PARISH PROFILE

One family in two homes

All Saints Higher Walton & Holy Trinity Hoghton





THE DIOCESE OF BLACKBURN
THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND IN LANCASHIRE

CELEBRATING 100 YEARS OF BLACKBURN DIOCESE
All for Jesus

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1. Letter from the Bishop

Thank you for showing an interest in a post in the Diocese of Blackburn.



TheBishopofBlackburn
TheRtRevdPhilipNorth

Our Diocese is passionate about the renewal of Parish life. We have a profound belief in the power of the Gospel to transform lives and communities and expresses a firm commitment to maintaining clergy numbers and investing in the mission of the local church. We therefore seek clergy with a personal faith fiery enough to make new disciples for Christ, with a sincere commitment to the Parish as the heart of the church's mission and with the resilience and courage to bring growth and renewal to local churches. We don't want superheroes. Rather we are seeking authentic, prayerful priests of all traditions who share our passion for confident proclamation and generous service.

What's more, you would be coming to the Diocese at a fascinating time of our Centenary in 2026 themed "All for Jesus". We are in the midst of a major process of listening to God and listening to our County as we discern where God is calling us next, a process that will result in a new strategic vision that will last until 2033, the 2000th anniversary of the Resurrection.



The Bishop of Lancaster
The Rt Revd Dr Jill Duff

We have also recently been successful in obtaining a grant of £25.5m from the Diocesan Investment Programme run by the national church. This will enable us to:

- Offer a transformed pattern of ongoing training and support to clergy, including sabbatical leave as an expectation for all rather than a treat for the few
- Deploy 30 'Ignite' youth and children's workers to parishes around the Diocese
- Invest in urban areas through expanding the M:Power course for urban leaders, employing 18 Urban Pioneers and re-imagining Christian life in areas of particular challenge.
- Expand our Diocesan Renewal Programme which has led to an average of 6% growth in RWA in participating parishes.



The Bishop of Burnley
The Rt Revd Dr Joe Kennedy

We are a Diocese that is united in defying the declinist mindset that has taken hold of so much of Western European Christianity. Through a firm belief in the power of Jesus Christ to change lives combined with strong pastoral ministry and imaginative developments such as new local congregations, we are seeing growth in churches of all traditions. Strong relationships with our amazing family of 191 schools (95% of whom benefit from practising Christian Headteachers) provide another springboard for mission.

As a Diocese we do all we can to love and treasure our clergy. Our programme of Annual Conversations means that every licensed priest has a 90 minute conversation with a Bishop or an Archdeacon every year about their vocation, wellbeing and spiritual life.

We have appointed an Assistant Archdeacon to advise on clergy wellbeing and we work hard to create networks that enable clergy to belong and find mutual support.

Those in their first incumbency are offered especially focused support. This includes participation in a two year Start of Ministry course, advice and care from a mentor and the oversight of our two outstanding Start of Ministry officers.

Lancashire has been described as '"The World in One Diocese" and we can offer a vast diversity of parishes. We serve the most deprived communities in the United Kingdom on the Fylde coast and in East Lancashire as well as remote countryside. We are not immune from the particular challenges to ministry provided by an increasingly secular culture and a divided Church. But what brings us together is a profound and shared love of Jesus Christ and a passionate desire that all should know him, and in knowing him find life.

We really hope you enjoy reading this profile and that it provides all the information you need. If this particular post does not feel quite right, please do get in touch about other parishes in the Diocese that are vacant.

Most importantly of all, please be assured of our prayers as you discern the will of God for the next stage in your ministry.







2. What is the PCC's vision for the future?

At All Saints and Holy Trinity, we aim to continue developing our life together as a one family in two homes, building on all we have achieved over the past seven years and looking forward with faith and enthusiasm to what God has in store for us. We have been together as a plurality since 2019 and became one parish in November 2025.

