

St Paul's Church, Caton-with-Littledale



St Paul's Church: Caton Green Road, Brookhouse, Lancaster, Lancs. LA2 9JL

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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

Where we are



Caton and Brookhouse forms one village 3 miles east of Junction 34 of the M6 on the A683, 5 miles from Lancaster and 11 miles from Kirkby Lonsdale.

We are extremely fortunate to be situated in an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, adjoining the Trough of Bowland and with easy access to the coast, Yorkshire Dales National Park and the Lake District. However, the Lune Valley is a hidden gem, with the Crook of Lune picnic area and many miles of footpaths and cycle ways used by locals and tourists alike. <http://www.catonvillage.org.uk/>

The village is friendly and busy, with 5 Churches (detailed later), 2 primary schools, 2 pre-school facilities and a wealth of social and sporting organisations for all ages from toddlers to Senior citizens.



For Secondary Schools children travel to Lancaster (Lancaster Grammar Boys/Girls, Ripley St. Thomas Church of England et. al.), Carnforth and Kirkby Lonsdale.

Village facilities include a health centre and chemist, a Post Office, children's playpark, 3 very different pubs, a Veterinary Surgery and Undertakers.

Retail outlets include a Petrol station, Co-op, sandwich shop, hairdressers, Chip Shop and Chinese takeaway.

The Victoria Institute in Caton contains a community library, IT services and a location for many classes and clubs throughout the week.



Transport links are good with the A683 direct to the M6, Lancaster (with West Coast Mainline Station for London/Glasgow) and now through to Morecambe and Heysham via the new Bay Gateway, a cycle path well used for leisure and commuters. During working hours there are

good bus services to Lancaster, Kirkby Lonsdale and Ingleton.

Increasing parts of the village are now delighted to be connected to B4RN – the fastest Fibre to the Home broadband provider in the world.

Demographics Population 2,800

Age spread of population

0-4	4%
5-15	11%
16-64	59%
65+	26%

Ethnic mix 3% minority ethnic

Other Faith mix

Muslim	<1%
None	22%

Education background of population

24% have no qualification

Employment

25% lower managerial / professional

Major Employer(s)

EDF (Heysham Power Station)
University of Cumbria
Lancaster Royal Infirmary

Health index

Score 0.1
50% least deprived

Deprivation Index

Score 11.5
50% least deprived

Main Issues

Ill health / disabilities

Housing mix

8% Social rented
80% Owner occupied

Who we are

Caton and Brookhouse villages, along with surrounding rural farmland, form the parish of Caton-with-Littledale having a current population approaching 3,000.

Within the parish there are five active Christian churches (Caton Baptist Church, Caton Methodist Church, Brookhouse Methodist Church, Our Lady Immaculate Roman Catholic and St Paul's Church). The churches work closely alongside each other forming '**Churches Together in Caton and Brookhouse**' (CTiCB).

Our Team



We have two very hard-working Churchwardens Steve Gillam and Peter Burkhart, both with young families and very supportive wives.

Ministerially we are supported by Rev. Steven Evans, a non-stipendiary P.T.O. who has lived locally all his life and

owning his own business. Daphne Wade is our Lay reader providing valuable support to Steve and the Churchwardens.

Our PCC are a young and enthusiastic team which meet monthly, currently chaired by Steve Gillam, with Clare Tipler as our secretary. We have been fortunate for the last 12 years to have had Ruth Burge as treasurer though she has stated a desire to stand down at the end of this year. Other representatives on the PCC form links to the Deanery Synod, Caton St Paul's School, the Pastoral Committee, our Uniformed Organisations and Sunday Club.

We do not currently have a regular choir, but do have a rota of excellent organists and a carillon set of bells which are rung before the main services and at weddings. One bell rings the hour throughout the day and night.

