

St Cuthbert's Church Over Kellet Parish Profile 2022

Diocese: Blackburn

Deanery: Tunstall

Patrons: Reformation Church Trust

www.overkelletchurch.org



Our mission values are to:

Be a witness to Jesus Christ in Over Kellet and the local community.

Worship God in a way which brings comfort, joy and a challenge to all present.

Work with God to show care and concern, not only for the members of the church but for the whole community.

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Find us online:

www.overkelletchurch.org

www.facebook.com/StCuthbertOverKellet

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

The Parish

The village of Over Kellet lies on the B6254, one kilometre from junction 35 of the M6 motorway. Its centre has an open and unique village green which includes both a crossroads and slip roads in the form of a diamond shape.

In early spring, the Green is ablaze with daffodils planted by the pupils of the local school.



The village boasts the Parish Church of St Cuthbert's, Wilson's Endowed Church of England School, a refurbished Village Hall, a War Memorial and The Eagles Head pub. All of these have been featured in the 'Best Kept Village of Lancashire' Competition which was first won in 1999.

There are extensive views from most parts of the village. The foreground is rural, but embraces the narrow communications corridor taken up by the A6 trunk road, the M6 Motorway and the West Coast Main Railway Line. The Lancaster Canal also passes close to the Village.

The background to this corridor includes Morecambe Bay to the west with the Lakeland Fells forming a backdrop all the way round to Shap. The limestone crags of Farleton Knott and Warton Crag take up the middle ground.

St Cuthbert's Church and the Parish Council financially support the Over Kellet View which is published monthly and delivered to all residents within the Parish. It contains Church news and news about the Parish Council, Wilson's Endowed School, Neighbourhood Watch, other Village societies and a diary of village events.



In the 2011 census data, 70% of the 800 parishioners aligned themselves as being Christian and 41% had level 4 qualifications and above compared to the national average of 27%.

Hyperfast fibre broadband (Broadband for the rural north - B4RN) is available at St Cuthbert's and many homes in the village.

Further information about the Parish is available at www.overkellet.org

The Parsonage

The parish has been held in plurality for the last few years, during which there was no vicarage in the parish.

Now that the benefice is again to be a single parish, a suitable parsonage will be provided in consultation with the new incumbent.



St Cuthbert's Church Vision

St Cuthbert's has adopted as its core vision the Diocese of Blackburn's 'Vision 2026' which helpfully sharpens and complements our own mission values.



Recent discussions on implementing Vision 2026 identified five Ss that sum up our current strategy for the implementation of Vision 2026: Services, School, Small Groups, Support, and Socials, as illustrated below:

Small Groups

Growing disciples of Jesus through teaching and fellowship

Taking opportunities to invite members of the local community

Examples of proposed material: Discipleship Explored, Advent studies, 'The Bible Course'

Socials

Occasional community friendly events that foster fun and joy, and build friendships in the community

Services

Ensuring our weekly services further the vision

Briefing our outside speakers/leaders so all services serve the vision

Making all our services accessible to all-ages

Major festivals are celebrated as an opportunity to welcome everyone

School

Foundation governor involvement

Confirmation Classes

'Easter Experience' and other special events

St Cuthbert's Five Ss towards Vision 2026

Healthy Churches Transforming Communities by

- Making disciples of Jesus
- Being witnesses to Jesus Christ
- Growing leaders for Jesus Christ
- Inspiring children & young people

Support

Visiting, phone calls, emails, lifts to church and building a community in Christ's love

Our mission

Evangelistic concern is a high priority, as indicated by our commitment to 'Vision 2026', the section above, and the 'Community Engagement' section, which details numerous community outreach initiatives.

We are also regular supporters of the local Foodbank, and 'The Stefanos Foundation', a charity established by two retired medical missionaries to Nigeria, who are members of the congregation.

Worship

Sunday Worship

There is one Sunday service, starting at 10.30am.

Typically, the first, third and fifth Sundays are 'Morning Worship', using a revised liturgy appropriate for all ages. During the interregnum, these services are led by members of the congregation and occasionally guest speakers.

The second and fourth Sundays are services of Holy Communion. During the interregnum these are led by two regular supporting clergy.

The lectionary is usually followed, with attempts made where possible to allow some consecutive exposition week by week. The New International Version of the Bible is used at all services and NIV pew Bibles are available for the congregation.

