

Parish Profile

Benefice of Clitheroe, Chatburn and Downham



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1. Introduction

Dear Sister or Brother,

The Diocese of Blackburn is passionate about the renewal of Parish life. Vision 2026 sets before the churches of Lancashire 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.

Lancashire is a wonderful place to minister, without doubt the most diverse and beautiful county in England. We can therefore offer an extraordinary range of contexts for ministry: from areas of great opulence to the most income deprived communities in the UK, from remote countryside to densely populated former industrial communities and from brightly lit coastal towns to elegant university cities.

We have the most wonderful and precious family of church schools (95% of our headteachers are practising Christians) which offers both an evangelistic opportunity and the best possible start for clergy children.

People in Lancashire have high expectations of their priests who play a key role in the communities they serve. Ministry can therefore be hard work and so this is a Diocese which will offer all the support it can to its parish clergy. Bishops, Archdeacons and Area Deans do their best to know their clergy well, we offer supportive programmes such as our new five year Start of Ministry Course and the Parish Renewal Programme and there are close friendships and strong networks between clergy of all traditions.

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.

The Bishop of Burnley
The Rt Revd Philip North



The Bishop of Lancaster
The Rt Revd Dr Jill Duff



2. Diocesan Vision

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

All that we do as diocese is focussed on the delivery of Vision 2026. To make disciples we are raising levels of prayer, helping regular patterns of bible reading to be established and encouraging generous giving of time, talents and treasures. To be witnesses, many parishes are setting up new local congregations at different times and in different places to reach out to new groups of people as well as showing God's love in action through projects that meet a local human need. New leaders are emerging as we seek to enable and equip those God is raising up in our midst for lay and ordained ministry. And our focus on children and young people is enabling creative thinking to raise up a new generation for Jesus Christ.



Over 85% of our parishes have a 'Vision Champion'. This is usually a lay appointment and the Champions' role is to encourage and support their parish leaders in pursuing the goals of Vision 2026 in a way that is appropriate for their local community.

Vision Champions from different parishes meet to share ideas and pray together

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.

Through prayer we see the grace and power of God who can alone bring renewal and growth. Our Diocesan Vision Prayer is:

*"Heavenly Father, we embrace Your call for us to make disciples, to be witnesses,
to grow leaders and to inspire children and young people.
Give us 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"*

You can find out more by visiting the Vision 2026 pages on our website: www.blackburn.anglican.org

Carolyn Barton, Director of Vision Delivery



3. We Look After You

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 Centre for Christian Discipleship and Prayer

- 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.
- We offer an Annual Conversation in which every licensed priest spends 90 mins with a Bishop or Archdeacon discussing ministry and wellbeing.
- If you are looking for a spiritual director or a mentor we have an excellent Warden of Spiritual Direction and 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, a cricket team and a clergy walking group. Further suggestions are welcome.
- We offer first incumbents a mentor and participation in our 5 year Start of Ministry Programme.

Bishop Philip leads a clergy walk



4. Executive Summary

The benefice comprises a market town and three villages in the Ribble Valley close to the A59 and the M6 motorway and with its own railway station. Although mainly affluent, the area has pockets of deprivation, and we are increasingly challenged by its social, welfare and spiritual needs to find responses to share and act upon the Gospel message.

The churches have a broadly traditional Anglican approach to faith and worship, but within that offer opportunities to lead a variety of service styles. We are four separate parishes each with its own PCC. We value our differences but are open to developing further partnerships and sensitive exploration of new worship styles, with lay and ordained working together to grow congregations whilst retaining all that is good in our rich heritage of Common Prayer.

The Vicar has oversight of all four parishes, with an Associate Minister having specific responsibility for the day-to-day management of St Paul's and Christ Church, leaving the Vicar free to focus on St. Mary Magdalene's and St. Leonard's. There are two retired clergy living in the Benefice, who hold Permission to Officiate, also willing to help. Committed lay people sit on the churches' PCCs; assist at the Eucharist in a variety of roles; serve as Vision Champions; staff the Pastoral Visiting and Sick and Housebound Holy Communion teams; lead Lent and Advent Study Groups and organize fundraising events. Clitheroe churches all work together on large-scale missional events, such as the Love Clitheroe barbecue.

We have a diversity of links with communities: with the long-established Clitheroe Christians in Partnership; with local primary schools and Messy Church; with Soup Lunches and Teacake Tuesdays; with Christian Union in secondary school and children's uniformed organisations: with the Ribble Valley Climate Action Network and charity collections partnering with Rotary, all providing opportunities for mission and growth which the Vision 2026 challenge tasks us to achieve.

