

THE PARISH *of* LUND St John the Evangelist

Proclaiming Christ and Serving the Community



PARISH PROFILE

THE
DIOCESE
OF
BLACKBURN
THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND IN LANCASHIRE

VISION2026
HEALTHY CHURCHES TRANSFORMING COMMUNITIES

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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.

Please be assured of our prayers as you seek to discern where God is calling you.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "+ Julian". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above a long, thin horizontal line.

The Bishop of Blackburn
The Rt Revd Julian T Henderson

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

Carolyn Barton, Diocesan Vision Coordinator



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

The Parish and Wider Community

Welcome to our Parish Profile. We hope you might prayerfully consider whether God is calling you to take on this key part-time role in the life of St. John the Evangelist, Lund, and its wider community. You will receive a warm welcome from us all, work with people who want you to be successful and happy as you perform worthwhile work, and will not be alone in confronting and managing the challenges of today's world.

Christ Church, Oxford is the Patron. Christ Church, Oxford have been involved with Kirkham and St John the Evangelist in the Parish of Lund since the 18th and 19th century. Christ Church were frequently asked to provide financial support for the development of the church building throughout the 19th century when much of the church building, we see today was created. Negotiations have sometimes been challenging but Christ Church have continued to support the parish in many positive and supportive ways, quietly and effectively. The incumbent is particularly well supported, and this may be a positive consideration for those wishing to apply.

The Church itself is situated in a rural location between Preston and Blackpool. The Church is in the centre of the parish. It serves the villages of Clifton and Newton along with the hamlet of Salwick. There are no other churches in the parish.

The Church has a long and proud history. It is thought that some place of worship existed at Lund, prior to the Anglo Saxons and the Vikings. Indeed, the font is of Roman origin. The site of the church is close to Danes Pad, a Roman road in the area. The present church dates from 1830 and was re-ordered in 2001.

The population in the parish is circa 3500, 99 per cent white, 82 per cent Christian. The age spread is approximately 800 - 0 to 17years; 1,800 - 18 to 64; and 900 - 65 plus.

The great majority of housing is owner occupied. In line with government housing policy there are a number of new houses currently under construction in both villages.

Westinghouse have a factory near the church and has been a major employer for many years manufacturing products for the nuclear industry. Both the church and Westinghouse are surrounded by farms.

Most employment for our population is in Preston, Blackpool, Kirkham and Lytham St Annes. BAE systems is a particularly large employer for the parish population, with sites in Warton and Samlesbury. Some of our residents will travel further afield to work in East Lancashire, Manchester and Liverpool.

Formerly the parish was a rural community with circa 3,700 acres of mainly pasture, today circa 2,500 acres. Wheat and barley are grown but the main contributor to the local economy and employment is livestock, cattle, sheep, pigs and poultry.

The villages of Newton and Clifton are situated on either side of the A583 which is the main Preston to Blackpool road. The parish is 3 miles from the market town of Kirkham and 5 miles from Junction 3 of the M55 which joins with the M6.

On the eastern boundary of the parish, work has recently started on a major road infrastructure project linking the Preston by-pass network to the motorway network.

The parish is within striking distance of the Lake District to the north, with Manchester and Liverpool to the south. There is a rail link in Kirkham (recently upgraded) and regular bus services. To the west is the sea with the many attractions of Lytham St Annes and Blackpool, and there is the Fylde countryside to explore. With its geographical positioning it offers a richness of choice for leisure pursuits.

The socioeconomic make-up of the parish could be classed as rural suburban. There is a thriving village convenience shop in Newton which offers a post office, newspapers and magazines, fresh food, frozen food, groceries, seasonal products, stationery and greetings cards, with a small frontage car park. Next door is a unisex hairdressing salon. On the main road at the entrance to Newton, is the Bell and Bottle pub/restaurant, and an Indian restaurant also situated adjacent to the main road. In Clifton to the south side of the A583 is a large Dobbies garden centre and a major caravan and mobile holiday home distributor. There is also a long established car service and repair business in the village. In the main body of the village there is provision for a Post Office and convenience store combined, and we are hopeful this business opportunity will soon be taken. There is also a thriving sandwich shop opposite the post office location.