Each month, the 'Fish Club' Sunday School meets and as part of the following Sunday Morning Worship service, the young people contribute an item prepared during the previous week's session.

Major festivals are celebrated to be as welcoming as possible with a view to wider community engagement.

Tea, coffee and refreshments are served after services giving time for fellowship and hospitality.



Music

In addition to our hymn book, we also use our own 'Worship in Song' supplement of modern hymns and songs. Most services use both books.

Members of the congregation accompany the hymns and worship songs at every service.

Music is accompanied using the organ, the digital piano or a small all-age band.



A larger singing group is formed for special church services, particularly at Christmas and Easter.

Further Worship

On the first and third Wednesday evening of each month, two Home Groups of approximately ten members in each meet on Zoom for fellowship, Bible Study and prayer. They are led by members of the congregation.

Both groups normally follow the same programme, sometimes using published materials, sometimes creating their own studies. Recent series have included 'Where is God in a Coronavirus World?', 'Discipleship Explored', 'Living His Story', 'The Bible Course' and 'Life on the Frontline'. Some Home Group attendees are members of other local fellowships.

On the second and fourth Wednesday evening of each month the two Home Groups combine to form one larger prayer meeting via Zoom.

When a month has a fifth Wednesday, the home groups meet together in church along with other Christians from the parish to share fellowship and prayer.



Young People's Worship

As previously mentioned, on the second Sunday service of each month the 'Fish Club' Sunday School meets to explore the word of God through games, crafts and songs. Our Fish Club has children from primary school age upwards who enjoy exploring their faith and asking the big questions. Fish Club is led by a group of keen volunteers from within the congregation, many of whom are teachers or former teachers.

Each session aims to produce something that can be shared with the wider congregation as part of the third Sunday Morning Worship service where the young people contribute an item to the main service.

Outside of the Fish Club, the older children play a regular role in Sunday worship, being part of the music and readings rotas.



Regular attendance



In 2021 there were 35 on the electoral roll for the Parish

Attendance at the weekly service is stable, with an average attendance of 25-30 (adults and children).

Between 2020-22 there were 9 funeral services, 2 baptisms, 5 confirmations and 1 wedding.

There are 4 main School Services in church annually (Harvest, Christingle, Easter and an end of year celebration), with an attendance of between 130 and 150. More regular community worship is proposed in church rather than school.



‘Special’ Services have included: Service of Remembrance at the village green war memorial, Christmas Carol Service and Christmas Eve Carol singing around the Christmas tree in the churchyard. These have all attracted encouraging numbers.

As some members are no longer able to attend church they are visited regularly by members of the congregation.

It has been good to welcome new faces to join in worship and fellowship with us.

St Cuthbert's and Coronavirus

During the period when meeting in person was not possible, St Cuthbert's ran successful Zoom services, which managed to include the vast majority of the congregation. Regular, well attended Zoom social events were also run during lockdown. When meeting in person was again permitted, Sunday in-person services resumed, and online provision stopped.

During those lockdown periods, the Prayer Meeting and Home Groups also moved online. The benefits of that format for those meetings have resulted in both remaining online, which continues to work well.

Fellowship & Community

Active engagement with the local community is one of our main priorities.

Recent community social events have included:

- St Cuthbert's games afternoon
- Harvest lunch in village hall
- All-age rounders
- The Story Behind the MBEs
- Remembrance Day coffee morning and 2 minutes silence
- Festive window decorations in church, supporting local and national charities
- Advent window displays and Bible verses around the village
- Zoom all age quizzes during lockdown
- Support for local foodbank with a collection box in church
- Carol singing around the village
- Annual World Day of Prayer service
- Dementia and Alzheimer's support meeting
- 'Potter's Story' event

We recently launched our website

www.overkelletchurch.org and are developing our presence on Facebook in an effort to raise the church's profile in the wider community.

We plan to reintroduce home communion for those members of our community who are unable to receive communion in person.



Our Historic Church Building

The church is situated on the south side of the village on the Nether Kellet Road and has views of Ingleborough, Morecambe Bay and the Lake District Fells.

It is most likely that there has been a church in the village since Saxon times as the granite stone font and ancient stone cross

probably date from about AD900. The church which stands here today has been partly rebuilt and modified several times. In about 1215 there was a stone church on this site and the stonework of the western arch in the south aisle is from that period.