Our church buildings are in good repair. There has been extensive reordering in three churches, providing more flexible spaces for worship and community use and enabling better engagement with young people, new families, and others outside the church. Financially, we are solvent, all churches having paid their parish share in full this year.

We offer a warm welcome, Parish Office clerical support, and diversity of ministry. Settled village communities and Clitheroe's new housing both demonstrate it is a place where people like to live.

5. The Benefice of Clitheroe, Chatburn and Downham



The Benefice's four parishes in the scenic Ribble Valley, stretch from the River Ribble to the slopes, (but not the summit) of Pendle Hill. About two thirds of Clitheroe, including the town centre, lie within the boundary. To the northeast, the villages of Chatburn and Downham are largely rural. Housing developments are under construction in three of the four parishes.

The United Benefice came into being just over four years ago to incorporate St Paul's, Low Moor into the existing arrangement with Christ Church, Chatburn and St Leonard's, Downham which both joined St Mary's nine years ago. The post of part time Associate Minister was introduced and Revd Catherine Hale- Heighway was appointed with specific responsibility for St Paul's (0.5) and Christ Church (0.25).

Ribble Valley Borough Council's and Clitheroe Town Council's offices are in Clitheroe. Larger employers are the Borough Council, Hanson Cement, Ultraframe and Johnson Matthey. There are several industrial estates and many small businesses. Some residents commute to work in nearby towns.

Clitheroe and district have good schools including five primaries (of which four are in the Benefice) and two secondary schools.

Clitheroe and Chatburn have a variety of independent shops. Clitheroe has five supermarkets and a thriving open market. There are regular bus and train services to Manchester and Preston.

There is a cinema, and St Mary's Centre and the Grand Venue where productions, concerts and events are staged, often in connection with various churches and organisations. The Benefice is well situated for walking and cycling in beautiful countryside.

Our parishes and the Wider Community

St. Mary Magdalene's

Clitheroe is built on a ridge with the Castle and its museum at one end and St. Mary Magdalene's church at the other. Away from the town centre but still in the parish is the Community Hospital where the previous incumbent served as chaplain. There are industrial estates at Salthill where there is an auction market, and at Upbrooks. Clitheroe Football club, the Wolves youth football club and one of the town's two cricket clubs are also within the parish. Housing is a mixture of older properties in the town centre and newer building further out, including several recent developments ranging from small infill to larger brownfield sites and substantial developments off Chatburn Road and Waddington Road.

Pendle and Brookside primary schools, the Grammar School and Moorland private school are all in St. Mary Magdalene's parish.

Clitheroe is a very friendly town where it is easy to get to know people and most places are within walking distance.



St Leonard's Downham and Twiston



Downham Village

Downham and Twiston are a village and hamlet in the Forest of Bowland Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, with a population of around 275 (214 Downham 2011 Census and 64 Twiston 2001 Census). There is a highly-popular pre-school in the village (rated "Outstanding" by Ofsted) with good links to the church. The pub opposite provides toilets for congregational use. The ice cream shop at the bottom of the village is a popular destination for residents and visitors.

In 1558 the Assheton family purchased part of the village and currently own it all. It is a Planning Conservation Area with numerous Listed Buildings. Visually unsightly elements of modern

life are strictly controlled, while progress continues behind the scenes. Queen Mary is reported as saying that St Leonard's has the best view from a church in the whole of England!

St Paul's Low Moor



St. Paul's, Low Moor lies in the heart of the Ribble Valley – an area of outstanding natural beauty. Situated on the edge of Clitheroe, our parish incorporates the historic village of Low Moor. Very close to the Edisford Campsite and the River Ribble, a popular tourist attraction, our parish is an extremely desirable area in which to live, especially popular with young families, and the local schools are good.

The Associate Minister lives in the modern, well-maintained DBF house, a 4-bedroom property set in a reasonably sized garden next door to the church.

Housing in our parish is built mainly on privately-owned estates with some local authority properties. There are several new housing developments in the parish.

There is one Community Primary school in the parish which is situated across the road from St Paul's Church. Closer links between the two have been established over the past four years. Our Associate Minister is a member of the Governing Body.

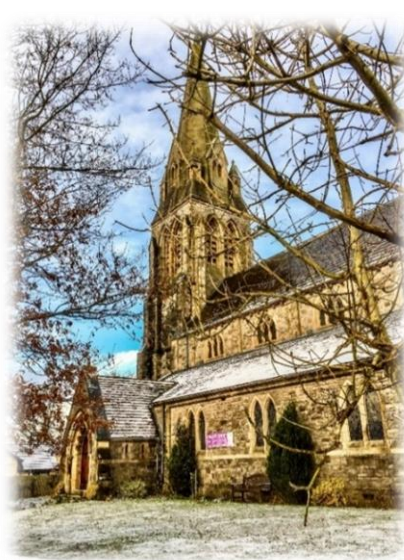
There is also a social club in Low Moor village and an increasingly popular pub and restaurant at the Edisford Bridge.

