

FORWARD TOGETHER
IN
HOPE

Our Partnership Proposals

St Oswin's Deanery, North Tyneside



DIOCESE OF **Hexham & Newcastle**



Partnership in the Gospel

Grace to you and peace from God our Father
and the Lord Jesus Christ.

I thank my God in all my remembrance of you,
always in every prayer of mine for you all
making my prayer with joy,
thankful for your partnership in the gospel
from the first day until now.

And I am sure that he who began a good work in you
will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ.

Philippians 1:2-6

Prayer resources have been developed to accompany this stage of our *Forward Together in Hope* journey.
They are available from the resources section of the website and are designed to be customised for use
within parishes and emerging partnerships.

Our Partnership Proposals

For almost two years we have all been exploring what it means to be a disciple of Jesus within a viable and flourishing community. In the short time between now and the beginning of Advent we need to draw upon our exploration and look very practically at how resources can be shared and leadership developed to enable our communities to flourish into the future. Every parishioner has been asked to contribute to this by thinking and praying about partnership and offering their practical suggestions through the tear-off slip from the *Imagine new ways...* leaflet.

This document, *Our Partnership Proposals*, requests information from a **group of parishes** about their initial proposals for developing new partnership arrangements. Please read this in conjunction with the booklet *From Parish to Partnership* published in June this year which sets out detailed information about these partnerships and their benefits. In it we are reminded that Pope Francis speaks of 'parish' as '*not an outdated institution precisely because it possesses great flexibility; it can assume quite different contours depending on the openness and missionary creativity of the pastor and community*'. We now have a real opportunity to follow this call to be flexible, open, creative and missionary as we travel together on the next stage of our journey.

Electronic versions of both of these documents are available within the resources section of the *Forward Together in Hope* website at www.hope.rcdhn.org.uk.

One completed document for each proposed partnership should be returned electronically to hope@diocesehn.org.uk by mid-day on the First Sunday of Advent (27th November) at the latest. It is essential that all areas adhere to this deadline to ensure that their proposals are taken into account within the diocesan-wide proposals that will be developed as a next stage.

We welcome completed documents ahead of this date. Please copy your proposals to the Dean(s) with responsibility for the parishes in the proposed partnership.

All information received by 27th November will be worked with during December to produce the first draft of a 'Flexible Plan' for consideration by Bishop Séamus and the Diocesan Board of Directors at their residential meeting. Prior to that meeting we may need to communicate with the contact person for the proposed partnership (usually the Dean or his nominee) to clarify particular issues or to ask for further details.

We are conscious that in parts of the diocese all of this is very new and that some proposals presented will be very much an outline. Other areas may well be able to go into a lot more detail. In all cases it is important to remember that the documents submitted at the end of November represent *initial proposals*. Once they are all received, these proposals have to be brought together to arrive at a position that works well across the diocese as a whole. While this is likely to mean that some proposals may not be accepted in their entirety, all thoughts and ideas received by the deadline will be brought to bear on the recommendations put forward to Bishop Séamus and the Diocesan Board.

When Bishop Séamus has considered everything, his decisions will be communicated widely across the diocese. Partnership arrangements will then be firmed up and each area asked to commence detailed planning and implementation.

For advice about completing this document, or for any other queries, please feel free to contact the *Forward Together in Hope* team by e-mail at hope@diocesehn.org.uk or by telephone on 0191 243 3304.

Thank you for everything that you are doing to make *Forward Together in Hope* a success.

Section 1: Details of the Proposed Partnership

(Please refer to Section 2.1 on Page 6 of 'From Parish to Partnership')

The parish is not an outdated institution precisely because it possesses great flexibility; it can assume quite different contours...

Pope Francis - Evangelii Gaudium

1.1 Please list the parishes that you envisage being involved in the proposed partnership.

(Please extend this table if necessary)

Parish Name	Location	Priest(s)	Deacon(s)	Mass Attendance*
Our Lady & St Oswin and St Mary	Cullercoats & Tynemouth	Fr Martin Stempczyk		310
Our Lady & St Aidan	Wallsend	Fr John McElhone		295
St Bernadette	Wallsend	Fr John McElhone		135
Our Lady & St Columba	Wallsend	Fr Anthony Donaghue		292
St Cuthbert & St Joseph	North Shields	Fr Chris Hughes		413
Our Lady Star of the Sea	Backworth, Monkseaton & Whitley Bay	Mgr Andrew Faley	Rev Terry McGann & Rec Frank Forde	550
TOTAL MASS ATTENDANCE				1,995

* Please include the average Mass attendance figure for each parish as reported in **October 2016**. (We are aware that there are sometimes seasonal variations in Mass attendance).

