

PARISH PROFILE 2021
PARISH CHURCH OF St ANNE (HEYHOUSES)
St ANNES-on-SEA



Growing strong in faith and worship, we work together to serve and care for all



Contents

Welcome to St Annes Parish Church	3
Our Vision for the Future	7
What We Offer	8
The Vicar We Are Praying For	8
Our Services	9
Parish Rooms (Church Hall)	12
Vicarage	13
Our PCC and Support Team	15
Church School	16
Choir and Organist	18
Servers	19
Bellringers	20
Children	21
Finance and Stewardship	22
Our Links into the Community	23
Further Information on the Parish	25
A Message from the Bishop of Burnley	26
A Message from the Bishop of Blackburn	27
Blackburn Diocesan Vision	28
Clergy in the Diocese are Well Looked After	29



Welcome to St Annes Parish Church, St Annes-on-Sea

The Church of St Anne (Heyhouses) is in the town of St Annes-on-Sea on the Fylde coast of Lancashire.



As our Heritage Mural (a tourist attraction in the local area) tells, the church was built in 1873 at the behest of Lady Eleanor Cecily Clifton, wife of the Squire of Lytham, for the benefit of the local agricultural workers. The seaside resort followed, taking the name of the church. Maintaining these historic connections the patronage is now held by Lady Katharine Bryan, daughter of the late Squire.

St Annes-on-Sea is a pleasant place to live and work. Our parish has a population of ~14,000 (predominantly white British) and encompasses the town centre, with a complete range of housing stock (~ 70% owner occupied) including a brand-new estate under construction on the edge of our parish. There is a high proportion of retired people with approximately 25% over 65 and there are numerous care homes. Many people are employed in the hospitality industry, but other employers in the wider area include BAE Systems, Land Registry and DWP.



Like many a seaside resort St Annes-on-Sea suffers from a decline in the wealth of what was once a high-class resort with issues of low paid work and some homelessness and drug problems. The town is classed in the lowest quartile for social deprivation with 13% child poverty.

We believe that we have a thriving and welcoming church community. Newcomers often tell us of the warm welcome they have received. Our worship is catholic in style and Sunday services in normal times include hymns, choir and servers and lay-involvement in readings, intercessions and administration of Holy Communion with around 100 communicants at the 10.30am service. We also on two Sundays in the month have a Children's Church, which meets in the Parish Rooms and joins the main service before Communion.

We have a busy social calendar with events such as summer and pre-Christmas coach trips, a Parish Barbecue, Harvest Supper, New Year dinner dance, and concerts and an active Mothers' Union.

Our church was built in 1873 in the Queen Anne style. It is built in red brick with decorative cobble inlay typical of the area. We have seating for 350 with space for a further 50 on upholstered chairs. The church is well maintained and in reasonable shape for its age and this is confirmed by our recent Quinquennial Inspection Report.

The church is surrounded by a pleasant churchyard, which is maintained jointly by the local council and our own Wednesday Men. There is a Garden of Remembrance, where ashes may be interred, the graveyard being closed for new burials (unless in an existing plot.)





Heyhouses Main School and Junior Department built 2015

Close to our church we have a thriving church primary school, which has in the past few years expanded to three class entry with ~630 pupils in addition to those in the associated nursery. The Vicar is involved with the activities of the school and the children come to church for special services.



Heyhouses Infant Department



We are pleased to say that our Parish Share has been paid in full for a number of years and despite COVID, it was paid in full for 2020. However, margins in our financial situation have certainly got thinner year on year and 2021 will be a difficult year. A stewardship campaign must therefore be counted as a priority for the near future.

We are proud of and grateful to our clergy for maintaining our worship (including the whole Easter Triduum) and moving it entirely on-line during periods of enforced closure. This was so successful that we are now considering installing the necessary IT equipment in church to allow routine live streaming, which would be extremely useful particularly for weddings and funerals. We remained open during the third national lockdown in early 2021, when many neighbouring churches closed voluntarily, and the strength of our safety measures was confirmed by the lack of any cases associated with church. Our buddy system whereby we telephoned or contacted all those on the Electoral Roll was also much appreciated and this has led on to regular weekly emails to a wide circulation.

After the pandemic our parish now undoubtedly has opportunity for mission and we trust that, with God's help and with the leadership of a new Vicar, we can face the future with confidence.



Our Vision for the Future

The approach of our 150th anniversary in 2023 and the centenary of our Diocese in 2026 gives us an opportunity to evaluate our vision for the future. There will undoubtedly be a post-COVID hit to our activities, but with new people having joined us during the lockdown and with the potential that our parish undoubtedly has for mission, we have a vision of a bright future.

However, our main area of concern is a strong bias towards the retired and a lack of participation in church activities from the younger end of the population. With 630 children in our church school and opportunities presented by numerous youth organisations in our parish there is a great potential to be tapped.

