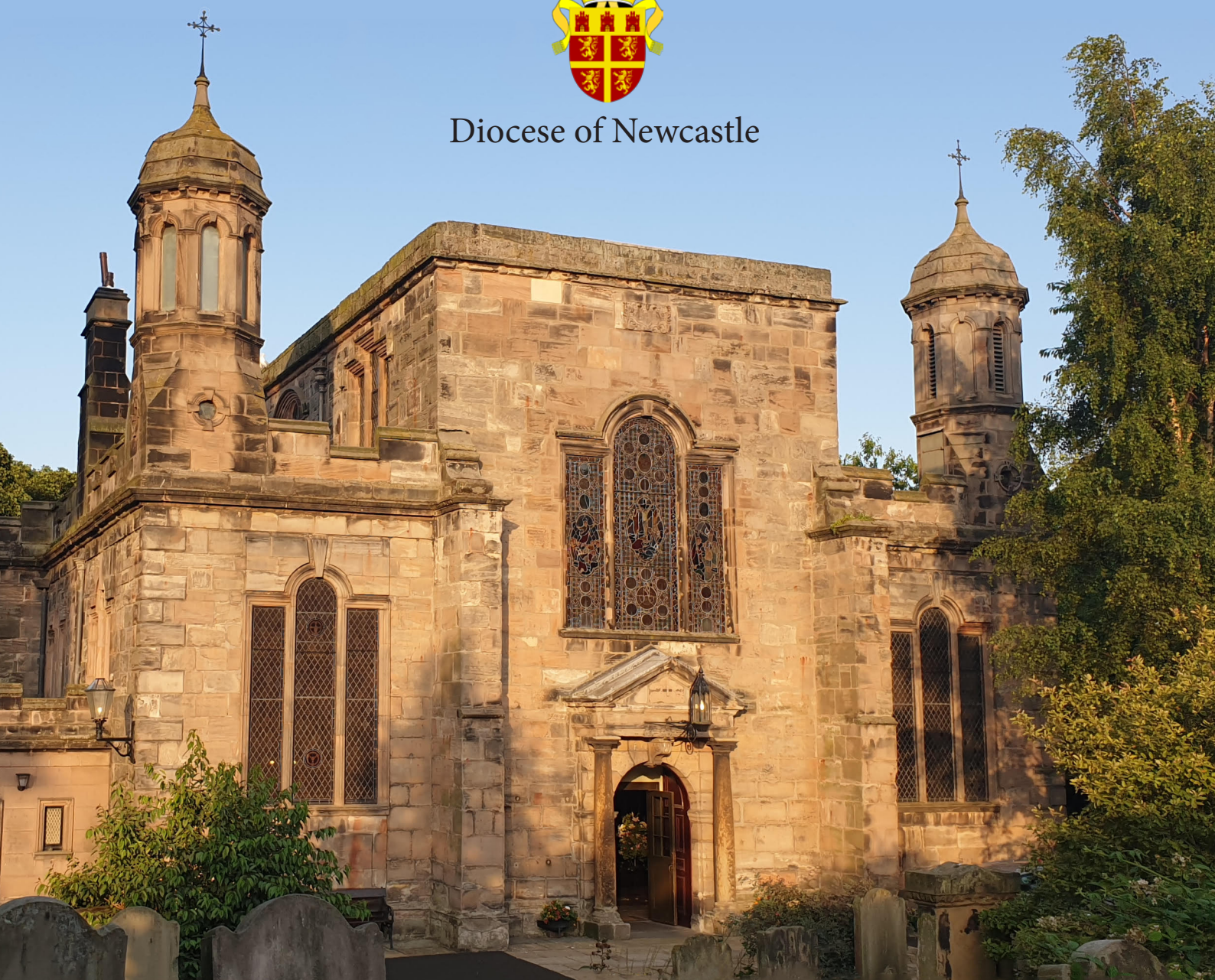


# The church of the Holy Trinity and St Mary Berwick-upon-Tweed

Parish Brochure  
2023/24



Diocese of Newcastle



...the other Gods but me...

...the Father...

**CHAPAX**  
V  
Honour thy father and thy mother,  
that thy days may be long, in the Lord,  
which is the Lord thy God, growth thee.  
VI  
Thou shalt do no murder.  
VII  
Thou shalt not commit adultery.  
VIII  
Thou shalt not steal.  
IX  
Thou shalt not bear false witness  
against thy neighbour.  
X  
Thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's  
house, nor his wife, nor his servant,  
nor his ox, nor his ass,  
nor any thing that is his.

...the Father...



**HOLY HOLY HOLY**



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**Website:** [www.berwickparishchurch.co.uk](http://www.berwickparishchurch.co.uk)

**Youtube:** [www.youtube.com/@holytrinityberwick](http://www.youtube.com/@holytrinityberwick)

**Facebook:** [www.facebook.com/BerwickParishChurch](http://www.facebook.com/BerwickParishChurch)

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## *Welcome to the Diocese of Newcastle!*

Thank you so much for your interest in becoming the next Vicar of Berwick-upon-Tweed. 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.





**OUR INVITATION**

## The Parish of Holy Trinity and St Mary, Berwick-upon-Tweed, invites applications from dedicated priests for the position of Vicar.

