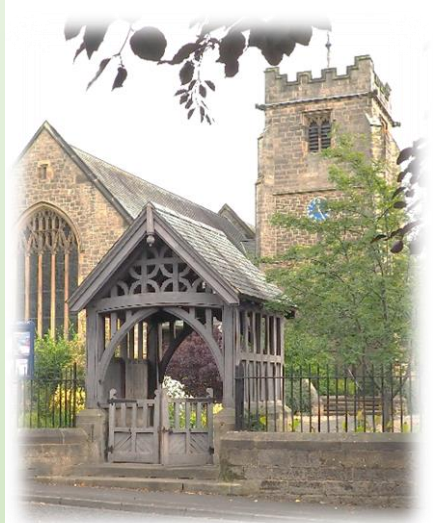




DIOCESE OF NEWCASTLE

PATRONAGE (BENEFICES) MEASURE 1986

Adopted by the PCC on 20th September 2016



Parish of St Oswin's Wylam

The Local Community

The Parish lies in a rural setting beside the Tyne about 10 miles west of Newcastle upon Tyne and 13 miles east of Hexham. Most of the population of around 2200 live in the village, predominantly on the north side of the river. The Parish also includes the smaller village of Horsley and settlements at Hagg Bank, Holeyn Hall, Oakwood, the Rift and Street Houses. Wylam has excellent road and rail links to Newcastle, Hexham and Carlisle. It is a relatively prosperous village from which many residents commute to Tyneside. Sometimes known as "Leafy Wylam", the village is indeed a desirable place to live.

Apart from the beautiful, much loved and well maintained St Oswin's Church (built 1886), there is also a Methodist Church and a Christian Brethren Assembly in the village along with a Village Church (URC) in Horsley. The First School, rated Outstanding by Ofsted, provides education up to 9 years for about 150 children. Thereafter pupils attend Ovingham Middle School and Prudhoe Community High School.

Wylam is very well provided with shops – Grocery/Post Office, Greengrocer, Florist, Pharmacy, General Store, Plant Nursery and a Hairdresser. There are 4 pubs – all of which serve food – plus a restaurant, a pizzeria, a Chinese takeaway and a café.

There are 4 well used major public venues – The Wylam Institute, Falcon Centre/Library, Methodist Centre and our own Church Hall. There are all the clubs and societies one might expect – and more! The Playing Field caters for village football and cricket teams along with a playground for youngsters, and there is a tennis club with 3 courts in South Wylam.

Housing stock is varied in age, ranging from pre-Victorian to modern estates built within the last 50 years. One feature is a good supply of single storey houses for the elderly. A new estate of 37 houses is currently under construction. Many families with young children live in the village although the average age of residents tends towards the later years of life.

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The Village of Wylam



People join together for coffee and a chat after the Service

The Church Community

The PCC and congregation take an active part in the organisation and running of the Church. However, most of those who attend services are in the older age bracket – something we aim to change. A few travel from outside the village to attend.

Attendance on Sunday has marginally increased over the past 5 years – averaging 58.

Thursday morning services are popular with some.

Church Traditions

Broad Church

Inclusive

Weekly Sung Eucharist

Vestments

Reserved Sacrament

Wylam has excellent road and rail links to Newcastle, Hexham and Carlisle. It is a relatively prosperous village from which many residents commute to Tyneside. Sometimes known as “Leafy Wylam”, the village is indeed a desirable place to live.

Statistics

Population – about 2200

Electoral Roll - 116

Average Sunday:

- Communicants - 59
- Attendance – 63

Average per annum:

- Baptisms - 9
- Confirmations - 0
- Weddings - 4
- Funerals - 11

Average house communions for the sick or housebound – 1 or 2 per month



Church Buildings in Wylam

- ✦ St Oswin's Church
- ✦ Methodist Church Centre
- ✦ Christian Brethren Assembly
- ✦ Village Church at Horsley (within the parish)

St Oswin's Church Hall within the church grounds, holds 80 persons comfortably. As of September 2016, it is in the process of refurbishment which will greatly enhance the kitchen facilities, provide additional meeting room space and update the toilet accommodation. All being well, our bishop will formally re-open the Hall on November 6th 2016. The sum of £200,000 was raised by a small committee over 2 years, mainly from charities but with significant donations from the church community.

Apart from regular use for church purposes, coffee after morning service etc., all the uniformed groups meet there and it is available for hire generally. It is estimated that over 3000 people will use the hall each year.



The Church Hall undergoing refurbishment

There is a Memorial Garden for the burial of ashes, but no graveyard. This and all grounds surrounding the church are maintained by members of the congregation with minor assistance from a professional gardener.

St Oswin's church bells ring out every Sunday and on a variety of other occasions throughout the year. They bring joy and pleasure as well as announcing a Christian presence to all in the village.



