



Parish Profile

THE TEAM PARISH OF CHRIST THE KING

Diocese of Newcastle

January 2020



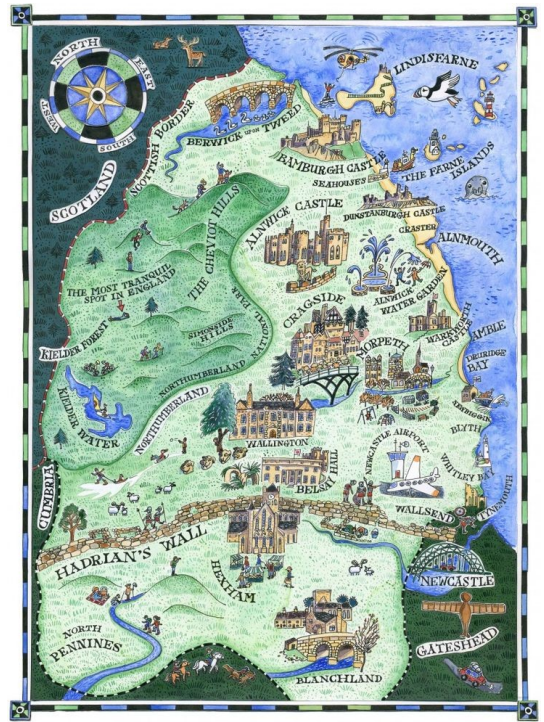
Weetstlade Court, Extra Care Housing, Wideopen

The following pages show part of the Parish Profile produced January 2019 - as part of the process of appointing a new Team Rector and Priest in charge for St. Aidan's Church

The Team Parish of Christ the King, Newcastle upon Tyne

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Northumberland and the Diocese of Newcastle

If you know Northumberland and Newcastle well then you will need no introduction to this wonderful and picturesque part of God's world. The Diocese of Newcastle enfolds an area from the Tweed to the Tyne and westwards into the Pennines.

If you don't know this part of the country, then we would love to show you our beautiful beaches and rolling hills; our charming market towns and our proud communities that were once the backbone of our nation's industry and prosperity. And of course, the vibrant and dynamic city of Newcastle upon Tyne.

In Newcastle City you will find a celebrated heritage, diverse and sometimes surprising architecture which reflects the significance of this city in our national life.

St Nicholas Cathedral sits right at the heart of an ever-changing urban landscape. There are superlative cultural opportunities offered by its cinemas, theatres, music venues and museums. Our two universities, the older Newcastle University (a School of Medicine was established in 1834) and modern Northumbria University, provide the opportunity to gain knowledge in an array of international studies. Newcastle is proud to be



the home of a number of outstanding hospitals, serving the community with a wide range of care, diagnostic and treatment facilities. Leisure activities include golf courses, parks, a racecourse, nature reserves, sports stadia and an annual travelling fun fair, said to be the largest in Europe. Newcastle International Airport is the



largest in the North East and is situated 6 miles north west of Newcastle city centre (part of the runway of which is in our parish). It is a city known widely for its vibrant night life in addition to its fantastic shopping centres. Its people, 'the Geordies' are renowned for their warmth and friendliness and let's not forget its football team!

This is a land with an inspiring Christian heritage. We are always conscious of the many great Northern Saints who trod this land and gave us a wonderful foundation for faith. Their presence is all around us and reflected in many of the names of the church communities that make up the Parish of Christ the King.

The Team Parish of Christ the King

The Parish of Christ the King is on the northern edge of Newcastle city and part of it stretches into the North Tyneside local authority. The parish is made up of a very diverse cluster of communities which provide much interest and variety. It incorporates former mining villages and farms bordering the edge of the countryside contrasted with brand new housing developments which are becoming new communities with their own identities. Across the whole parish we all share the challenge of how best to blend together established with emerging communities, drawing on our collective experiences of being a key part of building healthy communities. This challenge is at the core of our mission.

The Team Parish of Christ the King was established in 1988 and is one of the largest parishes in the diocese. Part of Newcastle Central Deanery, it covers an area of approximately 20 square kilometers. The Parish is a Team Ministry made up of four districts; St Aidan's (including the Ark and the Church in the Park), St Columba's, St Matthew's and St Cuthbert's. In time it is hoped that the Church in the Park becomes a fifth district in the team and the Parish boundary is currently being redrawn to make this possible. Ecumenically, the Roman Catholic Church of the Sacred Heart and St John's United Reformed Church are both in the district based around St Columba's, Wideopen. There is limited interaction with other denomina-

tions with the main practical expression of this being the ecumenical Lent services and lunches and the week of Prayer for Christian Unity. There is an enthusiasm for ecumenical 'fraternal' meeting of clergy.

