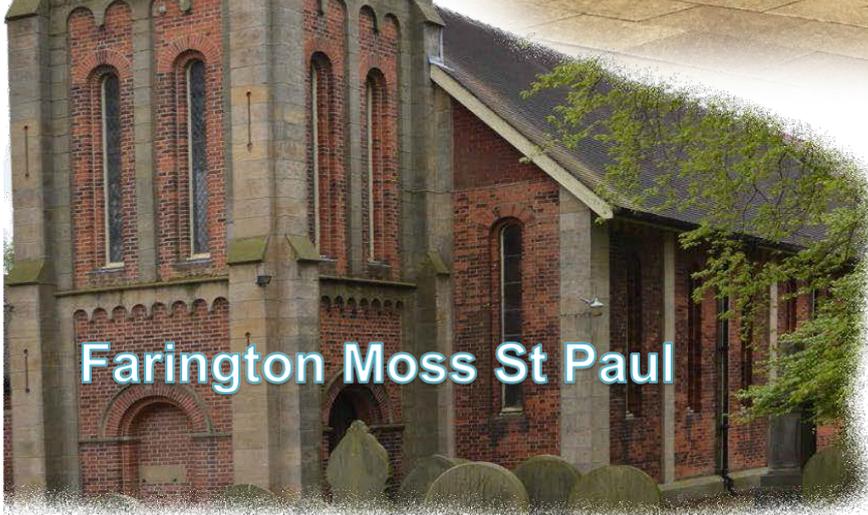
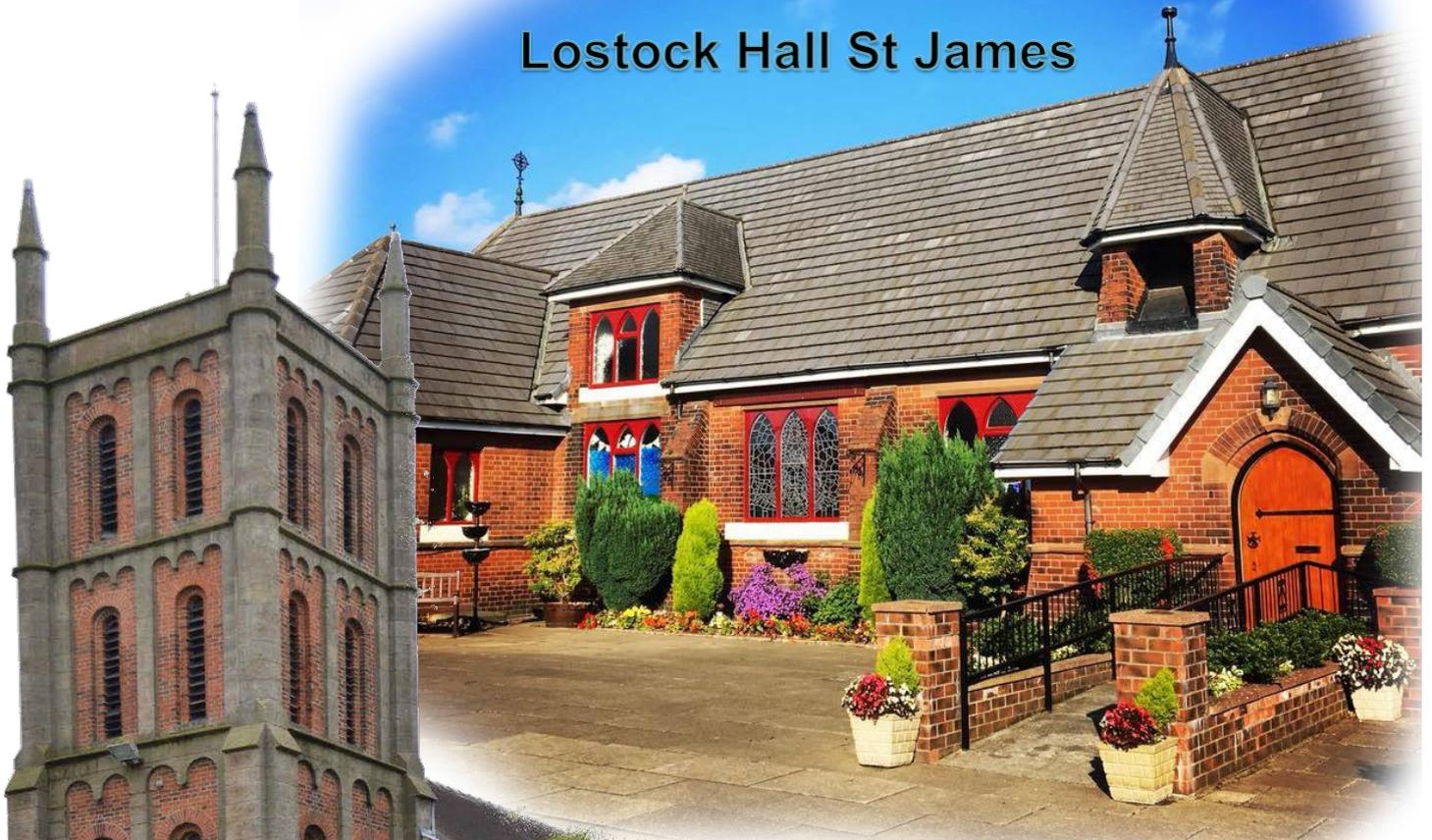




Benefice Profile

Lostock Hall St James



Farington Moss St Paul

2026



Welcome

The parishes of St James Lostock Hall and St Paul's Farington Moss welcomes you to this our parish profile. We hope it will give you a snapshot of our benefice life as you contemplate your next exciting position to further your spiritual growth and ministerial development.

Two lovely churches, a lovely location, with warm and welcoming congregations.

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Letter from the Bishop

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, 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 "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.

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 had an agenda for growth agreed by the Blackburn Diocesan Synod in 2015. It challenges our parishes to be healthy churches that transformed their communities as we looked ahead to our diocesan centenary in 2026. It also laid out four ways in which this over-arching goal could 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.

In the last year, the Diocese has embarked on a major programme of listening to God and our communities as we discern when he is leading us next.

