

ST MICHAEL'S CHURCH GRIMSARGH



PARISH PROFILE

"I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills..."

Table of Contents

1. Introduction from the Diocese of Blackburn	3
2. Diocesan Vision	4
3. We Look After You	5
4. The Parish and Wider Community.....	6
5. Parish Demographics	7
6. The Church Community	8
7. Parish Statistics	9
8. Our Services	9
9. The Church Building and Grounds	10
10. The Vicarage.....	12
11. Finance	12
12. Children and Young People.....	12
13. The Church School	13
14. Links by the church community to the wider community.....	15
15. Our Vision.....	16
16. Who is God calling?	16

1. Introduction from the Diocese of Blackburn

Dear Sister or Brother,

The Diocese of Blackburn is passionate about the renewal of Parish life. Vision 2026 sets before the churches of Lancashire 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.

Lancashire is a wonderful place to minister, without doubt the most diverse and beautiful county in England. We can therefore offer an extraordinary range of contexts for ministry: from areas of great opulence to the most income deprived communities in the UK, from remote countryside to densely populated former industrial communities and from brightly lit coastal towns to elegant university cities.

We have the most wonderful and precious family of church schools (95% of our headteachers are practising Christians) which offers both an evangelistic opportunity and the best possible start for clergy children.

People in Lancashire have high expectations of their priests who play a key role in the communities they serve. Ministry can therefore be hard work and so this is a Diocese which will offer all the support it can to its parish clergy. Bishops, Archdeacons and Area Deans do their best to know their clergy well, we offer supportive programmes such as our new five year Start of Ministry Course and the Parish Renewal Programme and there are close friendships and strong networks between clergy of all traditions.

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

Most importantly of all, please be assured of our prayers as you discern the will of God for the next stage in your ministry.

The Bishop of Burnley
The Rt Revd Philip North



The Bishop of Lancaster
The Rt Revd Dr Jill Duff



2. Diocesan Vision

Vision 2026 is an agenda for growth and change 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. To make disciples we are raising levels of prayer, helping regular patterns of bible reading to be established and encouraging generous 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 a local human need. New leaders are emerging as we seek to enable and equip those God is raising up in our midst for lay and ordained ministry. And our focus on children and young people is enabling creative thinking to raise up a new generation for Jesus Christ.

Over 85% of our parishes have a 'Vision Champion'. This is usually a lay appointment and the Champions' role is to encourage and support their parish leaders in pursuing the goals of Vision 2026 in a way that is appropriate for their local community.

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.

Through prayer we see the grace and power of God who can alone bring renewal and growth. Our Diocesan Vision Prayer is:



Vision Champions from different parishes meet to share ideas and pray together

*"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



*Carolyn Barton, Director
of Vision Delivery*

3. We Look After You

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.



Whalley Abbey Centre for Christian Discipleship and Prayer

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).

- We offer a Clergy Assistance Programme to all our Stipendiary and Self Supporting Clergy, more information about this can be found on our [website](#)
- 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.
- We offer an Annual Conversation in which every licensed priest spends 90 mins with a Bishop or Archdeacon discussing ministry and wellbeing.
- If you are looking for a spiritual director or a mentor we have an excellent Warden of Spiritual Direction and 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, a cricket team and a clergy walking group. Further suggestions are welcome.
- We offer first incumbents a mentor and participation in our 5 year Start of Ministry Programme.



Bishop Philip leads a clergy walk

4. Executive Summary

“St Michael’s is a family who are looking to ‘lift their eyes to the hills’, to lift the lid on their instincts for mission to reach out in love to our growing village of Grimsargh. Such a lot of potential. Please read on and spot the buried treasures”. Bishop Jill, Bishop of Lancaster

5. The Parish and Wider Community



(View from Jeffrey Hill, local beauty spot).

The village is situated in Lancashire, at the western end of the Ribble Valley and the beautiful Trough of Bowland, the late Queen’s favourite part of England. It is five miles North East of Preston with easy access to the motorway network. The Lake District, Yorkshire Dales, Manchester and Liverpool are all within easy driving distance. Grimsargh is a semi-rural village with a growing population of inhabitants of mixed income. There is a frequent local bus service and excellent rail connections from Preston.

