

# St Cuthbert's Church Over Kellet

## Parish Profile 2018

**Diocese Blackburn**  
**Deanery Tunstall**  
**Patrons Reformation Church Trust**



### **Our mission values are to:**

- Be a witness to Jesus Christ in Over Kellet and the local community.
- Worship God in a way which brings comfort, joy and a challenge to all present.
- Work with God to show care and concern, not only for the members of the church but for the whole community.

## The Parish

The village of Over Kellet lies on the B6254 just one kilometre from junction 35 of the M6 motorway. Its centre is an open and unique village green which includes both a cross roads and slip roads in the form of a diamond shape. In early spring the Green is ablaze with daffodils planted by the pupils of the local Primary School. The village boasts the Parish Church of St Cuthbert's, a village store and Post Office, a refurbished Village Hall, a pub (The Eagles Head), Wilson's Endowed Church of England School, and a War Memorial, all of which have been featured in the 'Best Kept Village of Lancashire' Competition which was first won in 1999. There are extensive views from most parts of the Village. The foreground is rural but embraces the narrow communications corridor taken up by the A6 trunk road and the M6 Motorway plus the West Coast Main Rail Line. The Lancaster Canal also passes close to the Village.

The background to this corridor includes Morecambe Bay to the west with the Lakeland Fells forming a backdrop all the way round to Shap. The limestone crags of Farleton Knott and Warton Crag take up the middle ground.

St Cuthbert's Church and the Parish Council financially support the Over Kellet view which is published every month (except January and August) and distributed to all residents within the Parish of Over Kellet. It contains a letter from the Vicarage and church news and information and news about the Parish Council, Wilson's Endowed School, Neighbourhood Watch, Twinning Association, other Village societies and a diary of village events.

In the 2011 census data 70% of the 800 parishioners aligned themselves as being Christian and 41% had level 4 qualifications and above (bachelor's degree or equivalent and higher qualification) compared to the national average of 27%.

Further information about the Parish is available at [www.overkellet.org](http://www.overkellet.org)

In 2017 permission was granted to build 55 new dwellings in the centre of the village on land north of Old Hall Farm.

Hyperfast fibre broadband (Broadband for the rural north - B4RN) is available for many homes in Over Kellet and in 2018 will be available for St Cuthbert's Church for internet access at no charge. [www.b4rn.co.uk](http://www.b4rn.co.uk)



**Over Kellet Village Green in winter**

## The Church Building

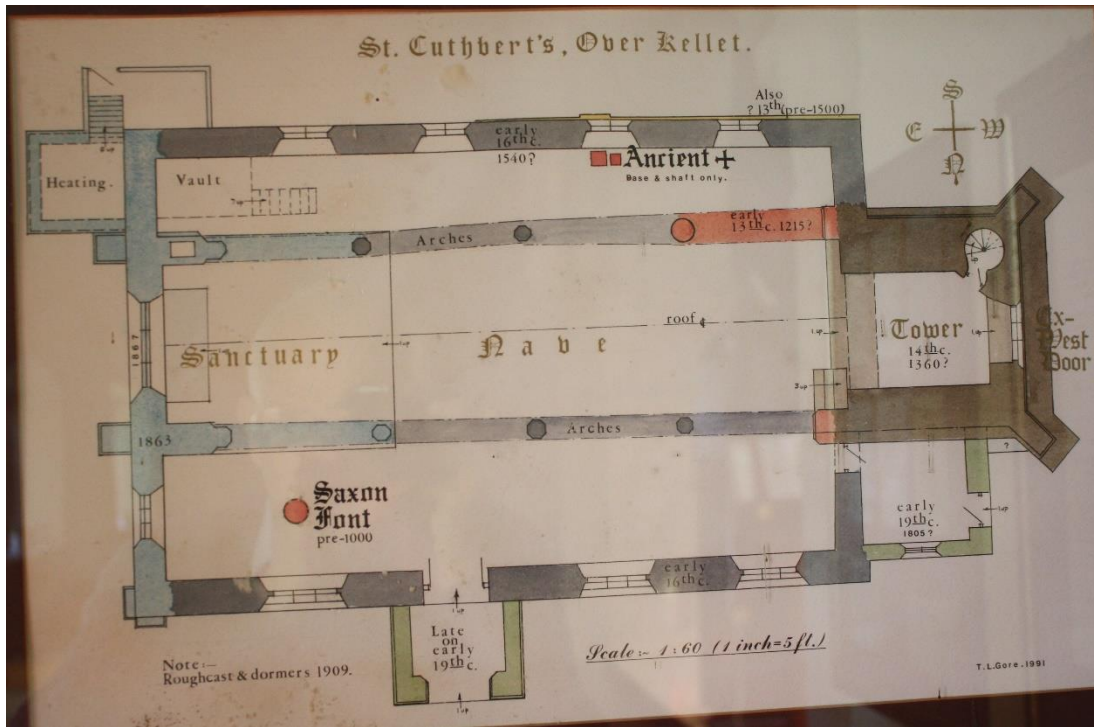
The church is situated on the south side of the village on the Nether Kellet Road and has views of Ingleborough, Morecambe Bay and the Lake District Fells.