Our Centenary Prayer is:

**Heavenly Father, in our Centenary year
we rededicate ourselves and our Diocese to you.
Send the Holy Spirit to give us confidence in our witness,
generosity in our service, and love for our neighbours,
that your Church may be renewed and many come home to you,
through your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ.
Amen.**

You can find out more about our Centenary year by visiting our website:

<https://www.blackburn.anglican.org/all-for-jesus-centenary-of-blackburn>

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

Safeguarding

The Joint benefice of Lostock Hall St James and Farington St Paul is committed to the safeguarding of children, young people and adults. We follow the House of Bishops guidance and policies and have our own Parish Safeguarding Officers (PSOs). The Diocese of Blackburn's safeguarding pages contain vital links and information including contacts for the Diocesan Safeguarding Advisor (DSA) who advises our PSO. Our PSOs have worked hard to ensure that all necessary clearances and training have been completed. This has been communicated to the congregations with posters and an awareness campaign including a dedicated



'Safeguarding Sunday' service.

Executive Summary

Welcome to the Joint benefice of Lostock Hall St James and Farington Moss St Paul in the Leyland deanery of the Diocese of Blackburn.

The parishes in the benefice of St James Lostock Hall and Farington Moss St Paul share a boundary which is partially delineated by the main west coast railway line. St James' is a suburban parish whilst St Paul's is largely rural. We are situated to the south of the City of Preston, adjacent to the interchange for the M6, M61 and M65 motorways.

The Benefice is in the Ribble Valley parliamentary constituency. Any main issues surrounding local government in Lostock Hall are governed by South Ribble Borough Council, or Lancashire County Council.

St James church was built in the 1890s is of brick construction; adjacent to the church is the church hall built in the early 1900s, St Paul's was built in 1840 and is brick with stone dressings; it is a grade 2 listed building and has a large grave yard. St Paul's Church Hall was built in 1977. All four buildings are attractive and well maintained, although St Paul's church is beginning to show signs of a need for restoration and repair in some areas.

The Vicarage is a detached house located in Lostock Hall, with four bedrooms (master bedroom with en-suite), three reception rooms, a fully-fitted kitchen, double garage, and pleasant garden. This property has been recently purchased by the Diocese and replaces the Vicarage which was previously in use.

Both churches have their own churchwardens and PCCs; the wider congregations are working hard and have a positive vision for growth. St James has good choir supported by a good organist and choirmaster, they support all services and perform extra choral pieces for special services. St Paul's also has a good organist and a small choir. Both churches also hold regular family services. We have recently formed a new Baptism Preparation Team to work with the incumbent preparing families coming forward for Baptism and follow up afterwards. The team is working across the benefice.

We are also launching a Stewardship Campaign across the benefice in the new year to help with both parish finances.

Although we operate autonomously, the two churches share many things in common, St James Players and St Paul's Amateur Dramatics Ensemble (SPADE)



are drama groups who put on an annual pantomime and other productions. Both Church Halls are also open to and used by the wider community this provides a small income for the PCC's.

In St James church hall we have a Coffee Morning each week, Mother/Adult and Toddler group and hold a regular Messy Church. In St Paul's church hall we have a weekly coffee morning which is well attended by a number of regulars; for many of whom the morning is a welcome break from the loneliness of old age. Uniformed Organisation also meet weekly in St Paul's hall.

St Paul's has an excellent Church of England school whose pupils and staff actively participate in the life of the church.

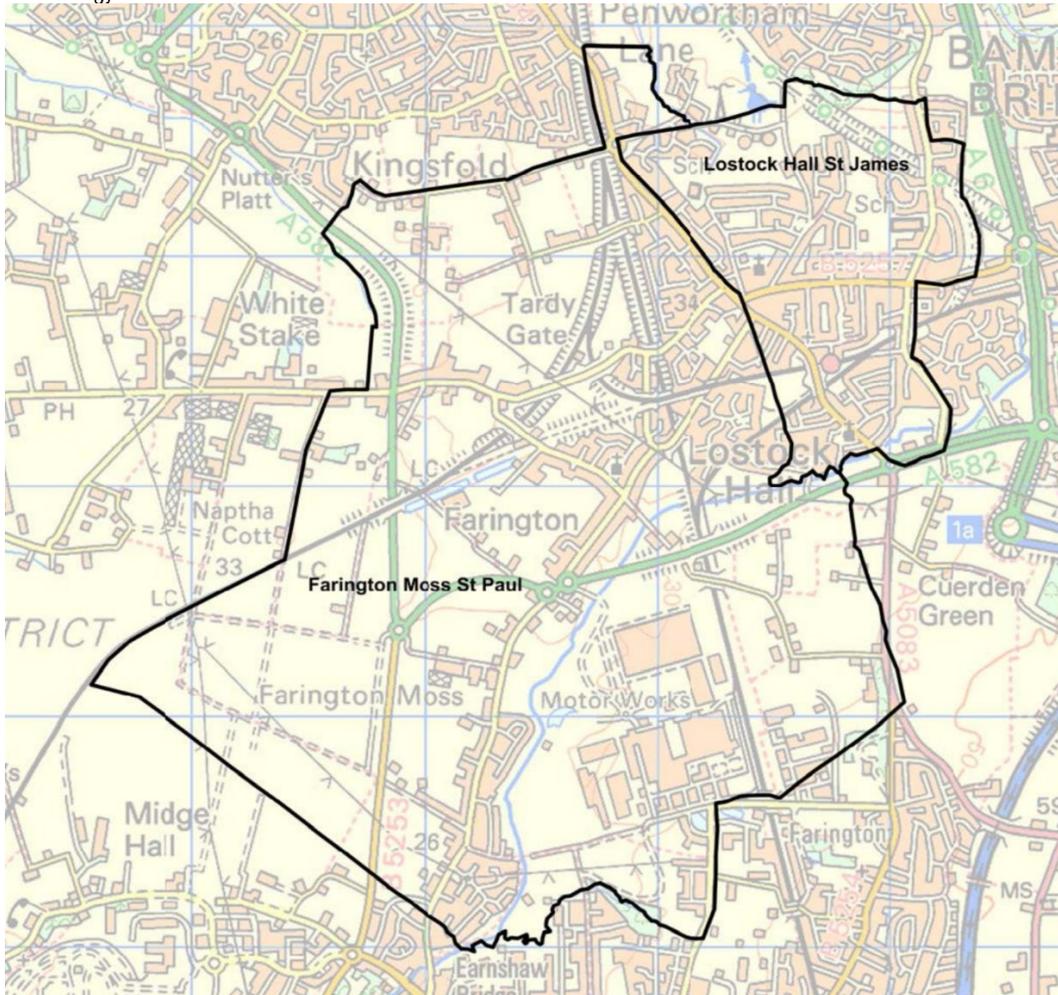
The Benefice has been through a distressing period, in relation to the circumstances which led to the removal from office of its last incumbent. As the benefice moves on now from a year of interim ministry, it seeks a priest who will continue to lead the work of healing and who will lead the church community into a new season in its life, focussed on mission and worship.

