

Christ Church Fulwood Preston



Junior Church end of worship feedback July 2016.

PARISH PROFILE

June 2017

The Bishop of Blackburn

The Rt Revd Julian T Henderson

Dear potential applicant,

Ministry in the Diocese of Blackburn

Thank you for your enquiry about a vacant post in the Diocese of Blackburn, the Church of England in Lancashire. We believe God wants His Church to grow, and so are looking for gifted and prayerful clergy with a heart for the Gospel and mission, who have the energy and enthusiasm to implement Vision 2026, *Healthy Churches Transforming Communities*. You can read more about Vision 2026 overleaf.

Almost all of our parishes have Vision Champions who have volunteered to work with their clergy and lay leadership in keeping the Vision on the PCC and congregation's agenda. The Vision is about a radical change of culture, in which we engage in new ways in making the unchanging Gospel of Jesus known in our communities.



The spiritual, physical and emotional health and the ongoing development of our clergy is very important to us.

Please be assured of my prayers as you consider whether to make an application.

+ Julian

Bishop of Blackburn

Living in Lancashire

Lancashire people are known for their warmth and friendliness and those who are new to the area find it to be an easy place to make friends. There are excellent transport connections and the surrounding countryside is spectacularly beautiful. For those with children, the Diocese has over 180 church schools including 10 high schools; the vast majority are rated as Good or Outstanding.



Canon Fleur Green
Advisor for Women's
Ministry

Our call to Mission

As a Diocese we are fully committed to the breadth and diversity of the Anglican tradition. Traditionalist, evangelical, catholic, progressive, Eucharistic, charismatic – we don't care what the label is. As long as you are passionate about sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ and long to make new disciples, there is a place for you in the Church of England in Lancashire.



+ Philip North
Bishop of Burnley

If you come to Blackburn Diocese we will look after you...

- We have a great property department, who will do their best to ensure your house works for you and your family and is well maintained.
- We encourage all clergy to take their full annual leave entitlement, and also to use creatively the overtime we all put in to take an extra day off once each month, to enable you to have a midweek 'weekend' away.



We have a beautiful diocesan retreat house in the grounds of a ruined Cistercian abbey, where clergy are welcome to have personal reading days without charge (bring your own lunch).

Whalley Abbey Retreat and Conference Centre

- We encourage all parishes in vacancy to consider how they will 'pastor' and support their new priest.
- We have a unique pattern of peer-led Ministerial Development Review, designed by the clergy for the clergy.
- We are setting up a pilot reflective practice group for clergy new in post, in partnership with St Luke's Healthcare.
- If you are looking for a spiritual director or a mentor we have networks of people with whom we can put you in touch.
- We are always looking for ways for clergy to mix apart from work – including reading weeks, regular hospitality, and a clergy walking group. Further suggestions are welcome.

Bishop Philip leads a clergy walk



The year 2026 marks the centenary of the formation of the Diocese of Blackburn. In the ten years leading up to our centenary, Vision 2026 is a plan to turn around the long-term trend of gradually declining attendance. Our vision is for the growth of God's kingdom, not just of his church. Our vision is to develop healthy churches which transform their communities, a vision in which making disciples for Jesus Christ and pursuing social justice sit side by side.

Our vision has had a long gestation. When the Vacancy in See occurred in 2012 we began to look at how we were going to move forward as a diocese. On his arrival, Bishop Julian spent his first year visiting every member of the clergy in their homes and visiting all the parishes of the diocese. At the end of that first year, Bishop Julian shared his reflections and the vision began to become clearer. It was shared with the diocesan family in the deaneries and in a number of local events and unanimously adopted by the diocesan synod.

The first year was spent in prayer with the Vision 2026 as the focus. 2016 has seen the Vision develop, with parishes nominating Vision Champions who were commissioned in Preston Guild Hall along with Churchwardens in the presence of 1,600 people. As a diocese with our Vision, we are willing to face the cost of change; and in prayer we see the grace and power of God which can alone bring renewal and growth. We are committed to work together (clergy, laity, church schools, diocesan staff and the cathedral) to deliver Vision 2026 by:

Making disciples of Jesus Christ

- Knowing the Scriptures better through reading, teaching, preaching and study
- Praying with greater depth and urgency for the Kingdom of God to come
- Giving generously of our time, talents and money to the cause of Christ

Being witnesses to Jesus Christ

- Sharing the Gospel of salvation with confidence
- Holding regular enquirers courses in as many local churches as possible
- Showing God's love in action through projects that meet a local human need
- Offering thorough and accessible Baptism preparation and follow-up
- Planting or renewing 50 new strategic congregations by 2026

Growing leaders for Jesus Christ

- Supporting and equipping the current leadership for today's context
- Enabling missional leadership in every Christian community
- Liberating lay leadership for greater participation
- Creating the varied patterns of Sunday and weekday worship necessary to welcome all kinds of people, especially the newcomer
- Prioritising work among children, young people and schools to raise up a new generation for Christ

The Diocesan Vision Prayer:

Heavenly Father, we embrace Your call for us to make disciples, to be witnesses and to grow leaders. Give us the eyes to see Your vision, ears to hear the prompting of Your Spirit and courage to follow in the footsteps of your Son, our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen

Christ Church Fulwood

PARISH PROFILE

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Introduction

Welcome – we hope you enjoy reading our Parish Profile.

We are looking for our next Vicar to be with us on our journey as we work and worship together trying to fulfil our aim of 'connecting people to Jesus Christ and each other'.

It's fair to say that there is a sense of anticipation, hope and willingness to step out to continue on to the next phase of our journey. There is also an understandable nervousness as we face change and a period of uncertainty.

We are looking for a spiritual leader who will come and be among us, let us get to know them, and get to know who we are and what we need to do to continue to be disciples for Jesus Christ. One who can help us to realise what we are able to achieve in our vision to be a vibrant Christian

Community, celebrating our faith and serving the people of our Parish.

We are quite simply a group of Christian people who come together in one place. We are here because it 'feels right for us'. We are blessed with traditions that nourish us and with a willingness to try new ways of fulfilling our ambition to reach out and be witnesses to Jesus Christ.

This is an exciting time, one of opportunity and, we feel, great potential. We hope that you will see how your ambitions, hopes and calling will find a place here and you will feel that your ministry can be a part of our journey too.