1.2 Why is this grouping seen as the most appropriate for your area?

Please provide as much information as you can in presenting a rationale for the proposed partnership arrangement. You may wish to consider, for example, complementary skills/experience, historical connections, distances, existing joint activity, finances, numbers attending Mass etc.

- *The historical and cultural ties between our parishes mean that we share a strong sense of where we are and what we can sensibly develop to support our communities.*
- *The distances between our neighbouring churches are manageable despite public transport difficulties.*
- *Familiarity across parishes in the immediate vicinity sharing joint activities and sacramental preparation.*
- *Three parishes working together in a cluster for the past 10 years have contributed positively to the proposed partnership.*
- *Mass attendance, finance, the condition of buildings, lay leadership and ministry, primary and secondary schools, pastoral outreach and faith formation are generally strong.*
- *Common ground - all schools in these parishes feed St Thomas More Academy*
- *There is a willingness across our parishes to work for effective partnership for the good of the Gospel and the mission of the Church in this area.*

1.3 What issues might get in the way of effective joint working in this partnership area and how might these be minimised?

Issue	Minimising the impact
<i>Reluctance to face the issue of declining numbers of people & clergy.</i>	<i>Effective and strong Leadership Shared Vision/Mission/Goals Creation of a cross parish steering group</i>
<i>Inter-parish barriers: “us” and “them”</i>	<i>Joint learning/worship & social activities. All parishes made to feel equal and valued- everyone's input and opinions taken account of.</i>
<i>“We don’t know the people in other parishes.”</i>	<i>As above</i>
<i>Inertia in clergy to accept movement in the short and medium term</i>	<i>Construct a staged plan of development which builds in time for review and time to see what circumstances prevail in a given number of years. However, the certainty of change must be accepted.</i>
<i>Unrealistic expectations of church goers in what type of services can be provided and by whom</i>	<i>Encouragement of lay leaders to take on more responsibility for liturgies of various character; building and developing the number of people involved in various ministries in the churches; illustration of the provision on other dioceses and even countries to encourage modification of expectations</i>
<i>Resentment in the laity about roles being taken on that were traditionally the domain of the priest.</i>	<i>Clear explanations of what priests do day to day and what they feel they can provide; an understanding of what roles and tasks can be devolved to laity and which duties a priest are able to retain.</i>
<i>Reluctance to commute to other churches/ parishes</i>	<i>Think creatively, provide transport, share transport, make sure meetings/ services are shared equally and fairly across the cluster</i>
<i>Poor communication</i>	<i>Effective communication strategy and shared website Consistent communication of the facts and open discussion regarding appropriate solutions. Ensure everyone feels included and well informed. Partnership Newsletter</i>
<i>Inertia and Apathy/Running out of steam: 90% of parishioners in our parishes have been passive throughout the consultation, and young people/ families not engaged</i>	<i>Be proactive - to engender energy and enthusiasm Approach and embrace this change positively but with sensitivity and consideration for everyone.</i>

1.4 Were there any alternative partnership combinations that were seriously considered as part of your deliberations?

Yes

If 'Yes', please describe these arrangements, their advantages and disadvantages and why they are less appropriate than your preferred option.

- *Movement in the direction of Newcastle parishes on the part of St Columba's was viewed ultimately as a long term strategy but not seen to be conducive to strong partnership in the current Deanery area in the short to medium term.*
- *Coastal parishes considered partnership with churches in New Hartley and Forest Hall which geographically could be candidates but we didn't think the links were as strong as those that already exist with those parishes we propose partnership with.*

Section 2: New Ways of Working Together

(Please refer to Sections 2.2 and 2.3 on Page 6 of 'From Parish to Partnership')

*There is a variety of gifts but always the same Spirit;
there are all sorts of service to be done,
but always to the same Lord,
working in all sorts of different ways
in all sorts of people.*

1 Cor. 12:4-5

2.1 What leadership/co-ordination arrangements are proposed for the partnership area?

Please think about possible leadership structures, roles and responsibilities and associated training and development etc.