The congregation take an active part in services via 'Reading' and 'Intercession' rotas, with the monthly 'All Age Worship – Liturgy of the Word' being entirely led by the children (more later). There are numerous voluntary rotas covering the typical operations of Sidesmen, Sunday Club, After-Service Refreshments, Cleaning, Flower Arranging and Grounds Maintenance.

Communications

- We have a bi-weekly Sunday News sheet with details of rotas, readings, contacts and notices.
- The PCC have recently commissioned the **catonstpauls.church** url to facilitate communications. This will be shortly followed up by a Church Website.
- 'The Way' - until recently we published and hand delivered this quarterly magazine to electoral roll members. This will be replaced by a website, which can also be used to archive old issues and articles.
- 'The Link' is a monthly village newsletter, distributed to all houses in the village and contains details of all churches' news
- The village has a website <http://www.catonvillage.org.uk/> and Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/catonbrookhouse/#>
- A prayer board is provided at the back of church where requests for prayers for the sick can be left. Often the prayers are carried out by the Prayer Chain.

Electoral Roll 151

Age Profile of the Church

Age	
0-17	34%
18-69	35%
70+	33%

Occasional Offices

Baptisms 17

Weddings 6

Confirmation

Adult Candidates

Under 16 Candidates

Funerals 15

in church

at Crematorium

Normal adult weekly

attendance: 69

Normal under 16 weekly

attendance: 7

Services in Church

During vacancy we are just holding a Sunday 10am Common Worship/Holy Communion. Prior to vacancy...

Weekly Schedule

- Sundays
 - **8am:** BCP Holy Communion
 - **10am:** Common Worship/Holy Communion with Sunday Club meeting in the church hall and joining the service before the communion. Sunday Club (during term-time) is for all school age children, run by a rota of church members and supported by parents of the children. Pre-school children are very much welcomed and provided for at the back of church during all services with a selection of toys and books.
Followed by Refreshments (with occasional 'full' Jacob's Join).
 - **6pm:** Evening Prayer (was with Holy Communion on 1st Sunday of Month)
 - **All Age Worship:** Replaces Common Worship on the first Sunday of each month, is organised by Sunday Club leaders/assistants. The service is led and read by our young people with a presentation delivered by lay members of the church and school. Historically this omitted Holy Communion (provided at the Evening Service instead) - during vacancy this has included Holy Communion (no Evening Service).
- Wednesdays
 - **10am:** BCP Holy Communion



Special Services

- Caton St Paul's **School** holds its **End of Term** services in church, as well as **Easter, Harvest, Remembrance** and other celebrations.
- **Parade Services** are held several times throughout the year for our uniformed organisations
- **Baptisms** are held, at the families' request, either during the service or after the Sunday Communion.
- **Weddings** are held in Church throughout the year, being the centre of an historic village with many family connections makes it a popular choice for couples, even if they no longer reside in the parish. We provide bells, organist and a vergers.
- **Funerals and Internments** are arranged by the village undertakers, the Church being the designated Parish Burial ground.
- **Pastoral Services** are organised by the Pastoral committee including transport (where required) and refreshments.
- **Lenten Meetings** are held throughout lent by 'Churches Together' with each member church's leader being a speaker for an evening and followed by refreshments.
- **Mothering Sunday** – bunches of flowers are given to all Mums and carers at the Sunday Service.
- **Maundy Thursday** – communion service in the evening.
- **Good Friday** – a procession of witness starts from the Catholic church in Caton and finishes at St Paul's, followed by an afternoon of prayers by the cross.
- Our **Annual Parish Meeting** usually follows a shortened Sunday service at the end of April.
- Remembrance Sunday starts with a service at Caton Methodists followed by a short service and laying of wreaths at the Village War Memorial in Caton.
- Caton St. Paul's hosts the village **Carol Service**, being a significant tradition with a choir, made up of local residents, who assemble and rehearse for the event. Readings are delivered by representatives of the various churches. There are contributions from the school choir and the sermon is delivered by one of the ministers from CTiCB. The service is followed by Mince Pies and refreshments.