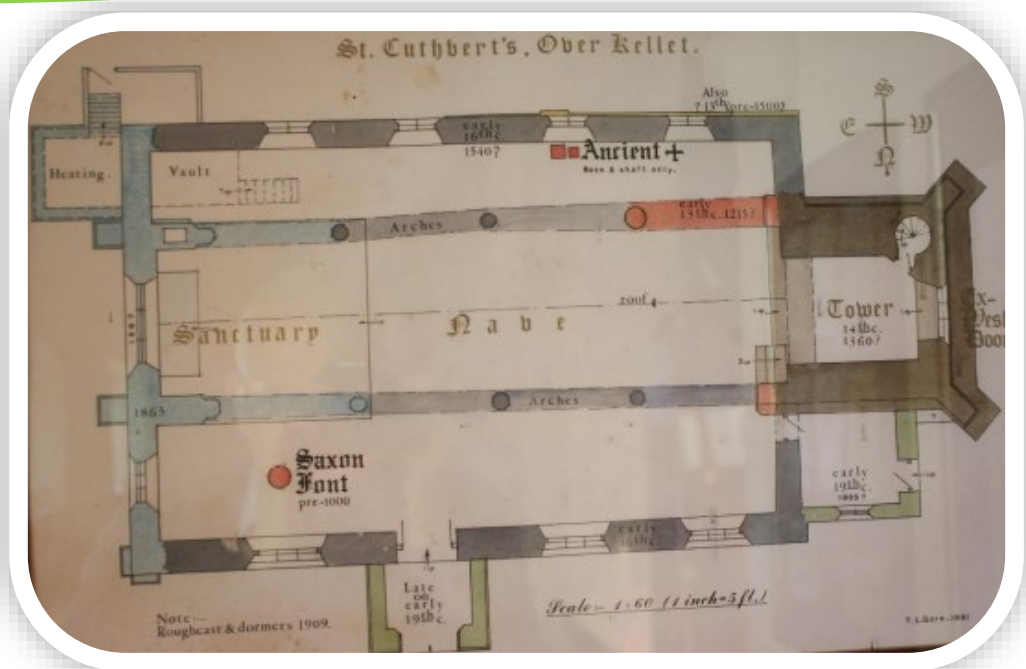
In the mid 1300s, a tower was added at the west end and may have been made taller in the mid 1500s: it is a heavy construction with a turreted parapet and diagonal buttresses. The tower has three bells with inscriptions, the oldest is inscribed 'Sancte Petre ora pro nobis' is listed and dated 1499.

The box pews in the nave were installed in 1819 and are a rare example of complete pews and doors.

The East Window was installed in 1868 in memory of John and Anne Booker by their son Septimus. With his other brothers, they founded the Booker Group which is associated with the Booker prize for literature. The church roof was restored in 1970, a vestry room in the base of the tower was constructed in 1992 and in 2006, a toilet was added on the north side beside the porch.

The church is listed grade II.

Whilst much more could be written about the history of our ancient church, it is our desire that it will continue to be a living witness to the saving power of our Lord Jesus Christ and that the building will be a place where God is worshipped 'in spirit and in truth'.



Maintaining St Cuthbert's

The Quinquennial Inspection Report was carried out in June 2020 and reported that the church building had been well cared for and many of the points raised for attention in the previous report had been completed to a high standard.

Internally the church was noted to be in good order.

In the past 10 years the following works have been completed:

- Fitting of lightning conductors
- New boiler
- Upgrade of kitchen
- Installation of new church lighting
- Fitting of new church aisle carpets
- Restoration and refitting of four windows in north and south aisles
- Relocation of church safe and provision of storage cupboard
- New fencing for church car park
- Installation of hyper-fast broadband
- Removal of 39 kerbstones from churchyard graves

Faculties have been granted to repair the east gable end wall and coping stones and to repair the east stained glass Booker window. This work is planned for 2023 and funds are available.

A working group is exploring the possibility of restoring the bells.

A group of volunteers keep the churchyard in excellent condition.



Finance

The 2021 finances resulted in a positive balance despite a reduction in service donations due to reduced attendance during the pandemic. The requested parish share was again met in full.

Recent 'Gift Days' have resulted in many non-church attending villagers giving generous donations for the work of the church.

Key areas highlighted in the recent quinquennial inspection will incur significant expenditure in the next few years. Sufficient funds are available to cover the priority A work.

At the end of 2021, the parish registered with the Parish Giving Scheme and many of our regular givers now use the scheme.



We recently registered with www.easyfundraising.org.uk as an additional way of raising funds.



