

Parish of Padiham with Hapton and Padiham Green



Parish Profile

2025

St Leonard's Church
Church Street
Padiham
BB12 8SR

St Margaret's Church
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Hapton
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Introduction

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

Our Diocese 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 a superhero - we are seeking authentic, prayerful priests of all traditions who share our passion for confident proclamation and generous service.

What's more, you are coming to the Diocese at a fascinating time as we look towards our centenary in 2026. We are amid 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.

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 challenge.
- Expand our Diocesan Renewal Programme which has led to an average of 6% growth in RWA in participating parishes.

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 ‘England in miniature’ 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 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 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 Blackburn
The Rt Revd Philip North***



***The Bishop of Lancaster
The Rt Revd Dr Jill Duff***



***The Bishop of Burnley
The Rt Revd Dr Joe Kennedy***

Vision 2026 and beyond

Vision 2026 is an agenda for growth 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 overarching goal can be achieved: Making Disciples, Being Witnesses, Growing Leaders and Prioritising Children and Young People.

All that we do as diocese is focused on the delivery of Vision 2026. For example:

- To make disciples we have 'Fruitful,' our Diocesan Discipleship app and distribute 10,000 devotionals at Lent and Advent which enable people to study the scriptures. We also encourage greater generosity in the 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 human need.
- New leaders are emerging as we seek to enable and equip those God is raising up for lay and ordained ministry. Our M:Power course is a nationally innovative resource for forming leaders from working class backgrounds.
- Our focus on children and young people is enabling creative thinking to raise up a new generation for Jesus Christ. This is supported by our family of church schools, teams to support children and youth work and our Youth Forum.

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.

As we look to 2026 and the completion of the current Vision, the Diocese has embarked on a major programme of listening to God and our communities as we discern when he is leading us next. This is being supported in prayer as we observe a Year of Prayer for Growth and Renewal in 2025.

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:

<https://www.blackburn.anglican.org>

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 is available at <https://www.blackburn.anglican.org>.
- 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).



[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.

- 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, the Revd 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.

Executive summary

Our Parish is centred on the town of Padiham, situated to the west of Burnley and the much smaller village of Hapton, which lies to the southwest.

Our two churches are vibrant, friendly places of worship which offer a warm welcome to the whole of our communities. Our parish is focused on God's word and sits in the evangelical tradition of the Church of England. We are also very much parish churches and delight to have amongst our number people of different backgrounds and traditions.

We are excited by the prospect of working together with our new incumbent in achieving our vision of raising new and younger leaders, inspiring children, and young people, reaching out in confidence within our communities, and inspiring more people to become fully engaged with scripture and devoted to prayer.

We have two well-maintained attractive church buildings in the heart of our communities - the parish church of St Leonard's which stands in an elevated position in Padiham, and the smaller church of St Margaret's in Hapton. Both churches are within 5 minutes of the M65 motorway and enjoy easy access to Manchester, Liverpool, Lancaster, the M6 and the Lake District.

Our vicarage is located approximately 500 metres from St Leonard's Church close to the outskirts of Padiham. It consists of an attractive detached house dating from the 1970s, with a large well-kept walled garden, 2 to 3 car driveway and a single garage.

The Parish is home to 3 Church of England primary schools with close to 650 children on their collective rolls. The parish enjoys close working and pastoral relationships with all the schools, with our clergy leading weekly acts of worship and members of our congregations actively involved in the governing bodies of each school. There are two secondary schools/academies within the parish and two excellent Church of England secondary schools, one in Accrington and the other in Blackburn. Direct bus services to both schools are available from Padiham and Hapton.

Within our churches, we invest heavily in our children – our churches future. We have lively junior churches each Sunday, and we also support Mums and Toddler groups as well as Rainbows, Brownies, and holiday clubs/camps.

Our finances are sound, and we have always paid our Diocesan Parish Share/Quota in full, yet still act with generosity towards others, both at home and abroad. We run several community projects including a Food Bank and function as the lead church for our local Christians Against Poverty (CAP) debt centre.

Our new vicar will not stand alone - we have a strong, supportive, and experienced pastoral team, a part-time parish administrator and an army of willing and faith-filled volunteers ready and able to take on the myriads of tasks required of them. Once settled

into the role, the new incumbent and PCC will be able to progress the Diocesan grant application for a full-time Youth and Family worker.

The Parish and wider community

The Parish is centred on the town of Padiham and the much smaller village of Hapton, both located within East Lancashire. Padiham is a small market town on the western side of Burnley, edged by the foothills of Pendle Hill to the north and the Ribble Valley communities of Read and Simonstone to the west. The road networks are good with the M65 motorway just two miles away giving easy access to Manchester and its airport, the M6 and of course the Fylde Coast and the Lake District

Padiham is a former cotton and mining town with no single major employer but a healthy mix of small industrial and commercial employers. Padiham has a good range of shops and amenities with two large supermarkets and a vibrant town centre, doctors, dentists, physiotherapist. The cinema, theatre, and Premier League level football is available in nearby Burnley. The Guardian recently named Padiham as one of the ten happiest places to live in the United Kingdom. We are a vibrant town, well served by shops and amenities. The town is close-knit and friendly, and it will be easy for our new Vicar to build relationships and feel at home. The town has its challenges though, with an elevated level of social deprivation and unemployment at a level slightly higher than the average for Lancashire.