- **To continue to be a church that learns about Jesus, loves one another and cares for our community.**
- **To continue to be a church that shares the good news of Jesus with confidence, enthusiasm, celebration and joy in our communities, schools and parish.**
- **To continue to be a church where children, young people, families and worshippers of all ages are welcomed, valued, supported and helped to grow in faith together.**
- **To nurture and deepen our faith and discipleship through quality, accessible teaching and prayer in our services and house groups.**

These priorities are all part of our vision to be a growing church centred on Christ and reaching out to others. We want to be a church where people are encouraged and equipped to grow as disciples, deepen their life of prayer and learn more about Jesus, while also being confident and joyful in sharing the good news with others. Through our worship, teaching, house groups and relationships with one another, we want to create a church where people can grow in faith and discover more of what it means to follow Christ.

We also want to be present and active in our local communities, schools and parish, building relationships, caring for those around us and creating opportunities for people to encounter and explore the Christian faith. We particularly want to invest in children, young people and families, ensuring they feel welcomed, valued and part of the life of the church, while helping them to discover God's love and grow in faith together.

Alongside this, we want to encourage and develop people across the whole church, recognising and nurturing the gifts God has given us so that ministry is shared and everyone has opportunities to serve. Ultimately, our vision is to be a church where people of all ages are growing in faith, learning about Jesus, loving one another, serving together, sharing God's love and reaching out to our communities and the wider world.

We are looking for a vicar who shares this vision and will build on the strengths of our parish, inspiring and encouraging us as we continue to grow in faith and reach out to others. We value collaborative ministry and hope to welcome someone who will work alongside us, nurture the gifts of our church family and help us discern where God is leading us next, as together we share God's love with everyone in our parish.

One family in two homes

3. What is our Spiritual life?

Worship services:



Sundays

Our Sunday morning worship takes place with a service at both churches. Every first Sunday of the month we come together for a joint celebration Eucharist service, which is held in turn at alternating churches.

On the second Sunday of the month, we have a parade service at Holy Trinity and once a month we have an all-age service at All Saints.

We celebrate the Eucharist every Sunday at one of the churches.
Our Sunday morning services are live streamed on our YouTube channel - https://www.youtube.com/@allsaintshigherwalton

Our preaching has followed a sermon series, with occasional use of the lectionary readings. Both churches follow the same readings, and the same person usually preaches at both churches on a Sunday, although Parade and All-Age services may differ. We use YouTube to support our worship, drawing on a mixture of contemporary worship songs and familiar, well-loved hymns.



Mid-week

On Wednesdays, we hold a midweek service at All Saints, with a BCP Eucharist on the first Wednesday of the month and a Service of the Word on the third. These services bring together regular Sunday worshippers and those who are unable to attend on Sundays. Worship is followed by tea, toast and fellowship. Throughout the year, we also hold coffee mornings in support of a range of local charities, providing opportunities to connect with our wider community.

Joint worship

Alongside our monthly Celebration Sundays, we come together throughout the year to mark special Christian festivals, particularly at Christmas and Easter, celebrating our faith and sharing these important occasions as one parish.



Home communions

A Pastoral Team from each church takes communion to the sick, elderly or house-bound members of our Church Family throughout the year to assist the vicar.



Schools

Higher Walton Church of England Primary school

We have strong links with our local church school, Higher Walton CE Primary School. Weekly worship takes place in the school hall, led by our Ignite Leader and ministry team in partnership with the school. Special services, including Harvest and Christmas, are held in church and planned collaboratively with the school's Ethos Group, Ignite Leader or Vicar. The school also supports our annual Harvest appeal, collecting donations for local food banks. Our Ignite Leader also visits the school regularly and runs a lunchtime Bible-based Lego club. The Vicar is an ex-officio member of the school's Governing Body, alongside other parish members who serve as foundation governors.



Coupe Green

Coupe Green is a county primary school within our parish, where our Ignite Leader runs a weekly Bible-based Lego club and leads assemblies at key points in the school year, including Christmas and Easter. The school also supports our annual Harvest appeal, collecting donations for local food banks. These connections provide valuable opportunities to share faith, build relationships and serve our local community.

Prayer life

Prayer is at the heart of our life and ministry as a parish. We seek to be people who pray for our churches, our communities and the wider world, and who encourage others to discover the difference prayer can make.

All Saints Church is open for three hours each weekday, providing a welcoming and prayerful space for personal prayer. We also gather regularly to pray together, including contemporary morning prayer before our midweek service and a half-termly hour of prayer for our under-18s ministry, using creative and interactive prayer stations.



