

St Andrew's with St Margaret's and St James Colne Road, Burnley



July 2026

Facebook: St Andrew's church Burnley

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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.



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

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.

1. What is the PCC's vision for the future?

- We are determined to maintain St Andrew's as a beacon of joyful Christianity in a very mixed community, not only as a place to worship but to build on a ministry of welcome and to promote our faith in a more outgoing and visible way in the local community.
- We are confident that we have the support of the whole congregation to pursue change to progress this vision, which will specifically involve young people in all aspects of church life. This will also require our formal liturgy to develop so that it is as inclusive and child and family friendly as possible.





2. What is our Spiritual life?

- Worship is eucharistic and sacramental. Morning services were for many years offered on a daily basis, but of late, with a half time priest, we offer a mid week mass on a Thursday morning as well as a mass on a Sunday morning, We would certainly wish for these services to be continued, as a minimum. Refreshments are offered in the hall after these services and are much appreciated.
- The PCC voted to submit a Letter of Request to the Diocese in 2014 relating to the ministry of female bishops and has recently confirmed its position and agreed not to revisit the issue. The Parish is strongly committed to mutual flourishing and seeks a priest who will play a full part in the life of the Deanery and Diocese.
- We have a commitment to our youth. We have an active Sunday school and youngsters are both taught and entertained before joining the main service with the leaders just prior to communion. We also send a sizeable group of youngsters and carers to the Walsingham youth pilgrimage each year.
- There are 68 names on the electoral roll, with 17 resident in the parish and 51 living outside. Following Covid, numbers attending on a Sunday have reduced, with up to 40 attending on a Sunday, and up to 20 on a Thursday.
- We have two churchwardens – Vic and Geoff – who work well together and between them have considerable experience of the role.
- The PCC is a lively body currently with 16 members, which meets on a regular basis. Its meetings are always conducted with goodwill from all and no little humour. The Standing Committee, consisting of incumbent and officers, meets to discuss any urgent business that might arise in between times. Other sub committees, like our social and our ministry groups meet on an ad hoc basis.

- Numbers volunteering have reduced for various reasons, but we do have a small group who provide support at services, either as eucharistic assistants or servers. We also have a number of rotas to cover readings and refreshments after services.
- We have a small but enthusiastic choir and are always looking for new recruits.
- In addition to those mentioned above we support a number of other groups and activities:
 - **Mothers Union**
This meets fortnightly on a Tuesday afternoon, with a speaker or some joint activity.
 - **Table Top Sale**
This is a monthly event in the hall, which is very popular and brings in valuable funds for the church.
 - **Tea, Talk and Toast**
Refreshments are offered after the Thursday service, not only to the congregation but also to other members of the community, who appreciate the social contact.
 - **Stay and Play**
This is a busy, highly successful community pre-school play group, attended by parents and carers from our parish and beyond, run totally by volunteers.
- We support a number of uniformed groups:
 - **Rainbows** meet early on Monday evening.
 - **Brownies** meet later on Mondays.
 - **Squirrels** meet early on Monday and Wednesday evenings.
 - **Beavers** meet later on Wednesdays.
 - **Cubs** also meet later on Wednesdays.
 - **Scouts** meet latest on Wednesdays.

The advantage of having two large rooms in the hall is obvious!

Numbers for all the groups varies, but all are viable at present and the leaders are working hard to increase numbers.





3. What resources do we have?

CHURCH

- The church was consecrated in 1867, constructed from stone in the early English style with seating originally for 580 people. There are four banks of pews, with three aisles. The church was restored and extended in 1898 and the opportunity was taken to install a magnificent limewood reredos by Charles Eamer Kemp, who also designed many of the stained glass windows. In addition there is a lady chapel, a vestry and separate choir vestry. There is a traditional organ, located next to the choir stalls.
- The latest quinquennial report, produced in early 2022 confirms that there is no major defect with the building and the churchwardens are working through requirements on a priority basis. The most urgent requirement, repointing the main spire, was carried out in 2024.
- The latest refurbishment, involving a complete internal redecoration, electrical rewiring and new lighting, took place in 1999. The interior of the church has been sensibly maintained in the intervening period and is in good condition. In 2010 grant funding was made available and the reredos was restored to its original splendid condition.

