

St James the Great Church, Wrightington with Heskin



Parish Profile Autumn 2017

St James Church
Church Lane
Wrightington
WN6 9SN

Our Mission Statement

We, God's people in the parish of St James the Great, Wrightington with Heskin, seek to proclaim the good news of God's love by enriching the quality of our worship, by endeavouring to draw more families into the life of our church and by meeting the pastoral needs of the community.

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Outreach and Communication

We have a Church magazine published and distributed to members and friends of St James' on alternate months, this is also transferred to our website.

Links

St James the Great Wrightington with Heskin
www.stjamesthegreat.net



Facebook URL:

<https://www.facebook.com/StJamesWrightington/>



You Tube (short drone video by David Barlow)
St James Church Wrightington with Heskin



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.

Bishop of Blackburn

+ Julian

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



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

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

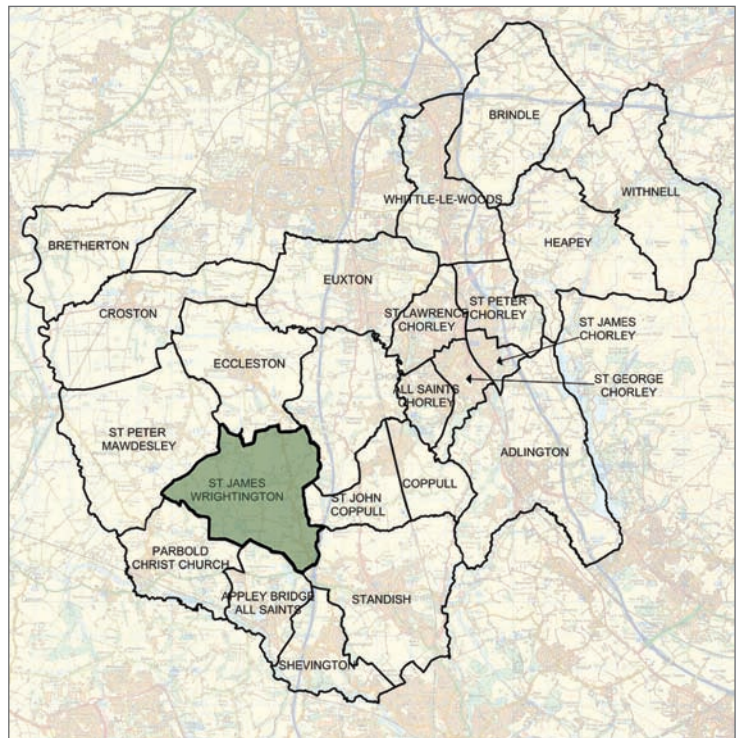


Welcome to our Parish

Welcome to St James the Great, Wrightington with Heskin, situated in a picturesque rural setting with far reaching views to the coast and the Welsh hills

The parish consists of a total population of approximately 1600, with the church set midway between the villages of Wrightington and Heskin.

We are a welcoming church with an aim to reach all areas of the community. Our Sunday School is a thriving unit and the congregation is made up of a good mix of age ranges. The quality of life in the area is good, with several centres of employment including a village shop, a builder's yard, several restaurants, and a well known hospital set in the midst of a predominantly farming area.



There are three schools in the parish, Heskin Pemberton Church of England Primary being our local church school together with Mossy Lea Primary School and St Joseph's Roman Catholic Primary.

The villages have excellent access to the M6 motorway with surrounding towns in easy reach.



Our History

Our church was built between 1855 and 1857 and was formally consecrated on 27th July 1857 and serves the two parishes of Wrightington and Heskin.

The church was originally a chapel of ease within the larger parish of Eccleston but on 1st April 1873 the church was licensed for the solemnisation of marriages and then on 11th July 1877 the Queen in Council approved an order which created a separate parish of St James Wrightington with Heskin.

We are very proud of our church building and are aware that many people have worked hard to improve and to beautify it down the years. This is reflected in some of the stained glass windows and memorial plaques which mark important milestones such as the Millennium and the 150th Anniversary of the church.



Demographics

Population 1600

Age spread

0-4 100

15-15 150

16-64 1000

65+ 350

Ethnic mix

97% British

3% minority ethnic

Other Faith mix

Christian 82%

Muslim 0%

Education background of population

19% have no qualification

34% degree level or above

Employment

Deprivation Index

50% least deprived

Child Poverty

0%

Main Issues

Housing mix

92% Owner occupied:

4% Social rented housing;

Our Services and Liturgy

Our Current services:

Sunday

9.00am Holy Communion BCP (said) with an average attendance of 20.