Hapton is located approximately 1.5 miles south of Padiham close to Hameldon Hill and is set in beautiful countryside stretching out towards the Rossendale Valley. A former mining and small industrial village, Hapton relies on surrounding commercial parks for employment. The centre of the village is made up of terraced housing but in the last 10 to 15 years the village has been revitalised by new housing estates which in turn, have attracted commuters to take advantage of its attractive location within 5 minutes of the M65. Typically for a village of its type, shopping facilities in Hapton are sparse but public transport is good with both regular bus and train services.

The wider community

There are many Care Homes within the parish, which are visited by our ALMs providing home communion. There are also occasional visits from groups of parishioners who will provide short services and hymn singing. At Christmas, we visit local Care Homes and lead Carol singing. Carol singing also takes place in the local supermarket and public spaces.



Our Churches also host bi-annual Remembrance Services both in Padiham and in Hapton and our Vicar leads the Act of Remembrance at the war memorial. In Hapton, this role alternates with the local Methodist minister.

There are two General Hospitals serving the parish, Burnley General Hospital which offers elective surgery, women's and children's services, outpatients and diagnostic services and operates a 24-hour Urgent Care Centre. The Royal Blackburn Hospital provides a full range of elective and non-elective general hospital services including Accident and Emergency and Urgent Care.

Education and our schools

Primary schools

The Parish is home to 2 Church of England and 1 Church of England/Methodist primary schools.

St Leonard's Voluntary Aided Church of England Primary School

With a current roll of 328 children, the school is just a short walk from the church and has close links with the church and echoes the strong faith ethos. The vicar leads regular collective worship, and the children attend church for both religious festivals and events as well as enrichment lessons. The Headteacher worships regularly at her local church as well as assisting with the Food Bank based at St Leonard's church.

Ofsted status - Requires Improvement - July 2024.

SIAMS status – Good - May 2017.

<http://st-leonards.lanc.sch.uk>

Padiham Green Voluntary Controlled Church of England Primary School

With a current roll of 197 children, the school is towards the southern edge of Padiham, and the children enjoy the same close links with the church as their peers across town. Again, the vicar leads regular collective worship, and the children attend services to celebrate their faith and commitment to Christ. The school encourages Worship Warriors, a group of Year 6 students who help shape Collective Worship. They play a key role in the spiritual development of all at Padiham Green.

Ofsted status – Requires Improvement - September 2023.

SIAMS status – Good - May 2017

<http://www.padihamgreen.lancs.sch.uk>

Hapton Voluntary Controlled Church of England/Methodist Primary School

With a current roll of 124 children, the school is located opposite St Margaret's Church in Hapton and enjoys regular collective worship led by the vicar as well as daily collective worship. As an important aspect of school life, children and staff join daily as a family to worship God and learn how to live out their Christian Values. The children enjoy regular visits to the church to celebrate their faith and religious festivals and events.

Ofsted status - Good - November 2023.

SIAMS status – Inspected - November 2024 (awaiting grading). Previous Grade Excellent

<http://www.hapton.lancs.sch.uk>

All our church schools have members of our congregations and our vicar as active members of their governing bodies.

In addition, there are two other primary schools in the Parish, St John's RC Primary and Padiham County Primary.

Secondary schools

There are two state secondary schools in the neighbouring parish - Shuttleworth College and Burnley High School. The closest Church of England Schools are St Christopher's High School, Accrington and St Wilfrid's C of E Academy, Blackburn, both of which also have 6th form colleges. St Christopher's attracts many secondary school aged children from our churches. Further afield, there are also prestigious Grammar Schools in Clitheroe and Waterfoot (Bacup and Rawtenstall).

Higher education

With good motorway links available, universities in Manchester and Salford, Lancaster (including a campus for the University of Cumbria) and Liverpool are all within 50 miles. Closer to home, there is a University of Central Lancashire campus situated in Burnley and the main UCL campus is just 25 miles away. A little further afield, the Universities of Leeds and Sheffield are approximately 60 miles to the east.

The Church Community

Administrative structure

Each church elects two church wardens at their respective annual general meetings. The churches also elect individual church committees which are responsible for all aspects of the day to day running of their church including maintenance, organising services, fund raising and managing their own budget. At parish level, we have the PCC consisting of the vicar, church wardens, elected representatives from each church and elected deanery representatives. The parish also selects two parish wardens at the parochial AGM (usually from the church wardens). There is only one PCC standing committee which has responsibility for preparing the annual parish budget and that committee consists of the vicar, four church wardens, two church treasurers and the parish treasurer. Each church produces its own set of accounts, and the parish treasurer incorporates those into the final Team.

