

## PARTNERSHIP NEWS

ST JOHN OF BEVERLEY PARTNERSHIP PARISHES

### OUR PARTNERSHIP BEGINS

The Diocese has accepted our partnership proposal

In February the Diocese announced the coverage of the 18 new partnerships that it has agreed will be put in place. The proposal that we put in place was accepted as it stood. This means that our Partnership is

made up of the Parishes of St Elizabeth

...TO LIVE THE GOSPEL,  
TO BE OPEN TO CHANGE  
AND TO MOVE FORWARD  
TOGETHER IN HOPE.

ensure effective

(Minsteracres), St John of Beverley (Haydon Bridge), St Mary (Hexham) including St Mary (Swinburne), St Oswald (Bellingham) including St Peter (Otterburn), and St Wilfrid (Haltwhistle).

For the moment the partnership bears the name 'A3' but we expect a more recognizable name will be adopted before the feast of Pentecost.

A document showing the details of all 18 partnerships is available on the diocesan web site and also on St. Mary's Parish website.

For the last few months representatives from each parish have been meeting to establish a Partnership Development Group which will coordinate the planning for the new partnership.

The objectives of this group are to co-operate in the best uses of the resources available, particularly in the provision of Mass and other liturgy and prayer; to co-operate in the provision of catechesis and sacramental preparation; to

communication between the communities to maximum benefit of each; and to create an outreach programme that effectively evangelises the parishes and communities around us.

Fr. Christopher Warren will be the Partnership Dean.

You are all encouraged to take an active part in both parish and partnership activities as we work together to create this new relationship between our communities, and please pray for its success.

### HOW YOU CAN BE INVOLVED

The partnership will only be successful if all of our communities make the most of the opportunity to join in and make it work. Over the coming months each parish will be making plans to be more active in various ways. There will be lots of ways to become involved and you are encouraged to take part, to help run, or to suggest other activities. In particular, there will be initiatives in the areas of Prayer, Outreach, Structures, Planning, Finances, Human Resources, Formation, Team Building and Communications.

## PARTNERSHIP PILGRIMAGE

### Prayer and participation in Lent

The first joint activity of our parishes was a pilgrimage to each of the churches in the partnership. Each Wednesday during Lent we made our way to one of our partner churches where we celebrated Mass together and then enjoyed the hospitality of each parish.

We started the pilgrimage in Bellingham with a full church and representation from all our communities. This is no mean feat given the distance and time involved in travelling.

As we started in February the roads to Bellingham were dark and winding. By the time we reached our fifth Pilgrimage Mass in Hexham the evenings were much lighter and the excitement building as Easter approached.

It was an opportunity to see churches not all of us were familiar with. We were also able to meet new friends. By the end of the pilgrimages many of these new friends had become familiar faces, and so little by little we have begun to get to know and appreciate each other.

We also discovered how generous and hospitable each community is, with plenty of wonderful food and drinks provided at each location.

Some pilgrims managed to attend every single one of the Masses: Bellingham, Minsteracres, Haydon Bridge, Haltwhistle and Hexham. But anyone attending even one of the pilgrimage stations found a welcome and a camaraderie that bodes well for our partnership together.

Each Parish is represented on the Partnership Development Group by its clergy, and by one lay representative, and there will also be school representation. You can obtain more information about your own parish activities in the partnership by speaking to your local representative.

The representatives in each community are:

**Bellingham:** William Charlton

**Haltwhistle:** Sue Moorhouse

**Haydon Bridge:** Maureen Clarke

**Hexham:** Joe Ronan

**Minsteracres:** Frank Balloch

**Otterburn:** Peter Softley

You can contact any of the above by emailing

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