Newton Bluecoat Church of England Primary School is situated on School Lane (more about the school later in the profile). There is a playground and park both in Clifton and Newton and plenty of walking opportunities, with or without dog, across the immediate countryside. There is a village hall on the Clifton side of the main road, and the church has its own community hall. The vicarage is situated half a mile to the west of the church.

All things medical are available in Kirkham, for anything more serious there are hospitals in Preston and Blackpool both having excellent reputations. The main state Secondary school is in Kirkham. Alternative primary and secondary education schools are situated within a 10mile radius with bus services available. Most shopping requirements can be met in Kirkham, with free parking facilities. We also have a 24-hour petrol station on the main road plus a car service and repair garage.

Our social media platform plays a positive and important role in the parish, especially during the Covid 19 pandemic, helping enormously in strengthening the community spirit and providing information and support. Numerous groups including the school and the church continue to be active during the crisis.

To summarise, Newton and Clifton are growing, energetic and enthusiastic communities with all the necessary services for today's society available locally. The Church and School provide the focal points for the community and form the glue that bonds it together. It is important the Church has a leader that can build and develop upon these strong foundations.

The Church Community and Buildings

We are a church which reaches out to the community around it and provides a place of welcome and hospitality to all.

Worship and prayer are at the heart of our church life and our vision is to share the transforming gospel of Jesus Christ, so people may know life in all its fullness.

It is important to us to help draw people closer into relationship with God and enable people to discover new depths to prayer and spiritual growth. We want to see new and existing baptised followers of Jesus Christ of all ages, backgrounds, colour and accent, becoming increasingly confident to live out their faith seven days a week.

Our church is Eucharist centred, moderate catholic, vestments are worn and sometimes incense is used. The Sacrament is reserved, services usually include teaching and preaching, and use of the processional cross is observed. We are fortunate to roll out a robed choir of four parts and good numbers, led by Canon Brian Mayne, who is providing wonderful support during Interregnum. From September 2021 it is planned:-

Every Sunday at 08:00 is a said Eucharist using the Common Worship Book.

The first Sunday of the month the 1662 Worship Book is used.

Each Sunday at 10:30 there is a sung Eucharist. The Common Worship Book is used.

Each Tuesday at 09:30 is a said Eucharist. The Common Worship Book is used.

Monthly, following the Parish Eucharist, there is a service for children and parents with activities and singing.

Morning Prayer is said in Church at 8:30 on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday of each week.

Other services include Midnight Mass on Christmas Eve, a Carol Service, Christingle, Ascension Day, Holy Week, Patronal Festival, Remembrance, Rogation, All Saints Day and All Souls Services.

Home Communion is available whenever required to individuals and to nursing homes.

In 2019 there were Baptisms (14), Weddings (7), Funerals (5), and Cremations (1). There were 133 communicants on Easter Sunday, and on Christmas Day 24 communicants. On Christmas Eve we held a Christingle Service which was attended by 138 children and 212 adults. Confirmation was last held in 2018 when ten children and four adults were prepared and confirmed.

As a church we would like to create more opportunities for discipleship. For example, pre-covid we were able to attend 'An introduction to Christian Meditation' seminars, and a 'Lectio Divina' group.

The incumbent is fully supported by the laity in worship, and they are on duty at the main services. There are 2 Wardens, a Pastoral Assistant and 12 members of the PCC. Four are elected each year for a term of 3 years, 2 of whom are representatives on the Deanery Synod. We also have a Treasurer and a Secretary. Safeguarding is the responsibility of everyone, but we do have a nominated Safeguarding Officer and all members of the PCC have undertaken training and received the necessary certification.

There are 6 people licensed to administer the chalice, 23 readers, 5 people able to lead intercession, and we have 25 sides people.

