



The Parish Profile
for
St Cuthbert's Church
in Greenhead, Northumberland

TOGETHER WE CAN AND WITH GOD'S HELP WE WILL



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.

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 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.

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.

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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 Village Hall, set up ready for the Harvest Supper

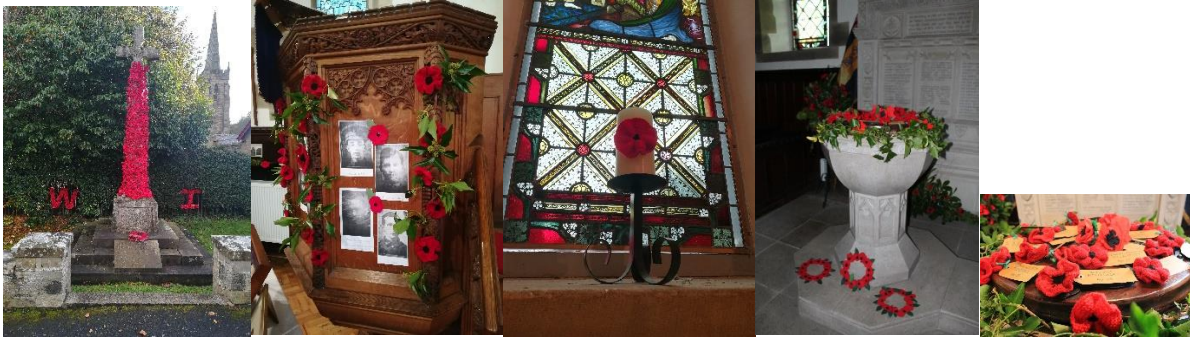
The members of the regular church congregation and PCC are very keen to increase and strengthen the links with the community and in 2018 organised a number of events



The Easter Gardens Exhibition in St Cuthbert's Church

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.

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Commemorating the 100th Anniversary of the Armistice

We hosted a well-attended Harvest Supper in the Village Hall in October, and in November, 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

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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 have a host of ideas for the coming months.

The residents of Greenhead Parish (which covers a large number of outlying farms and Blenkinsopp Castle Home Park) number between 300 and 400, and local employment is provided mainly by livestock farming and tourism. There are good links to Carlisle, Hexham and Newcastle by road (A69) and rail (the nearest station is in Haltwhistle, 3 miles away), which 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.

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.

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.

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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.

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 dementia friendly.

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.

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