Pastoral and general support

Pastoral support

The pastoral team consists of a Licenced Lay Minister (based at St Margaret's Church), four Authorised Lay Ministers who mainly deliver home communion and carry out home visits, and a Verger at St Leonard's, (the verger role at St Margaret's is carried out by the Church Wardens). One of our ALMs has a special interest in asylum seekers, the refugee community, and members of our congregation from other countries, assisting the vicar in communications with the Home Office and various charities. Other members of the congregations also assist during services with bible readings, occasional intercessions, administering the chalice and leading evening services.

The Pastoral Support Team



**St Leonard's Church -
David Edmondson and Julie
Sidhu**



**St Margaret's Church -
Graeme and Lynne Trudgill, and
Elaine Geldard**

Admin support

The incumbent will be supported on a day-to-day basis by a Parish Administrator who is currently employed for approximately 6 hours per week. However, this role is flexible, and the hours could be adjusted if it develops further.

General support

Under the supervision of the PCC, members of the laity will take management control of building and maintenance problems/projects, preparing faculty applications, making bids for grants, running the food bank and other tasks deemed unnecessary or inappropriate for the incumbent to perform.

Children and Families worker

In addition to the above, the parish has set aside funds and will apply for a Diocesan grant in support of the employment of a Youth and Family worker for 3 years to assist us to move forward with our vision. This post has been left vacant to allow the new incumbent to both help develop the role and be a part of the appointment process.

Safeguarding

The Parish Safeguarding Officer (based at St Leonard's) attends regular briefings and receives updates from the Diocese and in conjunction with the vicar, provides advice and signposting to those in need of support. The Parish Safeguarding Officer reports directly to the PCC.

St. Margaret's church has an Assistant Safeguarding Officer.

Regular DBS checks are carried out for those working with children and other vulnerable members of the church community.

Our churches

The Parish is blessed to have two well maintained church buildings acting as our centres of worship. The Grade 2 listed Parish Church of St Leonard's built in 1869 and the smaller church of St Margaret's, Hapton built in 1927. Both churches have good disabled access and appropriately adapted toilet facilities.

Whilst the church congregations have many similarities as one would expect being in the same parish, they each also have their own distinctive flavour, reflecting their size, location, and local populations.

St Leonard's Church

Worship

Our pattern of Sunday worship services at St Leonard's comprises: 9:30am Holy Communion (Common Worship which is livestreamed) with an average attendance of 60 adults and 12 children. Usually once a month the morning services will be All Age Services of the Word followed by ice cream for the children. We also hold a 5:30pm Service of the Word (with the Lord's Supper once a month) which, is less formal and has an average attendance of 15 adults and 3 children.



Music on Sundays is led by Organ/Piano/Flute and our robed choir, and there is a mixture of traditional and more modern music, often provided by PowerPoint to complement the rest of the service. Time is given after services for fellowship and encouragement as refreshments are served. Additionally, there is a prayer time on Tuesday mornings at 9:15am and a service of Holy Communion on Wednesdays at 10:00am with an average attendance of 12 to 15 adults, and Evening Prayer also Wednesdays at 3:30pm.

Children and Young People

Our children's Cornerstone Club is held during the 9:30am service for ages 3 to 11. Altogether each week we can expect there to be between 10 to 15 children in Cornerstone Club, sometimes as many as 20.

There is also a lively group for younger teenagers, Rock Solid, which meets fortnightly on Fridays and attracts an average of 8 teenagers from the two churches. When needed, this group has doubled up as a confirmation group.

St Leonard's also hosts other activities such as Little Lennies (Mother and Toddler group) which is held on Tuesday and Thursday mornings attracting an average of 12 but occasionally as many as 20 children and of course parents and grandparents. This group welcomes all children to join in but maintains a distinctively Christian feel by including a Bible story, craft, and prayer.





Our church room is also used by a breakfast and after-school club linked to St Leonard's school. The choir practice on Wednesday evenings and we host Rainbow and Brownie groups, which meet on Thursday evenings in the church rooms.

Church groups

Thursday afternoons is the time for our Tea At Two friendship group at which includes a reading and short talk in addition to the chatting, crossword completion and quiz with home-made cakes/scones. Occasional evening events are organised for both men or women, or a family event for all the church family.



Buildings

St Leonard's is situated close to the centre of Padiham. The church building, which has a clock tower and a peal of eight bells, has been well maintained over the years, having undergone some re-ordering in the first few years of this century to create three church rooms, a kitchen, and an accessible toilet. The vestry is fitted with Wi-Fi and is adjacent to the parish printing facility - this area doubles-up as the Parish Office. As with most churches, there is a constant list of jobs to be undertaken in response to quinquennial inspections, but the team always manages to keep ahead where maintenance is concerned.