- *The appointment/election of a cross parish steering group with individuals possessing qualities of: open-mindedness, visionary, active workers, people who can communicate and influence. A partnership council to disseminate information would be a very necessary starting point. It was pointed out that the right people needed to be on this council, people who know what is going on in the parish not simple Sunday attendees. This would result in everyone knowing what is wanted and what is needed.*
- *We already have some experience of working together in preparations for Confirmation. This could be extended to all sacramental preparation and to RCIA without too much difficulty.*
- *Social opportunities would provide instances where parish boundaries can be broken down and partnerships cemented. Our Lady and St. Aidan have a particular strength in this area.*
- *Newsletter and communications can be joined together so that each area knows what is happening.*
- *Schools would be expected to take a lead in working collaboratively to cement the bonds of the new partnership: this already occurs in various preparations for high school.*
- *All these activities could be expedited by a parishes' coordinator/clerk who can manage work load across volunteers and parishes.*

2.2 What initial areas of joint working are proposed for the partnership area?

Please identify the main areas that are seen as initial priorities for joint working across the proposed partnership. It is important to share the 'Observations on Parish Questionnaires' and draw upon these.

- *Preparation for sacraments, days of reflection for readers, ministers etc.*
- *Social activities to be open to every parish in the cluster in general - there may be some exceptions to this for more local activities.*

2.3 What approaches will you use to ensure plans and developments are communicated well across the proposed partnership area?

Taking into account the expected decline in the number of priests and people over time you may wish to think about this in relation to the short term (1-2 years), medium term (3-5 years) and long term (up to 2030).

a) Short term:

- *An effective communication strategy across all media to ensure that a common message is communicated across all partnership parishes.*
- *Model the partnership on the lines of the cluster, albeit that the cluster council will cease to exist*
- *Explore relationships within our proposed partnership*
- *Work closely with the senior management teams in our schools and school chaplains to assist communication with parents and families*

b) Medium term:

- *Evaluate the partnership implementation at all stages and build upon learning to encourage good practice and adoption.*
- *Identifying needs/areas*
- *Training people*
- *Financial sustainability*
- *Preparation for the reduction of Clergy in the partnership area.*

c) Long term:

- *Too many unknowns at present to be more specific.*
- *Joint meetings with the partnership with feedback given at Week-end Masses*

2.4 We are seeking to ensure that our worshipping communities nurture disciples to witness to Jesus in our world. What resources will be necessary to ensure this takes place and is co-ordinated across the proposed partnership?

Note: People often think about administrative support – but please think more widely about how the various facets of the partnership (e.g. Young People, Outreach, Lay Leadership, Spiritual Development etc.) could benefit from co-ordinated voluntary or paid support and what training might be required.

- *To be determined by cross parish steering group who will be committed to developing a shared strategy and identifying where the gaps are.*
- *People trained in areas such as Catechesis, youth leadership, co-coordinating social outreach, leading non Eucharistic worship, spiritual development.*
- *Investment in communications and AV equipment in order to deliver varying forms of liturgy and events such as activity and action days.*
- *Provision of resources across the partnership for parishioners involved in lay formation in our parishes.*
- *Consideration of appropriate material support to any parish in need within the partnership area.*

2.5 What proposals / initial thoughts are there for new ways of working within the proposed partnership area?

Please remember that these new partnerships are not simply groupings of a number of current parishes with their existing arrangements and structures - they offer the opportunity to look at things differently and innovatively to ensure viable and flourishing communities. You may wish to consider, for example, bringing together existing groups/creating new groups, committees and Councils and strengthening links with schools. In some areas it may be desirable for the parishes within a partnership area to merge over time.