Each district manages its day to day affairs through a



District Church Council (DCC). A Parochial Church Council (PCC) has overall responsibility for the mission and ministry of the Parish and is the legal entity. There is an increasing awareness across the team of the potential synergy that can come from greater collaboration and mutual support and learning together. Finding effective ways to foster this growing realisation, whilst respecting the diversity and local rootedness, is one of the important challenges for anyone who will lead us in the future. It is a task that requires imagination, diplomacy and a strategic vision as well as a deep pastoral concern and appreciation for the committed people in this parish.



The four church buildings in the Parish of Christ the King St Aidan's, St Columba's, St Cuthbert's and St Matthew's. The Church in the Park meets in the Great Park Community Centre

The Ministry Team

The previous Team Rector and Vicar of St Aidan's, Revd Michelle Dalliston resigned from her post in September 2018 and moved to join her husband, the Dean of Peterborough Cathedral. In November 2018, the Title was suspended and an Interim Minister, Revd Peter Sinclair, was appointed to focus on St Aidan's, to ensure that momentum was maintained and to undertake a review of the whole Parish as to its future organisation and mission. As a result the parish has not experienced a long interregnum and is in a very positive frame of mind to begin to work with a new Team Rector on this next phase of development of mission and ministry.

The Ministry Team in the Parish offers a stimulating group of colleagues who bring a wide range of interests and experience to the work of the Team.

Each of the licenced members of the team has a focal ministry within a specific district to provide local leadership and pastoral care. Members of the wider Ministry Team provide cover for each other across the whole team as required.

The Team Rector with specific responsibility for St Aidan's will focus on the church community based at St Aidan's including Brunton Park, Melton Park and Whitebridge Park as well as lead the Parish Team. This is a full-time role. The Team Rector would lead worship in each of the churches on a regular basis.

Members of the Team include:

Revd Mark Edwards MBE.

Mark is the most established member of the team having joined in 2008. Mark moved to Newcastle from Carlisle Diocese and initially had a half time role as a Police Chaplain. The chaplaincy post was made redundant in 2012 and since then Mark has acted with energy and commitment in a half time role as Team Vicar. He leads the church communities based at St Matthews's in Dinnington (where he lives with his family) as well as St Cuthbert's, serving the communities of Brunswick Village and Hazelrigg. Mark is also a First Responder with NE Ambulance Service and offers his skills to the wider community.



Revd Dr Pauline Pearson

Pauline was licensed to lead the community at St Columba's in Wideopen in November 2019 having retired from her post as Prof of Nursing at Northumbria University. This is a half time Team Vicar post and Pauline lives for part of the week at the vicarage in Wideopen. Pauline has a wide range of interests including CHRISM and 'Together Newcastle.'



Revd Ruth Hewett.

Ruth was ordained in 2016 having served as a pioneering church based lay Community Worker establishing the Ark in the Park and Church in the Park. Ruth lives in the Ark in the Park house and serves as Self Supporting minister with a House for Duty. Ruth trained originally as a furniture designer and her creative gifts find ready expression in her ministry.



Lay Readers Ken Newitt, David Gray and Chris Sayers

Ken and David are both very experienced Lay Readers in the Team serving mainly at St Aidan's and St Cuthbert's respectively. Ken has a background in finance and also serves as the treasurer for St Aidan's. David has many years experience as a Chaplain to the deaf community. Chris focuses his ministry mainly as Chaplain at St Nicholas Cathedral as well contributing to the life of St Aidan's.

Retired Clergy

The team is very blessed to have the commitment of a group of retired clergy, Revd Ben Pullan, Revd Christine Crompton, Revd Bill Miller and Revd Ray Devenney who all take an active part in contributing to services and occasional offices across the team.

Authorised Lay Ministers

We also have a number of people who are training as part of the Diocesan Authorised Ministry programme and we look forward to their growing contribution in the near future.

Administration

St Aidan's DCC employs a Church Administrator, Mrs Janice Charlton, for 2 days each week and she is also able to provide some administrative support to the Team as appropriate.

