



Parish of Holy Trinity, The Lickey with St. Catherine's, Blackwell



Lickey Parish is one church family worshipping in two churches. There is much that is positive and vibrant about our churches, but there is also work to be done. Good foundations have been laid in recent decades with building projects and mission amongst the people in our communities. We believe that this is a key time for our parish to see more of God's kingdom revealed as we grow as disciples of Jesus and express his love together.



We recognise that we have set a challenging list of attributes for our new incumbent. We are looking for an experienced and energetic leader, who is open to the Spirit, believes passionately in the gospel, has a heart for outreach in our communities and an ability to help us to make things happen.

'Parish Statement'

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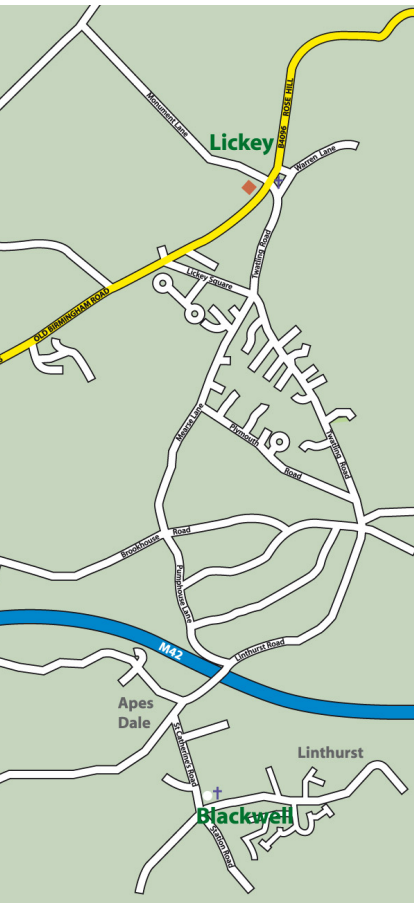
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Lickey Parish

The parish of Lickey and Blackwell lies about 10 miles South-West of the city of Birmingham and is within a mile or two of Junction 1 on the M42 and Junction 4 of the M5. There are two churches in the parish: Holy Trinity in Lickey and St Catherine's in Blackwell.



Holy Trinity is next to The Lickey Hills Country Park which is a large area of beautiful wood and heathland given by the Cadbury family many years ago to be 'the lungs of Birmingham'. The main visitor centre is only a few metres from the church and thousands of visitors pass by each week. Also close to the church is Lickey Hills Primary School with which the church has built close links.

St Catherine's church is in the south of the parish in the village of Blackwell. It is on a prominent corner on the main road through the village and near to the village shop and Blackwell First School

The parish is within the local government area of Bromsgrove District Council (www.bromsgrove.gov.uk) in the county of Worcestershire (www.worcestershire.gov.uk). The 2011 census records the parish a population as 4058 living in 1650 households. It is estimated that the population in 2016 has probably grown to 4,500. The age structure of the parish shows that, statistically, it is typical of the English average for all age ranges except the 20-29 yrs. The cause of the lower numbers in this group is probably explained by the price of property and the difficulties faced by first time buyers.

The parish is predominantly residential with many people travelling to nearby Bromsgrove, Birmingham and Redditch for work. Good commuter links are provided by bus and rail services. A complete description of the Lickey and Blackwell Parish Council may be found at www.lickeyandblackwellpc.org



Our Church buildings



Lickey parish has two churches which are three miles apart: Holy Trinity at Lickey in the north and St Catherine's at Blackwell in the south.

Holy Trinity Church

Holy Trinity is the older and larger of the two, built in 1856 in Victorian Gothic style to meet the spiritual needs of a dispersed rural population who were mainly agricultural workers or nail makers.

For History of Holy Trinity Church see 'History & Information' on Parish Statement home page.



Holy Trinity stands prominently near the summit of a significant hill on the main road from Birmingham to Bromsgrove. Its attractive position on the border of the Lickey Hills Country Park makes it a popular choice for weddings. The Visitor Centre for the Lickey Hills is a few hundred metres away so a lot of visitors come past the church especially at weekends.

The church is surrounded by a well-kept churchyard with mature trees and graves from the 1860's to 1912. No more burials take place here except for interment of ashes along the boundary hedges. A cemetery extension was consecrated in 1912, this is linked to the church by a 100m lane and it contains over 1400 plots. It is now almost full and there are a few reserved spaces remaining. The cemetery is maintained in collaboration with Lickey and Blackwell Parish Council as a wild flower meadow.