Once again, conscious of the gradually reducing number of priests and people, you may wish to think about this in relation to the short term (1-2 years), medium term (3-5 years) and long term (up to 2030).

a) Short term:

- *Consider a merger between St Aidan's and St Bernadette's, Wallsend.*

b) Medium term:

- *Further exploration of alternative uses for those buildings considered to be no longer required for worship purposes in the partnership area.*
- *An audit of skills and resources in the partnership, to determine how they can be used across the partnership.*

c) Long term:

- *Give further thought as to how buildings are being used/can be used and exploring where Masses will be celebrated.*

- **Section 3:
Facilities**

(Please refer to Section 2.4 on Page 7 of 'From Parish to Partnership')

I will be looking carefully and seriously at any necessary restructuring, including: the closure of some of our church buildings; use of our building for other purposes and the need to reduce the number of Masses being celebrated.

Bishop Séamus - July 2014

3.1 Please list each of the churches in your proposed partnership along with their maximum capacity and details of any existing issues/future plans that might have a bearing on their use.

Parish Name	Location	Max. Capacity	Existing Issues/Future Plans
St Mary	Cullercoats	289	
Our Lady & St Oswin	Tynemouth	162	<i>The church is situated in Tynemouth Village within a Conservation Area.</i>
Our Lady & St Aidan	Wallsend	240	
St Bernadette	Wallsend	260	<i>Building in a poor state of repair</i>
Our Lady & St Columba	Wallsend	450	<i>Developments of industry along the riverside; New housing in the town centre;</i>
Our Lady Star of the Sea/Our Lady & St Edmund	Backworth	160	<i>Renewing lease for two years with local authority for former presbytery use.</i>
Our Lady Star of the Sea/Immaculate Heart of Mary	West Monkseaton	220	<i>None</i>
Our Lady Star of the Sea/St Edward	Whitley Bay	400	<i>None</i>
St Cuthbert	North Shields	500	<i>Building is excellent for multipurpose and hall is used by a variety of rental groups increasing parish income. Fr Michael Hickey retired and resident in the Presbytery.</i>
St Joseph	North Shields	250	<i>Buildings including the Presbytery are in good repair. We have explored ideas of different creative uses of the church building.</i>
TOTAL MASS ATTENDANCE	1,995		<i>Figures taken October 2016</i>

3.2 Please list any other buildings (e.g. schools) that are currently used, or which could be used, for worship. Please feel free to add any notes to explain your thinking.

Venue	Parish/Location	Max. Capacity	Used Now (N) /Could Use (C) Include any notes here

3.3 What thoughts are there about the use of the current places of worship in the proposed partnership area?

If we have around 50 active priests in the diocese in 2030 it is inevitable that Mass will be celebrated in fewer churches and less frequently. Please present your thoughts, however tentative, about the places of worship currently in use across the proposed partnership area and what the future arrangements might look like. In time it will be important to consider which buildings will be retained for worship (not necessarily for the celebration of Mass) and which might close or be used for other purposes.

By 2030, we may have only 2 priests and a maximum of 6 Sunday masses in the proposed partnership.

The possibilities are:

- *Some churches in the partnership area may not have a celebration of Sunday mass: weekday mass in other Churches could be a possibility.*
- *Further discussion is needed on this and possible easier to answer once working closer together as a partnership has been achieved.*

3.4 Are there any thoughts about where the priest(s) would reside in the partnership area?

- *Should the priests not decide for themselves?*
- *Some have suggested clergy living together, however the consensus is for clergy live across the partnership area.*

Section 4: Next Steps

(Please refer to Section 2.5 on Page 7 of 'From Parish to Partnership')

But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a consecrated nation, a people set apart to sing the praises of God.

2 Pet. 9

4.1 Should your partnership proposals be accepted, please indicate what the key next steps would be for your area. Please add timescales where possible.

- *Form a cross parish steering group drawn from each of the parishes to begin the work of determining how the partnership can develop in to the future*
- *Identify key areas to work together*
- *Identify lay leaders and what training is required in the following areas:*
 - *Worship - Evangelism and Witness - Social Outreach - Pastoral Care - Catechesis and Formation Integrate minority Ethnic Groups*
- *Administration and Finance*

4.2 What support would be most useful to you from other parishes/partnerships/the diocese in achieving the next stages of your proposed partnership?

