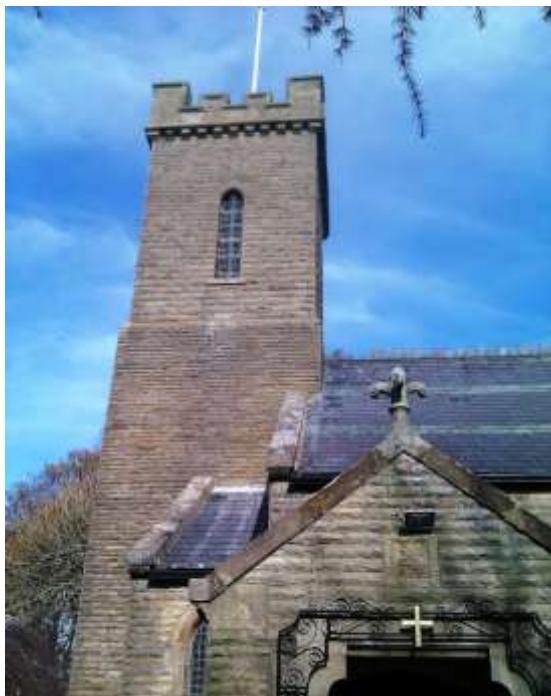


PARISH PROFILE

DIOCESE OF BLACKBURN

THE UNITED BENIFICE OF

ST ANNE'S COPP ST PETER'S INSKIP



WHERE WE ARE



St Anne Copp is here



St Peter Inskip is here

Our parishes are part of the Garstang Deanery in the Diocese of Blackburn, close to the M6 motorway.

They are equidistant from Lancaster to the north, Preston to the South and Blackpool to the west.

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

What's more, you would be coming to the Diocese at a fascinating time of our Centenary in 2026, themed "All for Jesus". We are in the midst of a major process of listening to God and listening to our County as we discern where God is calling us next, a process that will result in a new strategic vision that will last until 2033, and 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 mind-set that has taken hold of so much of Western European Christianity. Through a firm belief in the power of Jesus Christ to change lives combined with strong pastoral ministry and imaginative developments such as new local congregations, we are seeing growth in churches of all traditions.

Strong relationships with our amazing family of 191 schools (95% of whom benefit from practising Christian Headteachers) provide another springboard for mission.

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

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

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

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

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

As you will see as you read this profile, St Anne's Copp and St Peter's Inskip are active churches in a rural setting, which combines a valuing of established patterns and community life with an openness to new initiatives. The schools are a key partner, and the parishes are part of a deanery which is friendly and mutually supportive. We are praying for a priest with a heart for rural ministry who will love the communities and will also continue to lead the congregations in their commitment to see new and deeper Disciples of Christ."

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*

Part 1

St Peter's Church - Inskip

THE PARISH CHURCH OF ST PETER INSKIP
IN THE DIOCESE OF BLACKBURN

See Our Church <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qPTMESZrGPc>



Preston Road, Inskip, Preston PR4 0TT

www.inskipstpeters.com

OUR MISSION

*To reach out to the community in love,
to be a church that reaches up to God in worship,
to challenge ourselves to reach our full spiritual potential,
so that the Gospel is boldly proclaimed.*

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1 Where are we?

Inskip was listed in the Doomsday Book of 1086 as *Inskip*. Its area was estimated in that survey to be two caruces of land (approximately 240 acres). From 1281, the village was owned by Richard Butler of Rawcliffe Hall, who received it from William de Carleton as a dowry of his bride, Alice. The village surrounding the church has a population of around 1,200 and the total population of the parish is approximately 1,700.

Historically, Inskip was predominantly a farming community with a mixture of arable and livestock farming. In recent years a number of new estates have been constructed increasing the size of the population with most new residents commuting to work in Preston, Blackpool or Lancaster as the village is placed mid-way between these centres of population. There is some light industry and a chicken processing business providing local employment.



The main feature that dominates the village is a land based radio station, formally HMS Inskip, and still operated by the Ministry of Defence. The site has four tall central masts which can be seen from many miles away, plus many small radio aerials it is also home to a Cadet Training Centre operated by the Royal Air Force Air Training Corp (RAF ATC).

2 St Peter Church – Our Past

The Parish of St Peter Inskip was created out of the ancient Parish of St Michael's-on-Wyre; land for the erection of the Church, Vicarage and School being granted to the Rev William Hornby, vicar of St Michael's, by Lord Derby.

Work on the church and school commenced in 1847 and on June 10th the Rev Hornby laid the foundation stone of the church. The church was completed in 1848 and consecrated on the 7th December by the first Bishop of Manchester, the Right Reverend James Prince Lee and the school was also finished in the summer of 1848 and opened on 24th July.

In 1862 an additional piece of land on the east side of the school was given by Lord Derby for the erection of a school house and on 20th May 1898 a plot of land on the north side of the church was consecrated by the Bishop of Manchester as a churchyard extension.



In 1925, through a generous bequest by Mary Jane Hall, substantial additions and improvements were made. The narrow and inconvenient chancel and small vestry were taken down, the chancel arch rebuilt and a tower, spire, chancel organ chamber, transept, pulpit and vestry erected. A chiming peal of eight bells was established in the tower.

The Church and Village are proud of their links to the Royal Navy which lasted from 1942 until decommissioning of HMS Inskip in 2008, when the White Ensign was lowered for the last time. It was presented to the village and is now displayed close to the west wall. During the period 1942 to 1946 the church acted as garrison church for the naval camp built to the north of the churchyard where Manor Road estate now stands.



3 St Peter Church – Our Present

A Welcoming Church

The church building as a whole is well maintained and in good order; the PCC promptly responding to any problems that might arise. We are extremely blessed to have small team of parishioners who help maintain our church grounds in an immaculate condition. We also have a dedicated team who lead services, perform readings and lead our prayers and intercessions when required.

Similarly our team of flower arrangers beautify the church internally and are also in great demand for weddings



To strengthen our fellowship we hold a coffee morning in church on the first Friday of each month and also serve teas and coffee and cake after each Sunday service.