This exciting opportunity to serve in England's most northerly parish as it opens a new chapter in its mission will appeal to those seeking to serve God in a unique historical church and to help lead the PCC and congregation in the next stage of their journey.

### ***The church's priorities are to:***

- *Develop prayer and worship opportunities for those unfamiliar with the traditional Anglican services, while maintaining the current forms based on a strong musical and liturgical tradition.*
- *Develop a strategy for reaching out to children, young people and families and establish and guide a team of volunteers from the congregation to help implement the strategy.*
- *Guide the lay pastoral care team in supporting, jointly with the clergy, those in need of help, welcoming newcomers and nourishing the faith of those already part of the established congregation.*
- *Develop opportunities for those interested in the Christian Faith to learn more about the Gospel and respond to its message.*

The church has a loyal, enthusiastic and dedicated team of volunteers, but like many parishes the congregation is dominated by those over sixty and is seeking leadership to widen its mission in reaching out and conveying the message of the Gospel to all in the community, particularly the many young people and families in the parish, building on the excellent relationships with local schools established by the former incumbent, who retired in August 2023.

The church is also the civic church of Berwick, with a network of connections to civic leaders, other churches and volunteer groups. Continued involvement in these activities is a key part of the role. Berwick's unique position on the border between England and Scotland, over 50 miles from the major centres of population in Edinburgh and Newcastle, brings its own challenges and Berwick's new vicar will need to take time to understand the town's rich heritage and characteristics.

The new vicar will be someone with a deep faith, rooted in daily prayer and worship, radiating a sense of the presence of God; with both emotional intelligence and inner resilience; able to connect to people of all ages and backgrounds; and willing to work collaboratively with volunteers to reconcile differing views and agree a way forward. They will develop a supporting lay ministry, operating consultatively and empathetically, building consensus and having the courage to effect change. Berwick is praying for someone with a passion for the Gospel, a vision for the future and the ability to turn that vision into reality, working with and developing the faith and skills of the people of the parish.