The village of Low Moor has a cenotaph where an annual service on Remembrance Day is led by the Associate Minister. This very significant event is attended by veterans and supported by our uniformed organisations.

St Paul's parish includes two nursing homes (where a monthly residents' communion service is held), two areas of sheltered accommodation and a specialist home for adults with complex mental issues. The close links we enjoyed with these establishments before the pandemic have now been re-established.

There is a Spar supermarket across the road from the church, but the main shopping area is in Clitheroe town centre.

Christchurch Chatburn



Chatburn, originally a close-knit community based round the local mill, has become more of a commuter village in recent years. There are two local pubs, a post office and a small number of shops, including the famous Pie and Ice Cream Shops. Chatburn VA school has excellent links with Christ Church and was rated Outstanding at the last inspection in 2012 and Outstanding in the recent SIAMS Inspection. We have a strong working relationship with the local Methodist Chapel and the Manor House, a large and extremely popular Nursing Home in the village. There are also Cricket, Football and Canoeing Clubs, a Village Hall and beautiful playing fields. The Parish Council and the Village Committee are both active in supporting and organising a variety of events.

The hamlet of Worston, near Chatburn, has a mission room intended originally for services. Although these have been discontinued, a short service of Evensong is now regularly held before a book group meeting, where matters of faith are explored. The previous incumbent was a trustee of the building and the adjoining cottage.

BENEFACTE DEMOGRAPHICS Parish by Parish				
	St Mary's	St Leonards	St Paul's	Christ Church
Population				
	5700	275	3536	1153
Age spread				
0-4	350	4	442	104
5-15	750	5	442	131
16-64	3500	150	1653	553
65+	1050	115	1498	365
Ethnic Mix				
British	95%	100%	98%	98%
Minority Ethnic	3%	0%	2%	2%

Other Faith Mix				
Christian	77%	100%	74%	83%
Muslim	2%	0%	2%	1%
No Religion				16%
Education background of population				
have no qualification	18%	Unknown	24%	21%
degree level or above	27%	10%	27%	30%
Employment				
lower managerial	26%		50%	Couldn't find a breakdown
administration professional	12%		12%	
small employers	11%		12%	
own account workers	11%		26%	
Major Employer(s)				
Deprivation Index				
least deprived	- 10%		50%	
Child Poverty				
	8%		1%	
Main Issues				
Housing Conditions	N	N	Y/N	
Local Amenities	N	Y	Y/N	
Housing Mix				
Owner occupied	70%	20%	70%	
Social / Rented housing	10%	80%	30%	

6 Our church communities

St. Mary Magdalene's



The congregation and worship

The congregation at St. Mary Magdalene's comes from a diversity of backgrounds – Lancashire Low, High, Evangelical, Non-conformist, Roman Catholic and others, and everyone's contribution is welcome. The principal Sunday service is usually the Eucharist but several times a year it is a non-eucharistic Family and Parade service. The choir also lead choral afternoon or evening services from time to time. Vestments are usually, but not always, worn at the Sunday Eucharist. A retired priest and the Associate Minister sometimes lead services.

To help the incumbent in leading worship we have a duty warden and teams of sidespersons, readers and intercession leaders. Altar servers and lay assistants help with the distribution of bread and wine.

Music is led by our Director of Music and small but accomplished robed choir. St. Mary Magdalene's has a strong musical tradition. We have expressed an interest in the Choir Church initiative because it seems a possible way of using music to build a new congregation, although we feel we cannot pursue this until we have a new incumbent.



Refreshments are served at the back of church after the Sunday morning service.

We have a team of "welcomers" who help at baptisms and a team of vergers for weddings and funerals.

Pastoral support

Lay Assistants take Communion to care homes in the Parish and visit people in their homes. Members of the congregation visit the housebound on an informal basis.

The system of Telephone Friends started during the pandemic and has continued.

Harvest gifts and Mothering Sunday flowers are distributed by the congregation to those who cannot come to the services.

Learning and growing together

Teaching/devotional materials are provided in Advent and Lent and during “Thy Kingdom Come”. We joined with the other four churches in face-to-face Lent groups during 2022 for the first time since the pandemic.

We have a Bible Reading Fellowship representative who distributes BRF notes regularly.

The former vicar live-streamed Morning Prayer six days a week and normally had 15 – 20 people viewing during the day, a new congregation established during the pandemic and still continuing.

There is a weekly Teleconference Prayer meeting. The previous Vicar held a Bereavement Group.