As part of our outreach and mission we hold regular Quiz Nights and Bar-B-Que's



And also a very popular outdoor 'Pop-Up-Pizza' event



The Vicarage

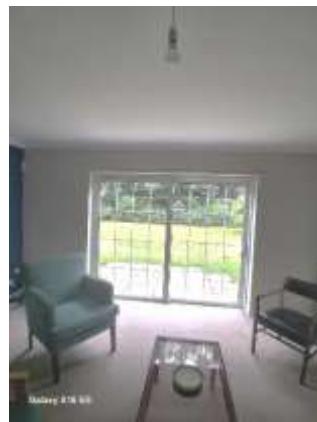
In the 1980's St Peter's Victorian vicarage was becoming too costly to maintain so a new vicarage was built on land to the west of the church. The old vicarage was sold as a private residence and the proceeds went to defray the cost of the new building.



The vicarage has four bedrooms, storage room over the garage, and bathroom and shower room on the first floor, lounge, dining room, kitchen, and boiler room with gas central heating, utility room with access to the garage, study/office and cloakroom on the ground floor; there are extensive gardens to the side and rear.

Some twenty six years ago, when Inskip became a joint Benefice with St Anne Copp, the study/office was extended to form a parish meeting room and a gravel car park was formed to the front of the property. At this time a security alarm system was fitted and security flood lighting installed to front, side and rear of the building. A gas fire was fitted in the lounge and the property redecorated; in the past two years the electrical installation has been brought up to present day standards and the security alarm system upgraded.

Inside the vicarage



The Churchyard

The Churchyard, including a Garden of Remembrance, is well maintained and still in use.



In the churchyard to the south of the church stands the village War Memorial naming those sons of the village who fell in the 1914 - 1918 conflict and to the north of the church are four War Graves. These are members of the Fleet Air Arm who lost their lives whilst serving at the adjacent Naval Air Station H.M.S Nightjar during the 1939 - 1945 conflict.

These memorials take pride of place in our Remembrance Day and Remembrance Sunday Services.

Our Church Establishment

Area Dean and Patron Rev. Andrew Wilkinson, Vicar of St Helen's Churchtown

Churchwardens Mo Williamson
 Vacant

Deputy
Churchwardens Christine Hall
 Rick Williamson

PCC Treasurer Christine Hall

PCC Secretary Rick Williamson

We are fortunate in being able to call on the support of a number of retired clergy

The Parochial Church Council

Our PCC is a lively and dedicated group of parishioners; its membership encompasses a wealth of experience from all walks of life. All take the responsibilities they have accepted seriously and meetings are well attended.

The Congregation

Weekly Sunday services have a steady regular attendance, the age profile is generally towards the over fifties and the need to encourage the young families and the younger members of our parish is recognised and often raised during our PCC meetings.

The style of worship can alternate between standard, with traditional hymns, and more modern utilising worship songs. The laity has the opportunity to contribute by leading services, performing readings and leading prayers and intercessions.

Summary of average weekly Church attendance for the last five years

2022	2021	2022	2023	2024
21	21	23	22	23

Inskip St. Peter's CE (Voluntary Aided) Primary School



*At Inskip St Peter's CE Primary School we are more than just a school, we are a family with a strong sense of community. Our theology of Keep your roots deep in Jesus Christ the Lord, build your lives on him and always be **thankful** (Colossians 2:7) fills our souls. Our children and adults are **compassionate** and **respectful** to one another, building **friendships** where we are proud of each other's achievements and offer **forgiveness** readily. We foster a love of learning and a determination to embrace new challenges with **trust** in God and in each other.*

There are currently 62 children on roll at our lovely village primary school and we are very proud of what our school provides and achieves. Its last SIAMS inspection was held on the 28th September 2023 and listed it's strengths as

- The Christian vision with its strong biblical underpinning is clearly articulated and understood by the whole school community. The school recognises and values the unique talents of all are rooted in Jesus.
- The vision drives a culture that supports, includes and nurtures all pupils and adults. The Headteacher ensures there are good structures in place for vulnerable pupils and those who have special educational needs and disabilities (SEND).
- Partnerships between the Church, community and diocese are strong. These relationships enhance the Christian vision by showing where the school is rooted and where they are heading.
- Collective worship is at the heart of the school. It has significant impact upon pupils, giving them a strong moral sense of what is right and wrong and how to live their lives.
- Effective leadership in religious education (RE) has established a challenging curriculum, which encourages pupils to ask big questions and think deeply. This positively impacts on pupils understanding of Christianity as a world faith.

Our Headteacher Kate Leyland, the governors and staff were proud of the whole report, phrases from it to give you an overview are:

- Inskip St. Peter's is highly successful in enabling pupil's to flourish
- The strong sense of community is tangible
- All adults and pupils feel a sense of belonging
- Pupils feel listened to and supported by staff. If they need to talk they know the teachers are 'always there for them'.
- Staff go the extra mile and all pupils are loved as Jesus loved, showing the vision in lived action
- Parents speak passionately about the personal and individual support they have received from Inskip St Peter's
- The impact of the school's vision radiates into the school community
- Governors know the school well and are highly committed to its success
- The vision 'keep your roots deep in Jesus Christ' drives the school in its service to the disadvantaged and vulnerable pupils

- Pupils' interactions are confident and eloquent, showing willingness to both express their own opinions and to listen to the viewpoints of others.
- Staff feel very valued and supported by their leaders
- Adults at Inskip care about all pupils and ensure they have the best opportunities every day

Our school's last OFSTED inspection was held on 2nd November 2022 when the school retained its grading of good, a summary of it and the report (as well as the SIAMS report) can be read on our school's website <http://www.inskip.lancs.sch.uk> where you will also gain a feeling for the exciting work that goes on in our school through the numerous blogposts and photos our classes post.



The vicar currently leads Collective Worship in school once a week and supports RE lessons. The children regularly visit the Church as part of their work in RE and with their families on celebration Sundays.



The children enjoy helping decorate the church on Mothering Sunday and for Easter and Christmas services



Inskip Pre-School

The village has a flourishing private pre-school which was previously located in the school but has moved into its own premises on the site formerly known as 'The Skip Inn'. When inspected by Ofsted in January 2023 the pre-school was awarded 'Good'



Young Inskip People

This group was established to provide facilities for Inskip teenagers to meet and socialise. The group worked hard in the early years to raise funding to construct a purpose-built centre which comprises two meeting rooms, a small kitchen and toilets, a car park and garden. As well as providing a meeting place for the Young Inskip People (YIP's) the building is now also used by the Over Sixties and other groups, and also for Church Quiz Nights. All in all, the YIP's centre is a wonderful alternative to a Village Hall and is a focal point for events that encompass the whole village, which members of St Peter's offer help and assistance.



