

St John the Divine, Holme in Cliviger



**Church of St John the Divine
Holme in Cliviger
Burnley
BB10 4SU**

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1. 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 superheroes. Rather we are seeking authentic, prayerful priests of all traditions who share our passion for confident proclamation and generous service.

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

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

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

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 particular challenges to ministry provided by an increasingly secular culture and a divided Church. But what brings us together is a profound and shared love of Jesus Christ and a passionate desire that all should know him, and in knowing him find life.

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

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



*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 Joseph Kennedy*

2. 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 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. 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: www.blackburn.anglican.org

3. Clergy Care and Wellbeing

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



Whalley Abbey Centre for Christian Discipleship and Prayer

4. Executive Summary

The church of St. John the Divine is located in the tranquil village of Holme Chapel in the parish of Cliviger, which lies on the outskirts of Burnley in East Lancashire. The Parish is the one of the largest in the country by area, and is made up of the hamlets of Mereclough, Red Lees, Overtown, Southward Bottom, Walk Mill and Holme Chapel itself. Surrounded by beautiful countryside and with breathtaking views, the church is a grade II Georgian building with a Victorian extension. It retains many of its original and most interesting features.

Our church community is passionate about passing on the faith we have inherited to future generations, and to make sure St. John's is here for them as a place where they can find faith in Jesus Christ. We are active in our own faith in Jesus through serving and helping in the running and maintenance of our church and in worship.

We have a good relationship with St John C of E Primary school which is a church aided school with around 200 pupils, which was rated good at the last Ofsted inspection and has seven foundation governors.

5. The Parish and Wider Community

The village of Cliviger is situated on the eastern fringes of the Blackburn Diocese and the administrative county of Lancashire. It is known for being a beautiful part of the country and is a very historic area. Due to its semi-rural location there are numerous opportunities for outdoor pursuits, for example horse riding, walking and cycling (both on and off road).

The parish of Cliviger is situated on the edge of the town of Burnley, once renowned as the Cotton centre of the country because of the many cotton weaving mills situated here. The town has gradually established a reputation for excellence in other fields. It is home to a number of employers in the aerospace and digital industries. Burnley is recognised as a most enterprising area in the UK and continues to develop and expand. The town has recently benefitted from the Government's Levelling Up Fund, with financial input from the Football Club at Turf Moor as well.

There are shopping areas in the town centre which are still being developed and expanded. There are cinemas, and local Amateur Dramatic Societies. There are also a large selection of restaurants and bars.

The town is ideally located for the motorway network and many of the most scenic parts of the country. The Lake District, the Yorkshire Dales and the Peak District are all around an hour's drive away. In Burnley itself there are historical attractions such as Towneley Hall, Gawthorpe Hall, and the Weavers Triangle. A collection of 19th century industrial buildings of national significance are currently undergoing restoration and redevelopment. The growing University of Central Lancashire has a Campus and student accommodation in Burnley. There are numerous parks and open spaces within the town.

6. Parish Demographics

Population	
2233	
Age spread	
0-9	134
10-19	184
20-59	945
60+	970
Ethnic Mix	
British	99.3
Minority Ethnic	0.7
Other Faith Mix	
Christian	73.2
Muslim	0.4
Other Religions	0.5
No Religion	25.8
Major Employer(s)	
Farms. Pubs, Burnley General Hospital	
Deprivation Index	
least deprived	7760
Housing Mix	
Owner occupied	86.4%
Social rented housing	13 %

7. The Church Community

We have a small and welcoming team that make the church a warm and friendly heart of the community, headed by the churchwarden, secretary, treasurer, two Deanery Synod Representatives and 9 other PCC members, one of whom is also in our small and dedicated church choir. Our choir is accompanied by an experienced and talented organist who provides an excellent standard of music.

Who We Are



Churchwarden:
Julie Cambridge



Secretary:
Janet Fedden



Treasurer:
Joan Lamb



Safeguarding Officer:
Jenny Jackson



Members of our current PCC pictured above.