The graveyard associated with St Leonard's is situated 600 metres from the church and is primarily maintained by the local authority however maintained through the Pay-Back team under the supervision of the Probation service, with a small proportion being maintained by the Borough Council.

St Margaret's Church

St. Margaret's Church is situated in the village of Hapton and is set in the middle of a well-maintained graveyard with a sizable car park adjacent.

Worship

Our Sunday Worship is held at 11:00am, Holy Communion (Common Worship) attracting an average congregation of 30 adults and 12 children.



Usually once a month there is an All-Age Service or Family Service including Ice Cream Sunday. For Mothering Sunday, Harvest and Remembrance Sunday, we meet for a Service of the Word.



At St Margaret's, music is currently provided via a laptop and played through a large flatscreen television monitor suspended on a cantilever arm at the front of church. We have a robed choir of five adults and five children who lead our singing and provide us with a chorus whilst the congregation wait for Holy Communion. Time is given after services for fellowship and encouragement over refreshments.

Children and Young People

Junior Church (Sunday School) is held during the service in our upstairs room and caters for children aged 3 to 12 years; on average 12 children take part led by one of our Junior Church leaders, assisted by a rota of helpers. At present there is nothing specifically catering for the older children but that is something we would dearly love to address.



Like St Leonard's we also have other activities in our church rooms, some linked to the church and others where we act as welcoming hosts. On Monday evenings the local Rainbows and Brownies meet in both church rooms. We also provide a toddler group, (Busy Bees), which meets during term times on Wednesday mornings, to encourage local parents and their babies/toddlers to come together, enjoy fellowship and encouraging one another. The group, though a church group is organised and run by members of our Mothers' Union branch. The average attendance is 10 children and 10 adults (as much as the room can accommodate), the morning often includes an activity around a bible story and always concludes with prayer.



Church Groups

The parish Mothers' Union, which represents both of our churches hold their regular branch meetings at St Margaret's once a month and we are proud to say that our branch is thriving and the second largest branch in Burnley Deanery.



Buildings

Our church building, has been well maintained over the years, has a small kitchen, an accessible toilet, downstairs meeting room and an upstairs room which we use for Junior Church and as a meeting room for Brownies. We are currently working our way through a list of Quinquennial related maintenance jobs and just recently received a grant to help us along with that task. There are sufficient restricted reserves to complete all the work identified. We are pleased to leave our church open during the daytime for visitors to look around and have a quiet time for prayer should they wish.



St Margaret's has its own graveyard surrounding the church, which acts as the graveyard for the village. The graveyard is the responsibility of the church; it is in good order and is well maintained through donations to the church restricted fund. It is still open for burials and has the facility for the interment of ashes.



Parish-wide

Both of our churches have been awarded Child Friendly Church status by the Diocese and that is clearly reflected in the level of uptake of our Mum's and Toddlers and Sunday School groups.

Beyond the usual clergy/Church of England links of deanery and diocese, some of our children have also attended summer camps held by Yorkshire Camps at Netherside Hall near Skipton. Also, whilst not a Parish event, some of the congregation at St Leonard's have been involved in hosting the Keswick in East Lancashire half day conventions.

The Vicarage

Our vicarage is located approximately 500 metres from St Leonard's Church close to the outskirts of Padiham. It consists of a two story, well maintained detached house dating back to the 1960s with a large well-kept walled garden, 2 to 3 car driveway and a single car garage. Upstairs it has 4 bedrooms and 1 bathroom and downstairs there are 2 reception rooms, a study and family kitchen and cloakroom/WC.

Generosity to others

In our parish, as Christians and disciples of Christ, we believe in a generous God, who longs for us to share His generosity with others. A generous life is therefore a hallmark of our faith and a testament to it, as the more generous we are, the more we reflect the generous God we believe in.

Within our local community we recognise the levels of poverty and deprivation and our role to do anything we can to alleviate suffering. In the last three years in conjunction with St Leonard's School, we have set up a food bank working out of St Leonard's Church, supported by our schools, individual donations, and grants. The food bank is organised and staffed by willing volunteers, operates fortnightly and offers food parcels to anyone in need. We have also taken on the lead church role in setting up a local Christians Against Poverty (CAP) debt centre covering Padiham, Burnley and Pendle, with the Life Church providing heavy support in the day-to-day running of the centre. Our shared mission through CAP is to release people locally from poverty, to enable us to help end poverty throughout our communities, and to encourage people to live with faith, actively served by their church. At present the debt centre staff can deal with 96 families per year, which will go up to 120 from July when a new member of staff takes up post. Since the debt centre was established, it has enabled 70 families to go debt free, 50 since January 2023.



Setting up for the food bank



Our Crosslinks partners in South Africa, Alun and Debbie Burt with their family.

