

St Barnabas Church Morecambe



St Barnabas Church, Morecambe, LA3 IAG

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The Bishop of Blackburn

The Rt Revd Julian T Henderson

Dear potential applicant,

Ministry in the Diocese of Blackburn

Thank you for your enquiry about a vacant post in the Diocese of Blackburn, the Church of England in Lancashire. We believe God wants His Church to grow, and so are looking for gifted and prayerful clergy with a heart for the Gospel and mission, who have the energy and enthusiasm to implement Vision 2026, *Healthy Churches Transforming Communities*. You can read more about Vision 2026 overleaf.

Almost all of our parishes have Vision Champions who have volunteered to work with their clergy and lay leadership in keeping the Vision on the PCC and congregation's agenda. The Vision is about a radical change of culture, in which we engage in new ways in making the unchanging Gospel of Jesus known in our communities.



The spiritual, physical and emotional health and the ongoing development of our clergy are very important to us.

Please be assured of my prayers as you consider whether to make an

Bishop of Blackburn

+ Julian

Living in Lancashire

Lancashire people are known for their warmth and friendliness and those who are new to the area find it to be an easy place to make friends. There are excellent transport connections and the surrounding countryside is spectacularly beautiful. For those with children, the Diocese has over 180 church schools including 10 high schools; the vast majority are rated as Good or Outstanding.



Canon Fleur Green
Advisor for Women's
Ministry

Our call to Mission

As a Diocese we are fully committed to the breadth and diversity of the Anglican tradition. Traditionalist, evangelical, catholic, progressive, Eucharistic, charismatic – we don't care what the label is. As long as you are passionate about sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ and long to make new disciples, there is a place for you in the Church of England in Lancashire.



+ Philip North
Bishop of Burnley

VISION 2026

The year 2026 marks the centenary of the formation of the Diocese of Blackburn. In the ten years leading up to our centenary, Vision 2026 is a plan to turn around the long-term trend of gradually declining attendance. Our vision is for the growth of God's kingdom, not just of his church. Our vision is to develop healthy churches which transform their communities, a vision in which making disciples for Jesus Christ and pursuing social justice sit side by side.

Our vision has had a long gestation. When the Vacancy in See occurred in 2012 we began to look at how we were going to move forward as a diocese. On his arrival, Bishop Julian spent his first year visiting every member of the clergy in their homes and visiting all the parishes of the diocese. At the end of that first year, Bishop Julian shared his reflections and the vision began to become clearer. It was shared with the diocesan family in the deaneries and in a number of local events and unanimously adopted by the diocesan synod.

The first year was spent in prayer with the Vision 2026 as the focus. 2016 has seen the Vision develop, with parishes nominating Vision Champions who were commissioned in Preston Guild Hall along with Churchwardens in the presence of 1,600 people. As a diocese with our Vision, we are willing to face the cost of change; and in prayer we see the grace and power of God which can alone bring renewal and growth. We are committed to work together (clergy, laity, church schools, diocesan staff and the cathedral) to deliver Vision 2026 by:

Making disciples of Jesus Christ

- Knowing the Scriptures better through reading, teaching, preaching and study
- Praying with greater depth and urgency for the Kingdom of God to come
- Giving generously of our time, talents and money to the cause of Christ

Being witnesses to Jesus Christ

- Sharing the Gospel of salvation with confidence
- Holding regular enquirers courses in as many local churches as possible
- Showing God's love in action through projects that meet a local human need
- Offering thorough and accessible Baptism preparation and follow-up
- Planting or renewing 50 new strategic congregations by 2026

Growing leaders for Jesus Christ

- Supporting and equipping the current leadership for today's context
- Enabling fissional leadership in every Christian community
- Liberating lay leadership for greater participation
- Creating the varied patterns of Sunday and weekday worship necessary to welcome all kinds of people, especially the newcomer
- Prioritising work among children, young people and schools to raise up a new generation for Christ

The Diocesan Vision Prayer:

Heavenly Father, we embrace Your call for us to make disciples, to be witnesses and to grow leaders. Give us the 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

If you come to Blackburn Diocese we will look after you...

- 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 encourage all clergy to take their full annual leave entitlement, and also to use creatively the overtime we all put in to take an extra day off once each month, to enable you to have a midweek 'weekend' away.



We have a beautiful diocesan retreat house in the grounds of a ruined Cistercian abbey, where clergy are welcome to have personal reading days without charge (bring your own lunch).

Whalley Abbey Retreat and Conference Centre

- We encourage all parishes in vacancy to consider how they will 'pastor' and support their new priest.
- We have a unique pattern of peer-led Ministerial Development Review, designed by the clergy for the clergy.
- We are setting up a pilot reflective practice group for clergy new in post, in partnership with St Luke's Healthcare.
- If you are looking for a spiritual director or a mentor, we have 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, and a clergy walking group. Further suggestions are welcome.