The church is built of sandstone and close attention is paid to the masonry and pointing. The roof is in good condition as the whole rear elevation has been renewed recently. All the recommendations of the last Quinquennial inspection have been put into action ensuring that the building is in good condition. There are no plans for any building works at present.

Our Church buildings



The interior of Holy Trinity is spacious, welcoming and comfortably warm. The floor is carpet tiled and all the seating is upholstered chairs which can be joined or separated to allow different configurations of the space. The seating is provided for 160 people but up to 200 can be accommodated by using extra chairs and cushions on the wide windowsills.

At the time of the major reordering 12 years ago, a new heating boiler was installed as well as modern lighting and wireless audiovisual facilities. Wifi is now installed and there is a hearing loop. Weekly Sunday sermons are recorded and made available on the church website.



At the rear of the nave there is a modern facility for serving tea and coffee, and in the other corner, a glass walled crèche. The main body of the church is made accessible by use of a built-in ramp and there is an accessible toilet facility which includes baby changing facilities.

Adjacent to the chancel there are two rooms – one is used for teaching the youngest children and the other room provides vestry space for robing, prayer and signing of registers at weddings.

Nearby stairs lead down to two larger rooms in the former crypt area. There is also a second toilet facility downstairs.



The Trinity Centre/Parish Hall

The Parish Hall was designed by long term parishioner and church warden John Scott. It opened in the 1930's. A large, well fitted kitchen and meeting room were added in the 1970's and the Hall was refurbished and extended in 2006 and re-opened in early 2007. The Hall and its extensions were re-named "The Trinity Centre".

The building has always been used by a variety of groups and organisations both from the Church and the community. The parish office is situated by the front entrance and there is currently an agreement that the office is shared with the local government Lickey Parish Council thereby enabling the office opening hours to be extended.

Our Church buildings



The hall has been self-funded for many years and currently has a surplus which is held by the PCC. The maintenance of the building has always been carried out by the hall committee. Most of the committee members are now over 70, some of whom have worked on the hall committee for 30 years! Up until this year some members have been seen on the roof doing repairs and leaf clearing. Younger limbs are needed to take on the management and maintenance of the hall and the surrounding grounds.

St Catherine's Church



St Catherine's church is situated in the heart of the village on a cross road near the local shop and school. It is a grade II listed building built in 1939-40 to replace an earlier mission church. It was designed by Herbert Luck North in a Scandinavian Gothic style with white washed rough cast walls. The interior is painted white which continues the Scandinavian feel to the building.

St Catherine's Church has pews and can easily seat 100 people. This capacity can be expanded to 180 by use of chairs in the wide side aisles. There are two vestries one of which is equipped with a sink and storage cupboards for flower arranging and other necessities. There is also a toilet by the vestries.

For history of St. Catherine's Church see 'History & Information' on Parish Statement home page.



Our Church buildings



The Wheel at St Catherine's

The Wheel was added in 2003. It is a circular room with windows all round and can seat up to 40 people. It is connected to the main church building by a glazed corridor. There is a small storage area (for tables etc) and a coffee making and washing up facility. There are also two toilets, one of which is large enough and equipped to be accessible for wheelchair users.

The Wheel is increasingly used by the community, as well as the church family. Advisory issues identified in the last quinquennial report include refurbishment of guttering and repainting of the church which form part of our future fabric and furnishing projects. Advice has also been taken on the roof of the corridor between the Wheel and the church to improve rain water run-off.



The Vicarage

This is purpose built and is a spacious detached property about half a mile from Holy Trinity and two miles from St Catherine's in Blackwell. Situated on a quiet suburban road, the drive leads past a large front garden and opens into a generous parking area.

The lobby gives immediate access to a study and cloakroom from which the rest of the house is separated by a secondary front door. The remaining ground floor comprises a large airy lounge and a dining room with a serving hatch to a well fitted kitchen. Beyond the kitchen, the passage leads to a utility room and double garage.



Upstairs there are four bedrooms, a family bathroom, and a newly completed shower room.

The house is fully double glazed and has a modern central heating system.

Our life together as a Church



Sunday

Our aim is to provide a range of services and styles of worship offering real choice for parishioners on Sunday mornings with each church having a pattern of services across the month as can be seen below

8:00 am	Holy Communion Order One (with BCP on 3 rd Sunday)	Holy Trinity
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This is a short and simple service with no music; the congregation of 12-15 people are regular in attendance and form a cohesive group in friendship and fellowship. They are mainly drawn from the Lickey end of the parish.