Tea, coffee, and biscuits are served each Sunday morning after the service by members of the congregation, which gives everyone a much-enjoyed opportunity to chat and build friendships.

Our tradition is best described as Traditional Anglican, following Common Worship. The priest generally wears liturgical vestments reflecting the time of the church year.

8. Parish Statistics

CHURCH NAME – St. John the Divine		
Patron		
Enter Name of Patron(s) Ms HG Wells		
Ms DC Wells		
Electoral Roll		
Year	2024	
Number	80	
Age Profile of the Church		
0-17	4	
18-69	14	
70+	11	
Occasional Offices, Celebrations etc.		
Baptisms	10	
Weddings	0	
Confirmation	Adult candidates	0
	Under 16 candidates	0
Funerals	in church	4
	at Crematorium	0
Normal weekly attendance	adult	18
	under 16	0
Festivals		
Easter 2024	Communicants	18
	Attendance	26
Christmas 2024	Communicants	12
	Attendance	17

9. Our services

Our Sunday service is Eucharistic and takes place at 9:30am each week and we hold a Midweek Eucharist on Wednesday at 7pm in Church and if the weather is bad, we have the service in Church House.

The school generally has services in the church for Harvest, Christmas, Easter and usually the Year 6 Leavers service. These are attended by the full school and parents and grandparents.

We have a Harvest service usually to coincide with the school, and another well attended service is Remembrance Sunday when we remember those lost in the wars. Baptisms, weddings and funerals take place by arrangement.

Children's Ministry

We recognize children are an important part of our church family and would welcome a vicar who would lead us in enhancing and developing our Children's Ministry.

Until recently we provided

- a dedicated Children's Church weekly - all ages
- Fun Church monthly - ages 0 - 10
- Media church monthly ages 11 – 17
- Christingle – all ages



ALM: Amanda Cattell



Christingle Service

10. The Church Buildings



- The church is in good repair, with major roof works having been carried out, and the rebuilding of the bell tower and re-hanging of the historic bell completing these works. Our ancient clock has recently been mechanised thanks to a grant from Scottish Power, whose windmills are set at the moorland wind farm close by.
- Renovations and repairs to the church have resulted in upgraded toilet and kitchen facilities, with disabled access, wheelchair provision and baby changing facilities. The organ loft has been converted into a community room.
- There is a Church Hall (Church House) which stands next to the church within the parameters of the school playground. This is used by all church organisations, including the Guides and Brownies groups. Regular fund-raising activities take place here and PCC meetings. Occasionally it is used for Church Services. The school has sole use of the building and surrounding land each day from 8 a.m. until 4.30 p.m. during term-time. Should they wish to use it outside these hours e.g. for Parents' Evenings and Concerts etc. it is by arrangement with the PCC. There is an agreement with the Blackburn Diocese Board of Education, that as the school has this facility, repairs and maintenance are taken care of by them.

11. The Church Finances

Finance Returns	
Year	2024
Parish Income	£29,074.09
Tax Efficient Planned Giving	£10,911.24
Amount per person per week	£5
Parish Expenditure	£34,444.40
Parish Share Assessed	£16,142.00
Parish Share Paid	£16,142.00

We have paid our Parish Share in full, and would say that our Church is just about coping in terms of its finances. In the period since 2000, we have experienced some challenges (a decrease in the size of our congregation and the decision to pastorally reorganise the Benefice of which we were a part) - and this has created some anxiety as we look to our financial future.

At the same time, there are hopeful signs too. 2023/24 saw a good number of occasional offices, which have helped to boost our income. A number of people in our 'fringe' continue to give regularly, either through the Parish Giving Scheme or by sending a cheque regularly to the Treasurer. We hold fundraising events regularly. We have an annual Christmas Fair, which brings in around £2,000, a monthly Lottery Draw brings in £152 each month and we have the facilities to hold more fundraising activities.

