

Parish Profile

The United Benefice



ST JOHN THE DIVINE
HOLME IN CLIVIGER
BURNLEY

ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST
WORSTHORNE
BURNLEY



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[Welcome to the Diocese](#)

Ministry in the Diocese of Blackburn

Dear potential applicant,



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

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 are encouraging parishes to transform their communities through words and deeds, and are holding 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:

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

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 mid-week 'weekend' away.



Whalley Abbey Retreat and Conference Centre

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 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

Welcome to the United Benefice

The Parishes of Cliviger and Worsthorne are set in a rural Pennine landscape on the outskirts of Burnley in the Diocese of Blackburn. Apart from the many working farms, employment opportunities are limited within the parish, and people travel to work, either in Burnley or farther afield.

The vast majority of the population are white British and generally have a good educational standard. Unemployment is low and there are few outward signs of material deprivation. Equally this is not an affluent area either. Statistically the two parishes are around 10% less deprived than the national average.

The Church buildings in both parishes are in good order and maintained to a high standard. At Cliviger, there is a separate Church Hall while at Worsthorne the Church building has been adapted to provide space for meetings and social functions.

On a typical Sunday there are two services at Worsthorne and one at Cliviger with a total attendance of around 90. There is also a midweek service in each Parish. Special services are held at all the major festivals. Both parishes are traditionally Anglican in their churchmanship.

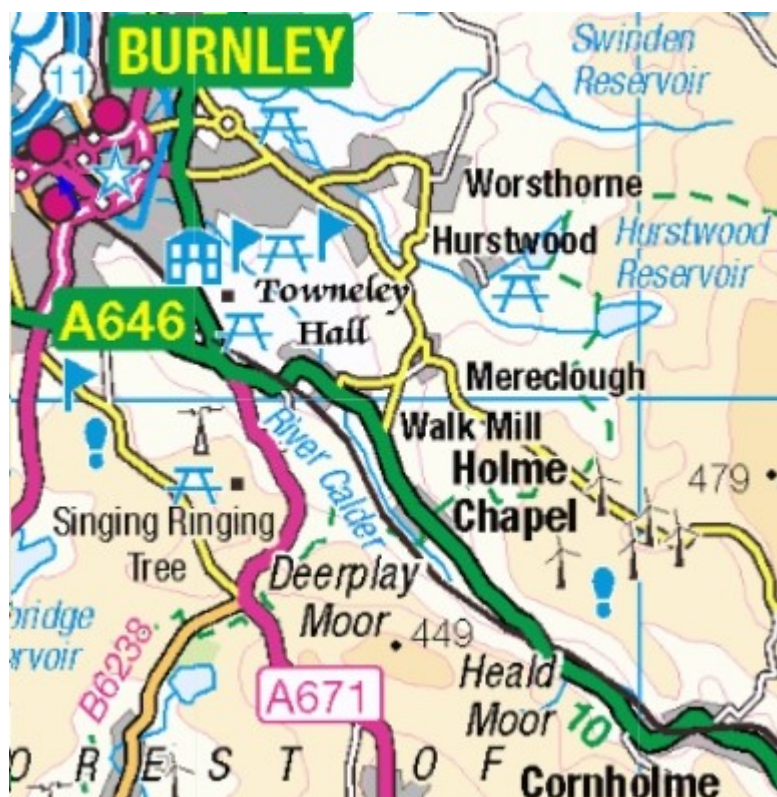
We have vibrant Church communities with active PCCs and a strong band of volunteers. Each Church has a robed choir with two experienced and capable organists to lead them.

Organisations involved with the life of the churches include Beavers, Cubs, Scouts, Rainbows, Brownies & Guides, the Mothers Union, a wine circle and a men's group.

Within the parishes there are also an Independent Methodist Church and a non-denominational Evangelical Church. There is a primary school in each Parish, Cliviger's being a Church School. A number of events are held each year which draw in people from the wider community who are not (yet) regular Church attenders.

The finances of both parishes are relatively stable and the Parish Share is always paid in full. In recent years Cliviger have found it necessary to draw on reserves and there will be a need in the near future to conduct an effective stewardship campaign.

Our new Vicar will enjoy strong support from the laity. This will enable him or her to focus on the key issues of worship, ministry and pastoral care. We have a vision to grow the Church, both numerically and spiritually and will work hard to make this a reality.



