

# All Saints Anchorsholme



## Parish Profile

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## *Dear Potential Applicant*

***“” ... Christ has set us free to live a free life ... “” Galatians 5: 1***

*The Parish of All Saints, Anchorsholme is inviting you to consider applying to be our Vicar. We are looking for is someone who shares our passion and our beliefs, which are:*

*God is love, the love that everybody is looking for and which He calls us to share with others.*

*God calls us to be a church without walls, serving our community, especially the poor and disadvantaged, to reach the disconnected by coming alongside them, not in judgement of them but to help them.*

*We are called to show the kindness and compassion of Jesus, who is the light of the world, in all we do.*

*Jesus will return at any moment, so what we do now and the mission of the church have never been more urgent and every day offers opportunities to make a difference.*

*The Holy Spirit works with us as we surrender to Him in the work of leading souls from the gates of hell to the doors of heaven.*

*We have to respond in faith by “stepping out of the boat” as Peter did, so that as we focus fully on the Lord and commit fully to Him anything is possible.*

*With God all things are possible – restoration, revival, miracles, the unlikely becoming reality.*

***“” ... God-talk without God-acts is outrageous nonsense ... “” James 2: 17***

*God’s word is truth, with transforming power and relevance today and we are passionate that it should be the ground of all we do.*

*Those many people living in our communities who have never heard the gospel message should receive it in whatever way they can.*

*We must aim to be a church where all are welcome, where all matter from the youngest to the oldest.*

*We must aim to help disciples grow and to encourage them with opportunities to serve the Lord.*

*Prayer must underpin all that we do, beginning, continuing and ending in prayer and that our prayers must include allowing time for God to speak to us.*

*If all of this reflects your own beliefs we invite you to read on and to prayerfully consider whether you might be the person whom God is calling to serve Him in All Saints, Anchorsholme.*

***“” ... Trust God from the bottom of your heart; don’t try to figure out everything on your own ... “” Proverbs 3: 5***

*If you believe that God may be calling you we feel that also necessitates us providing you with as honest an evaluation as we can make of who we are and where we are as a community.*

*Among our strengths has always been the passion and commitment of our community and its ability to encompass a diverse group of believers with different but complementary emphases. We are in a period of change, not just because we have a vacancy but because of changes in personal circumstances, societal trends and, in part, a different understanding of what ‘being church’ is. In some areas we have perhaps over extended our reach while failing to build up the core.*

*Our key characteristics have always been the openness and welcoming nature of the fellowship and those who come in now still comment on the welcome they find. However, reflecting the national demographic, we have more older than younger people and many of the centrally active group within the church are ageing too. About two years ago in a single action we lost a very sizeable group of our ‘home bred’ young people to a new independent church and it took a while to recover from that but we are now moving forward strongly again. Through many of our continuing and new initiatives we have strong and ongoing links with a large number of families. Recently one or two families have joined through just such links which is encouraging.*

*In view of all this we recognise that we need to be firmly centred on Christ and unified in our determination to be His people in this place and for this community to which He has called us. All the questions that we ask of a potential leader, we are asking, and need to be asking of, ourselves. We too need to be confident that we trust in a God with whom all things are possible.*

***What we offer, then, is a people who know they are only on the way but are eager to journey farther wherever God may take us. We believe we are teachable and open to the Spirit of God. Our prayer would be for a leader who will direct and walk with us into the exciting future which we believe God has for us.***

## 1. Introduction

*Dear potential applicant,*

### **Ministry in the Diocese of Blackburn**



In the Diocese of Blackburn we profoundly believe in the difference that the Gospel makes to peoples' lives and so have a deep commitment to building healthy churches which can transform the communities in which they are set. We are looking for clergy of all backgrounds and traditions who share our passion for making a difference in the name of Jesus Christ.

'Vision 2026' is a bold and ambitious strategy which presumes that growth is what God wills for his church and which seeks to deliver growth through making disciples, being witnesses and growing leaders. You can read much more about this on other pages.

Our Diocese serves an area of extraordinary variety, from the stunning countryside of the Trough of Bowland to the former mill towns of East Lancashire, from the University cities of Preston and Lancaster to the seaside towns of Blackpool and Morecambe, from elegant villages to Presence and Engagement Parishes, there is something for everyone. We have Parishes of all traditions and are strongly committed to the principle of mutual flourishing. We are also seeking to grow 50 new congregations by 2026 so need people who are gifted as pioneers and evangelists.

If you think that the Church of England is at its eventide and that decline is inevitable, then these pages are probably not for you. But if you believe that all things are possible if we trust God, love his people, pray fervently, preach the Gospel of salvation in Jesus Christ and work hard, then we would love to hear from you. Even if none of the jobs on these pages seem quite right, get in touch anyway. And please be assured of our prayers as you seek to discern where God is calling you.

*+ Julian*

**The Bishop of Blackburn**  
*The Rt Revd Julian T Henderson*

## 2. Diocesan Vision

The year 2026 marks the centenary of the formation of the Diocese of Blackburn. Vision 2026 is our strategy to turn around the long-term trend of gradually declining church attendance. 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.