We have worked hard at improving our communication and we now have our own website, www.lundparish.org.uk. We also have a Facebook page [@lundsaintjohns](https://www.facebook.com/lundsaintjohns)

We are blessed with a wonderful group of flower arrangers, cleaners, and odd-jobbers which includes tending the grounds, all of whom are volunteers.

To ensure flexibility and agility in decision making we have a Standing Committee and a Stewardship Committee.

There are 146 people on the Electoral Roll. Up to ten per cent of our congregation come from outside the parish and our average attendance on a Sunday is 74.

Facilities:

The church itself has no major works outstanding from the recent Quinquennial inspection. In recent years, a new resin path has been laid from the lychgate to the main doors, which are also new. The interior of the church has been fully redecorated, and a new carpet fitted. New hymn books have been purchased and are mostly dedicated to past congregation members. A new organ was purchased in 2017 and is within the wooden casing of the old organ. We have also had installed in the church a new public address system.

The polycarbonate protection to the windows has been replaced and the south elevation of the nave has already been replaced. A new organ was installed in 2017 and the south side of the nave and chancel was reroofed in 2016. The tower has been re-pointed, the weathervane repaired, and the bell housing replaced.

The churchyard and car park are in good order. We have been fortunate over the past few years to have the services of prisoners from HM Prison Kirkham to undertake grounds maintenance. Covid put a halt to this, but we have managed to maintain the grounds throughout the pandemic.

We have a fully refurbished and operational Community Hall. This is used each Sunday following the main Eucharist to serve coffee and biscuits.

The hall is also used by:

LITTLE LAMBS, a parent, carer and toddler group, who meet each Monday morning during term time. This facility continues to grow with up to 20 children attending. Mothers Union members help with the refreshments and always find time to chat making new friendships in a safe and caring environment.

TEA AT ST. JOHN'S is held bi-monthly, it is run by volunteers for isolated and sometimes lonely people to meet, chat and enjoy refreshments.

UNIFORMED GROUPS including Rainbows, Brownies, Guides meet regularly in the Community hall. Beavers, Cubs and Scouts meet in the Village hall. The Uniformed groups all have links with the church and take active roles in parade and civic services, where children are invited to read the lessons and the intercession.

Other groups who make use of the Community Hall include **Mother's Union, Hobby Group, Yoga, AA and Birthday Parties**. It is used as a **Polling Station and Fundraising Organisations Presentations**.

The Vicarage

The vicarage is situated half a mile to the west of the church. It is a large 5 bedrooed detached house built in 1926. It is well maintained and has a substantial garden. There is a double garage and outbuildings. The house is fully double glazed with central heating throughout. The ground floor consists of an office/study, 2 large reception rooms, one with patio doors leading onto the garden. It has a large kitchen with breakfast area, utility room with WC and cloakroom. Upstairs there are 3 large double bedrooms and 2 single bedrooms, a shower room, a bathroom with walk in shower and separate WC. Make no mistake, this is a beautiful house set in a fabulous garden with views over neighbouring farmland to the most delightful church building.



Church Finances

Total receipts for the year ending 2019 of ordinary unrestricted funds were £82,692.

The sum of £96,895 was spent to provide Christian ministry from St. John's Church, including the contribution to the diocesan parish share, which largely provides the stipends, housing and training of the diocesan clergy. The sum that parishes in the Diocese find is shared according to a formula that is based on the stipend paid in the parish and adjusted by the number of regular attendees at the church.

The net result in ordinary funds was an excess of payments over receipts of £14,203 in the year as a result of the installation of the resin footpath at a cost in excess of £24,000. The balance of ordinary unrestricted funds at the year-end £20,843.

RESERVE POLICY

It is PCC policy to maintain a balance of unrestricted funds, which equates to approximately three months unrestricted payments to cover emergency situations that may arise from time to time.

It is PCC policy to invest any funds not required for immediate payment from time to time with the Church of England Deposit Fund via the Diocese. £773 of the Organ Fund was so invested at the year end.