The Benefice and the Wider Community

Our local area

Located on the eastern fringes of the Diocese of Blackburn and the administrative county of Lancashire, the United Benefice is in a beautiful part of the country.

Burnley is a former mill town that is gradually establishing a reputation for excellence in other fields. In 2013 The Department for Business Innovation & Skills named Burnley as “the most enterprising place in Britain... for its ongoing commitment to support small and medium sized businesses and for successfully reframing perceptions of Burnley.”

Burnley is probably best known for its football team who have also enjoyed a renaissance in recent years. They are now an established Premiership Team, enjoying their greatest success for many years.

The town is ideally located for the motorway network and many of the most scenic parts of the country. The Lake District, the Yorkshire Dales and the Peak District are all only around an hour's drive away. Attractions in Burnley itself include the historic properties of Towneley Hall and Gawthorpe Hall, numerous parks and open spaces, and the Weavers Triangle; a collection of 19th century industrial buildings of national significance currently undergoing restoration and redevelopment.

The Benefice consists of two parishes on the outskirts of Burnley. These are the Churches of St John the Divine in Cliviger and St John the Evangelist in Worsthorpe.

PARISH DEMOGRAPHICS		
	Cliviger	Worsthorpe
Population		
2011	1,700	2,300
Age spread		
0-4	4%	5%
5-15	9%	11%
16-64	64%	64%
65+	23%	20%
Ethnic Mix		
British	99%	98%
Minority Ethnic	1%	2%
Other Faith Mix		
Christian	78%	77%
Muslim	1%	1%
Education background of population		
have no qualification	19%	17%
degree level or above	33%	31%
Deprivation Index		
least deprived	16.3	11.2

CLIVIGER VILLAGE

St. John the Divine is situated in the picturesque Cliviger Gorge separating the counties of Lancashire and Yorkshire. The parish is made up of several hamlets namely, Holme Chapel, Walk Mill, Southward Bottom, Overtown, Mereclough and Higher and Lower Red Lees with an overall population of 1700.

Modern housing estates from the 1930s up to the present day, along with rows of terraced houses, Victorian stone built larger detached properties and many renovated farm dwellings, barns and manor houses make up the village homes.



Passing through the village, links with the past are seen, including scattered hill farms and the remains of an historic coal seam still producing the finest coal after hundreds of years. Trans Pennine trains now speed on their way down the track from Blackpool on the coast, through to Preston towards Manchester, Leeds and York, carrying daily commuters from this area who work in the cities and students continuing their education at university.

WORSTHORNE VILLAGE

Much of the parish is rural in nature containing several working farms. The moorland that surrounds the village is a haven for wildlife and is popular with walkers and mountain bikers. As well as the main village, the parish also contains the tiny hamlet of Hurstwood.



The population of the parish is growing, and now stands at around 2,500. Job opportunities within the parish are limited so most people commute to work, either in Burnley or further afield in Manchester, Preston or Leeds. The housing around the church consists mainly of traditional stone cottages and there are also four modern housing estates elsewhere in the parish built at various times in the post-war years.



There are two pubs, a social club, a guest house, tea rooms, a hairdresser's, a fish and chip shop and a village shop. All of these buildings are situated around the village green which gives Worsthorne a real community feel.

WHO WE ARE.

CLIVIGER, ST JOHN THE DIVINE

The team at St John the Divine is headed by the Vicar, churchwarden, secretary, treasurer, two Synod Representatives and 8 other PCC members. Our Vision Champion is a Synod Representative and PCC member; we have a Parish Safeguarding Officer who is also a Sunday School Leader.

Churchwarden: Ruth Pickles



Secretary: Christine Baldwin



Treasurer: Joan Lamb



Verger: Michael Nicholson

Our verger is a lifelong member of the Church and is constantly around during the week. He shares his extensive knowledge of the Church with the many visitors and relatives tending the graves of their loved ones who are buried in our graveyard.



We have a number of volunteers who clean the church on a weekly basis based on a rota system. A team of young people manage our graveyard keep it pristine and well cared for, particularly in the summer months when the grass needs regular cutting. Tea and coffee are served each Sunday after morning service.