In 2015 we spent time in prayer with Vision 2026 as the focus. 2016 saw over 80% of parishes appoint lay Vision Champions whose role is to gently nudge /encourage parish leaders and congregations to plan and deliver activities that make disciples of Jesus Christ, be witnesses to Jesus Christ, grow leaders for Jesus Christ and prioritise work among children, young people and schools. We also hosted the Crossroads Mission, with visiting northern province bishops and their teams leading over 400 mission events over an autumn weekend. In 2017 we held a series of study days providing an opportunity for clergy to think about how they engage contextually with Vision 2026 and actively supported Thy Kingdom Come and promoted opening our churches as a place of welcome (and not just on a Sunday).

For 2018, we encouraged parishes to transform their communities through words and deeds, and held a diocesan conference focussing on apologetics in late November. 2019 will be a year focussed on encouraging all of us to be effective disciples.

As a diocese, 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.

Our Diocesan Vision Prayer is: 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.

You can find out more by visiting the Vision 2026 pages on our website:

[www.blackburn.anglican.org](http://www.blackburn.anglican.org)

### 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.



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. The diocese has an anti-bullying and anti-harassment policy.
- 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**

## 4. Executive Summary

- What we offer

A church that has always sought to be a beacon of God's love and mercy in the Parish.

A people who know they are only on the way but are eager to journey farther wherever God may take us, teachable and open to the Spirit of God.

A fellowship, a Diocese and Deanery which are welcoming, worshipping, accepting and passionately determined to spread the gospel of salvation and healing in Jesus Christ.

A home in a very varied Christian community within a wider supportive evangelical Deanery where we support, respect and love one another as we work together in the Kingdom of God.

- Parish and wider community

All Saints is a Parish of around 10,000 people with very few ethnic minorities but with a high proportion of retired people, many of whom live alone. A suburban area, mainly of owner-occupation, lacking a community focus it escapes the worst deprivation experienced in central Blackpool but is not prosperous.

- Church community

We are a very active Christian community, working in many ways to bring the gospel of salvation and healing in Christ to our Parish community. We try to show God's love and grace in all that we do.

- Church buildings

Our church building dates from 1960, with Parish Hall extension built in 1999. Both are in brick construction. We have no tower, graveyard or special architectural features.

- Our schools (primary/secondary/community/church)

There is no Church school in the Parish but we enjoy excellent working relations with the local Primary School, Anchorsholme Academy.

- Our links into the wider community

We currently employ a Community Engagement Worker to help us understand our Parish and to develop more links. We are developing strong links with volunteer groups, including those running Anchorsholme Library and Eastpines park. We work in two local rest homes, provide a coffee morning in a community centre and let out our premises to several local organisations.

- Church finances

All Saints is a giving church, always paying our Parish Share, giving 10% of all income to charitable causes, holding fundraising events only for outside causes. We are currently reviewing our finances in the light of our understanding of our Mission and we praise God for the positive response of the church family at our recent meeting about vision and finance.

## 5. The Parish and Wider Community



**Anchorsholme** is a suburban area within a large urban area which contains the towns of Fleetwood, Cleveleys, Blackpool and Lytham St. Annes, with Thornton and Poulton-le-Fylde not far inland. This area, often referred to as the Fylde Coast, had a population of 265,348 at the 2011 census. Politically, Anchorsholme is a ward in the unitary authority of Blackpool although the boundaries of the ward and the parish do not quite coincide and a small part of the parish lies within Wyre Borough.

The parish had approximately 10,000 residents in the 2011 Census and, whilst there has been some infill housing built since, there has been no significant change since that date. At the 2011 Census 16% of the population was under 16 years of age, 57% was aged 16-64 and 27% was over 64. The population of Anchorsholme, in common with most of the Fylde Coast, has very few residents from ethnic minorities.

The Parish is essentially a residential area and has no obvious centre. There are small groups of shops within ten minutes' walk of the church but the area looks to the Morrisons supermarket (in the corner of the Parish) and to Cleveleys town centre (a mile or so to the north) for its facilities.

Over three-quarters of all dwellings in the Parish are owner-occupied with about 19% privately rented and 4% socially rented. The Parish divides roughly into two. West of North Drive the housing is largely semi-detached family housing. East of North Drive there are many more bungalows, generally occupied by older people, with a

substantial area of former Council houses now owned by Blackpool Coastal Housing Association. At the 2011 Census 37% of all households in the Parish were single-person occupied, with 21% of all households consisting of single people over 65 years of age.

Whilst Anchorsholme does not suffer from the same levels of deprivation as the central wards of Blackpool the Parish falls into the “50% most deprived” category on most of the national deprivation indicators.



The Parish has few community facilities. Blackpool Coastal Housing operates a community centre on Hobart Place (the Sevenoaks Centre) and All Saints runs a free “coffee and toast” service there on alternate Tuesday mornings. The Anchorsholme Library on Luton Road is establishing itself as a community centre and we have a number of links with the Library volunteers and with the Friends of the adjacent Eastpines Park.

