

BRINKBURN PARTNERSHIP

Amble ✕ Ashington ✕ Bedlington ✕ Longhorsley ✕ Morpeth

Brinkburn Partnership Reflects on its First Year

As the end of the first full year in our new diocesan structures, Brinkburn Partnership has worked creatively in each of its working groups: Development, Finance and Spirituality. It has been so good and very constructive to work together, making new relationships, and sharing gifts, ideas and expertise.

The Partnership Development Group (PDG) has been greatly exercised by the re-thinking of our Worshipping Communities and the revision of Sunday Mass times. After considerable discussion and reflection, we gathered as our Partnership in St. Aidan's school in Ashington on 14 May to hear the proposals. Fr. Peter Stott gave an inspiring presentation which was extremely well received and the new proposals accepted most positively.

The PDG is working at a more coherent approach to Justice and Peace issues as well as establishing a Communications Group to explore the best ways of communicating "*good news*" as well as the more mundane.

The Spirituality group has met regularly over the past year and planned events in different parishes which have succeeded in bringing people together and establishing new friendships. In November, a Service of Remembrance brought many people to Morpeth; Stations of the Cross, led by representatives in each parish helped in our Lenten Reflections. The Rosary on the Coast was different and uplifting, and our Partnership Mass of Affirmation in Amble in May was a way of gathering us together in Communion and Friendship.

We are looking forward to a Partnership Day of Recollection on 20 October, when we hope we can celebrate all we are doing whilst looking to exciting and challenging times ahead.

Chris Smith