

St Anne (Heyhouses) St Annes on Sea

Parish Profile 2026



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St. Anne's Road East, Lytham St Annes FY8 3BA

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Letter from the Bishop

The Rt Revd Philip North



Dear Friends

Thank you so much for taking the time to read this profile and to discern under God if He is calling you to be the next Vicar of St Anne's, St Anne's.

It says a great deal about St Anne's and its role in the community that the town is named after the Parish Church. St Anne's is a large parish that serves a beautiful and yet diverse town, benefitting from gorgeous seaside and a well-resourced local community. Worship is a strength of the Parish, and whilst proud of its Anglican heritage, St Anne's is confidently in the Catholic tradition and has strong connections with Walsingham. The Parish benefits from lively lay leadership and from many people who love the Lord Jesus and his Church.

An outstanding opportunity for growth and mission is provided by the Parish's three form entry primary school where the relationship is well established but ripe for further development. The cohesive nature of the town renders it easy for a Vicar to become well known locally. But at the same time expectations on the Vicar are high and this is not a parish for a priest who wants an easy ride.

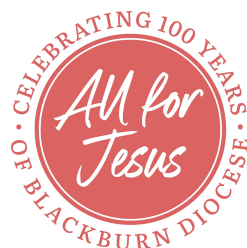
The Diocese of Blackburn has a strong commitment to mutual flourishing, and whilst the Parish seeks a priest of the Society of St Wilfrid and St Hilda, the next Vicar will be expected to play a full part in the Deanery and Diocese. The traditional Catholic clergy in the Diocese are a cohesive and supportive group, and the Diocese focuses a great deal on clergy wellbeing as can be seen from the later pages of this profile.

St Anne's is committed to continued growth and seeks a prayerful, pastoral priest who will reach into the community and love all God's people. If you think that could be you, please do apply. If you would like a word with me about the parish, please get in touch.

Be assured of my prayers as you discern God's call.

Yours,

+Philip Blackburn



What is the PCC's vision for the future?

Growing strong in faith and worship, we work together to serve and care for all

OUR AMBITIONS

Our main priorities:

- Encouraging greater participation by children and young people in Church activities;
- Developing the current Sunday School through to KS2;
- Re-establishing a pastoral care team, to include furthering links with residential homes.

Other areas to develop include:

- Encouraging people to participate and where appropriate to take up and develop in leadership roles;
- Encouraging the development of a Stewardship Campaign;
- Building further on the Church's profile in civic and national events.

What is our Spiritual life?

Our tradition is both Anglican and Catholic. We are affiliated to the Society, and have passed a Resolution under the House of Bishops Declaration. The congregation includes people from a variety of backgrounds and traditions, who are united in faith and worship at St. Anne's.

We have been one of the fastest growing Churches in the Diocese, experiencing significant growth in every year since the pandemic. The average Sunday attendance is 111, with 94 communicants. We are a friendly and welcoming Church, with a great welcoming team at the Church door, including Churchwardens and Sidespeople.

The main Sunday Service is the Parish Mass at 10.30 am (Common Worship). The Sunday Mass is celebrated with full Catholic ceremonial, with a good team of Servers, and a robed adult Choir. Vestments are worn, incense is used on Sundays and Festivals, and the Angelus is sung. Lay people read readings, lead intercessions and assist in giving Holy Communion. Our Licensed Lay Minister assists with preaching.

Sunday School is held on two Sundays in the month with activities, songs and stories for younger children, who then join the adults in Church during the Mass.

Choral Evensong (Book of Common Prayer) is sung with full Choir on the 1st and 3rd Sundays of the month (with Benediction on the 3rd Sunday).

Mass is normally celebrated daily (except Saturday). Mass midweek is from Common Worship, except on Tuesdays, when the Mass is from the Book of Common Prayer, with a Homily. Once a month, there is a Healing Mass, and once a month a Walsingham Mass. There is also a monthly Bible Study Group, which is lay-led.