Whilst administratively within the Unitary Authority of Blackpool, Anchorsholme is more closely related to Cleveleys which lies within the Borough of Wyre. Cleveleys is a busy, thriving seaside town with a history stretching back to a mention in the Domesday Book.

It has a recently refurbished promenade (including a multiplex cinema), some traditional seaside entertainment and good shopping.



Blackpool needs little introduction, but is known as Britain’s most popular holiday destination. The tourist industry remains the major employer for the Fylde Coast, although it has changed its nature very much in the last thirty years and is now as much of a day-trip and weekend destination as a traditional holiday resort.

All Saints Parish is largely residential and the largest single employer is the Morrison’s supermarket. The Civil Service (Department of Work and Pensions) employs a large number on the Fylde Coast with 2 major sites located close to the Parish.

### **Local amenities**

There are doctors, dentists, a library, a primary school, local shops, restaurants and take-aways, 2 parks, public houses & the promenade within walking distance. Cleveleys shopping centre is about a mile north of the church.

### **Schooling in the parish**

The Parish does not have a church school but we maintain excellent relations with the only school within the parish, Anchorsholme Academy; a primary school of about 620 children, which is part of the Blackpool Multi Academy Trust. The school was judged to be good in the 2013 OFSTED report and in 2016 was reported as continuing to be good. The school holds many of its special events (Harvest, Christmas, leaving ceremonies) in All Saints' buildings, coming into the church around 8 times a year for events. Our Clergy also go into the school regularly to deliver assemblies.

Among the local secondary schools is Milfield Science and Performing Arts College, where one of our members is a Governor and, together with two local Ministers, prays weekly in the school and is involved in assemblies.

Also in the vicinity are Norbreck Primary Academy just south of the parish and St Theresa's Catholic Primary School just north of the Parish. Local primary schools feed into nearby Montgomery High School. Blackpool Sixth Form College is within a short bus ride and provides a wide course range including A-Levels and BTEC options. Blackpool and the Fylde College Bispham campus lies just south of the parish and offers a range of academic and technical training.

Rossall School is one of the UK's top co-educational boarding and day schools, originally founded to educate the children of clergy. Lying about four miles to the north of the Parish it offers education from primary to university entrance level. A couple of the staff worship at All Saints.

### **Other neighbouring worshipping communities**

Anchorsholme All Saints is the northernmost Parish of the Blackpool Deanery, within the Diocese of Blackburn. The Deanery offers a strong and supportive network of evangelical clergy who meet regularly for prayer and mutual encouragement. It is fully engaged with the Diocesan Vision 26 aim of "healthy churches and transforming communities" and Evangelicals will find a welcoming and sustaining home in the Diocese and Deanery.

The Anchorsholme Methodist Church which worshipped a quarter-mile up the road from All Saints closed recently and the site is currently vacant. Just outside our parish boundary there is a Baptist Church and a Roman Catholic Church with which we have very good links; and in Cleveleys there are many churches of different denominations. There is an active Churches Together group in Cleveleys, of which we are a part. Church leaders meet regularly to plan joint events and discuss issues relevant to the local churches and there are several joint services throughout the year. Within our parish boundary there are also a Mormon Church and a Jehovah's Witness Kingdom Hall.

### Transport facilities

There is frequent public transport within the parish including a regular service into Blackpool (and on to south Fylde) and to Cleveleys from outside the church. The tram service to Fleetwood and Blackpool is about 5 minutes' walk from church.

Access to and from the Fylde Coast is becoming problematic because of the levels of traffic and rather restricted transport network. However, we are about 15 minutes' drive from the M55 motorway, about an hour's drive to southern Lake District and about the same to Manchester.

Blackpool Airport is currently closed but the main rail line from Blackpool North station to Preston, Manchester and beyond has recently been electrified and now provides direct trains to London. There are also local railway stations at Poulton Le Fylde and Layton, within ten minutes of the church, and a central coach station in Blackpool.

<b>PARISH DEMOGRAPHICS (2011 Census)</b>	
<b>Population</b>	
10,000 approximately	
<b>Age spread</b>	
0-4	16%
5-15	
16-64	57%
65+	27%
<b>Ethnic Mix</b>	
British	97%
Minority Ethnic	1%
<b>Other Faith Mix</b>	
Christian	75%
Muslim	0%
<b>Education background of population</b>	
have no qualification	22%
degree level or above	27%
<b>Employment</b>	
Lower managerial	22%
administration professional	7%
small employers	11%
<b>Major Employer(s)</b>	
Morrisons Supermarket, DWP (offices)	

<b>Deprivation Index</b>	
	50% most deprived
<b>Child Poverty</b>	
	12%
<b>Main Issues</b>	
Housing Conditions	Good
Local Amenities	Poor
<b>Housing Mix</b>	
Owner occupied	33%
Social rented housing	4%

## 6. The Church Community

All Saints is a very active Christian community, with many activities taking place within the church buildings and some, increasing in number, within other buildings in the Parish.