Newton Bluecoat School

A Church of England School offering primary education for 200 children. The school offers a complete wrap round service, including a full-time teacher led Nursery for children from the age of 3, and a Breakfast and After school Club.

The school is rated as GOOD by OFSTED (2017). The latest SIAM's inspection rated the school as OUTSTANDING (2016).

The Incumbent would be encouraged to be an ex-officio governor of the school and be part of the Curriculum and Pupil Welfare Committee, which meets in school during the day once per term. The incumbent would also be invited to take an assembly weekly, and once per term hold a Eucharist service in school, which is open to residents of the Parish to attend. The Incumbent would be encouraged to have input to the religious studies curriculum and help with the development of the PHSE curriculum. There would also be opportunity to understand issues and offer input around pupil premium.



The headteacher retired at the end of the summer term after 17 years of successful leadership. The school governors have appointed a new headteacher, Elizabeth Robinson, who will join the community in January 2022. Elizabeth will be the first woman to lead the school in its long history and we wish her every success.

Young people are very important to us, and we want to invest more in our engagement with our school and families, which excite young people to explore and grow in faith. We are hopeful Elizabeth alongside the newly appointed vicar will seize the opportunity with fresh eyes, new ideas, perhaps post Covid 19, to breathe a new and inspiring vision into the Church/School relationship, developing a long term strategy for the benefit of our parish. The newly appointed Headteacher will be responsible for strategic thinking and planning that builds, communicates and carries forward a coherent and shared Christian vision for the school. What potential there is for the new Vicar to be central to this effort, an opportunity which should not be missed.

Some members of the PCC are also school governors and many of the school staff attend Church services. The Church relationship with the school is strong and we would wish the new Incumbent to build on these firm foundations. Both school governors and PCC members will be supportive in encouraging relationships to be fostered and developed between the school, the Church and the Diocese of Blackburn.

The school has a long association with the Hornbie Trust, a charity which supports the school and its future development both practically and financially.

Other church related activities

LUND RAMBLERS meet once per month for a 6-8 mile walk in both Lancashire and Cumbria.

THE FOOD BANK has a collection point in the church for items which go to the Trussell Trust food bank in Kirkham. The collection point is emptied weekly.

CHRISTIAN AID The church supports Christian Aid with soup lunches during Lent.

FAIR TRADE the church is fair trade registered.

THE PARISH MAGAZINE is an important communication vehicle for the church and its activities. Circulation is to 200 homes in the parish and is a monthly edition.

THE PARISH COUNCIL helps the church by cutting an area of grass which links the church to the community hall. This is quite separate from the churchyard, but it is important for the overall image and appearance of the church that it is well maintained.

EXTERNAL RELATIONS The life of Churches Together in Kirkham and District, of which we are a member, is currently under review.

Our Vision and Mission

“PROCLAIMING CHRIST AND SERVING THE COMMUNITY”

We state our commitment to serving the whole parish and everyone within it, regardless of creed or race.

We commit ourselves to proclaiming Christ by personal witness and action by showing ourselves to be prepared to welcome all and to help all.

We commit ourselves to worshipping our Lord and Saviour by regular worship, reading and study of the scriptures and by our prayer life.

We will try to act as a focus of unity within the parish by taking our part in as many aspects of parish life as we can.

We will try to be welcoming to all, aiming to meet as mediators in any way we can and offer help in areas of need.

We promise to support our Church by regular and sacrificial giving of time, talents and money to enable our Church to grow and thrive on a firm and stable base.

We promise to work together for the good of all, on a spiritual and community level, and to encourage lay ministry.

We aim to reach our young people through Eucharist in School Children’s Liturgy, Family Eucharist, Baptism, First Communion and Confirmation Courses and to help them with their spiritual development in whatever way we can.

We always aim to put Christ first in our lives by our witness, by our use of the Sacraments and by our attitudes to proclaim the kingdom of God here on earth.

We will always endeavour to make welcome and inform others of our services, aims and events, and to use Baptisms, Weddings and Funerals as areas for pastoral outreach in which we can all play a part.