Crown Green Bowling

Inskip has a thriving subscription bowling club which is open to all



4 Ministry And Mission

Regular Weekly Services

<u>Sunday</u>	<u>Services</u>
09:30	Holy Communion - 1 st and 3 rd Sundays
	Morning Service - 2 nd and 4 th Sundays

A joint service with our sister church at St Anne Copp is held on the 5th Sunday of each month when this occurs; the venue for this service alternates between the two churches.

We prefer vestments to be worn for Holy Communion, funerals and weddings but are quite happy for the vicar to wear informal dress for other services.

The church has no choir and we enjoy both traditional hymns accompanied by the organ and more modern worship songs supported by the keyboard.

Extra-Ordinary Services

Christmas, Easter, Mothering Sunday and Harvest Sunday are always opportunities for mission and usually include involvement of the school participates, all services during these periods are well attended.

Summary of attendance (all services) at Christmas and Easter 2022 – 2024

	2022	2023	2024
Easter Communicants	25	34	48
Easter Attendance	43	51	67
Christmas Communicants	31	19	40
Christmas Attendance	39	35	43

Confirmation

As we are a relatively small hamlet, confirmation takes place as and when required following a course of preparation led by the incumbent. Candidates are accepted from the age of ten years.

The last confirmation service at St Peter's took place in 2024, we find that maintaining our links with those confirmed, especially the younger candidates, remains a challenge for us.



Special Services



We welcome all couples who come to St Peter's to be married or bring their children to be baptised. We especially show concern and sympathy to those who have lost loved ones and bring them to church to say farewell. Every care is taken that all services are conducted with care and respect. We strive to ensure that whatever the occasion, all will leave St Peter's with good memories of their time spent there.

Summary of baptisms, marriages and funerals at St Peter's 2022 – 2024

	2022	2023	2024
Baptisms	5	1	2
Marriages	1	0	1
Funerals	4	7	2

Mothers Union

St Peter's Mother's Union was formed in 1946 and in the past was a thriving branch. It played a leading role in the life of the church and community celebrating its Golden Jubilee in 2006. Unfortunately since then through an ageing membership, loss of members and a small intake, it was decided to close the branch.

Spiritual Growth

It is the aim of St Peter's Inskip is to ensure our worship meets the needs of all ages and is attractive, meaningful and accessible to all. In past years we have held a mission weekend in conjunction with our sister church St Anne's Copp and participated in Diocesan initiatives such as 'Leading Your Church into Growth'. We also have a Bible Study Group and hold a lent course in the home of a member.

Ordination of Women

The PCC have resolved that St Peter's Inskip would accept a woman priest as our incumbent and as a president at Holy Communion.

5 Mission Action Plan

	SHORT TERM	MEDIUM TERM	LONG TERM
Grow and Welcome Our Congregation	Pray for the families who occasionally attend church that they will become regular members of our congregation	Invite people to help at church events. Look at introducing a mission driven aspect into social events organised by the church ~ Quiz Nights, BBQ's, Pop-Up Pizza etc.	Look for and plan suitable/enquirer courses (such as Alpha) to encourage new members to join our congregation.
Reach Out All Ages, Groups In Schools	Offer to assist in events run by Young Inskip People and Inskip Parish Council	Plan more events involving school, either in church or at school	Investigate hosting social/mission events in outside locations.
Continue To Develop Our Faith and Mission	Produce a plan at the beginning of the year, detailing social events and special services involving the school	Introduce different ways of praying together such as prayer walks	Hold bible study courses for members of the congregation

6 What Do We Need From Our Incumbent

Our parish is diverse and demanding and our new incumbent will need to be energetic, enthusiastic and resilient. We look for:

- * Someone who will develop the spiritual life of our church and who will respect its varied traditions and its approaches to worship.
- * Someone who will listen, help, support all aspects of parish life and also contribute to the welcoming ethos of our Church.
- * Someone who will reach out in warmth and love to provide pastoral care and support to all those in need but especially to the bereaved, sick and elderly.
- * Someone who is keen to continue but also to develop all aspects of our parish life and especially to strengthen and extend our role to the wider community of Inskip, including our fellowship with other churches.
- * Someone who will recognise and value the gifts, talents and skills of the laity and provide opportunities for their growth and expression.
- * Someone who will work with and encourage young families to become and remain part of our worshipping community.
- * Someone who will be actively involved in our Church School.
- * Someone who will provide good leadership, who will communicate their ideas and beliefs with conviction but who will be open to discussion and debate.
- * Someone with a genuine interest in children and young people, encouraging them to be part of the life of the church and to actively participate in family services and to remain and grow to adulthood in the Church following Confirmation.

7 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

Part 2

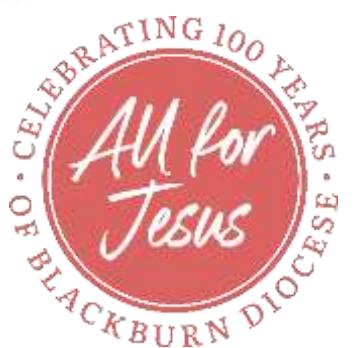
St Anne's Church - Copp



St. Anne's Church, Copp Parish Profile September 2025

Copp Lane, Great Eccleston,
PRESTON, Lancashire, PR1 0ZN

THE
DIOCESE
OF BLACKBURN
THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND IN LANCASHIRE



 THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND

www.stannecopp.co.uk
[St. Anne, Copp Facebook](#)



Loving God, loving others and serving our community

Welcome from our Churchwarden

Welcome!

I am delighted to be serving as churchwarden of St. Anne's, Copp through the current vacancy.

We hope that this Parish Profile gives you a feel for what our church is about: who we are, what we do, and how we want to develop our faith and our church.

Of course, this document cannot tell the whole story so we very much hope you will come to visit and meet us. Indeed, we hope and pray that you might even decide St. Anne's, Copp and St. Peter's, Inskip are to be part of your own vocational journey of faith; one in which your gifts, skills and efforts can complement ours for the greater glory of God, and the further development of Jesus's work in this area.

We offer different services and different worship styles, aiming to welcome lifelong Christians and newcomers alike.

As you would expect, our church caters for all ages. We have a thriving church school but also, our demographic means that we need to meet the needs of the retired and elderly as well. Additionally, we face the challenge of a much-increased population with a large number of new housing developments being built in the parish.

We recognise there is potential for significant growth across all ages at Copp and we are looking for someone who will lead us to achieve that – through reaching more widely into our community and through harnessing and developing the Gifts of the Spirit within our existing congregation.

God's work is never done and we know that there is so much more that we could be doing to build his kingdom here and beyond. Can you help us build a bigger, bolder future?