- *A qualified facilitator to assist the smooth running/development of the steering group.*
- *Local programmes to equip catechists with the necessary skills to work throughout the partnership area.*
- *Share good practice from the experience of being a cluster as well as examples of good practices from the wider area in the deanery.*
- *Catechists: we noted that programmes of training are already provided by the diocese, but also felt it important that the partnership should nurture its own team to ensure harmony.*

4.3 Please provide any additional information you feel we should be aware of when considering your proposals.

- *A large majority of parishioners haven't engaged in the process, developing people to have a sense of being a missionary disciple has just begun.*
- *Diocese should already be aware of the nature and extent of lay ministry, trained and commissioned, available within the parishes of the proposed partnership. These skills, talents and commitment would be used to best advantage on a shared basis, so far as this would benefit all the partners and support the clergy.*
- *It was noted that rigorous discernment of perceived vocations (whether lay or to ordination) is vitally important, and that subsequently good training and formation are essential.*

- *Benefits have already been appreciated in some parts of the proposed partnership from the evolved sharing of facilities, buildings, liturgical and social activities and human and financial resources.*

4.4 What questions/concerns do you have about the next stages of the process of moving to partnership arrangements across the diocese?

- *Will partnerships take effect across the diocese at the same time or will this happen on a local need basis?*
- *Bishop's resignation, due in July 2017. What effect will this have on the process?*
- *The process must not be rushed. There must be time for proper reflection and to allow all involved to consider and understand it.*
- *We are exercised by the question of how to cultivate greater grass-roots engagement in the process, in the eventual partnership, and in the mission of the Church locally. There seems to be great scope for drawing weekly attenders into active living out of the Gospel through day-to-day prayer and action, enlivening faith, encouraging commitment and stimulating action. There is much more to this initiative than simply revising administration and governance.*

Section 5: The Consultation Process

I thank my God in all my remembrance of you, always in every prayer of mine for you all making my prayer with joy, thankful for your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now.
Philippians 1:5

a) Partnership View

5.1 Please describe the process undertaken to arrive at your outline partnership proposals.

- *Series of parish – deanery – clergy & lay rep open meetings over the summer/early autumn, including attendance at the Vicariate open meeting on 19 November and presentation of proposed partnership to parish/deanery open meeting on 16 November 2016.*

5.2 Were the individual Parish Observations and Profiles shared with all parishes in the proposed partnership as part of this process?

- Yes.

Comments:

5.3 Please list any key meetings/activities that have taken place along with numbers attending.

Date	Venue	Purpose of meeting/activity	Numbers attending/participating
July - November	Deanery Parishes	<i>Open Meetings to consider Observations and partnership process</i>	20 - 75
14 July	Immaculate Heart of Mary, West Monkseaton	<i>Clergy & Lay Reps Meeting to share findings so far and agree the process for the partnership proposal</i>	13
5 October	Immaculate Heart of Mary, West Monkseaton	<i>Clergy & Lay Reps Meeting to monitor progress towards the partnership proposal</i>	10
19 October	St Mary's School, Benton	<i>Vicariate Open Meeting</i>	75
16 November	Immaculate Heart of Mary, West Monkseaton	<i>Clergy & Lay Reps Meeting to monitor progress towards the partnership proposal</i>	13
16 November	St Thomas More Academy, North Shields	<i>Open deanery meeting to share the proposed partnership with parishioners</i>	111

5.4 Please list any specific groups or committees that have been consulted.

Moving Forward process after we received the Diocesan feedback has been discussed by Parish Council, Finance Committee and Worship and Formation group within the coastal parishes and advisory group in St Columba's as well as the Steering Group in St Aidan's

5.5 How widely has this *completed document* been circulated prior to submission? Please provide details.

b) Parish View

We are keen to understand the level of awareness and consensus within individual parish communities in relation to the proposed partnership arrangements. To this end, please ensure that **each parish** in the proposed partnership completes the questions below. If parishes wish to, they can provide a short (maximum of 250 words) perspective on the proposed partnership. Please enter the name and role of the person completing this on behalf of the parish.

Note: Please copy and paste this section for each parish in the proposed partnership.