Of necessity, this is a lengthy document and we recognise that some of it makes for dry reading so we have put the more detailed information as appendices to be used as a resource to guide further understanding – we hope this helps!



Junior Church picture May 2017

Where we are

The Parish is part of the district of Fulwood, which is often described as the 'leafy suburb' of the city of Preston. The area is predominantly owner occupied housing ranging from large Victorian houses to the more modern housing estates and everything else in between.

Some of the landmark buildings within the Parish include the Army Barracks, the large Union Workhouse which now houses offices and an NHS Service, and there is also a newly built Mosque.

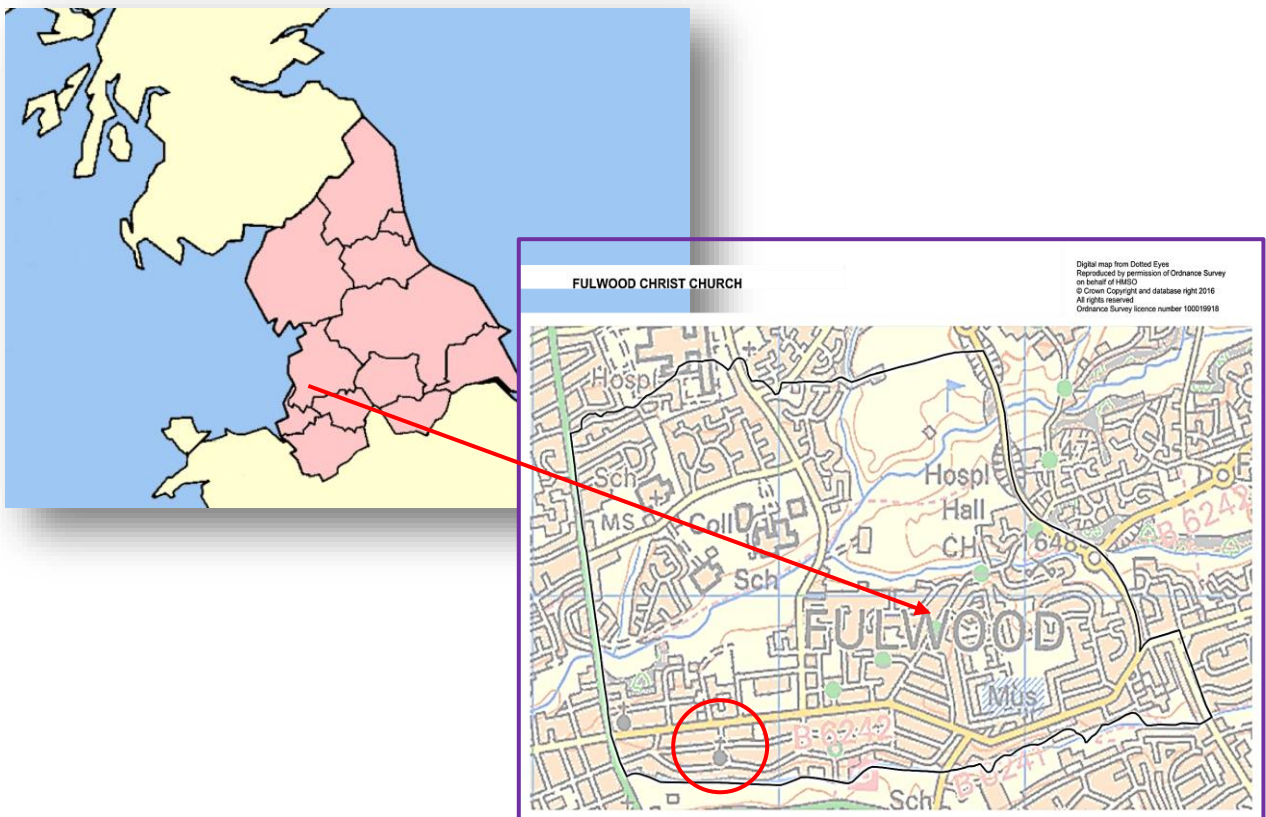
The main centres of employment are Lancashire Teaching Hospitals' Royal Preston Hospital site, Preston's College, the Barracks and two large high schools. There are also a number of small businesses scattered throughout the area.

People live and spend their leisure time here and many of those that work travel outside of the Parish to do so. Unlike surrounding Parishes, Christ Church has no significant new housing developments at the moment so the population numbers are fairly static.

One of the high schools is the voluntary aided CofE Archbishop Temple School which has an excellent reputation and is rated as 'outstanding' by OFSTED. There is also the local authority-run Kennington Road Primary School with which we have close links.

There is a growing Muslim population amongst our neighbours as second and third generation families settle in the area attracted by the building of the new Mosque and the adaptation of community buildings to house a Madrasa and other faith based activities.

The Parish is surrounded by a range of social and leisure facilities including easily accessible Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty; the Forest of Bowland is close by and Fulwood is less than hour away from the Lake District. There are also good transport links which give easy access to the surrounding areas and the rest of the country.



Who we are

We are a single Parish with a population of 7,400 people (2011 census). There is no clearly defined centre so the population is fairly evenly distributed throughout the area. The lack of a centre and focal point for the community was identified as an issue, particularly for young families, in our own community profile which we did in 2013.

In 2011 we invited external support to take us through a number of exercises that helped us have a better understanding of who we are (fig 1). The results of this helped inform our Mission Action Planning and Parish Development Plan.

In 2013 we invited students from the Social Sciences Department of the University of Central Lancashire to carry out a community profile for us. They used census data, evidence-based research techniques and they found the following:

- ❖ There is a comparatively high level of households with no adults in employment which is indicative of a retired population.
- ❖ There are also a comparatively high number of households that have an adult unable to work due to long term illness or disability.
- ❖ There is a hidden population that is experiencing serious financial pressures.
- ❖ The local population, especially those with young families, would like more communal activities and in particular places to meet and socialise.
- ❖ People feel that there is a need to break down the divide between Muslim and Christian, families and older people, rich and poor.

This resonates with some of the Parish Spotlight information in appendix 1, which also points out that we need to be aware of environmental issues, the impact of an increasing life expectancy as well as the implication of rising housing costs.