Throughout the year, we prayer walk around our parish, often combining this with litter picking as a practical way of caring for and praying for our communities. We also participate in Thy Kingdom Come, exploring different ways to pray for people to come to know Jesus.

House groups



We have three house groups and a men's fellowship group, which meets informally in a local pub. Our house groups provide opportunities to explore faith, build friendships and support one another. They vary in format, with some groups reflecting on the Bible passage from the previous Sunday's service, while others follow a study guide.



Our groups are made up of people from both churches and a wide range of ages and backgrounds, reflecting the breadth of our parish community. We value these smaller gatherings as places where people can ask questions, deepen their faith, pray together and build meaningful relationships.

Discipleship courses

We regularly provide opportunities for people to explore and grow in their Christian faith through a variety of courses and study programmes. Over recent years we have run Alpha, Fruitfulness on the Frontline and a range of Lenten courses, offering opportunities for both those exploring Christianity and those wanting to deepen their faith.

Following our recent Mission Weekend, we ran Hope Explored, giving people the opportunity to explore the Christian hope found in Jesus in a relaxed and accessible setting. We are keen to continue developing opportunities that help people take the next step in their faith, wherever they are on their journey.

Children and young people



Children, young people and families are an important part of our parish life. We have thriving toddler groups at both churches — smALL SAINTS and Trinity Tots — offering friendship, support, Bible stories and songs for parents, grandparents, carers and children.



Kingdom Kids meets fortnightly for 4–10 year-olds and their families, combining a shared meal with age-appropriate teaching and a parent study group. This is followed by our 11–16's youth group, where young people explore faith through a varied and engaging programme.

We run an annual summer holiday club at Higher Walton CE Primary School and this year held our first three-morning Easter holiday club at Coupe Green Primary School.

Highlight videos of our past holiday clubs can be found via our website at https://www.allsaints-holytrinity.org.uk/Groups/419408/Holiday_Club.aspx

1st Hoghton Scouts, which consists of groups from squirrels, beavers, cubs and scouts, are affiliated to Holy Trinity. They regularly get involved with the parade services and events throughout the year.

Our Ignite Leader, who has been in post for over a year, helps us develop this ministry and strengthen our links with local schools and families. This video shows what we developed over the first 10 months in being part of the Ignite project https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=k9723HlwpNI

Our churches play an active role in community life, particularly through our links with Higher Walton Church of England Primary School and Coupe Green County Primary School, our many parish outreach and social events, as well as through occasional offices of baptisms, weddings and funerals. We seek to be a welcoming and safe space where people can explore life's big questions, find support and feel connected to the life of the parish.



We reach out to our communities through a variety of events throughout the year, including our Over 80s party, Light Party, Easter egg hunt, Teddy Bears' Picnic and Breakfast with Santa. At Christmas, we transform one of our churches into an immersive experience to bring the Christmas story to life, such as Narnia, Journey to Bethlehem and Christmas Through the Keyhole. These events help us build relationships, welcome people of all ages and share the love of Jesus in accessible and engaging ways.

Links that show our parish



All Saints Facebook page
https://www.facebook.com/ashigherwalton

Holy Trinity Facebook page
https://www.facebook.com/HolyTrinityHoghton

Parish website
https://www.allsaints-holytrinity.org.uk

Parish YouTube page
https://www.youtube.com/@allsaintshigherwalton





4. What resources do we have?

Church officers

- The parish employs an Ignite Leader who is also our LLM
- 1 occasional preacher across the parish

Ministry team

A group of people from both churches who support the Vicar in overseeing and guiding worship, ministry and growth across the parish.

Financial

The churches are financially sound and well managed. Following the merger to become one parish, a joint bank account became operational from 1st September 2026. For audit purposes, the two churches are maintaining separate financial monitoring until the end of the year, with moving to the one account from 1st January 2027.

Both churches are committed to meeting their Parish Share. All Saints has made significant regular contributions in recent years and is on course to meet its 2026 Parish Share in full. In one previous year, an agreed one-off reduction was made following discussions with the Diocese to support the cost of installing a new access ramp into the church. Holy Trinity has reliably met its Parish Share commitments, paying the agreed amounts.