HALL

- Built in 1865, the hall is what remains of the old school and is adjacent to the church. With an English Heritage grant in 2002 there was a major refurbishment, giving it a much more attractive interior, together with increased car parking space. There is a maximum capacity of 200 in the large hall and 80 in the small hall and the facility is well used by church and other groups.
- In 2007 funding was obtained for the replacement of the old kitchen equipment with a state of the art commercial unit, which is always a positive selling point when hiring out the hall.

- The quinquennial report confirms the building is in reasonable condition, but it certainly requires constant attention, which the churchwardens have in hand.
- The hall is in regular use for a variety of church and community activities. It is the base for the church social and fundraising events, youth organisations and Sunday school. In addition the hall is well used by a local community group, who hold regular bingo and social events; the local stroke group: a pilates group and a team of bagpipers to name a few. Lancashire Adult Education services have also contracted to provide sessions from the hall, which brings in valuable income.

FINANCES

- St Andrew's has never been a rich parish, but in recent years it has not proved possible to meet the full parish share, largely because the regular giving of a reduced congregation reflects the social and economic circumstances of the surrounding community. A stewardship campaign last year saw a small but welcome increase in giving.
- With that proviso, the parish is able to pay its way on general expenditure, but reserves of £10,000 are only moderate. Without income from hall rentals the parish would find life much more difficult,



4. What is the community we serve?

THE PARISH AND ITS COMMUNITY

- The parish is situated in the north of the town, with the church built to service the growing local population, who largely worked in the adjacent mills and coal mines. The housing stock is mainly of that vintage, although a couple of modern estates and a new housing development close by are within our boundaries. Burnley General Teaching Hospital is just half a mile away. It has undergone major redevelopment and is part of the East Lancashire Teaching Hospitals Trust.
- The demographics of the parish have changed in the last generation. The 2021 census indicated that the majority population is of Asian heritage, with a large number identifying as Eastern European. The result is a vibrant mixture of cultures and faiths which is reflected in the varying range of shops in the area.

- A recent incumbent took the initiative in promoting inter-faith understanding and cohesion, and to that end was instrumental in setting up and supporting Building Bridges in Burnley. This group has been very active and successful; indeed the 20th anniversary celebrations were held at St Andrew's, in recognition of the part played by the parish, with Bishop Philip a prominent speaker.
- Although there is no church school attached to the parish now, previous incumbents have given a high priority to contact with all local schools and were often governors.





THE WIDER COMMUNITY

- Burnley is one of a number of Lancashire cotton mill towns that grew to prominence in Victorian times, although its roots go back to medieval days. The town is blessed by having beautiful countryside and villages close by, with the Ribble Valley and the famous Pendle Hill to the west and the imposing Pennine moors and Bronte country to the east. The compact nature of the town means that it is easy to access and to take advantage of these delights.
- Burnley itself is surprisingly green. It has five Green Flag parks with landscaped gardens and leisure facilities. The jewel is Townerley Park, once the deer park for Townerley Hall, which is a large and varied open space, well loved and much visited by local residents. Burnley developed because of its position on the Leeds-Liverpool canal, which threads its way around the town. It is now a leisure facility enjoyed by local residents and plenty of others.
- The decline of traditional industries after 1945 created many difficulties, but these have been addressed and the town has re-invented itself. There is plenty of light industry in and around the area, including aerospace specialists and Burnley is now a university town, being part of the University of Central Lancashire. Facilities are growing accordingly, including a medical school. Many old mills are being repurposed as academic and student accommodation and the changes are remarkable.
- Burnley College is a sixth form and further education centre which is amongst the best performing in the country and enjoys a strong reputation.
- The town centre is growing, with a number of well known retailers present. The most recent development is the Pioneer complex, with a range of commercial and entertainment facilities, including a multi-screen cinema.
- The reputation of the town is greatly enhanced by the presence of Burnley FC – otherwise known as the Clarets. Founder members of the Football League, the Clarets constantly punch above their weight and have ensured that the name of Burnley is nationally recognised and respected in the sport.



