

## Parish Profile

Parish	Cleveleys, St Andrew's
Address	Rossall Road, Thornton-Cleveleys, Lancashire, FY5 1DX



# Contents

1. Introduction.....	3
2. Diocesan Vision .....	4
3. We Look After You .....	5
4. Executive Summary .....	6
5. The Parish and Wider Community .....	8
6. The Church Community .....	11
7. The Church Buildings .....	15
8. The Church Finances .....	18
9. Our Schools .....	20
10. Our Links into the Wider Community .....	21
11. Our Vision .....	23
12. What we Offer .....	24
13. Who is God Calling? .....	25
14. The voice of our young people .....	26



# 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, growing leaders and focusing on young people, children and schools. 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 Rt Revd Julian T Henderson*

The Bishop of Blackburn



## 2. Diocesan Vision

Vision 2026 is an agenda for growth and change agreed by the Blackburn Diocesan Synod in 2015. It challenges our parishes to be healthy churches that transform their communities as we look ahead to our diocesan centenary in 2026. It also lays out four ways in which this over-arching goal can be achieved: Making Disciples, Being Witnesses, Growing Leaders and Prioritising Children and Young People.

All that we do as diocese is focussed on the delivery of Vision 2026. To make disciples we are raising levels of prayer, helping regular patterns of bible reading to be established and encouraging generous giving of time, talents and treasures. To be witnesses, many parishes are setting up new local congregations at different times and in different places to reach out to new groups of people as well as showing God's love in action through projects that meet a local human need. New leaders are emerging as we seek to enable and equip those God is raising up in our midst for lay and ordained ministry. And our focus on children and young people is enabling creative thinking to raise up a new generation for Jesus Christ.



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

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

In the Diocese of Blackburn we are inspired by confidence in the Gospel and are ambitious in our desire to make new disciples for Jesus Christ. We are committed to mutual flourishing, to maintaining clergy numbers and to investing in training for new curates. Through prayer we see the grace and power of God who can alone bring renewal and growth. Our Diocesan Vision Prayer is:

*"Heavenly Father, we embrace Your call for us to make disciples, to be witnesses and to grow leaders. Give us eyes to see Your vision, ears to hear the prompting of Your Spirit and courage to follow in the footsteps of Your Son, our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen."*

You can find out more by visiting the Vision 2026 pages on our website: [www.blackburn.anglican.org](http://www.blackburn.anglican.org)



**Carolyn Barton**

**Diocesan Vision Co-ordinator**



### 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

First of all, thank you for your interest in St Andrew's. The rest of this parish profile will tell you more about the church – both the building and the people, the things we're good at and like to do, the challenges we have, and a short introduction to what life is like in the town of Cleveleys. In summary, as vicar of St Andrew's, you will:

Be ready to work alongside us to help us realise our ambition to be the strongly beating heart of the community of Cleveleys;

Be a prayerful priest who understands, and is able to articulate what makes faith flourish;

Be able to lead the Parish to develop a strategy for mission, which will in turn enable us to explore and express a living Vision together, so that people in Cleveleys will see God in and through us;

Be able to design worship which includes and inspires e. g. through the spoken word, technology, music and lay participation, and brings to life the Eucharistic command to go out in mission to the people of Cleveleys;

Be of central to Liberal Catholic churchmanship, with the Eucharist at the centre of your liturgical practice, and comfortable with the wearing of vestments according to the season, as well as the reservation of the Sacrament;

Be able to meet people where they are, making worship appealing to all, regardless of age, maturity of faith, ability or otherwise;

Be a skilled teacher, who through enquirers' courses and other means, can help people of all ages, be they new to church or used to church, understand why they come to church;

Be a skilled preacher, who understands the power of succinct and simple communication, using everyday language and formats that are accessible to all;

Be resilient, recognising the importance of wellbeing; both your own, and that of the parish;

Have experience and a sound understanding of good financial management in a parish church. You will be able to lead and inspire the parish to appreciate the importance of strong and positive stewardship in supporting fruitful mission and ministry;





Be creative in enabling the parish to recognise, confront and together address the reality of problems;

Have a good sense of humour, able to see the funny side, understand Northern wit, and never take yourself too seriously;

Know how to inspire and get the best out of collaborative working, helping everyone to recognise their skills and gifts and see how they can use these to further God's work in Cleveleys.