Christian Healing Ministry

The benefice has held several Wholeness and Healing Services in 2025/26 which have been well received and well attended. These were held at St James for the whole parish where anointing and prayer ministry with the laying on of hands was offered. This has provided an opportunity for people to come together following the recent traumatic events in the parish to receive God's healing and reconciling love. It is hoped that such services will continue to be a valued part of ministry giving people much needed peace and strength for personal growth and parish mission in the future.

The Joint Benefice of Lostock Hall St James and Farington Moss St Paul's

The parishes in the benefice of St James Lostock Hall and Farington Moss St Paul share a boundary which is partially delineated by the main west coast railway line. St James' is a suburban parish whilst St Paul's is largely rural. We are situated to the south of the City of Preston, adjacent to the interchange for the M6, M61 and M65 motorways.



The Parish Boundaries

Lostock Hall St James Parish – Local History

Lostock Hall traces its origins to James de Lostock who in 1212 built Lostock's Hall. A settlement expanded outwards from Lostock's Hall, taking its name from the Hall, this was later shortened Lostock Hall.

The Hall remained in private ownership until Harry Dewhurst the last owner gave the Hall and its 6 ½ acres of grounds, to the Preston Royal Infirmary so that it could be used as a continuation hospital until closure in 1984. Trustees had been established by St. Catherine's Hospice (Lancashire) Limited and were looking for a building to serve as a hospice base for people in the Preston, Chorley, and South Ribble Boroughs. The lands and building of the Lostock Hall Continuation Hospital were purchased, as this was positioned geographically central to all three Boroughs. The building was renovated, and the first service at the Hospice started in 1984.

The Impressive South Ribble War Memorial is in S James parish. This is



dedicated to the memory of 682 men from South Ribble who gave their lives during the First World War.

Lostock Hall is a small suburban village within the borough of South Ribble, bordered on its south-eastern side by the interchange for the M6, M61 and M65 motorways. The suburban nature of the parish is highlighted when the population density is compared with that of our sister parish; St Paul's covers roughly 4 times the area of St James, but the population of St James parish is higher.

Lostock Hall in the modern era is slowly developing itself, with many small businesses, shops, public houses, take-away facilities, and restaurants, providing a variety of goods, amenities, and meeting places, for the locals and travellers alike. A row of local shops forms the centre of the village and most major supermarkets are a short car journey away.

The population of Lostock Hall is 5932 and lack of any major employer means that people living in the parish travel to Preston or South to Manchester Liverpool for employment.

Farington Moss St Paul Parish – Local History



The villages of Farington and Farington Moss are situated south of Preston and close to Leyland, Agriculture remained the primary occupation until the 1830s, which was supplemented by spinning and weaving in the home. Now 80% of the crops grown in Farington are lettuce and celery, with potatoes, barley, green vegetables and tomatoes

making up the rest. The parish also includes several plant nurseries. The industrial development meant that Farington and Farington Moss grew separately.

Even with the increase in industry and growing traffic, Farington Moss manages to still keep its rural community and its village life that it first was. The name Farington derives from the old English a tun – (town), where fearn – (fern) grows. It changed



from Farinton in 1212 to Farington in 1246. Up until 100 years ago all the land west of Croston Road was peat bog but has since been turned into fertile agricultural land.

The cotton industry played a key role in forming its character, with the mill which boasted one of the tallest chimneys in Lancashire being the main source of employment.

The original parish was split into two sections when the mill was built by Mr Boardman in the early 19th Century close to the railway line. Far Farington was centred on St Paul's Church and Near Farington centred around the mill.

Farington Moss St Paul – Parish

The Parish of St Paul Farington Moss lies between Preston to the North and Longton to the West; Lostock Hall is on the Eastern boundary and Leyland to the South. The parish boundaries enclose an area of approximately 12km² and along with the villages of Farington and Farington Moss it encompasses the Leyland Business Park, home to the world famous Leyland Trucks. Leyland Trucks have an outstanding history of charity works and have supported St Paul's several times in the past.



The parish is also home to some 6700 souls; over the last ten years, several new housing developments have been built in the Southern extremes of the parish with several more currently under construction, so this number is constantly increasing.

A large proportion of the parish is rural (agricultural) land with several plant nurseries and a large number of farms. The shops and businesses in the centre of Lostock Hall are within the parish and form part of the Eastern boundary. There is a playpark, fully refurbished by South Ribble Borough Council in 2025, with a communal recreational park and also a small trading centre consisting of around a dozen small enterprises. In 2024, Farington Parish Council refurbished the play park adjacent to the graveyard. The play park, along with the St Paul's Bowling Cub are situated on land owned by St Paul's.

One of the businesses within the parish is a family owned sawdust recycling firm who have also in the past provided valuable support to St Paul's and its daughter organisations. Leisure facilities within the parish include fishing lodges, St Paul's



bowling club and three pubs.

Lostock Hall St James Church Community

We are a small but friendly Anglican Church and give a warm invite to anyone who wishes to join us in our worship. We believe in one God, experienced in Jesus Christ as our Lord and Saviour and in the power of the Holy Spirit. We co-operate with the other churches in our community in the furtherance of God's work.

St James has two churchwardens; our PCC consists of eight people excluding the churchwardens and incumbent.

The previous incumbents have worn Eucharistic vestments, and choir dress for non-Eucharistic services. This something that the PCC would like to see continue. We have a permanent organist and a strong choir. At the present time the incumbent is supported at services by lay members who do the readings and lead the intercessions, during communion she is assisted by communion assistants. We have a vergers who is responsible for opening, closing and general caretaker duties of the church along with the churchwardens.