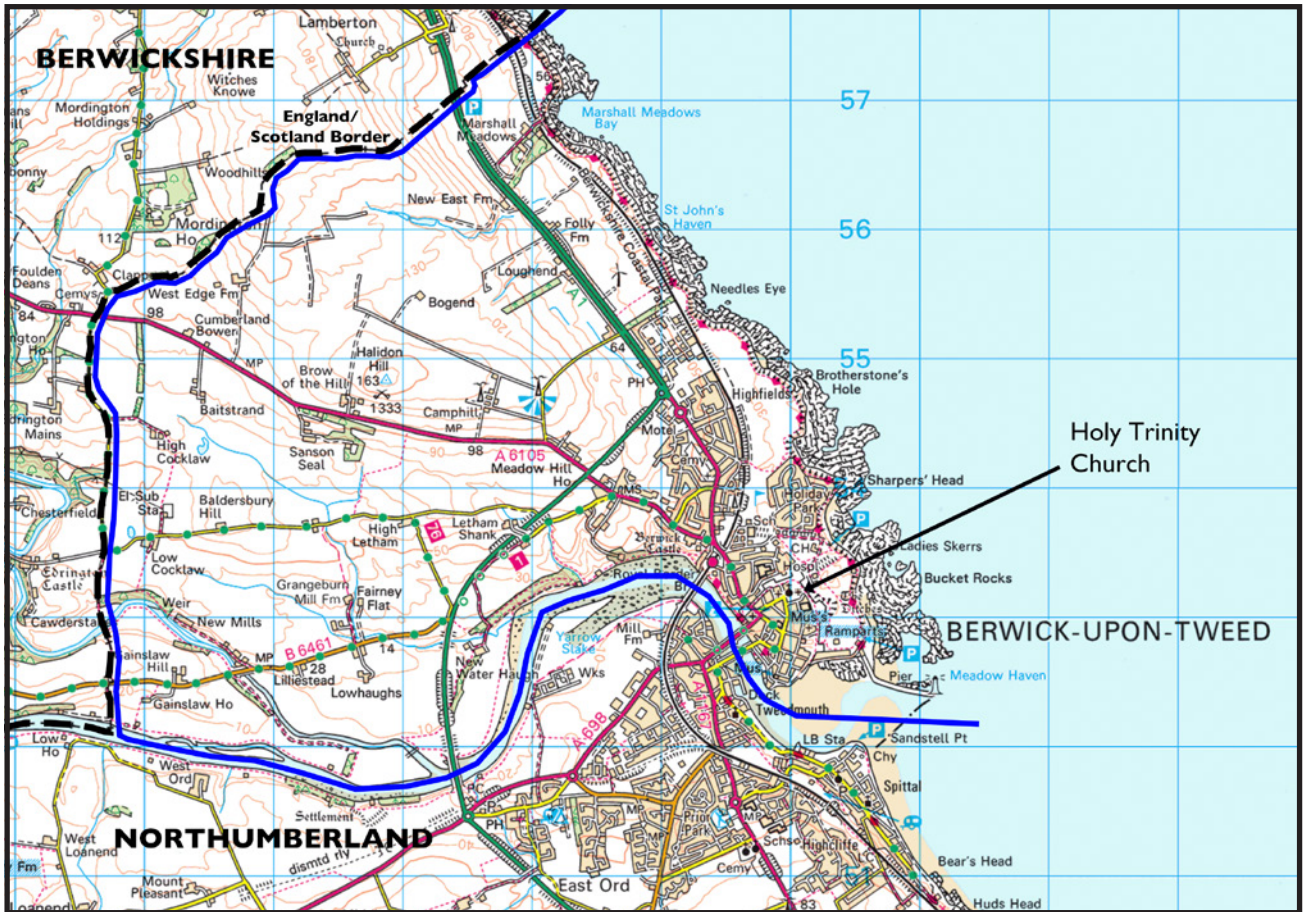


Fig. Parish Boundaries and the 'Liberties of Berwick-upon-Tweed'

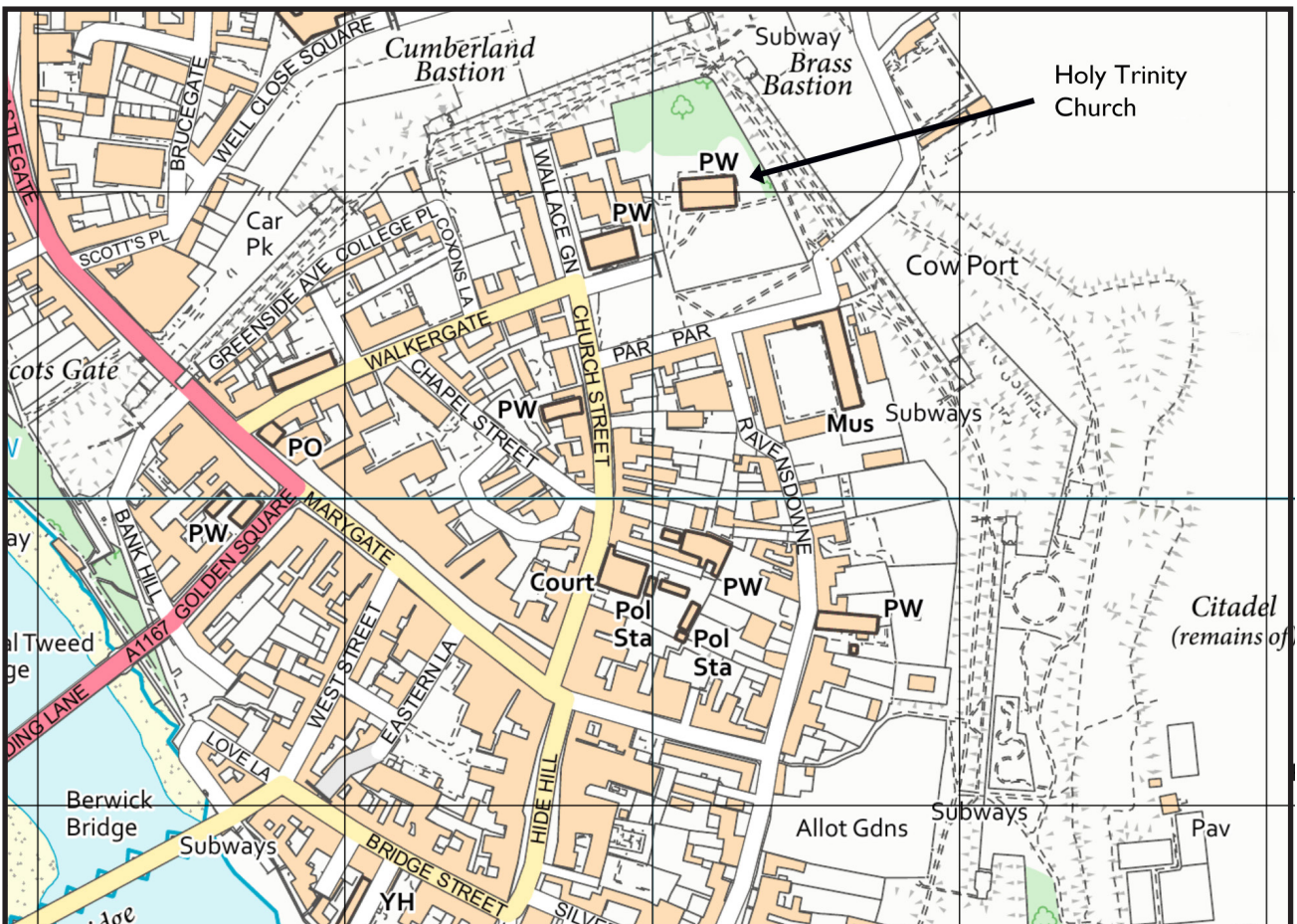


Fig. Berwick-upon-Tweed Town Centre



## *Berwick-upon-Tweed*

Berwick is a town on the edge. The most northerly town in England and barely two miles from the Scottish border, it lies where the River Tweed reaches the North Sea. To the north and west rise the rich farmlands of the Scottish and Northumbrian Borders; to the south and east lie Lindisfarne (Holy Island), Bamburgh and the outstanding natural beauty of the North Northumberland coast.