It is most likely that there has been a church in the village since Saxon times as the granite stone font and ancient stone cross probably date from about AD900. The church which stands here today has been partly rebuilt and modified several times. In about 1215 there was a stone church on this site and the stonework of the western arch in the south aisle is from that period. In the mid 1300s a tower was added at the west end and may have been made taller in the mid 1500s, it is a heavy construction with a turreted parapet and diagonal buttresses. The tower has three bells with inscriptions. One may be medieval and is inscribed 'Sancte Petre ora pro nobis'. A second bell has an inscription 'Jesus be our speed 1664' and the third is inscribed 'T Mears of London 1824'. The box pews in the nave were erected in 1819 but those along the south wall bear the date 1690. The East Window was installed in 1868 in memory of John Booker. The church roof was restored in 1970, a vestry room in the base of the tower was constructed in 1992 and in 2006 a toilet was added on the north side beside the porch.

The kitchen in the old vestry was decorated and totally upgraded in 2017-18.

Four damaged windows on the north and south side of the church were restored and refitted in 2018.

New carpets were fitted to the aisles and front of the church in 2018.



Whilst much more could be written about the history of our ancient church it is our desire that it will continue to be a living witness to the saving power of our Lord Jesus Christ and that the building will be a place where God is worshipped 'in spirit and in truth'.

### Tunstall Deanery prayer

'O Lord, good shepherd, look with mercy on Thy flock in this deanery, keep us from straying into error and guide us into fruitful pastures. Our lot has been cast in pleasant places; make us mindful of our great heritage; and here where Thy name has been faithfully praised through many ages, let us not in our day be unworthy of continuing this so gracious a work, through the same Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

## **Worship at St Cuthbert's**

During the interregnum the 08.45 Holy Communion service has been suspended.

All services are at 10.30 with Holy Communion on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>, All Age Worship on the 2<sup>nd</sup>, Methodist Service on the 4<sup>th</sup> and Morning Worship on the 5<sup>th</sup> Sundays.

With guidance from the Area Dean we now use orders of service, based on Common Worship.

During the interregnum the ministry and witness of St Cuthbert's has been maintained and we have been well supported by visiting Anglican ministers. Support from Methodist ministers and preachers will cease in June 2018.

Additional Services are held on Good Friday, Harvest Festival, Remembrance Sunday and Christmas Eve.

We use Methodist Hymns Old and New as the principal hymn book.

The New International Version of the Bible is used at all services and NIV pew Bibles are available for the congregation.

For 7 years we have had the invaluable support of our Lay Reader Alan Hutchings whose ministry and service have been a great blessing and we look forward to his continuing support in the years to come.

We have a dedicated and competent organist who is keen for musical innovation and engagement in worship development. A singing group is formed for special church services at Christmas and Easter and this is an area for further development.

Tea, Coffee and refreshments are served after the 10.30 services which gives us time for fellowship with one another and welcoming newcomers.

A weekly newsletter is provided for the congregation with details of services, rotas, church weekly meetings, local and diocesan events and a thought for the week.