Parish Development Priorities

During Lent 2019, many people from across the Parish came together in discussion groups focused on the theme of 'Building Bridges in Changing Times.' Discussions explored relationships within the team, with our communities and with the wider world. As a result a number of priority areas for development were identified that apply across the whole parish. This has given us a helpful focus which enables us to begin to discover more of the added value in being together as four Districts within one Parish as we look for new ways to share resources, learning, ideas and encouragement with each other. For many years the Parish had operated a 'Team Light' approach with limited intentional interaction between the Districts. There is still a cautiousness about any team development that feels 'managerial' or that takes focus away from the local contexts. There is however a growing sense that there is so much that we share in common and that we are 'better together.' It is important that the new Team Rector is sensitive to this history but sees how to build on it. We are also very mindful of the Diocesan Vision which is summarised as Growing Church Bringing Hope and seek to align with its aims.



growing church bringing hope

The Ten Priority areas that came from our 2019 discussion are all consistent with the way that the Diocese is moving forward in its vision and values. The priority areas are themes that we can work on together. Each of four ordained members of the Ministry Team

takes responsibility for coordinating a theme and seeking the synergy across the team. The new Team Rector would be expected to take an overview of the whole process with their colleagues and to hold specific responsibility for a few of the development priority areas. The details of this shared and collaborative leadership will be worked out within the Ministry Team depending on areas of interest and expertise. Matters relating to worship styles and patterns, finances, care of buildings and pastoral care are matters that are all important but are addressed locally, although there is still much that can be shared across the Team on these topics. One of our priority areas is to explore ways in which we might simplify the way we work.

1	New Housing: Each district in the parish has significant new housing developments. We need to discover more about how best to relate to those who move into our districts and support community building.
2	Health and Wellbeing: We believe that the church has an important contribution to make in this area and we are actively exploring how best we can offer support to tackle the issues of isolation and support mental wellbeing especially.
3	Young People: As well as encouraging young people in their faith journeys we are also concerned to reach out to young people to show that we care about them and the challenges they face.
4	Mission / Building Bridges: We are keen to build effective bridges and make common cause with the many active and caring groups that also seek to address important current issues. We look for opportunities to work in partnership with others.
5	Communications: We are working to improve the way we communicate within the parish and how we make effective use of social media as we communicate more widely.
6	Prayer: We recognise that we will only be effective in our mission if we are tuned into God's purposes and will and enrich our prayer lives together.
7	Discipleship: We are exploring ways to encourage confident disciples who relate their faith with the issues and concerns they meet in daily life and work.
8	Ministry: We are encouraging more lay development in leading aspects of ministry in leading worship, pastoral care and community development
9	Evangelism: We are looking for more opportunities to encourage new disciples and grow our faith communities.
10	Team synergy: We are exploring ways to maximise the benefits of being together as a team and to simplify ways of working.

Being Together as a Team

We look for opportunities to come together throughout the year to worship and socialise across the team.

For example, we celebrate our Patronal Festival together each year at different churches and combine that with our Team Confirmation celebration.

In the past few years, a regular Choral evensong has been arranged led by a choir from across the team, taking turns at different churches. This has proved popular.

In 2018 we arranged our Lent Course as a Team activity offering a number of sessions at different locations.

This helped people to get to know each other better and appreciate all that we have in common.

During Lent, a Passover Supper was organised as a team wide social activity and other events have been held to bring people together.

The Parish Diary of events in each Church community is circulated to all the churches monthly to ensure awareness of what is happening across the Parish.

Recently we have collaborated across the Parish to enhance our websites in each of our churches so that we have a consistent

approach and can share expertise and resources. We believe that there are many opportunities for us to work together in practical ways to enhance our mission.



Hopes for the next few years

The PCC recently identified the following hopes /aspirations for the next few years for the Parish

- Find a clear way forward for our church presence in Great Park and the future of Ark in the Park
- Strong growing church reaching out to the growing communities with sustainable activity within the communities
- Engage with the community even if people do not attend church and build a sense of trust between the church and community
- Be effective Bridge Builders and seek to make common cause with others of good will
- Grow vibrant worshipping communities in terms of all ages
- Have a settled team with clergy able to work across the team
- More established youth work / Messy Church
- Develop active, spirited lay people who can release the clergy to develop others



The Church Communities that make up the Parish of Christ the King

St Aidan's District

This District will be the usual focus and base for the Team Rector whilst still maintaining an overview of the whole Team.