Our Buildings

The Church



A church has existed on the site since the 13th Century with some original stonework thought to still exist in a portion of the exterior West wall. The church was completely rebuilt towards the end of the 15th century then again, retaining the tower, in the late 19th (reconsecrated 1865).

Over the winter of 2014 the rear of the church was completely remodelled to provide an open area for meetings/relaxed seating, a servery and an accessible WC - during the course of which the interior was completely repainted.

We're still holding out as an 'open' church, unlocked during daylight hours throughout the week.

The church building is completely surrounded by the main graveyard, though this is now full, with a small memorial garden for cremated remains between the main and Lady Chapel (South Nave) entrances. An additional, adjacent, plot is now in use as both a memorial garden and graveyard with additional extension identified if required.

All cleaning and grounds maintenance are carried out by volunteers from across the parish.

The Vicarage

The **vicarage** is a detached stone built house, set off a private lane with its own drive, it has beautiful views over the Lune Valley from the rear windows and garden. The accommodation briefly comprises of 2 reception rooms, dining room, kitchen diner, downstairs WC, utility room, stairs down to brick walled cellar under the whole plot partitioned into separate rooms. On the first floor there are 4 double bedrooms and a small bedroom/study, shower room with WC and a separate bathroom with another WC. There are stairs to the second floor which, at one time, were additional rooms but currently unsafe as such and used for storage only.

Outside there is a walled garden area with parking to the front and side of the property. Recently fully double glazed throughout and new kitchen it still needs some modernisation, however it made a wonderful family home for the previous incumbent, wife + 4 children.

The Vicarage is also used as an 'unofficial' **Parish Office**.



The Hall



The **church hall** is well maintained and available for hiring out for the community and private functions. The hall can accommodate up to 80 people. There is a stage with basic sound and lighting equipment. Facilities also include a kitchen area, a disabled access ramp and disabled toilets.

Our uniformed organisations (Cubs, Scouts, Brownies, Guides etc.) are regular term-time users, monthly Charity Coffee Mornings with other organisations (Sports Reach, Cursillo etc.) on an ad-hoc basis.

Recent work carried out on the hall (and church areas) include replacement of internal kick boards, resurfacing of the access lane to the hall/car park (via Lottery grant) and a new boiler/controls.

An additional building for community use (the 'Club House', aka Old Scout Hut) sits on the same portion of Church Land, under long term lease, managed by committee outside of Church purview.

Festivals

Easter

Communicants
Attendance: 98

Christmas

Communicants
Attendance: 150

Our Services

[See 'Services in Church'](#)

Our Finances



Our income comes from regular giving and generous donations from our Church Friends. In the last few years the Friends of St Paul's have come together to make major developments at the

back of church, this is an amazing achievement by everyone. Monies raised by different fund-raising events, donations and generous bequests. The development has proved to be a great asset to the day to day running of the church and is enjoyed by everyone today and for many years to come.

Our main aim at St Paul's is to ensure the Church runs efficiently and is welcoming at all times for our Congregation and Visiting Friends. Running costs for The Church, The School House, The Church Hall and The Churchyard can be quite costly unfortunately for the last few years we have unable to meet the demands of the Parish Share however our aim is always to give what we can.

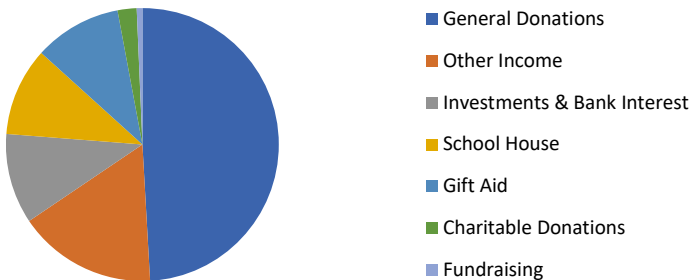
Financial Reports are presented at the annual AGM and are available on request. The Charts below give an example of our income and expenditure for 2016.

