

BRINKBURN PARTNERSHIP

Amble ✕ Ashington ✕ Bedlington ✕ Longhorsley ✕ Morpeth

Partnership Newsletter Edition 1 Advent and Christmas 2017

Brinkburn Partnership Prayer

The Spirituality Network have suggested we use this as our Partnership Prayer

Come Holy Spirit, renew your wonders in this our day, as by a new Pentecost. Father, pour out Your Spirit upon our Partnership, and grant us a new vision of Your Glory, a new experience of your power, a new consecration to your service, that your love may grow among us, and your kingdom come; through Christ our Lord, Amen

The Brinkburn Partnership is one of four partnerships in the Northumberland Vicariate of the Diocese of Hexham and Newcastle and covers the parishes of Amble, Ashington, Bedlington, Longhorsley and Morpeth. The Partnership name derives from the Priory at Brinkburn on the banks of the River Coquet. The Priory there dates back to the year 1135 when land was set aside by William Bertram, Baron of Mitford for the establishment of a monastery for Augustinian monks and remained in use until it was dissolved in 1536 after Parliament enacted the Dissolution of the Lesser Monasteries Act. No longer used as a regular place of worship, it is now owned and run by English Heritage, who with the Church of England promote the Priory as a venue for Church of England and civil wedding ceremonies.

Partnership Development Group

The overall aim of having a Partnership Development Group is to create a forum that is genuinely representative of the clergy and laity in all of the parishes within the partnership. The "Pointing The Way" document issued earlier this year, by the FTiH team, stated that each PDG should work to further God's Kingdom within the Diocese of Hexham and Newcastle through:

- Co-ordinating and supporting the development of effective partnership arrangements.
- Developing an initial action plan for the partnership.
- Communicating the work of the partnership across the area.

Each Parish has been asked to have two representatives on the Partnership Development Group. This will ensure that when one representative is not available to be present, there is still another person from every parish to ensure continuity. The PDG has the overall responsibility together with the Dean, of making sure that the Partnership Parishes work together and that the people within the partnership look to the different possibilities in the future with fewer priests and fewer people. Communication between parishes has also been a discussion topic and it has been agreed that each parish should always try to advertise in the partnership parishes the events that they are holding so that they are open to anyone who wishes to come along from the other parishes

Partnership Finance Group

The Partnership Development must have a Finance Committee with a Partnership Bank Account. Each parish has been asked to give an amount of money to that Account, with the % allocation determined by the diocesan finance committee.

Who are the Clergy in our Partnership?

Fr Peter Stott, the Parish Priest at Morpeth [and Bedlington] is the Partnership Dean. Fr Ian Hoksins, is the Northumberland Area Episcopal Vicar and lives at Longhorsley. Fr Malcolm Cairns lives at Amble, Fr Shaun Purdy at Ashington and Fr Stephen Watson, [Hospital Chaplain for Wansbeck, Cramlington and North Shields], also lives at Ashington. Fr Nigel Holmes lives in Widdrington Station. We also have Deacon Stephen Boulter who is resident at St Bede's, Bedlington.

Clergy Meetings

The Clergy of our Partnership meet once a month. There are always items that need discussing but even when there isn't too much to discuss it is still important for them to meet regularly for the support and friendship necessary among the clergy today. The clergy of our Partnership also meet with those from the other Partnerships in Northumberland and every couple of months there is a Vicariate Clergy meeting where all the priests and deacons have the opportunity to come together for a meeting and a bite to eat.

Spirituality Network Group

The Spirituality Network Group for our Partnership has met twice and has organised a couple of spiritual events so far. We had the Rosary Service at Bedlington in October and the Service of Remembrance for deceased relatives and friends in November at Morpeth. Other events are planned for throughout 2018. When liturgical and spiritual events such as these are celebrated there is always a social aspect to them with a cup of tea afterwards and everyone comments on how lovely it is to be able to meet people from the different parishes. It is good to be able to pray together as well.

Advent Talks

Advent talks are being held at Sacred Heart and St Cuthbert, Amble on Thursday 7th, 14th and 21st December after Mass at 7pm. Everyone Welcome. Two talks are also being held at St Robert's, Morpeth on Thursday 7th and 21st at 7pm.

Advent Exposition

On a Friday during Advent, St Aidan's Ashington are having Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and the opportunity for Reconciliation from 7.30am - 8.30am. All welcome.

Partnership Service of Reconciliation

We have arranged for a Service of Reconciliation for our Partnership at St Aidan's Church, Ashington on **Friday 15th December at 7.00pm**. There will be several priests of the Partnership Parishes present and there will be the opportunity for individual confession and absolution. We hope that you will feel able to come and share this great sacrament.



Partnership Youth Coordinator

Unfortunately we did not appointment a Youth Coordinator after the first advert went out to the parishes, diocese and beyond. After a lot of discussion, together with priests and representatives of the Heavenfield Partnership (Hexham and area), the Diocese and YMT, representatives from our parishes felt that it would be much wiser for us to wait until January and we will re-advertise. Hopefully, someone will come forward to help lead our young people over the next three years.

February Partnership Mass

The Partnership Development Group have asked for a Mass to be celebrated for the Partnership, to affirm all those who are working to help the partnership to develop and grow. The Mass is particularly for the members of the Partnership Development Group, the Finance Committee and the Spirituality Network, but there is an open invitation to anyone else who supports the work of the partnership. This Mass will be celebrated on Friday 9th February at 7.30pm at Sacred Heart and St Cuthbert Church, Amble. Everyone is very welcome.

Times of Masses

In some parts of the Diocese, Bishop Seamus has asked Partnerships to begin consultation on reducing Masses to one Mass in each Parish. Whilst the Bishop hasn't yet asked us to make that decision, we will inevitably have to start looking at the times for Sunday Masses in our Partnership. Bedlington and Longhorsley already have only one Mass, so Amble, Ashington and Morpeth Parishes should therefore start to talk about what provisions for Sunday Mass are possible and what decisions we might have to make in the not too distant future.

Christmas Mass Times in the Brinkburn Partnership

Amble: Sacred Heart and St Cuthbert Parish Saturday 23rd December 4th Sunday of Advent

5.00pm Vigil Mass at Widdrington

6.30pm Vigil Mass at Amble

Sunday 24th December

9.30am Mass at Amble

5.00pm Vigil Mass at Widdrington [Carols 4.30pm]

6.30pm Vigil Mass at Amble [Carols 6.00pm]

Monday 25th December

9.30am Mass at Amble

Ashington: St Aidan's Parish Saturday 23rd December 4th Sunday of Advent

5.30pm Vigil Mass at Ashington

Sunday 24th December

9am Mass at Newbiggin

10.30am Mass at Ashington

6.00pm Christmas Vigil Mass at St Aidan's.

Monday 25th December

12.00am Midnight Mass at St Aidan's

8.30am Mass at St Mary's, Newbiggin

10.30am Mass at St Aidan's



Bedlington: St Bede's, Parish, Saturday 23rd December 4th Sunday in Advent

5.30pm Vigil Mass

Sunday 24th December

6.00pm Christmas Vigil Mass

Longhorsley: St Thomas of Canterbury Parish Sunday 24th December 4th Sunday in Advent

11.00am Mass

Monday 25th December

12.00am Midnight Mass

10.00am Mass of Christmas Day

Morpeth: St Robert's Parish

Sunday 24th December 4th Sunday in Advent

9am Mass and 11am Mass

Sunday 24th December

11.30pm Carols followed by ... 12.00am Midnight Mass

Monday 25th December

10.00am Mass

Friday 5th January 2018

6.30pm Epiphany Carol Service