The Local Community

The St Aidan's District largely reflects the Parklands Ward of Newcastle City Council which has a growing population of approx. 10,000 residents. It encompasses the northern edge of the suburb of Gosforth and covers part of the Newcastle Great Park residential and business development as well as the residential areas of Whitebridge Park, Brunton Park, Gosforth Park, Greystoke Park, Bridge Park and Melton Park.

These are well established communities in which people have settled, families have grown up and many have retired. The demographics are overwhelmingly white, middle class and professional.

Housing is made up largely of privately-owned detached and semi-detached houses and bungalows. The majority of those who work commute to Newcastle or use the A1 Western Bypass to travel further afield. Children grow up in mainly affluent households and attend schools with good Ofsted reports, within easy reach of their homes. Melbury and Warkworth Woods (part of Great Park) in the St Aidan's district have been built over the last 20 years. These newer developments bring together residents of mixed backgrounds and cultures joined together by high aspirations. The average age of the people living there is 30 to 49 and many have young families. Whilst the area is primarily residential, there are a number of local business mainly concerned with Hospitality and with Residential Care Service.



Brunton Park estate is well served by a local Medical Centre, a good range of local shops as well as a Community Centre.

The St Aidan's Church Community

Most of the congregation comes from the surrounding housing estates and have been members of the church for many years. In reality the majority of the congregation are aged 60+ but there are a few younger families and a small number of children in the weekly Sunday School.

Over the years, St Aidan's has seen itself as the 'soul of the Community', encouraging and enabling a wider sense of belonging; a focal point for the neighbourhood and for regular worship. It is welcoming, supporting those experiencing difficult times, whilst offering a place to mark important 'life' moments. St Aidan's is a meeting place where faith is nurtured and to which people have a sense of belonging.

St Aidan's sees its mission and outreach in the wider community and beyond as an important part of its life and witness, and is open to fresh possibilities.



Church Building

St. Aidan's church is a relatively modern church consecrated on 4th May 1963. St. Aidan's Church community however, began some 20 years earlier on a smaller Brunton Park, growing from a weekly Sunday school in a house, to a Nissen hut and eventually to the building used today. This was a church plant which was initially set up from the district based at St Columba's.

The church grew up with the estate. In its early days the church building doubled up as a community space but such was the demand that a Community Centre, which is now run independently, was built adjacent to the church building on land owned by the Diocese. The church building and Community Centre were made possible by the enthusiasm of the local community and this commitment has been sustained over the years. In 2010 an extension was added to the North side of the Church, thanks to a legacy, but also to be of benefit to the community. The 'St Aidan's Community Room' is an extremely popular venue, used for church activities and



by many local groups; it is in use most days and evenings. There is no churchyard at St Aidan's. The fabric of St Aidan's is in excellent condition being cared for by an enthusiastic Fabric Group.

In Melton Park there is the remains of a medieval chapel which is a scheduled ancient monument which was first referenced in 1296.

Church Tradition and Patterns of worship

St Aidan's stands in the central to catholic tradition of the Church of England. Chasuble and stole are worn for the Eucharist and a team of servers contribute to the worship. It is generally relaxed and inclusive with a family friendly atmosphere

Sunday

- 8.00 Holy Communion (first Sunday)
- 9.30 Parish Eucharist Average (followed by tea/coffee in the Community Room)

Pre- covid these were regular events it is hoped that many will return in time

Study groups are held mainly before or during Advent and Lent, either in church or at an individual's home. Additionally, Lent study groups have been organised as Team events attended by members from each of the churches, meeting at different venues. There is a regular programme of Bible study groups.

St Aidan's has a **Local Ministry Group** which meets regularly and acts as a form of 'think-tank,' reflecting on the mission and the ministry that is offered. The outcome of each meeting is discussed at the subsequent DCC meeting.

A **Church Men's Group** gets together monthly and



enjoys a variety of themes: talks, visits and an occasional meal / drink. Meetings attract a number of men from the community who are on the fringe of the Church.

A **Luncheon Club** gathers bi monthly at a local 'pub' where a good meal and genial company are enjoyed. There is a particular focus on helping isolated people and those who struggle with their mobility to be able to take advantage of this.

The **Film Club** gets together on the second Thursday of each month. It is a relaxed afternoon and is eagerly anticipated by many, including some from the retirement home which is almost next door. The film is followed by a cup of tea, discussing the film and deciding on the next viewing.

A **Chat and Craft Group** gather monthly to chat while enjoying their hobbies, usually knitting, benefiting the annual shoe box appeal and church fairs.

The Wednesday morning **Drawing class** is well supported by a talented group 'drawn' from the community.

