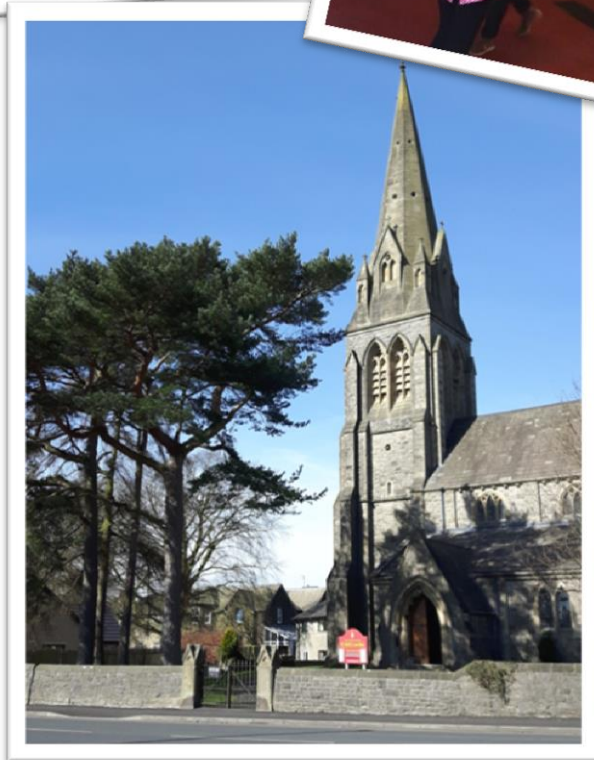


**New Post of Associate Minister
with particular responsibility for
St Paul's, Low Moor
and Christ Church Chatburn
in the United Benefice of Clitheroe,
Chatburn & Downham**



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

Demographics				
Population (Total) 10,256				
Parish	Population			
St Paul's	3,200			
St Mary Magdalene	5,651			
Christ Church	1,207			
St Leonard	208			
Age spread				
Parish	0-4	5-15	16-64	65+
St Paul's	150	400	1900	700
St Mary Magdalene	350	750	3,500	1,050
Christ Church	50	150	750	250
St Leonard	0	50	150	50
Ethnic mix				
Other Faith mix				
Parish	Christian	Muslim		
St Paul's	74%	1%		
St Mary Magdalene	75%	1%		
Christ Church	77%	1%		
St Leonard	83%	0%		
Parish	British	Minority Ethnic		
St Paul's	96%	2%		
St Mary Magdalene	95%	3%		
Christ Church	99%	1%		
St Leonard	100%	0%		

The Post

Associate Minister in the United Benefice of Clitheroe, Chatburn and Downham with particular responsibility for St. Paul's, Low Moor and Christ Church Chatburn

The benefice has been recently created (September 2017) and the new Associate Minister will have a key role in developing a strategy for growth for our four churches around Vision 2026, recognising their individual strengths, histories and traditions.

The person appointed will primarily work with St Paul's, Low Moor and Christ Church, Chatburn. The current pattern of worship is 9.30am at Low Moor and 11.00am at Christ Church. They will also lead worship from time to time across the benefice at St Leonard's Downham and at St Mary Magdalene Clitheroe. They will share in the occasional offices across the benefice.

The new Associate Minister will take the lead in working with a community primary school across the road from St Pauls and in working at our church primary school (Christ Church, Chatburn), building links and developing our outreach to young families: there are great opportunities for school work.

Areas already identified by one or more churches for further development within our Vision 2026 are; discipleship, encouraging lay pastoral teams and outreach to newly-built housing estates. Other areas of responsibility will be developed, depending on the gifts and abilities of the person appointed.



From The Vicar: Revd Andy Froud

I am looking for an enthusiastic, committed and hard-working colleague to share the challenge of this new benefice. I feel very excited to share all aspects of ministry and proclaiming the good news of Jesus Christ with a priest colleague joining our reader, active retired clergy and the four congregations of the new benefice.

I have been ordained over twenty years and served mostly in parish ministry. I am an outdoor enthusiast and know that I am very blessed to serve in this beautiful place with its rich history: George Fox had his vision of angels on the top of Pendle Hill. I also love the people who have been very supportive of, and welcoming, to me and my family since our arrival in Clitheroe eight years ago. Clitheroe consistently earns a place in the Sunday Times Top Ten places to live in England - for me it's Number One.