Parish	Name of Person	Role
Our Lady & St Oswin and St Mary, Tynemouth & Cullercoats	Fr Martin Stempczyk Mr Terry O'Brien	Parish Priest Lay Representative
<p>Level of knowledge of proposals - Very High/High</p> <p><i>Any comment: Knowledge of the proposal is high/ very high. Since the clergy/lay reps meeting, we have held 2 parish meetings, some parishioners attended the Vicariate meeting, every parishioner was given a copy of the minutes of the parish council meetings where the proposals were detailed and Fr. Martin has informed the parish during his post mass announcements.</i></p>		
<p>Level of consensus with proposals - Very High/High/Medium/Low/Very Low</p> <p>Any Comment:</p>		
<p>Parish perspective (250 Words or less)</p> <p><i>An acceptance that there must be change. An agreement that we should form a partnership in the area of the deanery. An acceptance that some churches will close in the medium and long term.</i></p>		

Parish	Name of Person	Role
Our Lady & St Aidan, Wallsend	Fr John McElhone Andrea Hall	Parish Priest Lay Representatives
Level of knowledge of proposals - Very High/High		
Level of consensus with proposals - Very High		
Any Comment:		
Parish perspective (250 Words or less)		
<p><i>The parishioners of St Aidan's have been very engaged in each stage of the process of Forward Together in Hope. There is recognition of a need for change and people are optimistic about their role in developing the partnership arrangements. These are the steps that have been taken to keep parishioners up to date:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Homily over all weekend Masses;</i> • <i>Observations from diocese printed on newsletter over a four week period;</i> • <i>Use of screens in church to share observations from the diocese;</i> • <i>Digital copies of the observations for all deanery parishes made available on parish website;</i> • <i>Parish open meeting held with discussions regarding partnering arrangements including a slide presentation, followed by small group discussions. 62 parishioners attended the meeting;</i> • <i>Use of a dedicated notice board providing information – map and mileage chart for surrounding parishes;</i> • <i>Provided output of discussions flowing from the open meeting to full parish via notice board, newsletters and website.</i> • <i>29 parishioners attended Vicariate meeting and 31 the open deanery meeting at St Thomas More.</i> 		

Parish	Name of Person	Role
St Bernadette Wallsend	Fr John McElhone Lynne O'Hare	Parish Priest Lay Representative
<p>Level of knowledge of proposals - Very High/High</p> <p><i>The level of engagement in the stages of the process of Forward Together in Hope has been low with the exception of a small committed group of parishioners</i></p>		
<p>Level of consensus with proposals - Medium/Low</p> <p>Any Comment:</p>		
<p>Parish perspective (250 Words or less)</p> <p><i>The parishioners of St Bernadette's have had limited engagement in each stage of the process of Forward Together in Hope. These are the steps that have been taken to keep parishioners up to date:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Homily over all weekend Masses;</i> • <i>Observations from the diocese printed on bulleting over a four week period;</i> • <i>Hard copies of the observations made available;</i> • <i>Digital copies of the observations for all the deanery parishes made available on website;</i> • <i>Parish open meeting held with discussions relating to partnering arrangements with 16 attending;</i> • <i>Use of dedicated notice board providing information – map and mileage indicator of surrounding parishes</i> • <i>Provide output of discussions to full parish via bulletin and website;</i> • <i>9 parishioners attended the Vicariate meeting and the same number the deanery open meeting at St Thomas More.</i> 		

Parish	Name of Person	Role
Our Lady & St Columba, Wallsend	Fr Anthony Donaghue Mrs Margaret Dodds	Parish Priest Lay Representative
<p>Level of knowledge of proposals - High Any comment: <i>Parishioners have been very involved in developing our thinking at every step along the way, from original questionnaires to our making approaches to neighbouring and local parishes regarding partnership. However, they are largely unaware of the proposal to make the deanery the basis of a new parish.</i></p>		
<p>Level of consensus with proposals - Very High/High/Medium/Low/Very Low Any Comment:</p>		
<p>Parish perspective (250 Words or less)</p> <p><i>St Columba's considered several options during their extensive enquiry and discussion process. The deanery proposal is the most practical model for development over the next few years but it can have built into it the option to look westwards to the parishes of East Newcastle if circumstances dictate it in say five years' time.</i></p> <p><i>Our church is extremely well positioned to serve new models of parish being adjacent to a metro and bus interchange, being a large and attractive grade 2 listed building and having such a large capacity for worshippers.</i></p> <p><i>We have extensive experience of developing lay leadership and have many skills which could complement those we have observed in other deanery parishes. We see it as a symbiotic relationship developing into the full equipping of localities to offer liturgies, take on pastoral care, tackle the multitude of administrative tasks and develop the social strength which build strong parishes.</i></p> <p><i>We see potential to develop the role of our new parish/es to strengthen the outreach and missionary work of the church in serving the poor, disadvantaged and marginalised. Partnership with new groups will energise this work and with the right spiritual guidance and leadership we see a future which will attract more young people to be involved and contribute their strengths. The people of Our Lady and St Columba's have been supportive, creative and positive in their reflections upon the process of Forward Together in Hope so far and we carry that positivity into a challenging future.</i></p>		