In its thirty years as an independent Parish, All Saints has had only two Vicars. We are now looking for a third, to lead us in the continuing work of bringing the gospel of salvation to Anchorsholme. The person whom God calls will find a welcoming, loving, supportive and active community with many skills and much experience.

We have two Churchwardens, the current holders of the position being experienced and respected members of the fellowship.

At present we have one Reader, who leads worship and preaches regularly. Additionally, we have a number of members experienced and gifted in preaching and leading and together with the Reader they provide a substantial team to join the incumbent in leading worship and preaching. Our Reader and several of the other members of this group are female and we place no restrictions on service in the church on grounds of gender.

Our present Curate has been with us now for almost two years. He is the fourth Curate at All Saints since the Millennium. We currently have three retired clergy in the congregation.

Our PCC consists of Clergy, Reader and Wardens ex officio and twelve elected members, serving on a three year cycle. The PCC meets generally every six weeks or so. Any urgent business between PCC dates is handled by the Standing Committee of Clergy, Wardens, PCC Secretary and Treasurer.

We consider ourselves to be an evangelical fellowship, largely non-traditional in our style of worship. We hold firmly to the central beliefs of the Gospel and

the central place of the Bible. Our clergy normally wear robes when leading the 9.00 service on Sundays but generally do not at any other times, except when requested for funerals, wedding and baptisms.

We have a small Pastoral Committee which visits members of the congregation and others who are not able to attend worship or who are sick or in need. In addition, many of our members have individual connections with specific individuals or families.

All Saints has held Alpha Courses for many years and these have proved effective in bringing people to a new or renewed relationship with God. The numbers attending the courses have fluctuated but the most recent course (photograph below) had about 20 members. We have also run “Freedom in Christ” courses and Marriage Courses (although the latter not for some years).



On alternate Monday evenings we hold “Nexus” – a gathering of people who want to talk through difficult and contentious issues from a Christian point of view. This has a regular attendance of around 20-24. Interestingly those attending come from at least five churches, although all have some link with All Saints.

We have occasionally organised Parish “away-weekends” although logistics and costs make these difficult to arrange. Our Young People have attended Soul Survivor for several years and individual members of the fellowship attend New Wine, Spring Harvest, Keswick and Greenbelt. For the last few years a group from All Saints has attended the Cherish weekend in Bradford.

All Saints is a busy church and we have many activities taking place in the buildings and elsewhere in the Parish during the week which are illustrated in the leaflets at the end of this Profile. All of these activities are staffed by volunteers from within the fellowship.

CHURCH AND SERVICE		
Patrons: The Bishop of Blackburn, The Rector of All Hallows, Bispham, The Church Society.		
Electoral Roll		
Year	2018	
Number	165	
Age Profile of the Church		
0-17	8%	
18-69	62%	
70+	30%	
Occasional Offices, Celebrations etc.		
Baptisms	4-5 per year	
Weddings	Occasional	
Confirmation	Adults:	Occasional
	Under 16 candidates	Occasional
Funerals	in church	40
	at Crematorium	
Normal weekly attendance	adult	160-170
	under 16	12-20
Festivals		
Easter 2018	Communicants	141
	Attendance	156
Christmas Day 2018	Communicants	72
	Attendance	82
Christingle 2018	150 adults, 50 children	

## 7. The Church Buildings

All Saints was built in 1960 and is a brick-built structure of plain appearance (see picture). The Parish Centre was built in 1999 in similar style to the main building and the two are, in effect, a single building. We have no spire or tower, no graveyard, no monuments and no special architectural features.

The original building was intended to be a multi-use building until a new church could be erected where the Vicarage now stands. That new church was never built and the worship area has been adapted to serve as a permanent church building. The worship area is currently reserved for worship use only and is, in our view, entirely suitable for that purpose.



The two entrances (to the church and to the Parish Centre) have level access except for a small lip which is an integral part of the structure of the PVC door-frames. Internally, all floors are on the same level. There is a toilet for the disabled which also includes baby-changing facilities. We are conscious of the needs of individuals in our services and we provide large-print service sheets. We have a Hearing Aid loop in our worship area and our evening services are signed by British Sign Language experts for the benefit of Deaf members.

All our buildings are in a weathertight and watertight state of repair and in good condition for the heavy use which is made of them. We have a small group of men who carry out regular maintenance and keep the buildings in good condition. We are due for a Quinquennial Inspection but, with the agreement of the DAC we have deferred this for one year, on the basis that the buildings are in sound condition and in suitable state for the uses to which they are put.

The Parish Centre and the Meeting Room are both in daily use and the buildings are open much of the time. We lease these rooms to a number of local organisations and for suitable private hire, with the result that the premises are very much a local centre in a Parish which has no obvious centre. Because so many local organisation use the premises regularly it is impossible to provide opening and closing facilities for each one and we trust each of them with keys to open and close the buildings. This trust has worked well for many years.

We have no churchyard. The surrounds to the buildings consist of grassed areas, a grass garden, and small flower beds. These are all maintained by volunteers from within the fellowship.