WORSTHORNE, ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST

The team at St John the Evangelist is headed by the Vicar, 2 churchwardens, secretary, treasurer, 3 Diocesan Synod Reps, 2 Deanery Synod Reps and 8 other PCC members. The Vision Champion and Parish Safeguarding Officer are both members of the PCC.

Churchwardens: Julie Cambridge and Pam Pomeroy



Secretary: Linda Smith



Treasurer: Nick Aves



We have a team of volunteers who manage our building and graveyard, ensuring both are kept in good condition.

We have a catering team who provide refreshments for our congregation each week after the main Sunday service and for the many events taking place in our church and the local community.

We have a team of visitors who visit in our parish and take home communions when requested, including to the residents of the local care home.



The Church Community

In both churches, lay members are encouraged to participate as much as possible in the services by reading and administering the chalice.

We have a church choir and 2 experienced and talented organists who accompany our services and provide an excellent standard of music.



A rota for sidespeople ensures a warm and friendly welcome as people enter the church to share in worship.



Children are considered to be a vital part of the churches and are included in worship wherever possible. The uniformed organisations meet weekly and have an important role in social and fund-raising activities. At Family Service and Parade days they are invited to parade into church and present their flags and pennants at the altar and to take an active part in the service, encouraging them to be part of our loving, Christian family.

Joint confirmation classes are held annually.

The 2 parishes hold a number of joint services during the year, typically during the Easter and Christmas celebrations. Each parish has its own PCC who also occasionally hold joint meetings and away days.

WORSHIP

As we are a United Benefice, the times of the services allow our Vicar to preside at all parish eucharists. The churchmanship is traditional Anglican and vestments are worn.

CLIVIGER, ST JOHN THE DIVINE

Our current pattern of worship is as follows:-

1st 3rd 4th and 5th Sundays – Parish Eucharist at 9.30 a.m.

2nd Sunday – Family Eucharist and Parade Service at 11.00 a.m.

Each Wednesday – Midweek Eucharist at 7.00 p.m in Church House.

The church has a Sunday School meeting each Sunday in Church House and joining us in church towards the end of the Parish Eucharist. The team of teachers attend courses to enhance their work.

Special services are held such as Mothering Sunday, Day School Services, Harvest, Christingle, Posada Crib Service and Remembrance Day.



Baptisms, weddings and funerals take place by arrangement with the Vicar.



WORSTHORNE, ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST

Our current pattern of worship is as follows:

Every week – Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer) at 8 am

1st Sunday – Family Eucharist and Church Parade at 11 am

2nd Sunday – Sung Eucharist (Common Worship) at 9.30 am

3rd, 4th and 5th Sunday – Sung Eucharist (Common Worship) at 11 am

Each Tuesday - Said Eucharist at 7.00 pm.

At the 8 am Holy Communion service there is normally a Church Warden on duty to assist with the readings if necessary and a communicant to assist with the chalice.

Special Services held during the year are Mothering Sunday, Christingle, Walking Day (procession of witness around the village), Remembrance Day and the Christmas Eve Crib Service.



Baptisms, weddings and funerals take place by arrangement with the Vicar. Baptisms are usually after the 11.00 am service at 1.30pm.



Statistics for 2017

CHURCH AND SERVICES		
	Cliviger	Worsthorne
Patron	Mrs C P Creed	The Bishop of Blackburn
Electoral Roll		
Number	93	153
Age Profile of the Church Congregation		
0-17	12	10
18-69	33	65
70+	20	58
Occasional Offices, Celebrations etc.		
Baptisms	9	14
Weddings	1	4
Confirmation – Adult candidates	0	0
– Under 16 candidates	4	1
Funerals – in Church	3	12
– at Crematorium	1	6
Normal weekly attendance – adult	32	60
– under 16	5	6
Festivals		
Easter – Communicants	37	98
– Attendance	39	126
Christmas - Communicants	26	71
- Attendance	26	335

The Church Buildings

CLIVIGER, ST JOHN THE DIVINE

St. John's is a Grade II Listed Georgian building with a Victorian extension. It retains many of its original and most interesting features.

During the recent renovations and repairs to the church, toilet and kitchen facilities were installed, with disabled access, wheelchair provision and baby changing facilities.

Major roof works were carried out, rebuilding of the bell tower and re-hanging of the historic bell completed these works.