Both churches use the Parish Giving Scheme to support regular giving. Holy Trinity was involved in the diocesan pilot scheme, with nearly all regular givers participating. All Saints has also embraced the scheme and is encouraging further sign-ups to reduce reliance on cash and envelope giving.

Fundraising plays an important role in supporting the life and mission of the churches. The parish benefits from a loyal team of volunteers who organise a varied programme of social and fundraising events. Holy Trinity also has income from its well-maintained church hall, which offers further potential for development.

Across the parish, we are committed to giving beyond our own church communities, tithing up to 10% of income to support local, national and international charities. Alongside this our toddler groups, kingdom kids and youth group sponsor two children through World Vision. Both churches also hold funds restricted for use by their respective churches.



Safeguarding

Safeguarding is a priority across our parish, and we take our responsibilities seriously, carrying them out with conscientiousness and care. We mark Safeguarding Sunday across both churches each year, helping to raise awareness and reinforce the importance of keeping everyone safe. Safeguarding training is completed by all relevant people and enhanced DBS checks undertaken.

Buildings

Our two historic churches are valued places of worship and important landmarks in their villages. Each offers opportunities to welcome people, strengthen community relationships and support the future mission of the parish.

All Saints, Higher Walton

All Saints is a classic Victorian Grade II listed church, built in 1862 and consecrated in 1864. Surrounded by its churchyard, it remains an important part of the village's life and landscape.



All Saints Church, Blackburn Road, Higher Walton, Lancs PR5 4EA

In 2016, the Victorian pews were replaced with comfortable, movable chairs, making the building more adaptable for worship, gatherings and events. The boiler and heating system have also been replaced, and a new sound system installed. These improvements were funded from the church's own resources.

Step-free access is currently available via a new ramp at the main entrance ensuring access for all remains one of our priorities.

The churchyard surrounding All Saints and the newer burial ground, accessed from the car park, continue to accommodate burials and the interment of ashes.

Volunteers care for the grounds, supported by regular seasonal working parties.

Holy Trinity, Hoghton

Holy Trinity is a distinctive feature of Hoghton. Built in 1823 and extended in 1887, the Grade II listed church stands back from the main road within its churchyard.



Holy Trinity Church, Blackburn Old Road, Hoghton, Preston PR5 0SJ

The building is well cared for, with repointing and redecoration undertaken in recent years. It seats approximately 350 people and has wheelchair access, a hearing loop and an adjoining car park with around 80 spaces, including designated disabled parking.

Holy Trinity has a peal of eight bells, rung for regular services and enjoyed by visiting ringers.

The church's Grade II* listed organ, built in 1886 and fully restored in 2005, is a much-valued feature for special occasions when an organist is available.

A hall for church and community at Holy Trinity



Our church hall stands beside the newer graveyard. Built in 1983, it was extended in 1997, with a kitchen extension added in 2003.

The hall provides space for church organisations, social events, function room and private hire. Community use is welcomed and encouraged and the hall is available for local activities and groups.