CHURCH AND SERVICE		
Patron		
Bishop of Burnley		
Electoral Roll		
Year	2025	
Number	49	
Occasional Offices, Celebrations etc.		
Baptisms	14	
Weddings	0	
Confirmation	Adult candidates	3
	Under 16 candidates	0
Funerals	in church	5
	at Crematorium	0
Normal weekly attendance	adult	34
	under 16	3
Festivals		
Easter	Communicants	33
	Attendance	37
Christmas (Christmas Eve only – Christmas Day	Communicants	54
	Attendance	



service at St Paul's		
Our Services		
Sunday	9:30 am	Sung Eucharist
Thursday	9:30 am	Said Eucharist

Lostock Hall St James' Links Into the Wider Community

As a parish we traditionally had good links in the local community and are currently working to strengthen and in some cases re-establish these.

We have a good working relationship with the local care and nursing homes and St Catherine's Hospice. The incumbent regularly visits, holds services and if required gives communion at these homes and sheltered housing in the area; communion is also given at home to members of the church who are ill. Within the parish boundary we do not have a hospital; we do however encourage the incumbent to visit parishioners who are in the nearby hospitals. Our parish does not have responsibility to the local authority and no civic duties are currently expected of the incumbent. However the local council recognise the role we play within the community and have provided a number of grants in recent years to support our work in the community.

We contribute regularly to the local Food Bank to support families in need in the local community and recently installed a charity clothing bank in the church hall grounds.



Although we no longer have a youth group or Sunday School, we maintain a connection to the youth of the parish through the local schools and the local guiding groups who promote and support church events; until last year the guiding groups (rainbows, brownies and guides) attended parade services and special services around 6 times per year. The scout and guide huts are both located within a few hundred yards of the church. In the last 18 months we have had a number of visits to the church from children from both the local primary school and nursery schools, and the local special school, and they all had lots of questions about the church and faith; the vicar visits the primary school regularly. Members



of the congregation are part of the governing body of the primary school and previous incumbents have had a place on the governing bodies of both schools. There is also a High School within the parish, close to the new vicarage.

At Christmas our Christingle, Crib and Carol Services each attract good attendances, many of whom are young people and their families from the local community, as does our Harvest Festival. Our annual service of remembrance and thanksgiving at All Souls offers outreach to those who have been bereaved, and our recently introduced healing services have drawn in new worshippers to St James alongside the existing congregation.



Also in the Hall, Messy Church has been a regular event for over 8 years. We run around 6-8 sessions per year, usually on Saturday afternoons, and it regularly attracts around 20-30+ people, some of whom then attend Sunday services in the family area at the rear of the church or come to special services; this is something we are seeking to build on.





Messy Church is run by an enthusiastic team of around 10 lay volunteers, and whilst hosted by St James it is for the whole Benefice and wider community to join together to have 'fun with faith' through crafts, activities, a story, song & prayer and a shared meal. Whilst some of our sessions are based around major festivals - Christmas, Lent & Easter, Pentecost, Harvest - others take different themes such as 'God is my Superhero', Peace and Love or Noah & Jonah! St James' Toddler group is run every Tuesday morning by a local childminder and is a very well attended event, providing fellowship and fun within a Christian ethos.

Members of the congregation meet for coffee in the Church Hall after church services, providing an opportunity for fellowship. The hall is also used for our weekly Community Coffee morning. This was an addition to our activities around 3 years ago and is very popular, with over 30 regular attendees; it is used by a local history group for their weekly meetings we also have a Talking Tables table. Local councillors hold a surgery at the coffee morning once a month, and we have also hosted talks and visits by other support groups such as dementia awareness, fire safety and warmer homes. The members of the church who run this also organize shopping trips, theatre trips and parties for special occasions for the congregation and local community in general. We have moved our midweek service to a slot that links in with this coffee morning.



St James Players put on 2-3 productions a year including an annual pantomime with a cast drawn both from members of the church and the wider community. The pantomime attracts an audience in excess of 700 people, again giving them a link with St James, and for many years we held a 'Pantomime Service' in church the Sunday following the performances. The players also participate in the local Gala Day procession. Last year members of the congregation resumed our traditional annual Strawberry Tea and Christmas Fair - these events both raised additional funds for the church as well as reaching out to the wider community.





Lostock Hall is a compact parish and St James is geographically situated at the heart of the community. Part of our mission is to ensure that St James (along with our colleagues at St Paul's) is a central part of the community, not only physically and socially but spiritually and emotionally, and we look to our new incumbent to lead and support us in that mission.

Farington Moss St Paul Church Community

St Paul's is one of two parishes within the benefice, the two parishes operate mostly independent of each other but share some services and social activities. St Paul's has two wardens and a deputy plus an active PCC with 3 members.

There are a number of care homes and two sheltered housing areas within the parish and recent housing developments have added approximately 300 new homes to the parish.



People and St Paul's

Here at St Paul's we firmly believe that the church is the people who follow Christ and seek to be his disciples. Our congregation ranges in age from new born to the early nineties, but above all, we pride ourselves on being a friendly, warm and inviting group of people.

St Paul's has a small worshipping congregation with signs of growth. We have 33 people on the electoral role and our regular worshippers are from a wide age range. During a normal week we have a small number of children attending alongside 20-30 regular attendees. Larger numbers attend for special services (Easter, Christmas), for school services and Parade services such as Remembrance Sunday. Our youth ministry extends to uniformed groups and a baptism and confirmation programme.

The church holds a good reputation in the community and has excellent relationships with St James church and the local school of St Paul's where we have a regular presence. As a church our ministry is focused on the needs of those in the local area. St Paul's offers a warm space coffee morning which is very well attended. Social events such as bingo, dominoes and amateur dramatic performances are also popular.



The talents, interests and skills of the people here at St Paul's are as varied as the age range. In a similar way to our links with the school, most of the organisations linked with our church are centred around young people and work towards bringing children (and their families) into our community.

We also have uniformed organisations for boys and girls of all ages; all directly linked to St Paul's.