Bishop Philip leads a clergy walk



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Where we are

St Barnabas Church, Morecambe is located in the heart of the West End of Morecambe, serving a population of around 8800. The parish, which dates back to 1890, is a short walk from the promenade and has stunning views of the Lake District and Grange-Over-Sands.

The people of this parish are friendly and like living in the area.

Favourite aspects of the West End of Morecambe, according to local research:

- The Promenade which looks out to Morecambe Bay with spectacular views, and the beach with its sandy areas,
- The sea-front gardens.
- Independent little shops, such as Edmondson's Fishmongers on Yorkshire Street (whose owner goes fishing and prepares the famous Morecambe Bay Potted Shrimps)
- Green space and clean surroundings of the newly designed Regent Park-which is directly opposite the vicarage- is tidy and being well used.
- The HotHouse, More Music, Devonshire Street, is very near the church. The organisation supports emerging local musical talents, and has ideal facilities for hosting musical events, and entertainments, and craft events.
- A new road called the 'Bay Gateway' links local roads to the motorway, making Morecambe more accessible.
- The town is flat and easy to walk around. The buses and trains allow easy transport to neighbouring areas.
- The new improvements by 'placefirst' company are transforming some of the large terraced former boarding-houses into more modern and affordable rented accommodation for local families. This development is currently progressing and is directly opposite St Barnabas Church.
- House prices in Morecambe are well below the national average.
- The Midland Hotel area is within our Parish is an iconic 1930s art-deco style hotel on the seafront. The artist Eric Gill designed some famous murals here. This hotel has just won a prestigious top award for its services.
- Morecambe Football Club (The Shrimps) plays at local grounds in the area.

Here is the Midland Hotel which is in our Parish Area



The statue of Eric Morecambe, born as Eric Bartholomew, an actor, comedian and well-loved Morecambe-born personality, is a popular landmark near the parish, and people like to be photographed by the statue, which celebrates the song, “Bring Me Sunshine”. The sculptor is Graham Ibbeson.



Local Primary School: **West End Primary School**, 74 Chatsworth Road, Morecambe LA3 1BJ, adjacent to the church, and in the Parish Area, has been rated as ‘Good’ in its recent Ofsted report. The new priest of St Barnabas will have strong links with this school, for the previous incumbent was appointed as a governor, and a new Head Teacher has recently been appointed. Approximately 10% of the children have English as their additional language as families settle in the West End of Morecambe from Poland.

Secondary schools

Heysham High School, is a mixed 11-19 Specialist Sports College, and is the nearest secondary school, a short walk from the Church-but just outside the Parish area. The school is hoping to improve in the ranks, but has a strong arts, dance, drama and sports reputation.

Morecambe Community High School, (formerly Morecambe Grammar School) is 2 miles from the Church. It is a large friendly comprehensive school with good facilities and results.

Grammar (non-fee-paying State) Schools: in Lancaster our nearest city, there are **Lancaster Royal Grammar School (LRGS)** and **Lancaster Girls Grammar School (LGGS)**, with 11-plus selective entry. LRGS plans to admit 6th form girls in 2019. The schools have outstanding academic results.

Ripley St Thomas Academy is a Church of England secondary school in Lancaster, and **Our Lady’s Academy** is a Roman Catholic secondary school in Lancaster. These schools, with excellent academic results, are only 3 to 4 miles from the church by bus, car, or train.

Doctors’ surgery: There is a branch GP surgery nearby in the West End, part of the Bay Medical Group, which also has practices based in the Heysham Primary Care Centre, and Morecambe Health Centre.

Hospitals: Queen Victoria Hospital Morecambe offers various clinics, whereas the Royal Lancaster Infirmary has inpatient wards and the Accident and Emergency Department, three miles away

Care Homes: There are a number of care homes in our area.

Shops: Near the parish there are several food outlets, small local shops and charity shops. Larger shops are in Morecambe town centre and Lancaster city centre, which is a 15-minute bus or train journey away.

Parks: Regent Park, opposite the Vicarage, provides a pleasant green area with bowling green, cafe, bar, and children's play area. It is a popular area for dog walking. Development of the park continues. The Friends of Regent Park meet regularly to discuss the organisation of improvements and developments for the local community.

Roads: The Bay Gateway, a new road network built on schedule by Costain, using local employees, opened this year linking Heysham and Morecambe to the M6 junction 34. This should bring more opportunities and business here. This enterprise has just won the 2017 Economic Infrastructure Project of the Year award.

Employment and occupations: Major employers in the area: public administrators, the hospitality industry and caring professions (27%) hoteliers and restaurant staff (34%); **the Heysham Power Station** also employs over 800 people.

Lancaster University employs around 1500 people, (some of whom live here in Morecambe's West End). It has been voted University of the Year by the Times and Sunday Times Good University Guide 2018. **The University of Cumbria** has a large campus in Lancaster, specialising in health professional occupations, teacher training, and offers business management courses; and **Lancaster and Morecambe College**, a further education college, nearby, offers a variety of courses. Some employees live in the Parish area.