Much of the immediate hinterland is in the former Scottish county of Berwickshire (now part of the Scottish Borders local authority) with the equally scenic coastline around Coldingham Bay and St Abbs Head. Roughly half-way between Newcastle and Edinburgh, a combination of the A1 and the East Coast mainline means that Berwick can be reached easily.



*The town of Berwick and the River Tweed from Tweedmouth.*



## *History*

Once the richest Royal Burgh in Scotland, Berwick's border location means it has had a turbulent past. The evidence for this is still to be seen in the remains of its mediaeval castle and the town's massive Elizabethan Walls. No wonder that Nikolaus Pevsner described it as 'one of the most exciting towns in England'.

In the course of two centuries, the town changed hands thirteen times between Scotland and England, finally settling as English in 1482. During the centuries that followed, it continued to be a garrison town, with a unique status and its own Crown-appointed Governor, and respect for the Armed Forces continues to be strong.

## *People*

With a population of 11,671 at the time of the 2021 census, Berwick is made up of three distinct communities - the town of Berwick itself and Tweedmouth and Spittal, both on the south bank of the river. The parish of Holy Trinity and St Mary (Berwick Parish Church) - the most northerly parish in the Church of England - covers the area to the north of the river as far as the Scottish border. The population of the parish is around 4,600.

While cheaper housing and an attractive location have drawn a number of 'incomers' to live either in Berwick or in villages close to it on both sides of the Border, there are also many families of proud, born and bred 'Berwickers', whose roots in the town go deep. Overall, the population of Berwick - 97.8% white - tends to be skewed towards the young (aged 0-17, 18.9%) and those aged 65 and older (26.6%). The elderly predominate among the active congregation of the parish, which draws its members from both sides of the Border.

## *Economy*

Berwick's economy is vulnerable, characterised by poor quality job opportunities, part time and seasonal working, low wages (Northumberland is in the bottom category for wages in the UK) and limited education facilities. Skill levels among the working population are lower than the national average. The town suffers from the problems of many seaside and market towns: a hollowed-out retail centre; a diminished manufacturing base; a higher proportion of both short and longer term rented (rather than owner-occupied) housing; and a serious shortfall in social housing provision.

Nonetheless, tourism, retail services, and agriculture and its related services continue to be important sources of employment (the largest local employer is Simpsons Malt, which malts barley for export and the whisky trade) and these are complemented by smaller scale manufacturing and construction sectors. The small port, which mainly handles agricultural cargoes, is flourishing, with investment in new facilities planned. Fishing and sea food processing, both locally and in nearby Duns and Eyemouth, are other traditional employers.

All these support Berwick's continuing role as an important centre serving the eastern Borders, with many people crossing the Border each day in both directions for work, shopping, education and recreation.

## *A proud, caring community with an exciting future...*

Berwick's unique history and its Border location away from any large centre of population combine to give it a strong sense of being different - and sometimes of being overlooked too. A town in England with a strong Scottish feel, it is to all who live there, neither Scottish nor English but simply 'Berwick'.

Those who linger there soon find that Berwick is an attractive, caring, indeed vibrant community. Many artists, authors and others with creative skills are drawn here, as its series of Autumn Festivals - which include Heritage Open Days, a Music series and Berwick Literary Festival - testifies. Local charitable, youth and other voluntary organisations are strong and offer opportunities for church and community to meet.

Leisure and sporting opportunities abound, with excellent countryside for walking and cycling just over the doorstep. Local sports clubs include Berwick Rangers Football Club (which has a charitable Academy providing facilities for football for women and for children); Berwick Rugby Club; Berwick Amateur Rowing Club; and opportunities for playing bowls, golf and tennis are all nearby. For those of a more artistic bent, there are a number of local choirs and other musical groups, and the Maltings Theatre provides a varied programme of films, theatrical and musical events, showcasing both visiting and local talent.

The town is currently enjoying significant public investment. A recently opened sports centre; a new, small local hospital, currently under construction; the planned multi-million-pound redevelopment of its Maltings arts and theatre complex and of its Grade I listed Barracks; and its selection as one of the North East's three Culture and Creative Zones are tangible signs of a concerted push to further its 'culture-led' regeneration.

Private initiatives too reflect the combined efforts of both 'Berwickers' and incomers to build a strong shared future. Small, independent shops are gradually replacing the national chain stores in the centre of town. Most restaurants and coffee shops are locally owned and managed. Finding excellent, locally sourced or produced food - showcased in the town's annual Food and Beer Festival - is not a problem in Berwick, given its proximity to the sea and the farms on either side of the Border.



*Marygate, Berwick's main thoroughfare.*

## **Educational Provision**

Reflecting its size and relatively detached location, educational provision in Berwick is confined largely to the primary and secondary sectors. The school system - currently strong at first and middle school levels - is in the process of changing from a three to a two-tier system, which will affect the two church first schools in the parish. Berwick Academy, situated in Tweedmouth and currently a non-church Academy, had a poor reputation locally but is now showing signs of improvement. Over £40 million of investment in local schools is intended, in part to enable the move to a two-tier system. Just outside the town, Longridge Towers School is a non-selective, co-educational, independent day and boarding school for children between the ages of three and eighteen.