We also believe that it is important to remember that an active viable church does not limit its interaction with the community to acts of worship, we must reach out to the community through other methods.

To help us do this, we organise social events within the parish.

These include, but are no means limited to:

- Community Coffee Morning
- Parish Bingo
- SPADE Pantomimes





- Summer Fayre in June/July
- Christmas Fayre in November.

We have a small team of ladies who keep our church looking beautiful with flowers and floral displays.

Every year we hold the traditional harvest festival at the end of September or early October. St Paul's School will hold their harvest festival in church on a Friday and then the gifts from the congregation are added to those brought in by the children. All gifts are then split between Leyland and Lostock Hall foodbanks.





The coffee morning has proved to be a valuable asset. We have a small number of regular attendees 2 of whom were near neighbours but had never met until they came along; sadly, both lost partners of many years in 2025 and have said that the coffee morning has been a "God sent lifeline". Both of these ladies are now great friends and regular members of our Sunday morning congregation.



On Advent Sunday, we hold our annual Toy Service where we remember the less fortunate by donating new toys to the NSPCC who distribute them locally to children's home and families in need. One of the local pubs runs a 'Donate a Toy' campaign and for the last few years the generosity of their patrons has been truly amazing.

The toys donated range from soft toys for babies through to radio controlled cars. This service always gives us a wonderful spiritual lift as we move into Advent in preparation for our Lords birth.

The previous incumbents have worn Eucharistic vestments, and choir dress for non-Eucharistic services. This something that the PCC would like to see continue. We have a permanent organist and a small choir. St Paul's has our own setting for the Eucharist written by a previous incumbent. We also have a respectable number of sidespersons and communion assistants to assist the incumbent during services; a number of congregational members read the lessons. The PCC Secretary maintains rosters for the above duties.

Our verger prepares the church for services including funerals, weddings and baptisms.

CHURCH AND SERVICE	
Patron	
Bishop of Burnley	
Electoral Roll	
Year	2025
Number	33
Occasional Offices, 2025.	



Baptisms	10	
Weddings	1	
Confirmation	Adult candidates	3
	Under 16 candidates	5
Funerals	in church	9
	at Crematorium	0
Normal weekly attendance	adult	20
	under 16	2
Festivals		
Easter	Communicants	32
	Attendance	49
Christmas (Christmas Day only – Christmas Eve service at St James’	Communicants	8
	Attendance	8
Our Services		
Sunday	11:00 am	Sung Eucharist

Bishop Philip came to St Paul's in July 2025 and confirmed 3 adult members of St James' congregation (all from the same family), and 5 children from St Paul's School.

The service was well attended by members of both congregations along with parents and staff from the school. St Paul and St James' choirs joined together to celebrate this wonderful occasion.





Lostock Hall St James Church.

The Parish Church is in good repair and has had the following works undertaken since the last quinquennial inspection in 2022, all routine maintenance and minor repairs have been carried out. The walls supporting the access ramp have been rebuilt due to frost damage we are currently looking to update the lighting inside and outside the church.

The gardens surrounding the church are attractive and well maintained by a small group of volunteers who meet weekly. The gardens and the small seating area by the church are admired by visitors to the church, passers-by and the congregation all think that they are an asset to the church.





Lostock Hall St James Schools.

St James does not have a church school within the parish but the church has good links with the Lostock Hall Community Primary School and the Moor Hey Special School.



Farington Moss St Paul Church

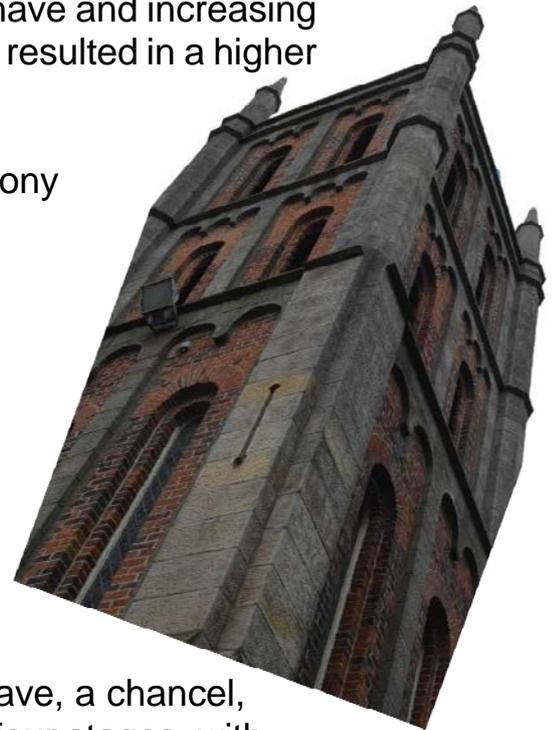
St Paul's Church is an active Anglican parish church in the deanery of Leyland, its benefice is united with that of St James, Lostock Hall. St Paul's church is recorded in the National Heritage List for England as a designated Grade II listed building. It was built as a Commissioners' church, having received a grant towards its construction from the Church Building Commission.

St Paul's was built in 1839–40 and designed by the Lancaster architect Edmund Sharpe. The church cost £1,700 (equivalent to £140,000 in 2016) to build and the cost was paid in full by 1845. The church was consecrated on 27 June 1849. When first built it had seating for 479 people. In 1909 it was enlarged by adding an extra bay to the nave and increasing the size of the chancel, the addition had resulted in a higher roof for the chancel, and in 1966 the nave roof was raised to the same level as the chancel and the balcony was removed.

The church is built in brick with stone dressings and, when originally built, had red roof tiles although these were replaced by charcoal grey tiles when the roof was raised. The tower and nave are in Romanesque style and the chancel is in Gothic Revival style.

The church plan consists of a six bay nave, a chancel, and a Northwest tower. The tower has four stages, with angle buttresses rising to a pinnacle at each corner. Within the tower is a single bell, unfortunately the bell frame is unsafe and the bell can no longer be rung.

The church is generally in a reasonable state of repair and is very suitable for regular worship; the nave is fully wheelchair accessible, but there are 3 steps to the chancel and sanctuary where sidespersons standby to assist the infirm. Communion is administered in the pews to those unable to climb the steps.