St. Andrew's is not without challenges. Before the Pandemic, our greatest concerns were threefold: the need for urgent repairs to the sandstone tracery in many of our windows; growing the congregation in a way that better mirrors the age demographic of the community we serve; and achieving financial stability, so we have ongoing confidence that we can balance the books and pay our way in the Diocese through the Parish Share. The last few months have reminded us that we are strong and resilient, positive in the face of adversity, and not afraid of confronting difficulties or facing change. We look forward with great excitement to warmly welcoming and working with our new vicar. Will that person be you?



## 5. The Parish and Wider Community

### Cleveleys – welcome to the seaside!

Cleveleys is a small town on the Irish Sea coast of Lancashire, sitting roughly half-way between its larger and flashier neighbour Blackpool and the former fishing community of Fleetwood.



Cleveleys sprang up in the latter half of the 19<sup>th</sup> Century as a small resort, just down the road from its much older neighbour Thornton. From the early 1900s until around 1960, the town grew rapidly, with Cleveleys becoming popular both as a holiday resort and a weekend seaside retreat for wealthy North West industrialists and then later as a popular retirement area for many people from towns and cities such as Manchester, Oldham and Rochdale. If you're reading this on-line, you can see some old photos of Cleveleys by joining the Facebook group "Thornton-Cleveleys Past", where there are a number of pictures relating to St Andrews from times past.

By the 1950s, Cleveleys was a prosperous town in its own right (though still officially referred to as Thornton-Cleveleys, as it still is today), with a reputation as one of Blackpool's smarter neighbours. Nowadays, Cleveleys is a popular place with day trippers, especially when the sun's shining!

Behind all this, the resident population of Cleveleys (around 22,000, of which 12,000 live within the parish) is quite a mix of ages, from young families, attracted by relatively low property prices, to retired people, with this latter group being the largest in terms of age. There isn't a huge ethnic mix - the population is predominantly White British, with small Asian, East European and other communities, too. Most of the population is static, although the number of small rental flats means that there's a transient population too.





Housing in Cleveleys is made up of a large number of semi-detached houses and bungalows built between 1920 and 1960, with some small developments from the 1970s and more recent developments from early this century, too.

The majority of people in work are low-paid, public-sector workers, the largest employer being the Department for Work and Pensions, located on various sites outside the Parish. Cleveleys isn't the wealthy place it once was – it now has an urban deprivation score of 22.4. Nevertheless, crime rates are relatively low, and it feels a reasonably safe place to be, even if a bit tatty round some edges – although we do have a very modern award-winning seafront – a great place to be on a sunny day!

There are two primary schools and several nurseries in the parish - see Section 9 for more details about these.

Victoria Road is the name of our high street, with brand-new Iceland and Aldi supermarkets, an M&S Simply Food and a number of smaller shops. A Morrisons supermarket is a mile down the road, with Sainsbury's Asda and Tesco all a short drive away.

Politically, Cleveleys has moved in the last 40 years from a Conservative stronghold to a marginal constituency.

Looking further afield, if you're a stranger to Lancashire, it's not all mills and cobbled back streets! The West Pennine Moors, Ribble Valley and Trough of Bowland boast some of the finest hill-country scenery in the UK, with picture-postcard villages and a number of award-winning paces to eat and drink – all around 45 minutes' travel away from Cleveleys. Then there's the Lake District and North Yorkshire Dales just 60 to 90 minutes up the M6, and easy access to the rest of the motorway network via the M55 just 9 miles away.