We held a Congregational AwayDay for mission planning on 21st January 2023.

Not only on a Sunday

Beavers, Cubs and Scouts, the St Mary’s Play Group, the Ladies’ Badminton Group and the Parish Church Operatic and Dramatic Society all meet in St. Mary’s Centre.

The Ladies’ Group meets fortnightly and Children’s Church weekly in the Choir Vestry.

The Bellringers practise weekly.

Behind the scenes

The Flower Arranging and Cleaning teams work during the week. The Standing Committee meets each month.

We hold several gardening days each year and volunteers work in the church garden whenever they can.

The Parochial Church Council of 14 meets 10 times a year including the Annual Parochial Church Meeting. There are two wardens and a deputy warden who is also the PCC secretary.

Communication

Parish Office St. Mary’s Centre admin@stmaryclitheroe.com

website <https://stmarysclitheroe.co.uk>

A Church Near You [St Mary Magdalene - A Church Near You](#)

YouTube [stmaryclitheroe - YouTube](#)

Facebook [St Mary Magdalene Clitheroe | Facebook](#)

Weekly notice sheet

We have an excellent Parish Magazine with a circulation of about 200.

A card detailing the Christmas services is delivered to every home in the parish.

However, we believe that the best communication remains word of mouth and contact by clergy and congregation with people they meet about town and where they live and work.

Ecumenical



We are active members of Clitheroe Christians in Partnership.

Presenting ‘900 squares for 900 years’ anniversary blankets to Captain Elizabeth of Clitheroe’s Salvation Army.

St Leonard, Downham and Twiston



St Leonard's is a friendly, traditional village church which values and thrives on the Book of Common Prayer. There are between 15 - 25 regular worshippers at our main Sunday morning service at 11.15 with larger numbers on festival Sundays. We have Communion on the first and third Sundays of each month with Matins on the remaining Sundays. The clergy use either cassocks and surplices or an alb and stole. We have a small but very accomplished choir and a digital organ. We also have a keen group of Bell Ringers.

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. The church is decorated for Easter, Harvest, Remembrance and Christmas and always has wonderful floral displays. A newsletter is produced each month and circulated to all households in the Parish.

There was 1 interment of ashes at the church in the twelve months to October 2022. There were 7 weddings and 6 baptisms in the same period.

St Paul's Low Moor

St Paul's has a Church Warden, a Deputy Warden and someone shadowing this year in order to assume the role next year. There are 15 members of the PCC.



Our Associate Minister, Revd Catherine Hale-Heighway, has responsibility for St Paul's (half time). She also has the role of an ADDO in the Diocese and takes day to day responsibility for St Paul's and Christ Church, which encompasses weekly services, pastoral work and occasional services. She also chairs the two PCCs and leads school assemblies

We work together as a Benefice in terms of Confirmation groups and for certain services throughout the year such as Ash Wednesday, Ascension Day, All Souls and Advent. We also hold reflection groups during Advent and Lent using Diocesan materials.

Before the pandemic, all four PCCs met together, and during the pandemic online services were developed for our Benefice when our churches were forced to close.

We have a retired member of clergy with PTO who plays an active role alongside our Reader Emeritus. Our newly appointed Vision Champion is looking forward to taking the role forward.

There is much lay involvement in the running of the church, including the "Friends of St Paul's" who raise funds to support the fabric of the building. We have a large group of people who read the lesson and Gospel and who also lead intercession. The Churchmanship is liberal, robes consisting of cassock, alb and stole or cassock and surplice. St Paul's has a very caring church community who all take responsibility for pastoral care. We join with the Benefice for study and discussion sessions.



Families meet monthly at 11.00am on the 4th Sunday for Family Praise and Lego Church on the 4th Tuesday after school. We have a small Mothers Union group and a growing, enthusiastic choir.

Christchurch Chatburn

We have a growing Church Community, led by our Associate Minister with responsibility for Christ Church (¼ time) and supported by our retired Priest with PTO. Our two Church Wardens and Vision Champion are great assets, and we have a dedicated group of people who offer support. Lay involvement incorporates leading intercessions and reading the lessons.

Our PCC has 12 members.



Children's work has blossomed over the past few years through Sunday Club, held weekly at the back of church during the Service, but particularly through Messy Church held quarterly on a Sunday afternoon. Children are regularly involved in worship. Throughout Covid we were able to record services and keep in touch with our congregation via telephone Ministry

The church hosts several Fund-Raising events throughout the year either in church or school and re-established monthly Winter Warmer Lunches for the local community.

Churchmanship is low and clergy wear an alb, or cassock and surplice.

Pastoral support in the Parish continues to develop.