To the South West, towards Preston, is a large commercial area of light industrial and warehousing firms. In the other direction, 2 miles to the North East is the town of Longridge, with all the usual town supermarket/ shopping facilities, on the other side of which is the open country, as seen in the picture above.

Although a large number of properties have been built over the last 45 years, the village has maintained a strong sense of community. Grimsargh also retains some small and medium sized farms whose fields, hedgerows and trees preserve a rural feel within the Parish. The village has one public house, The Plough, situated in the village centre. It offers typical local pub meals and drinks and also caters for small functions. Also in the centre is a private members’ social club. There is also a proposed new wine bar.



Grimsargh Village Green

Grimsargh has a newsagent/convenience store, a chemist’s shop, hairdressers, physiotherapists, beauticians and a car sales room.

There is also a cricket club and pavilion and one of the largest village greens in Lancashire complete with children's playground.

Grimsargh Village Hall is a popular and thriving venue for public activities and private events. The regular activities include a Toddler Group, the Gardening Club, Badminton Club, a Women’s Institute, together with dance and exercise classes.



Grimsargh Village Hall

The Hall also hosts the monthly Grimsargh Farmers' Market which is a well-established and popular market, offering a wide range of local produce and crafts. As with other areas around Preston, there is substantial building of new houses in and about the village.

6. Parish Demographics

Parish in North West England

2,778 Population [2020] – *Estimate*

7.329 km² Area

379.1/km² Population Density [2020]

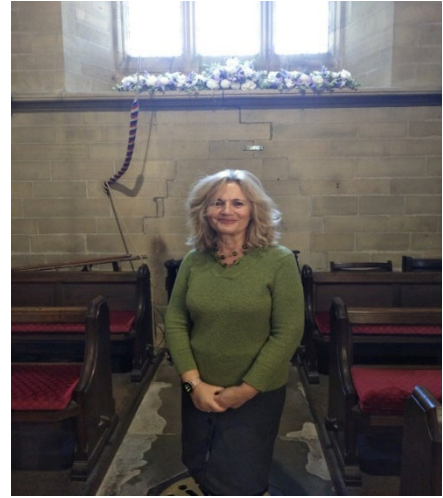
0.50% Annual Population Change [2011 → 2020]

Population	
2,778	
Gender	
Male	1,404 (49.5%)
Female	1,374 (50.5%)
Age spread	
0-9	401
10-19	363
20-39	601
40-59	775
60-79	522
80+	114
Ethnic Mix	
White	2,599
Asian	22
Black	4
Arab	1
Mixed/multiple	27
Other Faith Mix	
Christian	2,179
Muslim	9
Hindu	4
Sikh	2
Jewish	1
Buddhist	1
Other religion	4
No religion	322

7. The Church Community

The post of vicar is currently half time. We are keen to grow our congregation and our giving through outreach and engagement with families in the village and our vision is that through this growth we will require a full-time vicar in the future. We have various Lay members who are involved in worship through reading lessons and assisting as Eucharistic Ministers. We have a rota of sidesmen/women who assist our two wardens. We are keen to explore how we can further develop our lay participation.

Jayne Woollam, a member of our congregation is currently training to be a Licensed Lay Minister. Jayne who was formerly an English teacher, is assisting during the vacancy, and looks forward to working alongside our new vicar. Jayne also serves as our Vision Champion, chairs the fund raising committee and has recently restarted the bible study group.



Jane Woollam, LLM in training



The Wardens, Anthony driving. Mark in the rear with Father Doyle of the local Roman Catholic Church

We are also fortunate to have local retired clergy on hand to assist with holiday and sickness cover.

We have a highly competent PCC with a multiplicity of talents and our church wardens, Mark and Anthony, bring a wealth of experience and practical skills enabling them to deal with many of the routine problems associated with an old building and the church grounds.

The church has an extremely able pianist/organist, who is Head of Music at Westholme, an independent school in Blackburn. We have a dedicated and efficient vergers as well as a long serving flower arranger.



Eileen, Flower Arranger

There is a Parish Safeguarding Officer, a health and safety officer for the church building and church yard and a team to supervise the recently reinstated JIGSAW club for young children which is held twice per month.

We have willing volunteers who serve refreshments after our services and we are grateful for donations received to maintain this.