I look forward to sharing the leadership of this new benefice at this exciting time.

Andy

Normal weekly attendance

Parish	Adult	Under 16
St Paul	40	4
St Mary Magdalene	95	24
Christ Church	28	2
St Leonard	21	1

Festivals

Christmas

Parish	
St Paul	250
St Mary Magdalene	750
Christ Church	155
St Leonard	108

Easter

Parish	
St Paul	83
St Mary Magdalene	273
Christ Church	77
St Leonard	32

What we need

Someone who is

- approachable and a good listener – someone with a pastoral heart.
- flexible and who is able to connect with everyone - regardless of age and from a variety of Christian traditions - and make them feel welcome, loved and important.
- eager to bring new faces into church - especially young families.
- willing to reach out to 30-40 year olds - perhaps with Alpha type courses.
- able to reconnect with Edisford School, Low Moor and expand on Sunday Lunch Club

Someone who

- enjoys leading both traditional and more informal forms of worship.
- has great organisational skills and able and willing to work well with others
- will make baptism and confirmation preparation and follow-up a priority
- is gifted in discerning where the Holy Spirit is working in this new benefice and helping our four churches to plan for the future
- will work ecumenically especially in Chatburn which has a close link with the Methodist chapel.

Finance returns

St Paul's

2015	£
Parish Income	39,418
Tax Efficient Planned Giving	18,117
Amount per person per week	6.00
Parish Expenditure	38,775
Parish Share Assessed	19,769
Parish Share Paid	19,769

St Mary Magdalene's

2016	£
Parish Income	144,689
Tax Efficient Planned Giving	49,682
Amount per person per week	14.00
Parish Expenditure	156,553
Parish Share Assessed	48,718
Parish Share Paid	48,718

Christ Church

2015	£
Parish Income	38,204
Tax Efficient Planned Giving	17,352
Amount per person per week	7.00
Parish Expenditure	37,171
Parish Share Assessed	12,700
Parish Share Paid	12,700

St Leonard

2015	£
Parish Income	22,785
Tax Efficient Planned Giving	9,136
Amount per person per week	5.48
Parish Expenditure	25,270
Parish Share Assessed	14,877
Parish Share Paid	14,877



The scenic Edisford Bridge: a popular tourist spot

Where we are

The Benefice lies in the heart of the Ribble Valley – an area of outstanding natural beauty.

The Vicarage is situated in **Low Moor** on the edge of Clitheroe, a small market town, surrounded by beautiful countryside. Low Moor is close to the Edisford Campsite and

the River Ribble, which is a popular tourist attraction. The Ribble Valley is an extremely desirable area to live, especially popular with young families, and all the local schools are excellent.

Housing in Low Moor is mainly privately owned estates, three brand new developments, and some local authority properties. There is a brand new small development of executive homes situated in the old glebe field of the church. These are due for completion in the next few months.

The Vicarage is a modern, well-maintained, 4 bedroom property set in a reasonably sized garden next door to St Paul's Low Moor. There is a popular swimming pool, gym, tennis dome, football pitch and leisure centre approximately 200 yards away from the church.

There is one primary school in the parish of St Pauls, Edisford School, which is situated across the road from St Paul's Church and Vicarage. This is not a church school, but we have enjoyed close links with them in the past, which we are hoping to reconnect. A previous vicar was a school governor for many years. The school is rated as 'Outstanding' by OFSTED and is an extremely popular choice for parents in the area.

There is also a social club in Low Moor village and a very popular pub and restaurant at the Edisford Bridge.

The village of Low Moor has a cenotaph dedicated to those lost during WW1 and WW2. We hold an annual service on Remembrance Day and the incumbent is expected to host this. This is a very popular event attended by veterans and supported by our uniformed organisations.



Edisford Community School, opposite St Pauls

St Pauls parish has two nursing homes, one next door to the Vicarage, two areas of sheltered accommodation property and a specialist home for adults with complex mental health issues.