What kind of Vicar are we looking for?

This is a part time post. There will be opportunity to discuss this in detail to explore flexibility to suit the incumbent and the parish. Our Rural Dean, Anne Beverley, was herself a part time vicar and has much to offer during these discussions. We are realistic that the very nature of a having a vicar working part time will require the Church community and the PCC, to offer sustained and worthwhile support to the incumbent.

When the Church members prayed and continue to pray about who God might bring, several characteristics emerged – that our new Vicar:

Comes with vision, passion and a hunger to see God's Kingdom flourish.

Is a good Bible based teacher and effective communicator, able to lead us into a deeper understanding of God's message and life lived in all its fullness.

Will be spirit-led and servant hearted, seeking God's will and ambition for us as a church and in the world.

Is a skilled enabler with the ability to encourage, develop and release gifts amongst us.

Has sensitivity, empathy and compassion for those who might be experiencing difficult times.

Has the ability to inspire and relate to Christians and non-Christians alike, drawing those in our wider communities to explore a relationship with Jesus and the Christian faith.

Will bring a sense of ambition and seize the opportunity, with the new headteacher, to grow our church community through children and young people participating in church life every day in every way.

To become a figure head and ground themselves in our rural parish and community.

In return our new Vicar will find us to be welcoming, friendly, dedicated and enthusiastic. The vicar will find we have a sense of caring and looking out for each other with a sense of humour to help us along. We believe we are open minded and receptive to change. We would expect new ideas and forward thinking to ensure the future well-being of the parish and the growth of the church.

Finally... we have some bakers amongst us who could do well on Great British Bake-off.

Now... does that whet your appetite!?



Some Views from our Parish



Looking towards church from vicarage drive

View of church from vicarage garden



Looking beyond vicarage side garden towards church

Driveway to church





Pathway to church



Church interior



Celebrant's
Chair

Baptismal
Font



10.30am
Parish
Eucharist



End of Sunday Service

Lund Parish Church/Community Hall



Stained glass in Sanctuary



"Cuppa for the Christie" in church hall.