Local Partnerships

The village school (**Wilson's Endowed CE Primary School**) is a voluntary aided Church of England school, offering primary education to children aged 4-11. The school was founded over 300 years ago and has been an important part of the village community since then. The present building was built in 1973. The school has five mixed age classes for over 120 pupils and has a thriving breakfast and after school club. It is



surrounded by attractive and spacious gardens, a playground and a playing field. The grounds are open to the public. The school prides itself on its welcoming, family atmosphere and has a deeply rooted Christian character, which is reflected in strong partnership with St Cuthbert's church and the Diocese of Blackburn. The SIAMS inspection in 2019 achieved an excellent result. Services are regularly held in St Cuthbert's church and parents and supporters are invited to attend. During the vacancy, these services have been led by the church wardens. The school lives out its Christian faith in order to nurture all aspects of pupils' development – academic, spiritual, social, moral and cultural, in accordance with British values. Three members of the St Cuthbert's congregation are foundation governors at the school.



Capernwray Hall is a 19th century mansion set in 175 acres of parkland within the Parish of Over Kellet. Since the 1940s, it has been a Bible School and Christian Holiday Centre.

Each winter, the Hall is home to up to 180 students, from sometimes as many as 20 different nations. During the summer months, more than 1,500 guests from all walks of life will come through Capernwray's doors. The Bible School engages in the local community and churches with evangelistic events led by students and staff, and hosts an annual Christmas concert and Open Day which are very well supported by local residents.

Each term St Cuthbert's welcomes three or four Capernwray Students who are on placement in the church as part of their course and serve in appropriate ways in the church's life and ministry.

Find out more about these local partners by visiting:

www.wilsonsprimary.org.uk

www.capernwray.org

Challenges & Priorities

We have a faithful and committed congregation. Our greatest challenge is to achieve sustained church growth, especially with young families.

To address this challenge our priorities include:

- The appointment of a part time vicar (0.5fte) who would be a full and active member of the local community. It would be preferable if the vicar lived in the parish.
- Encouraging church participation of families through closer links with the local school.
- Encouraging many parishioners who previously worshipped at St Cuthbert's to re-engage with the village church following the coronavirus pandemic.
- Building a united Christian community is a key priority, as should be encouraging Christians resident in the village to worship and witness locally.
- Embracing the challenge to celebrate Christian festivals with the wider community.
- Establishing a vibrant weeknight children's and youth work in the village is an opportunity. An effective partnership could be sought with the school, Christians living in the village and other local ministries.
- The interregnum has revealed considerable ministry ability within the congregation. With a part-time incumbent, there is a good opportunity to encourage & further develop lay ministry wherever possible.
- Continuing to take an active part in the Diocese of Blackburn Vision 2026.
- Maintaining our Parish Church following the recent quinquennial review is a significant, but achievable, challenge.



What we are looking for...

As a parish we are open to and excited by the prospect of being led in ambitious directions to see our mission and vision both pursued and developed.

We would welcome a vicar who brings with them ideas for the development of the church as the centre of the village, someone who can cultivate even greater unity between school and church and a growing engagement from the Christians in the village in prayer and outreach.

In time we would love to develop a space so that we have a central place where many people from the village can find faith and community in the church.

We are a Parish Church in which worship for almost 100 years has followed the low evangelical tradition of the Church of England.

We are seeking to appoint a Vicar who:

- Has a clear, biblically-based faith, who has the gifts to communicate their faith in our Lord Jesus Christ in a relevant and compassionate way.
- Has an evangelical outlook and enjoys a variety of worship – traditional and modern, formal and informal.
- Is pastorally sensitive, with a passion for building Christian community across all life-stages and circumstances.
- Will actively support the Christian vision and ministry in the school.
- Will encourage and enable the laity to continue to develop and use their gifts as parts of ‘the body of Christ’.
- Is committed to fostering unity amongst Christians, wherever possible seeking warm partnership with other local fellowships.
- Has an openness to explore new ways to deliver worship and ministry to the local and wider community.
- Will be an active, welcoming and energetic presence in the parish of Over Kellet.
- Is an effective communicator and a strong team player.
- Will be available for a 0.5fte commitment to the role

What we can offer...

- An engaged and active congregation with a deep love of Jesus.
- Committed and experienced laity.
- Good links with the local school.
- A commitment to active involvement across the Parish.
- A church with well-managed finances.
- A historic church building set in beautiful grounds