Our weekly **Saturday morning** café attracts many from the estate and beyond, giving us the opportunity to get to know and welcome many people to our church. Money donated at the café is given to various charities.

A **Dementia Care group** offered by Silverline Dementia offers a 'drop in' café for sufferers and their carers every Monday and is supported by many volunteers from the church community.

The St Aidan's **Eco Group** have helped to steer the Church to being awarded the Eco Church Bronze Award. There is also a positive commitment to Fair Trade.



St Aidan's has loose but supportive links with the active local groups of uniformed organisations. Local Brownies and Rainbows also make use of the community room twice a week for their pack meetings.

There are two residential homes within the district; 'The Manor House' a care home on Brunton Park and Melton House on Melton Park. There is also assisted living accommodation, Bowmont House, on the Great Park. Regular monthly services are held at all three homes.

Link with local Schools

There are no schools in this District. There is however regular contact with Brunton First School on the west side of Great Park. (We describe that more in the section on Church in the Park.) The school does occasionally use St Aidan's as its closest church building for Christmas services etc.

There are opportunities to form closer links with other schools in the area, even though they are outside our parish boundaries. These are the schools attended by the young people of our district.

There is a good relationship with a Nursery School, Snakes and Ladders, that meets in the adjacent Community Centre on Brunton Park. They enjoy visits to St Aidan's at key times in the year.

Finances.

Financially St Aidan's is able to fully meet its Parish Share and day to day expenses from its regular income. Capital items or larger expenditures need to be funded from reserves which are inevitably slowly reducing. Reserves have been boosted by some generous legacies over the years.

St Columba's District

The Local Community

The district served by St Columba's Wideopen encompasses the former mining villages of Seaton Burn and Wideopen, together with more recent areas of housing expansion in Woodlands Park, Five Mile Park and North Gosforth Park. Both of the latter are still expanding. The area is mainly situated to the east of the A1 – and served by the former Great North Road, now the B1318. To the North it encompasses the Service Area at the A19/A1 junction, and borders Northumberland. There is a small business park in Seaton Burn. To the West and to the South it borders the City of Newcastle, in which the majority of the Parish is situated, with access to the A1 and a cluster of pub/restaurant, hotel, garage and national coffee, sandwich and ice cream chains. The district also runs along Sandy Lane to the East, up to the A189 roundabout, which is a popular commuter route. More development is planned on this route. The area forms a significant part of the Weetslade Ward in North Tyneside. The population of the ward as a whole is currently estimated as just under 10,000 people. 47% of residents are male, and 53% female. Around 26% of the residents are over 65. Residents in the newer areas of housing are generally younger, many of them households with children. There are three schools in the district – two primary and one secondary. One residential home has just announced closure. There are three sheltered housing units in the area which are regularly visited. A monthly service in Weetslade Court, which is supported living accommodation, is shared ecumenically. Two doctors surgeries serve the area, as well as one dental surgery. Shops include a post office, pharmacy, bakery, café, general stores, a Coop supermarket, a SPAR supermarket, 2 established pubs as well as Chinese and Indian takeaway/ restaurants. Only around 1-2% of the population are foreign nationals, and so encouraging reflection on



inclusion and diversity is a challenge for schools and others.

The Church Community

The congregation is warm and welcoming. Their profile is predominantly older but includes some children and younger people. Members are engaged and involved in a variety of activities within and beyond the church with strong links into the community. People are open to a range of worship styles. They value worship which is prayerful and dignified.

Church Building

The modern building is 36 years old. It is situated in its own grounds, and has an integral church hall, chapel, meeting rooms and kitchen. It is well maintained and cared for. The church was built to combine two previous church communities, and some features of each of these churches (statues, font, stained glass, organ, pulpit) are integrated within the building.

The lighting system was improved and renewed in 2017, and an audio-visual digital display system was installed in 2018. The last quinquennial inspection was undertaken in 2019, with very few and only minor points raised which are being addressed. There are relatively limited car parking facilities around the building.



Church Tradition and patterns of worship

The current style of worship would be described as modern Catholic. Worship is mainly Eucharistic. The priest wears vestments at all services. The main Sunday services are a said Eucharist at 8am and a sung service at 10am, both using Common Worship Order One. There is

a midweek said service of Holy Communion (also Common Worship Order One, with sermon) on Wednesday morning at 9.30 am. There is a group of adults and young people who serve and act as crucifer. Some adults and young people are authorised to administer communion. A wider range of people read and lead intercessions during the 10am service. The church community sees itself as open minded and currently seeking to develop other forms of worship for families and others.