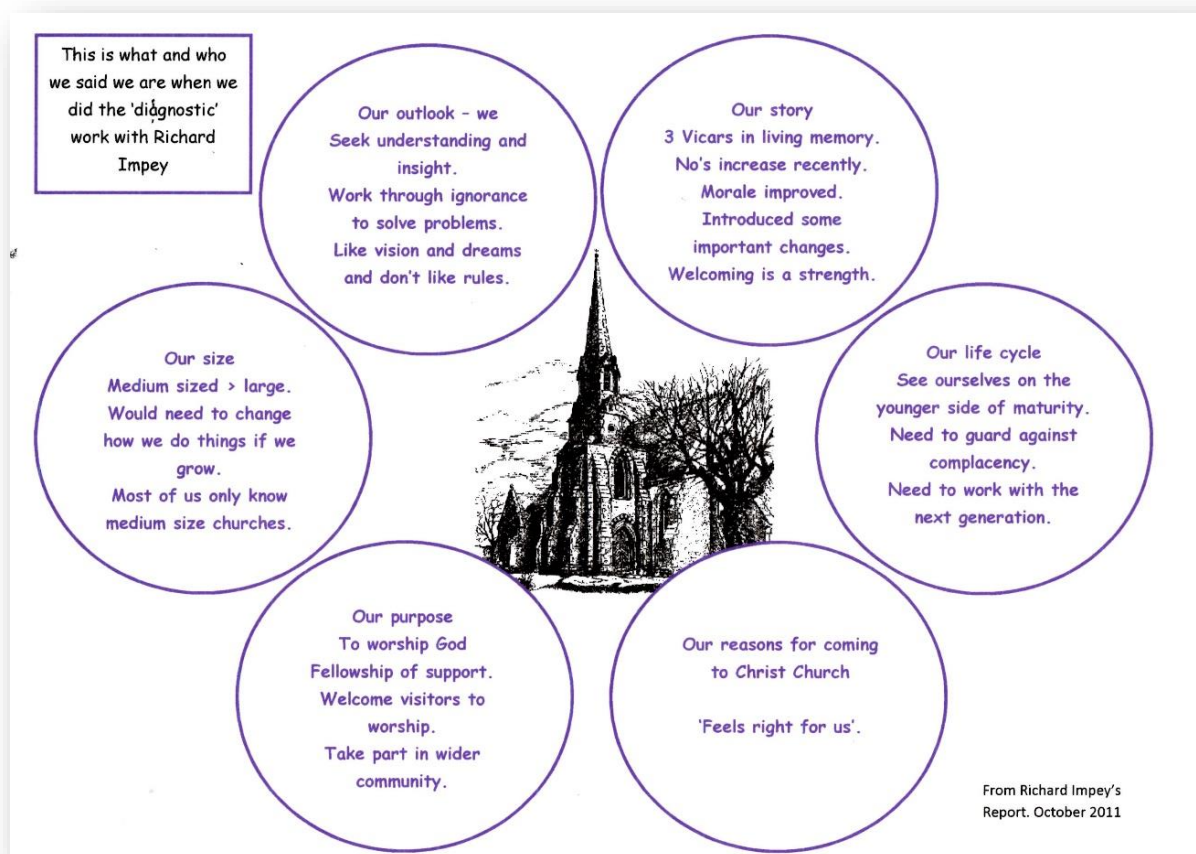


Fig 1. Extract from Parish development Exhibition 2013

Our Parish life

Worship:

We have a 'mixed economy' of worship and there is a willingness to try new things. Some feel we are at a watershed and that we have the potential to go so much further. We are committed to and demonstrate shared ministry and we are aware that this needs further development.

Our tradition of churchmanship can be described as somewhere between Evangelical, Central and Liberal. Unlike our neighbouring churches, we do not have a clearly defined tradition. Instead we seek to provide a variety of services which give a wide range of choice. The majority of our services are in the church buildings. Our usual weekly pattern and special festivals are in appendix 2. We have a mixture of Common Worship and BCP. Other styles of service are used from time to time – Taize, Café Church, and Iona Community.

Music has always played a large part in our worship and an aspect of our spirituality that we take very seriously. There are various styles of music used throughout depending on the type of service, for example we have the First Sunday Singers with a less formal style and at other times we have more formal organ-led

meantime, there are temporary arrangements in place calling on the considerable musical talents we have within our community.



Our Music group

Assistants:

We have had three Curates-in-training over the past few years. Currently our Curate is Rev. Phil Maudsley who is about to start his third year; he is supported by our Reader, Mandy Stanton. We have an Ordinand, Emma Swarbrick, previously one of our Readers, who is away in her first year of training. We consider ourselves to be a 'sending Parish' where exploration and fulfilment of vocation is encouraged and supported. One of our congregation has recently started the Occasional Preachers course.



Our Choir

music. Our robed choir is small in number and ready for rebuilding. Our Director of Music has recently left us to pursue his vocation and we are currently reviewing how we will manage and provide music in the future. In the



Rev. Phil Maudsley



Mandy Stanton

There are five retired clergy living in the Parish some of whom provide occasional assistance.

As already mentioned, we are committed to shared ministry and many of us are involved in worship from reading the scriptures to leading prayers. There are thirteen Communion Assistants. We benefit from the skills of Mandy Stanton, our Reader, who works in the Discipleship and Ministry team for the Diocese as the Discipleship and Lay Ministry Development Officer.

We feel welcoming is a strength although we are aware that it needs constant attention to keep it fresh. We have teams of Welcomers and, more informally, we try to make sure newcomers are noticed and looked after. We also have the Child Friendly Church Award.

There are two Churchwardens, Julia Laing and Graham Hickey and one Assistant Churchwarden, Margaret Ghorri. Our Wardens traditionally serve a four year term of office with an overlap of two years.



Our Churchwardens

Living the scriptures:

Baptism

We are just launching new arrangements for preparation and follow-up after Baptism led by Rev. Phil. Parents and Godparents are now invited to attend two discussion sessions prior to the baptism and then a follow-up session.

This is based on a team approach and members of our community have been recruited to provide support to the families.

Prayer

We have Prayers every day from Monday to Friday which we have reduced during our vacancy to three times a week. These sessions are predominantly lay-led and run at different times of the week to accommodate everyone.