We have no large expenditure planned. In recent years, the organ loft has been turned into a large room intended for Sunday School, or other organisational events. This was done through a Grant Scheme with Scottish Power through the Parish Council. Currently plans are being made for a handrail along the church path, ensuring the health and safety of our congregation and visitors to our church and graveyard.

12. Our School.



This is our new worship bench which the children designed and created.

St. John's School, Cliviger is firmly embedded in our scripture, 'Love one another as Jesus loved us'. John 13 V34-35

Our school family through its Christian values will lead by example as Jesus did. We respect the individuality of everyone, nurture their potential and reward their success. Our love and passion for the children in our care, is at the heart of everything we do, enabling all to flourish.

We are very proud of how this scripture supports us in all we do here at St John's School, Cliviger and are always pleased when visitors comment on it:

'Pupils enjoy being part of this close-knit, family-oriented and nurturing school. All pupils receive a warm welcome.' Ofsted Jan 2023.

Our children worship everyday at school. This is a mixture of whole school and in class. All teachers lead worship, and we ensure there is time in the school day to reflect upon our spirituality in our Worship Journey Books and to pray (lunchtimes and home times). We use our Prayer Tree which is outside to reflect the church seasons and develop our understanding.

This is our Worship Club who recently led the whole school in our Christingle service.



They would like our new vicar to be: -

- Funny with jokes in every service.
- Easy to ask for help.
- Friendly and smiley towards each other.
- Share fun, likes and dislikes with us.
- Come and see us in class and do fun activities with us.
- Wants to know and find out about us.
- Respectful towards all our families and their backgrounds.
- Enjoys the job and is happy.

Our children enjoy attending church and we would welcome a Vicar who could worship with us in school and in church regularly. RE is taught throughout school and we ensure the children have 2 hours in KS2 and 1.5 hours in KS1/EYFS each week. We would always welcome support in the delivery and development of their faith.

Our vicar would also be an ex-officio foundation governor.

13. Our Links Into the Wider Community

Within the parish of Cliviger there are three thriving public houses and eating establishments, a village hall that has a varied programme of activities and is also available for hire for private functions. The annual Cliviger Flower Show is hosted there. There are several small businesses, including a petrol station and convenience store, car repair and MOT garage, a hairdressers and beauticians.

We maintain good relationships with our neighbouring Independent Methodist Church, Mount Zion in Cliviger. Our Christian Aid work is shared alongside this church.

14. Our Vision

- To develop our mission and ministry for young families and children especially our relationship with St John's School, creating innovative worship.
- To continue the strengths of existing patterns of worship, and develop and grow the existing Sunday morning congregation.
- Helping our whole church family to become more confident in our relationship with God through Jesus, especially through prayer and the scriptures, so we may become true disciples of Jesus.

15. Who is God calling?

- Someone with an active faith in Jesus Christ, that shapes and influences all aspects of their ministry
- A person of resilience, full of energy and enthusiasm.
- Someone who is warm and welcoming, and a good listener, able to foster positive working relationships.
- Someone who will encourage the community to be more involved in church life, and who has a passion for sharing the gospel.
- Someone who is able to identify and nurture gifts and talents in our lay people.
- Vitally, someone with a great sense of humour!

- Someone who is gifted in school ministry, and is able to communicate effectively across all generations.
- Someone who will guide us into new ways of worship, but who is also a sacramental and Eucharistic Priest who values both traditional and creative Liturgy.

16. What We Offer

- Julie Cambridge and Amanda Cattell who are Authorised Lay Ministers (ALMs), to help and assist with the ministry of the church.
- A rota of willing volunteers to assist with bible readings and eucharistic ministry
- Another team of willing volunteers who maintain our building and graveyard, ensuring both are kept in good condition.
- A supportive and co-operative PCC and church leadership team, who will help with administrative responsibilities.
- An active, warm and welcoming local community offering a good quality of life.
- A Church school with an excellent Christian ethos, and a headteacher who is very enthusiastic to strengthen church-school links.