We enjoy close links with all of these establishments, which we consider to be an important part of our mission. We also have a great relationship with Thistle Manor, which is the specialist home for adults with complex mental health issues. We hold a joint summer service with them in July and also a carol service and lunch before Christmas. Some of the residents share Sunday morning worship at St Pauls.

There is a Spar supermarket across the road from St Pauls Church, but the main shopping area is the town centre, which boasts a very popular market and a fine selection of privately owned specialist shops, cafes, bars and restaurants. The centre of Clitheroe is approximately half a mile from the Vicarage.

Chatburn was originally a close-knit community based around the local mill. Due to its beautiful surroundings and excellent transport links Chatburn has grown to become a commuter village with more new housing planned. There are two local pubs, a post office and a small number of shops. The church school, which has excellent links with Christ Church is rated “outstanding” by OFSTED. Chatburn Methodist chapel is a small modern building and enjoys a very good working relationship with Christ Church Chatburn. The Manor House is a large, extremely popular nursing home in the centre of the village where there is also cricket club and a village hall, which with the school and the church host a number of social events.



Revd Anne Hardacre leads a Messy Church at Chatburn



Clitheroe Castle

Clitheroe is within easy commuting distance of a number of major Northern towns and cities. There are hourly trains to Manchester. This growing market town has a number of national supermarket chains and thriving independent stores. It boasts a number of high-quality restaurants and pubs, including the recently opened Holmes Mill, which boasts Britain’s longest bar.

A large number of new houses have been built over the last five years and more are planned or are being built at present: Clitheroe presents huge opportunities for mission. The town has a rich history, celebrated in a number of annual festivals including the Clitheroe Food Festival in early August where Lancashire's top professional chefs, the town's retailers, groups and volunteer organisations take part and attracts visitors from the North and Midlands.

The town has an excellent Sixth Form college, three primary schools (not including the ones already mentioned), a secondary school, a state grammar and a private boarding school.



Downham Village

Downham is a village in the Forest of Bowland Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, with a population of 214 (2011 census). There is a highly popular pre-school in the village with good links to the church. In 1558 the village was purchased by the Assheton family and it still remains in Assheton ownership today. The current Lord Clitheroe does not allow overhead electricity lines, aerials or satellite dishes, making the village a popular location for filming period dramas.



Who are we?

Our Services		
St Paul		
Sunday	9.30 am	Service
4 th Sunday	11.00 am	Sunday Lunch Club
St Mary Magdalene		
Sunday	8.00 am	Holy Communion
	9.30 am	Parish Communion
	3.30 pm	Evensong (choral on 3 rd Sunday)
Friday	10.30 am	Holy Communion
Christ Church		
Sunday	11.00 am	Morning Service (Parish Communion; Family service; Morning Prayer as announced)
Tuesday	10.00am	Holy Communion
St Leonard		
Sunday	11.00 am	Morning Worship

St Pauls

St Paul's congregation is a loving, friendly group who welcomes and encourages people to faith. There are between 30 and 45 regular worshippers at our main Sunday morning worship. St Paul's is a Child Friendly Church.

We are a parish with a real family feel and we care very much for one another and also for our wider community.



Johanna, Diane and Ian, our wardens

We have two church wardens, Diane Steer and Johanna Smith and one assistant warden Ian King. Our wardens and PCC are a very friendly and welcoming team who are very passionate about St Pauls.

Our worship is led by an Honorary Assistant Priest, Rev Anne Hardacre and our worship team also includes Lynda Leadbeater, who is our licenced Lay Reader. Lynda and Anne are an integral and important part of our worship team and plan and conduct services on a regular basis.

We have a team of 11 people who read the lessons each week.

There are five lay people authorised to help with communion and we have a team of five people who lead the intercessions and prayers each Sunday.

The clergy use either cassocks and surplices or an alb and stoles except for Family Services where casual but appropriate clothes are worn. We have a small choir who robe, except for Family Service.



Revd Anne Hardacre

We work well as a team at St Paul's – the person appointed will work closely with Anne and Lynda and a small sub-committee of the PCC – who together help to plan special worship events.

We have a small visiting team which we hope to expand. Anne and Lynda take Communion to people's houses and also to the nursing homes in the parish on a regular basis. Until very recently we have had an excellent connection with a local residential home. We are hoping to re-establish this relationship.