Learning and growing

One outcome of an Alpha Course that many people did in 2013 was the formation of a discussion group known as HOPE. This group is also lay-led and meets twice a month to discuss various aspects of the scriptures and their relevance to our everyday life. We run occasional courses such as 'Because of Bethlehem', 'Vision 2026' and 'Shaped for God's Purpose' – more particularly during Lent and Advent for those wanting to explore their faith in more depth.

We have not been as successful with enquirer courses and this is an area we feel we need to develop. We find that people don't necessarily want courses and prefer opportunities for discussion and exploration, such as 'Pints of View' or 'Table Talk' and we have ambitions to try these in non-church settings.

Another outcome of the Alpha Course was the development of a healing ministry where a small number of people felt that they could offer prayer and comfort to those who need it, although this has fallen away recently and is being looked at again.

People at home

We have a pastoral support network which we have recently begun to formalise by creating a 'Pastoral Care Team', led by Joan Curphey, consisting of those who have done this for many years and some new members too.

Children, Families and Young People

Our children and young people are very important to us and we encourage their

participation although we are conscious that this too needs further development. Families with children are also encouraged to participate in services.

Children

Our Junior Church, led by Ann Porter and Linda Koziarska, meets on a Sunday morning during term time starting in church, going to the Hall and then returning during communion. They come up to the front before the blessing and share what they have been doing. The numbers attending vary each week.

Our Junior Church leaders have been involved for some time, some are feeling ready to move on and they are looking for others to step in. We are aware that this is an issue that we need to address as soon as we can.

Families

We have been running a Messy Church which is open to everyone, for the last two years. We have built it up to run every other month and there is an average attendance of thirty people – adults and children - and the numbers are steadily increasing. We are encouraged that people who do not attend church on a regular basis are beginning to join us. Messy Church is led by a lay team and supported by our clergy for the celebration.

Young People

We have five to ten young people who attend regularly, again during term time. They are known as our Pathfinders. There is also Pathfinders Extra which is the same group going out for mainly social/food-based activities. This has been initiated and is run by Rev. Phil.



Pathfinders extra



Messy Church

Mission and outreach

We value any opportunity to celebrate our faith in the wider community. Of note in the past few years is our response to the Preston Guild in 2012 when we participated in the Church Procession involving over eighty Preston Area Churches. Our Crafters Group and others also produced a magnificent commemorative banner erected on the west wall of our church.



Crafters and friends

In 2015 we held many events to celebrate 150 years of worship at Christ Church, including a street party where many of the local community joined us. The Crafters and others made another splendid banner to mark the anniversary.



150 Celebration Street Party

Last year, Preston Mission week and also the Northern Bishops' Crossroads Mission to the Diocese gave us further opportunities to run events inside and outside our church buildings, where we invited our local community to join us.

Learning from these experiences, we are currently planning more mission events over the weekend of our Patronal Festival – Christ the King – in November.

Our Hall is a great asset in terms of connecting with the local community, not only as a space to be hired out but as a way of encouraging people to get to know us. Our Parent and Toddler Group is extremely well attended. Our monthly café style drop in for Adults – Cake & Company – has much smaller numbers but regulars who we would not otherwise get to know.

We think we are a community that is good at using its time and talents to organise things and we are blessed with many people who are willing to do so.

Social life

We have an active social life with many events taking place throughout the year – we love sharing a meal together and spending an evening socialising with music and sometimes dancing. There is a very sociable fellowship group called Crossway who meet on a monthly basis with a full programme of interesting speakers, they also have a Christmas meal open to all and an annual trip.



Harvest Supper

We go away together at times – most notable recently was a Pilgrimage to Iona in our 150th year and in the past we have stayed at the Church-owned Thornleigh Hotel in the Lakes.



Iona pilgrimage 2015

Working with other denominations

We have a close relationship with the Fulwood Methodist Church community, supporting each other's activities and taking care not to run competing events.

We are pleased that there is a growing number of Marathoma Christians, of southern Indian origin, who use our church and hall for worship and socialising on a Saturday once a month. Some of the Marathoma group also join our 10.30 Sunday services.



We are part of the Churches Together in Fulwood and Broughton (CTFB) – a group of nine churches in the local area of various denominations. The covenant was first signed in the 1980s and for the last

couple of years our former Vicar chaired the meetings. We have a series of services in some of the churches during Christian Unity Week in January and an annual pilgrimage is arranged each September.

Additionally the Christmas and Easter services being held at the nine churches are advertised jointly in the centre - spread of local free publications with 13,000+ circulation to all the homes in Fulwood and Broughton.

The annual house to house appeal for Christian Aid Week is organised ecumenically.

Since 2012 we have had joint weekly Lent Talks in the Minster which have been supported ecumenically by a large number of people at each session. There is also an email post sent out monthly promoting the main church-based events being held in the Preston Area.

This year the churches in Preston produced a passion play staged in the centre of the City on Good Friday. Many of our church community were involved from composing music and conducting the band, to playing instruments, singing in the choir and acting a part.

The Parochial Church Council

Our PCC meets six times a year plus the Annual Parochial Church Meeting. In the vacancy it is being chaired by our Vice Chair, Chris Hedley. Our members take the lead for various issues such as safeguarding, mission, finance, buildings and so on. For the past three years we have had a half day 'time-out' to review our progress with our Parish Development Plan. Last year we recognised that we needed some development as a leadership group and planned to do the CPAS 'PCC Tonight' programme. We have put this on hold until our new Vicar joins us and becomes part of the team.

Communication

We have a well-established Parish magazine which is produced and distributed to 200 households eleven times a year. There is also a well organised system of leaflet distribution to some 3,200 households for the occasional promotion of special church events.

We have notices projected at the 10.30 Sunday service and a Pew News is distributed at all our services as well as the usual notices during worship. Some activities and events are publicised through fliers and a display at the back of church.

We have a Parish contact list of people living in 450 homes who have an association with Christ Church, approximately 45% of whom live outside the Parish. The list is used to deliver our Autumn Newsletter and our Stewardship Campaign appeal information.

We also have a web-site which has been redeveloped in the past three years although we recognise that it may need to be refreshed in the near future.

We are on social media – Facebook and Twitter – currently managed by Mandy Stanton.

We recognise that communication is a vital part of our Parish life and we have plans to review what we are doing to promote who we are and what we are doing more widely in the local area.