Population Statistics (source *West End Million Community Profile 2015*)

In this area female: male ratio is 52%:48% Age 0-15: 22%, 16-24yr: 14%, 24-65yr: 52%, 65+:12%. The elderly population is smaller than the national average.

Ethnicity: People residing in the West End of Morecambe and our Parish area have White British ethnicity (84%) and of the 16% remainder the population is mainly White, of Polish, or Irish or other origin. Less than 1% of the population of this area is non-white ethnicity.

Religion is predominantly Christian, with no other religion represented in the West End. The nearest Muslim mosque is in Lancaster city centre.

St Patrick's Church on St John's Road is the nearest Roman Catholic Church, and cares for the Polish community. The Evangelical Church, "The Church on the Bay" meets at West End Primary School (adjacent to St Barnabas), on Sunday mornings.

St Barnabas, with its traditional modern Anglican/Catholic style of worship attracts people interested in Forward in Faith, and the Society, who live in the Morecambe and Lancaster area.

Local problems (recently identified by the *West End Million Profile 2015*)

Housing: The West End of Morecambe (which includes the parish of St Barnabas) is identified as an area of high population density, with mainly terraced housing and little in way of green space. Morecambe was once a thriving seaside resort, a favoured holiday area for people in Yorkshire, and boasted Bathing Beauty contests, theatres, music halls, and a pier- now all in the past.

Deprivation: Morecambe, like similar areas of the country, has suffered general deprivation of the population. Government statistics suggest that the West End of Morecambe is amongst the 5% most deprived communities of England, causing unemployment, poor health and wellbeing, underachievement at schools, drug and alcohol abuse and rehabilitation problems. The West End of Morecambe has pockets of acute social deprivation and homelessness.

Facilities: There are few venues and facilities for the youth and children of the area and no adult education or training in this area of Morecambe.

Population: Interestingly Morecambe's West End has a population that differs from many similar seaside towns. The Parish population is approximately 8800. Children have **higher** than average percentage population than in England, and older people a **lower** than average percentage population.

Family units: There is a high incidence of single parent families.

Population turnover: In the parish area, a high population turnover can be a problem for schools.

Professional workers number half the national average.

Economically inactive people number twice the national average.

Domestic violence calls to the police are higher than national average.

How St Barnabas is helping the West End Community

Morecambe Homeless Action (MHA) and St Barnabas Church are closely associated, and members of the congregation cook hot meals and serve them, but also links directly into the Narthex of the Church through a windowed door. There is room for food storage upstairs; and the dining area, and toilets are downstairs.

Barney's Lunch Club was the inspiration of a member of our congregation, whose team help to reach out to the local community, meeting in our Centre. It is a new, thriving popular event on every third Thursday of the month, where for only £4 people can have a two- course lunch and enjoy a game of Bingo, and maybe win a raffle prize.

St Barnabas Charity Shop is open most weekdays, Monday to Thursday from 10 am to 2pm, and now has a regular clientele of local people who visit the shop and buy items. The shop has a social function as well as a fund-raising function. We sell anything that is donated (apart from electrical goods.) The shop is staffed by friendly reliable volunteer members of our congregation, and realises a small weekly profit, which amounted to a total of £4000 this financial year, an increase on last year.

Events in the Church



Average attendance at Sunday Mass is 40 adults. We have several children and youth group who attend who are not included in this number. **Average attendance at weekday Mass**, counting Fridays to Wednesdays is 21 adults.

The church has been **full** on many occasions, such as:

- The Queen's Jubilee Afternoon Tea event, celebrating Royal occasions
- Christmas Carol Service, last year was attended by air cadets and staff from the local 455 Squadron. This popular event is being repeated again this year on Sunday December 17th
- Gilbert and Sullivan performances in the church were a sell-out.
- St Barnabas saw over 100 people coming to support this event.
- Our recent Autumn Fair was held in the Church on November 18th, when we used the entire Church and Community Centre, and welcomed many visitors to participate in the fundraising event. The Carol Service was a most joyous event.

In addition, we attended the HotHouse for a Jazz evening on December 3rd last year, which raised money for our heating fund, with local vocalist Val Baulard and The Boscats, a talented group of musicians.

Marriages

There have been three Marriages at St Barnabas this year which included congregation members.

Baptisms. There have been seven Baptisms, and these are usually held after the Sunday Mass.

All these events fill the church with people and were joyous occasions.

Funerals. There have been four funerals with one Requiem Mass, and the church was full for each of these, because the deceased person had been a congregation member, or related to a member of our congregation. Our church is encouraging people of all ages to think in advance about how they would like their own funeral to be and put it in writing to our Church; this idea is proving helpful when a bereaved family makes funeral arrangements, in the knowledge that everything is done the way it was wanted, by their loved one.

Charitable Poverty Lunches held in Lent, Harvest and Advent.