Celebwatch-wise, Cleveleys was the birthplace of former MP Chris Patten, as well as John Simpson of BBC News.

So what are the best things about the place? Well, although it's sometimes windy and rainy it's almost always mild (what's snow?), our historic tramway system underwent a multi-million pound



refurbishment about 8 years ago, and there's a Parish Church, known for its warm welcome, right at the heart of the Community and dedicated to St Andrew!

PARISH DEMOGRAPHICS	
Population (2011 Census)	
9846	
Age spread	
0-4	4%
5-15	13%
16-64	53%
65+	30%
Ethnic Mix	
British	98%
Minority Ethnic	2%
Other Faith Mix	
Christian	74%
Muslim	0.1%
Education background of population	
have no qualification	33%
degree level or above	18%
Employment	
lower managerial	19%
administration professional	6%
routine/semi-routine	30%
lower supervisory/technical	8%
small employers/own account workers	13%
Major Employer(s)	
Department for Work and Pensions	



Deprivation Index	
least deprived	14890
Child Poverty	
13%	
Main Issues	
Housing Conditions	N
Local Amenities	N
Food and fuel poverty	Y
Housing Mix	
Owner occupied	70%
Privately rented	25%
Social rented housing	5%

## 6. The Church Community

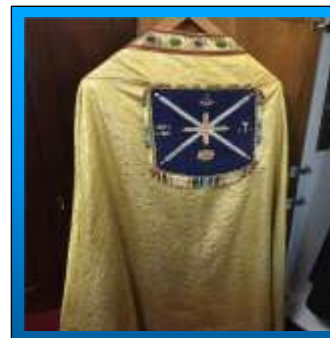
### Our worship and tradition

We like coming to church. Both Sunday and Thursday morning services have the Eucharist at their heart and we use the Common Worship framework for the design and content of the services, with appropriate musical settings and hymns, both traditional and more modern. However, we are open to new styles of worship and have experimented with all age worship, quiet and meditative services using music, poetry and projected voices, and even a Jazz Eucharist! The highlight of our month is the Sunday Family Service, usually attended by some of the uniformed organisations and assisted by various members of our young people's organisations. Roughly every second month, Baptisms take place within the Sunday morning service. We recognise that both these services are great mission opportunities for us to reach out to the wider community, especially to young families and those unfamiliar with church but looking to explore. We have some success with this, for example, our Crib Service or Christingle for families on Christmas Eve is by far the busiest service of Christmas and we need a vicar who can help us build on this further.



The Thursday morning service is a “sit down” Eucharist, with a group of largely more infirm but very faithful attenders.

We are an inclusive parish, where everyone is welcome, regardless of age, race, ability, sexuality, gender identity etc. We own and use vestments and matching laudian altar frontals in green, red, purple and gold, along with a hand-made gold cope, embroidered with the flag of St Andrew.



There is an aumbry in the Lady Chapel for the reservation of the Blessed Sacrament.

We have a team of 10 licensed Eucharistic Assistants, some of whom choose to robe in albs for services. There is lay involvement in other aspects of the worship, too, including the readings and intercessions. Our recently-retired churchwarden is a trained preacher, so there is regular lay involvement in preaching, too.

We have a team of four pastoral visitors, who help us maintain links with some of our many housebound parishioners and with the local rest homes.

### **Running the Parish**

We have two churchwardens, both of whom are in part-time employment, as well as covering a number of other roles in the parish, deanery and diocese, including one half of the role of PCC Treasurer. We have a very capable and committed PCC of 16 members, each member bringing different skills and knowledge to the team.

Whilst we have many people who offer informal support both pastorally and practically in church we have struggled for volunteers to some key roles in recent years. We need a vicar who can inspire the confidence in people to take a chance on their gifts and offer to help, even though their offering may not be perfect.