**The Vicarage** (*see picture*) stands alongside the church and is a brick-built structure erected about 1970. It has four bedrooms, large lounge, dining room, kitchen, utility room, family bathroom and downstairs toilet. The office is entered via the front door but is separated from the private rooms. There is a garage and an outside store.

Because the Vicarage is on a corner plot there is a substantial side garden, all grassed. The rear garden is private and is mainly grassed, with plum and apple trees.



## 8. The Church Finances

All Saints is a Giving Church. Over the years we have taken a number of decisions which affect our finances but we have always relied principally on the giving of our members to finance our activities, supplemented by hiring of the premises under the rules outlined below. In 25 years we have held one Gift Day, to finance the purchase of solar panels. In 1998 we decided to construct a new Parish Hall at a cost of around £250,000. This was raised by contribution from church members (in various forms) with help from Diocesan Funds. The new building was completely paid for by 2003.

Over the years we have taken a number of decisions which have affected our finances:

1. Over 25 years ago we decided to give 10% of all our annual income to Christian charities – local, national and overseas. This has been maintained ever since.
2. Around the same time we determined to pay our Parish Share in full every year. This we have done every year since.
3. Some twenty years ago we resolved not to accept any money from the National Lottery. We have kept that resolution.
4. Again some twenty years ago we resolved not to hire out our premises for any purely commercial activity. We have modified this slightly to allow use by, for instance, Slimming World, where we believe the hirer has a valuable community purpose.
5. Some five-six years ago we stopped running our Pre-School in the face of falling numbers caused by local schools opening their own facilities. This lost us several thousand pounds a year in income.
6. Many years ago we resolved not to take any income from coffee mornings or our Christmas Fair, giving all the proceeds to charities, again local, national and overseas. We have followed this resolution right up to the present.
7. A few months ago the PCC decided not to allow our worship area to be used for any purpose other than worship-related activities. This cost us around £1,200 per year in income.
8. In 2017, at an open Church Meeting the PCC asked the church what we should do with several thousand pounds of accumulated capital funds. The members voted that this money should be used to reach out into the community to build the kingdom of God in Anchorsholme. That consultation and decision resulted in the appointment of our Community Engagement Worker for three years.
9. During 2017 £5,800 of Agency Collections money was disbursed to a wide variety of charities that All Saints supports. These funds (unlike our 10% church tithe) do not register in the church accounts.

The following Table shows our annual income/expenditure details as recorded in our audited accounts.

Year (close)	Income	Expenditure	Variance (I:E)
2017	£131,162	£120,020	£11,141
2016	£118,139	£111,816	£6,322
2015	£127,398	£118,636	£8,763
2014	£123,519	£107,532	£15,987

The Table below shows balances on our accounts for 2018

	2018 Opening Balances	Closing Balances – 31/12/18
Current account	£20,942.48	£16,223.09
Deposit account (CCLA)	£41,582.52	£20,204.89
Deposit account (CMCU)	£25,000.00	£25,000.00
<b>Net Worth</b>	<b>£87,525.00</b>	<b>£61,427.98</b>

We have two deposit accounts: the Churches Mutual Credit Union account was set up recently and holds £25,000 of designated contingency funds. The other (CCLA) Deposit fund is used to hold reserves which can be brought into current use, as required, to provide a 3-month buffer to cover expected running costs.

Our 2018 income has been reduced by recent changes which have caused our income from the hire of rooms to fall. There has also been some reduction in collection giving as a result of loss of contributing members.

Having committed reserves to fund our attempts to connect better with our community and being aware that our income is not replacing them we recently held a whole-church meeting to consider how to address that position. At that meeting all members of the PCC were identified and all members of the church were invited to bring any questions or views to any of those people. That meeting confirmed the approach proposed by the finance group and we are confident that God will provide the necessary additional funding in such a way that we are still able to honour our other commitments in full. We have already seen this happening in a substantial way.

## 9. Our Schools

The Parish does not have a church school. The educational provision in the Parish and surrounding area is shown in the Parish and Wider Community Section above. Anchorsholme Primary School holds many of its special events (Harvest, Christmas, leaving ceremonies) in All Saints' buildings, coming into the church around 8 times a year for events. We do not have any governorship position in the school but our Clergy go into the school regularly to deliver assemblies. Our Community Engagement Worker has recently been invited to conduct a one-and-a-half hour lesson in the school, which was very well received.



## 10. Our Links into the Wider Community

Our Parish lies across the boundaries of two Local Authorities - Blackpool Borough – a unitary Authority – and Wyre Borough – a Borough within Lancashire County Council area. We do not have any particular connections with either, although Blackpool use our premises as a polling station at election times.

There are no civic duties expected of the incumbent.

As shown on the map on page 22, our Parish lies midway between central Blackpool and Fleetwood – two of the most deprived communities in England. Whilst we do not work in either area as a church many of our members work with organisations which are active in addressing social problems in those area.