Other than the regular Sunday services, we also have a monthly Sunday Lunch Club which has evolved from a Tot's Praise group which was started 10 years ago. The Sunday Lunch Club has approximately 15 active young families which is made up of children and adults and we are always working to encourage more families to this service. We enjoy games, stories, crafts and food alongside a comfortable environment to learn about Jesus.

St Paul's was built in 1866 by the Garnett family of wealthy mill owners, whose history is closely linked with Low Moor Village.

We operate an open church policy and visitors to Edisford Bridge and the camp site are very often seen having a look around our lovely building, especially during the summer months. St Paul's is a stunning building which is well maintained and currently in a good state of repair with a chapel that is dedicated to the Royal Engineers who were based at Low Moor during WW2.



Enjoying a craft's evening in church

We employ a weekly cleaner and also have a vergers for baptisms, weddings and funerals.

Five years ago, the decision was made to sell St Paul's



Lynda Leadbeater: Reader at St Paul's

Parish Hall, which was in a state of disrepair, and reorder the existing church building to make it a more usable space; approximately half the pews were removed from church to create an open, more usable space. We also incorporated a modern kitchen, two toilets (one with disabled access) and a meeting room into our church building. The end result was fantastic and created a multi-purpose building for our parish as a result, the church building is used extensively for community activities.

A popular Pilates teacher holds her classes in church four nights a week and we have a monthly 'Soup Lunch' serving homemade soup and cakes to the wider community – this is a great outreach event and we raise funds for church and various other charities.

We also hold various community events in church, including Quiz and Games nights and craft evenings. We have just started a weekly toddler group called Tiddlers. St Paul's is a friendly and focused parish – we truly care for one another and for others around us. We aim to reach out in love to the people of St Paul's and to spread the Gospel message to everyone. We offer a beautiful vicarage in a stunning location and the chance to make a real difference in a wonderful community.

We also have Friends of St Paul's – a committee set up 5 years ago, with the purpose of raising funds to maintain the church building and keep up to date with repair work as and when it is required. The Friends group are a lively bunch and organise a varied catalogue of events to appeal to everyone, including Games and Quiz evenings, Cream Teas and one off larger events, such as local history talks. Last year, one such talk raised almost £1,000 in one evening.

We also have an active Mothers' Union branch, a Fellowship Group and the uniformed organisations affiliated to St Paul's.

The church gardens are tidy, attractive and well maintained by a dedicated team from the parish. We do not have a graveyard at St Paul's.

We have recently built a disabled access ramp at the rear entrance of the church building.



Children having fun at our monthly 'Sunday Lunch Club'.

We are registered as a Fairtrade Church and there is a Tradecraft Fairtrade stall open most Sunday mornings with the intention of raising awareness of Fairtrade issues throughout the world. We are also part of the Clitheroe Fairtrade Group, Clitheroe being a Fairtrade town.

As with most parishes, finance is always a concern at St Paul's, but we have a loyal congregation who respond to our requests for money.

We recently held a Gift Day, which raised almost £5000, and we have asked our loyal weekly members to consider increasing their giving. There has been a wonderful response to this and we can now meet our Parish Share.

We have recently spent over £12,000 on repairs to the church roof and no other major expenditure is anticipated in the near future.

Christ Church, Chatburn



Messy Church

Christ Church is a very well-maintained Victorian building – in fact since the foundation stone was laid 4 days into Victoria’s reign it can claim to be the oldest Victorian church. It is next to an outstanding church primary school with 130 pupils on roll. The church has recently been reordered to include a disabled toilet, a kitchen, meeting room and space for refreshments. There is an open churchyard, although it will run out of space in the next



Our new kitchen

few years. The regular congregation has grown significantly in the last four years to around 30-40, partly helped by the recent reordering. The successful fundraising project behind this has helped this friendly and enthusiastic congregation to grow by reaching out into the community and renewing the building.

Christ Church’s main Sunday worship currently takes place at 11 am: 2 communions (Common Worship), Morning Prayer and a family service each month. There is a weekly midweek communion at 10 am on Tuesdays. We have a small weekly prayer meeting and a regular toddler service (weekly during term-time). We use an overhead visual display in all of our Sunday worship. The clergy wear either cassock and surplice or cassock alb and stole. The tradition of the church has been “Lancashire low” but is broadly evangelical.