There are two stained glass windows, the large Northeast window and the smaller Southwest. The Northeast window was installed in 1920 costing a grand total of £400. It is 16 ft high and 10 ft wide, with five main lights. The central light represents the Great Sacrifice and "I am the vine"; at the bottom of this light is a memorial commemorating 62 of the fallen from the first world war. On the lower left of the window is a British Sailor with the White

Ensign forming the background and on the lower right is a British Soldier against a background of the Union Jack. The churchyard contains war graves of five soldiers of World War I, and a soldier, a marine and Royal Navy sailor of World War II.



The stone font has a wooden lid, hand carved c1911 from oak by Alcimus Coulthurst, who was wheelchair bound from birth; his achievement is truly amazing as 3 grown men are needed to remove the lid when the font is used for baptisms.



St Paul's has a small team of dedicated and highly skilled florists who keep our church looking beautiful throughout the year. Parishioners are invited to donate the cost of flowers to commemorate special occasions.



In 2024, three pews were removed from the rear of the south side of the nave, a fourth was rotated and reinstalled directly behind the fifth pew from the rear. A carpet was laid to produce a family/gathering area. This has proved immensely popular with the younger members of our congregation.

Just before Christmas 2023, both boilers failed, unfortunately the same (obsolete) part was faulty in both, so we couldn't use parts from one to fix the other. The boilers were eventually replaced in December 2024 but due to a supply shortage, the correct controller could not be installed until late January



2025. The only control we had at the time was literally on or off; as it was at or only just above freezing for most of this period, the boilers were therefore constantly firing and used nearly £5000 gas. We are still recovering financially from this.

St Paul's does not have a vicarage, the incumbent resides in the St James' vicarage.

The graveyard has over 1600 graves and around circa 35 spare plots; it is maintained in good condition by a small team of volunteers. When the hall was built, an unknown number of graves were exhumed and the departed were re-interred in an earth mound adjacent to the car park.



Lostock Hall St James Church Hall

The Church Hall is a large well maintained single story brick building which needs some refurbishment over the next few years. The end wall has recently been re-rendered to solve a damp issue. The church hall is used to host multiple activities beside the ones run by the church, these include Dance classes Martial Arts St James players drama group and Slimming World. It is also hired out to individuals and other groups events or parties.





Farington Moss St Paul Church Hall

The hall was built in 1977 by a local builder in exchange for a large plot of land which now forms St Paul's Close. It has a total floor area of ~220m² and includes a kitchen, stage and toilet facilities. When the hall was constructed, the Vicar's and choir vestries were included.

The stage (~4m * 10m) was built in 2006 by St Paul's Amateur Dramatics Ensemble who also installed a fully functional sound and light system. The kitchen / toilets were refurbished c 2009 when the accessible toilet was added. A new range style cooker and hood have also been fitted. The hall is well used by the uniformed and other organisations associated with St Paul's; it is available for hire by outside organisations and also for private parties. It is used as a polling station in national and local elections.

Lostock Hall St James Finances.

The Churches finances are stable and we have a small surplus held to cover any emergency expenditure if needed. At the moment we are not paying the full parish share but pay what we can, regularly reviewing the amount we can send to the diocese. We have held Stewardship campaigns in the past; and we are planning to launch a Stewardship and Generosity Programme in January 2026 using the Giving in Grace resources. We recently joined the Parish Giving scheme and have installed an online contactless giving machine. Extra money is raised from various events run by the church and held in the Church Hall. At the moment there is no large expenditure planned for either the Church or Church Hall.

The incumbents expenses for both parishes are paid by St James parish and appropriate costs are then recovered from St Paul's.

Lostock Hall St James CHURCH FINANCES	
Finance Returns	
Year	2024
<i>Description</i>	
Parish Income	48296
Parish Expenditure	37133



Farington Moss St Paul Finances

St Paul Farington Moss are struggling with our finances and have been for several years; in fact until January 2026 we have not been able to pay anything towards our parish share for three years or more.

We will be running a stewardship campaign from January 2026, this will among other things concentrate on encouraging people to sign up to the Parish Giving Scheme.

Targeted fund raising for specific projects at St Paul's is historically quite effective, for example, the organ cleaning and the hall roof replacement projects were very well supported.

St Paul's owns a small piece of land to the North side of the graveyard. The larger part is leased to Farington Parish Council for £500 per annum, currently used as a playpark and village green maintained by the Parish Council. Currently, the smaller part is used by St Paul's Bowling Club who make an annual donation for use of the land. Both areas are open to use by all people in the local community.

St Paul's have an agreement with our sister parish of St James' whereby incumbents expenses are paid by St James' who then invoice St Paul's as appropriate.

Farington Moss St Paul CHURCH FINANCES	
Finance Returns	
Year	2025
Parish Income	£36471
Tax Efficient Planned Giving	£3538
Amount per person per week	£5.38 average
Parish Expenditure	£27658 (not including share)
Parish Share Assessed	35922
Parish Share Paid	0



Farington Moss St Paul C. of E. Primary School



Head teacher: Mr. James Eccleston

Deputy Head Teacher: Mrs Simone Napier

Five Full time teachers and five part-time teachers

Number on roll: 187 children

Ofsted rating: Good December 2022

SIAMS rating: Excellent January 2020



The school's Christian vision is to **THRIVE IN THE GIFT OF LIFE** based on **John 10:10 – 'I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.'**

Our School Vision was created through a collaborative process involving Children, Parents, Governors and Staff over a period of time. The key word is 'Thrive'.

As a Church School, we see our whole *raison d'être* as being to see life as God's gift, to receive that gift, and enable all people within our community to thrive in that gift of life. All that we do, whether in terms of academic life, spiritual life, or the values in which we seek to live, enables our school community to live in that abundant life. This does not happen automatically. We work hard to ensure that our Vision permeates throughout the whole curriculum and is an integral part of school life.

We realise our vision through inspiring and nurturing our whole school family to grow and reach their full potential. A strong emphasis is placed on supporting everyone's mental health and well-being to enable us to reach our goals as best we can.



Farington Moss, St. Paul's is an inclusive school where every child in our care really does matter. We pride ourselves in having a hardworking and committed team of professionals who strive to achieve the highest standards possible within an environment of Christian love and care. This ensures that all our children can experience high levels of self-esteem. Our children are happy, hardworking and aim to achieve their full potential in all aspects of their development - we will challenge and encourage their learning during their time in school.