Study groups are held at Christ Church during Lent and Advent as well as faith discussion groups at other times of the year.

Our Way Forward group supports our Mission and Worship and how we take the Diocesan Vision forward. Our Vision Champion works tirelessly to encourage and publicise the work done at Christ Church.



Clitheroe Ukulele Orchestra Concert

CHURCH LIFE AND SERVICES IN OUR BENEFICE							
			St Mary's		St Leonards	St Paul's	Christ Church
Patron							
			The Bishop of Blackburn		The Lord Clitheroe	The Bishop of Blackburn	The Bishop of Blackburn
Electoral Roll 2022							
Number			208		36	53	44
Age Profile of the Church							
0-17			6		0	9	12
18-69			12		10	15	21
70+			53		10	42	23
Occasional Offices, Celebrations etc.							
Baptisms			29		6	7	7
Weddings			3		7	4	0
Confirmation	Adult candidates	0		0		0	3
	Under 16 candidates	0		0		0	2
Funerals	in church	20		0		10	6 including Thanksgiving
	Crematorium	13				6	
Normal weekly attendance	adult	68		17		39	24
	under	5	0			2	6

Festivals					
Easter	Communicants	81	30	44	40
	Attendance	86	35	53	65
Christmas	Communicants	77	60	30	11
	Attendance	586	75	35	14
Christingle Christmas Eve					140
Our Services					
St Mary's		Sunday 8.00am - Holy Communion Sunday 10.00am – Sung Eucharist Sunday 6.30pm – Evening Prayer Thursday 1.30pm – Children's Church Friday 10.30am - Holy Communion			
St Leonards		Sunday morning worship at 11.15 am with larger numbers on festival Sundays. Holy Communion on the first and third Sundays of each month with Matins on the remaining Sundays			
St Paul's		1st, 3rd and 4th Sundays 9.30 Holy Communion, 2nd Sunday All Age Worship, 5th Sunday Morning Prayer or Seasonal Service eg Candlemas. 4th Sunday Family Praise, 4th Tuesday Lego Church			
Christ Church		11.00 1st and 3rd Sundays Holy Communion, 11.01 2nd Sunday All Age Worship, 11.02 4th Sunday Morning Prayer 10.00 Tuesdays Holy Communion			

7 Our Church Buildings

St. Mary Magdalene's



St. Mary Magdalene's is a Grade II* listed building. Much of it is of late Georgian date but there are substantial fifteenth century sections at the east and west ends. There has been a church on this site since at least 1122 so we have just celebrated the 900th anniversary of the building. The church is light and welcoming. The chancel was re-ordered about 5 years ago making a much less crowded and more flexible space. A glass south door was installed and the whole building redecorated. The building is in good repair. The most recent Quinquennial Inspection took place in late 2019-2020 and the report was received in April 2020. All Category A and B matters have been dealt with and we are working our way through Category C "requires attention within 24 months". The architect noted that, "The church is generally in good condition and well cared for."

St. Mary Magdalene's is the largest public building in Clitheroe with a seating capacity of about 800. It is filled several times a year including for Remembrance Sunday, Christingle, School services and concerts. We have recently installed projection and livestreaming system and would like to develop its use in worship in an acceptable and sensitive way. We would also like to make greater use of it for other events. There are 8 bells in the tower. We have a knowledgeable and enthusiastic Tower Captain. We have recently invested in a Training Bell and hope to interest young people as well as adults in learning to ring.



A team of Lockers-Up ensure that the church can be open for private prayer and visiting nearly every day. Volunteer teams clean the church regularly. Our up-to-date Health and Safety Policy may be viewed on our website. One of our wardens is our Safeguarding and Health and Safety Officer.

There is level access to the church through the South Door. There is a disabled lavatory. The church has a hearing loop system.

The Churchyard



The churchyard is closed for burials but cremated remains can be buried in an area close to the south wall. The church garden is one of our assets – a peaceful oasis with benches along the south wall of the church. A public footpath runs through it, and we aim to welcome the many people who come past and to help them feel connected with the church. We hold events in the church garden. The Borough Council is responsible for mowing the grass and cutting the hedges beside the public footpath. Volunteers do the rest.

The Vicarage



The Vicarage, a Grade II listed house near the church, has extensive views from the rear.

The ground floor has a study, living room, large kitchen and a dining room. There is also a toilet with a hand basin.

On the first floor are 5 bedrooms and a bathroom with shower and bath. 1 bedroom is ensuite and 3 have wash basins.

The cellars and former coach house are suitable for storage.

There is a small, paved area in front of the house and a garden at the rear.

Car parking is either on-street or in a private car park at the bottom of the garden (two spaces with one visitor space).

St Mary's Centre.