Two of our members organise and supervise giving to a local Food Bank and we have members that maintain an active Mothers' Union which holds monthly meetings and three services in the Church each year.

8. Parish Statistics

The usual congregation at the Sunday 10am morning service is between 40 – 50

St Michael, Grimsargh		
Patron		
Incumbent of St John, Preston		
Electoral Roll		
Year	2022	
Number	117	
Age Profile of the Church		
0-17	29 (21%)	
18-69	65 (48%)	
70+	42 (31%)	
Occasional Offices, Celebrations etc.		
Baptisms	Children: 20 Adults: 3	
Weddings	3	
Confirmation	Adult candidates	2
	Under 16 candidates	7
Funerals	in church	10
	at Crematorium	1
Normal weekly attendance	adult	45
	under 16	7
Festivals		
Easter 8.30am	Communicants	10
	Attendance	11
Easter 10am	Communicants	57
	Attendance	80
Christmas 8.30am	Communicants	8
	Attendance	9
Christmas 10am	Communicants	38
	Attendance	49

9. Our Services

Day	Time	Type of Service
Sunday (weekly)	8.30am	BCP Communion
1 st Sunday of the month	10am	Morning Worship
2 nd Sunday of the month	10am	Sung Holy Communion
3 rd Sunday of the month	10am	Family Service
4 th Sunday of the month	10am	Sung Holy Communion
5 th Sunday of the Month	10am	Morning Worship
Thursday (weekly)	11am	BCP Communion

The following services have traditionally been held in Holy week

- Maundy Thursday – Communion Service
- Good Friday – Family Service and Veneration of the Cross
- Holy Saturday – Vigil and Lighting of the Pastoral Candle

The following services have traditionally been held during Advent

- Ecumenical service
- Carol Service
- Christingle and/or Crib Service

We have traditionally held Communion on Christmas Day.

We have also held a 'service of light' or memorial service around All Souls' in some years.

Michaelmas is kept as our Patronal Festival.

10. The Church Building and Grounds

St. Michael's Church is located on the B6243 (Longridge to) Preston Road, within the village of Grimsargh, postcode PR2 5SD. It was founded in 1716 but the building as it stands today was completed in 1868. It seats approximately 200 people. It is a building of stone in the Early English style, consisting of chancel and nave, a North aisle, added 1868, and a machicolated Western tower with spire containing one bell. We strive to keep it as a village church and bear this in mind in our decision making.



St Michael Church, Grimsargh

In the book "The Story of a Lancashire Village – Grimsargh" the author David Hindle, also a member of the PCC, writes, "of greater importance than the architecture is the concept of a living vibrant church fulfilling the purpose for which it was consecrated."



Kitchen

In 1999 a kitchen and toilet were added as an extension at the rear of the church. There is a cabin in the rear grounds used as an additional facility for the children's Jigsaw club.

The Quinquennial Report of 2021 in its preface states the following of the Church building:

"This is a fine example of a mid-Victorian stone-built country parish church, set within an immaculate churchyard, which is generally in a very good condition. Many of the items raised in the previous QI Report have been undertaken which has helped

to maintain the building fabric to a high standard. As a result of the work undertaken, the areas to be addressed during the next quinquennium are relatively minor and can be completed in phases. There are ongoing maintenance projects, notably minor areas of replacing slates, flashings and repointing, and monitoring of existing settlement cracks, but given the age of the building, it is in a very good condition and the PCC must be applauded for their efforts".



Looking towards Altar



Looking from Altar to rear of Church

There is reasonable wheel chair access, in that there are two very low steps into the building, one c 1" and the other 2", easily surmounted by a manual or electronic chair; there is however a step up to the altar area, and this is accommodated by the vicar coming forward to the step. There is a "loop" audio system and a drop down computer screen for the nave, and another screen for the North aisle.

The church interior is cleaned once per week by the vergers.

The church yard is maintained on one day per week by a team of the vergers, one of the wardens and another assistant gardener.