Our Vision for our Church

Our Mission Statement

To be a welcoming and serving church, rooted in faith and growing in love; caring for our community, sharing God's love with all and being faithful stewards of His creation.

In Spring 2023 Bishop Tony Porter led a “seed-scattering” mission in our parish. We held a number of community events and services over the week and are now seeing some small growth in our attendance figures.

We recognise that this is only the first step and need to build upon what has already been achieved.

Our PCC is actively progressing our vision for the future and whilst work on our Mission Action Plan is not yet complete, we have identified four key areas that we need to focus on.

Community

Being seen in and sharing God's love in our local areas. Expanding our outreach to all new housing developments. and being recognised as their local church.

Young People

Building on our links with school and growing our mission to young people.

Those in need

Expanding our mission to the elderly and infirm. Supporting local charities and food banks. Supporting National and International charities.

Environment

Caring for God's creation. Making our church more sustainable. Being seen and recognised as eco-friendly.

How we Worship

Our worship style generally leans toward the conservative side of the evangelical tradition and we aim to provide a variety of both types and styles of services each week.

Our main Sunday morning service is at 11.00am with All-Age Worship on the 1st Sunday of the month, Morning Prayer on the 2nd and 3rd Sundays and Holy Communion on the 4th Sunday. The order of service for both Morning Prayer and Holy Communion is from Common Worship. Our average morning congregation is around 30 people. Refreshments are usually served after this service.

We also have a service on Sunday evening at 6.30pm each week with Evening Prayer on the 1st and 4th Sunday of the month and Holy Communion on the 2nd Sunday. These services tend to be more reflective and traditional, using the book of Common Prayer. On the 3rd Sunday we have Vestry Praise which is a short, very informal service held in the church vestry with worship songs, readings, prayers and meditations. Although congregation numbers are lower than in the morning, these services are very much valued by those who attend. All but the communion service are currently fully lay-led. Our average evening congregation is around 8 people.

In months where there is a 5th Sunday we have a joint service of Holy Communion with St. Peter's, Inskip with the venue alternating between the two churches. There is no evening service on these days.

All our Sunday morning services are live-streamed on YouTube with a dial-in option also available.

Services on Holy Days are also usually jointly held between the two churches with the venue alternating each time.

During Advent we hold our Angel Festival where people create and display angels across all the villages. We hold a special service on the first Sunday of Advent to celebrate this.

We also have other services such as those involving pets or on special days such as Music Sunday and Remembrance Sunday.

Our service of nine lessons and carols, usually on the evening of the Sunday before Christmas, is very well attended and is always a great start to the Christmas season.

Members of our congregation frequently read the lessons and lead the intercessions in our services.

We prefer clergy to robe for all but the All-age worship service and to wear a clerical collar when working in the parish. We welcome all people regardless of their race, gender, marital status or sexual orientation and our PCC has unanimously resolved to permit the re-marriage of divorcees in our church and also that Prayers of Love and Faith can be used in our services.



Music

Music is an important part of our worship and mission.

We have an excellent volunteer organist. Our choir also has a reputation for being of a far higher standard than that usually found in a small rural parish. The organ is usually used for services although we have a keyboard which is used occasionally in church and nearly always for Vestry Praise services. When no musician is available the organ has the facility to "play" hymns that have been pre-recorded by the organist. Our hymn book currently is Mission Praise – Complete Edition and we aim to use a mixture of traditional hymns and contemporary worship songs.

The choir rehearse for an hour each Thursday evening and sing at the 11:00 am and 6:30 pm services as well as, by arrangement, at weddings and funerals. They also sing anthems and other music at services during the year such as Music Sunday and our service of nine lessons and carols.

During the Covid-19 lockdown our choir recorded hymns for use during our on-line services, the recordings were made available (and still are) on YouTube. These have now been viewed over 75,000 times and used both by individuals and in church services around the world. Our organist was awarded honorary membership of the Royal School of Church Music for his work during this time.



I will sing with my spirit, but I will also sing with my understanding."



Children and Families

Whilst our parish demographic has traditionally been in the higher age brackets, new housing developments will have the potential to change this significantly. We recognise that ministry to families and younger people is an important part of our worship. It also helps us strengthen our links to the school.

St. Anne's, Copp is recognised by the Diocese as being a Child Friendly Church and we always try to make children and their families feel welcome.

We hold a monthly "Messy Church" which is a Christ-Centred hands-on welcome to church and open to all children and their parents. It is lay-led with support from clergy, members of the congregation, parents and school teachers. Held midweek after school, it is mainly attended by pupils from school. Attendance is around 20 children and growing.

We try to make all our services as family-friendly as possible and whilst we do not currently have a Sunday School or similar for younger people, we have a small children's area with toys, activities and books at the back of church, but within the main worship area.

Some of the older children read the lesson during our All-age Worship services and also occasionally take part in the intercessions. They are always keen to volunteer to assist during the address.



Prayer & Discipleship



We understand the vital importance that prayer plays in our lives and fully support the diocesan initiative of prayer for growth and renewal.

Members of our Worship group and recently, other members of our church family, lead the intercessions at many of our services. We also have a “Prayer Tree” in church.

We also have a small group (although everybody is welcome to attend) who meet once a week online for a short prayer meeting.

Regular home-based bible studies are usually organised during Lent and Autumn. Frequently these sessions are led by members of our congregation.

Members of our church community have started a “craft and chat” group on one of the new housing developments where people new to the area can meet together and take part in various activities. Invitations to learn more of the love of Jesus and take part in church events and services are also given and we are starting to see some of the fruits of this work.

Confirmation classes are held as required, but usually annually. Depending upon the number of candidates this is either done with St. Peter’s, Inskip or at a deanery level.

We generally prefer baptisms to take place during our morning service, often but not exclusively the monthly All-age worship service. This allows us to properly welcome new members of our church family.



Pastoral Care

Our pastoral visiting team work with the Vicar to provide support to those in need and to maintain links with the church for those who are ill or unable to attend regular worship.

Visits are arranged through the team coordinator and all members of our team have up to date enhanced DBS checks and operate to the safeguarding standards set out in our pastoral visiting policy.

The parish contains one rest home, Northlands Village Rest Home in Raikes Road, Great Eccleston. The church conducts a short service of Holy Communion in the home once every month and we have recently also started a quarterly short afternoon Sunday service. These are greatly appreciated by the residents.

As well as visiting church members who are ill at home or in hospital we also offer Home Communion Services. These are usually conducted either by the Vicar or LLM by arrangement.