In line with our mission statement, “Growing strong in faith and worship, we work together to serve and care for all”, we therefore have aspirations in the following areas:

- Developing a sense of mission towards the whole parish and a desire to make the church more accessible to all;
- Increasing and encouraging the role and work of the Mission and Evangelism Group;
- Exploring new initiatives that will encourage more people into the church building e.g. social events;
- Developing greater contact with residential homes;
- Maintaining and building further the church’s profile in civic and national events;
- Encouraging people to participate and where appropriate take up and develop in leadership roles;
- Establishing a pastoral care team to provide spiritual comfort to all in the community in need;
- Development of KS2 Children’s church;
- Developing church youth groups and child-centred activities;
- Supporting church leaders in encouraging greater participation by children and young people in their activities (eg choir, serving, and bellringing).



What We Offer

- A parish in an attractive seaside location which offers both opportunities and challenges;
- A welcoming church family with an established pattern of tasteful catholic worship, supported by servers, choir and organist;
- A well-loved and maintained church building suited to the requirements of modern worship;
- Well maintained and updated Parish Rooms, housing a hall, two further community rooms, a Parish Office and meeting room, with rooms leased on a regular basis meeting the costs of the building;
- A very nice well maintained 4-bedroomed Vicarage with a manageable garden a short two-minute walk from Church;
- A supportive and active PCC with a wide range of skills who are ready and willing to work with a new incumbent;
- Fully paid-up Parish Share;
- A range of social events throughout the year organised by members of the congregation;
- A genuine pride and love for our church and its community.

The Vicar We Are Praying For

We are looking for a male Priest (not necessarily Society affiliated):

- Who has a burning desire to serve the Lord Jesus and his people and a strong belief in the power of prayer;
- Who is nurtured in the catholic faith and will maintain our tradition and high standard of inspiring worship;
- Who is an approachable, sociable, friendly pastor with a sense of humour;
- Who is able to bring the faith alive to people of all ages and will walk with people at critical moments in their life;
- Who is community focused and will be actively involved in representing Our Lord and his church to the community;
- Who can regenerate areas of church life after the pandemic and will enable others in their discipleship and contribution to parish life;
- Who has great enthusiasm for the development of strong active links with our church school and proven success in the area of developing church youth groups and child centred activities;
- Who is prepared to embrace the mission opportunities the parish offers;
- Will take a lead on plans to celebrate our 150th anniversary due on 6th August 2023.



Our Services

The core tradition of the church is eucharistic and sacramental, but our congregation includes people of all traditions. The Eucharist is celebrated during the week and the Blessed Sacrament is reserved, vestments are worn and incense is often used. There is also considerable lay involvement and we have one Lay Reader (LLM).

There are normally three services on a Sunday namely 8am Holy Communion (CW2), 10.30am Parish Eucharist (CW1) and 6.30pm BCP Evensong (wks 1/3) otherwise Evening Prayer with Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament in week three. Children's Church is held on two Sundays in the month with activities, songs and stories for younger children.



Service during Lockdown 2021

Under normal circumstances average Sunday attendance is 130. Celebrations from the High Altar are normally conducted westward facing. During the pandemic the movable nave altar has been used.

During 2019 there were 47 Baptisms, 5 Weddings, 15 Funerals in church and 15 Funerals conducted at the local crematorium, plus 24 (17 children, 7 adults) confirmations in March 2019.

Confirmation of children takes place during Year 6. We do have a problem retaining post-Confirmation children and this was particularly noted when confirmation was changed from Y5 to Y6. School Eucharists take place in church typically about once per term.





Confirmation with Bishop Philip 2019

As with most churches Christmas and Easter are high spots of the year. Christmas is celebrated with a popular Carol Service, a packed-out Crib Service on Christmas Eve and traditional Midnight Mass and Christmas Morning Eucharists. Including the Crib Service there were 196 communicants in 2019. The Easter Triduum is fully celebrated with traditional Maundy Thursday and Watch, Good Friday Liturgy, Easter Eve, and Easter Morning. Unusually, our Good Friday Liturgy is held at 6pm and this usually gets around 50 attending. Easter communicants in 2019 numbered 190 with total attendance of 280.



St Annes, Easter Eve 2016



Our annual pilgrimage to Walsingham normally takes place in September (cancelled in 2020) with between 25 and 35 pilgrims. This includes friends from across the Fylde and further afield, but the pilgrimage is organised and led by St Annes.



Walsingham Shrine Church 2019



Parish Rooms

The Parish Rooms are located directly across from the Church on Headroomgate Road. The detached building dating from 1911 is constructed of Accrington brick. It comprises of a large upstairs hall, and a kitchen. Downstairs there are two more large meeting rooms, another smaller kitchen, and toilets. A lift was installed in 2012.



At the rear of the building is the door leading to our Parish Office, which is fully equipped.

The Rooms are used by Church organisations and by a variety of outside hirers, with all bookings being taken by the Parish Office. There is a meeting room adjacent to the Parish Office, which is used for committee and other meetings.

A lot of maintenance and upgrading has been done within the Parish Rooms in the past decade and they are in fairly good shape for a building of that age. Rental fees generally allow us to balance the books in terms of the Parish Rooms costs.