### **Parish Groups**

Until recently, we had an active Mothers' Union branch (which incorporated the Ladies' Guild), but this sadly closed during the last year. We are acutely aware of the gap this leaves, as well as the lack of a men's group, and are actively thinking about what kind of organisation or activity may fill the gaps.





We have a Sunday School - Coracle - which meets most Sundays, during the Sunday morning Eucharist. Supported by volunteers, the short illustrated, and often acted, report on the week's activities are a well-anticipated highlight of the main service.

We also have a small youth group – FYI – who meet on the final Sunday evening in the month. This group is open to children aged 10+ and it focuses on Christian values and how to demonstrate those values in the way they live their lives. This group was once much larger and enjoyed youth camps and regularly led worship in church, our Y4A or 'Youth 4 All' services. However, as those young people left to go to university or grew to become the parents and leaders of children's work in our church today, so the numbers in FYI dwindled. We know that this is a very fertile area for growth, can you help us with this?



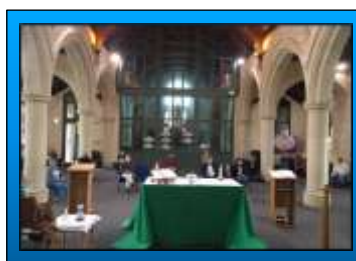
In 2019 we had decided to start Messy Church to work further with some of the children we had established a link with through the Uniformed Organisations and our Heritage Work with local schools. Planning was in place and the first Messy Church was to be a Messy Epiphany in January 2020. However, 2020 has brought many challenges and so this initiative has not been implemented but the enthusiasm remains and we would be keen to work with the new incumbent to progress this.

## Covid-19

The Covid-19 Pandemic has presented many challenges to St Andrew's, coinciding precisely with the departure of our previous vicar. In common with much of the rest of the World, the first few weeks were experienced with a sense of shock, bewilderment and disorientation; however, early in May, we experimented with Zoom as a means of bringing people together in a worship setting. This proved an instant success, quickly growing to become an on-line service every Thursday at 10am and 6pm.







As First Wave restrictions started to lift, we resumed weekly worship in church late in July, with a shortened Sunday morning Eucharist (said, and in one kind only). That first Sunday saw a congregation of around 18, which has now grown to an average of 35 - a testament to our faith, when both front and side doors are propped wide-open to create a through-draught, there's no central heating and the wind whistles down from the Irish Sea 200 metres away!

CHURCH AND SERVICE		
Patrons - Rector of All Hallows, Bispham (in vacancy) and Vicar of Christ Church, Thornton		
Electoral Roll		
Year	2019	
Number	113 (2020)	
Age Profile of the Church		
0-17	15	
18-69	52	
70+	70	
Occasional Offices, Celebrations etc.		
Baptisms	12	
Weddings	1	
Confirmation	Adult candidates	4
	Under 16 candidates	3
Funerals	in church	6
	at Crematorium	0



Normal weekly attendance	adult	68
	under 16	2
<b>Festivals</b>		
Easter	Communicants	118
	Attendance	131
Christmas	Communicants	67
	Attendance	147
<p><b>Our Services</b> Sunday Family Eucharist, 10:30am; Thursday Eucharist, 10am. During Covid-19, a shortened Sunday Eucharist has been held in church at 10:30am (average attendance 35), with 2 Zoom services every Thursday at 10am and 6pm (average attendance 22 in total), with monthly Eucharist, plus a Wednesday afternoon service in church, non-Eucharistic, but occasionally clergy-led. Average attendance 15.</p>		



## 7.The Church Buildings

St. Andrew's was founded in 1910. The church building is Grade 2 listed and built in the Neo-gothic style. The building was extended in the 1950's and again in the 1970's and two large halls were built adjacent to the church in the 1920's. Very much of their day, and well used up until the late 70's, the cost of maintaining both church and halls became near impossible and so in 2001 a major reordering and renovation project took place, costing more than £0.5m, a percentage of which was raised through weekly giving and special events. This project saw the demolition of the halls and the complete reordering of the church building to create a flexible worship area (seating 300 at maximum capacity) and beyond a large wood and glass screen an accessible and fully equipped community hall.