Church Activities

Mothers Union There is an active branch that meets one afternoon a month. Members support a variety of projects – this year a local project for the homeless, and work to support prisoners being discharged.

The Columba Club meets monthly and hosts a variety of interesting speakers. A number of people who are on the fringe of our Church attend.

Open Door - Once a month a simple lunch is offered to

elderly people from our congregation and the wider community. This group numbers around 20. Most members live alone and can feel isolated. We hold a short service in Church before lunch.

Two areas of activity previously undertaken within the district are now moving to a more parish based focus:

Messy Church is currently running on the Great Park (CITP) with support from St Columba's and other districts. Longer it is hoped that we can offer each themed session at other locations in the parish.

For about four years St Columba's ran a 'Hot Chocolate Project'. A group of young people met on a Friday evening supervised by a group of lay people. Recently the parish has begun to explore developing detached youth work provision, in response to wider issues with young people assembling at locations across the parish.

There is currently no formal Sunday School provision at St Columba's but young people who attend are active and engaged as servers, on rotas for reading and interceding, and in one case as a chalice administrant.

Links with the Local Community and Schools

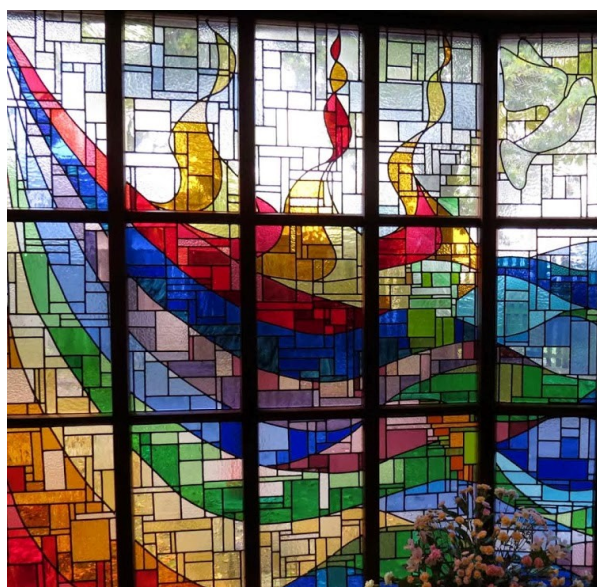


St Columba's has always maintained links with the local community.

The Toddler Group meets weekly in term time on a Tuesday morning. Numbers vary but can be up to 20 children with parents, grandparents and carers.

The Wideopen Squadron of the Air Training Corps value their link to St Columba's, with two services each year and collaboration in the Community Act of Remembrance as well as their Presentation evening.

There are three schools in the area: Links with Greenfields Primary School have been recently refreshed, with plans for work on RE, history and the environment as well as regular assemblies. Hazelwood Primary School has historically been linked to St Johns URC: we are discussing working with them with a local youth worker. North Gosforth Academy is the secondary school in the area. It is hoped to develop links here over the next 6-12 months.



Good relationships exist with local Councillors, who attend events at the church and request support with local issues.

Members of the church are active in the Seaton Burn Cricket Club and the St John's Singers.

St Matthew's Church, Dinnington



Local Community

St Matthew's lies within Dinnington, a former rural and mining area, which is now mainly a commuter village with around five working farms locally. The district surrounding St Matthew's includes the farming hamlet of Horton Grange and the semi-rural community of Prestwick. Newcastle Airport is conveniently situated on the periphery of the Parish. A wide range of enterprises within the area include two small business parks and more than one riding stable. A Community Library run by volunteers is held in the Memorial Institute at the Village Hall, an example of good community spirit. Many activities offered at the village hall include childrens' playgroups, a private gym, indoor bowls, dancing classes, keep fit and karate.

Housing in the area is a mix of council and private, but two new housing estates have recently been completed and a third is in development, potentially increasing the population from 2,200 to around 5,000. There are several open spaces and the whole area benefits from its rural surroundings with many walks, a cycleway and wildlife features. The area is well served by public transport; with four buses per hour to Newcastle.

Church Community

The church community is friendly, inclusive, lively, all-encompassing and outward looking serving the whole community. People feel an historical connection with the church even though they may not attend on a regular basis. There is a sense of tradition in the connection between church and community. St Matthew's is a varied congregation in age.

There are good levels of lay involvement in the running

of the church and an enthusiastic and committed congregation.