10.30am Parish Communion Common Worship, which includes Sunday School during term time – held in the Church Hall - with Family Services including Communion once a month-during term time-on the 2nd Sundays or special festivals.

Wednesday

7.30pm Prayer Book Communion which was weekly, but during the interregnum is on the first Wednesday in the month. Attendance is averaging at 12.

Robes are worn at all services, usually cassock and surplice with stole or alb and stole. A robed choir sings at both the 10.30am morning service and special services throughout the year and have recently bought new blue robes.



Patron

The Bishop of Blackburn

Electoral Roll 2017

184

Age Profile of the Church 2016

Age

0-17	13
18-69	30
70+	43

Occasional Offices, Celebrations etc.

Baptisms 11

Weddings 2

Confirmation

Adult Candidates 9

Under 16 Candidates 5

Funerals

In Church 8

At Crematorium 9

Normal weekly attendance

adult 73

under 16 14

Festivals

Easter

Communicants 101

Attendance 124

Christmas

Communicants 48

Attendance 268

Finance returns



The seasons are celebrated with services in Lent beginning with Ash Wednesday and leading to a service on Maundy Thursday and Good Friday, this is followed by a lunch when we are joined by some of the congregation of our neighbouring United Reformed Church of Tunley, which is situated in the village of Mossy Lea, and weather permitting a walk to Harrock Hill carrying the Good Friday cross.

On the first Sunday in October we hold our Harvest Festival which is followed by a Jacob's Join lunch in the Church Hall, donations are usually given to the bishop's Harvest appeal. This is followed by an Open Church when refreshments are served in church with hymns or suitable background music playing.

Services are held in Advent, and at Christmas a special Christingle Service at 4.00pm is held for both children and adults.

The collection from the Christingle goes to The Children's Society and is usually followed later by Midnight Communion.

Choir and Vicar process at special services (Midnight Communion, Nine Lessons and Carols, Confirmation etc).



Members of the congregation read the lessons each Sunday at both services on a rota basis. We do not have an intercessors team, but would like to restart this.

We have two Church Wardens who attend all services where possible and are on hand to assist where necessary. There are also a number of Chalice Assistants who serve at both Sunday services along with a good number of Sides persons who also serve on a rota basis.

Our Buildings and Facilities

The Church is well maintained and last year a new central heating system was installed, and so was much warmer during the last winter. The gardens and grounds of the church are well maintained by a group of willing volunteers in the parish.



The Church Hall built in 1932 for the people of the parish with kitchen, and storage area beneath a good sized stage. The hall is in need of refurbishment and plans are afoot to raise funds for decoration and reconfiguration.



There is a large field to the rear of the hall which is often used for weddings and social events. The hall is well used on a weekly basis by Sunday School, Uniformed Organisation, Dog Classes, Art Classes etc. and has wheelchair access.

The Vicarage is a large detached property built in 1974 in close proximity to the Church and Church Hall.

The building has been well maintained with recently installed new kitchen and benefits from outstanding views to all sides. Accommodation includes entrance hall, study, downstairs toilet, dining room, and lounge, kitchen with utility room and internal access to a double garage. Upstairs consists of four bedrooms and a bathroom, with an additional separate toilet. There is parking for several vehicles on the drive.



Our Finances

Parish Share

The Parish Share records show that for the last year the payments have been a little haphazard, due to the fact that the church had no official treasurer. We have now a full PCC with a new treasurer and the Parish Share arrears have now been paid, with a standing order set up for the future.

- † Annual Accounts for 2016 show an opening Balance of £114,130.00
- † Closing Balance of £85,748.00
- † Spent over £25,000 on a replacement boiler for the church
- † Over £30,360 for Parish share
- † Over £15,000 on Church and graveyard costs
- † Fundraising activities for the year were almost £7000.00

Stewardship

A new campaign was launched in 2015 which resulted in only a small improvement in the giving.

Stewardship figures for 2016 show £12,274 (47givers) Standing Orders £10,913 (25 givers)

Totalling £23,187 of which £19,890 is Gift Aided

2015	£
Parish Income	57,754
Tax Efficient Planned Giving	23,064
Amount per person per week	6.00
Parish Expenditure	79,899
Parish Share Assessed	35,139
Parish Share Paid	33,537

Fund Raising Events

These take place throughout the year with a Christmas Fair held each year and a Fun Day in June, also a very well attended Bonfire and Firework display on the 4th or 5th November. The church has a "36" club which has over a hundred members and donates to the church each year. We have a very keen Social Committee who organise events most months with an aim, at present, to refurbish the church hall. The hall is regularly rented out for birthday parties, dog training, art class etc. and the Church is a popular venue for Weddings, with the field being used to erect marquees for the Reception.