5. Vicarage and Education Options

- The vicarage is situated in Barden Lane, some 400 metres from the church.
- It is a brick built, detached house dating from 1982, with substantial gardens. It was fully refurbished in 2020. There are two spacious reception rooms, four bedrooms and a study, with all the usual amenities to be expected in a modern house.
- The church school closed in 1977 and is now the church hall. However there are two other primary schools within the parish and pupils pay regular visits to the church. There are a number of new secondary schools in the town, built in the last 20 years with significant government investment, and all have up to date facilities. Burnley College has an excellent reputation for sixth form and vocational studies. Whilst there is no secondary Anglican church school, St Christopher's at Accrington and St Wilfrid's at Blackburn provide for those who want a faith based education. Both have sixth form centres and are well regarded.
- As the previous post holder owned his own property, the vicarage has recently been rented out, but notice has been served and it will be available for a new incumbent in due course.



6. Who is God calling

QUALITIES WE ARE LOOKING FOR IN OUR NEW PRIEST

- A male priest who is committed to maintaining sacramental worship based on prayer and faithful adherence to liturgy.
- Someone whose ministry is rooted in prayer and who seeks the guidance and empowering of the Holy Spirit in discerning God's will, leading the congregation and engaging in mission.
- Someone who has the passion to work in a deprived parish with a diverse ethnic mix, to build on the work already carried out to enhance mutual understanding and to bring people of faith, and without faith, closer together
- Someone eager to play a part in the wider community to demonstrate the positive influence of the Church in tackling social issues, and is prepared to reach out to local schools in particular, to create mutually beneficial relationships.
- Someone who understands and can commit to our Vision and Goals and is prepared to work alongside others to bring them to fruition
- Someone who is not only a faithful priest and teacher, but is also a leader who has the maturity to acknowledge the important contribution that others make in the running of the church and can make the most of the time, skills and commitment available in the congregation - someone who is a team leader but also a team player.
- Someone with energy and determination to take on a demanding workload but who is enthused at the opportunities open to us to take St Andrew's forward to a positive future where we are seen as a beacon of Christianity in an ethnically diverse community.
- Someone who is a good pastoral listener who we can love and who will love us
- Someone who can relate well to people of all ages and backgrounds, who can explore building relationships internally and within the wider community
- Renew and refresh services for younger people, including church parade services
- Someone who values the contribution that music makes in church life and ensures a good standard is maintained
- Someone who can commit wholeheartedly to this challenging agenda,

What we can offer

- A happy church family that works well together, and which contains a range of skills that are available for worship, pastoral and wider mission work.
- Harmonious and effective relationships amongst the various appointed officers, from Churchwardens to Treasurer and Secretary, with a supportive PCC prepared to consider new initiatives in a desire to make improvements and progress wherever possible.
- A strong emphasis on youth, with an active Sunday school, a range of youth organisations and a popular 'Stay and Play' toddlers group
- Our buildings are in decent order. Importantly we have a substantial church hall which can be used for a whole variety of church and community activities.
- A spacious, modern vicarage in pleasant grounds
- A challenge!

7. Vision 2026 and Beyond

Vision 2026 had an agenda for growth agreed by the Blackburn Diocesan Synod in 2015. It challenged 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.

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:

[All for Jesus: Centenary of Blackburn Diocese in 2026 | The Diocese of Blackburn](#)

8. 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