Church Building

St Matthew's is a Grade II listed building in good condition and has some lovely features especially in the chancel. The church has an open churchyard. There is no church hall or meeting or social space so use is made of the local Village Hall.



Tradition and Patterns of Worship

Worship is in the central tradition, that is, vestments are worn and Holy Communion is celebrated every Sunday. The style of worship each Sunday follows the pattern from Common Worship.

There is a midweek BCP service as well as regular Sunday worship. Prayers for healing are said at the mid-week services. St Matthew's Sunday worship is at 9.30am. (Whoever is leading the worship has a follow on service and St Cuthbert's at 11am.)

Average attendance at Sunday worship is around 40.

Church activities

A good number of church folk are responsible for activities and organise mission events such as fairs, coffee mornings, concerts, special services, harvest suppers and quiz nights. 'Friends of St Matthew's' are always sup-

portive of the church and come along to special services and events during the year. These events are held in the village hall. New premises have recently been built for the Scout Group at Dinnington; a Brownies pack also meets in the village.

Members of St Matthew's congregation are well represented on the Parish Council. The Vicar, although not a member, attends the meetings on a regular basis and is very visible in the village.

Remembrance Sunday is always an important event in the life of the village. There are good relationships between St. Matthew's and 1st Dinnington Beavers, Cubs and Scouts.

Links with Local Schools

The Village Primary School, Dinnington First School, which moved to a new building in January 2018, has a good reputation and children go on from there to either Seaton Burn High School or Gosforth Academy. The Vicar is a Governor for the local school and visits weekly, whilst the school attends church for Christmas, Easter, Harvest and at other times of the year. There is very close working with the current recently appointed head teacher.



St Cuthbert's Church

Local Community

St Cuthbert's Church was built in 1905 when Brunswick Village was still called Dinnington Colliery and served the families of local miners. It also serves the adjoining village of Hazelrigg, also an ex-mining community with a population of approx 1000. St Cuthbert's was originally a chapel linked to St Matthew's Church in Dinnington approximately 2 miles away. In 1988 it became a church in its own right in the newly formed Parish of Christ the King. Brunswick is a semi-rural village close to Wideopen which falls within the City of Newcastle-Upon Tyne. This is an area comprising ex-mining and post-war housing, complemented with more recent modern housing developments. Brunswick Village houses an industrial estate consisting of mainly light industry.



The community of Brunswick is largely white European with no specific bias to any age group as the village has accommodation ranging from retirement housing to private and council owned family housing and flats etc. The village has a Dementia Care Partnership (a care centre) with which St Cuthbert's has a good relationship. There is also independent living accommodation within the village including Robert Allan Court and Amber House. The vicar regularly attends functions here.

Though the village itself has no school, sports fields within the village are used regularly, as is the park area and there is a pavilion for youth clubs. Three primary schools lie within a three mile radius, as well as senior schools in nearby Seaton Burn and Gosforth.



Church Community

The church community is friendly, inclusive, lively, all-encompassing and outward looking. Being a small community there are high levels of lay involvement and a generous and welcoming spirit.

St Cuthbert's enjoys the ministry of a very experienced Lay Reader, David Gray, who has been a lay reader for over 63 years and the ministry of Jennie Johnson the Parish Visitor, as well as very committed Church Wardens. David also has a ministry in the St Matthew's district.

Church Building

The building is simple and has a welcoming feel. There is a kitchen and toilet. The space is very flexible and there are discussions currently about how it might be used by other groups. The old pipe organ has recently been removed and some work is in hand to adapt the space.

Tradition and Patterns of Worship

Worship is in the central tradition, that is, vestments are worn and Holy Communion is celebrated every Sunday. The service is held at 11.00 am and follows on from the service at St Matthew's at 9.30 am



The Ark in the Park and Church in the Park

Newcastle Great Park is a large new urban development on the rural northern fringes of Newcastle. The Park is currently home to about 1,500 families, but is expected to expand to house a total of 4,500 families. When completed the Great Park will be a large multi-cultural community living in bright modern homes. It is estimated that a community of 14,000 people will be here in total in the future. Many are professional families taking advantage of the location and facilities.

The Great Park is divided into two parts by the busy A1 Western Bypass - an East and West side. The two sides of Great Park have very different textures. There is only a foot / bus bridge across the A1 that connects the two sides otherwise a car journey is required. The eastern side is now established and complete. In outlook it looks more towards Gosforth, and St Aidan's church is within 10-15 minutes walk or 5 minutes car journey. This part is known as Melbury

and Warkworth Woods. The Team Rectory is based in this side of Great Park. House prices are high as are the aspirations of those who live here. It has no community facilities and is primarily residential. The Ark in the Park is currently situated in this side of Great Park at 62 Featherstone Grove.