Beyond our parish we also offer financial and partnership support to a missionary family living in South Africa through Crosslinks, and we support a child in Nigeria through World Vision. We also have links with the Bethany Children's Orphanage and School in Tanzania. Closer to home we are offering short term support to one of our former ministry trainees as he settles into a role as minister of a church in Wolverhampton. We also hold annual Lent, and Harvest appeals in support of various charitable causes.



The Annual Lent Appeal

Spiritual Profile

Churchmanship

At the heart of our parish is a clear and heartfelt vision: to be a Christ-centred church family who love the Lord Jesus and love one another. We seek to be a constant, visible reminder to the people of Padiham and Hapton that they are “more loved by God than they ever dreamt.”

We are an Evangelical parish, firmly rooted in the authority of Scripture. Bible teaching is central to our worship and is enriched by thoughtful use of liturgy. Our main services reflect a contemporary Anglican style, while we also honour tradition—occasionally using the Book of Common Prayer during midweek gatherings.

Bible Study and Discipleship

We actively promote Bible study throughout the parish. Each church hosts a fortnightly Bible study group, typically on Tuesday evenings. At St Margaret’s, the group is usually lay-led, reflecting our commitment to equipping and empowering members of the congregation in their spiritual journey.

Women’s Ministry

Seven years ago, under the leadership of our Vicar, the PCC passed a resolution regarding the ministry of female priests and bishops. As part of the Section 11 process for the current vacancy, the PCC revisited this matter. Following a simple majority vote, the previous resolution was overturned. The parish now espouses support for the ordination of women to both the priesthood and the episcopate.

We are therefore seeking candidates who embrace this position and will actively nurture vocations, both male and female, celebrating and affirming their ministries equally.

Mission dashboard and census information

Please see appendices for details of our 2024 Statistical Returns for the Parish and National Census Dashboard for 2021.

Church finances

Our finances are generally good, we have reserves to meet all currently known demands, and our regular offertory income broadly meets the day to day running costs of the churches and additional parish costs including clergy travel, telephone and other expenses, charitable giving, parish administration costs etc. and our annual Diocesan Share quota. We have no outstanding share arrears with the Diocese and pay our share monthly. As with all most parishes, additional income comes from clergy service fees and lent and harvest appeals (usually in aid of a charitable cause) and each of the churches also holds Christmas and summer fairs and coffee mornings to boost their own church funds. At St Margaret's Church there is also a standing appeal for donations for the upkeep of the graveyard and flower donations. Both churches also take in a small income from the renting of church rooms.

We aim to undertake a stewardship renewal campaign every 3 years at each church, with the latest campaign scheduled for late 2025.

The following areas of significant expenditure are planned in the coming months –

- Repairs to the church maintained memorial wall in Padiham cemetery – cost circa £12,000. Start date to be confirmed.

Provision exists within our financial budgeting to cover the cost of all the above through reserves, grants, and a special appeal at St Leonard's.

Finance Returns	
	Year ended 31 December, 2024
Unrestricted Church Income	£93,142
Tax Efficient Planned Giving	£37,704
Other Planned Giving	£8,624
Amount per regular giver per week	£9.45 per week; £41.06 per month
Unrestricted Church Expenditure	£95,716
Parish Share Assessed	Y
Parish Share Paid	£54,900

The above table excludes the parish foodbank and CAP Centre income and expenditure, both of which hold positive reserves at the end of the last accounting year.

Our vision priorities

One of the tasks for our new Vicar will be to lead us through a Vision Action Plan process, as we seek to grow in numbers and faith in Jesus Christ. The team selected to put the Parish profile together have spent time discerning potential priorities that would support a vision for growth.

1. **Raising Leaders.** We have some very committed volunteers who serve wholeheartedly, but we recognise our need to reinvigorate and inspire a new and younger generation step-up in service for the Lord.
2. **Inspiring Children and Youth.** With three church schools and 20-30 children attending weekly Sunday schools between both our churches, we need to find a way to inspire faith and disciple the young people so that they will stay with us into their teenage years.
3. **Community Outreach and Evangelism.** We need to develop a plan to have a greater connection with the local community, to use our buildings for mission and to grow in confidence to reach-out and declare the good news of Jesus Christ.
4. **Discipleship and Prayer.** We do have mature Christians in our congregation but we long to see more people engaging with scripture and devoted to prayer. We are praying for more fully committed disciples.