The Worship Area is carpeted, there are comfy chairs and a sound system, which includes an induction loop. The heating system installed was state of the art, but almost 20 years on the boilers are now close to the end of their life. In addition to the main Worship Area are:

- A small chapel space (the former chancel), containing a stained glass window of five panels, with the central panel depicting the ascending Lord Jesus;
- A Lady Chapel, containing the Annunciation and Nativity stained glass windows;
- Clergy and choir vestries, the latter designed to be a multi purpose meeting room.

Our worship area offers wonderful flexibility, we can worship in traditional rows and we can worship in café style equally successfully. We can worship forward facing, we can also easily worship in the round. Much of the worship area is fully accessible, the exceptions being the two chapels, which are accessed via 4 stone steps.

We have a well maintained pipe organ of some historical significance, which gives Alistair, our organist, ample opportunity to give us his all – he is also a visiting organist on Blackpool Tower Ballroom's famous Mighty Wurlitzer and regularly entertains the crowds at the end of North Pier!

The Community Hall's floor is of heavy duty wood effect laminate and still looks well after 20 years of use! There are comfortable chairs and facilities include:



*St. Andrew's Parish Church, Cleveleys*



- A well equipped kitchen;
- Accessible toilets and baby changing facilities;
- A relatively generous storage space;
- A heating system which can run independently of the Worship Area;
- A children's space, with windows onto the Worship Area and amplifiers from the Worship Area sound system.

The community hall is completely accessible to all and we have let this space to community organisations such as Tae-Kwondo and Alcoholics Anonymous.

Off the community hall is the Baptistry, which is also the access into our garden of remembrance. The Baptistry is the home of two of our greatest treasures, the large stone font and the Abana Bell, donated to the church upon opening, after the shipwreck of the Abana off the coast of Cleveleys on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of December 1894.



The church is set in attractive gardens with a small carpark to the front of the main entrance. We have a columbarium, that is now full apart from a few reserved niches and a peaceful garden of remembrance for the burial of cremated remains. This garden is also the site of our memorial to those of the parish lost in the First World War. We also have a Commonwealth War Grave, located within the worship area.

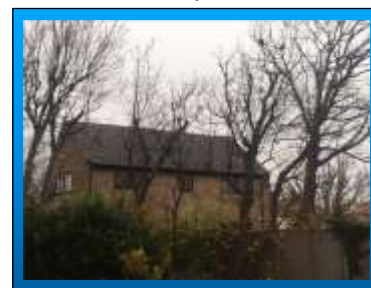
The flexible design of our building means that there is ample scope for innovation in mission and ministry activity. For example, a highlight of our cycle of worship has been a re-enactment of the Last Supper for around 100 worshippers, culminating in sharing the Eucharist. This takes place in the Worship Area, set out in a banqueting setting with audio-visual support.



As a result of our extensive renovation project in 2001, maintenance costs for a number of years were relatively low, with fairly minor repairs recommended on our Quinquennial Inspections since that date. However, in common with many churches, our building does need ongoing care and attention. Most significant is the windows and masonry, which has been subject to a couple of unsuccessful bids for National Lottery Heritage Funding in recent years. There is significant corrosion in the masonry around the stained glass windows, particularly on the south-facing elevation. Our boilers are coming to the end of their life, the paths around church grounds need some maintenance and the roof regularly has slipped tiles as a result of the strong winds off the sea. Whilst we are not underestimating the significance of these building concerns, generally we believe the church to be well maintained and in good condition for a building of its age.

### **The Vicarage**

The Vicarage, was built in 1984 and is just behind the church, accessed by a road running between the church and the private flats built on the site of the former church halls. On the ground floor is a large reception room, a smaller reception room and an office (with direct access from outside), plus kitchen, utility room, store cupboard and toilet and upstairs are 4 bedrooms, a family bathroom and ample, built-in, storage. It is set in quite large gardens and there is a garage and small forecourt for parking.