During 2025 there were 29 Baptisms, 3 Weddings, 5 Funerals in Church and 3 Funerals conducted at the local crematorium. 11 children and 5 adults were confirmed in 2025.

Confirmation of children takes place during Year 6. We do have a problem retaining post-Confirmation children and this was particularly noted when confirmation was changed from Y5 to Y6. School Eucharists take place in church typically about once per term.

Christmas is celebrated with a popular Carol Service, and a packed-out Crib Service on Christmas Eve (each attended by around 300 people); there are traditional Midnight and Christmas Morning Masses, with 147 communicants across the two in 2025.

The Easter Triduum is fully celebrated with traditional Maundy Thursday Mass and Watch, Good Friday Liturgy, Easter Vigil, and Easter Morning Mass. Our Good Friday Liturgy is held at 3 pm and this usually has around 50 attending. Easter communicants in 2025 numbered 160 with total attendance of 200.

Our annual pilgrimage to Walsingham normally takes place in September with between 25 and 35 pilgrims. This includes friends from across the Fylde and further afield, but the pilgrimage is organised and led by St Annes.

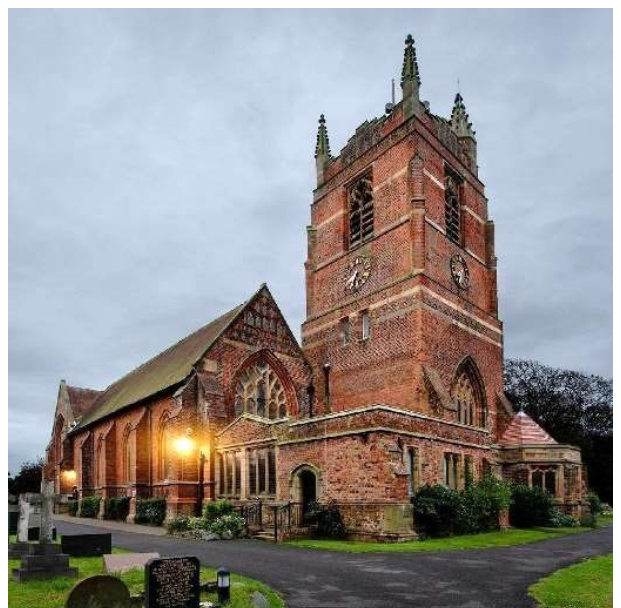
What resources do we have?

Lay leaders

- there is a Licensed Lay Minister, who assists in preaching and leading non-Eucharistic worship
- the robed adult Choir lead the music in worship on Sundays, major Festivals and the Triduum
- the Director of Music plays the organ and leads the Choir
- the Serving Team are led by the Head Server
- there are sub-committees of the PCC chaired by lay people
- there is a lay-led gardening and maintenance team
- Churchwardens and Sidespeople perform a great welcoming role

Church buildings

Our Church was built in 1873 in the Queen Anne style. It is built in red brick with decorative cobble inlay, typical of the area. We have seating for 350, with space for a further 50 on upholstered chairs. The Church is well-maintained and in reasonable shape for its age; this is confirmed by our latest Quinquennial inspection. The tower was repointed in 2023. The bells were recast in 2023, with two new bells being added to the existing peal of eight.



Parish Rooms

The Parish Rooms are located directly across from the Church on Headroomgate Road. The detached building dating from 1911 is constructed of Accrington brick. It comprises of a large upstairs hall, and a kitchen. Downstairs there are two more large meeting rooms, another smaller kitchen, and toilets. A lift was installed in 2012. At the rear of the building is the door leading to our Parish Office, which is fully equipped.

The Rooms are used by Church organisations and by a variety of outside hirers, with all bookings being taken by the Parish Office. There is a meeting room adjacent to the Parish Office, which is used for committee and other meetings.

A lot of maintenance and upgrading has been done within the Parish Rooms in the past decade and they are in fairly good shape for a building of that age. A new heating system was installed in 2025 at a cost of £60,000. The Parish Rooms are well used, and currently running at a profit.