The Offertory Procession

Finance

- Recent fundraising efforts have been for refurbishment of our Church Hall - £200,000 raised over 2 years
- There is a regular giving scheme which utilises Gift Aid relief where possible.
- Of recent years the parish has always paid its Parish Share in full.
- There are no debts.
- Expenses paid to the incumbent in 2015 were £3,284
- Accounts for 2015 attached
- This healthy state of affairs is due in no small measure to our Treasurer Michael Gibbney.

The annual "Jump for Joy" involving teddy bears parachuted from the Church Tower is very well supported

Patterns of Worship

Sunday services

8 am – Holy Communion (BCP)

10 am – Sung Eucharist

(Common Worship)

Weekday services

9.30 am Thursdays - Holy Communion (BCP)

Additional services

"Under Fives" service each term for pre-school and Nursery children.

Crib service, Christingle etc. as appropriate.



The Spriggs Memorial Window

Church Activities

Regular groups for Bible study/other study/prayer

- Ecumenical Lent Groups meeting weekly
- Annual Parish Away Day

Children & Youth Work/Sunday School/Uniformed organisations

- St Oswin's Sunday School is held in the church hall every week during term time
- Youth Work through Wylam and District Churches youth worker
- Messy Church is held monthly with the Methodists
- BLT (Bible Lunch Time in the school)
- Summer Holiday Club,
- Monthly "HUB"
- The "GATHERING" monthly
- Half termly school assemblies.
- All the uniformed organisations meet in the church hall.

Clubs/Societies

- Mothers Union
- Church Choir (weekly rehearsals)
- Bell Ringers are very pro-active (6 bells)

Support of home and overseas missions

- Links with St Peter's Mogoditshane Botswana
- Mission Aviation Fellowship (through a local contact, Fiona Stevenson, working for this organisation)
- Collections for UK charities amounted to over £8,000 in 2015.
- (A full list of charities supported appears in the Annual Report 2015 attached)

Social work/Caring for others

- Regular visiting of elderly/housebound/hospitalised
- Providing home communion where requested
- Collecting for local "Food Banks."

Faith Sharing events or programmes

- Involvement with Wylam and District Churches

Ministry

The recently formed "Transformation Group" could develop into a Local Ministry Development Team

- Three retired clergymen live in the village. One in particular, Angus Palmer, has been an enormous strength over many years. All 3 are very supportive.

Current lay involvement in:

a) worship

- Choir.
- Lessons are read by lay members of the congregation.
- Intercessions are led by lay members of the congregation.
- Twelve lay members of the congregation are licensed to administer the chalice.
- There is a sacristan and vergers for funerals and weddings.
- The PCC is applying to admit to communion those who have not yet been confirmed.

b) administration

- Pew sheets are provided for every member of the congregation each Sunday (sample attached).
- A monthly parish magazine is collated and produced by members of the congregation (sample attached).
- The PCC elected Fiona Oomes as its Secretary. She looks after minutes etc
- The PCC is committed and very involved in running our church – but ageing!

c) pastoral work

- At present baptism visiting and preparation is undertaken by a retired clergyman. For the first 4 years after baptism an anniversary card is sent.
- A retired minister and the Pastoral Group of the PCC arrange regular visiting of elderly/housebound/hospitalised. Home communion where requested is given by a retired clergyman.

Relationships with neighbouring parishes

The Corbridge Deanery Development Group has been working on plans for about 2 years. Our representative, Karen Webster, attends meetings and reports to the PCC. By the end of October 2016, Wylam will be one of no less than 4 parishes in the Deanery with a vacancy. This presents a huge opportunity for establishing a sustainable and coherent plan for joint working and perhaps for some specific responsibilities across the deanery.

The PCC has approved and submitted a paper setting out our ideas and some preferences. These stress the importance of engagement with schools and through this with whole families. The cluster of schools attended by pupils from the village suggests close liaison at least with Ovingham and Prudhoe Parishes.

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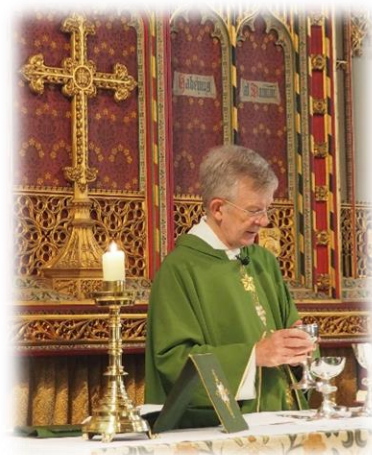
Ecumenical Relationships

There has been reference above to Wylam and District Churches. This local well established covenant links St Oswin's with Wylam Methodist Church, Horsley URC and St Agnes' RC Church in Crawcrook.

Joint activities and worship, especially between St Oswin's and Wylam Methodist Church, are a strong part of our commitment to furthering God's purpose.