9:00 am	Holy Communion with Sunday School (Explore Together on 1 st Sunday – all age communion)	St Catherine's
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The congregation at these services usually numbers around 25-30 adults with 5-10 children. The ages range from babies to older parishioners. There is a core of regular weekly attenders and others with younger families attending perhaps a couple of Sundays per month. Over half the congregation live in the villages of Blackwell and Burcot and most others live within the parish.

The Red Book is used for this traditional service of Holy Communion with other seasonal service leaflets (e.g. Advent, Lent, Easter and Christmas seasons) which have been prepared from Common Worship resources. Hymns are accompanied on the organ and are taken from "Hymns Old and New – New Anglican Edition". Occasionally other, more contemporary songs, are used accompanied on the organ or keyboard.

The Sunday School is for school age children and is held in The Wheel where the children learn by a variety of story, craft and activities. They come in with their families to the opening of the service and leave for Sunday School before the readings; they rejoin their families for the administration of



Our life together as a Church



communion receiving bread and a blessing. After the service the whole congregation join the children in The Wheel for coffee and biscuits which gives a great opportunity for the children to show what they have been doing in Sunday School.

The Explore Together service is a Family Communion service with a format designed to be accessible for all ages, with an emphasis on being together. The younger members of the congregation are encouraged to take part in the act of worship and, by doing so, to learn and understand the tradition and liturgy.



10:30 am Family morning worship Holy Trinity
(1st Sunday Family Communion with Sunday Club
2nd Sunday Engage All Age Worship
other Sundays Family worship with Sunday Club)

Provision for children and young people is: Creche (0-2 yrs),
JAM (Jesus and Me) for pre-school children (2-5 yrs),
Sunday Club for school age children (5-16).



All these services are characterized by a contemporary and inclusive style. The liturgy used is drawn from Common Worship, the music is led from the piano with other instruments joining in as they are available (guitar, clarinet, flute, cello, drums). The songs are from a wide variety of sources and include traditional hymns as well as more contemporary music. Many of the songs are taken from the church hymnbook "Complete Anglican Hymns Old and New" as well as Songs of Fellowship and other resources. The music each week is chosen by the lead musician in consultation with the service leader and preacher, also suitable liturgy is chosen. Audiovisual equipment enabling digital projection and the use of wireless microphones facilitate this contemporary act of worship. The sermons are recorded and go onto the church website each week.

Our life together as a Church



Usual Sunday attendance in the parish averages 95 adults and 19 children. The main service at Holy Trinity has 55 adults and 11 children and at the morning service at St Catherine's 32 adults and 8 children. (These figures are taken from "Statistics for Mission" 2016).

United Soulmates

United Soulmates (for ages 11 -13) meets on alternate Sunday evenings in the crypt. They look at the Bible and the Christian faith through games, food and fun.

Church life through the week

Tuesday

Singing for Fun

A group for all who enjoy singing, this has been run since Sep 2010 in Holy Trinity Church during term time. Anyone is welcome to join and there is no requirement to attend every week. Rehearsals are relaxed and informal ending with refreshments and time to get to know one another. The repertoire is varied and includes songs from films and shows as well as folksongs and sacred music.

Wednesday

Holy Communion

Holy Communion is held at Holy Trinity Church at 10:00am each Wednesday. There are usually about 12-15 in the congregation including people who also attend one of the Sunday services as well as those who do not. It is a small, regular and friendly service.



AT HOLY TRINITY

UNITED SOULMATES



AT HOLY TRINITY
TINY CHURCH



Our life together as a Church

Tiny Church

Tiny Church is a toddler group which meets at 11:00am on Wednesday. The chairs are moved to create a space to play, eat together and experience God in an accessible way. Parents, grandparents and carers come weekly and cross over with the Wednesday Communion congregation enjoying a coffee and a chat with them. Average attendance is 21 adults and 15 children.

It is a time where people feel safe to share some of life's real difficulties and experience support from the leaders and volunteers.

Fast Forward

Fast Forward (for ages 14-18 yrs) meet in the evening each Wednesday for discussion about life issues as well as bible study. Every third week is a social time.



AT HOLY TRINITY
FAST FORWARD

Thursday

Prayer Meeting 7 – 8 pm

An opportunity for corporate prayer is provided at Holy Trinity. This is regularly attended by 4- 6 people.

Home Groups

Four well established home groups meet regularly, these were usually formed from previous Alpha or Y groups. Bible study, friendship and fellowship are enjoyed by those who attend these groups.