Homemade soup and homemade bread is served after the Friday Mass during Lent, Advent and now Harvest time by popular request. Usually about 12 people attend to enjoy a light lunch for £3 each. These events stimulate honest conversation and help with forming friendships. New members to the church who have come to the Friday Mass have particularly enjoyed these events. Owing to an unexpectedly large pumpkin harvest in a congregation member's compost heap, many of the soups have been thrifty pumpkin- based recipes.

This year we have again helped:

- the Additional Curates' Society
- Paris, a Swaziland schoolboy, gain education, ("PIEs")
- Water Aid, St John's Hospice
- Mary's Meals
- The Bible Society, and The Children's Society
- Primrose House,
- Seafarers
- The Bishop's Harvest Appeal
- Youth Pilgrimage to Walsingham



Disabled access

The church has adapted well to people with mobility issues, of all age groups, and is easily accessible for Zimmer- frame/wheelchair/buggy/ pram/mobility-scooter users; there are no stairs for communicants and congregation. The entrance to the church has a ramp and also grab-rails. We welcome people with any physical or mental health problem, and those who come regularly value the love, friendship and security that we offer.

People, especially newcomers, attending our Sunday and Weekday Masses, often remark "How beautiful this church is", and they say how prayerful, peaceful and meaningful the Mass is. Most visitors are amazed to see this jewel of a church right in the nucleus of the West End of Morecambe

Children: We welcome children. We have a little group of Sunday school children aged from 18 months to nearly 8 years old. Currently they meet in the Church near the Lady Chapel. Our Sunday school hopes to resume in the Vestry in the New Year. We are thinking about having a "messy church" provision during Mass because it suits the toddler age- group. There are eight small children who regularly attend.



Barney's Youth Group

We have four regular members in our Youth Group aged between eleven and thirteen years, and two occasional members, who meet at the Community Centre on Thursdays, just after school. Meetings are supervised by two adults from Church. Activities are planned using the Group's ideas, such as games of table tennis, creative work, or maybe they invite someone to talk about an occupation. A nourishing meal is made and eaten. Barney's group creates a role model of young Christians and there is ample opportunity for the participants to get to know each other well. Regular members help as Servers, and each enjoyed the Youth Pilgrimage to Walsingham this year, despite windy wet weather. We are most keen to keep this group going, as it is time of life/school changes, and churches often find difficulty retaining this age-group. Our group is well-behaved, inspiring and enthusiastic, and deserves full support and encouragement of the Church.

Activities this year have also included:

Film and meal at the Vicarage Feb 2nd; Pancakes and Board games Feb 28th; Summer sleep over in Vicarage Garden in tents, in July 2017; Coffee morning in August raising £88.95 for the Youth Pilgrimage to Walsingham; a firework party at the Vicarage Garden on October 30th, which included tent sleep over.

The Parochial Church Council (PCC)

The Members of St Barnabas PCC meet regularly, get on well together, are interested in teamwork and delegated duties, and are keen to work with the new Priest. They have an annual Away Day at Hyning Monastery in Yealand Conyers. The two newly elected enthusiastic **Church Wardens** and PCC attended the Archdeacons' Visitation this year, held at St Thomas' Church Lancaster. The PCC is open to ideas and pray for a renewal of interest in the community around St Barnabas Church. All members are trying to spread the word by following their Christian beliefs in the way they live their lives, how they approach people and in the way they converse. They aim to be most welcoming in the Church and do not turn people away.



Who we are, and what type of Church is St Barnabas?

Resolutions

The Parish Church of St Barnabas, subscribes to the aims and objectives of **Forward in Faith** and **The Society under the patronage of Saint Wilfrid and Saint Hilda**, we have signed the House of Bishops' Declaration, and we are under the Episcopal care of the Bishop of Burnley, (Blackburn), The Right Revd Philip North CMP, Dean House, 449 Padiham Road, Burnley BB12 6TE

Worship

Our worship is centred on the Mass, and our style of worship is modern Anglican-Catholic. The parish is one of the largest in Morecambe and has a population of about 8800 people in a small area. Mass is held every weekday day except Tuesdays. Sunday Mass is at 10am. Mass with Rosary is on the first Saturday of the Month. During the vacancy, there may be alterations, but we hope to resume all services once we have a Priest.

Morecambe itself has a population of 34,768 (2011 census). Our parish boundary is shown on the map with the sea being one part of our triangle.

There are 72 adult members on our St Barnabas Electoral Roll, of which 65% reside within the Parish boundary. Some members travel miles from their homes to this the area, and attend regularly, because this is their nearest Church of Anglican-Catholic tradition.

Readers: There is a planned rota for readings, which involves congregation members and servers.

Assistant clergy: There is no official assistant currently. Retired clergy are contacted to help when necessary.