Finance returns

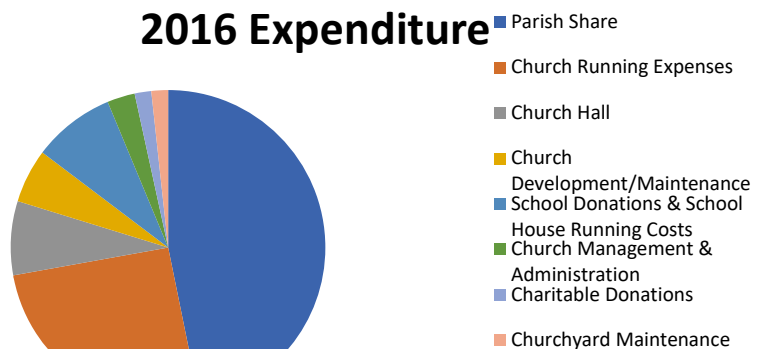
	2015
Parish Income	£73,897
Tax Efficient Planned Giving	£25,683
Amount per person per week	£8
Other Planned Giving	0
Amount per person per week	0
Parish Expenditure	£72,289
Parish Share Assessed (2011)	£55,167
Parish Share Paid (2011)	£42,717



2016 Income



2016 Expenditure



Our Schools

There are two schools in the villages, Caton Community Primary School in Caton, and Caton St Paul's C of E Primary School in Brookhouse. Each has an independent pre-school on site. Both schools are part of the Lune Valley School Cluster.

Caton Community Primary School was built in the 1970s to cater for the increased numbers of children following changes in demographics and building expansion in the area. It currently has 43 children with two classes, although it has the capacity for far more. The school is well equipped and has a good sports hall which, on occasion, has been jointly used with Caton St Paul's. Our retired vicar offered input to the school on a regular basis. The school's last Ofsted report was in 2017 when it was deemed to 'require improvement'.

Caton St Paul's C of E Primary School is 'voluntary aided', attached to Blackburn Diocese.



It was founded in the early 1800's and was the only primary school in the area until the mid-1970's. Although there has been major expansion over the years, the original school buildings are still in use. There is an attached school house which in years gone by housed the Headteacher and family, and more latterly the school caretaker. It is now privately tenanted and overseen by the PCC providing for its 'School Building and Maintenance' responsibilities.

The school has extensive outdoor space and a playing field and is currently developing some of the land as a Forest School.

School numbers have increased over the last 3 years and a factor in this has been parents' appreciation of its Christian values. There are currently 174 children on roll, with another classroom and staff added in 2016 to cater for extra numbers and ensure teaching quality was maintained. The school also runs its own Breakfast Club and After School Club. There is a very active and supportive PTA.

The school is within easy walking distance and has strong links with St Paul's church and Churches Together.

End of term services are held in the church as well as Remembrance Day service and the Christmas Carol service and these are usually led by the children.

The school choir regularly performs in church, particularly at the Pastoral services. It also entertains the local community. Senior pupils attend the church coffee mornings.



Our retired vicar regularly led family worship as do other local 'Churches Together' leaders.

The Governing Board consists of 12 members, seven of whom are Foundation governors appointed by the Diocese of whom two are also members of the PCC and attend St Paul's church. Other Foundation governors attend the local Methodist and Catholic churches as well as other places of worship. Historically the Vicar has been a Governor but not recently.

Some of the governors regularly lead family worship and others are involved in school activities.

The latest SIAMS report in December 2016 judged the school to be outstanding overall, and the latest Ofsted report in April 2017 judged the school to be good with many excellent features.

Our links into the Community



St Pauls organises two pastoral services a year with food and arranges transport if needed.