An alarm system was installed and the Vicar's vestry renovated and decorated and is now also used as an office. Our ancient clock has recently been mechanised thanks to a grant from Scottish Power, whose windmills are set at the top of the local moors



There is a church hall (Church House) which stands next to the church. This is used by all church organisations and also by the school weekly, Mondays to Fridays for the school day during term-time.

Our uniformed organisations consist of Rainbows, Brownies and Guides.



St. John's Mothers' Union branch is over 100 years old and meet monthly after the midweek Eucharist.

WORSTHORNE, ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST

Our church stands at the centre of the village of Worsthorne. Opened and consecrated in 1835 the Grade 2 listed building has been extended and re-ordered over the years to provide a worship space and parish rooms within the same building.



The church is kept in an excellent state of repair and over recent years has had a new roof and a new, more efficient, heating system installed.

The church itself provides seating for a choir of around 24 and a congregation of about 160. The church choir provides not only excellent leadership for worship and special services but also a concert at Christmas that contributes to the annual Christmas charity appeal.

The church rooms are used daily for the children's uniformed organisations and the adult organisation groups to meet. It also provides space for fundraising activities and social events.



The Thursby Room, downstairs, is a carpeted lounge area with kitchen and toilets adjacent (including a toilet for the disabled) and the Aspinall Room upstairs is a parquet-floored large area with licensed bar.

Our uniformed organisations consist of Brownies, Beavers, Cubs and Scouts. Adult organisations include Mothers' Union, Worsthorne Art Group, the Wine Circle and the Men's Group.

The Church Finances

CLIVIGER, ST JOHN THE DIVINE

As part of the United Benefice we have always ensured that our parish share has been paid in full and this remains a priority of the PCC and is our largest expense. We have investments which are old legacies and pay small dividends restricted to graveyard expenses. At the present time we have a designated account for building projects as well as a normal current account for general income and expenditure. Statement of accounts are presented monthly to PCC members keeping them up-to-date with all income and expenditure. In the current climate transfers from the reserves have been necessary. A stewardship campaign is therefore a priority. Two major fundraising activities are held annually: Scarlett's Stride, a pleasant 20 mile walk across the moorland in the area, and a Christmas Fair.

WORSTHORNE, ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST

The Church finances are stable. The accounts for 2017 show a small surplus and we anticipate a similar position in 2018. We always pay the Parish Share in full.

We last held a stewardship campaign based on the Blackburn Diocese's *Giving in Grace* framework in 2014. Annual renewals have been held subsequently.

Our principal fundraising event is our annual Art & Crafts Fair held every summer. We also hold a number of other events including a Christmas Fair, Harvest Lunch, Beetle Drives & Bingo Evenings. We can also cater for private parties, including baptism and funeral buffets.

Expenses incurred by the incumbent including council tax, water rates, travelling, telephone, broadband, printing & stationery etc. are paid in full by the United Benefice.

We also recognise our responsibility to support mission and relief activity outside our parish. In particular, we contribute significant sums to the Children's Society and the Leprosy Mission. Also each year we identify a particular charity to benefit from our Christmas Appeal. Last year we raised £1,000 for the Alzheimer's Society.

CHURCH FINANCES		
Finance Returns for 2017		
	Cliviger	Worsthorne
Parish Income	£41,171	£75,416
Tax Efficient Planned Giving	£9,269	£25,488
Amount per person per week	£2.38	£8.04
Parish Expenditure	£57,217	£72,703
Parish Share Assessed	£27,707	£38,428
Parish Share Paid	£27,707	£38,428

Our Schools

CLIVIGER

St. John's C of E (VA) Primary School is a very popular, thriving school extending its roll to pupils living outside the parish alongside local children. It is a Church Aided school and presently there are in excess of 200 pupils attending. The Governing Body has a membership of 14, including the Vicar who is ex officio, and 7 Foundation Governors appointed by the PCC and the Vicar. The Ofsted Inspection held in January 2018, rated the school as "Good".



WORSTHORNE

There is a local county primary school in the village and, although not a church school, the children and staff are welcomed into church for special occasions during the academic year.



Our Links Into the Wider Community

CLIVIGER, ST JOHN THE DIVINE

We maintain good relationships with our neighbouring Independent Methodist Church, Mount Zion in Cliviger.