Our Schools

Heskin Pemberton Church of England School

*Quote from Headteacher -
Mr Alan Brindle*

"I feel extremely privileged to be the Headteacher of Heskin Pemberton's. Our school is a wonderful, nurturing environment for all of our children and they are placed at the centre of everything we do. We set the highest academic standards and we pride ourselves on developing the whole child, taking every opportunity to identify, encourage and celebrate their unique skills and abilities. The behaviour of our pupils is impeccable and they consistently demonstrate a kind, considerate attitude when dealing with others. The children at Heskin feel safe and enjoy coming to school to have lots of fun and excitement!"



Our Core Gospel Values permeate throughout every aspect of the school, providing the bedrock for our unique, warm, caring and supportive character and atmosphere. Individuals feel respected and confident enough to encounter challenges and achieve success. We pride ourselves on being a friendly, welcoming school. When people join Heskin Pemberton's they become part of one big family, enjoying the real sense of community which that brings.

Every effort is made to provide a varied, relevant and stimulating curriculum in order to prepare each child for the next stages of their education and to give them the skills and enthusiasm they will need for the future. The importance of developing all abilities of children is at the forefront of learning here at Heskin and everyone is committed to ensuring that our pupils are responsible, resilient and inquisitive individuals who demonstrate their confidence and excitement when encountering new challenges. Expectations are always high and, as a school, we challenge and support every child in reaching their true potential."



Heskin Pemberton Church of England Primary School has a long association with Saint James' and attend each term for a special service. It is classed as a Voluntary Aided School though funded by the local authority. Number of pupils at present 109

At the last Ofsted Inspection the school was rated as Good and the latest SIAMS inspection gained a rating of Outstanding.

The school has a long history, being founded in 1597 in the reign of Elizabeth 1. There is a charter signed by the Queen in the school building and dated 1597.

Special celebrations throughout the year include a "Waring Treat" – the school annual prize giving followed by a tea party. This was established by a local family called Waring and monies for prizes are held in a special fund.

The school perform an end of term concert in July and a Nativity at Christmas.



Numbers of children attending the school are very good with each year group having a full intake and always a greater number of people seeking places than are available. Several of the school governors are also members of the PCC thus creating a good link between Church and School.

Because of the warm relationship with the school, we asked the children to put down their thoughts on what they would like our vicar to be, they replied as follows:

"We would like our vicar to be willing to come into school and teach RE lessons. A good vicar is kind and helpful. They follow the ten commandments and respect our core Christian values. We would like our vicar to be the type of person who believes everyone should be treated equally. We do not mind what race or gender our vicar will be but please make sure they have a kind heart and a funny sense of humour".

The Vicar is a governor of the school and attends regularly to take morning worship.

Other schools in the area are:

Mossy Lea Primary is a local authority owned school which enjoys a central position in Wrightington village. The school benefits from a recent extension in 2011 and caters for children from the local area.

There is also a Roman Catholic Primary School within the village of Wrightington – St Joseph's.

There are two nursery schools within the villages of Heskin and Wrightington: Pingawings in Wrightington is well attended and set in the pleasant grounds of Tunley United Reform Church.

Alexandra Kindergarten on Withington Lane in Heskin is also a well attended and lively nursery.

Our links into the Community

Our Organisations

As a Church we aim to provide something for everyone

Our Rainbow Group is thriving and meets once a week on a Wednesday night. Numbers are always at maximum and the girls undertake a wide variety of activities for 5 to 7 year olds.



Our Mothers Union is very active and has a regular following with an interesting and informative monthly meeting. They have a party once a year for their Indoor Members and take part in Women's World Day of Prayer with other churches in the surrounding area. Their main fund raiser is a Strawberry Fair held in July which is always well attended by both men and women with an interesting speaker or presentation.

An active year ends with a Christmas Party with "Jacob's Join" supper and of course our celebrated cakes.

Sunday School is held each week in the Church Hall during the 10.30am service in term time, with a Family Communion held once a month at the 10.30am service in which they generally take some part. They follow the "Roots" weekly programme which is linked to the readings allocated for the Sunday services. There is generally some craft involved to highlight the Christian message which is brought over for a "Show and Tell" at the end of the service. Average attendance at present is 15.