It organises Youth Work in the parish and there are joint services on Remembrance Sunday, at Harvest Festival, for Christian Aid week on Good Friday, The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity and for a village carol service. The venue alternates between the two churches..

We very much wish this to continue to flourish – see Mission Statement.



Rev. Angus Palmer leading the Eucharistic Prayer



The Parsonage is a well appointed four bedroom property

Parsonage

Situated adjacent to the church, with a garden gate giving access, the parsonage is a well appointed modern four bedroom property with entrance hall, study, lounge, dining room, kitchen, cloakroom (with WC) and utility room downstairs. Upstairs there are four bedrooms, separate WC, bathroom, airing cupboard and a further storage/spare room (under the eaves with velux windows).

There is a single garage with external parking for up to four cars. Attractive gardens surround the house. Mainly set to lawn they include a greenhouse, some flower beds and vegetable patch.

All village amenities are but a short walk away.



Thinking about prayer at Sunday School

The Parish and the future

Having sought the views of all, and greatly assisted by the work of the “Transformation Group”, the PCC has adopted the following Vision and Mission Statements. The Mission Statement sets out our priorities for action in bringing about the outcome described in the Vision Statement.

OUR VISION

An enhanced and sustained Christian presence in our village: more prayerful, more respectful of others, more responsive to their needs and more faithful to Christ’s teaching thus making Wylam an even better community in which to live.

OUR MISSION

The Christians of St Oswin’s, Wylam, working with Christians of other denominations, seek to spread the good news of Jesus Christ within our community and beyond by:

✦ Improving engagement

Engaging many more families and young people in sharing the Good News.

✦ Challenging traditions

Effecting change while sympathetic to traditional forms of worship.

✦ Communicating clearly and widely

Ensuring the whole community is fully aware of the life and the work of St Oswin’s and its value to the community.

✦ Forging and maintaining relationships

Working enthusiastically with other local Christian Churches.

✦ Reaching out to others locally and across the globe

Being true to Christ’s teaching in helping our neighbours locally and globally.

Community involvement

Until recently, an active member of our congregation was Chairman of Governors of Wylam First School and a Deputy Church Warden used to work there. Meanwhile, another member of our congregation has become a governor at the school.

Relationships with the local community, including the local schools, continue to be strong. They support occasional Services such as Christingle and the Blessing of the Crib services when they fill the church. The Youth Worker employed by Wylam and District Churches is closely involved (see above and below).

The annual “Jump for Joy” involving teddy bears parachuted from the Church Tower (!) is very well supported by pupils and parents.

The PCC see strong involvement with this school (to age 9), Ovingham Middle School (ages 9 to 12) and Prudhoe Community High School as a **very high priority** for the future. See Mission Statement and Relationships (Page 4)

Members of the PCC and congregation are closely involved with the uniformed organisations, the Playing Field Association and related Cricket Club, Football Club etc. The annual “Summer Fair” attracts over 2000 visitors.

As one would expect in a community such as Wylam, other clubs and societies abound – WI, Gardening, Drama, Bridge, Keep Fit, Yoga etc. Members include many of our congregation.

These are serious commitments to moulding the future life of the parish. We seek to appoint a priest who will lead us in bringing them to fruition

The New Parish Priest and our future

Wider Engagement

St Oswin's is not alone in failing (so far) to engage many families and younger people in practising Christian faith.

The Good News has not changed in 2000 years and there will be many in our community who share Christian beliefs and values without truly practising that faith and all that it means.

Whenever we do something which appeals to the community as a whole, e.g. Jump for Joy, we attract large numbers of just those people we would like to see more engaged.

Therein lies the challenge for an energetic priest who is comfortable working with families, schools and young people and involved outside purely church activities.



Michael Bird – Church Warden

Change

We know that we will need to embrace some different forms of worship. Nevertheless there are many for whom traditional worship and prayer are the basis for their faith. **So the new incumbent needs to be sympathetic to different spiritual needs within the community, to understand the process of change and be prepared to face the challenges which changes always present.**

Communication

Our congregation does much good work in supporting each other, the whole community and indeed our neighbours whoever and wherever they may be.

We suspect that the community as a whole is largely unaware of what we do, what we stand for and of ways in which others might like to become involved.

As a team we can set out to change that. **A Parish Priest, visibly involved and communicating, will be key.**



Judy Marr – Church Warden

Contacts

More information can be found at:

www.stoswinschurchwylam.btck.co.uk

The Church Wardens are always pleased to talk to anyone interested.

- ☎ Michael Bird
(01661 852328)
- ☎ Judy Marr
(01661 852573)

Teamwork

Our Vision and Mission statements describe the task we have set for ourselves.

St Oswin's has a committed PCC, a faithful congregation and positive relations with our partners in the Wylam and District Covenant of Churches. We firmly believe that, working as a team, we can bring it to pass.

The new Parish Priest will lead us on this journey so an understanding of the benefits and principles of teamwork and team building will be essential.