*Holy Trinity First School.*



*St. Mary's First School.*



*Berwick Middle School.*



*Berwick Academy.*

# OUR BUILDINGS



## Our Church

Berwick Parish Church is unique. The only parish church to be built during Oliver Cromwell's first Commonwealth period, it is a Grade I listed parish church of national importance. Built between 1650 and 1652, much of the pale pink sandstone used in its construction came from the ruins of Berwick's mediaeval Castle.

Originally built as a galleried Puritan 'preaching box', it was without external or internal ornamentation but was significantly adapted during the Victorian period by the addition of a short chancel (in 1855) and the installation of some fine stained-glass windows. Its organ, first installed in 1773 and subsequently re-modelled, is well-maintained and in fine condition.

Externally the building is of fairly severe design, without a tower or peal of bells. (These were later installed in the Town Hall.) Internal features now include a 16th century style pulpit (removed from an earlier church and said to have been preached from by John Knox); valuable Dutch/Flemish roundels in the West window; a reredos designed by the young Edward Lutyens (1893); and a Millennium window commemorating the northern Saints Aiden and Columba (2000).

The church was originally dedicated to the Holy Trinity, but in 1990, following the closure of the Victorian St Mary's church in the North of the town, it was rededicated to the Holy Trinity and St Mary.

The Quinquennial Inspection (QI) undertaken in 2019 found the building to be in a generally satisfactory condition with a need for only minor additional work, thanks to the substantial work and regular maintenance undertaken by the PCC over the past 50 years (latterly with the financial help of the Berwick Parish Church Trust - set up to help ensure the future of the building and support the church's ministry and mission - which has also funded work to the organ and the recent installation of new sound and audio-visual equipment). The next QI is due in 2024. A group of volunteers from the church continue to undertake general maintenance work to keep the building in a good overall condition.

The location of the church, while central to the older residential part of the town, is now at some distance from the residential areas outside the town's Elizabethan ramparts and there is currently no Anglican centre of worship in any other part of the parish. Nonetheless it receives a regular flow of visitors during the tourist season (who are greeted by a rota of welcomers from the congregation) and the fact that the church remains open every day of the year is valued by locals as well as others seeking a place of peace and solace.

## The Churchyard

The churchyard surrounding the church was closed to burials in 1854. It is a peaceful haven, surrounded on two sides by the Elizabethan town ramparts and on the other two by high stone walls. It is also an increasingly important green space for biodiversity, with a variety of wildlife homes for invertebrates, hedgehogs, bats and a diverse range of birds - including a box for an owl - as well as including a church Bee House for two bee hives. The planting and wilding in the churchyard are part of the church's carbon neutral project and have contributed to the parish's receipt of an A Rocha Bronze Award.

The memorials in the churchyard are still regularly visited by returning Berwickers and Borderers seeking information about their ancestry. A part of the churchyard is also set aside as a garden of remembrance for the burial of ashes.

Northumberland County Council is responsible for the churchyard's upkeep.



## Our Parish Centre

The Parish Centre was built in an attractive style in 1994. Located within the churchyard but outside the consecrated ground, it is an important part of the church's outreach to the wider community, being not only regularly used by the church for social activities and meetings, but also well-used by various local groups and societies. The income it generates in hire fees is sufficient to ensure its regular maintenance, as well as providing a reserve for any future major work.



Some recent events in the Parish Centre.





*Exterior of the Parish Centre.*

## ***The Vicarage***

The Vicarage - also built in 1994 - is of local sandstone and has a tiled roof. It is conveniently located in the town's conservation area, to the south west of the church and immediately south of the adjacent Parish Centre, and fronts onto The Parade near the centre of the older part of the town. There is a manageable area of enclosed garden to the front and rear, with ample car parking space to the front and a single garage to the side.

In addition to a study, the house contains two living rooms, a separate kitchen, utility room and downstairs toilet, with 4 bedrooms plus a bathroom and a shower room upstairs. The central heating is gas fired.



*Exterior of the Vicarage.*



## **CHURCH TRADITION**

Berwick Parish Church sits in the broad Catholic tradition of the Church of England. Welcoming of the ministry of women, it has a strong liturgical and musical tradition with a robed choir, in which the Book of Common Prayer (BCP) retains an honoured place. The principal Sunday service is a sung Eucharist supported by the choir under the guidance of the Director of Music, and is followed by coffee in the Parish Centre (as is the Thursday communion service). The BCP services have a smaller but very loyal following.

Music plays a large role in the life of the church, and in addition to the music in services there is a regular series of organ concerts during the summer months, and occasional special events, including recently an All Souls Day mass incorporating Faure's Requiem, jazz by the Tweed Valley Jazz Band, and a Christmas Carol Concert by the Royal Northern Sinfonia.

The choir has mostly adult members, and a handful of children: attendance by children fell away sharply after the Covid pandemic closed all services for a period but is slowly recovering under the new Director of Music, who was appointed in January 2023. The church has a fine pipe organ, maintained by Harrison & Harrison and extensively restored in 2012.