There are a number of dedicated young teachers and Sunday School has a large following who greatly enjoy performing their Nativity for the whole congregation in the run up to Christmas. A Toy Service is held on the second Sunday in December with all the toys being sent to the local Barnados Children's Charity.

Play & Praise parent and toddler Group is held each Wednesday morning in the church hall from 10.00am to 12.00 noon. This was established and is run by the Mothers Union and offers a playgroup for children under school age and their parents to come and meet together for a social time. Originally the vicar called in to say hello each week with an official visit once per month to tell a simple story with a song or two. This has not been happening of late, and so we are missing the Praise element of the session, but would love to revive this contact with the new vicar.



Our thespian group, St James Players, have performed pantomimes and plays and are currently rehearsing a new play for next season. Away from the church groups, the church hall is used each week for an Art Group and several Dog Training classes.

Where we are going – Our Vision

Our Mission Action Plan

We worked on this until about 2010 and brought in new ways of working within the Church, including creating a Pastoral Visiting Team, an Intercessors team, since then the following has been achieved:-

- ✚ Children's area in church with a display board for children's work, both Sunday School and Primary School.
- ✚ Book Stall and Tea available following the 10.30am Sunday service.
- ✚ Decoration of the Church with new lighting and a new central heating system.
- ✚ Loop system installed.
- ✚ Improvements to Church Magazine
- ✚ New Family Service established.
- ✚ Improvements to Church yard and a mowing team established.
- ✚ Rainbow Group started.

We are now working on our new Action Plan and look forward to completing it with our new Vicar.

Our Vision 2026

What the Parish is doing in relation to Vision 2026

How it is making disciples – by a variety of social groups including Mother's Union, Play and Praise, and Rainbows.

Sunday School numbers are increasing with teachers following the "Roots" scheme for their Sunday meetings.

The Wednesday evening service has been re-established on a monthly basis. We hope to establish a children's choir and encourage more of the wider community, both young and older to join the existing choir.

A Christingle Service is held each year in aid of the Children's Society with the children taking an active part in the service.

Shoe Box Appeal and a Toy Service for Barnados are also held each year.

Being Witnesses - by presenting in church a dramatized version of the Easter Story on Good Friday. This is followed by an ecumenical lunch in the church hall and a walk to Harrock Hill carrying the cross.



By maintaining and increasing the strong links we have with Heskin Pemberton's School and to establish a link with the other primary school within our parish.

Growing leaders - Sunday School teachers are receiving assistance from some parents, on a rota basis, for their Sunday meetings.



Maintain an active and experienced PCC. We are very fortunate in that there is a strong core of experienced members together with a vibrant new membership of young people.

We do not have a Vision Champion at present – we did have one but this post is currently vacant. We need to appoint a new Vision 2026 Champion to liaise with the Diocese and other churches

Transforming its Community - Respond to unfair situations by promoting the food banks and charitable giving.

Sunday Brunch for Christian Aid was very popular with a request to repeat.

St James Players are currently rehearsing their new production involving all ages.

Hold Bonfire Night, Fun Day and many other concerts etc. to raise funds for the Church and church hall and to bring the community together.

Serve tea after each main Sunday morning service and a book stall for all.

Our charitable giving includes Ethiopia Aid, a Christmas collection for Derian House and five other identified charities all of whom received £100.

We have drawn up our Vision Statement and in five years' time we would like to see the following achieved:-

- ✠ Families taking part in every aspect of church life.
- ✠ Greater involvement of children and young people with an aspiration of holding Messy Church.
- ✠ Use, by installation, of audio-visual facilities.
- ✠ Making the most of the connection with our church school.
- ✠ Developing the music, which might include setting up a children's choir.
- ✠ Pastoral needs were an important aspect – we talked about re-establishing the pastoral visiting team, about people taking Holy Communion to the housebound and also offering transport where needed.