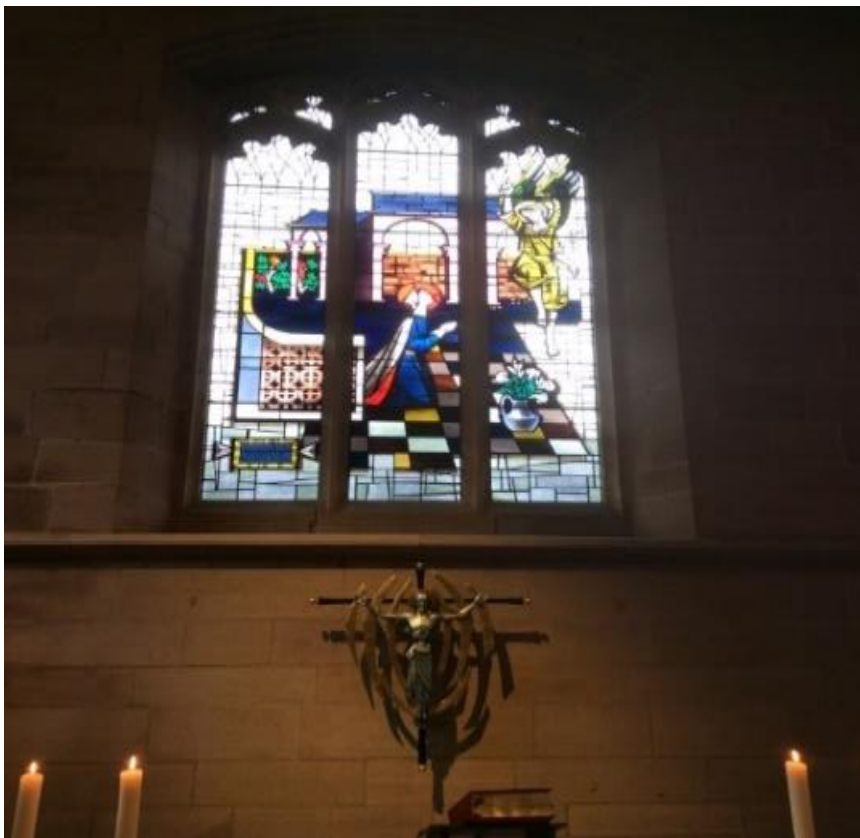
Eucharistic administrators: Lay church members also assist at Mass.



Our Mission Statement is:

Worship God, Live Faithfully and Serve the Community.

Photograph of the stained-glass window in the Lady Chapel showing the visitation of the Angel Gabriel to the Virgin Mary





History of St Barnabas Church and the Buildings

The photograph shows our statue of Saint Barnabas

Our Patron Saint was born in 5 AD. Saint Barnabas Day is celebrated annually at the Church with a Gift Day and Mass on June 11th.

Saint Barnabas was renowned for his generosity, his consolation and encouragement.

The first church here in the West End of Morecambe was built in 1890 with an iron roof, and served the local fishing community of Morecambe Bay, but owing to tourism, it had to enlarge, so in 1898 the current church was built. However, the proposed tower was never build because of lack of funds.

The large Community Hall was built into the back of the church in 1959, when the original old iron structure was demolished. It is a two-storey building. It does need external and internal redecoration, but it serves its function. In the past it has been used as a theatre and hosted many events. It has been rented by various organisations before now.

Morecambe Bay Foodbank is a Charity which has taken on the space and rental this year. The church also has established a thriving Charity Shop, which uses a ground floor room in the Centre, and is opened to the street most weekdays, thus supporting the Church. The lower Community Centre room is available for hire, and has an open dining area and kitchen and toilet facilities

The Great East Te Deum Window gives the message of “The Holy Church throughout all the word doth acknowledge thee”, with people of all nations and ages worshipping Christ. This message is particularly relevant to our community in the West End of Morecambe.

The inspirational Lady Chapel Window reflects the message: “Behold, The Handmaiden of the Lord”, and here there is a beautiful statue of the Virgin Mary holding the Christ child, donated by a congregation member.

We have a fine organ, which our organists tell us is one of the best they have ever played. It has been restored and was made in 1913, by Wadsworth and Brother of Manchester. It is a 3-manual organ with fine diapasons.

We have modern comfortable chairs in the Nave having replaced the original pews in 1996, to allow comfort and adaptability for church events.

The sandstone font is used for our Baptisms and has an unusual octagonal design.

We have fourteen small carved Stations of the Cross around the church, a fine statue of St Barnabas, and a recent small statue of Our Lady of Walsingham has been given to the Church by our Youth Group following their recent pilgrimage in Walsingham, the church is now bathed with light and allows space for community events. The church also is renowned for its acoustics, so that singing reverberates round the church adding to the atmosphere, which is one of peace, calm and beauty. The previous incumbent has made an imaginative reordering of the fabric of the church in the past year, by reordering the chancel area, changing the altar site, removing old choir stalls, and crumbling sandstone pulpit, and carpeting the chancel and Lady Chapel. Now there is a beautiful space, which can be used for concerts and gatherings and allows flexibility for community gatherings.