Our life together as a Church



Friday

Coffee Cake and Chat

Coffee Cake and Chat is a coffee morning held in The Wheel which is enjoyed monthly by around 15 – 20 older members of the church and the surrounding community. Each year in September they hold a Macmillan coffee morning and for the remainder of the year money given is currently donated to St Catherine's Painting Fund.



Community Café

A Community Café was started in 2015. It is held in The Wheel and grounds of St Catherine's church and provides refreshments for children and parents, grandparents and carers on the Friday afternoon school run home. It is run every week during term time all year round and is a valuable time of building friendship and relationship with this group in the local community. It is well attended by 25-35 adults and 30-40 children.

Just before Christmas 2016 a children's choir was started which provides another opportunity for building relationship with children and adults through music.

Saturday

Common Thread

Common Thread is a friendship group for women of all ages who share an interest in textile crafts of all kinds. This group has been meeting monthly for three years in The Wheel. Usually there are 6-10 who meet with a mix of ages and a 50/50 split between church members and those for whom this is their only engagement with the church. They enjoy sharing skills and learning from one another and enjoying tea and cake together. The real aim of the group is to share the friendship and love of God in words and actions as the opportunity is created.



Leading worship and ministry together

The Readers, Community Minister and Children and Young Peoples Minister take an active role in the leadership of services and preaching (by rota prepared by the incumbent). There is also lay involvement in readings and intercessory prayers in services. Prayer ministry is offered at services by a lay team; all church members are encouraged to be involved in outreach and church growth.

Pastoral care happens organically with the OPCCS (Offering Pastoral Care in a Community Setting) team meeting bi-monthly to discuss and raise awareness of issues across the parish.

In the Lickey parish there are seven licensed Readers with one in training, a commissioned pastoral team of 8 people and two paid church workers: Community Minister 16 hours per week and a Children and Young Peoples Minister 20 hours per week. (This post has been vacated at the end of June 2017 as the post holder has secured another post)

Two ordinands have been supported during their training over the last three years, one is now serving his curacy in another part of the diocese and the other has been recently ordained Deacon.

It is recognized that the occasional services (Baptisms, Marriages and Funerals) offer an opportunity for church growth. In the last twelve month period there have been 16 baptisms in the parish: 12 at Holy Trinity and 4 at St Catherine's. Baptism families are visited at home by members of the baptism team which gives an opportunity for them to ask questions and explore the meaning of baptism through leaflets, video or conversation as appropriate to each family. The service is planned and music chosen and the baptism team who visit will be there at the service to welcome the family and their friends into church. Baptism services are carried out separately from the main Sunday services due to lack of space so the baptism family are encouraged to come to a main Sunday service on a subsequent Sunday where the baptized candidate is welcomed into the church family with a prayer of blessing.



Leading worship and ministry together

Confirmation

A confirmation service is held most years. The preparation of candidates is usually carried out one to one by the incumbent. However, when there are younger candidates, a young people's group has been run by the Children and Young Peoples Minister and one of the Readers.

Marriages

There has been a reduction in the number of marriages conducted in our churches over the last few years (in line with national trends). In the last twelve months 10 marriage services have been conducted.



Church Attendance, Facts and figures

Over the last five years the number on the electoral roll has been between 180 and 200. Other vital statistics are:

■ Number on electoral roll = 191

■ Average attendance on a "usual" Sunday = 95 adults and 19 children

- St Catherine's: 32 adults and 8 children (9 am service)
- Holy Trinity: 63 adults and 11 children (8am + 10:30am services)
- Wednesday Communion service at Holy Trinity = 10 – 15 adults

These figures are extracted from "Statistics for Mission" 2016



PCC, Sub groups & Action Teams

The PCC meets bi-monthly and makes decisions regarding a wide variety of topics informed by reports from the Vicar, Treasurer, Wardens and individual members or groups tasked with discreet responsibilities. When proposals are put forward these are proposed and seconded by PCC members and a vote is taken. All PCC members are encouraged to take a full part in the business of the PCC.

The PCC is currently in a review process of administration and structure.

Action Teams

Action Teams were set up in 2003 to enable PCC members to take on discrete areas of responsibility and draw others in to help and report back to PCC. Teams still meeting are:

FAT – Finance Action Team – (Vicar, Treasurer, Wardens and Lay Chair of PCC)

HAT – Hall Action Team – serves as a management team for the Trinity Centre.