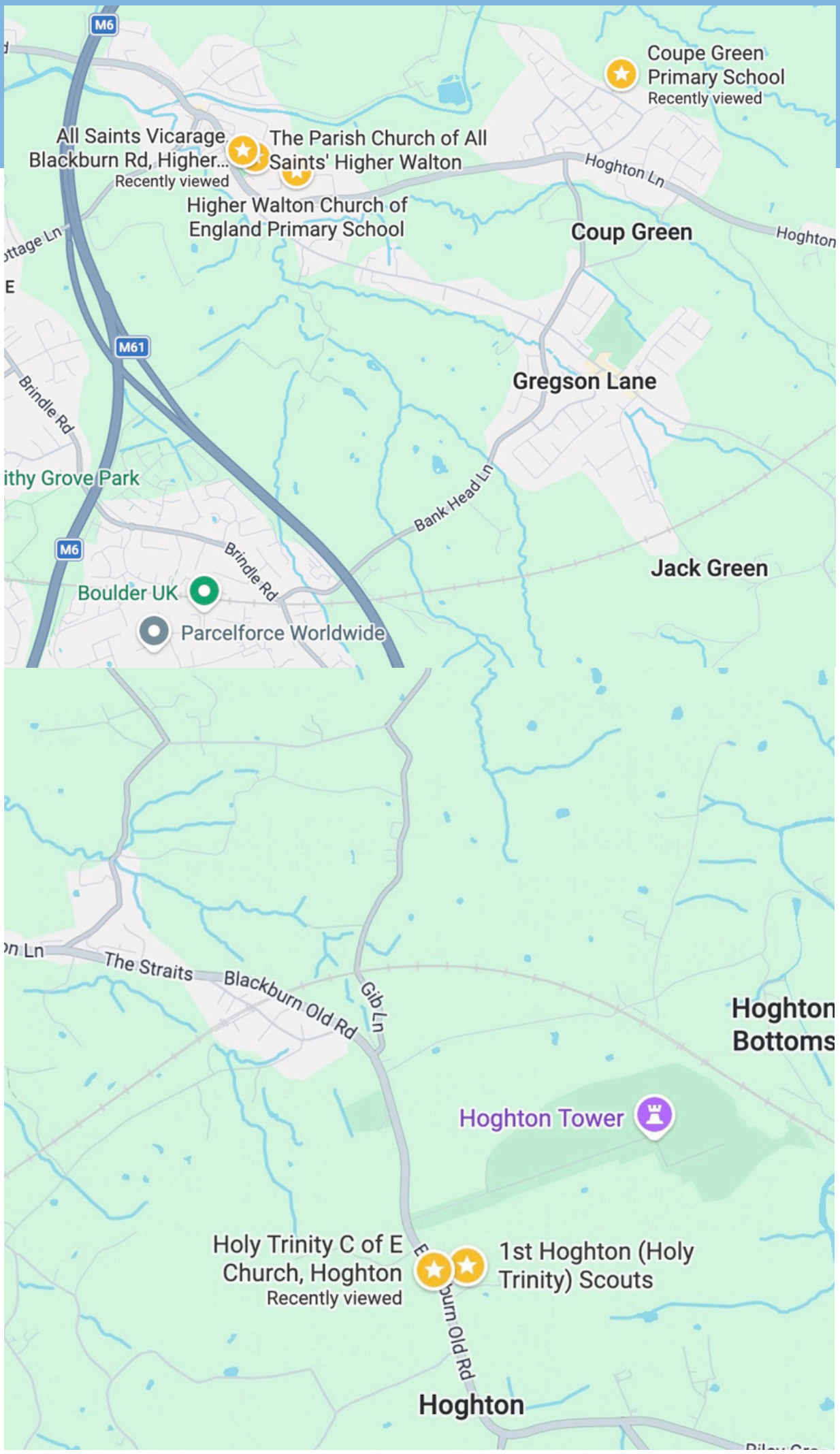








These church videos show the life of our parish over the last 2 years :https://www.allsaints-holytrinity.org.uk/Groups/443642/Church_Videos.aspx


M6
Coupe Green Primary School
Recently viewed
All Saints Vicarage Blackburn Rd, Higher...
Recently viewed
The Parish Church of All Saints' Higher Walton
Higher Walton Church of England Primary School
Hoghton Ln
Coup Green
Hoghton
M61
Gregson Lane
Brindle Rd
Bank Head Ln
Jack Green
Boulder UK
Parcelforce Worldwide
The Straits
Blackburn Old Rd
Gib Ln
Hoghton Bottoms
Hoghton Tower
Holy Trinity C of E Church, Hoghton
Recently viewed
1st Hoghton (Holy Trinity) Scouts
Hoghton