Our buildings

The Church

Our 150 year old Victorian church, although it is not a listed building, is one of the most notable buildings within the Fulwood Conservation Area. The church is away from the main routes and is situated in the south west corner of the Parish. This has its own challenges in relation to visibility and getting ourselves noticed.



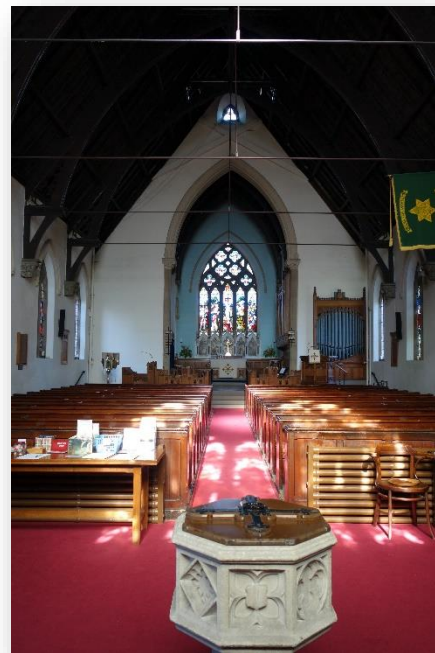
The building is in a good state of repair. It has been well maintained and has seen a number of significant improvements, including the modernisation of the choir vestry, essential works to the roof, and the first phase of restoration and protection of the church's fine stained glass windows.

Following the 2010 Quinquennial Inspection and Report, a Building Group, led by Steve Hedley, was established (in 2011) to plan and manage renovation and restoration projects. Many essential and desirable works have been carried out, and we are now involved in a continuing programme of repair and improvement projects including works recommended in the latest (2015) Quinquennial Report.

Last year, we successfully applied for a Heritage Lottery Fund grant, put together by Adam Thomas, our previous Ordinand, on behalf of the PCC, for a project that would share with the wider community the history and heritage of our fine stained glass windows. The implementation of this project is now underway.

With the notable exception of re-pointing the external stonework, the remainder of the latest Quinquennial Report recommendations are mostly minor works, which will be tackled as part of a prioritised programme once current major projects are completed.

There are dedicated teams of volunteers who do the cleaning on a weekly basis as well as flower arrangers who demonstrate their skill with an amazing effect.



The internal space has its limitations as our style of worship is evolving, for example, the altar is right up against the east wall with no facility for celebrating Holy Communion with the Vicar facing the congregation and our growing music group doesn't have enough space to perform. We also have traditional pews which, whilst loved by some, can be limiting in providing a flexible, accessible, more usable and comfortable space. We have ambitions to develop our ideas as finances and opinion allow.

Sadly, for real or perceived security reasons, the building is locked up for most of the week although there are a number of regular weekly activities that take place. Again, we have ambitions to open it up on a more regular basis.

Christ Church has never had burials in the church yard. These take place in the local authority run cemetery or more often now people go for committal at the crematorium. The small church yard surrounds the whole building and is well maintained by a team of volunteers. It is a pleasant walk through area for local residents.

The Vicarage

The Vicarage is within walking distance (200m) of the church. It is a relatively modern building built about 25 years ago in a quiet residential cul-de-sac of mixed housing. It has four bedrooms, two reception rooms, and an office which has an external entrance that can be separated from the living area of the building. It is surrounded by an enclosed garden area. It has had no major works done to it over the last five years other than a new boiler in 2014 but needs some repair and re-decorating. The Diocese is aware of what needs to be done to improve the building.



Front view



Stairs to ground floor



Rear view



Downstairs hall



The Hall

The Church Hall was used as a school after the church was built; it became a hall in the late 1930s. An upgrade became necessary by 2006 when the PCC took the decision to launch a refurbishment project later known as 'Hall 4 All'. A project team worked hard, launching a Parish-wide appeal and winning several significant grants which resulted in a major upgrade of the facilities. The Hall is very much improved and marketed as a community resource and hired out for many events and to many organisations who use it on a regular basis.

As a church community, we make full use of the Hall for social and fundraising events such as Crossway fellowship meetings, Junior Church, Pathfinders, Guiding groups, Cake & Company, Parent & Toddler Group, the Crafters' Fayre and, more recently, for more informal worship such as Café Church and Messy Church.

In terms of support staff, there is budgeted provision for four hours per week for a Parish Administrator. There is the potential, though, to increase these hours in the future. The post is currently being covered on a temporary basis by Margaret Brown, PCC Secretary. We also

contract domestic help 2.5 hours per week to clean the Hall.

We have a volunteer, Jim Clare, who undertakes a caretaking role (Jim is also our voluntary Verger along with his wife Linda) and works hard to make sure that the Hall is set up for whatever activity is in the diary. There is also a team of volunteers led by Keith Cameron who open and lock up, put the heating on etc.

The Parish Office is based in the Hall building and has a separate entrance. It is a busy place housing the photocopier, computer, desk, files etc. There is a meeting room above it known as the 'Upper Room', which is a quieter area used for smaller meetings and one-one discussions. There is wi-fi access in both these areas.



The Parish Office

We recently had a defibrillation machine fitted to the outside wall of the Hall with a link to local NHS response teams.



Christmas fellowship in the Hall

Our Finances

We believe that we manage our finances reasonably well, balancing our books each year and paying our Parish Share in full. We pay our way including our Vicar's expenses and we don't believe in having large reserves, preferring to invest both in the mission of the Parish and the fabric of the buildings. The Finance Committee meets two to three times a year to set and review the budgets and we adjust our spending to live within them.

We have a contingency of £10,000 for unexpected spending primarily on church maintenance. We also aim to allocate £3,000 each year for distribution to our chosen charities based on the principle of a third each for overseas, Christian with local links and a personal or existing connection – last year this went to Toilet Twinning, Mosamaria, Christians Against Poverty, Street Pastors, Heartbeat and the Space Centre. In addition to this we give to a number of other charities through fundraising by the efforts of groups and individuals and also appeals.

There is a recognised process for agreeing spending through the Churchwardens and our Treasurer, John Bailey as well as the PCC Chair. Our Standing Committee is mandated by the PCC to spend up to £1000 of unbudgeted funds in relation to set criteria.

Our Treasurer reports to each PCC meeting and, if we feel we are heading into difficulty we take action to make adjustments. We have some current projects underway, which are fully funded. However, there is no large expenditure planned in the near future although there are things we would like to do, some of which are roughly costed but nothing that is essential at this point.