During the interregnum a weekly prayer meeting has met to pray for the future mission and ministry of St Cuthbert's and issues of local, national and international concern.

In 2017 there were 44 on the electoral roll.

## **Attendance at Services in 2017**

- The 10.30 Sunday Service has had an average attendance of 30 per service. This represents an increase of approx. 6% overall compared with the previous year.
- The monthly All Age Service has an average attendance of 33 adults and 8 children
- The attendance at Anglican and Methodist services are similar.
- The attendance of the Sunday School (Fish Club) held in the school averages 10 children
- There were 6 Funeral Services in church, no Baptisms and no Weddings.
- There were 4 School Services in church (Harvest, Christingle, Easter and end of year celebration), each with an attendance of between 130 and 170.
- The Christingle service attracts 100 children and at least 200 adults with standing room only.
- 'Special' Services included: Service of Remembrance, the Christmas Carol Service and the Christmas Eve Service – all of which attracted much higher attendances.

The slight increase in attendance during the interregnum and the increase in attendance in the All Age Services have been encouragements.



### **Christingle Service at St Cuthbert's**

#### **Church Rotas**

Rotas are established for Sidespersons, Readers, Leading Prayers, Church Cleaning, Teas and Flowers.

#### **Church Maintenance**

The Quinquennial Inspection Report (QQI) – this was carried out in June 2015. The detailed report identified 17 key areas as *'Urgent'* and requiring immediate attention at an estimated cost of £26,000.

A further 4 areas were classified as *'Requiring attention within 12 months'* at an estimated cost of £600.

Work carried out has included repairs to concrete path, painting of metal gates and railings, commencement of repair and painting to gutters and downpipes, clearance and cleaning of interior of tower, repair of one section of pews and re-carpeting of some pews. Work by contractors has attended to roofing repairs, tower drainage repair, repair and painting of dormer windows and fitting of a lightning conductor.

A detailed inspection of the bells and cradles by specialists from the Diocesan Advisory Committee have confirmed that the bells are currently unsafe to use.

Although there is a costly amount of work still to be undertaken to meet the QQI requirements, several recent legacies, specifically for the church building fund, will cover this work.

#### **Churchyard/Carpark Maintenance**

The cutting of grass and churchyard maintenance has been carried out by a small team of 3-4 helpers. The village lengthsmen is also paid to trim areas not accessible to a mower as well as weed spraying of carpark and verges.

## Young people's work

There is a very good relationship between the Church and School. As well as being a school governor the last Vicar took a very active role in giving pastoral support to the school, leading school worship services at least once a week and leading community worship once a month.

Each year several pupils from the village school are confirmed after attending confirmation classes run by the Area Dean. The church pays for Bibles to be given to all school leavers which are presented at an end of year service in church. The school hosts the monthly Sunday school (Fish Club) which has been a very successful initiative and attended by 8-12 young people. There is a very committed team of six leaders led by a churchwarden and supported by the head teacher and the young people from the Fish club contribute to the All Age Worship service in church.

Although there is no longer a youth club in the village, Capernwray Hall hosts monthly 'Rock Solid' meetings for 14-25 year olds for fun, fellowship and following Jesus.



**Fish Club Activity**

## Mission Action Plan

Following questionnaires to the congregation and parishioners and an open meeting chaired by Rev David Banbury, the Diocesan Missioner, our Mission Action Plan was developed in 2014 and endorsed and launched by Bishop Julian, Bishop of Blackburn in March 2015.

The commitment, enthusiasm and prayerful support of our MAP has been well rewarded with many successful new initiatives.

Most of the five teams (worship development, faith development, community development, pastoral, children and young peoples) met regularly and made excellent progress with the proposals developed at the planning meeting.

Of specific encouragement has been the growth of the Sunday school (Fish Club) in the Village School and their imaginative involvement at the All Age Worship Services. The enthusiastic involvement of the whole team and the head teacher Jo Williams has been exceptional.

Bi-monthly Charity Coffee mornings in the Village Hall have been successful and have raised over £1,250 in 2017.