Vestments and Incense At our services, traditional Catholic vestments are worn, and the servers wear white albs. The Choir members currently comprise three sopranos and one alto, who wear red cassocks and white surplices. We use the finest incense for High Mass and Holy Days of Obligation and Requiem Masses, and, by request, at Marriage Ceremonies. We take care and attention to small details as well as the larger ones, and endeavour to follow tradition.

A member of our serving team is putting himself forward for consideration of ordination. He attended a recent course in Oxford, and conference in Derbyshire. He has been called to the Church ministry by inspiration that came from his attendance at St Barnabas, and by going on pilgrimage to Walsingham. We are praying that he will continue and achieve his calling.



What are we looking for in a Priest?

During the interregnum we value the work of local priests who are covering our essential services. The Churchwardens have recently been appointed in May 2017 and are grateful for the support they are receiving from Bishop Philip North and from their Consultant of the Parish the Revd Stephen Jones of Christ Church, Carnforth.

We have a thriving and keen Parochial Church Council (PCC) and all members are in agreement with each other about appointing a priest who follows the importance of the Catholic tradition of this church and its interests in The Society and its followers.

- We feel it is essential to have a Priest who can actively engage with the local Community, to strengthen the ties that our previous incumbent secured.
- We are looking for a priest who will be able to make good use of our enthusiastic lay people.
- We hope for a priest who is willing to delegate duties to our able team players of the PCC and congregation.
- We look for a priest who understands the needs of this densely populated poor urban community and who can appreciate the beauty of the seaside area and see and seize the opportunities for helping those who are needy and demoralised by their social situation.
- We pray for a priest who can help those of us already attending St Barnabas to go out and help others in the best possible way.
- We would like someone we can be friends with and who we can talk with honesty about anything that needs discussing, someone who can offer us options, someone who can help us manage our Community Centre activities.
- We hope our new Priest is as enthusiastic as we are about pilgrimage to Walsingham. We have a faithful group of children and young people and we need to retain their enthusiasm, we are looking for a priest who will encourage young people.

Below is a picture which includes some of our Youth Group and family members

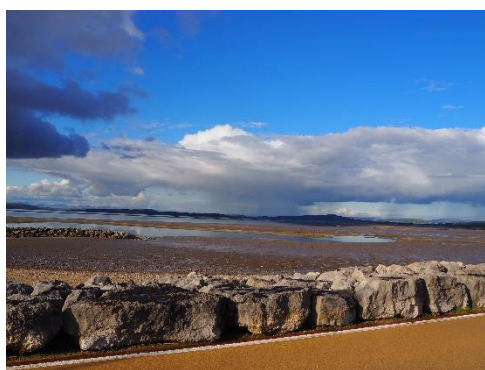


The Vicarage 101 Regent Road, Morecambe LA3 1AG The Vicarage is situated 200 yards from the church. It is a modern detached home with on the ground floor porch, hallway with study, cloakroom, kitchen diner, separate utility area, dining room and lounge. There are 5 bedrooms and a family bathroom. The property is fully double -glazed, fully central heated and there is a log burner in the lounge. A double

garage leads into the house from a side road, and the lawns and well-stocked plant and shrub garden, form a private L-shaped garden.

Post code explanation: LA3 1AG is the postal address given for vicarage **and** church **mail**- the church itself does not have a letter box. **The Church post code is actually LA3 1BJ** which is helpful for people new to the area, for example wedding guests, who might otherwise arrive at the vicarage, if they had looked things up on the internet. The postcode of the Community Centre adjoining the Church is LA3 1BW. All these places are within walking distance of yards.

Below is a photograph of Morecambe Bay from the Promenade on a fine autumn day recently, and one of the Vicarage 101 Regent Road. Walk 200 yards to the right of this brings you to the Church, and another 200 yards, you reach the promenade.



The Community Centre

In September 2017 Morecambe Bay Foodbank began renting the centre from St Barnabas Church, and the building is now called the West End Community Centre or for simplicity, **The Community Centre**, Morecambe. There is space for storage, packaging and organisation of donated food.

This venue is ideal for the Foodbank staff. Their enthusiastic volunteers have helped with the move and we thank those who gave time and energy to locate furniture here. We thanked the team from Lancaster University Management School who came willingly to help.

Morecambe Homeless Action (MHA) is a Registered Charity. Use is made of the Community Centre.

MHA began working in 1993 and is devoted to helping and supporting people in poverty circumstances, and those who are homeless. MHA runs drop-in sessions throughout the week at various locations in Morecambe and provides hot food and drink, warmth, shelter, housing information, advice or simply provides “a friendly face and a chat.”

The volunteers also offer pots, pans, bedding, clothing, and other donated essential items which most of us would take for granted. Help and support is greatly appreciated by those struggling in these hard and challenging times.

St Barnabas Church hosts “Drop-in sessions” in our Community Centre and our congregation members work as volunteers.