## **8.The Church Finances**

St. Andrew's is not a wealthy parish, we are recognised as being in the bottom 20% most deprived by income and receive a grant from the Lower Income Communities Fund. Most of the congregation are retired people living on limited, fixed retirement incomes. Of the small 'under 65' congregation, most are in paid employment although only a handful would fall into the higher rate taxpayer category. However we are careful stewards of the money we have and, despite our challenges, we have raised significant amounts of money over the years, initially to support the reordering and regeneration scheme and in more recent times to fund the salary of a children's and youth worker and then to fund heritage projects bringing local schools and the wider local community into our beautiful building.





We have held a number of stewardship campaigns, starting back in the 1980's until, most recently, in 2019, with varying degrees of success. At their best, they have both improved the financial position of the church and brought in a number of new members, but our Lent 2019 campaign, using the Diocesan programme, "Generosity, Gift and Grace" was less successful and had very little impact on giving to church.

A decline in our congregation numbers in recent years has been mirrored by a decline in giving, hence we have transferred money into our general PCC account from time to time and our reserves are now depleted. We do have a separate account, the Special Projects Account, where we hold money for special projects – at the current time we are saving for much needed repairs to the windows and masonry. We have also made two separate bids of almost £364k for Heritage Lottery Funding to support this work, both unsuccessful.

In late 2019 PCC undertook lots of cost comparison and research and in early 2020 we made some decisions which we hoped would help us to regain financial stability during the year. And then COVID hit!

During COVID a few more of our people have moved from 'blue envelopes' to standing orders and those with envelopes have been faithfully filling them and returned them to church when they could, which means overall our planned giving has stayed very much in line with 2019. However, we have faced a significant loss of income through the collection plate, through the loss of lettings, through the closure of our Saturday Coffee Break and through the loss of events, such as our monthly parish lunch. We carefully track our income and expenditure and are managing the cash flow effectively, ensuring we remain in a positive balance position.

Having said all that we do make every effort to pay as much of our Parish Share as we can, sometimes at a cost to ourselves, which was recognised by the Board of Finance in a recent Parish Share meeting. We have also always paid the incumbent's expenses.

Finance Returns		
	2018	2019
Parish Income	£69,637	£82,444 (incl. £15,000 transfer from Special Projects)
Planned giving (incl. tax efficient giving)	£26,502	£27,035



Amount per person per week (planned giving)	£9.62	£10.19
Parish Expenditure	£82,164	£82,888
Parish Share Assessed		£40,459 (£58,082 - LICF £19,959) 2020
Parish Share Paid	£50,413	£42,000
Special Projects Account balance at year end	£39,423	£25,861

Financial balances as of 1<sup>st</sup> November 2020 - PCC Account £7,240 with no reserve remaining and Special Projects Account £18,037.

## 9. Our Schools

There are two community primary schools in our Parish and we have positive relationships with both of them. We also have a link with our most local (9 miles away) Church of England High School. Both primary schools have taken part in all the heritage activities we have offered over the last two years and the member of the parish who runs these activities is invited to celebrations in both schools. Three other local schools (2 community primaries in a neighbouring parish and 1 Catholic primary) have also been fully involved in our heritage projects and value the link they have with our church as well as with their parish church.



The heritage activities explore the rich heritage of our building and something of the faith of St Andrew's worshipping community through the ages. Children have thought about Remembrance and the ultimate sacrifice made by so many, they have rung the Abana bell and heard of its rescue from the stormy Irish Sea and they have learned more about



church furniture and in particular the stained glass windows. They have also heard about Baptism and Eucharist, they have talked about hope through hardship and sacrifice and they have explored some of the stories of Jesus through the windows – a programme designed to share the heritage of our building but also mission in sharing a little of the faith we hold so dear.