As a church school, with close links to the church at St. Paul's, we believe that the Christian faith underpins all that we do in school and permeates all aspects of school life - Our school vision is, **'Thrive in the Gift of Life.'** We encourage the development of the children's social skills and seek to enable them to build relationships with other children and adults demonstrating courtesy, respect and sensitivity to the feelings and needs of others.



We work with parents and guardians to achieve success for every child in our care and recognise that the highest standards in both behaviour and all-round achievement can only be reached with close co-operation between home and



school. We work closely with parents and carers, seeing them as equal partners in a child's education so that together we can make their time with us both happy and successful.

At Farington Moss, St. Paul's School, we have worked hard to establish very strong links to our Parish Church. The children take part in Acts of Worship at the end of each term, celebrating Harvest, Advent, Christingle and Christmas, Easter and the final service of the Year, The Year Six Leavers Service. We are proud that our children have close links to the Church, the current incumbent, Reverend Margaret leads Worship Wednesday in school each week. This service is an open invitation to Governors, Parents and Carers to come and worship with the children at school. We understand how busy families are at the weekend and may miss the Sunday service, so this is an opportunity to worship and pray.

Throughout school, we celebrate Christianity and other religions and encourage children to speak freely of their beliefs, understanding and curiosity. We invite members of other faiths into school, to lead worship and workshops, to educate the children and make them aware of the secular world that they live in. We follow the Blackburn Diocese Syllabus – Questful RE and have regular Zoom Collective Worships with Bishop Philip and also with Lisa Fenton. Bishop Philip recently stopped at our school during his Pedalathon and we celebrated his achievement as a whole school community.



Spirituality is a core component to 'living life in all its fullness' as the mind, body and soul needs to be nurtured equally. It relates to fundamental questions about the meaning and purpose of life which affect everyone and is not dependant on a religious belief. It is also based on the search for ways to answer questions about life and a search for identity.



Here at St. Paul's, pupils and staff experience spirituality through many different forms: collective worship, classroom worship, awe and wonder in nature, stillness, mindfulness, yoga, forest school, dog therapy, creativity, reading, hymn singing and music.



Each year group can visit our Parish church each half term. During these visits, children are encouraged to explore the building, its artefacts, its history and its purpose in their community. It also prepares the children for services and how they can use the church to show respect, reflection and silence. The graveyard is explored to see the variety of stones that are used for headstones, the history of the people who are buried there and used as a place to be respectful and reflective.

Within school, we celebrate St. Paul's Day, discovering a man who was called by God to do a very important job and how this led to him being a Saint. We celebrate Prayer by having a Prayer Day and Prayer Corners where the children can write prayers, think of others and be peaceful. We have a Worship Group that supports and sometimes lead Collective Worships, Children's Chaplains who support children at playtimes and lunchtimes through compassion, perseverance and joy.



They attend the 'warm Café' each Tuesday in the Church Hall meeting and conversing with members of the church and local community, they write the Intersessions for the Sunday Service and much more. The children are invited to take part in Confirmation and are taught in school to be prepared for the occasion.

We truly believe that all children at Farington Moss, St. Paul's Primary School 'Thrive in the Gift of Life' from the first day in school, until the last. It is a spiritual, emotional and educational journey. All children are encouraged to be courageous advocates and seek their own individual journey and have a significant role in the life of the school.





Farington Moss St Paul Links Into the Wider Community

We have a number of links to the local community with many organisations directly linked to St Paul's, all of whom use the hall for their meetings:

- Scouts, Cubs and Beavers
- Guides, Brownies and Rainbows
- St Paul's Amateur Dramatics Ensemble (SPADE)
- Parish Bingo
- Community Coffee Morning.

The hall is also used regularly by a Pilates fitness class; an Alcoholics Anonymous support group have recently started to meet in the hall.

We have a good relationship with Farington Parish Council, in the past the council has assisted us with grants to support major projects.

At harvest time, the produce donated is split between the Lostock Hall and Leyland food banks.

We also have a good working relationship with church communities from other denominations in the local area, particularly during Holy week. The incumbent usually takes an active part in the Lostock Hall Royal British Legion Act of Remembrance held by the memorial in the centre of the village.

1st Farington Moss St Pauls Scout Group

We are a small but well supported Scout group. We have 3 sections all of which meet in the church hall and we contribute to the church for the use of the hall.

Beavers

These are 6 – 8 years old and meet every Wednesday 6pm until 7pm

Cubs

These are 8 – 10.5 years old and meet every Monday 6.30pm until 7.45pm

Scouts

These are 10.4 until 14 years old and meet every Monday 7.45 until 9.15. In 2026 we are hoping to open a Squirrel Drey this is the newest section of the Scout Association and members are 4 – 6 years old and the plan will be to start this in quarter 1 with meetings on a Monday before cubs.



We support the church as much as we can we support both the Summer and Christmas Fayres and paid for the costs to replace the lights in the church hall.

This year our Scouts have cleaned and tidied all the remembrance Garden, Cubs tidied around the church grounds checked all our war graves.



Our Scout group celebrated its 50th Birthday this year; to celebrate, we had a competition as part of our annual group camp to make a badge for the group to wear. We had some great entries and decided to select two winners. One from Beavers and one from Cubs we then had a badge made combining both entries.

We run the annual Remembrance Sunday service for the church and all the Scout Group take part; we read all the names of the fallen during the service. We always put a poppy on each of our war graves. We recently arranged with the War Graves Commission to put up a plaque outside the church that tells visitors we have war graves and we look after the graves.



As a group we enjoy our close links to both the Church and School.

Rainbows

1st Farington St Paul's Rainbows had their first meeting in the Church Hall on 1st March 1993 and have met each Friday during term time, from 5.45pm to 6.45pm since then.



Rainbows is for girls aged 4 to 7. To ensure girls are settled in school, they usually start with us the Easter after they start school. We always have a waiting list, so parents are encouraged to register early via the Girlguiding website <https://www.girlguiding.org.uk/information-for-parents/register-a-child/>

Rainbows move to Brownies when they are ready. This is usually the term after they turn 7. We follow the Guiding programme for Rainbows and they love earning their badges.