Parish Office

The Parish Office is open every morning, Monday to Friday, for general enquiries and bookings. Bookings for Baptisms are taken in the Office, as well as bookings for the Parish Rooms. The weekly pewsheets are compiled and printed here; the Parish Magazine is also printed in the Office.

Church School

Close to our Church, we have a thriving Church Primary School, which has in the last few years expanded to three-form entry with c. 630 pupils, in addition to those in the associated nursery. There is a good relationship with the School, with the Vicar being involved with the activities of the School, and the children coming to Church for special Services throughout the academic year. The annual pattern of these is usually: a Start of Year Mass, Harvest (Infant and Junior Department, two separate services), Year 2 Nativity: afternoon and evening performances, a School Carol service, Ash Wednesday, Easter and/or Pentecost, Ascension and an End of Year service for Year 6 leavers. Pupils in the Junior Department also attend and sing their own carols within the Church's Nine Lessons and Carols Service.

We believe that our Church school and nursery are mission opportunities. It is essential that the foundations are built upon in order to continue to strengthen our relationships with Heyhouses C of E Primary School and the Nursery. We believe that this is an important part of supporting our work with the children and young people of our parish.

Finance and Stewardship

CHURCH FINANCES		
Finance Returns		
Year	2023	2024
Parish Income (unrestricted)	£265,113	£183,010
Exceptional Donation	£100,000	N/A
Income excl above donation	£165,113	£183,010
Planned Giving	£37,193	£43,378
No of donors	75	83
Amount per person per week	£9.54	£10.05
Parish Expenditure (unrestricted)	£249,068	£189,960
Excess of Expenditure over Income (Unrestricted) 2024		£6,950
Parish Share Assessed (Gross)	£74,648	£69,491
LICF Grant received	£17,424	£18,948
Net Parish Share Paid	£57,224	£69,491
Parish Income (restricted)	£84,327	£20,732
Parish Expenditure (restricted)	£118,446	£8,873

Notes:

1. LICF is Lowest Income Communities Fund, a support fund from the Church Commissioners and Diocese allocated to parishes in the poorest 20% of the Diocese.
2. The results for 2023 include a number of exceptional items. 2023 figures for the unrestricted fund include the cost of repointing the tower (£42,422) and the high utility costs in that period. The 2023 figure for the restricted fund include £70,160 income and £118,446 relating to the Bells Project, some fundraising for which had already taken place in previous years.
3. Figures have been prepared for the 10 months to 31st October 2025 and it is estimated that Unrestricted Expenditure for the year will be covered by Unrestricted Income.
4. As well as income from regular giving and fundraising, the Parish Rooms and one domestic rental property are generating funds.
5. Parish Share has been paid in full for a number of years.
6. £1,723 in total was donated to 27 charities as a result of our Christmas Tree Festival.

Safeguarding

At St Annes Parish, Safeguarding is a priority. When you walk in the Church main entrance there is a bright safeguarding notice board. At PCC meetings safeguarding is near the top of the agenda and time is given to discuss any matters arising.

We ensure that all our PCC members, Sunday School helpers and the Bell ringers leaders have an enhanced DBS and the appropriate safeguarding training (face to face or online). The PSO has been in post since December 2024; she attends PSO meetings arranged by the diocese safeguarding training team. The PSO works closely with the Churchwardens and the incumbent.

Our Dashboard is ongoing, and we are working towards level 3.

Church Sidespersons

We are immensely proud that we have a well-established Sidespersons team. Our aim is to ensure, that we give a very warm welcome to all who come to our Services, to make them feel safe and secure within our environment. Communication between the team members and congregation is essential in welcoming and safeguarding all who attend. From the handing out of the service books to escorting those in wheelchairs, or with walking aids, to their seats if required. We also have a party from the nearby care home, who have become regular attendees. Our teamwork only ends when all the congregation have vacated the building in a safe and organised way.