WLAT – World Link Action Team – Maintains the link between the church and the Diocesan work in Malawi and our role as supporters of a CMS mission partner. Also looks at charitable giving.

Administration & Finance

The Parish has a salaried administrator (18 hours per week, over two days in the Church office and elsewhere). The role includes administration for both Churches, management of lettings for all the buildings, banking and running of the computerised accounts system.

The largest cost of running the parish is the Diocesan parish share (50% of ongoing running costs). The remaining expenditure has been split between the two paid ministries - Youth Worker and Community Minister - and the normal running expenses.

The running expenses have been well controlled by the wardens, with efficiencies made in energy costs over the past few years. These running costs have been held at or below inflation for a considerable amount of time.

Several years ago the church had a fundraising campaign to increase ordinary giving plus supporting the two ministries (Youth and Community). Some of the significant pledges have finished, and this was the major fall in income in 2016 over 2015. At present, the church is running an ongoing deficit of approximately 10%, but experience has taught us that through prayer and positive action we will recover this. Therefore, the PCC is launching a stewardship campaign, to raise the amount of regular giving and continue funding for mission started by the Community Minister post.

The parish does have considerable reserves of £150k as at the end of 2016. A third of this is restricted in use, the largest portion of which is the Murdoch legacy which is held as a restricted fund for spending on the fabric of Holy Trinity Church.

Our outward focus and opportunities for community links

God's Heart for Longbridge

The development, over the last few years, of the Longbridge town centre on the borders of the parish has encouraged co-operation between local churches. Twelve of them have together started God's Heart for Longbridge (GHfL). They have organized several events and plan, during the coming year, to engage with the residents of the ExtraCare village which opens in July/August 2017. One of our church members is the Chair for this group and ensures a link with the parish.

Lickey & Blackwell Parish Council

One of our members is the Chair of the local Parish Council and their Executive Officer rents space in our Church Office twice weekly.

Local Schools

The parish has good contact with the two Junior Schools. In Lickey Hills Junior School the CY Minister takes regular assemblies. Also, volunteers from church, led by the CY Minister provided "Prayer Spaces" for the whole week in school which proved so popular that a repeat week has been requested in future. Support and involvement with other school activities is provided, for example their Carol Concert for which they use Holy Trinity Church. The working relationship is a good one and church involvement is appreciated by the staff and children.

In Blackwell First School the Community Minister takes regular assemblies and one of the St Catherine's congregation is the Chair of Governors at the school. The church has provided considerable practical help during a recent building programme at the school and continues to offer use of the church and The Wheel for school activities. The relationship is good and opportunities to build on this have been identified and include "Open the Book" scheme as well as offering "Prayer Spaces".



Our outward focus and opportunities for community links



Hunters Hill Technology College is a residential school for 120 pupils from years 7 – 11 all of whom have a Statement of Special Educational Needs or an Education, Health and Care Plan. Our Community Minister is Head of Governors and two of our members also serve on the governing body. Both local Schools have used St Catherine's Church for various activities including an RE day as well as Carol Concerts.

Uniformed organisations

Rainbows, Brownies and Guides meet at The Trinity Centre and there is an active Scout Troup in Blackwell. The Community minister links with these regularly and has helped them with their "Faith Badges".



They join in the annual service of Remembrance at both Churches.

Nursing and Care Homes

There are teams regularly visiting at several local Nursing Homes: Lickey Hills Nursing Home, Redwood House and Burcot Grange. These are connections which have continued for a long time and are well established and valued by residents and staff.

Men's Breakfast

Men's breakfasts are run regularly at Kings Norton Golf Club in conjunction with St Andrews Barnt Green. The aim is for men to invite friends, work colleagues and neighbours to have a hearty breakfast, good conversation and to hear an interesting speaker giving testimony as to how Jesus has impacted their life. Numbers are usually around 70 - 85 and recent speakers have included Kristian Dimond – ex pro football player, Sir Matt Bagott – ex Chief Constable of Northern Ireland and ACC of Birmingham and Andy Kelshall – Chaplain to Worcester RFU and Elvis impersonator.

Our outward focus and opportunities for community links

Other local links

The parish is a long-standing supporter of the Food Bank in Sparkhill with regular boxes of foodstuffs being donated by church members. Seasonal support is also given to the Birmingham Christmas Shelter and Operation Christmas Child. In addition, Fair Trade fortnight in Bromsgrove and Christian Aid collections are supported by church members.