## **CONGREGATION**

The majority of the congregation are retired – most are over 70 – and represent a mixture of locals and incomers, many of whom have retired to the area. Although there is a strong desire to attract younger people, and the excellent work of the previous incumbent and curate in schools and the local community does reach young people and is much appreciated, this has not yet translated into any significant church attendance by a younger congregation.

As much of the hinterland of Berwick lies over the border in Scotland, the congregation includes a substantial number of worshippers from the Scottish Borders.

Many church members are willing to volunteer to assist where needed and the parish has managed to continue to find volunteers for the four churchwarden roles. However, as in other parishes with an ageing congregation, finding volunteers for roles requiring a sustained regular commitment is increasingly difficult, and in 2022 when the long standing and highly effective PCC Secretary stood down it proved impossible to find another volunteer for this role. The previous incumbent's wife was also very active in supporting the parish administration and following a review by the PCC, initially prompted by the difficulty in finding a volunteer as PCC Secretary, it was decided to recruit a part-time paid administrator. The previous incumbent helped plan for the role and approved the job specification. The recruitment took place during the interregnum.

# Service Figures

## SUNDAY SERVICES

**8.30am** - Holy Communion, said, BCP

**10.00 am** - Parish Eucharist, sung (Thorne Mass), Common Worship (CW) Order I

**6pm** - (first Sunday) Choral Evensong or Sung Evening Prayer with Holy Communion, BCP

**6pm** - (other Sundays) Choral Evensong or Sung Evening Prayer, BCP

## WEEKDAY SERVICES

*(Monday to Saturday)*

**8.30 am** - Morning Prayer, CW

**5pm** - Evening Prayer, CW

**Thursday:**

**10am** Holy Communion, BCP

**Holy Days:**

Major saints and those with a local association are celebrated. If these occur on a Sunday or Thursday they are celebrated as part of normal worship, and if on a Wednesday they are celebrated in the neighbouring parish of Tweedmouth.

**10am** - Holy Communion, CW

## STATISTICS

**Population of parish:** 4,592

**Electoral roll:** 155

**Average Sunday communicants:** 78

**Average Sunday attendance:**

8.30am - 15

10am - 75

6pm - 28

**Average Thursday 10am attendance:** 18

**Sparklers group (once a month):** 2-5

**Baptisms:** 7 per annum

**Weddings:** 4 per annum

**Funerals:** 30 per annum

**Home communions:** 3-4 per month

**Other pastoral visits:** 15 per month

## ***PRAYER AND SPIRITUALITY***

Study Courses (open to all) are regularly held in Advent and Lent. Clergy and lay people from the parish are also actively involved in the Julian Prayer Group, which meets monthly for a time of stillness and silence with Mother Julian as guide, and the North Northumberland Spirituality Network which, steered by a core group of trained spiritual directors/accompaniers, supports those referred by the Diocesan Spiritual Adviser and arranges three or four day-long events a year. These are open to all and look at aspects of spirituality in its widest sense.



## ***MINISTRY***

The church supports a training post for a curate, currently the Revd Thomas Sample, who completed his training as the previous incumbent retired, and has now obtained a post in the Carlisle diocese, which he will be taking up after Easter. The PCC has confirmed that it would be willing to continue its financial support for a training post for a curate if this is appropriate.

The church also enjoys strong support from a Reader and a number of retired clergy, of whom six currently regularly support the stipendiary clergy in conducting services, and there is also support from lay volunteers, who maintain a rota of readers, intercessors, sidespeople and servers.

There is also a pastoral visiting team who support the clergy in their pastoral work.



## ***THE CHURCH IN THE COMMUNITY***

The “Sparklers” group for young children meets once a month during the Parish Eucharist, and clergy and lay volunteers are involved in various uniformed groups such as Scouts, Air Training Corps and Berwick Youth Trust.

The Social Committee organises a monthly “Tea, Cake and Chat” offering an opportunity for those seeking companionship to find it, as well as several other events throughout the year. Recent examples include a Mardi Gras, Coronation Lunch, Quiz Evening, and Harvest Supper.

The Music Group organises a series of monthly organ recitals throughout the summer, and the church also hosts other musical events throughout the year.

The Eco group is very active in promoting environmental awareness and action in and through the church. Projects to date include the planned installation of solar panels on the church roof, churchyard wilding and planting, bee hives, a bird feeding station and various wildlife habitats, and recycling and composting.

The Parish Centre is widely used by numerous community organisations and was used as a ‘warm hub’ during the winter of 2022-23.

Members of the congregation are actively involved in other aspects of local life, community organisations and major local events such as the Berwick Literary Festival and Berwick Heritage Open Days programme.

## ***SCHOOLS AND CARE HOMES***

Over the past ten years, the Vicar and a succession of Curates have developed strong links with both Holy Trinity and St Mary’s church First Schools and with the families and communities in the North of the Parish. This is reflected in the number of parents and families who attend the regular assemblies in both schools. Both schools are well regarded locally: St Mary’s was recently graded ‘Good’ in both its OFSTED and SIAMS inspections. Holy Trinity was also awarded ‘Good’ in its recent SIAMS inspection and is awaiting the result of its very recent OFSTED inspection.