What we will offer

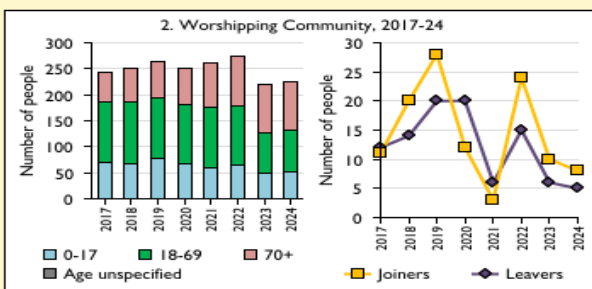
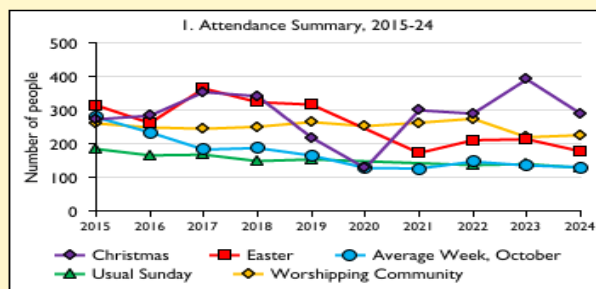
- Three years funding for the employment of a new 'Families and Youth Worker.' The parish will be applying for a Diocesan grant to support this initiative was an incumbent is in place.
- Six hours of administrative support per week, with the potential to increase if required.
- Friendship, enthusiasm, love, and prayer!
- Faith-filled lay people who long to work in partnership with our new vicar in leading discipleship groups and faith outreach initiatives.
- A congregation who are willing to help with the running of the church, so that our vicar can be released to minister to us and those not yet with us.
- A desire for growth and a willingness to adapt for this to happen.
- Three church schools in our parishes, providing a wonderful place to connect with families.
- Buildings that are fit for purpose and in locations that sit within the heart of our communities.
- Congregations that long to grow deeper in faith and obedience to Christ and have a desire to serve Jesus beyond the walls of the building.
- Church finances that are in good order and Parish Shares which are fully paid.

Who is God calling?

- A committed and passionate evangelical leader, seeking to help people in Padiham and Hapton discover transformative faith in Jesus Christ.
- A teacher who is confident in handling scripture, who will communicate in accessible language and is able to challenge people to grow in faith and love for the Lord Jesus.
- A caring and compassionate pastor who will love the church family well and take time getting to know us.
- An encouraging leader who will raise leaders from within our churches; and empower them to serve in our church and wider communities.
- A vicar who will engage with the local community and who can engage with the children and young families within our churches and schools.
- A pioneer who is not afraid to take risks to develop our mission and outreach.
- A prayerful and Spirit-filled leader who will work in partnership with our congregations to discern God's plans and purposes for our churches.
- A candidate who senses God's calling to come to our parish and minister with us.

Appendix 1

SfM Dashboard for the Parish of Padiham w Hapton & Padiham Green in the deanery of BURNLEY



Parish Census and deprivation summary

Parish population (2021): 10859

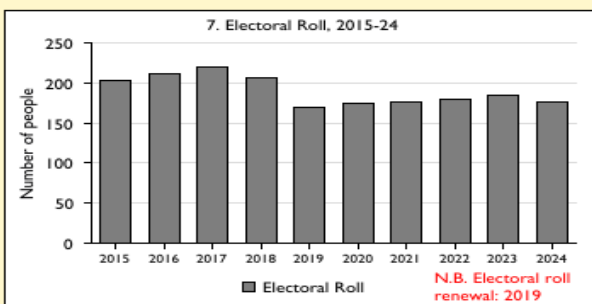
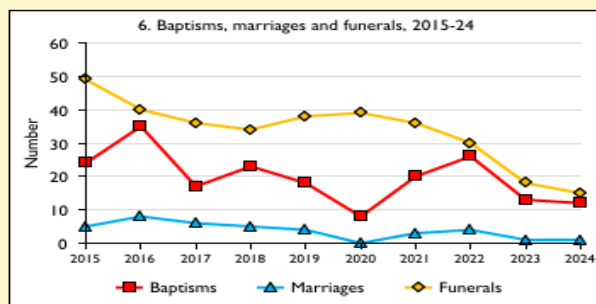
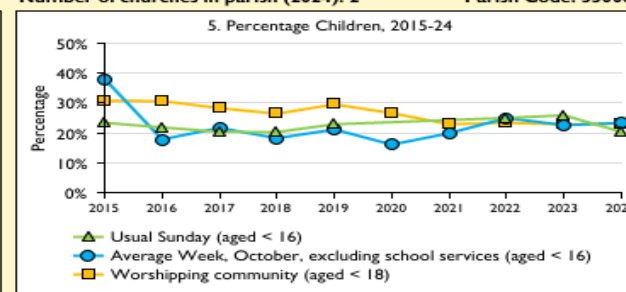
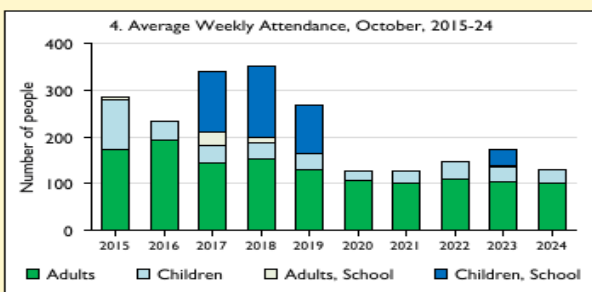
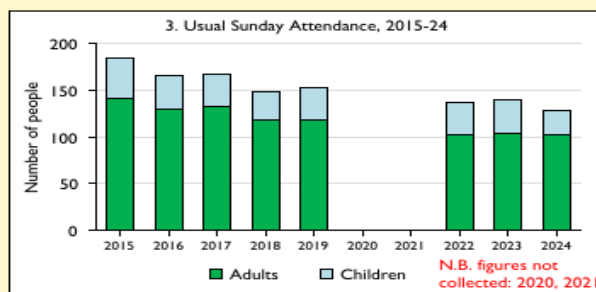
	Parish	Diocese	National
% aged 0-19	24%	23%	23%
% aged 20-44	30%	30%	33%
% aged 45-69	33%	32%	31%
% aged 70 & over	13%	15%	14%
% Christian	56%	53%	46%
% non-Christian religion	2%	12%	11%