Each month we produce a parish magazine which is circulated throughout the parish and beyond; we have a team of distributors who deliver them.

We have a Fundraising and Social Committee who meet regularly, and our local hostelrys and restaurants support us in our fundraising and social events. We have very popular fortnightly Luncheon Clubs held at the local Tearooms in Worsthorne and the Kettledrum Inn at Mereclough.

In September each year Burnley Borough Council hold a Heritage Week. Our church and graveyard are in their programme when local historians, Roger Frost and Ramon Collinge, provide guided tours. Refreshments are served in Church House on these occasions.

Our churchwarden spends many hours meeting people from far and wide, who wish to be shown around our historic church.



WORSTHORNE, ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST

The church enjoys the support of groups of dedicated people who give generously of their time and talents in a variety of areas.

Good use is made of our facilities and in addition to catering for church events, we are also able to offer catering for private parties. This is not only a source of income but also an opportunity for outreach to the wider community.



A Christmas concert that contributes to the annual Christmas charity appeal has taken place annually for over 40 years.



We have developed links with the local Worsthorne Village Group, supporting their programme of events, including the annual Scarecrow Festival in May and the Christmas Lights' Switch-On in December.



The Vicarage

The vicarage is a detached four bedroom dormer bungalow built in the 1960s and set in a large garden. There is an attached large garage. On the ground floor there is a dining kitchen with a separate utility room, a dining room, lounge, study and downstairs toilet. There are four bedrooms and a three piece bathroom with an over -the-bath shower upstairs.

The vicarage is ideally located being just a couple of hundred metres from the church in Worsthorne and on the edge of the village. Walk out of the front door and turn right at the top of the drive and you are on the moors.



Our Vision

The last four years have been challenging ones for our parishes due to ill-health affecting the ministry of our last two incumbents. However, these challenges have shown that our congregations are blessed with many dedicated, hard-working, capable and supportive members.

Led by the right priest there is great potential for the life and witness of our churches to flourish in the years that lie ahead. We are praying for a Vicar who will teach and inspire us to know Christ better and then lead us in our mission and witness for Christ in the communities that we are eager to serve.

We are thankful that we have two beautiful church buildings, but we don't want these buildings to dominate everything we do. We realise that our energy must be given to build up the spiritual life of our churches and we are open to the possibilities of trying to find new ways to share that spiritual life with the people of our parishes.

We also need to build and develop our midweek Eucharist services, which are showing growth, to recognise that we can no longer just be a "Sunday Church". Similarly, we will pursue the Open Church initiative so that there is access to our church buildings on a daily basis.

As part of our work to make new disciples we plan to hold Enquirers' Courses. These will be targeted not only to those who are new to Church, but also to our own congregations to aid their spiritual growth.

We are fully committed to supporting the plans of the Diocese that are set out in Vision 2026. Both parishes have active Vision Champions and up-to-date Mission Action Plans which set out how this will be achieved.

What We Offer

Whoever is appointed will enjoy strong support from the laity. We have people with the skills and experience to handle the various administrative aspects of church life and we can maintain and run the building and grounds.

This ensures that the incumbent can focus on the key issues of worship, ministry and pastoral care.

Who is God calling?

We pray our new vicar will be a person of spirituality and resilience, full of enthusiasm and energy.

We need someone to lead us in fulfilling our Vision 2026 goals:

- To bring us closer to God. To be a teacher of the Gospel, direct us in our spiritual life and enthuse us in spreading the Good News.
- To take the church into the community. To be a member of the community, someone who is ready to listen to the needs of the people and to seek to grow the church family.
- To develop our ministry with children and young people.

They will be innovative whilst ensuring that they take the time to explain and gain support for the changes that they seek to introduce.

They will understand how leadership works in a benefice environment and will provide encouragement and support.

They will have strong pastoral skills and a commitment to developing this work with the laity.

We hope that you share our Vision, and that you believe that you can help to make it a reality. If so, we look forward to welcoming you to this special corner of Lancashire.

We are very aware of the workload that is required of the priest of our United Benefice and are, therefore, very grateful for the additional help that has been provided by the continued ministry of a retired Canon of the Manchester Diocese who has been of great assistance.

Contact Us

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