## 10. Our Links into the Wider Community

Our aim at St Andrew's is to be at the heart of life in Cleveleys, in many ways that aim is realised but there is still much we can do to develop and enhance this.

Every Saturday morning the doors of church are flung open as we hold our Saturday Coffee Break. This is supported by so many people from congregation - in the kitchen, on the door, collecting and offering things to sell and running stalls. Together this amazing team raise thousands of pounds each year for our church but actually the money raised, however vital to our general finances, is incidental to the mission and ministry provided to our wider community. For many in Cleveleys it is a lifeline each week, a space to come out, have a chat, find a bargain and enjoy a coffee and bacon butty; whilst for others it is a window to faith and a first step back to church.



The monthly Parish Lunch similarly offers a place for people to meet, share food and chat. In these days, when we read that loneliness is a major concern amongst elderly people, this is a vital service to our community that has also raised just over £2,000 for our church. We have a Mission Team who plan the social and fund raising events we enjoy. Starting with Burns Night in January, including a Houghton Weavers concert and Last Night at the Proms and ending with the Christmas Tree Festival in late November. Each event raises money for our church, but once again at their heart is an opportunity to share our church and a little of our faith with the wider community of Cleveleys.



We enjoy a good relationship with the Nutkins Group of Nurseries who use St Andrew's for their Christmas productions and their Summer Graduation Ceremony. They also contribute very generously to our Harvest gifts and Christmas present collections. We also offer a base for Guiding and Scouting units and are very fortunate to have Rainbows, Brownies, Guides, Senior Section, Beavers, Cubs and Scouts all meeting in our church on a weekly basis.



We have our own Toddlers Group which is very lively and welcoming of young families. The children and their families enjoy well resourced sessions each week and each child is given gifts and/or books with a Christian message for Christmas and Easter.

At the opposite end of the age range, we have established links with several care homes in the parish and wider community. Holy Communion is taken into these care homes to share with residents. We have also been involved in the rota of Fylde churches who lead worship at the local Hospice on Sunday afternoons. We have a good relationship with the Chaplain at Blackpool Victoria Hospital, who responds very promptly when advised of the hospitalisation of a member of our congregations. There is a small pastoral team who visit parishioners who are sick or "feeling low". Cards and flowers are also given to those in need of a lift.

We have limited links to local businesses, the main vehicle for this being our annual Christmas Tree Festival, but this is most definitely an area which could be developed further as we sit very close to the main high street.

We do let our hall facilities to community groups but the uptake has reduced in recent years and now our only weekly letting is to a Tae-Kwondo club.

For several years now we've been prolific supporters of local charities - the Food Bank Collection, the Sure Start Christmas Toy Collection, the Harvest gifts (supporting the homeless in our community), the parish commitment to knitting blankets and bonnets for the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit at Blackpool Victoria Hospital and fiddle blankets to support those who suffer



with dementia in local nursing and residential homes, as well as one off events to raise money for others in need, such as the Toddlers Toddling for Children in Need. Through all of these events we are being the light of Christ in our community of Cleveleys.

### **Ecumenical Relationships**

Within Cleveleys there are two Roman Catholic Churches, a Methodist Church, a Baptist Church, a United Reformed Church and two free churches (Cleveleys Christian Centre and Cleveleys Community Church). There is an established Churches Together group, within which we play a full role. We have joined with other denominations for Sunday morning worship and contributed to joint services and community events at times of key festivals. Each Lent we hold a series of services called 'Meals with Jesus' and always include speakers from other denominations; indeed the 2020 Lenten programme, started but sadly stopped mid way due to COVID, was a joint offering planned by St Andrew's but including members of the congregations from Fleetwood St Nicholas and Cleveleys Park Methodist Church.