Parish	Name of Person	Role
St Cuthbert & St Joseph, North Shields	Fr Chris Hughes Mr Ian Pearson	Parish Priest Lay Representative
<p>Level of knowledge of proposals – High - Low</p> <p><i>Any comment:</i> Level of knowledge of proposals – Outline of partnership area, high. Details as to how the partnership could work together is low. We sense the awareness and commitment to be missionary disciples could be much higher. The work on this is just beginning, <i>An extra 3 months for this part of the process would have been useful. It does feel quite rushed.</i></p>		
<p>Level of consensus with proposals - Very High/High/Medium/Low/Very Low</p> <p>Any Comment:</p>		
<p>Parish perspective (250 Words or less)</p> <p><i>In our initial open meeting to explore the notion of partnership, the Parish Priest was struck by people’s openness to work with whatever partnership that helped others. There was a generosity to help other communities.</i></p>		

Parish	Name of Person	Role
Our Lady Star of the Sea, Backworth, Monkseaton & Whitley Bay	Mgr Andrew Faley Mr Joseph James	Parish Priest Lay Representative
<p>Level of knowledge of proposals - Very High/High</p> <p><i>Medium/High: Parishioners have been involved across the meetings, with a core group forming naturally around the opportunities for discussion. This helped to focus attention on the key issues.</i></p>		
<p>Level of consensus with proposals - Very High/High/Medium/Low/Very Low</p> <p>Any Comment: Level of consensus: Very High/High.</p> <p><i>Some accept that change is necessary, others are eager to embrace it. Whether accepting or eager, those who have expressed a view are in favour of the proposals.</i></p>		
<p>Parish perspective (250 Words or less)</p> <p><i>The parish has, in recent years, gone through a process of formation by the amalgamation of three former parishes. This experience, together with a ten year history of working within a cluster, has helped parishioners to develop an openness to the possibilities of wider collaboration. These same experiences have revealed the sort of challenges and difficulties to be expected, but have also allowed the development of a conviction that these can be overcome with charity and goodwill. Within the parish there has been a significant growth over recent years in the active involvement of the laity in liturgy, pastoral care, study and training, and management and administration.</i></p> <p><i>We already share with neighbouring parishes an interest in, amongst other things, the local Academy, the hospital chaplaincy and the RCIA programme, and we look forward to further close and mutually beneficial relationships in the proposed Partnership.</i></p>		

Contact Details

We may need to get in touch with you for additional information about your proposals. Please provide contact information for a main contact person and an alternate (should the main contact person not be available). We would recommend that the main contact is the Dean with responsibility for the majority of parishes within the proposed partnership (or his nominee).

	Main Contact	Alternate contact
Name	Mgr Andrew Faley	Mrs Margaret Dodds
Role	Dean	Lay Representative, St Columba's Wallsend
Address	St Edward's Presbytery 1 Coquet Avenue Whitley Bay NE26 1EE	
Telephone	0191 2528021	0191 2630216.
E-mail	stedwardsne26@btconnect.com	margaretdodds03@btinternet.com

Please return your proposals to hope@diocesehn.org.uk by mid-day on Sunday 27th November 2016 and copy these to the Dean(s) with responsibility for parishes in your proposed partnership.

Thank you for completing this document and for all you are doing to support *Forward Together in Hope*.



FORWARD TOGETHER
IN
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