Approximately every two years we have a Stewardship campaign. The last one was towards the end of 2014 and it was based on the 'Giving in Grace' approach. We have one hundred monthly donors only three of whom are unable to gift aid their contribution. However, a lot of our more generous donors are in the 70-80 plus age range hence the

need to carry on with our Stewardship campaigns and encourage people to increase their contribution. We have a 'give what you can' approach – everything is appreciated.

We are fortunate enough to receive legacies and gifts from time to time. We don't rely on this money coming in to balance the books and see such generosity as a bonus which goes towards enhancing the church building or what we do in some way. Some are given for a specific item which we respect, others are not allocated but we aim to live within the spirit of the gift and what that person may have wished.

As with most Parishes we have fundraising events which typically raise about £400 on average as well as being enjoyable social times together. On occasion we have run appeals for example the 'Hall 4 All' appeal over the Patronal Festival Weekend in 2008 raised £10,065 which added to the final total (including successful grant applications) of £150,000 towards the refurbishment of the building.

The hiring out of the Hall to the local community gives us a small income which just covers the running costs with a small surplus.

There is a breakdown of our finances in appendix 3.



Our links to the community

Our Schools

There is a voluntary aided Church of England secondary school in the middle of the Parish – Archbishop Temple – which has places for some 800 pupils mostly drawn from the local area. 300 of the pupils are from the Muslim faith. The school has an excellent reputation and we have a good relationship with the Head Teacher and teaching staff.

Our former Vicar had a pastoral role offering support to the school Chaplain, Joe Houghton. He was a Foundation Governor and sat on two sub-committees. He was also attached to one of the school houses, again providing pastoral support. Ken Curphey, one of our PCC members and Secretary to the Deanery Synod, is also a Foundation Governor.

The pupils come to Christ Church for two services a year including a school leavers' service. The school was extremely supportive when we held a community Family Fete during the Northern Bishops' Mission, Crossroads, last year.

There is a local authority-run primary school in the Parish – Kennington Road – with which we also have a good relationship. Our Vicar went to the school every two weeks to do an assembly and our PCC Treasurer, John Bailey, is chair of the Governors. We also use the school facilities from time to time, holding our end of year sports there and on one occasion a Messy Church. The school provides an education for 245 children, a large proportion of whom are from minority ethnic backgrounds. The school also takes children from the Fulwood Barracks' married quarters.

Youth Clubs

There is some provision for young people in the Parish. Most notably a Youth Club at Fulwood Methodist Church, the Army Cadets at the Barracks and Preston's College, which provides sporting facilities open to use by the local community.

Hospitals

The boundary for our Parish runs through Royal Preston Hospital which is managed by Lancashire Teaching Hospitals. RPH is a large general hospital with a major trauma centre and the regional centre for cancer treatment. It has its own Multi-faith Centre which includes a Chaplain and multi-faith team and also a Chapel for Christian worship. Our former Vicar carried out the usual visiting of Parishioners as well as having a working relationship with, and knowledge of, the Chaplain and her team.

Residential care

There are several care and nursing homes within the Parish, including sheltered housing, and our former Vicar provided pastoral and bereavement care when needed. There is a large complex which provides residential, nursing and sheltered housing known as Sharoe Bay Court where we offer Communion once a month.

Other community involvement

Our former Vicar also developed a relationship with the Senior Officers at Fulwood Army Barracks. Our church has been used as part of a special network of services running at the same time throughout the country for the Veterans of Afghanistan. We have also invited soldiers to lay the wreath during our Remembrance Sunday service. Some of our congregation have attended the more traditional services at the Barracks Chapel.



Graham plays the last post

The Barracks is due to close in 2022 and the Army personnel will be moved to a more modern facility outside of Preston. The expectation is that the site will be developed for housing.

Preston has recently been launched as a 'City of Sanctuary', part of a national movement dedicated to building a culture of welcome for people seeking sanctuary in the UK. We are aware that there is an opportunity to get involved in the future along with other organisations such as 'Together Lancashire' who work to address poverty in all its forms.

We are a church that promotes Fairtrade and participate in Fairtrade Fortnight each year. We use Fairtrade products for events and activities where we can.

Where we are going – our vision

Our vision is to be a church that is:

- ❖ connecting people to Jesus Christ and each other;
- ❖ being a vibrant Christian community;
- ❖ celebrating our faith;
- ❖ serving the community of Fulwood.

We are committed to 'connecting people to Jesus Christ and each other' as much as we possibly can, and we have worked hard over the past few years to understand what that means and how we can do this effectively.

We set up a Parish Development Project, led by Chris Hedley now our Vision Champion, in 2013 which used a number of means to identify the issues in our area and look at what we could do about them. This resulted in our 3 year Parish Development Plan published in April 2014 – most recently reviewed in May 2016 – appendix 4.

The Plan has evolved over its three year lifespan and is framed within four Priority areas which came from a major listening exercise and consultation with our congregation and local community:

- ❖ Faith and Worship – celebrating and affirming through worship;

- ❖ Communication – getting our church noticed within our community and beyond;
- ❖ Discipleship and spiritual development – learning and living the scriptures;
- ❖ Church activities and fellowship – developing our church life as a visible Christian community.

Our Parish Development Plan has also been reviewed in the light of the Diocesan Vision 2026 Strategy and the aims and objectives of that initiative have been integrated into our work.

We are conscious of the need to look at what our Parish may look like in ten years' time with the flow of people of the Muslim faith continuing into the area. We are aware that we need to think about how we respond to this and make sure that we continue to provide a thriving Christian presence for those who want and need it.

The local Parish boundaries are currently under review and there is a possibility that our Parish will expand to re-include a large modern housing estate and community with a primary school to the east of our boundary. This will present us with a major opportunity for mission and outreach, build on what is already there, and to develop ideas such as 'Fresh Expressions' or even a church plant.



Messy Church celebration

What we offer

We can offer an opportunity for the growth and development of the Christian community within the Parish. This is a place where we are used to supporting those who wish to develop their ministry and we enjoy growing together.

We offer a wide range of gifts, skills and talents and a willingness to use them for God's purpose offering a lot of lay support to our clergy.

We are not a wealthy Parish but we offer a degree of financial security in that we have always managed to pay our Parish share and balance our books despite some difficult challenges at times.