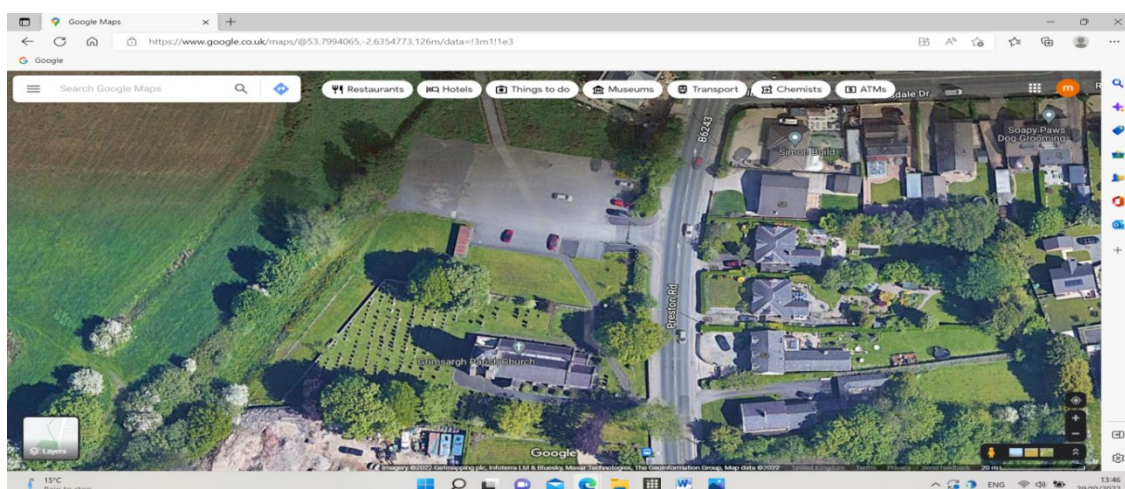
Tom, Verger



John, Helper on the grounds

We are in the process of submitting a faculty application to request permission to extend the church graveyard to allow an additional two rows of graves. We hope to utilise an open area of land at the rear of the existing graveyard, which is approximately 100ms long by 20 metres wide, as you will see from the image below.

We are fortunate to receive donations to assist with the ongoing maintenance and upkeep of the church and grounds which have enabled the installation of two gate posts at the rear of the existing graveyard leading onto the new area for graves, this area has also now been fenced off, with a beech hedge laid along the fence line.



We have recently replaced the notice board at the front of the church, to better attract passers-by to view it and encourage engagement in our services, groups and activities.

11. The Vicarage



In 2018 a new vicarage was bought by the Diocesan Property Board. This is at 6 Douglas Lane, PR2 5JF, close to the entrance to an estate built in the early 2000s. It is a spacious house with a study, cloakroom, large living room and open plan kitchen/diner/conservatory area downstairs. Upstairs are five bedrooms (two ensuite) and a part-boarded attic with a light and ladder access.

Outside there is a driveway for two-three cars, a double garage, small lawn to the front and manageable garden to the rear and side. The house has gas central heating, supplied by a combination boiler.

12. Finance

Accounts 01/01/21 - 31/12/21 show incoming receipts at £51,000. The Parish share for the year 2021 was £43,000 and other expenditure amounted to £21,000. The shortfall was funded by the sale of legacy assets. Obviously that cannot continue indefinitely.

Regarding regular giving, stewardship by standing order has been introduced, and there is a group of donors under that; other periodic giving is by way of weekly envelopes as well as fund raising activities and events.

There is one known significant defect in the structure; the stained glass window above the altar, installed mid-1950s, has glass bowing inwards in its lower elements. Professional advice 2017 was to leave it as it is; it might worsen in 12 months, or many years hence, and the likely Church of England view would be to take no immediate action, in the Professional's opinion. It has not deteriorated significantly in the last 5 years.

13. Children and Young People

St Michael's is very much a church for the whole community: we aim to be inclusive and there is a genuine sense of welcome at our services. It is extremely rare for there to be no families with children in the congregation at the main Sunday services. The average under-16s Sunday attendance in 2022 is seven, but on occasions such as Harvest this will rise to more than 20.