We have also run singalong sessions, providing entertainment and stimulation for the older members of our community.

Our recent church members survey identified pastoral care as something needing improvement and although we have begun that process, we are looking to further enhance our work in this area.



Rest Home Communion

Fellowship in our Church Life

Church-run organisations and events are an important part of our parish life. Not only are they occasions for us to meet together outside of the church environment but they also create opportunities for us to bring new people into our church community.

We have a small parish room attached to the church vestry which is used for smaller events and meetings. We also have use of the school hall, when available and this is really suitable for smaller events.

Larger events which are not suitable to hold in church require us to hire one of the local village halls or similar venues.

There are very limited drink-making facilities within the church vestry itself. However, the parish kitchen is adjacent to the school hall and we use this for refreshments after services and for other events held in church or school.

Our Mothers' Union branch, run jointly with St. Peter's, Inskip, meets monthly with many varied activities and speakers.

Mothers' UNION
Christian care for families

We also have a number of social events during the year. Some are events run for our wider community and others are designed to raise funds for the church. Our newly-formed Fund-Raising Committee is already planning new events to add to this list.

Monthly film nights are held in church from early autumn to late spring, usually showing recently-released films with a hot pot supper provided. These events attract people from our own and other church communities as well as those who have no church connections at all.

Our duck race is held at Larbreck stream and eagerly anticipated by all.

We participate in the school's annual fun day, organising activities such as the Teddy-Bear zip wire from the church tower and providing and selling refreshments.

Quiz nights and concerts are also held either in the local cricket club, in church or in one of the community halls.



Teddy Bear Zip Wire



The Duck Race

Our People

We are blessed to have people who give of their time and talents to enhance both our worship and our church.

We have one Licensed Lay Minister and one Authorised Lay Minister who is specifically trained in Children's Ministry, Environmental Stewardship and Occasional Preaching.

Our Worship Group includes the ALM and LLM and consists of six people who are available to lead services and occasionally, to preach.

There are also a number of retired clergy with permission to officiate in the Deanery who are available for holiday and sickness cover.

Our congregation possesses a wide variety of skills and talents and frequently provide support whenever and wherever they are able.

We currently have only one churchwarden who is supported by ten sidespeople. Visitors to our church and services frequently tell us how impressed they are by the welcome they receive.

Our PCC consists of our churchwarden, our ALM, two Deanery Synod representatives and nine other members.

There are currently 60 people on our electoral roll.

Smaller items of maintenance are usually carried out by a number of volunteers with another dedicated group regularly cleaning the church.

The church is also enhanced by the members of our flower group who decorate it each week and, on special occasions, provide stunning displays.



St. Anne's, Copp PCC



Our Church Building



St Anne's Church, Copp was consecrated in 1723. It is a beautiful small church, with stunning stained-glass windows and pitch pine pews with seating for around 220 people. It is regularly maintained in accordance with quinquennial reviews (last undertaken in 2022) and is in a good state of repair.

We have facilities for the disabled, including an accessible toilet. Spaces have also been created within the pew area to facilitate wheelchair access. We have large print books and a loop system to assist the hard of hearing.

Work currently planned will address the outstanding issues raised in our latest quinquennial review. In particular, we need to install a balustrade on our balcony to make it safe for children. Also, we need to reseal and enhance the protection on our stained-glass windows.

Additionally, we have identified a number of major pieces of work which need to be carried out in the near to medium term. In particular, our heating system and organ are both outdated and spare parts are increasingly hard to procure. Our worship could also be greatly enhanced with an upgrade to our limited sound and multimedia systems.

Our churchyard is almost full for new burials with only a small number of plots remaining. However, we do still have plenty of space around our churchyard wall available for the interment of ashes.

There is no clergy accommodation provided with the parish of St. Anne, Copp. The Vicarage is adjacent to the church at St. Peter's, Inskip. This can be challenging from time to time.



Church & Graveyard



Nave

Our School

Our church school is an important part of our church community and we have excellent relationships with each other.

St. Anne's, Copp Church of England Primary School is situated adjacent to the church and is voluntary aided. The head teacher is Ms. Andrea Loughran.

Currently there are 169 pupils and 23 members of staff with classes ranging from pre-school (age 3 onwards) to year 6.

The most recent Ofsted inspection in 2023 rated the school as Good with the SIAMS report rating it as Excellent.

The church PCC nominates up to 5 school governors. The Vicar is also a governor.

The church has established an independent trust to assist the school governors by providing some additional funding. The Vicar is one of the trustees.

"Pupils are proud to live by the school's values. They are polite and respectful towards adults and each other. They are keen to take on responsibilities such as being Christian ambassadors, head pupils and prefects. Pupils are happy at school."

Ofsted 2023

"The outstanding Christian leadership of the school enables all members of the school to flourish and thrive inspired by the aspirational Christian vision."

SIAMS 2020



Bishop Philip's visit to St. Anne's Copp – February 2025



Spirituality Day



School worship and services

There is a weekly full school assembly in the school hall led by clergy or lay ministers.

Every half term, a school year group lead a short 9.00am service of worship in the church: it is open to family members and members of the congregation with pre-service refreshments provided for attending adults. A second year group preparing for the next service also attend.

Children are supported and encouraged to enter church for private prayer time, supervised by teachers.

School pupils and the school choir regularly participate in our Sunday All-Age worship services.

School also has a firmly established Worship and Values pupil leader who supports them in expressing their religious, spiritual and moral values.

"Let us love, not in word, but in truth and action." (1 John 3:18)



Our Finances

Our PCC seeks to operate to an annual break-even budget, and to maintain a cash reserve adequate to cover at least three months of expenditure. At the end of 2024 total reserves amounted to approximately £19,500.

We are blessed with an extremely generous congregation who give more than the Church of England average per-capita amount. However, our total income fails to meet the level required to enable us to pay our Parish Share of approximately £43,000 in full.