What we offer

- † Friendly and welcoming church
- † Variety of organisations for all age groups
- † Well attended services with good mix of young and old
- † Well attended Sunday School with enthusiastic leaders
- † Active Social and Fund Raising Group who organise events on a regular basis to maintain our Church and Church Hall and are great cake bakers
- † Good links with Church School
- † Supportive and active PCC ready and willing to welcome a forward thinking new incumbent

Our Opportunities to develop

We are looking at a number of areas where we can move forward in ministry and mission such as:-

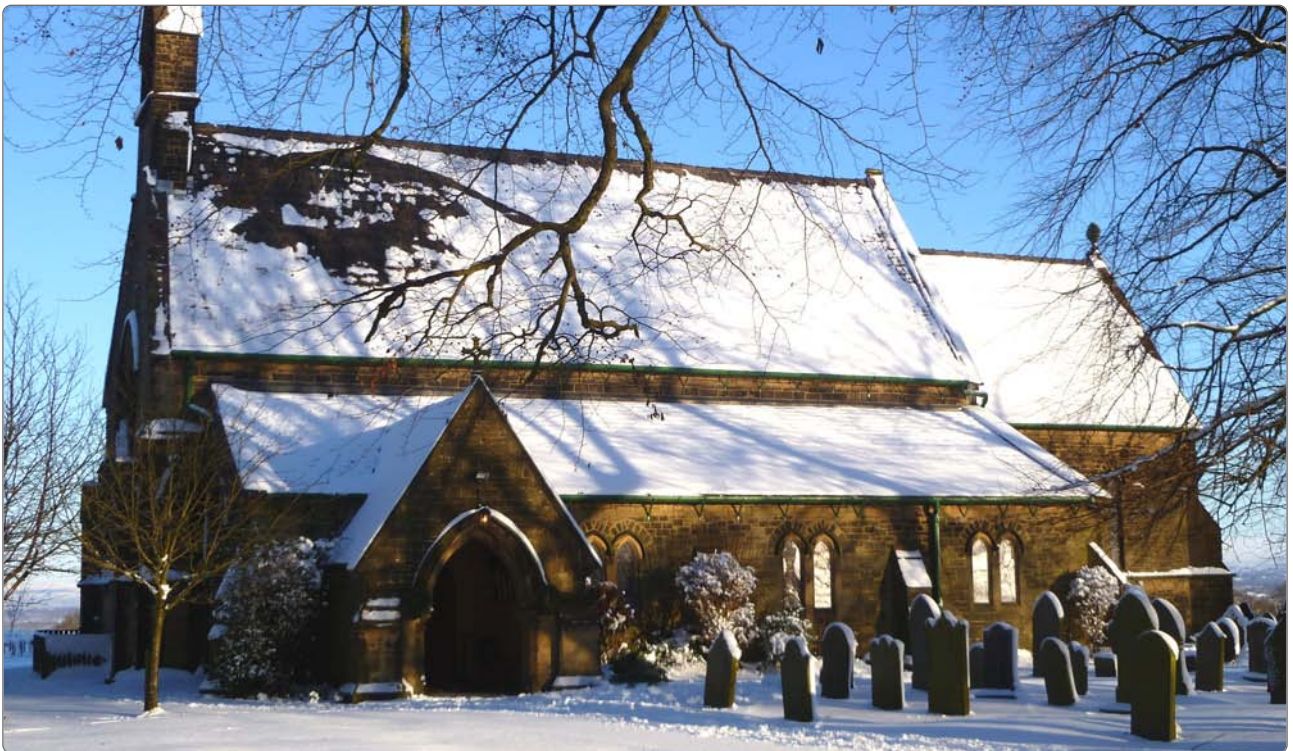
- † Re-establish Parish Visitors Team
- † Need to encourage more Uniformed Organisations by seeking new leaders to re-establish Brownies, Guides, Cubs and Scouts
- † More contact needed with house-bound parishioners by offering home communions and visiting teams
- † Our church hall is in need of refurbishment and possible extension
- † We are open to change and new ideas and look forward to working with and supporting an incumbent who shares our vision
- † We are looking for a Vicar who will help us to make the most of the opportunities presented by Vision 2026



What we need

- ✠ A person who can hold and inspire all sections of the congregation
- ✠ Someone who can maintain our central churchmanship, whilst developing and encouraging the young people and involving them in choices of special services which embrace a more modern culture
- ✠ Proclaim the Good News – offer a mixed economy of worship to give God glory; encourage and develop opportunities for both young and old to grow in the knowledge of God in this place of beauty and peace
- ✠ A leader who is able to discern, encourage and enable gifts and strengths in others

Approachable / Caring / Compassionate



The Support we can offer

- ✠ A supportive team of 2 Wardens, PCC comprising 15 members including Treasurer, Secretary, Verger, Assistant Verger, Baptism Secretary and a host of willing volunteers in the parish
- ✠ A beautiful location and well maintained house
- ✠ A well supported church ready to move forward and work with a new incumbent