“Drop-in sessions” at West End **Community Centre** are held on:

Wednesday evenings (6pm-7.30pm)

Friday evenings (6pm-7.30pm)

Saturday lunch (12pm-1pm)



Here is our Charity Shop-(above)



Here is **The Community Centre**, above. It is attached to the church and access is via a windowed door into the Narthex of St Barnabas. The centre is used by the Foodbank, which opens on Westminster Road, and also Regent Road, adjacent to the West End Primary school. There is a convenient omnibus stop just outside the centre and the Number 2 buses run every few minutes.

The Battle of Britain Service was very popular and finished with refreshments. You can see from the photographs below that we filled the Church at this poignant service. The young cadets were a credit to their Squadron.



The Queens Jubilee celebration was well attended; we entered into the spirit with a Royal theme, using red white and blue decorations.



Our photographs (below), of Canon Brian Pithers' Golden Jubilee show the Concelebrated Solemn Mass of Christ the King. Members of The Society, SCC, and some former colleagues, were present. The Preacher

was the Rt.Revd.Dr Alan Chesters, and the event took place at St Barnabas on 30th September this year, marking 50 years from Ordination. It was a marvellous occasion. Below are photographs which include Canon Pithers wearing his golden chasuble. After the event, there was a Lancashire hot-pot lunch with all the trimmings, followed by puddings and cake for everyone present, which was cooked by a local butcher Kennedy's, across the road from the Church.





Our Finances

The parish has consistently managed broadly to match its income to all the routine costs of running the parish and maintaining the building. Although we do not prepare formal budgets, the PCC regularly monitors income against expenditure during the year. The PCC has for some years (until 2017) paid more than its parish share, including when it rose by 33% to enable the incumbent's post to become two-thirds time.

Most of the planned giving is by envelope, while a few give by standing order. There has not been any recent stewardship campaign.

The parish has met all of the expenses submitted by the previous incumbent, although he paid many of his expenses as part of his giving to the parish.

The parish holds a variety of fundraising events during the year, including a monthly lunch club, poverty lunches in Advent, Lent, and a Christmas Fair. The parish also runs a very successful charity shop in its Community Centre in support of church funds (raising £3,500 in 2016).

The parish receives £5,000 annual rent for use of the upstairs of the Community Centre by Morecambe Bay Foodbank.

Despite having to work hard to raise funds to maintain the mission of St Barnabas church to the West End, we also regularly raise funds (about £1,000 a year) for charities such as the Children's Society, the Bible Society, the Additional Curates Society, and Partners in Education Swaziland, St John's Hospice, Morecambe Homeless Action and Water Aid.

The parish is currently raising funds to replace the life-expired heating system. We can still heat the Church but there are problems with the antiquated system. Of the £55,000 we were quoted for repair, we have raised about £15,000, received grants of £9,000 and intend to draw on £20,000 of our investments.

We have also recently received the Quinquennial Survey. While recognising all the repairs and improvements carried out in the last 5 years (including a rewire and reordering the Chancel) the Survey has identified further maintenance work which would, in total, cost about £45,000, some of which is considered essential.

To illustrate the current state of the PCC's Finances, in 2016:

- Total unrestricted income was £51,000, of which nearly 60% was from voluntary giving (excluding Gift Aid rebates).
- Planned Giving was about 40% of total giving.
- Average planned to give per person per week was about £8.
- Total unrestricted expenditure (excluding the rewire) was £52,000.
- Parish share was 50% of routine expenditure, the other 50% being mostly the maintenance and running costs of the church and Community Centre.
- In addition to cash funds available to the PCC, we hold about £40,000 in investments.

Our links into the Community

Community involvement by the previous incumbent, which the new Priest might be interested in continuing

- Chair of Friends of Regent Park
- Chaplain to 455 Squadron Morecambe and Heysham Air Training Corps(RAFA)
- Chaplain to the RBL Morecambe and Heysham Branch
- Member of west end trader's association
- Chair of churches together in Heysham and the west end
- Chair of Friends of Regent Park
- Governor of West End Primary School
- Chair of the Trustees of Morecambe homeless action
- Member of the project board for Morecambe Bay Foodbank
- Member of the Deanery and Diocesan Synod
- Member of the Diocesan Property Committee
- Member of the Deanery Missionary and Pastoral Committee
- Member of Morecambe and Lancaster Standing Committee
- Chapter Clerk to Lancaster and Morecambe Deanery
- Barnado's Fostering Advisory Service
- Priest Superior of the Cell of our Lady of Walsingham

What is our Mission Action Plan being for the future, and how we can help the new Priest?

Members of St Barnabas will work with the new Priest in his ministry to this Parish:

- To help in any way we can, as members of a large willing team. We need to seek out the talents of our fellow members so that everyone can help in some way.
- To reach out more into the community, helping everyone, young and old, with kindness and enthusiasm.
- To use opportunities to encourage people to come into our beautiful church and see for themselves the peace therein.
- To offer pastoral care; when we hear about or meet people who are suffering in anyway, we will offer to visit at an agreed venue or at home.
- To identify people's needs and offer practical and spiritual help. We need to know when to ask for help and act quickly.
- To show people our love, that comes from loving God and serving Him throughout this earthly life.
- To help others experience the peace that this knowledge can bring into their lives.
- To keep St Barnabas as beautiful and peaceful as we can, to benefit the worship and activities that we offer.