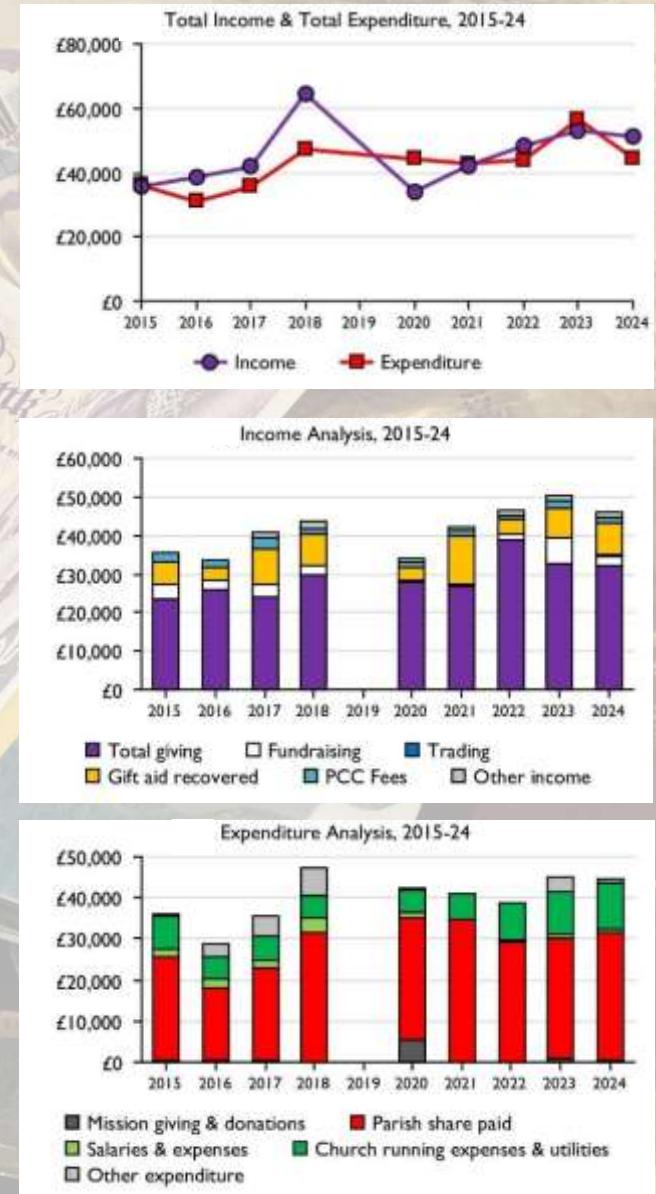
The Diocese of Blackburn has generously granted us relief from our full share for the past few years. This has, at least, enabled us to maintain our break-even position. We do, however, realise that this situation can only be temporary and we need to find ways to boost our income significantly.

Most fund-raising activities were curtailed during the pandemic and many have still not restarted. However, we have recently appointed a new fund-raising committee and are starting to see the benefits of their work.

Realistically, however, we know that the only way to raise our income to the right levels is to attract more people into church. Mission is, therefore, as important to our finances as it is to other aspects of our church life.

We have recently introduced Parish Giving as an efficient way to give to the church. This has been a success with over half of our regular income now coming in this way. We have also installed an electronic card machine in church to allow contactless donations.

As noted elsewhere in this document, we have identified a number of large items of expenditure that are likely to be required to keep our church running over the next few years. Obviously, our current financial situation means that these will need to be carefully planned and budgeted and we pray that God will provide suitable resources when they are needed.



Recent Church Members' Survey

We carried out a survey of our congregation in March 2024 to find out what they thought we did well and what we could do better.

Feedback was generally very positive with a number of useful suggestions being made.

We have already implemented some of these and are looking to incorporate others into our Mission Action Plan.



Safeguarding

Safeguarding is an integral part of the life and ministry of the church. We are committed to maintaining environments that are safe for all children, young people and adults and to creating nurturing, caring conditions within our church.

We are 100% compliant with Level 3 on the Mandatory Requirement of the Safeguarding Dashboard, and the Safeguarding Action Plan was last reviewed by the PCC in September 2024.

The PCC has adopted 'Promoting a Safer Church as its own Safeguarding Policy. The policy is accessible from the front page of the church website, with posters directing church officers and all people to up to date hard copies kept in the parish room. The PCC regularly approve and review safeguarding procedures and all church activities are reviewed according to the dashboard requirements.

Safeguarding is a standing agenda item at every PCC meeting with a brief update report at each meeting and a full report at each APCM. DBS checks for all church officers and PCC members are kept up to date by the PSO and progress with new or updated DBS, and training requirements, are reported to PCC at each meeting.

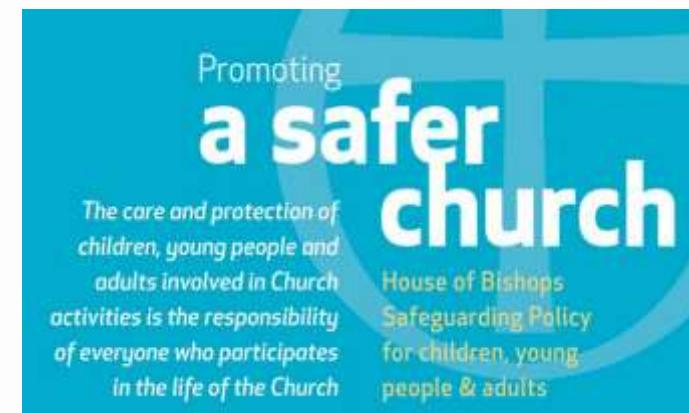
The Churchwarden, the PSO, and a deputy for the PSO in the absence of an incumbent, are all fully trained at Leadership Level, including in Safer Recruitment and People Management. As many members of PCC do not have access to online training Basic and Foundation level Training, and any additional training required e.g. domestic violence training, is delivered to the PCC members by the PSO during PCC meetings. This means of delivery is clarified and declared on the Diocese safeguarding dashboard.

St Anne's, Copp is not part of a Local Ecumenical Partnership and although the PCC reviewed and the PSO is aware of the policy for recruitment of ex- offenders. We have no paid staff.

The PSO is also the Governor safeguarding lead for St Anne's, Copp School and all church related school activities are undertaken in partnership with school personnel who are fully safeguarding trained and DBS checked.

Recognising the wide age range and psychosocial challenges of the wider church community, for example the needs of not only children but the elderly, neurodiverse members, and the national high incidence of domestic violence, training undertaken by the PSO, includes consideration of a wide range of case studies, with the focus upon not hesitating to raise concerns and seeking advice from the PSO and DSO.