The children take part enthusiastically in many events organised for the schools in church, such as harvest celebrations, Christingle services, nativity plays, eco group activities, etc, and children from both schools have assisted with the Thursday morning Eucharist on occasion.

With the curate, St Mary’s pupils have visited their local care home to chat and undertake activities with the residents, and they also sing hymns which bring back a lot of memories for the residents.

Clergy are not formally appointed as chaplains to any of the local care homes but are regular visitors for pastoral reasons. Monthly communion services are held at all three care homes in the parish.





## A CIVIC CHURCH

As the parish church of Berwick, Holy Trinity and St Mary plays an active role in the civic life of the town. It has strong relationships with Berwick Town Council, the Berwick Guild of Freemen and local uniformed and other organisations, and regularly hosts formal civic services attended by the mayor and town council. It is the setting for various other local events such as an annual recognition service for the Scouts and (in alternate years, jointly with the neighbouring Church of Scotland) the Remembrance Day service.

Situated close to Berwick's Grade I listed Barracks, the church has historically had strong links with the armed forces, including the Coldstream Guards, the Royal Regiment of Fusiliers and the King's Own Scottish Borderers, all of whom enjoy the Freedom of the Town.

The many local organisations, whether local government, charitable or military, look to the Vicar of Berwick to play an active role and very much welcome their involvement in local activities. The retiring incumbent was chaplain to the Air Training Corps and the curate a volunteer with the local lifeboat (the chaplaincy for which is held by the Vicar of Tweedmouth). In the past, the incumbent has acted as chaplain to the local hospital, although at present this role continues to be filled by the predecessor of the retiring incumbent.



*The Colours of the Coldstream Guards laid up in the church.*

## ORGANISATION

The parish has four churchwardens who support the vicar and the PCC in their work. The PCC meets every two months, and there is a standing committee consisting of the four wardens, treasurer and three other PCC members, together with the vicar and curate, which meets monthly.

Administration is supported by a part-time paid administrator, who also acts as PCC secretary and provides administrative support to the vicar, churchwardens and other volunteers.



*The daily life of the church is actively supported by a number of working groups:*

**CHARITABLE GIVING:** There is a monthly rota of charitable giving, on a two-year cycle, donations to which are separately collected. The list of charities receiving help is reviewed regularly, with provision for special appeals in an emergency. The church is registered to receive Christian Aid envelopes and actively supports Berwick Food Bank.

**CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE:** The Sparklers group for children up to ten years old meets once a month during the Parish Eucharist. The clergy work closely with the two Church of England primary schools in the parish, the Berwick Youth Project and other charities in the town supporting young people.

**COMMUNICATIONS:** The church has a website, a YouTube channel which includes live streams of the Parish Eucharist, and a Facebook page. Details of these can be found on page (i). There is a weekly pew sheet, a weekly e-mail, and a monthly Messenger, and a mailing list for sending Christmas and Easter cards.

**ECO:** Recent projects include churchyard wilding, the installation of bee-hives, a bird feeding station, and recycling and composting initiatives. A project to install solar panels on the church roof is progressing well – the flat roof on the South side is ideal for this as it is not visible from the ground or from the nearby town walls.

**FABRIC:** A group of volunteers ensures routine tasks are carried out and professionals engaged where required. There is a cleaning rota, supported by the occasional professional deep clean. A monthly maintenance day encourages additional volunteers.

**FINANCE:** A small team chaired by the vicar supports the Treasurer in monitoring finances and preparing financial policy for PCC approval.

**FLOWERS:** A small group of volunteers ensures the church flowers are kept fresh each Sunday and decorates the church for special occasions.

**MUSIC:** A group including the Director of Music, vicar, a churchwarden and representatives of the choir meets regularly to discuss issues relating to music, the choir and organ maintenance.

**PASTORAL:** The pastoral group supports the clergy with pastoral visiting.

**SOCIAL:** The social group organises the weekly coffee rotas for Sunday and Thursday mornings, a monthly Tea, Cake and Chat, and various events during the year including an Advent supper, Quiz nights and other social events.

**WEEKDAY WELCOME:** The church is open every day between morning and evening prayer and in the summer months, when there is a large number of visitors, there is a rota of welcomers. During the annual Heritage Open Days weekend there is a programme of talks, tours and additional welcome.

## DEANERY

Berwick is part of the Norham Deanery, which in addition to Holy Trinity and St Mary has six other benefices: Cornhill with Carham and Branxton; Ford and Etal; Holy Island; Lowick and Kyloe with Ancroft; Norham and Duddo; and Scremerston, Spittal and Tweedmouth. The Deanery population is 18,000 of whom 14,000 live in the town of Berwick, served by the benefice of Holy Trinity and St Mary North of the River Tweed, and the combined benefice of Scremerston, Spittal and Tweedmouth South of the river.

The deanery has 4.5 stipendiary posts, one house for duty post, and two stipendiary curates in training (one being that at Holy Trinity and St Mary), in addition to self-supporting clergy.

The Area Dean is currently the Vicar of Holy Island, the Revd. Canon Dr. Sarah Hills.