There are a small number of families in the congregation: this is an area where we would like to develop work further. There are regular Messy Church events which attract increasing number of families to church. The village has no uniformed organisations or youth clubs currently and there is potential to develop youth and children’s work. We run a very successful annual summer Holiday Club with the local Methodist chapel.

Clergy help lead weekly assemblies in Chatburn Primary School and there are school services in church every half term and on major festivals.

The church hosts a number of regular musical events organised by lay members of the church: these have proved highly successful in both raising funds and the

profile of the church. The church also has a Mens Club, which meets monthly and a regular, monthly film night.



Our churchwardens Val and Daphne

The church hosts monthly soup lunches and coffee mornings.

There is a parish pastoral assistant who helps with visiting the sick and baptism families. There were 11 funerals in 2016 (including 4 burials in the churchyard). There were 2 weddings and 5 baptisms.



Last Night of the Proms - part of our annual calendar of musical events

St Mary Magdalene Clitheroe

Our church Mission Statement is 'To be a growing community that seeks to know and follow Jesus, sharing the Good News'.

We have 249 people on our Electoral Roll - with around 100 regular weekly attenders. Children account for around 15% of these numbers. The congregation is predominantly 'elderly' but these members are very active in running the church.



Our Grade II listed, medieval church sits on a hill, opposite the castle, in the centre of town. Our church is open all day most days of the week and has many visitors who compliment us – via the visitors' book - on the beauty and peace they have found at St Mary's. We have recently successfully completed two major pieces of fundraising and

The PCC is supported by 10 committees and many 'rotas' in addition we have an excellent organist and choirmaster, with an accomplished robed choir.

Across the road from the church we own the 'parish hall' which latterly has been renamed 'the St Mary's Centre'. Here many groups meet, making us a focal point for community activities – Cubs, Scouts, Brownies, Guides, U3A, Amateur & Dramatic Society, Jack & Jill toddler group and many others.

In St Mary's church building we host Techie Heaven, Children's' Church, meetings of the prayer network and the Vision 2026 prayer group. We have strong links with the two community primary schools, grammar school and a private school which all lie within the parish boundary. Our Vicar is also the part-time Chaplain for the local community hospital and our lay assistants visit the local residential care homes and housebound to administer communion.



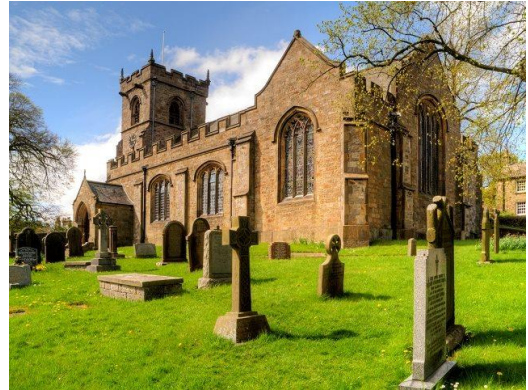
Childrens Church meets midweek every week at St Marys

Our worship is primarily centred around the eucharist and vestments are worn

In 2016 there were 31 funerals (including crematorium services), 15 weddings and 21 baptisms in the parish.

St Leonards Downham

St Leonard's is a friendly traditional village church which values the Book of Common Prayer. There are between 10 - 25 regular worshippers at our main Sunday morning worship at 11 am with larger numbers on festival Sundays. The clergy use either cassocks and surplices or an alb and stole. We have a small but very accomplished robed choir and a new organ.



St Leonards Church Downham

We have three churchwardens, The Hon Ralph Assheton, Mrs Phillipa McFall and Mr Ian Walton. Thanks to the hard-work and diligence of the wardens, PCC and a dedicated lay team, church life runs very smoothly and the church building is a well-cared for and attractive asset.

We will be starting a "Messy Church" in a few months' time and have an annual outdoor "Songs of Praise" Service.

There were 3 funerals in church in 2016. There were 8 weddings and 4 baptisms.

We have recently spent over £20,000 on a new organ and a hearing loop system - no other major expenditure is anticipated in the near future.