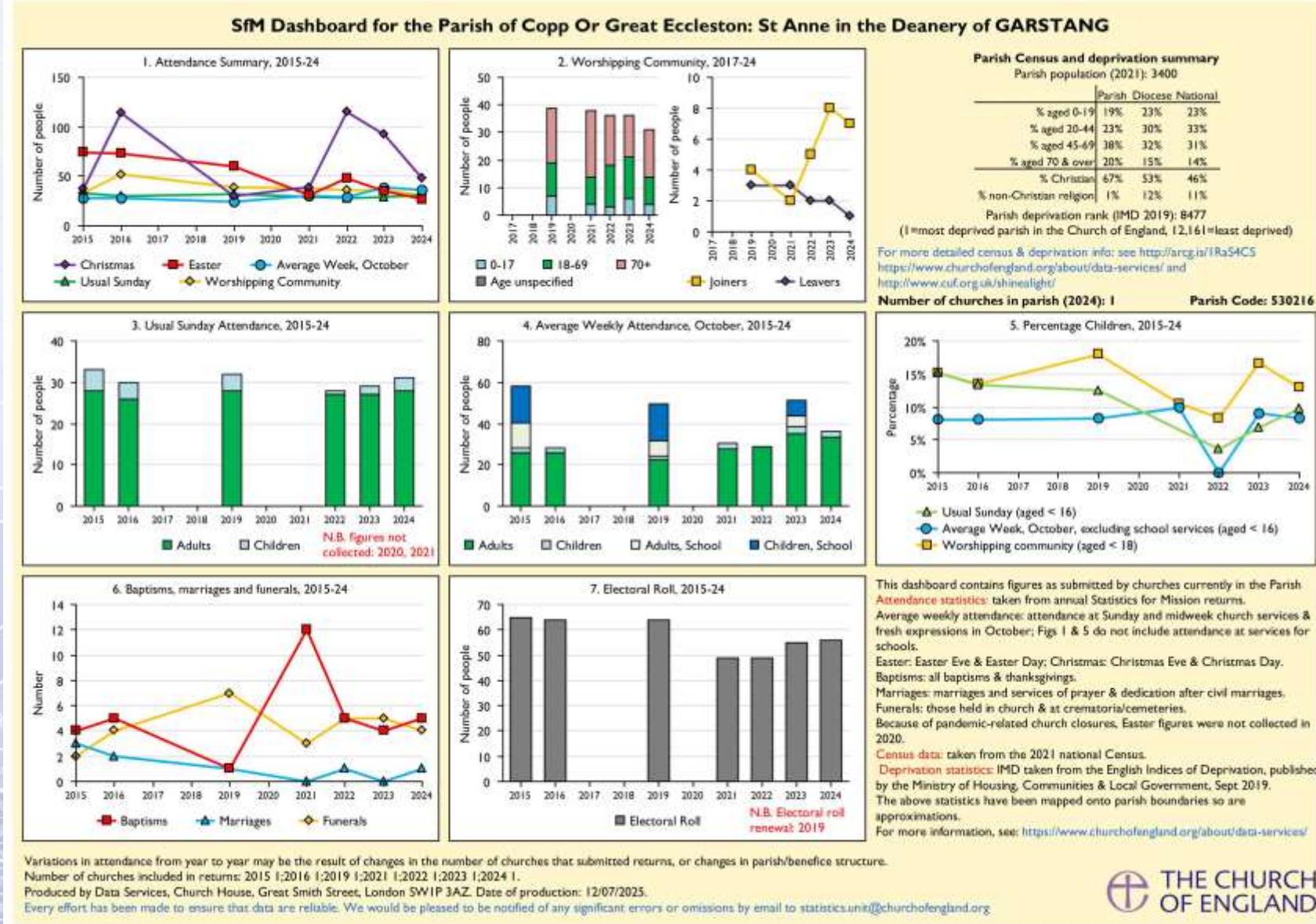
Each year in November we observe Safeguarding Sunday service to help us a church community consider how we can best promote a healthy and safe culture.



Parish Statistics

The annual Statistics for Mission data is collected by the Church of England and gives an overview of attendance and participation.

Amongst other things, it outlines the size of our worshipping community; attendance at church services throughout the year and at the major festivals of Easter and Christmas as well as the numbers and trends in baptisms, weddings, and funerals.



Our Local Area

The parish consists of four separate villages or communities which have expanded over the years to include several housing developments growing both Great Eccleston and Elswick into the size of small towns. Currently there are over 400 new homes being built and at least a further 200 planned.

The local area is a mix of farming communities, commuting and home working families, the retired and visitors enjoying all our local area has to offer. We are in easy reach of stunning coastline, beautiful countryside and many historical locations. Employment opportunities within the parish are limited, restricted to hospitality, small rural businesses, local shops and farming.

Great Eccleston (pop: 1773): is the largest village and has 2 traditional pubs and 4 restaurants or cafes with a wide range of local produce shops, a small supermarket and a weekly farmers market. It also has a Post Office, Health Centre and pharmacy. There is a lively Village Centre with a full programme of The July Great Eccleston Show and August International Tractor Pull celebrating the farming heritage and life of the villages.



Charlie's Convoy - Great Eccleston square

Larbreck and Little Eccleston (pop: 577): Little Eccleston has a boutique hotel and country inn. Larbreck has a number of caravan sites and Larbreck stream is the site of our regular Duck Race.



Cartford Bridge, Little Eccleston

Elswick (pop: 1048): also has 2 pubs, a corner shop and a large modern Village Hall. Social space is also available attached to the URC church in Elswick.



Elswick High Street



Community Outreach and Wider Ministry

We recognise the importance of working together with our fellow Christians both locally and further afield.

There are three churches from other Christian denominations in the Parish:

St. Mary's Roman Catholic Church, St Mary's Rd, Great Eccleston. The only other primary school within the parish is attached to this church.

Great Eccleston Free Methodist Church, Hall Lane, Great Eccleston.

Elswick United Reformed Church, Lodge Lane, Elswick.

Although there are currently no formal fraternal meetings between the clergy of these churches, a good working relationship is maintained.

We also participate in services and other events involving all congregations that are held throughout the year including annually at the Great Eccleston Show, the Remembrance service at the cenotaph, Christmas Carols in the Square and the World Day of Prayer. We also host the Garstang deanery service of choral evensong which "travels" around many of the churches in the deanery each month.

Our local monthly community magazine "In Focus" contains a "Faith in Focus" article which is written in turn by one of the local clergy. This is delivered to every household in our parish and beyond. Other church members also regularly submit articles and diary reminders related to church activities.

Although they were only intended for use in our worship during Covid, our choir's videos of hymns, anthems and worship songs continue to be viewed around 10,000 times every year. Obviously, we have no way of assessing the impact of this ministry but we do know that they are viewed in countries where Christians may be persecuted and we are also aware that they have been used in church services as far afield as Australia, South Korea and the USA.