Well attended and very successful new services (Remembrance Day, Ecumenical Candlelit Carol Service) have been held and a relaunch of the Village Summer Fayre with a flower festival in church and a Harvest Festival took place September with the Bishop of Lancaster as the guest preacher.

A rota for leading prayers in church has been well received.

All that has been achieved could not have happened without the faithful commitment of many people.

It is proposed to hold another MAP development meeting as soon as we have a new Vicar, to review the progress made, develop new proposals and review the five implementation teams. This will also be an opportunity to consider our response to The Diocesan Vision 2026 and the Crossroads Northern Bishop's Mission we were involved with in Sept 2016.

As we reflect on our MAP we are so grateful for all that has been achieved in our Lord's strength and His ministry at St Cuthbert's.

## Mission

We are regular supporters of Tearfund, the Leprosy Mission, Church of England Children's Society and local foodbank. We regularly pray for 3 former members of our Sunday School who are in full-time ministry. In 2017 a copy of 'Christmas Hope' with information about the Christmas services was distributed to all homes in the parish.

Carol singing around the village is an annual event, attracts over 20 people and in 2017 raised £130 for Tearfund.

## Fellowship & Social Events

Visitors to the church frequently comment on the warm welcome they receive at St Cuthbert's.

A weekly Bible study is held in the Village Hall, led by members, and attended by 8-10 people. During Lent a course is held using prepared material.

Bimonthly coffee mornings, held in the village hall, to support local and national charities have been successful in providing fellowship for church members and members of the village community. The charities supported have included Cancercare, Combat stress, Guide Dogs for the Blind, Samaritans, the local Down's Syndrome group, Leprosy Mission, Children's Society and the local Foodbank.

Fund raising events have included a Strawberry fayre, Christmas fayre, Christmas afternoon tea in Church, Christmas window dressing, Flower festival and teddy bears parachuting from the church tower.

Lighting of the Village Christmas tree on the Village Green attracts nearly 100 people for carol singing, refreshments and fellowship.



**Flower Festival 2016**



**Teddy Bear parachuting from church tower during flower festival and Village Gala**

## Financial

In 2017 we paid our requested share in full. There are historic arrears that have built up over the years which are being addressed by the parish and diocese.

The assets: Cash in bank accounts at 31.12.2017 were £59,849 of which £19,348 is in restricted funds to maintain the church, churchyard and improve the heating system.

Over the past 25 years successful fund-raising events have resulted in the installation of a new church organ, major refurbishment of the organ, a new church heating boiler and church toilet.

## Links with other Churches and organisations

### Methodist Church

Strong links with the Methodist Church have existed since 1992 following the closure of the village Methodist church when the 'Over Kellet Church partnership' was signed by the Bishop of Blackburn, the Methodist District Chairman, the Vicar of Over Kellet and the Methodist Minister. Following the signing of this local covenant a Methodist Service, led by a Methodist Preacher has been held on the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday at St Cuthbert's. Members of the Methodist church are fully involved in the mission and witness of our united church. With regret the covenant will be terminated in June 2018 as Methodist numbers have fallen and the covenant is no longer sustainable.

### Capernwray Hall

is a 19th century mansion set in parkland, within the Parish of Over Kellet. It was purchased in 1946 for use as a Christian holiday and conference centre and was first used as a Bible School in 1949. Since then, more and more people have taken advantage of the holidays and Bible teaching offered. Each winter the Hall is home to up to 180 students, from sometimes as many as 20 different nations. During the summer months more than 1,500 guests from all walks of life will come through Capernwray's doors. Capernwray has one of the area's most pleasant Swimming Pools and an excellent Sports Hall, both are used extensively by the local communities.

The Bible schools engages in the local community and churches with evangelistic events led by students and staff and hosts an annual Christmas concert and Open day which are very well supported by local residents. For 6 months each winter and two months in the spring four or five Bible School student attend and participate in our Sunday services and share fellowship with the congregation. They are available and willing (wider school commitments permitting) to be involved in such areas as children's and youth work, all-age services, leading music and serving in practical support tasks.

Capernwray is a unique local resource with opportunities for collaborative engagement.