Fund raising in church hall



*Hall prepared for
"Tea at St John's"*



*Christmas worship in
Newton Bluecoat School 2020*

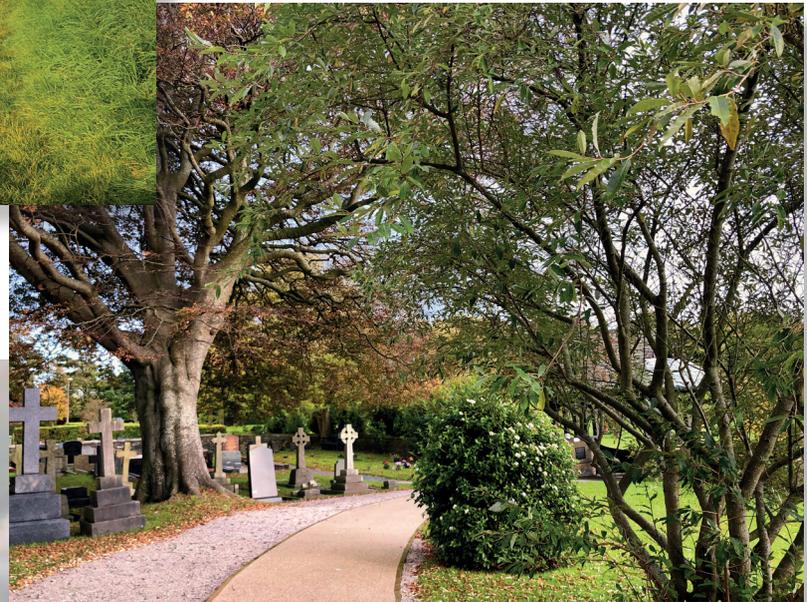


*Christingle live-streamed to
school 2020*



Local stretch of Lancaster Canal

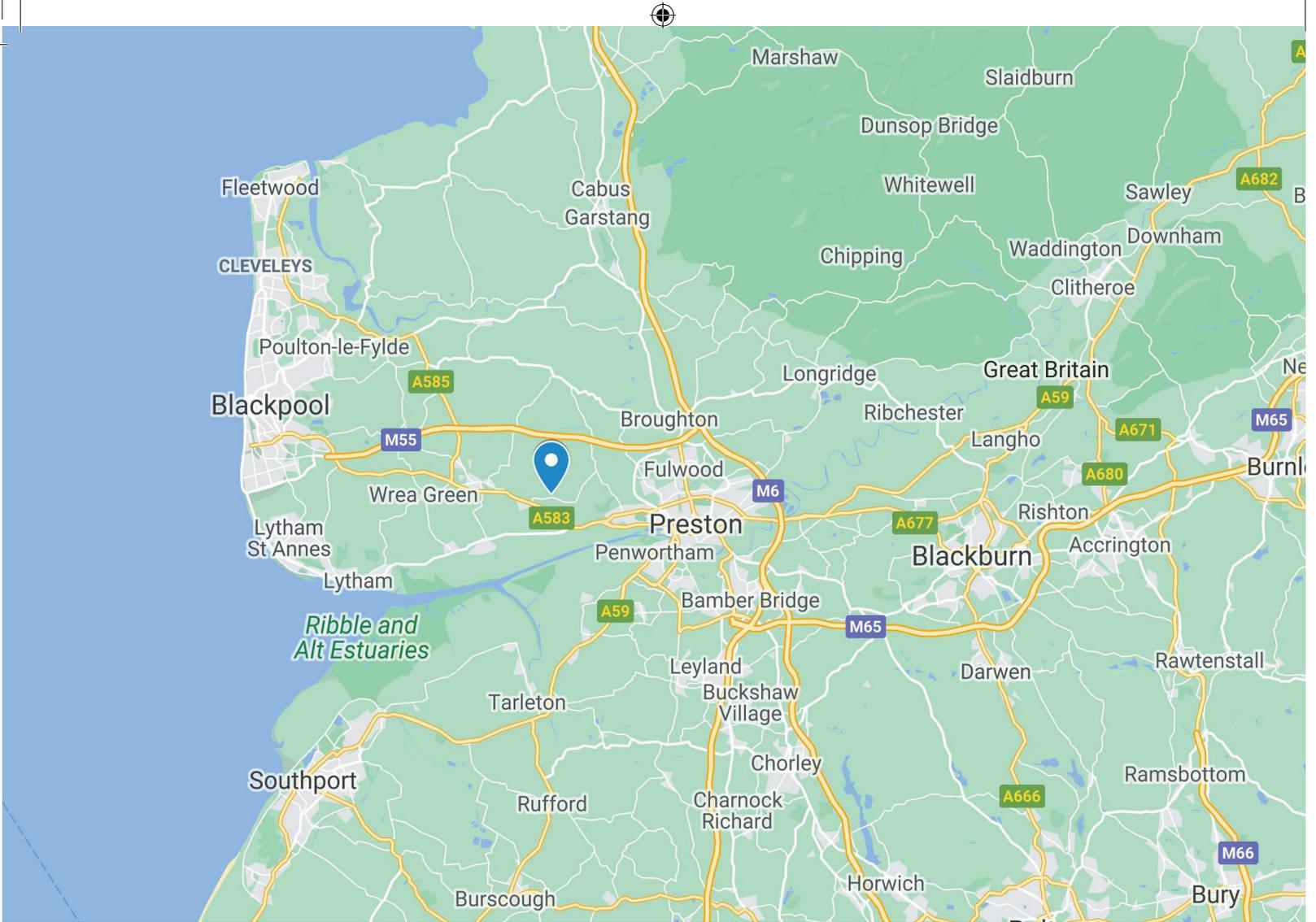
Churchyard



A Village Lane

Church Grounds





St John the Evangelist. Lund
Church Lane, Clifton, Preston PR4 0ZE



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