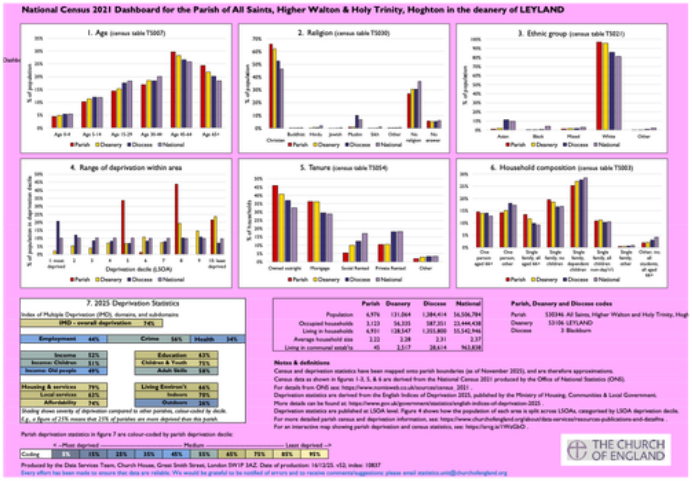
5. What is the community we serve?

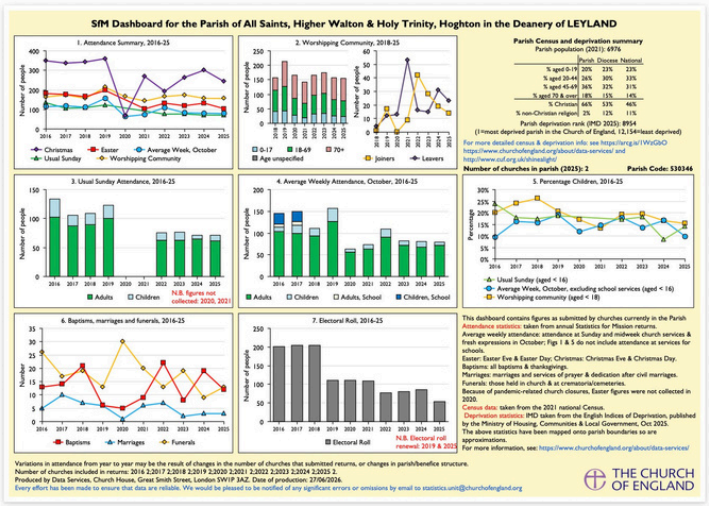
The parish of All Saints, Higher Walton, and Holy Trinity, Houghton, is situated in Leyland Deanery within the Diocese of Blackburn, between Preston and Blackburn. It brings together the semi-rural community of Higher Walton, with its industrial mill-town heritage, and the rural village of Houghton.

The parish benefits from good transport links, with easy access to the motorway network across the North West, regular bus services, and railway stations at both Bamber Bridge and Preston. Local football loyalties are divided between Preston North End and Blackburn Rovers!

We are committed to supporting those in need within our wider community. As a parish, we support two local foodbanks: New Day Foodhub in Lostock Hall and Bamber Bridge Foodhub, helping to provide practical support for individuals and families facing hardship.

The churches are located 5 km from each other which is approximately a seven-minute drive.







6. Vicarage and Education Options

The vicarage is situated within the church grounds in Higher Walton. Built in 1972, it is a spacious family home set within a large garden. The ground floor comprises three reception rooms, including a study, a kitchen and a cloakroom. Upstairs are four large bedrooms, a bathroom and a separate WC. A double garage is adjacent to the property, with gardens to the front, rear and sides. The rear garden includes a patio and an outdoor electrical socket. Recent work has been carried out to successfully improve the heating of the property during the winter months.

The vicarage is within walking distance of a local convenience store and takeaways, with several pubs and a garden centre with café nearby. Retail parks are a short drive away, while both Preston, Blackburn, Leyland and Chorley town centres can be reached in around 20 minutes by car.

The parish is served by Royal Preston Hospital, with Chorley and Blackburn hospitals also accessible to residents.

There are several primary schools and nurseries in and around the parish, including our close links with Higher Walton CE Primary School. There are a number of secondary schools in the area. Further education is available at Runshaw and Cardinal Newman Colleges, both reachable by bus, while the University of Lancashire is based in Preston.

The area offers a range of leisure facilities, including a local leisure centre and gyms. There is also a community centre, village hall, park and green spaces for sporting activities.

The parish benefits from a variety of nearby outdoor spaces, including Brockholes Nature Reserve, Hoghton Bottoms, Avenham Park and Worden Park. There are also local walks around Hoghton and along the canal, offering plenty of opportunities to enjoy the surrounding countryside and green spaces.











