, mind and spirit



In early 2023 we started an informal singing group who meet fortnightly in St Mary's, Throckley. The group meet and sing together to improve their wellbeing and spend time with friends. There is tea and coffee, opportunities to chat and plenty of giggles and singing. The current group have performed at our Carol's by Candlelight service, and at other parish events throughout the year.

Once a month a group meet in St Mary's to discuss faith and study the Bible. We have followed the 'Blessing' course (developed by staff in the Durham Diocese) among others to invite conversations and discussions and inspire curiosity and spiritual growth.



We have a prayer group who meet on a Thursday in the Parish Hall each week. The group offers a time for Bible reading, shared reflection and prayer.

Parish Events

Here is a snapshot of some of the events we have put on recently. We hope to continue with these regular events during the interregnum. Our Parish Events Group consists of members of both churches who work tirelessly behind the scenes to organise and promote our events. All of these events have been open to the local community and we have had great attendance from people who don't usually attend church or even come in our buildings.



Other buildings



Parish Vicarage:

The vicarage is a detached house just off the main street in the centre of Newburn village. It has 4 bedrooms and 3 reception rooms, a large private driveway and a large mature garden to the back.

The Parsonage:

The parish also owns the 'Parsonage' next door to St Mary's, Throckley. This is currently rented out to a long term tenant.



Newburn Parish Hall:

The parish hall is managed by its own committee. They allow us use of the hall for Parish Events. Members of the parish and PCC help to maintain the hall and put on events here.



Our Vision

God is working in so many areas in Newburn Parish. We run a range of mission and outreach activities and are always looking for ways to engage the community in parish life. We are excited to see where God will take us, building on the foundations of mission we have already got in place. We want a new incumbent to support us where we are already flourishing; we currently offer a wide range of activities to suit all ages, abilities and backgrounds. We are looking to grow our church numbers, with a particular focus on spiritual development for teenagers and young people. We are also looking to develop support for our pastoral team who currently support ill and aging members of our congregation. We believe there is a huge amount of untapped potential in the new estates and communities in our parish, and we would love to be supported to continue to reach them. We want to continue to utilise and develop the many gifts God has placed within our congregation and continue to encourage people to use them to serve our parish.

We are looking for a vicar who...

- will continue to treat us as one Parish
- enjoys being involved with all areas of parish life and is willing to take an active role in church activities and events.
- can meet people where they are and encourage them to grow in faith and discipleship.
- has a passion for youth work and developing our links with local schools and young people.
- recognises and encourages gifts in others and supports others in their own leadership development
- is inclusive and who embraces the LGBTQIA+ conversations within the Church of England
- enjoys a range of worship styles including contemporary songs and more traditional music
- appreciates and encourages bell ringing
- supports and continues the work we have done to achieve Silver Eco Church status
- recognises the PCC support system and the worth of lay leadership we have in place
- embraces modern technology as most of our services are done on PowerPoint and our sound system.