We own the building across the road from the church. It was built as a Sunday School and is now known as St. Mary's Centre. The building is vested in Trustees who are appointed by and answerable to the PCC. It is run by a Management Team consisting of members of the congregation and representatives of user groups, along with trustee representatives. Its finances are separate from the church finances. It is used by both church and community groups. The building includes two large halls, a smaller room, a large kitchen and the Parish Office. The upper hall has the largest stage in Clitheroe which is regularly used by the thriving Clitheroe Parish Church Operatic and Dramatic Society as well as by other groups.



This is a not-for-profit community hall, with any annual surplus reinvested in the building.

The Trustees will use money from the recent sale of land for improvements to the main building.

St Leonard, Downham and Twiston

The building suits the community well, with chairs rather than pews allowing for occasional changes in format (particularly useful during pandemics and for concerts).

The building is in good repair. It was last rebuilt 100 years ago. The only leaks are in the Medieval tower during the harshest of westerly gales. A Quinquennial inspection has been made this year and the report is awaited. It is Grade II* and so of regional architectural importance and is open from 8am until dusk daily. A team of parishioners cleans the building weekly. The building has a risk assessment. For those with disabilities, there is a hearing loop and reasonable wheelchair access.

The grounds consist of the churchyard. This is maintained by volunteers under the supervision of the Wardens. The churchyard is almost full, so burials are very strictly limited. There is a designated area for the burial of ashes, but this too is small and is carefully controlled.

The parish does not have a vicarage or a church hall

St Paul's Low Moor



The church was reordered 12 years ago, making it more user friendly. About half the pews were removed to create an open, more usable space. We also had a modern kitchen, two toilets (one with disability access) and a meeting room incorporated in the church building. The result created a multi-functional building enabling the church to be used extensively for community activities. A popular Pilates class is held three times a

week. We also have a monthly Soup Lunch serving homemade soup and cakes to a wider community – this is a popular outreach event- and we raise funds for church and other charities.

We hold community events in church including Band Concerts, Quiz Nights and Craft Evenings.



We are a caring community, aiming to reach out in love to the people of the Parish and to spread the gospel message to everyone.

Christchurch Chatburn



Our Church, the first Victoria Church to be built, is very well-maintained building because of an extensive programme over the last six years. Our Quinquennial Inspection is imminent.

Our churchyard is beautifully kept and is open for burials. We have a Memorial Garden for the Burial of Ashes. The Church seats about 120 adults and has been reordered to provide an area at the back of

church for refreshments and activities as well as a kitchen and accessible toilet.

There is disabled access, and we employ a gardener to maintain the grounds.

The Vicarage at Chatburn was sold many years ago. We do not have a Church Hall but can use the school hall (through arrangement with the Headteacher) for Fund Raising Events.

8 Church Finances

St. Mary Magdalene

The church is in a strong financial position, but with an ageing congregation, inflation and energy prices there are considerable problems to overcome in the future. The regular giving income comes from 71 donors. There has not been a stewardship campaign since before the pandemic, and there will be a fine balance to be achieved between increasing the giving per person and increasing the number of regular givers, whilst not proportionally reducing the loose plate giving in the current adverse economic situation.

There are payment options via the website [£1569] Sumup card reader [£285] and Gift-aided unplanned giving [white envelope scheme £5969].

Fundraising events are regularly held [£2100] including organ recitals, fashion shows and sale of Christmas cards

No further large fundraising is planned in this period, as £25,000 has just been spent on audio-visual and internet equipment, using a bequest's investment funds.

We pay the incumbent's expenses, and, in this period, we have reimbursed £1382 in expenses.

St Leonard, Downham and Twiston

We are just surviving financially, but the Parish share equates to almost 70% of our expenditure. There have been no recent Stewardship campaigns. We raise money by regular giving, the Sunday collection, periodic concerts and revenue from weddings.

We anticipate a large (as yet unquantified) bill for rewiring. We pay a proportion of the incumbent's expenses.

St Paul's Low Moor

Thanks to a legacy, our finances are in good order and St Paul's is in a better position than for some time and can pay our parish share. We have held regular giving campaigns over the last 4 years and raise money through a variety of fund-raising events throughout the year. Much of this money will be spent on improvements and mission.

Christchurch Chatburn

A great deal has been spent on the building over the last 6 years and after the pandemic we were lower on funds than in the past. We have held a Gift Day and raise money through a variety of fund-raising activities. Incumbent expenses are offered.