The deanery licensed clergy meet together some eight times a year as the Deanery Chapter to discuss diocesan and deanery strategies or other topics relevant at the time. A number of times a year the Deanery chapter is open also to inviting PTO's and retired clergy. The deanery meets in the form of Synod with elected clergy and lay members; sometimes open meetings are also held for all to attend.

The Norham Deanery works closely together, most recently in relation to the current diocesan initiative on resourcing, and to lay ministry and pilgrimage. The deanery also shares joint chapters and social events with the Bamburgh and Glendale deanery.

Confirmations are done jointly within the deanery once a year. Clergy and readers assist each other in providing cover for services in other Parishes when required. Holy Trinity, Berwick, has made it part of its training programme to allow curates freedom to take services in other Churches within the Deanery to gain understanding of different traditions and contexts.

Holy Trinity and its closest neighbour, Tweedmouth benefice, work together within the ecumenical set up of Berwick Churches Together. Tweedmouth has invited Berwick clergy to be part on a number of occasions of worship and fete days within their RNLI chaplaincy.



*St. Mary's Church and Lindisfarne Priory*



*St. Andrew's Wallace Green, Church of Scotland*



*Berwick Baptist Church*



*Tweedmouth Parish Church*



*Berwick Roman Catholic Church*

## ECUMENICAL RELATIONSHIPS

Holy Trinity is part of Berwick Churches Together. Berwick is notable for the number of denominations it has in such a small area. Berwick Churches Together includes Berwick Baptist Church, St Andrew's Church of Scotland, Berwick Methodist Church, Waypoint Church, the Salvation Army, the Benefice of Tweedmouth Church of England, and Our Lady and St Cuthbert's Roman Catholic Church. Berwick churches have worked together in ecumenical charity work in our town with local food banks and youth organisations. One shared initiative this year was in setting up warm spaces in the winter months in each of our churches.

Berwick Churches Together each year holds a walk of witness around the town on Good Friday and recently have formed a dawn service together on Easter Day. The Berwick festival "Party on the Parade" invites Berwick Churches Together to lead sing-along hymns on the Parade each year, which is always well attended by the community.

Holy Trinity's work with the neighbouring Church of Scotland has included a blessing of animals service and a school 'big sing' at Christmas.

Remembrance Sunday services are held jointly by Holy Trinity and St Andrew's Church of Scotland. The morning service is held in one of the churches and the evening service at the other; then the locations are reversed the next year. Church of England and Church of Scotland ministers lead the act of remembrance together at each service, as well as at the local war memorial.

## SAFEGUARDING

As a church we want to welcome all those who come through our church doors. We are all grateful for the time and effort that our volunteers commit on behalf of Holy Trinity and St Mary's to make life richer for those whose lives we touch; however, we need to make sure, in the best way we can, that we are a people who create a safe and respectful place for all who come to us and all those with whom we come into contact.

Through the training that many of us have undertaken, we are aware that being a safe place and safe people may also mean having the courage to say something, usually in the first instance to our Safeguarding Officer, if we notice something is not right and someone may be at risk.

The Parish has an appointed Safeguarding Officer, clear policies in place and safeguarding is a standing item on the PCC and Standing Committee agendas.



## FINANCE

The PCC is a registered charity (registration number 1182751). The budget is currently balanced and the parish share paid in full, and the PCC has substantial financial reserves. Most of the congregation donate regularly through standing orders, although a few continue to donate in cash, and most donations are gift-aided.

Funding campaigns are conducted every three years to encourage donations to keep pace with rising costs. The ageing population and increasing costs, particularly for heating, do, however, raise concerns for the future, as does the increase in costs through recruitment of a part-time paid parish administrator, although the most recent funding campaign generated a healthy additional income.

The church also benefits from the Berwick Parish Church Trust, a separate registered charity (registration number 517699) established in 1986 to raise funds for maintaining the church and its facilities. The vicar is an ex officio Trustee and the PCC has the right to nominate four Trustees. The Trust's funds are managed by professional investment managers. The Trust is considering using the opportunity provided during the period 2025-27 by the 375th anniversary of the building of the church to raise the profile of the work it does in supporting the church's maintenance and improvement.

The latest financial statements for both the PCC and the Trust can be downloaded via the Charity Commission website.

A proposal, supported in principle by the Diocesan Advisory Committee and the Northumberland County Council planning office, is currently being prepared for the installation of solar panels on the church roof. The flat roof on the South of the church building is surrounded by a parapet, so that the panels will not be visible. The work is expected to cost in the region of £25,000, to be financed partly by grants from charitable bodies and from PCC reserves, and is expected to contribute both to the church's net zero carbon emissions target as well as financially to reduce electricity costs.

Although the church building is in good repair, some work is likely to arise from the next Quinquennial Inspection in 2024, and the church organ is expected to require re-leathering within five years. Berwick Parish Church Trust has a restricted fund reserved for organ repairs, but it may be desirable to seek grants and to undertake some additional fund raising to help finance this work.

## CONCLUSION

We look forward to working with our new incumbent. If you feel called to Berwick, we can assure you of a warm welcome and a rewarding ministry in this, the most Northerly part of England.



Prepared by the Parochial Church Council of  
Holy Trinity and St. Mary, Berwick-upon-Tweed.

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2023