The PCC is open to applications from any ordained person who feels this could be the place for them to continue their ministry.

We feel we can offer our new Vicar a warm welcome and a place where they can be themselves and where we don't expect them to know everything.

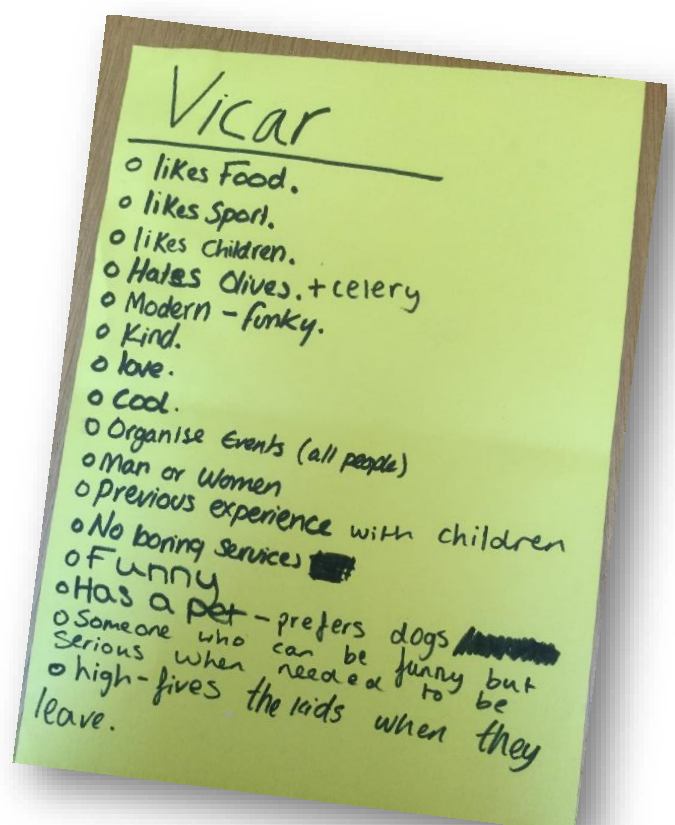
We recognise the need for protected time and would encourage them to value their personal space for rest, relaxation and regeneration.

What we need

We have prayed together and asked everyone in our community, including our young people, about the gifts and skills we would look for in our new Vicar. This is a distilled and, we hope, a realistic list of our collective hopes and prayers.

- ❖ We need a spiritual, prayerful person who lives the scriptures and can teach us to do the same.
- ❖ One who is outward looking, approachable and cares about all of God's people.
- ❖ Someone who recognises their own gifts, but also their limits, and is willing to seek assistance or learn new skills.
- ❖ Someone who, in the words of our Junior Church/Pathfinders, is 'kind, cool, and can be funny but serious

- when needed to be' and 'high-fives the kids when they leave!'
- ❖ A person who is strong and thoughtful enough to manage differences, who listens to people's views and makes well-reasoned workable decisions.
- ❖ Someone who works with others to achieve a clear and shared vision of where they are going, taking people with them.
- ❖ One who takes the time to get to know the people in our church community and is sensitive and responsive to their needs.
- ❖ Someone who is able and willing to get to know the people of the Parish and become a part of the whole community, reaching out and inviting in.
- ❖ A person with experience of or an interest in working with families, children and young people.
- ❖ A person who is also interested in our older generation and listens and learns from their experiences.
- ❖ One who can introduce change with sensitivity whilst respecting the importance of the familiar and traditions.
- ❖ Someone who can manage their time well and recognises the need to look after their own spiritual growth, health and welfare.



Message from the Bishop of Blackburn the Right Rev'd Julian Henderson



The Bishop of Blackburn
The Rt Revd Julian T Henderson

Dear potential applicant,

Ministry in the Diocese of Blackburn

Thank you for your enquiry about a vacant post in the Diocese of Blackburn, the Church of England in Lancashire. We believe God wants His Church to grow, and so are looking for gifted and prayerful clergy with a heart for the Gospel and mission, who have the energy and enthusiasm to implement Vision 2026, *Healthy Churches Transforming Communities*. You can read more about Vision 2026 overleaf.

Almost all of our parishes have Vision Champions who have volunteered to work with their clergy and lay leadership in keeping the Vision on the PCC and congregation's agenda. The Vision is about a radical change of culture, in which we engage in new ways in making the unchanging Gospel of Jesus known in our communities.



The spiritual, physical and emotional health and the ongoing development of our clergy is very important to us.

Please be assured of my prayers as you consider whether to make an application.

+ Julian

Bishop of Blackburn

Living in Lancashire

Lancashire people are known for their warmth and friendliness and those who are new to the area find it to be an easy place to make friends. There are excellent transport connections and the surrounding countryside is spectacularly beautiful. For those with children, the Diocese has over 180 church schools including 10 secondaries, the vast majority rated as Good or Outstanding.



+ Geoff Pearson

Bishop of
Lancaster

Our call to Mission

As a Diocese we are fully committed to the breadth and diversity of the Anglican tradition. Traditionalist, evangelical, catholic, progressive, Eucharistic, charismatic – we don't care what the label is. As long as you are passionate about sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ and long to make new disciples, there is a place for you in the Church of England in Lancashire.



+ Philip North

Bishop of
Burnley

Bishop's House, Ribchester Road, Blackburn, BB1 9EF
Tel: 01254 248234 Email: bishop@bishopofblackburn.org.uk



VISION 2026

The year 2026 marks the centenary of the formation of the Diocese of Blackburn. In the ten years leading up to our centenary, Vision 2026 is a plan to turn around the long-term trend of gradually declining attendance. Our vision is for the growth of God's kingdom, not just of his church. Our vision is to develop healthy churches which transform their communities, a vision in which making disciples for Jesus Christ and pursuing social justice sit side by side.

Our vision has had a long gestation. When the Vacancy in See occurred in 2012 we began to look at how we were going to move forward as a diocese. On his arrival, Bishop Julian spent his first year visiting every member of the clergy in their homes and visiting all the parishes of the diocese. At the end of that first year, Bishop Julian shared his reflections and the vision began to become clearer. It was shared with the diocesan family in the deaneries and in a number of local events and unanimously adopted by the diocesan synod.