We recognise that this figure is healthy, but we would love to see this grow much further as we seek to further develop our strong connection with the Church School and the large number of families moving to the new housing developments in the village. We have recently reinstated the Sunday School (JIGSAW Club) and have a dedicated team running this and are delighted that it is gradually

becoming established once more. The third Sunday of each month is currently dedicated as the Family Service and usually attracts a congregation of around 40 to 50, though not always with a huge number of children. Our vision is to encourage more children to attend jigsaw club. We would love to establish a thriving youth group to continue the engagement with our youth after they have been confirmed and as they move through high school and we are taking advice from the diocese on ways in which we could do this. We realise that Sunday Morning is not always the best time for families as they often have competing priorities with sports activities. Therefore we are looking afresh at the pattern of services and the style of the Family / All-Age Service, as well as our non-worship provision for families and children.

Over the last five years there have been confirmation classes led by the vicar for children in Y6 upwards, and in recent times there have also been adults who have attended classes and been confirmed. Bishop Jill Duff (Bishop of Lancaster) confirmed this year's candidates in December 2022.

14. The Church School

Grimsargh St Michael's School is a Church of England Voluntary Aided Primary School. It was founded in 1809 to serve persons resident in the Grimsargh area. Recent years have seen a growth in the number of pupils in school with over 200 pupils now in attendance. Children are taught in bright airy classrooms and an extension providing an ICT suite, larger hall and kitchens was completed in 2010.

The School is an integral part of the Church community. It is located near the North side of the Church. A car park has been tar-macadamed and laid out at this side of the Church for the use of parents, with a dedicated footpath directly to the School without need to walk along the narrow pavement at the side of the main road.

The vicar has traditionally been a governor of the School and the School holds services for the children at set times in the school year conducted by the vicar. Each year there are confirmation classes by the vicar for children, and in recent times there have also been adults who have attended classes and been confirmed.

A Message from St Michael's School:



"Let your light shine before people so they see your good works and glorify your father in heaven"

Matthew 5: v16

Grimsargh St Michael's Church of England Primary School is a wonderful place for children to learn. Mr Booth, the headteacher, is proud to lead a hard-working, enthusiastic and friendly team who work very closely together to support the children's growth and learning.



The school is semi-rural and set in the heart of Grimsargh village and it has close working relationship with St Michael's Church. The school has high standards, excellent resources and lovely grounds.

Staff believe that all children are a gift from God and they have their own specific talents and characteristics, which they nurture, develop and celebrate, allowing them to let their light shine and flourish in the world around them. By nurturing a love of learning, the staff at Grimsargh St Michael's C of E Primary School endeavour to provide an education that enables each child to achieve their full potential while preparing them for success in the 21st century. Teaching staff seek to ignite curiosity and a life-long enthusiasm for learning within a safe, happy and creative environment.

The Christian ethos and values underpin everything that parents, carers, governors, parishioners and staff aim to do children are encouraged to be the best that they can be. Providing a range of contexts in which children have the chance to shine is at the heart of life at Grimsargh St Michael's C of E Primary School. Whether it is on the sporting field, the stage, in the classroom, or within our community, children have the opportunity to experience a diverse range of enrichment and enhancements to the curriculum.

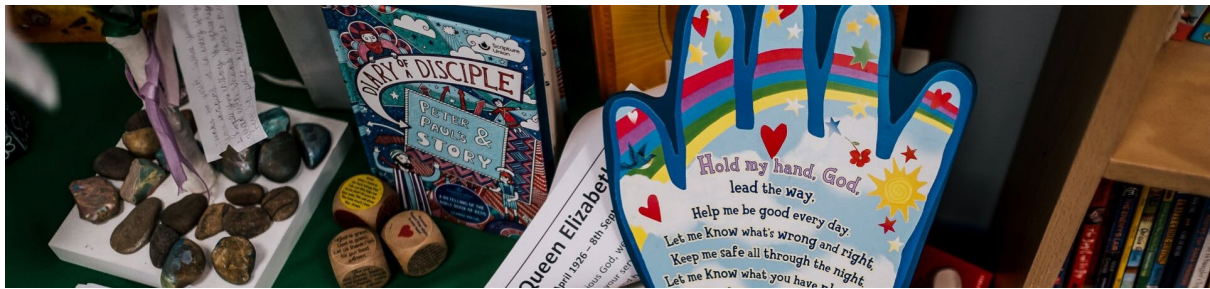
The school continues to develop links with St Michael's Church and members of the PCC. Senior leaders in the school are keen to develop this partnership further. The school children worship in church regularly, including St Michael's Day, our Harvest festival, Christmas, Ash Wednesday, Easter and Ascension or Pentecost. The vicar usually leads the services and works closely with senior leaders in school to plan school services and ensure that the school children have the opportunity to read lessons, write and lead prayers, share art, poetry, act out stories and sing during the school services.

