

Parish of the Risen Lord, Preston



Summary Parish Profile 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

Contents

- | | |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Where we are | 4. Where we are going |
| 2. Who we are | 5. What we offer |
| 3. Our links to the community | 6. What we need |

Where we are

The City of Preston is located in North West England, with Blackpool and the Fylde coast to the west, Manchester to the south east, Liverpool to the south west, and the Lake District to the north. It has a population of 140,000 within the central Lancashire area which has a total population of 365,000.

The city has good transport links with the M6 and West Coast main rail line. It is the administrative centre of Lancashire County Council, and home to the University of Central Lancashire and other major employers.

The Parish of the Risen Lord is located in a multicultural inner city area to the south and east of the city centre, alongside a primary vehicle route into the city. It comprises of a mix of ex-council housing stock, terraced housing, high rise flats, and other owner occupied properties. New housing development on brownfield sites is underway in key areas of the parish.

Regeneration of derelict sites now includes a Travel Lodge, national supermarket chains, and a mill converted to flats. A City Deal regeneration of the immediate area adjacent to St Matthew's church is due for completion in 2017.

Local amenities include nature reserves, parks, the river Ribble and several primary schools, some with nursery provision, including St Matthews CofE school, next door to the St Matthew's church building. There are also other faith schools located within and nearby to the parish.

Preston city centre is within walking distance, and there are two large retail centres bordering the edges of the parish.

The parish has three worship centres, St Matthews, built in the 1880's, St James, refurbished in the 1960's, and St Matthews Mission, built in the 1880's, but refurbished in 2016.

St Matthews



St James



St Matts Mission



Who we are

The theological tradition of the parish can be described as evangelical but open, 'inner city' and informal. St James and St Matthews worship centres have congregations of diverse ethnic, social and generational backgrounds. St Matthews Mission has a more mature congregation with traditional preferences.

St James has a participatory and informal worship style, St Matthews is moving from traditional and liturgical, to a more open and informal worship style, and St Matthews Mission, retains a more traditional worship style.

All service styles include a range of worship resources including projection via 'Easy Worship' software, printed service sheets, amplified digital music files, and musicians and singers where and when available. A limited range of instruments are available at all three buildings.

Besides Sunday worship services, which are currently timed at 9.30am for St Matthews Mission, 10.30am for St James and 11.00am for St Matthews, there are midweek events including a morning communion service, daily morning prayer times, two home groups, a monthly 'call to prayer' session and Alpha courses on an infrequent basis.

Structured children's ministry at St Matthews and St James is limited, due to the small numbers of children attending. This is compensated for by Messy Church sessions held at St Matthews every half term and linked into St Matthews Primary School, which are always well attended, mainly by Muslim families. Joint funding is available to employ a replacement School and Communities Worker, to build on the foundations established by the previous job holder.

The parish currently has a curate and support from a retired clergyman and his wife, a licensed Reader, and a pastoral support worker. Members of the congregation assist with leading prayers, Bible readings and Communion.

Average parish weekly Sunday attendance is 70 adults and 10 under sixteen's, and there are occasional weddings, baptisms, and funerals. The electoral role has 102 people listed. The parish share is fully paid up.

The demographics of the parish include an 'ethnic mix' of 53% British and 39% Minority Ethnic, a population of approximately 19,000, an 'other faith' mix of 45% Christian and 24% Muslim, a 'child poverty' index of 31%, and the parish is one of the 10% most deprived in England.

Ecumenical Relationships

There are good relationships with many other churches in Preston, especially with evangelical ones, and increasingly with Roman Catholic. St James' congregation has built strong links with members of the recently closed St Augustines RC church and shares activities and prayers with them.

In the past, St James has worked with Carey Baptist Church with youth activities, and the pastor there remains open to collaboration.

Who we are Ecumenical Relationships (continued)

In close proximity to St Matthew's church, St Josephs RC church has a new priest who is more open to community engagement, and with the influx of Eastern Europeans into the parish, often including many of a Roman Catholic tradition, this offers potential to be built upon. In addition, Bethel Evangelical church continues its support of the local Asian fellowship.

A former local Halfords store on the border of the parish has been purchased by Longton Community Church, and now re-named Crossgate Church. The building has been redeveloped as a large modern church. Some members of St Matthews have links to Crossgate people through Street Pastors and former youth activities. The Senior pastor is known to some church members, and initial meetings about collaboration have already been held.

St Matthew's has close relationships and support from Inglewhite Congregational Church, located in a rural area north east of Preston, including support for the set up and ongoing running of the Workclub, and prayer and assistance with community activities.

St Matthew's Mission building is used by the Syrian Rite Orthodox church on a monthly basis, and Freedom Church, Preston, who hold their Sunday evening services there.