The first year was spent in prayer with the Vision 2026 as the focus. 2016 has seen the Vision develop, with parishes nominating Vision Champions who were commissioned in Preston Guild Hall along with Churchwardens in the presence of 1,600 people. As a diocese with our Vision, we are willing to face the cost of change; and in prayer we see the grace and power of God which can alone bring renewal and growth. We are committed to work together (clergy, laity, church schools, diocesan staff and the cathedral) to deliver Vision 2026 by:

Making disciples of Jesus Christ

- Knowing the Scriptures better through reading, teaching, preaching and study
- Praying with greater depth and urgency for the Kingdom of God to come
- Giving generously of our time, talents and money to the cause of Christ

Being witnesses to Jesus Christ

- Sharing the Gospel of salvation with confidence
- Holding regular enquirers courses in as many local churches as possible
- Showing God's love in action through projects that meet a local human need
- Offering thorough and accessible Baptism preparation and follow-up
- Planting or renewing 50 new strategic congregations by 2026

Growing leaders for Jesus Christ

- Supporting and equipping the current leadership for today's context
- Enabling missional leadership in every Christian community
- Liberating lay leadership for greater participation
- Creating the varied patterns of Sunday and weekday worship necessary to welcome all kinds of people, especially the newcomer
- Prioritising work among children, young people and schools to raise up a new generation for Christ

The Diocesan Vision Prayer:

Heavenly Father, we embrace Your call for us to make disciples, to be witnesses and to grow leaders. Give us the eyes to see Your vision, ears to hear the prompting of Your Spirit and courage to follow in the footsteps of your Son, our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen

HEALTHY CHURCHES TRANSFORMING COMMUNITIES

Facts and figures about our Parish

Appendix 1

Demographics

Population: 7,400

Age profile:

0-4	400
5-15	950
16-64	4550
65+	1500

Ethnic mix:

NN% ME

British	72%
Indian	16%
Pakistani	4%
Other	1%

Other faith mix:

Muslim	17%
Sikh	2%
None	14%

Education background of population:

23% have no qualification.

27% degree level or equivalent

Employment:

Lower managerial, administrative and professional occupations;

Intermediate occupations;

Deprivation index:

50% least deprived

Main issues:

Environment

Female and Male life expectancy

Ill-health/disabilities

Housing costs

Housing mix:

2200 Owner occupied households

400 Private rented households

450 Social Rented housing

Patron:

The Incumbent of the Benefice of Lancaster
St Mary in his Corporate Capacity

Electoral roll:

There are 208 people on the electoral roll.

Age profile of the church:

0-17	30
18-69	65
70+	20

Occasional offices:

Baptisms

18

Weddings

5

Confirmations

Adult candidates

3

Under 16 candidates

3

Funerals

20

(In church/crematorium)

Weekly attendance:

Normal adult weekly attendance

80

Normal under 16 weekly attendance

20

Festivals:

Easter

Communicants – 8am 29, 10.30am – 120,
6.30pm – 12

Under 16 – 20

Attendance all services: 181

Christmas

Communicants – 8am – 20, 10.30am – 85
Under 16 – 20

Attendance all services: 125

Our Worship and week:

Sunday	8.00 am Holy Communion (BCP)
	10.30 am (Common Worship) – Holy Communion 1 st , 3 rd , and 4 th Sunday. Family Service 2 nd Sunday
	10.30 am Junior Church and Pathfinders during term time – starting and ending in church.
	10.30 am 5 th Sundays – the opportunity to explore different styles of worship e.g. Café Church, Worldwide Worship.
	6.30 pm Evening prayer except 4 th Sunday – Holy Communion (BCP)
	2.30 pm Alternate 2 nd Sundays – Messy Church.
Monday	10 am - Parent and Toddler Group (term time)
Tuesday	5.30 pm onwards – Guiding groups (term time) 9 pm Night Prayer (New Zealand Prayer Book)
Wednesday	1 st of every month – Holy Communion at Sharoe Bay Residential Home.
	7.30 pm 2 nd and 4 th HOPE Group
Thursday	10.30 am Holy Communion (Common Worship)
	2.30 pm Crafters Group
	7 pm Evening Prayer
	7.30 pm 3 rd Thursdays – Crossway fellowship group
Friday	9 am Morning Prayer
	10 am 3 rd Fridays – Cake and Company café

Special Festivals

Christmas

Christmas Eve	Carol Service the Sunday evening before Christmas Day. 4 pm Crib Service
	11.30 pm Midnight Communion
Christmas Day	8 am Holy Communion (BCP)
	10.30 am Holy Communion

Lent and Easter varies each year - 2017

Ash Wednesday	Church open for prayer all day
	7 pm Evening Holy Communion and Ashing service
Holy week	
Palm Sunday	8 am Holy Communion
	10.30 am Family Service with a dramatised reading of the Passion by the Pathfinders group.
	6.30 pm Evening prayer
Tuesday	7.30 pm Tuesday – Taize style service
Wednesday	11 am Holy Communion for the Older Generation followed by lunch
Maundy Thursday	Parish group to Chrism Eucharist Service at Blackburn Cathedral followed by lunch.
	7.30 pm Evening communion and stripping of the altar.
Good Friday	10.30 am Service of the Word
	Time of prayer and reflection in church.
Easter Sunday	6.30 am SONrise Service at Preston's College amphitheatre followed by breakfast.
	8 am Holy Communion BCP
	10.30 Holy Communion
	6.30 pm Holy Communion BCP

Finance returns

	2015	2016
Parish Income	*123,400	*112,200
Tax Efficient Planned Giving	**53,500	52,200
Amount per person per week	8.7	8.5
Other Planned Giving	2,600	2,023
Amount per person per week	2.3	1.9
Parish Expenditure	104,800	***120,900
Parish Share Assessed	57,803	57,803
Parish Share Paid	****55,738	57,803

*Parish income: 2015 included a 10,000 gift
2016 included a grant for the refurbishment of the windows

** Increase in planned giving following Stewardship campaign.

***Parish expenditure in 2016 includes spending on major building-related projects for which money was raised in earlier years.

****Reduced rate as overpaid in the previous year.

Parish Development Plan 2014 – 2017

[..\..\PDG\Parish Development Plan 14 - 17\Development Plan 2014 REVIEW 2016 FINAL 2.pdf](#)