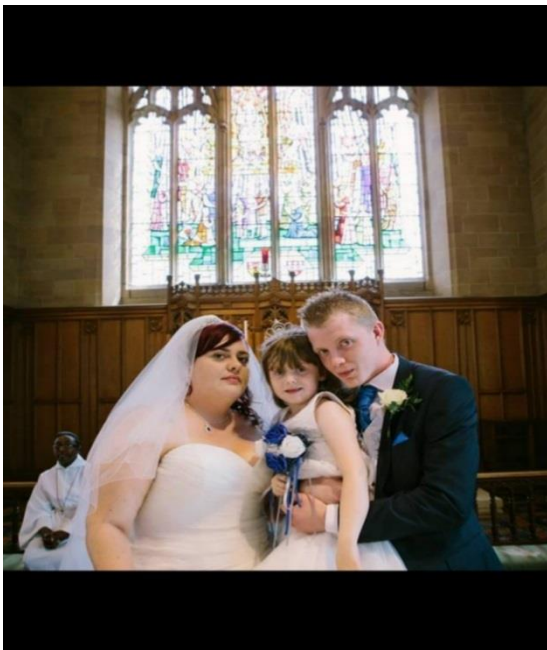
Below is a picture showing the Nave from the altar, with some congregation members.



Marriages at St Barnabas. (above: Wedding flowers at the Altar)



Marriage of congregation members (below):



Below are a few of our newest photographs from our Autumn Fair 2017, which had a Christmas theme.





Alien{Kenny} Raffle, (above) and the Bottle Tombola, (below). Overall, we raised £1200.



The vestry (below):



Community Centre kitchen



View from the font to the organ



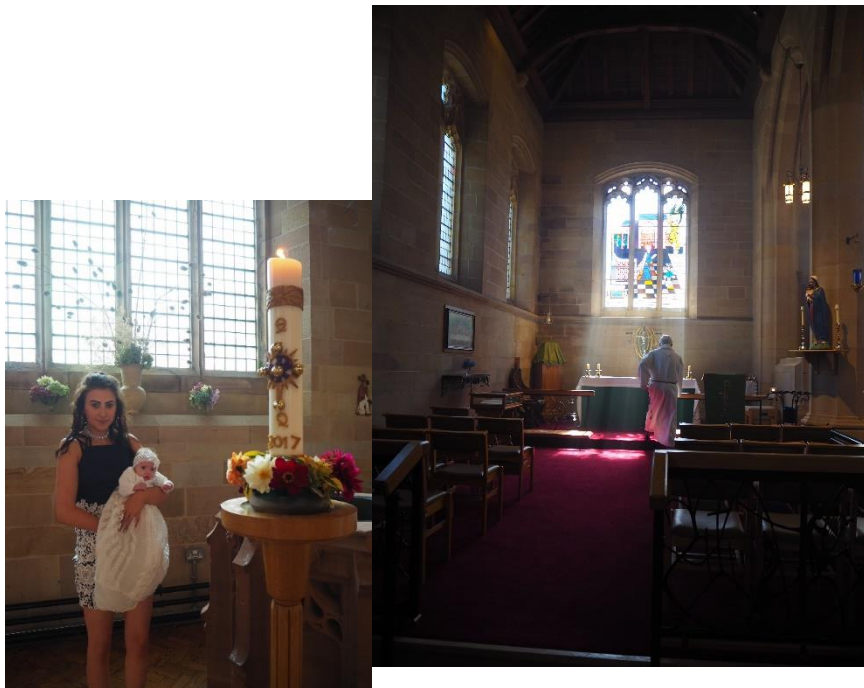
Church interior



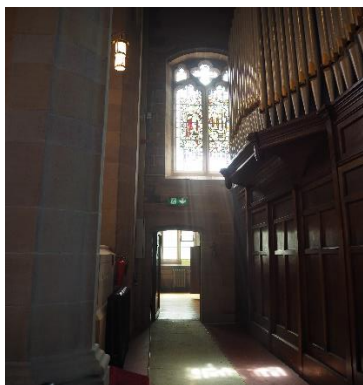


Assessing the pumpkin (below)





Mother and daughter, prior to Baptism (above)



This painting was made for a Giant Mural painting competition, by a Saint Barnabas Church member to illustrate what we are doing to help the local Community and shows all our congregation and visitors actively communicating in various ways in the Church. The Giant Mural was made using all the submitted pictures and is apparently touring various Cathedrals in England, starting with St Paul's Cathedral in London.



Thank you for taking the time to read our St Barnabas Morecambe Parish Profile, and we look forward to meeting you, very soon.