Parish deprivation rank (IMD 2019): 906
(1=most deprived parish in the Church of England, 12,178=least deprived)

For more detailed census & deprivation info: see <http://arcg.is/1RaS4CS>
<https://www.churchofengland.org/about/data-services/> and
<http://www.cuf.org.uk/shinealight/>

Number of churches in parish (2024): 2

Parish Code: 530065



This dashboard contains figures as submitted by churches currently in the parish.

Attendance statistics: taken from annual Statistics for Mission returns.

Average weekly attendance: attendance at Sunday and midweek church services & fresh expressions in October; Figs 1 & 5 do not include attendance at services for schools.

Easter: Easter Eve & Easter Day; **Christmas:** Christmas Eve & Christmas Day.

Baptisms: all baptisms & thanksgivings.

Marriages: marriages and services of prayer & dedication after civil marriages.

Funerals: those held in church & at crematoria/cemeteries.

Because of pandemic-related church closures, Easter figures were not collected in 2020.

Census data: taken from the 2021 national Census.

Deprivation statistics: IMD taken from the English Indices of Deprivation, published by the Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government, Sept 2019.

The above statistics have been mapped onto parish boundaries so are approximations.

For more information, see: <https://www.churchofengland.org/about/data-services/>

Variations in attendance from year to year may be the result of changes in the number of churches that submitted returns, or changes in parish/benefice structure.

Number of churches included in returns: 2015 2; 2016 2; 2017 2; 2018 2; 2019 2; 2020 2; 2021 2; 2022 2; 2023 2; 2024 2.

Produced by Data Services, Church House, Great Smith Street, London SW1P 3AZ. Date of production: 24/02/2025.

Every effort has been made to ensure that data are reliable. We would be pleased to be notified of any significant errors or omissions by email to statistics.unit@churchofengland.org



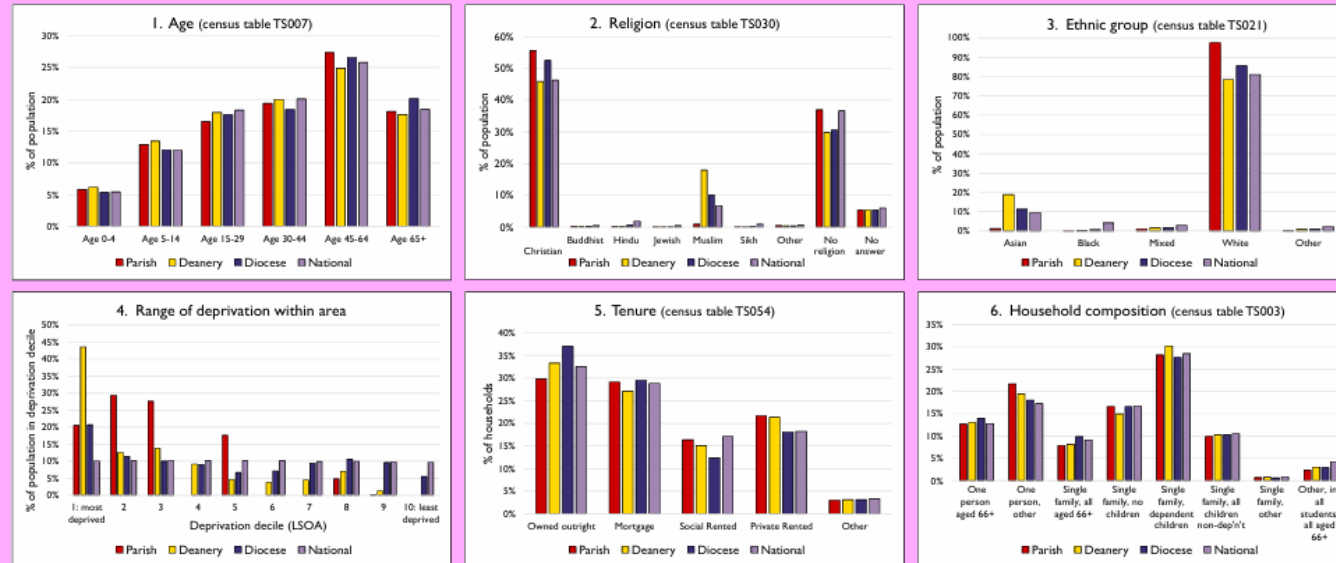
Appendix 2

SfM Dashboard Data for the Parish of Padiham w Hapton & Padiham Green in the deanery of BURNLEY