Buildings

The regular five yearly inspection and report was carried out in February 2017, and concluded that although structurally sound, the St Matthews building requires some remedial attention, and this is being managed by the same small buildings team which oversaw the refurbishment of St Matthews Mission building in 2015/16, together with similar recommendations made regarding St James' and the Mission building. The report is available on request.

The St James' site has a secure car park which is close to the city centre, and generates income from weekday parking. Some work is required to improve facilities in the building and carry out repairs.

St Matthew's site includes the church, school buildings, playgrounds and a green area surrounding the church on three sides. This is kept open for community use, and is maintained by volunteers. The church building requires work to improve accessibility and the basic facilities. As the school buildings are reasonably fit for purpose and well maintained, securing further funding for upgrading of the site as a whole, has proved difficult in the past.

St Matthew's Mission site is in the heart of a residential area and has only limited on street parking. However, with its level access and disabled facilities, a large hall and modern kitchen, it is well used by several local community groups.

The parish vicarage is a typical 1960's detached house situated within the parish, and includes a garage and study which currently serves as the Vicar's office. To the rear of the property is a large garden with views out across the valley and Fishwick nature reserve.

Our Links into the Community

St Matthew's church is used by outside groups for large meetings, including the annual Jamaican Independence Day commemoration service, and Asian Carol Services. The school also uses the building for occasional whole school assemblies and large events such as Easter and Harvest. The church and school playground is used for an annual Community Fun Day, which is always very well attended.

Members of St Matthew's congregation serve on the school Board of Governors, and also assist with school assemblies and reading support. As the school role is currently 480 and multicultural, these links provide good opportunities for Christian outreach. Two year funding for a replacement School and Community Worker is in place.

St Matthew's Mission is used by several community groups, including Rainbows and Brownies, Workclub, informal Foodbank, Toddlers, Recovery Groups, fitness classes, Community Swapshop, Health Support Groups, Youth Cafe (run by our volunteers and Fusion Youth and Community UK), and local music groups for practise. Several members of the congregations voluntarily lead these community outreach activities. Members of the Asian community also hire the building for various family events. Some of these events generate income which covers costs. The weekly Workclub also partners with Citizens Advice staff to offer additional help, as a 'drop in' facility for local people.

St James' congregational volunteers run a weekly Coffee Morning which is well attended. In addition, other 'one off' events are organised for the local community. There are links with the 'Foxton Centre' with potential for strengthening. This is a church founded organisation, situated immediately behind the St James building, which works with marginalised members of the community of Preston city.

Within the parish community, other congregational volunteers are involved with Police Liaison groups, Street Pastors, and 'Friends of Fishwick and St Matthews' community group, which has a further six years of 'Big Local' Lottery funding available for use for targeted community benefits. The parish has its own minibus for community use, sponsored and maintained by a local fleet operator, and driven and managed by a congregational volunteer.

The parish has strong links with Preston City Councillors, who have provided access to financial and other support, including the city wide Workclub Forum, and Friends of Fishwick and St Matthews local community organisation. The parish also has long standing links with Preston Faith Forum which organises regular city wide events, Preston City of Sanctuary, and asylum seeker and refugee support networks.

St Matts funday



St Matts interior



St James



Where We Are Going – Our Vision

We seek to grow a community of Christian believers to worship God and to share the love of Christ with others.

We ask to see more of the Fathers vision, ears to hear the promptings of the Spirit, and courage to follow in the footsteps of Christ.

We embrace the call to make disciples, to be witnesses and to grow leaders.

We desire to grow in faith and numbers and strengthen our links and outreach into the local communities and families, seeing people come to faith and making a positive improvement to life in our neighbourhood.

What We Offer

- Challenging, but exciting opportunities to join in with, and lead what God is doing in the area covered by our parish and across our city.
- Prayerful support from members of our congregations.
- Opportunities to witness the light of Christ growing stronger within our community.
- Potential for new initiatives in worship and evangelism.
- Pastoral opportunities to witness God at work in people's lives.
- Opportunities to develop links and partner with other community groups.
- Never a dull moment!

What We Need - someone who:

- Is a prayerful minister with a heart for the Gospel.
- Has the ability to teach and preach from scripture.
- Has a calling and a heart for the poor and marginalised.
- Has a vision to see people from all backgrounds hear and accept the call of Jesus Christ.
- Can enable and encourage lay ministry.
- Can lead and work alongside diverse congregations.
- Can discern and pursue the key priorities for our parish.
- Is willing to work with other community groups outside the church.
- Will work with the school.
- Can deal with challenging situations.

Invitation Thank you for interest in reading through this summary profile.

We realise this may not be the most attractive parish in the Diocese, but if you feel God may be guiding you in our direction we would love to hear from you. Please contact Blackburn Diocese, where more detailed information is available from our 'dropbox', and check out our Parish website at www.therisenlordpreston.org.uk

The Parochial Church Council, **Parish of the Risen Lord, Preston.**