

St Giles, Netherwitton Parish Profile



Welcome!

Welcome to St Giles Church, Netherwitton. We hope you find this profile helpful as you think about whether you would like to apply to be our new vicar.

Parish

Netherwitton is a pretty, traditionally stone built village on the River Font 7 miles from Morpeth and about 25 miles from Newcastle. The parish of St Giles includes the village of Netherwitton and the hamlet of Nunnykirk, extending up the River Font valley to the Fontburn reservoir. Downstream, the boundary stops short of hamlets which the church traditionally serves, at Witton Shields and Stanton. The Parish Council boundaries of Netherwitton and Nunnykirk are not co-terminus with the parochial boundary but are representative of the geographical areas from which we draw and provide reliable census data which is typical of Netherwitton Parochial Parish.



People

There are approximately 200 households and 450 people in the combined local government parishes of Netherwitton and Nunnykirk. The parish has 50 on the electoral roll (due to be renewed).

There are two large estates, Netherwitton and Nunnykirk, and several farms. The latter are increasingly using out of area contractors. There is a large plant nursery in Stanton which is also a wedding venue. Many people are self-employed including builders, gardeners and a print-making studio. Of retired people, a significant number have retired from management, academic, health and professional occupations as well as agriculture and construction.

We are a parish of active citizens. We believe we are effective at pastoral care, building positive relationships in our community and beyond through trusteeship of charitable organisations, schools, Riding for the Disabled, Community Action Northumberland, Macmillan Nurses etc.

We are socially liberal believing in equality and diversity. We passed a resolution strongly in favour of the ministry of women priests. We welcomed our recently retired woman Bishop to a Benefice service. We enjoy the ministry of both men and women.

Village Hall

There is no church hall attached to St Giles. Netherwitton is, however, very fortunate in having the Netherwitton Village Hall which is run as a charity by trustees. It has recently built a large kitchen. The licenced Village Hall has an active provision of monthly social evenings, coffee mornings, Story Telling Evenings, Quiz Nights and is generally the hub for social

activities around the area. There is another very active Village Hall at Wingates just to the north of the parish.



The Church Building

In 1864 the church was almost entirely rebuilt. Almost all that remains of the old building is the capital of the pillar of the chancel arch behind the pulpit. Netherwitton was linked with Hartburn and Meldon in 1948 and with Bolam and Whalton in 1983 and those four parishes and five churches now form one Benefice with the rectory at Whalton. The church building, Grade II*, is in a good state of repair and the heating system has recently been extended. The church will hold about 100 people but this relatively small church feels more intimate for the normal size of the congregation. Maintenance does not form an onerous problem and is within the scope of local tradesmen. There is a good organ and this has had a continuous programme of long term maintenance.



Coffee



The Roost Team

There is a charity in Netherwitton called 'The Roost' aimed at supporting post-18 young people which is run by the Pioneer Minister Rev. Beth Rookwood and has a Bishop's Mission

Order from the Diocese seeking to reach young adults across the whole of Northumberland.
Follow the link: <https://roostcommunity.org/>





Churchyards

The churchyard immediately around the church is now effectively closed. The 'new' churchyard, an extension, is located at the south side of the village and was opened after the First World War. It is not in immediate need of extension.

Congregation

We have made a number of attempts to attract more young people to Church but without continuity of success. The usual problems of sports and other activities conflicting with service times partially explains this. However, we would also look forward to a more visible

and approachable presence of the new priest in the community and a more creative approach to expanding our congregation with young married couples and children being a priority.

There is a small number of weddings and baptisms and rather more funerals held in the Church. We have an active social programme of quiz nights, parish suppers, summer fetes and open garden events all of which welcome everyone's involvement and, of course, help to raise money as well.

Finance

We always pay 100% of the Parish Share, even when we have a deficit. We are motivated to do this for two reasons. Firstly, we happily accept our obligation to pay our full share of the cost of clergy. Secondly, we are conscious of the fact that many parishes in the Deanery are very much less privileged than our own and we gladly accept the moral obligation that imposes on us.

This policy leaves little scope for regular charitable support but as a matter of principle we support Christian Aid Week and the congregation gives as generously as possible at Christmas and Harvest Festival through special collections for those in need both locally and internationally.

