

St Helen's Church, Whitley Chapel - "A Beacon of Faith for Our Community"

Hexhamshire Community Questionnaire

We Are Asking for Your Views

St Helen's Church PCC is committed to serving the whole of Hexhamshire — including those who attend church regularly, occasionally, or not at all. With Rev Andrew Patterson retiring in July 2026, we are taking time to listen to the community as we plan for the future of our church.

Our mission is to be a beacon of faith, offering welcome, hope, and service to all. We would be grateful for your thoughts on how the church can best support local people, strengthen community life, and offer meaningful opportunities for connection, reflection, and care.

Our Guiding Scripture

Matthew 5:14-16 (NLT)

"You are the light of the world..."

1. About You

1.1 How long have you lived in Hexhamshire?

Less than 1 year 1-5 years 6-15 years More than 15 years

1.2 Which age group do you fall into?

Under 18 18-30 31-50 51-70 71+

1.3 Do you currently have any connection with St Helen's Church?

Yes No Occasionally

If yes or occasionally, please describe your connection:

2. Community Life and Local Needs

2.1 What do you value most about living in Hexhamshire?

2.2 Are there particular needs, challenges, or opportunities within the community that you feel the church could help address?

2.3 How connected do you feel to community events or activities in the area?

Very connected Somewhat connected Not very connected Not connected

3. The Role of St Helen's Church

3.1 Whether or not you attend church, what role do you think St Helen's should play in the life of Hexhamshire?

3.2 As we prepare for Rev Andrew Patterson's retirement in July 2026, what aspects of the church's presence in the community feel most important to preserve, change or develop?

3.3 What new ideas or opportunities would you like the church to explore?

(Please tick any that interest you.)

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Community events or gatherings | <input type="checkbox"/> Support for families and children |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Activities for older residents | <input type="checkbox"/> Outdoor or nature-based events |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Music, arts, or cultural activities | <input type="checkbox"/> Wellbeing or reflective spaces |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Practical support or volunteering | <input type="checkbox"/> Bible study groups |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Christian meditation or quiet prayer | <input type="checkbox"/> Opportunities to serve or minister to community needs |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other ideas: _____ | |

4. Faith, Values, and Welcome

4.1 How can St Helen's Church best express its Christian values in ways that feel inclusive and supportive for the whole community?

4.2 What helps you feel welcome or included in community spaces or events?

5. Final Thoughts

5.1 Do you have any suggestions, concerns, or hopes you would like the PCC to consider as we plan for Andrew's retirement and St Helen's future?

5.2 If you would like to be kept informed about community or church events, please provide your name and preferred contact details (optional):

6. Voluntary support

If you feel you can offer support to our church in any capacity (e.g. music, reading, cleaning, helping at events) please contact Andrew Patterson, Jenny Stirling or Kate Gibson or email sthelenswhitleychapel@aol.com giving details of how you might help.

Please put completed forms in the labelled box in the church as soon as possible or give/send to a PCC member. Emailed copies can be sent to sthelenswhitleychapel@aol.com

Thank you for your support.

Andrew Patterson, Jenny Stirling, Kate Gibson, Claire Bradley, David Wilson, Ruth Marlee, Carol Charlton.