CHURCH FINANCES				
Finance Returns	St Mary's	St Leonards	St Paul's	Christ Church
Year 2021				
Description	Amount £			
Parish Income	£124,752	£20,321	£118,584	39,383

Tax Efficient Planned Giving	£49,239	£9,603	£19,710	£14,185
Amount per person per week	£13.34	£13.20	£9.48	£6.35
Parish Expenditure	£149,378	£22,025	£40,135	£36,615
Parish Share Assessed	£67,234	£16,901	£26,833	£21,877
Parish Share Paid	£67,234	17,000	£18,000 but we are able to pay the remainder before the year end.	£21,877

9 Our Schools

St. Mary Magdalene's

We have strong links with Pendle and Brookside primary schools, Clitheroe Royal Grammar school and Moorland, a private school. Pendle Primary School holds services in church, as does Moorland. We have school groups who visit the church in connection with their studies.

Clitheroe Royal Grammar School holds their Founders Day and Christmas services in St. Mary Magdalene's and the previous incumbent was involved there in the Christian Union. He also led assemblies in the primary schools of the parish and of the wider area.

The previous incumbent was a Trustee of the Clitheroe Royal Grammar School.

St Leonard, Downham and Twiston

The Pre-school (formerly the Downham village primary school) is operated as a Limited Company. It rents the building from a Trust of which the Vicar has traditionally been a Trustee. Interaction between the Pre-School and Vicar is largely at the Vicar's discretion.

St Paul's Low Moor

The relationship between Edisford County Primary School and our church has much improved during the past 4 years. The Associate Minister is a member of the Governing Body and the children have taken part in our Easter Experience (inside and in the church grounds) over the two years of the pandemic. The children have sung in church to open our Christmas Tree Festival and twice joined us for worship on Civic Sunday when the services have been held at St Paul's. The Pre-school will be holding their Nativity Service in church for the first time this year.

Christchurch Chatburn



Chatburn Primary School is next to the Church, and we have strong links. The Associate Minister leads worship there each week and visits classes to support the Diocesan RE Curriculum. The children come to Church monthly as well as for Seasonal Services and to 'Experience Easter' which is held in our grounds. Our current Associate Minister is a member of the Governing Body which includes 6 Foundation Governors. The Pre-School is an independent organisation with whom we are developing closer links.

10 Our Links into the Wider Community

St. Mary Magdalene

Both Borough and Town Councils have their offices near the church. We hold an annual civic service for the Town Mayor and for the Borough Mayor if he/she requests it. Both mayors are invited to appropriate events. Past incumbents have served as civic chaplains. Staff from the Council offices often visit the church garden at lunch time when the weather is warm.

The connection between the incumbent and the councils is an important link between the church and local government.

Clitheroe has the following care homes: Abbeyfield, Beech Grove (located near to St Paul's Church Low Moor), Low Field, The Clitheroe Home, High Brake House, and Castlefield. Pastoral Visitors take Holy Communion to the residents of all these homes as often as they are able (in line with the health requirements of the homes) and to housebound parishioners. A monthly Holy Communion service is held at Well Court sheltered accommodation.



St Mary Magdalene's has Beaver, Cub and Scout groups which meet in St Mary's Centre. The previous incumbent, one of the Wardens and a PCC member have links with the Scout group. The members come to Parade services and hold activities in the church and church garden.

St Mary's Playgroup meets in the Lower Hall at St. Mary's Centre. Volunteers from the congregation make refreshments. The previous incumbent called in regularly.

The previous incumbent was the Hospital Chaplain for Clitheroe Community Hospital, situated within the parish.



Business, commerce and industry

Tourism is important to the local economy, and the church building and garden are an attraction for visitors. Many people following a Murder Mystery trail and other activities promoted by the Tourist Information Centre welcome the building's being open. We have a free explanatory leaflet and copies of "Hope" magazine available from dispensers in the church garden. Periodically we have displays in the garden, such as the Easter Trail and Christmas Angels.

Some businesses are generous when we are raising money, particularly for building repairs. Many shops participate in a form of Posada and similar events if asked and display posters for church events. The Chamber of Trade appreciate interest from the church.

St Leonard, Downham and Twiston

There are no specific links with the Local Authority, and neither are there local civic duties expected of the incumbent.

There are no day centres, rest homes, care homes or nursing homes here, but community members help one another. Likewise, there are no dedicated facilities for the youth of the area, but they associate with each other and tend to watch out for one another.

One of the ways in which the church keeps in touch with the whole parish community is by producing a newsletter each month which is circulated to all households in the Parish.

There are several small businesses (the Assheton Arms being the biggest) including builders, vehicle mechanics, two small office-based businesses and several home workers.

St Paul's Low Moor

The annual Civic Service has been held at St Paul's for the past two years as the Mayors have had close connections with our church. Our Associate Minister leads the annual Remembrance Day service at St Paul's cenotaph. We work with Clitheroe Churches in Partnership who run a variety of events throughout the year, including the new holiday club, where St Paul's hosts a day for children and families during half terms.