Our web site and our Facebook pages contain a large amount of information and are frequently used and regularly updated. However, we have identified the need to expand our social media presence in a secure and appropriate way.

We support a number of local, national and international charities either directly or by encouraging members of our congregation to do so.

Salvation Army Food Bank, Preston. As well as having a drop off point for donations in church we also manage a number of others around the parish. Donations are then regularly taken to the Salvation Army for distribution to those needing them.

Christian Aid. Our local area collection for Christian Aid Week is coordinated by a member of our church. We also have a number of events during the year such as Lent lunches and Christmas carol singing around the local pubs and restaurants to raise additional funds.

Streetlife. A charity for homeless young people in Blackpool.

Twincare Foundation School, Kampala, Uganda. Twinned with St. Anne's, Copp School and coordinated by a church member.

Phoenix Nurse Training in Myanmar Active War zone. Members of the congregation personally support and work with this charity. The church flies the Myanmar flag on February 1st each year to mark the date the military coup started in 2021.

Toilet Twinning. Our church toilet is twinned with its counterpart in Sindh Province, Pakistan.

Our vision for our new Vicar

We hope and pray that our next Vicar will demonstrate a strong personal Christian faith and will lead and care for our Church family so we can flourish and, through the power of the Holy Spirit, grow both as individuals and as a community. We look forward to working with them; but do not expect them to be perfect, nor have the answer to every challenge.

Our aspirations are that they will:

Provide inspirational teaching to nurture a deeper understanding of God's word and how it applies to us in our lives today.

Build upon the work already started to develop and implement our Mission Action Plan to grow our vision for the future.

Be able to connect with, and minister to, the younger people in our congregation, school and wider community without alienating others.

Develop our outreach to the many new housing developments currently being built and planned within the parish.

Be sympathetic to, and honour, the existing worship styles at St. Anne's, Copp whilst being open to exploring and developing new styles and patterns of worship.

Be compassionate; leading and developing our pastoral visiting team and working closely with local community groups, hospitals and rest homes.

Build upon our links with the school, maintaining good relationships and encouraging greater church involvement among the parents and children as well as leading school worship on a regular basis.

Have good leadership qualities as well as encouraging others to develop their own gifts and abilities.

Work with, and be seen in, the local community, promoting greater links with the church and enabling us to grow our mission within the local area.

Be approachable and friendly demonstrating good communication and listening skills.

Promote links with St. Peter's, Inskip whilst recognising the wishes of both parishes to maintain their own individual identities.

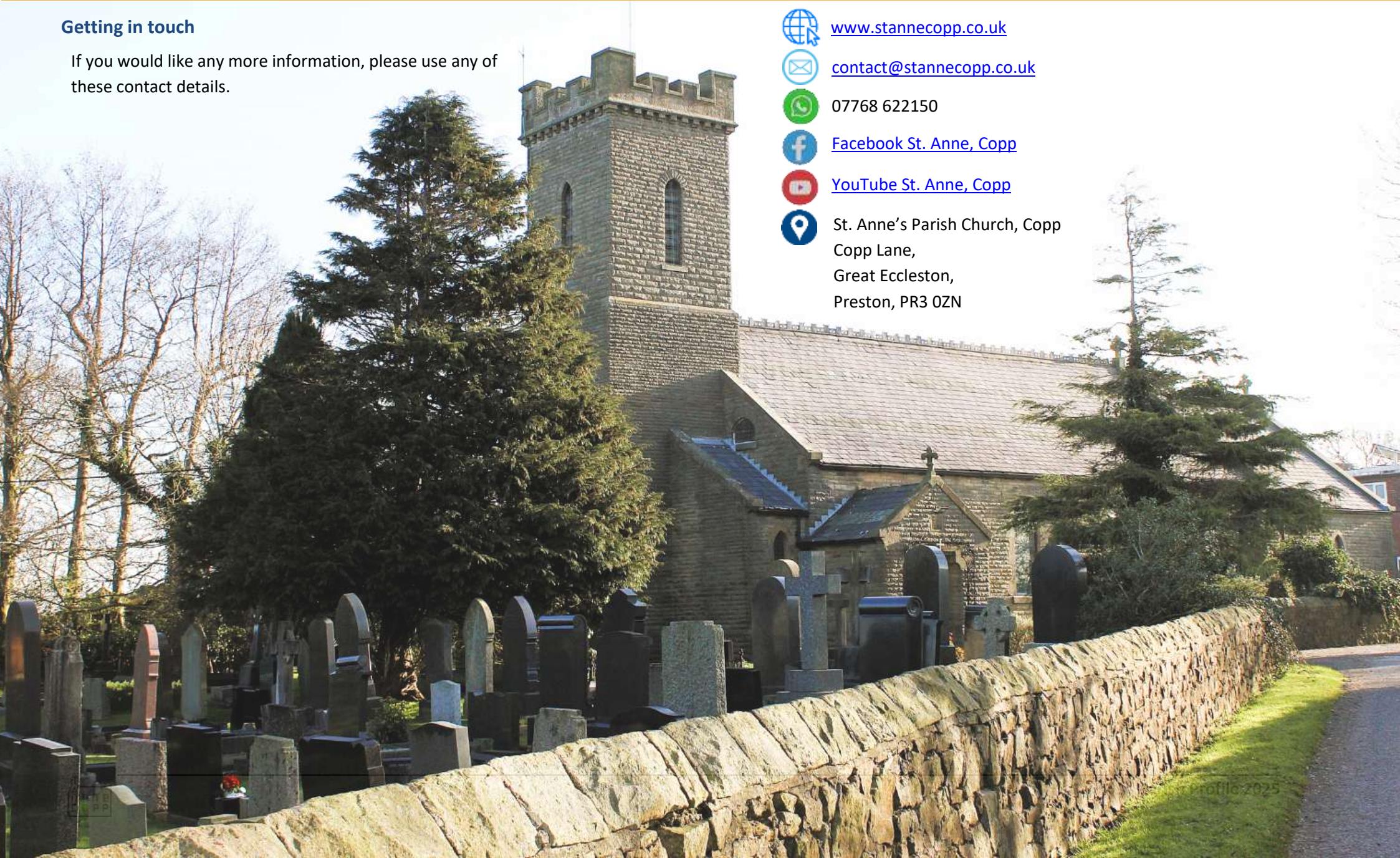
The word cloud background to this page shows the responses from our congregation when asked to name the qualities they would like to see in a new vicar.



Further information

Getting in touch

If you would like any more information, please use any of these contact details.



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