Within or adjacent to the Parish there are two facilities for vulnerable people - Warren Manor (a Day Centre) and Nightingales Rest Home. We have strong links with both and take services and craft sessions in both regularly. We would hope that the new incumbent would be able to continue this involvement. There is also a Community Centre – the Sevenoaks Centre – owned by Blackpool Coastal Housing Association. For some years we have run a free coffee morning in this centre on alternate Tuesday mornings.

The immediate area lacks any specific provision for youth, although the many attractions of Blackpool lie fairly close by. All Saints has run a youth club on Friday evenings for nearly twenty years and continues to do so. This has recently been restructured using a carefully adapted version of the “Freedom in Christ for Youth” course. Our team of Youth leaders has been very encouraged by the response of the regularly attending (around 30) ‘unchurched’ teenagers who are really engaging with the Bible as we spend time with them. It is exciting to witness the power of the Holy Spirit working amongst us!

Medical services are provided by GP practices lying just outside the Parish. There is a “same-day” centre in Fleetwood, five miles to the north, and a walk-in centre in Blackpool. The Blackpool Victoria Hospital provides the full range of acute and outpatient services and lies about four miles south of the Parish. There is also a major Mental Health Centre at The Harbour in south Blackpool close to the M55 motorway. Whilst a number of our members have or had employment connections with these facilities we do not currently have any formal links, although one or two of our members have recently been volunteer visitors at the Hospital.



## 11. Our Vision

Some years ago, in setting ourselves to work in various ways for the growing of God's kingdom in Anchorsholme, we adopted as our theme:

***"Growing together with Christ at the centre"***

We have not seen any reason to change this theme in the intervening years.

We believe that God has called us, as part of His Church, to look outwards in all that we do and to engage in mission in our Parish community and beyond.

We are therefore fully in support of the Diocesan Vision 26 aim of creating and maintaining Healthy Churches and Transforming Communities.

"We" are the whole congregation of All Saints, seeking in Christ to work together for the building of God's Kingdom in our parish, our town and our world. We are passionate in our desire to engage with our community in the best ways that we can find to bring the message of God's love and grace to Anchorsholme.

### **Our Mission**

In defining what we mean by "Mission" we have used the five "strands" which have been adopted by the Anglican Communion but we have varied the words slightly:

We consider it to be:

### **Proclaiming the good news of the Kingdom of God**

- The theme of our preaching is the gospel of salvation through the work of Jesus Christ and Jesus Christ alone. The aim of our preaching is to bring people, whatever their circumstances and life history, to a real and active relationship with God through Christ and to maturity in Christ.
- We aim to run two Alpha courses each year.
- We try to reach out to children and teenagers, both those within the fellowship and those outside in various ways.
- Our 'Kidzone' Events have been running for 10 years with the annual Summer Holiday Club still proving to be popular amongst the local primary aged children.



- We hold special events during each year to introduce people to the life of the church in a friendly atmosphere. In the last year we ran an “Adult Holiday Club”, a Summer Fun Day, and two Quiz/Games evenings.
- We try to make use of social media and our church website for communication, information and publicity.



### **Nurturing and building-up believers in their faith**

- All our preaching and teaching is been done with the aim of instilling the principles of faith and encouraging each other to think out our faith and its implications for our daily lives.
- We encourage and train our members to share their experience of God at every opportunity including giving opportunity and support to any of our members who wish to develop gifts of preaching, teaching, leadership, musicianship, and other skills or to respond to God’s call to formal training for ministry and ordination.
- We run a number of “greenhouse” groups (a name chosen to symbolize Christian growth) in which issues of faith and life are discussed in a friendly domestic setting. All members are encouraged to join one of these groups.



- We run a fortnightly meeting known as Nexus at which we consider and discuss some of the more difficult issues of the Christian life and some of its thorny problems in an atmosphere of mutual respect and exploration.
- Our “Footsteps” group, which sprang from an Alpha course, meets fortnightly to provide any who attend with teaching and support in their growing faith.
- We believe that all our church life should be founded in prayer. We run a number of regular prayer events and we are constantly seeking effective ways to develop our corporate prayer life. Experienced members of the Church are regularly available after services to pray with and offer help to anybody who requests it.





The Pastoral team visit the sick and housebound members of our congregation and provide help whenever and wherever they can.

### **Serving each other and our local community in love**

- Our “Toddlers” meeting runs every term-time Thursday afternoon during the year and provides a valuable facility for mothers and small children.
- Recently it has provided a way into church life for a number of people.



- The “Olive Branch” offers coffee and cake every Tuesday morning at low cost and provides a welcoming meeting place for church members and the surrounding community.



- On alternate Tuesday mornings we offer tea, coffee and cake free of charge to the community around a centre run by the local Housing Association.
- Our buildings are used by a number of local organisations, some at a nominal charge, some at commercial charges. We believe this offers a good way for the church to be known as a centre for the community.
- We try to encourage and provide help to all members of the church to find ways of serving their neighbours and wider community. Many of our members are engaged in community service (Streetlife, various children’s organisations, Friends of the Hospital and others).
- Every Friday we run “Connect More” – a time of games and togetherness for



families and individuals, which attracts a number of people who otherwise would not come into the church at all.