We are known to offer a very warm welcome to all who come into our Church.

Churchyard

The Church is surrounded by a pleasant churchyard, which is maintained jointly by the local Council and our own Wednesday Men and Ladies. There is a Garden of Remembrance, where cremated remains may be interred. The graveyard is closed for new burials (unless there is an existing plot).



Sunday School

Sunday School was relaunched in September 2023 for children aged 3-5, the upper age range is increasing each year, and we are very happy to welcome older children as our plans can be adapted accordingly.

Sunday School takes place in the Parish Rooms on the second and fourth Sundays of the month. Children are left in the care of the volunteers to allow parents the opportunity to explore their own Faith Journey in church. The children enjoy lots of different activities which are based around the Bible Story, including singing, acting and crafting.



We bring the children over to church around 11 am and they sit with their parents for the remainder of the service. There are Liturgy Bags and other resources which the children can use in order to access the Mass at their level. At the end of the Mass the children are invited to the Chancel steps where we talk about our session, and they have the opportunity to show everyone what they have made. Numbers vary, there are currently 17 children on roll, with 11 regular attendees.

We are part of the Anglo-Catholic Children's, Youth & Family Workers Network; we have regular Zoom meetings, working together to share ideas, resources etc. Following a recent conference in Walsingham - regional groups have been created for additional, local support.

Choir and Music

We have a thriving tradition of music with an enthusiastic Director of Music who plays the organ for Sunday Mass, and a member of the congregation who is a fine organist, plays for services when required.

Our emphasis is upon inclusive involvement of the congregation, led by a choir of nineteen members. We have recently acquired the Revised English Hymnal, reflecting the integral role that carefully selected music plays in supporting the liturgy.



Parish Mass is sung with congregational settings, the choir singing appropriate motets from Byrd to Rutter, along with canticles and anthems for Choral Evensong and Benediction. Equally, our devoted choristers sing for Solemnities, Holy Days and the Triduum.

Our Church School, at which our Director of Music teaches, hold their whole-school services in Church through the year, with very enthusiastic hymn-singing!

We have an excellent three-manual pipe organ rebuilt in 1999, a Broadwood grand piano and an extensive choir music library. Our Church Choir is RSCM affiliated and practise on Thursday evenings.

The Lidun Singers, a local choral society, is based at St. Anne's and, along with other choirs and music groups who perform annually, raise funds for our Church along with local, national and international charities.

Servers



We have a good tradition of serving over the past thirty years or so. Currently we have a small but faithful team of adults who support both Sunday and weekday services. In the past we have had many children serving and perhaps this may happen again, as we seek to expand the scope of our Sunday School and youth activities.

Bellringers

There has always been a very strong bell ringing tradition at our Church which is much appreciated by our congregation and our neighbours. St. Anne's has ten bells, which are rung every Sunday and for special services/ occasions, as required. Currently, there are sixteen active ringers/ learners, three of whom are under 18. A 90-minute weekly open practice is held every Tuesday evening.

Training is a key aspect of the ringing culture at St Anne's, with a dumb bell and a sensor system which enables additional silent practice. The St. Anne's Ringing School ("STARS") was launched in November 2023 which acts as a teaching hub and a centre of excellence, providing a range of training for ringers at all levels of ability from St. Annes and affiliated towers in the local area. Three of the band have completed the training necessary to be fully accredited with the Association of Ringing Teachers.

For more information see <https://www.stannesringingschool.uk/>



Bible Study

This lay initiative, approved by the Incumbent, had its first meeting in April 2024. The Group meets once a month, when two of the Readings for the following Sunday are studied and discussed. This fellowship group has a core membership of 7 and is greatly appreciated by those who attend. It has given those attending an opportunity to share faith and life experiences, and to learn from and encourage one another on their faith journeys. Despite various efforts to encourage more people to attend, the numbers have remained static. It is hoped that the new Incumbent will take the Group forward on a firmer footing, encouraging new membership and introducing and leading Study Courses with lay support.