The vicar also leads worship in school and alongside the parishioners he/she plays an invaluable role in making the RE curriculum real and authentic by linking with the teachers and school children during lessons, bringing lessons to life through question and answer sessions, sharing stories and experiences and role play both in school and church. The annual church garden party is hosted in school and this event is very well supported by parents, grandparents and school children. Each class prepare and perform a dance at this annual highlight.

The Parish Christmas fair is also very well supported by school children and their families. The vicar is a school governor. The school currently accommodate 208 pupils, across seven classes.

The school's end of key stage SATs results are above the local and national standards. The JIGSAW club has just been reintroduced and a small number of school age children attend this on the second and fourth Sunday of each month. Senior leaders in school are keen to work with the vicar and PCC to promote JIGSAW Club and encourage more school age children to attend. Historically, an

encouraging number of past pupils have chosen to be confirmed. An area for future development is encouraging young people to be more involved in church life.



15. Links by the church community to the wider community

There are a number of points of engagement and contact with the wider community. There is a church website and a Facebook page and we have a self-funding Church magazine which is distributed by volunteers to recipients, some of whom are outside the habitual church community.

The Coffee Morning, organised by a group of people from Church, serves as Christian outreach within the community. This weekly meeting, held in the village Social Club every Friday morning, provides the people of Grimsargh not only with company and a coffee, but also a message of Christian hope and fellowship.

One of our parishioners, Ruth Buckley, wrote a very successful book, 'Walks From a Lancashire Village', which described ten walks around Grimsargh. In May 2021, following the pandemic, we organised ten guided walks, as described in Ruth's book, and over 95 villagers took part in the event. Again, we saw this as a way to engage with the village, celebrate creation and promote our Christian message, as our vicar used the event to reach out to the community through prayers and witness.

For the last two years, we have sung carols around the village at Christmas. Again, the singing of Christmas Carols helps to proclaim the Good News of Jesus and hopefully strengthen our links with the community.

We have a long standing good relationship with the nearby Roman Catholic Church and periodic ecumenical services at both venues. One event was a "Festival of Angels", which included a display for the NHS. This was attended by over 100 people, including many children.

We are also involved with "Churches Together in Longridge", both with other Church of England churches and other churches in Longridge.

Our Warden, Anthony, is also on the committee of the village Hall, and we have good relations and co-operation with the Parish Council.



A Festival of Angels

We also have a stand at the village summer Field Day, with our vicar traditionally joining with Father Doyle in the opening parade.

The local scouts, guides, brownies and rainbows all maintain links with the church, in particular at Remembrance Sunday; local army cadet musicians also attend at the war memorial.

16. Our Vision

Our vision is to be a thriving Church in a thriving community. We are keen to connect with residents in the new housing developments, meet people where they are and see new local congregations develop and grow. We want to engage more widely in the local community, especially with the younger community. Our mission and priority is to see growth in our engagement with teenagers and young adults and school parents. One area where we would seek advice and guidance from a new vicar is how we can do this more creatively.

We want our church to be open more with messy church being run for children and families, bible studies being run for those who are seeking to know more of God's word and a group established for the men in the community, to give them a place to meet.

Whilst we are open to consider new styles of worship as we look to engage with younger generations, we wish to retain our established community, and therefore look to seek an incumbent who can help us combine these two considerations. We recognise that an upgrade to our technology would be beneficial and are keen to look at what can be done. We have identified that enlisting of younger people to fulfil some of the voluntary work, might be a good way to start engagement and hope that with the help of a new incumbent this might be something that could be developed.

17. Who is God calling?

The Bishop of Lancaster and the PCC are looking to appoint a half-time priest who

- is excited by the opportunity of growing new and existing congregations
- can provide spiritual vision and leadership to all groups
- has sound exposition of Christian principles and values
- will further develop and strengthen our relationship with the school
- will engage with the local community in locally based activities such as the farmers market
- will be a recognisable presence in the community by being seen out and about