Christchurch Chatburn

We publish a Village Newsletter each month, with the financial support of Hanson Cement and advertising from local business. The Newsletter incorporates contributions from school, the Village Committee, the Methodist Chapel, the library and the Manor House and is delivered to every home in the Village.



We visit our local Residential Home with the Methodist Minister to distribute Holy Communion. We have good links with local businesses and value their support.

Blessing our Bug Hotel

11. Our Vision - Some ways in which our parishes are

Making disciples –

- a) Holding study groups for members of all churches during Lent and Advent.
- b) Benefice confirmation preparation groups.
- c) Distributing and encouraging the use of Diocesan and other devotional and study materials in Lent, “Thy Kingdom Come” and Advent.
- d) Holding a congregational AwayDay.
- e) Promoting regular Bible reading e.g. BRF.
- f) Morning Prayer online.

Being witnesses –

- a) All our church buildings are open during daylight on most days
- b) Whitsuntide open air service.
- c) Holding regular family/invitational events and services
- d) Using our church gardens for distribution of “Hope” magazines etc from dispensers and for events such as “Easter out of doors”
- e) Preparing and distributing regular Parish newsletters and Magazines
- f) Soup and “Winter warmer” lunches.

Growing leaders –

- a) Encouraging younger people to help with social media and IT equipment.
- b) Encouraging more intercession leaders
- c) Encouraging potential leaders by offering a “shadowing” experience

Inspiring children and young people -

- a) Working with Beavers, Cubs and scouts
- b) Keeping in regular contact with playgroup
- c) Messy Church/Lego Church/Children’s Church
- d) Encouraging young people to read/lead prayers/help in other ways at services
- e) School visits to church

Transforming communities –

- a) Contributing regularly to the Ribble Valley Foodbank
- b) Volunteering at the English Club
- c) Supporting a homeless refugee until another agency could take on his case
- d) Involvement in local voluntary organisations e.g. Rotary, Crossroads Care, Good News for Everyone

And some ways in which we are working together –

- a) Joint services for special occasions e.g. Ash Wednesday, All Souls’ Day
- b) Willingness to co-operate about Sunday service times.
- c) Joint study groups and Confirmation preparation
- d) Sharing administrative support.
- e) Sharing expertise
- f) Sharing fund raising opportunities
- g) All four congregations joined in force for Vicar Andy’s last service and the following farewell party

Summary

We are looking for a priest who will:

- Be a “Heart in Heaven and feet on the ground” person with a pastoral heart who is approachable and a good listener with a sense of humour, flexible and able to connect with everyone, making them feel welcome, loved and important.
- Seek to develop the potential of the people, buildings, equipment and resources of our churches so that we grow as “healthy churches transforming our community”.
- Develop and strengthen the ministry to young people both in schools and in church organisations.
- Enjoy, appreciate and work with the variety presented by four different parishes within one Benefice including conducting matins and Holy Communion from the Book of Common Prayer, thereby leading traditional worship in a modern context.
- Be prepared to work within the realities of the Parish demographics and dynamics.

What We Offer –

A blend of regular and special services and outreach initiatives outlined above. At St. Leonard’s there is also the annual “Assheton Sermon”, preached by a visiting Vicar each January, as it has been since 1679 and an outdoor “Songs of Praise” Service on Whit Sunday. All four churches hold Christingle services and periodically host a variety of concerts.

We offer a warm, supportive welcome to churches that seek to make a Christian difference in their communities.



Vision Champions, and at St. Mary Magdalene’s the small group of Associate Vision Champions, work together. We have a Parish Office in St. Mary’s Centre. There is a paid Parish Administrator, and to help the incumbent there is a Standing Committee (one of whom is the Safeguarding Officer). The Vision Champions and Director of Music also assist.

Clitheroe has plenty of places to meet for coffee or a meal. There is a dry ski slope on Pendle Hill and a newly created nature reserve in the town. For the even more energetic there is a weekly Park Run.

We Need:

- Someone who preaches the Gospel and helps the congregation to live it.
- Someone who knows God is calling him/her to parish ministry.
- Someone who can appreciate and work with the variety presented by four different parishes within one Benefice enjoying leading both traditional and more informal forms of worship.
- A good communicator who sees himself/herself as the Vicar of the whole benefice, not just of the congregations and can relate to churchgoers and non-churchgoers alike.
- Someone who will prioritise baptism and confirmation preparation and follow-up.
- Someone gifted in discerning where the Holy Spirit is working in this benefice and, with the aid of the Associate Minister, in helping our four churches’ future planning.
- A good-humoured, empathetic optimist.