Mothers' Union

St. Anne's MU was started in 1900 and has about 40 members today. Our branch usually meets on the second Tuesday of the month in the afternoon; we have speakers and enjoy various events, sharing friendship and worship. We try to keep contact with the families who attend our Church, and send anniversary cards to the recently baptised, and encourage the Sunday School, and all family occasions.

Social and Fundraising

We run a varied programme of events, ranging from BBQs to pizza nights and fish & chip suppers, usually with at least 50 people at each event. The main social event of the year is the annual dinner dance with a sit-down meal and professional entertainment. This is held at the end of January to mid February to fill the gap between Christmas and Easter.

Our major fundraising event of the year is the Charity Christmas Tree Festival. This involves exhibiting full size trees on behalf of many local and national charities. Each tree exhibitor collects for their own nominated charity. Of course, we also raise funds for the Church with various stalls including a bottle stall, choc-o-bola stall and the inevitable cake stall. A major contribution comes from the fairly recent and profitable addition of a mini craft fair which people have crafted for throughout the year. We also hold concerts during the festival which bring in additional valuable revenue. In 2025 we collected over £1,700 for the various charities, there were 21 in total, and raised in excess of £4,800 for the Church. A secondary and most welcome effect of the festival is the number of people who have never been in a Church before coming through the door, they all go away impressed.

Craft Group (The Crafty Ones)

The craft group was launched in October 2024. The idea came about during the Christmas Tree Festival when it was noticed how talented a congregation we have as we saw the amazing items displayed on the Craft Stall at the event. We meet fortnightly on Monday afternoon in the Parish Rooms, where lively discussions, crafting and laughter are followed by Tea and Cake. This makes up our usual meetings. We find that we share ideas and learn skills from each other. We have welcomed a number of new members from the local community over the last year. Firm friendships have been made as well as beautiful crafted items.

Churches Together

St. Annes Churches Together has been active in its current format for 20 years; there are eight participating Churches in the group. We meet every couple of months and clergy from our respective Churches are always welcome. Each of the Churches has one or two representatives and meetings are held in different Church halls throughout the year.

We have a strong community presence and demonstrate that although we come from different traditions the love of Jesus Christ binds us together. We hold a series of events throughout the year, including Blessing of the Crib in the town, taking part in St. Annes Carnival procession and St. Annes Sings Christmas in a local pub. A few members visit two local retirement homes on a regular basis to deliver a short service for residents.



What is the community we serve?

The Church of St Anne (Heyhouses) is in the town of St Anne's-on-Sea on the Fylde coast of Lancashire.



As our Heritage Mural (a tourist attraction in the local area) tells, the church was built in 1873 at the behest of Lady Eleanor Cecily Clifton, wife of the Squire of Lytham, for the benefit of the local agricultural workers. The seaside resort followed, taking the name of the church. Maintaining these historic connections the patronage is now held by Lady Katharine Bryan, daughter of the late Squire.

St Anne's-on-Sea is a pleasant place to live and work. Our parish has a population of c. 14,000 (predominantly white British) and encompasses the town centre, with a complete range of housing stock (c. 70% owner occupied) including new housing estates on the edges of our parish. There is a high proportion of retired people with approximately 25% over 65 and there are numerous care homes. Many people are employed in the hospitality industry, but other employers in the wider area include BAE Systems, Land Registry and DWP.

Like many a seaside resort, St Anne's-on-Sea suffers from a decline in the wealth of what was once a high-class resort, with issues of low paid work and some homelessness and drug problems. The town is classed in the lowest quartile for social deprivation with 13% child poverty.



Vicarage and Education Options

Vicarage

The Vicarage is on Oxford Road, a two-minute walk across the road from the Church. It is a substantial, detached four bedroomed house of 1930s vintage, finished in a white render and in very good condition both inside and out. There is ample off-road parking at the front of the property with a detached garage at the rear and space for a caravan. At the rear of the house is a large garden, mainly given over to lawn, surrounded by flower borders and hedges.