Further information about Capernwray Hall is available at [www.capernwray.org](http://www.capernwray.org)

### Wilson's Endowed CE School Over Kellet

is a Voluntary Aided Church of England School in the parish of Over Kellet with Capernwray, in the diocese of Blackburn. The school was founded over three hundred years ago and it has been an important part of the village community ever since. The school offers primary education to children aged 4 to 11. The present building was built in 1973 and is spacious and well maintained with five classrooms, and a separate library. There is also a space which is used for worship, P.E., music, dinners, concerts and a thriving breakfast club and after school club. The school is surrounded by attractive and spacious gardens, a playground and a playing field. The grounds are also open to the public. Our school prides itself on its welcoming, family atmosphere.

Our community is made up of a wide variety of people including governors, staff, parents and pupils. We also welcome grandparents, neighbours and villagers to share in the life and work of our school. The school has a deeply rooted Christian character reflected in a strong partnership with St Cuthbert's Church and Blackburn Diocese.

Monthly worships, class activities in church and school services held in the church are examples of our mutually beneficial and supportive relationship.

As a school we live the Christian faith in order to nurture all aspects of our pupils' development ~ academic, spiritual, social and moral.



**Year 5 & 6 pupils collect young leaders awards from Archbishop Sentamu**

The School's updated mission statement is available at:

[www.wilsonsprimary.org.uk/starnet/media/office/MISSION\\_STATEMENT\\_2015.pdf](http://www.wilsonsprimary.org.uk/starnet/media/office/MISSION_STATEMENT_2015.pdf)

The 2017 Ofsted grading: Overall Good.

The Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) graded the school as outstanding in every area.

The growth of the Fish club, held on the first Sunday of the month at School, and the consequent increase in families attending the All Age Service on the following Sunday has been very encouraging. In 2017, this initiative was presented with the Bishop's Award, celebrating Christian Distinctiveness in Church Schools and Academies for making disciples of Jesus Christ.



**School service at St Cuthbert's in 2017**

## **Women's World Day of Prayer**

St Cuthbert's has hosted an annual WDP service in the Village for over 25 years which is a well-attended ecumenical event, with an outside speaker and Christians from different denominations.

## **Challenges**

- We accept that it is no longer viable to have a full time Vicar solely responsible for our small community and we welcome the opportunity to be part of the new plurality with Caton with Littledale St Paul which has a similar churchmanship to St Cuthbert's.
- We seek new ways of developing ministry as a combined benefice. The resultant reduction in our Parish share would enable us to be financially viable.
- We have a faithful elderly and committed congregation and our greatest challenge is to achieve sustained church growth especially with young families.
- Encouraging many parishioners who have previously worshipped at St Cuthbert's to re-engage with the village church and build up a united Christian community is a key priority.
- Maintaining our ancient Parish Church following the recent quinquennial review is a significant but achievable challenge.
- We are anxious to engage and take an active part in the Blackburn Diocese Vision 2026.
- We appreciate the need to revise the church website and develop social networking.

## **What the PCC is looking for in a new incumbent**

We are a parish church in which worship for almost 100 years has followed the low evangelical tradition of the Church of England.

Whilst we accept that our new Vicar will come with his or her own gifts we strongly favour continuing with this tradition.

We would wish for a Vicar who:

- has a clear and deeply founded biblically based faith, whose life is rooted in prayer and who has the gifts to communicate their faith in our Lord Jesus Christ in a relevant and compassionate way.
- is at one with an evangelical outlook and enjoys a variety of worship – traditional and modern, formal and informal.
- is pastorally sensitive, with a passion for building genuine Christian community across all life-stages and circumstances.
- will support the Christian ministry in the school, provide pastoral support for staff and families and provide Christian vision as a member of the school's governing body.
- has a heart for the spiritual growth and transformation of believers to become more Christ-like in their lives and service.
- will encourage the laity to develop and use their gifts to be 'the body of Christ'.
- is committed to fostering unity amongst Christians, wherever possible seeking warm partnership with other local fellowships, including Capernwray Hall.
- has an openness to engage in new ways of expanding ministry and the growth of our church for the glory of God.

**The Churchwardens & PCC  
St Cuthbert's Church  
20.02.18**