Report	Field	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
1. Attendance Summary	Christmas	272	283	353	341	218	127	299	289	391	289
	Easter	314	261	364	323	316	-	172	210	213	177
	Average Week, October	279	233	182	187	165	128	126	146	135	130
	Usual Sunday	184	165	167	148	153	-	-	136	139	128
	Worshipping Community	260	248	244	250	264	252	262	274	219	225
2. Worshipping Community	Total			244	250	264	252	262	274	219	225
	0-17			69	66	78	67	60	64	50	52
	18-69			116	121	115	115	115	115	77	81
	70+			59	63	71	70	87	95	92	92
	Age unspecified			0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Joiners			11	20	28	12	3	24	10	8
	Leavers			12	14	20	20	6	15	6	5
3. Usual Sunday Attendance	Adults	141	129	133	118	118	-	-	102	103	102
	Children	43	36	34	30	35	-	-	34	36	26
4. Average Weekly Attendance	Adults	173	192	143	153	130	107	101	110	105	100
	Children	106	42	40	34	35	21	25	37	31	30
	Adults, School	6	0	28	11	0	-	-	-	3	-
	Children, School	0	0	130	153	102	-	-	-	35	-
5. Percentage Children	Usual Sunday (aged < 16)	23%	22%	20%	20%	23%	-	-	25%	26%	20%
	Average Week, October, excluding school services (aged < 16)	38%	18%	22%	18%	21%	16%	20%	25%	23%	23%
	Worshipping community (aged < 18)	31%	31%	28%	26%	30%	27%	23%	23%	23%	23%
6. Baptisms, marriages and funerals	Baptisms	24	35	17	23	18	8	20	26	13	12
	Marriages	5	8	6	5	4	0	3	4	1	1
	Funerals	49	40	36	34	38	39	36	30	18	15
7. Electoral Roll	Electoral Roll	203	212	220	207	169	175	176	180	185	177

Appendix 3

National Census 2021 Dashboard for the Parish of Padiham w Hapton & Padiham Green in the deanery of BURNLEY



7. 2019 Deprivation Statistics			
Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD), domains, and subdomains			
IMD - overall deprivation 7%			
Employment	8%	Crime	11%
Income	9%	Health	3%
Income: Children	7%	Education	10%
Income: Old people	13%	Children & Youth	8%
		Adult Skills	14%
Housing & services	96%	Living Environ't	36%
Local services	86%	Indoors	36%
Affordability	63%	Outdoors	36%

Shading shows severity of deprivation compared to other parishes, colour-coded by decile. E.g., a figure of 25% means that 25% of parishes are more deprived than this parish.

Parish deprivation statistics in figure 7 are colour-coded by parish deprivation decile:

< -Most deprived ----- Medium ----- Least deprived ->									
Coding	5%	15%	25%	35%	45%	55%	65%	75%	85%

Produced by the Data Services Team, Church House, Great Smith Street, London SW1P 3AZ. Date of production: 09/01/25. v44; index: 10663

Every effort has been made to ensure that data are reliable. We would be grateful to be notified of errors and to receive comments/suggestions: please email statistics.unit@churchofengland.org

	Parish	Deanery	Diocese	National
Population	10,859	103,896	1,384,414	56,506,784
Occupied households	4,915	42,999	587,351	23,444,438
Living in households	10,770	102,944	1,355,800	55,542,946
Average household size	2.19	2.39	2.31	2.37
Living in communal estab'ts	89	952	28,614	963,838

Notes & definitions

Census and deprivation statistics have been mapped onto parish boundaries, and are therefore approximations.

Census data as shown in figures 1-3, 5, & 6 are derived from the National Census 2021 produced by the Office of National Statistics (ONS).

For details from ONS see: https://www.nomisweb.co.uk/sources/census_2021

Deprivation statistics are derived from the English Indices of Deprivation 2019, produced by the Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government.

More details can be found at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/english-indices-of-deprivation-2019>

Deprivation statistics are published at LSOA level. Figure 4 shows how the population of each area is split across LSOAs, categorised by LSOA deprivation decile.

For more detailed parish census and deprivation information, see: <https://www.churchofengland.org/about/data-services/resources-publications-and-data/fna>

For an interactive map showing parish deprivation and census statistics, see: <http://arcgis.com/arcgis/pro>