7. Who is God Calling?

We are seeking a prayerful, enthusiastic and approachable vicar who loves Jesus and is passionate about sharing God's love with everyone.

We hope to welcome priest/vicar with vision, energy and imagination, who will build on what we have achieved together over the past seven years and continue to strengthen us as one parish.

Someone who:

- Shares their love of Jesus
- Leads in prayer and has a strong personal prayer life
- Shows good leadership skills, working with existing leaders
- Is a good listener
- Encourages others
- Works collaboratively
- Communicates effectively
- Will be a visible presence in the community
- Is compassionate

We are looking for someone who can bring people of all ages together, relate to different generations and be sensitive to the varied needs of our churches and communities. A heart for children, young people and families is important, alongside a commitment to continuing to develop our links with local schools, working closely with our Ignite Leader.

We hope our new vicar will help us find creative ways to reach those who feel distant from church, creating opportunities for people to encounter Jesus. Above all, we are looking for someone who will inspire and equip us to grow in faith, serve our communities and share the good news with confidence, joy and enthusiasm.



8. Vision 2026 and Beyond

Vision 2026 had an agenda for growth agreed by the Blackburn Diocesan Synod in 2015. It challenged our parishes to be healthy churches that transformed their communities as we looked ahead to our diocesan centenary in 2026. It also laid out four ways in which this over-arching goal could be achieved: Making Disciples, Being Witnesses, Growing Leaders and Prioritising Children and Young People.

In the Diocese of Blackburn we are inspired by confidence in the Gospel and are ambitious in our desire to make new disciples for Jesus Christ. We are committed to mutual flourishing, to maintaining clergy numbers and to investing in training for new curates.

In the last year, the Diocese has embarked on a major programme of listening to God and our communities as we discern where he is leading us next.

Our Centenary Prayer is:

Heavenly Father, in our Centenary year
we rededicate ourselves and our Diocese to you.
Send the Holy Spirit to give us confidence in our witness,
generosity in our service,and love for our neighbours,
that your Church may be renewed and many come home to you,
through your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ.
Amen.

You can find out more about our Centenary year by visiting our website:

All for Jesus: Centenary of Blackburn Diocese in 2026 | The Diocese of Blackburn

9. Clergy Care and Wellbeing

- Clergy are invited to participate in an 8 year annual programme to keep ministry fresh and vital. This includes periods of sabbatical and regular retreats.
- We offer an Annual Conversation in which every licensed priest spends 90 mins with a Bishop or Archdeacon discussing ministry and wellbeing.
- Ongoing theological training and teaching is offered through our partnership with Emmanuel Theological College. Clergy receive free access to a theological library of 22,000 books and regular seminars.
- Annual Diocesan Clergy Study Days and an occasional clergy conference seek to provide opportunities both to keep ministry fresh and to build relationships with colleagues.
- We offer first incumbents a mentor and participation in our Start of Ministry Programme.
- All clergy are entitled to an uninterrupted rest period of 24 hours in each period of seven days and one additional rest period of 24 hours in each month, and in the remaining weeks of the month to take a rest day and a light day.
- We offer a Clergy Assistance Programme. More information about this can be found on our website 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 have a beautiful diocesan retreat house in the grounds of a ruined Cistercian abbey, where clergy are welcome to have personal reading days for a modest charge (you can book in for lunch or bring your own).
- We encourage all parishes in vacancy to consider how they will 'pastor' and support their new priest. The diocese has an anti-bullying and anti-harassment policy.
- If you are looking for a spiritual director or a mentor we have an excellent Warden of Spiritual Direction and 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, a cricket team and a clergy walking group. Further suggestions are welcome.
- We offer free counselling to clergy and their families through the Inter Diocesan Counselling Service and our own Diocesan counsellor.
- Clergy Wellbeing is overseen by the Assistant Archdeacon for Clergy Wellbeing, Canon Neil Kelley. In addition our Dean of Women's Ministry, the Revd Lucie Lunn, offers support and care to female clergy in the Diocese.



Whalley Abbey Centre for Christian Discipleship and Prayer