**Acting to improve our wider society.**

- We support local charities - Streetlife, Blackpool Schools and Youth Work, and Vincent House - by our prayers and our giving.
- We donate 10% of all income to “outside” causes, both local and international.
- We also support “outside” causes through regular coffee mornings and an annual Christmas Fair.
- We maintain links with Anchorsholme Primary School and the school holds regular services in our premises.
- We encourage our members to “think Fair Trade”, including by selling Fair Trade products in our Welcome Area.

**Valuing and sustaining the physical world in which we live**

- We try to recycle as much of our refuse output as possible but this remains a problem at times because of the variety of users of our premises.
- We are largely “paper-free” in our services, with most information being displayed digitally and notice sheets produced fortnightly rather than weekly.
- We have two solar panels on the roof of the Parish Centre and our energy supplies are entirely from renewable sources.
- Our volunteers maintain our gardens in as attractive and environmentally responsible a way as possible.

To see our vision of who God will call to Anchorsholme, please see Section 13 below.

## 12. What We Offer –

**All Saints** has been a thriving evangelical Anglican Church since it was founded as a daughter church of Bispham All Hallows in 1960. During those nearly sixty years the numbers in the congregation have fluctuated but the church has always sought to be a beacon of God's love and mercy in the Parish. We continue to pursue that vision.

What we can offer is a people who know they are only on the way but are eager to journey farther wherever God may take us. We believe we are teachable and open to the Spirit of God. Our prayer would be for a leader of vision who will direct and walk with us into the exciting future which we believe God has for us.

We offer to a new incumbent a fellowship which is welcoming, worshipping and desirous of being active in the spread of the gospel of salvation in Jesus Christ. We offer a home in a very varied Christian community where we try to support, respect and love one another as we work together in the Kingdom of God.

The attached "dashboard" for the Parish shows a picture of the Parish in numerical terms. We have a regular congregation of an average of around 160 (including children) at the Sunday morning services (30-35 at the 9.00 a.m. traditional Anglican service, 120-140 at the more fluid 10.30 a.m. contemporary service) and 40 on Sunday evenings (6.30, varied in format and style see picture below).



The Electoral Roll of the parish was updated in 2013 and currently stands at 163 members. About 60% of our members live outside the parish, mainly in adjoining Parishes.

We have a number of retired clergy associated with the fellowship who assist the Vicar from time to time. We have an experienced Reader and a number of members with considerable gifts, training and enthusiasm who will support the incumbent in leading and preaching. We believe strongly in collaborative ministry and that we are all called to use our God-given gifts. We are committed to working alongside our Vicar for the extension of God's kingdom in this area.

We have recently appointed two teachers in our congregation to act as Safeguarding Officers. The whole PCC has received safeguarding training and we are in the process of extending that, and the obtaining of DBS certificates for all appropriate people in the church.

We have a Parish office within the building and a part-time Parish Administrator who does much of the practical and routine administrative work of the church. He is able to call on the help of volunteers if and when necessary.



Anchorsholme is a place whose residents are happy to be there and who find it convenient and attractive. We believe that a new Vicar and family would find it a welcoming, warm-hearted and convenient place to live and work.

## 13. Who is God calling?

We are, first and foremost, looking for the man or woman whom God knows to be the right person for us.

Beyond that we believe our new Vicar should be someone who:

- is passionate about God and the gospel.
- is not ashamed of the Gospel and has a heart hungry for God's vision
- is empowered by the Holy Spirit.
- will preach the gospel of salvation in and through Christ alone.
- will lead and work with the whole fellowship of All Saints to bring people, whatever their circumstances and life history, to faith through Christ and to maturity in Christ.
- will shepherd and feed us on God's word
- will encourage and equip us to practise every member ministry and to make the best use of all the gifts we have.
- Has the Lord's vision of a harvest ripe for gathering and will lead us in reaching out into our community
- is a "people-person", able to lead but routinely listening to those round him/her.
- will recognise and nurture the gifts of all of us in the service of God.
- will encourage us to practise styles of worship which allow us all to worship in ways which suit us but which are also welcoming to incomers.

We have prayed much about this appointment and we look for God's answer to our prayers. Are you the one that God is calling? We long to run the race set before us. We want to serve with you, equipped by the power of God's Holy Spirit. As we claim God's promises and are filled with His grace, so we will love and serve others. We ask that God will set our lives on fire. As we work with the person of God's calling, we will indeed 'run and not grow weary....and rise up on eagle wings' Isaiah 40v31.

## Appendix 1: Parish publicity leaflets

### Toddlers

A chance for Parents and Carers to meet as their babies, toddlers and pre-school children play.



### Youth Club

Youth club meet Fridays from 7:30

Teenagers can come and hang out with friends, play games, and learn more about Jesus through structured...



### Connect More

A space to play board games, pool, or table tennis, have a chat and make new friends.

Refreshments provided free of charge.

Fridays 1-3 adults only 3-4.30 families welcome



### Dorcas

Bring your knitting, crocheting or needlework and have a chat over coffee while we craft. Thursdays 2pm-4pm



### Alpha Course

Alpha starts with a meal, and after a short video, discussion groups allow people to consider the meaning of life in a relaxed, environment.