Users of The Church buildings

Trinity Centre and The Wheel

The two churches are regularly used by others in the Diocese for Church Away Days and Retreat Days. Holy Trinity is host to Asklepios Orchestra for two concerts per year and occasional events run by Christian Music Ministries.

The Trinity Centre is used every week by: PHAB Club on Monday evenings; Dog Training on Wednesday evenings; Rainbows, Brownies and Guides on Thursday evenings. There are also regular meetings each month for: W.I.; Local history society, Flower Club; Fishing Club; Jigsaw Players and the Local Parish Council.

The Wheel is increasingly in demand for family parties as well as meetings for professional groups such as the Foster Carers. In addition to occasional lets such as these there are regular users such as: Women's Institute, Cat's Chorus Choir and Children's Dance School.

Links with the church worldwide

Through the World Link Action Team (WLAT) the church continues to actively support the church in Malawi with fund raising and sending of needed goods in conjunction with the Birmingham Diocese. The parish also have a Mission partner in Tanzania through CMS whose work we support financially and with prayer.



Our Recent Past



In 2014, in response to the “Transforming Church” initiative, the parish chose four of the Diocesan goals to work on:

In order to “grow the number of adults, young people and children within the worshipping Christian community year on year”, the PCC took the decision to employ a Community Minister 14 hours per week to stimulate and lead outreach into the communities surrounding the two churches. This has resulted in new initiatives and the outreach in Blackwell through the Community Café, Children’s Choir and involvement with other village activities such as the Annual Festival and Music Festival has ensured that St Catherine’s church is a central part of village life. There is a definite desire to continue building on this foundation.

In order to “develop a spiritually-enriching children’s and youth ministry” in the parish the PCC employed a Children and Young Peoples minister for 20 hours per week. Her remit was to shape the vision for children’s and youth ministry in the parish and translate this into action leading the team of volunteers in both churches.

Across the parish there is a growing number of families, children and young people who are involved in the different ministries in “Youth and Childrens work”. This work has been developed by the Children and Young Peoples Minister leading a team of 30 volunteers. Their vision is:

- To develop children and young people who have a desire to pursue a relationship with God which is a vital part of their lives.
- To give them a grounding in biblical teaching: through work in groups run for them; by example of relationship with one another and by our lives.
- To provide a safe space where gifts can be practiced and developed in a supportive environment characterised by fun and friendship.



Our Recent Past

- To ensure that all are aware of being loved by the church community and by their God.

"Faith at home" has become an important feature to encourage families to continue the conversations started in church during the week at home. Different seasonal resources have been provided and are very popular.

Challenges faced in the past

The previous incumbent of this parish took up post in November 2010 and in 2011 was diagnosed with a debilitating and progressive degenerative illness. Despite her bravery in battling with the challenges this has presented to her both personally and in her ministry, the church has had to bear some of the burden. The positive side of this is that skills and gifts have been shared and developed as people have stepped in to carry out a variety of roles. However, inevitably some things have been neglected and there is rebuilding of various types to be done.

Looking to the future together

Mission:

We are a worshipping community with two churches in the Lickey Parish. We seek to be a people who make known the Good News of the Kingdom, teaching, baptizing and nurturing new believers. Our life together as church is underpinned by individual and corporate prayer. We reach out to others in the local community and by loving service aim to draw them in to God's Kingdom.

Vision:

We aim to be a vibrant community made up of individuals on fire for God: a community where all the members are encouraged and their gifts valued and developed to their full potential.

We want to see both our church buildings full as we develop real relationships with our local community: lively partnerships with schools, community organisations and neighbours; a variety of styles, times and ways of meeting together.

In order to reach out further to our community we want to expand our church from "where we are to where they are" being a 7 day a week Church community with a digital presence through website and social media.

We are looking for someone who will:

- Be a prayerful leader who can inspire and challenge us to grow.
- Have ability to develop a sense of partnership across our two churches in worship and outreach.
- Attend carefully to their own spiritual life and nurture and encourage the ministry of others.
- Lead us with energy and compassion.

Looking to the future together

- Lead us in developing our prayer life, private and corporate.
- Help us to develop our ministry of pastoral care.
- Be a visible presence in our community and help us to reach out to people with the gospel in word and action.
- Lead innovatively in worship, prayer and healing ministry.
- Build on the solid foundations we have and extend them

We offer them:

- Beautiful area to live
- Modern 4 bed roomed vicarage
- Excellent schools
- Good transport links
- Friendly and welcoming congregations
- Opportunities for mission and ministry
- Strong lay participation in leadership and worship
- Administrative support