We regularly join with Brownies to enjoy additional activities e.g. science day, trips to the tennis centre and pottery and their favourite – cinema trips. We recently attended the Panto at Preston Playhouse, which the Rainbows enjoyed very much. Our next joint venture will be a visit from Horus Birds of Prey. We try to do something charitable each term. The latest ones were we took Rainbows and Brownies to Booths around Harvest time and they bought food for the food bank, and we joined with Brownies to make and deliver “Pocket Hugs” down St Paul’s Close in December.

We have also booked the Church Hall for the annual Thinking Day celebration for our District which includes the units in Lostock Hall who are associated with St James’.

Brownies

2nd Farington St Paul’s Brownie Unit’s first meeting was on 24 January 1953. We therefore celebrated our 70th anniversary in January 2023 with, as you might expect, a party in the Church Hall.

Brownies is for girls aged 7 to 10. We almost exclusively take girls from St Paul’s Rainbows, the term after they turn 7.

We are always full and have a waiting list, Consequently, we rarely take girls who are new to Guiding as we have similar numbers to Rainbows. We work closely with the Units in Lostock Hall that are associated with St James’ Church to try to ensure that as many girls as possible can join Guiding, if they wish.

Brownies move to Guides the term after they turn 10.

Brownies meet in the Church Hall each Friday during term time, from 7pm to 8.15pm. In addition to this we also hire the Hall at weekends to have longer meetings on subjects the Brownies are interested in. In recent years subject have ranged from Roald Dahl to Physics. We will be celebrating Baden-Powell’s birthday next year in the Church Hall along with the Units from Lostock Hall for our



annual Thinking Day.

We try to take part in Church activities. The Brownies are always well represented at Church Fayres where we run stalls to raise money for Church. The Brownies enjoy running the stalls so much the leaders mainly leave them to it and just supervise. Along with Rainbows and Guides we help decorate the Church for Harvest and donate food to the collection.

Away from the Hall, the Brownies have recently enjoyed outdoor activities, visits to the tennis centre, cinema trips and pottery painting. At Christmas 2024 we joined with Rainbows to make and deliver "Pocket Hugs" to neighbours close to the Church Hall as an alternative to carol singing!

Bingo

Eyes down, we're going for a full house (or a full church hall). Once a month during winter our church hall is full of people of all ages enjoying a traditional British pass time – BINGO. But not just any bingo, yes bingo, but St Paul's version has a modern twist, it's family bingo! Our attendees range in age from 9 months to 90 years, although the younger ones do need help with their dabbers sometimes. Prizes are varied from meat hampers to cakes and although no alcohol is consumed on the premises, there are always several bottles to be won. It doesn't cost much to take part but all profits go to church funds.

St Paul's Amateur Dramatics Ensemble (S.P.A.D.E.)

The drama group started in 2000 and has produced a panto almost every year since. Some members of the group have even written scripts for both pantos and radio shows. As a spin off we started Stage Vibe which was for our youth members. Unfortunately, this ended after about 5 years due to lack of both helpers and youth members. We continued to have youth members in the main drama group until the change in law introducing the requirement for chaperones, which meant we did not have enough adult volunteers. At this time we are an adult only group made up from both the church and the community. We have had many previous young members going on to do further work within the acting, singing and dancing world. One of our previous members works and is credited on Disney movies.

All proceeds from our productions go to church funds.

Lostock Hall St James' Vision

The vision that we have for St James in the short and longer term are set out below.



In one year

We would like to see:

- Continued growth of our congregation
- Messy Church Grow
- Better communication with the parish generally
- We would like to utilise the popularity of the coffee morning by increasing the activities provided i.e. museum trips and tea dances.

In five years

We would like to see:

- Stable finances including longer term planning for major expenditure
- Further increases to our congregation
- Further deepening of faith and spiritual understanding
- The re-introduction of a Sunday Club
- The provision of some form of Youth centred activity for our community
- To look at other services or ways of involving the wider community in the work and worship of the church.
- To find a way to have the church open on a regular basis during the day.

Farington Moss St Paul Vision

In one year

We would like to see:

- Continue bringing the parish policies (Health and safety etc.) up to date and running
- Our coffee morning growing in numbers
- Improve our communication and public notices, possibly create a website
- A continuation of our stewardship campaign
- More acknowledgement of what we are achieving.

In five years

We would like to see:

- An increase in our congregation especially in the younger and middle aged groups
- Stable finances including longer term planning for major expenditure.
- Established clergy, committed to growing our church.



What Does The Benefice Need The Vicar To Do?

- Be the leading force in both spiritual and organisational terms
- Continue to build the growing relationship with St Paul's school
- Be visible
- Support events
- Encourage us
- Continue to follow the Leading Your Church into Growth (LYCiG) principles
- Do more teaching/Bible studies.

What Does The Benefice Offer

- Dedicated church wardens and lay people who are committed to assist the incumbent.
- Our PCCs are working through the LYCiG sessions.
- St Paul's uniformed groups offering support at church events
- Potential new parishioners from new housing estates in St Paul's parish
- Great schools and an area close to open spaces, the Lake District the Yorkshire Dales and the Lancashire coast are all within an hours drive,
- Near to extensive road networks and the main West Coast Railway line.

Who Is God Calling To The Benefice?

The ideal candidate would be an experienced priest who:

- ✦ Seeks to develop and grow the congregation in line with the Diocesan Vision 2026 and LYCiG
- ✦ Works with lay colleagues to develop worship, mission and ministry across the area
- ✦ Develops and strengthens the ministry to schools, especially to the Church school in St Paul's Parish
- ✦ Inhabits the strengths of existing patterns of worship whilst looking for opportunities to innovate and refresh
- ✦ Works with others to develop strategies to minister to large new areas of housing
- ✦ Is a good listener, an enthusiastic person who will work closely with people of all ages in the benefice, the school and the groups within the church
- ✦ Has the ability to join in and enjoy church events
- ✦ Is an outgoing priest who is able to ensure professionalism in church



events/meetings

- ✦ Dedicated to the support of the church finances and enthusiasm with ideas for fundraising and showing support for all church events
- ✦ Has an infectious faith and a prayer life which animates and feeds both their discipleship and their ministry.