The Western side is very different. It is still growing at a pace. House prices are not so high and 70% of houses are 3 bedroomed and designed for families. It is a popular place to live and families enjoy the relative peace and security. There are still ongoing concerns about the lack of 'town centre' facilities although there is a thriving school (Brunton First School), a very well used Community Centre (where Church in the Park meets on a Sunday) as well as Nursery school provision.



Church activities



St. Cuthbert's holds a monthly Community Coffee Morning. There are a series of fund raising events.

There is a monthly service of Holy Communion held in the Bradbury Dementia Care Centre and Brunswick House Care Home.



This western part of Great Park is currently in the neighbouring parish of Kingston Park but this is subject to a Pastoral Order to redraw the parish boundaries and bring much of the western part into the Parish of Christ the King. This recognises that in reality St Aidan's church has taken much of the initiative over recent years to seek to build a Christian presence here.

This has been spearheaded through the pioneering work of Revd Ruth Hewett who began her work here as a lay Community Worker, originally employed to establish the Ark in the Park project. This was a project funded by the Church Commissioners to respond to the perceived need to help to build community in new housing developments. During her time in this role, Ruth was ordained and has increasingly focused on building up The Church in the Park as well as continuing to live with her family in the Ark in the Park building.

When the parish boundary changes are confirmed, this part of Great Park will become part of St Aidan's District. However, it is hoped that this area to the west of Great Park could become a separate District within the Parish of Christ the King as it grows and becomes more established.

The Ark in the Park is a resource to generate and stimulate community life amongst people of the Great Park, developing and contributing to the appreciation of the Christian faith in the Neighbourhood. The project is intended to bring people together from the whole of the Great Park community:

- Encouraging fellowship at regular social gatherings, such as the weekly 'Chatterbox' Café at Brunton First School, and fortnightly 'Coffee and Conversation' or Monthly Book Club at The Ark.
- Engendering a sense of belonging to the new community through steady involvement with residents and their concerns.
- Providing and supporting community activities for all generations. In the past outdoor events have been organised, residents association meetings have been hosted.
- Building relationship with external partners, including the building consortium and City Council.
- Engagement with the new Community Centre, of which the Revd Ruth Hewett is a trustee.
- Sowing and nurturing the seeds of faith, sharing the Good News in a natural inclusive manner, using a gentle mode of evangelism.

The development of Ark in the Park is overseen by a Steering Group chaired by the Team Rector. The Archdeacon of Northumberland is a member as well as representatives of St Aidan's and Church in the Park.



The Church in the Park

Church Community

At the end of 2013, and during early 2014, a group of people from St. Aidan's, with a connection to the Great Park, began worshipping together, praying around the possibilities which the opening of the Great Park Community Centre might afford the Ark in the Park Project. Following a series of gatherings, whilst also hearing from the community, it was decided to plant a Church in the Community Centre, meeting each Sunday at 11am. The Church has been meeting since 2014 and over the years attendance has varied and currently has an average attendance of 20 people.

Tradition and Patterns of worship

An informal, relaxed, service of the word is held each week with a Eucharist on the first Sunday of the month. Worship is usually led by Revd Ruth Hewett with support from lay ministers and other members of the team. Baptisms have been held in the Community Centre but no other occasional offices are possible. There is great potential for growth and we see more young families joining as they move to the area. We aspire to develop with the surrounding community as it grows. The prospect of an independent building is a long way off. Space is allocated for such a worship space in the overall Great Park site development plan. One option that has been considered is to purchase a house on the western side of Great Park and effectively move the Ark in the Park there giving a base in the community that could be used for a wide range of purposes.

Church Activities

In addition to the activities mentioned above supported by The Ark in the Park, the Church in the Park provides: **Messy Church** up to 6 times each year with attendance of 50+ based in the Great Park Community Centre. An enthusiastic team delivers **Open the Book** sessions in



Brunton First school. Revd Ruth Hewett has regular links with the school through assemblies and **Chatterbox** which provides social contact for parents. A **Toddler group** has recently been started and is proving very popular. The Church in the Park has close links with **Bowmont House**, extra care / independent living accommodation and a monthly service is held there as well as social activities.





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