These are open to the wider community and quite successful being specifically advertised throughout the parish and held mid-week for those who may not wish/be able to attend a regular Sunday Service.

Concerts at St Paul's – the Church Building offers excellent acoustics and for many years now the church has been used on occasional Sunday evenings for concerts and recitals from local and visiting choirs, bands and orchestras.

Tickets are sold for these events and are followed by refreshments in church.



Parents who do not usually attend church are attracted in when their children help us with special services.

Uniformed groups have high numbers good leaders and represent children from a wide variety of backgrounds.

Our hall hosts, along with the Uniformed Organisations, a wide variety of village groups enabling contact and offering fellowship with informal pastoral care. Our monthly Coffee Mornings raised £945.65 last year for local, national and overseas charities.



Locally, in addition to housebound individuals, we have both Hillcroft Nursing home and a small 'supported living' community where communion is taken to residents as required.

The incumbent has, historically, additionally maintained close ties with the Pastoral Care at:

- Ripley St. Thomas (C of E Secondary School in Lancaster)
- University of Cumbria (Lancaster, ex. St. Martin's College)
- Royal Lancaster Infirmary

amongst others.

We also continuously collect/send food to the local Lancaster Homeless community along with our Harvest Service offerings.

Where we are going – Our Vision

Our mission to the community is underpinned by a commitment to live out gospel values; to spread the power and love of Jesus Christ and to transform lives through the dynamic inspiration of the Holy Spirit.

The main areas for action are: developing and enriching worship; increasing community involvement and further developing Churches Together activities; strengthening and maintaining the involvement of our young people.



Some ideas for development are:

- Worship
 - Implementation and Integration of permanent audio-visual support (budgeted).
 - Regular 'messy church' for young people and adults.
 - Continued support and development of lay participation in our services and church life.
- Community involvement.
 - Clear, colourful literature introducing the church, baptism and weddings to the community.
 - Implement a 'relevant' Church Website incorporating 'The Way's previous provision and reflecting Church activities.
 - Reintroduce and develop special events to appeal to the wider community.
 - To continue support for and further develop 'Churches Together' activities.
 - To consider an enquirers course (ascertain demand).
- Youth
 - To support and develop their involvement in All Age Worship.
 - To follow up baptisms and confirmations.
 - To increase links with the school.

What we need



Our Churchmanship has varied with our last three incumbents so it is difficult to say that we are definitely of one genre or another.

We therefore try to provide for a mix of churchmanship, a broad church, definitely not high church, but there are certainly some of the congregation that would like to be more evangelical in style.

We have decided that we are overwhelmingly in favour of welcoming applications regardless of gender.

A minister who has a clear and deeply founded biblically based faith, whose life is rooted in prayer and the Eucharist and is both secure and confident in their spiritual and personal life.

Someone who is at one with our church's evangelical outlook, who enjoys a variety of worship -traditional and modern, formal and informal.

We are seeking someone with a good sense of humour, who has skill and passion for engagement in the local community both by meeting those from the community and by taking our mission out into the parish.

Who will be warm, compassionate and ready to listen to those whom he or she meets, both inside and outside the church congregation.

Someone who will undertake and encourage outreach and ministry to the young through engagement with the schools, youth groups and uniformed organisations, whilst supporting our church's Sunday club.

Who will encourage the whole church membership in the use of their skills and talents. To inspire people to serve God, one another and develop the spiritual life of the church.

Who will continue to promote an active relationship with other local churches who are part of the 'churches together'.

Progress the development of worship and community engagement.

Someone with leadership, organisational and IT skills, willing to delegate and encourage people to become actively involved in the life of the church and its activities in the parish.

Robes and vestments worn, or not worn, in church have varied with the incumbent and celebrant, but we have not had smells and bells in church.

If through prayer and reflection you feel that you are being called to become our new minister we look forward to receiving your application.



*Yours in Christ,
The PCC, Caton-with-Littledale*