Inside, the house comprises of an entrance hall leading to the study and a downstairs cloakroom. Beyond the entrance hall is an inner hallway leading to the kitchen equipped with a gas hob and electric oven, a utility room, dining room, lounge and conservatory, which has access to the rear garden. Upstairs there are four bedrooms, one with en-suite facilities, a family bathroom and a stairway leading to a converted loft space. The property has gas central heating and is double glazed.



Local Amenities

- St. Anne's beach, promenade and pier
- Ashton Gardens
- High Street shops
- Many restaurants and cafes
- Aldi, Booths and Sainsbury's supermarkets
- Railway line to Blackpool and Preston (links to the West Coast Mainline, Manchester and York)
- Buses to Blackpool, Fylde Villages, Lytham and Preston
- Indoor shopping centre in Blackpool
- Two indoor shopping centres in Preston, as well as High Street (Fishergate)
- Two outdoor retail parks near Preston
- Theatres in Lytham and Blackpool
- Cinemas in St Anne's and Blackpool
- St Anne's Music Festival
- Lytham Festival
- Monthly farmers' markets

[Visit St Annes on the Sea | Discover Fylde](#)

[St Anne's On The Sea Town Council – Garden Town on the Sea](#)

Local Schools and Colleges

- Heyhouses School (Church primary school)
- Lytham St Annes High School
- St. Bede's Catholic High School
- AKS Lytham Private School
- Kirkham Grammar School
- Blackpool 6th Form College
- Blackpool and Fylde College
- University of Central Lancashire, Preston

Who is God calling?

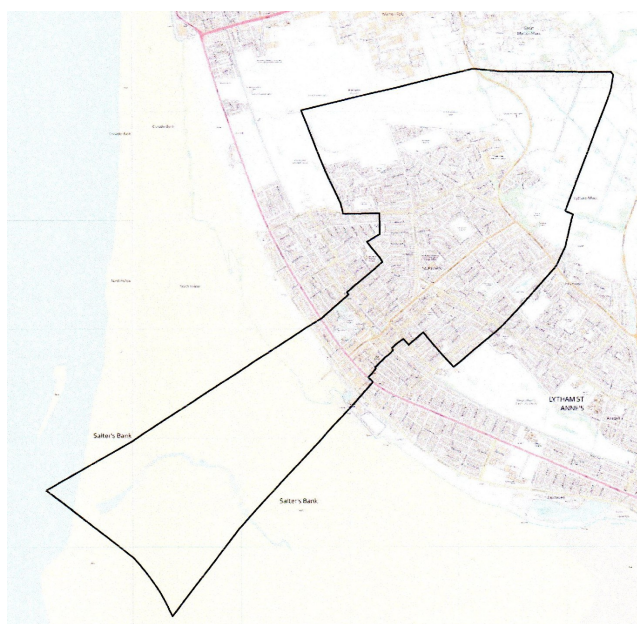
We are looking for a male Priest (preferably Society affiliated).

Essential

- Who has a burning desire to serve the Lord Jesus and his people and a strong belief in the power of prayer;
- Who is nurtured in the catholic faith and will maintain our tradition and high standard of inspiring worship;
- Who is an experienced Incumbent with a proven track record
- Who is an approachable, sociable, friendly pastor with a sense of humour;
- Who is able to bring the faith alive to people of all ages and will walk with people at critical moments in their life;
- Who has great enthusiasm for the maintenance of strong active links with our Church school
- Who is community focused and will be actively involved in representing Our Lord and his Church to the community;
- Who can enable others in their discipleship and contribution to parish life;

Preferable

- Who is experienced in ministry in Church Schools;
- Who will be supportive of the Parish's musical tradition;
- Who has proven success in the area of developing Church youth groups and child centred activities;
- Who is prepared to embrace the mission opportunities the Parish offers;
- Who will support and encourage the development of a Stewardship Campaign.



The Diocese of Blackburn

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

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.