### Olive Branch

The olive Branch is a place to come and have a coffee and cake or tea and toast every Tuesday morning from 10-11.30am.



### Kidzone

Sharing God's love through bible stories, fun and games with 3-11 year olds. Special events throughout the year including a summer holiday club.



### Other church led activities include

**Shipsnapes** for KS2, Youth club for KS3-4, Table tennis for adults. A walking group for all ages and the 'One Group' for those who live alone. Ask the office if you'd like to know more.

**All  
Saints  
Anchorholme**



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FY5 3RN

Telephone: 01253 823904

Email: [office@anchorholme.org.uk](mailto:office@anchorholme.org.uk)

## A word from the Curate...

We are a welcoming, friendly and very active church, serving the community of Thornton-Cleveleys. Our 3 services each Sunday reflect our diverse congregation, and we enjoy worshipping in many different styles.

As one of the larger churches in the Diocese of Blackburn, we are very active throughout the week with a wide range of activities taking place in our church building. If you would like to talk about how we can serve you through any of the occasional offices of Baptism or Marriage then we would love to hear from you! Please contact us to arrange a chat.

Our aim as a fellowship is to seek God's will for us and follow Him in service of our community. We hope to be transformed by the Holy Spirit each week through the reading and preaching of His word and through prayer and praise, and no brochure will fully put across what worship at All Saints is like so we would love to meet you, and are sure you would be extended a warm welcome!

In your service  
and in His,

Rev. Sam ~~Cheesman~~



### Sunday Services:

08:45 Book of Common Prayer

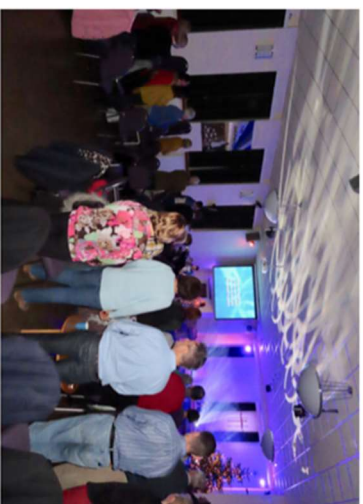
10:30 Family Worship

18:30 Evening Praise and Worship



Sunday worship 10:30am.

Quite informal and ideal for families of all ages



Elevate service 2nd Sunday evening of the month



Young people's groups meet at 10:30am  
on Sundays

### Prayer Ministry

There are many opportunities to pray together throughout the week. We also have prayer ministry after the services from a dedicated team.



### Bible Study Groups

There are several groups that meet at various points through the week to study God's word deeper. Some meet at church, and others in homes.



### Messy Church

Meeting on the Second Thursday of each month. A great way for families to explore the bible in a fun relaxed way. With lots of crafts, and a simple meal to share together.



## What's On At...

# All Saints Anchorholme



**Thursdays 1:15 - 2:45pm  
During Term-time**

**Come and chat with other parents/carers as your little ones have fun and make new friends. £1.50 per family to include drinks and cake.**



**Tuesdays 6 - 7:15pm  
During Term-time**

**A fun group for 7-11 year olds. We play lots of active team games and hear a short story whilst enjoying a drink and biscuit. Cost 50p**



**Fridays During Term-time  
1 - 3pm Adults Only  
3 - 4:30pm Families Welcome**

**Join us for board games, pool, table tennis and more.  
Free - includes refreshments.  
Children must be accompanied by an adult.**



**Summer Club and Special Events  
Throughout the Year.**

**For children aged 3 -11 years old and a parents room for refreshments and chat. Find out more from the office or check our facebook page for updates.**





**Table Tennis for Over 18's**  
**Mondays 7:45 - 9:30pm**

**Great fun! Great exercise!**  
**Make new friends!**  
**Bats and refreshments provided. £1.50**

**Olive Branch Cafe**



**Tuesday Mornings**  
**10 - 11:30am**

**Please drop in for tea and toast or coffee**  
**and cake. You'll be most welcome!**



**Dorcas**

**Alternate Thursdays**  
**2 - 4pm**

**Please bring your knitting, crocheting or**  
**needlework and have a chat over coffee**  
**while we craft.**



**The Walking**  
**Group**

**Alternating Wednesdays or Saturdays**  
**Meeting twice monthly**

**Planned walks by various members of the**  
**group. Leave from the Church to car**  
**share. Ask at the office for dates, location**  
**and length of walks.**



**Saturdays 2 - 4pm**  
**Once A Month**

**Are you on your own and want to meet**  
**for company and friendship?**  
**Then join the 'onesies' for fun once a**  
**month. There's a varied programme of**  
**events. Call the office for more details.**

**Prayer and**  
**Bible Study**



**Various days, times and venues**  
**throughout the week.**

**Spend time together studying God's word**  
**and in prayer and fellowship.**

**Ask the office for more details.**

## Appendix 2: Parish Dashboard