## **11. Our Vision**

As we look forward to welcoming our new vicar/priest-in-charge, our vision is to move forward together with them as the people of God in Cleveleys, moving from surviving to thriving and flourishing, refreshing and irrigating today's slightly fallow field so it can yield tomorrow's abundant crops. Our vision is to take what we are and strengthen it, to celebrate our faith and deepen it, to take the many gifts that we have and use them further in His service.

We are:

- a family supporting each other, evidenced in the practical, pastoral and spiritual support provided throughout the pandemic but we want this to grow as we explore what Vision 2026 means to St Andrew's;
- inclusive, welcoming everyone and as the make-up of Cleveleys changes, we want to change with it and grow;





- able to help people, young and old, grow in faith and take on leadership roles within St Andrew's and the wider church, but we want to inspire and support more on this journey;
- committed to our church, our community and our faith but we want to encourage more in the church to use and explore their gifts, growing in confidence and faith.
- resilient, evident in our response to our financial difficulties, to the pandemic and to an extended time without a vicar, we now want to channel that energy and strength into building our church as the centre of faith in Cleveleys;
- good at developing relationships : with local schools, especially through our heritage work, which has shown there is a two-way door through which young families and extended families can come to know God;

: with local care homes through our pastoral work, and we want to develop these to demonstrate in action God's love for the elderly and vulnerable and their families and carers;

We are all these things and more; our vision is to build on this so we can live out the Vision 2026 principles to make disciples, be witnesses and grow leaders here in Cleveleys.

## 12. What We Offer

It is therefore with great excitement that we look forward to the prospect of meeting and welcoming whoever God sends to be our new priest. To that person, we can offer:

- A very warm welcome;
- Our prayers and support to our new priest as leader of the parish;
- Resilience and determination to overcome challenges, coupled with our need to be guided, enabled and encouraged;
- People with a mix of skills - some of which they recognise, others which are as yet hidden and yet others that may fall short of professional standards, but with commitment and enthusiasm amply compensating.
- A range of links to the community, some of which are established, some developing, and some yet to emerge;



- A worshipping community and flexible building with modern facilities and great potential to be a focus for life in Cleveleys;
- A spacious and relatively-modern vicarage, set in large, quite private gardens;
- An opportunity to live and work with a warm and friendly parish family;
- An invitation to work with us to enable the re-birth and re-imagining of St Andrew's.

## 13. Who is God calling?

We had experienced a lengthy period of interruption to ministry even before the pandemic struck but our Lancashire resilience has prevailed, and even now in the depths of winter, we can see the signs of God's care for us as the green shoots of a fruitful 2021 continue to show through.

We ask God to send us a priest who is:

- Energetic and innovative;
- Someone who can meet ordinary people where they are, recognising, releasing and celebrating their gifts and frailties, whatever their age or background;
- Comfortable in their own skin, and able to get alongside, inspire and communicate powerfully and positively with people from diverse backgrounds, creatively adapting liturgy to do this and so inspiring all to deepen their faith;
- Resilient, able to recognise when it's time to take a break: someone who has access to a range of support, both spiritual and practical.

We asked our young people for their thoughts ....



We are looking for a very special person to be our new vicar – could it be you?

be kind, friendly and approachable.

be a smiley person, be fun  
with a good sense of humour.

be bouncy and enthusiastic!

understand how to make talks  
interactive so we can get involved.

be aware of the  
difficulties in society  
and try to help.

believe in God and  
be a praying person.

not get upset if we make  
a mess or a noise, like  
at Messy Church.

be easy to talk to.



enjoy listening to and  
chatting with children

be thoughtful and helpful,  
help us to help others too.

be able to talk to all different  
kinds of people and make  
them feel welcome in church.

make us smile and giggle so  
we enjoy coming to church.

be open to change but also able to  
hold on to important traditions.

want to visit us in our groups and at our  
school so we get to know you better.

know lots of things and  
be very wise!

We hope you have enjoyed reading all about our church and getting to know us, we are really looking forward to getting to know more about you!

From the children and young people of St. Andrew's Church.