Vicarage

The vicarage is on Oxford Road, a two-minute walk across the road from the Church. It is a substantial, detached four bedroomed house of 1930s vintage, finished in a white render and in very good condition both inside and out. There is ample off-road parking at the front of the property with a detached garage at the rear and space for a caravan. At the rear of the house is a large garden, mainly given over to lawn, surrounded by flower borders and hedges. The garden is occasionally used for parish garden parties or barbecues.



Inside, the house comprises of an entrance hall leading to the study and a downstairs cloakroom. Beyond the entrance hall is an inner hallway leading to the kitchen equipped with a gas hob and electric oven, a utility room, dining room, lounge and conservatory, which has access to the rear garden. Upstairs there are four bedrooms, one with en-suite facilities, a family bathroom and a stairway leading to a converted loft space. The property has gas central heating and is double glazed.



Our PCC and Support Team

With just over 200 on the Electoral Roll, there is a PCC of up to 15 elected members plus co-opted and ex-officio members, which normally meets at two monthly intervals. The work of the PCC is supported by numerous committees chaired by Church Wardens and others, covering Land and Buildings, Parish Rooms, Social and Fund Raising, Outreach, and Mission and Evangelism, plus, of course, the usual Standing Committee.

The PCC has passed a resolution requiring a male priest under the House of Bishops Declaration on the Ministry of Bishops and Priests and we are under the episcopal care of the Bishop of Burnley.

Our vicar is supported by an enthusiastic and experienced team that includes:

- Church Warden;
- 25 Sidemen and women;
- Lay Reader;
- Choir Master and Organist;
- Head Server;
- 6 authorised Eucharistic Ministers;
- Tower Captain;
- Verger;
- Children's Church Leader;
- Safeguarding Officer.

Further support is provided by an experienced and dedicated Parish Office team staffed every weekday morning on a job share basis between two admin assistants/secretaries, who cover admin for the vicar and others within the Church. They also deal with Parish Rooms bookings, invoicing, enquiries on the telephone, printing and photocopying and dealing with bookings for baptisms, marriages and funerals.



Church School

Our church school just over the road from the church is the Heyhouses Endowed Church of England Primary School. With a three-form entry introduced over the past few years there are now around 630 pupils at the school with the infant department housed in a well-appointed and preserved school building, originally dating from 1880, just opposite the church and the junior department on an adjoining site in a brand-new building dating from 2015. Next to the junior department is a nursery with 50 children.

The clergy lead worship in assemblies once a week, prepare candidates for confirmation, provide R.E. and pastoral support. The children and staff come into church for their own Eucharist services and for special events, such as Harvest, Christmas and Easter. The vicar is on the governing body of the school, but is not currently the Chair of Governors.

In March 2019 the school had a two-day Ofsted inspection with glowing reports on most aspects of the school, almost entirely positive feedback from parents, and an overall grading of Good. <https://files.ofsted.gov.uk/v1/file/50067217>

A separate SIAMS “section 48” inspection into religious aspects of the school’s provision in April 2018 judged the school to be Outstanding. The report comments that clergy from St Anne’s and St Margaret’s are regular visitors. “The school worships in church at festival times. They also experience the Eucharist in church each term. As a result pupils are very familiar with traditional Anglican greetings and responses and they know traditional prayers and graces including the Lord’s Prayer. Pupils sing with great joy, enthusiasm and skill.”

<https://www.bdeducation.org.uk/schools/teacher/siams-inspection-reports/>



Our Year 5 children were asked to consider
the things they can offer the New Vicar
and the things
they would like from the New Vicar.

We are encouraging

We are kind and respectful
and will support you through
your job.

Someone who has
a sense of humor!
Is very lively!
Someone kind,
friendly respectful!

We are brilliant
at singing and
will sing excellent
both in church and
assembly



generous
person

One who
is approachable!

Good singing in Church

We have excellent
singing skills that
we could use in
church

We are creative and can
make decorations for
the Church.



Click the link to see
loads more of our
ideas
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aLuH-Rw7dw>



Choir and Organist



We have a strong musical tradition which is under our Director of Music who is a highly qualified organist and choir director. The emphasis is on full participation by the congregation under the leadership of the choir, in traditional and modern hymns and in congregational settings of the eucharist. The choir also sing a wide variety of communion motets and evensong anthems. As well as directing our church choir, the Director of Music teaches the subject in our church school and also runs several local choirs, who occasionally give concerts in church. Our church choir practise on Thursday evening and sing at the Parish Eucharist and Evensong on Sundays as well as on Solemnities and for occasional concerts. There are about a dozen in the choir, but as with many things the average age is high and we need to keep recruiting at all ages.

We have an excellent three manual pipe organ, refurbished in 1999 and regularly maintained as well as a digital organ in the lady chapel and a grand piano.



Servers



We have had a good tradition of serving over the past twenty-five years or so led by our Head Server with a tradition of dignified ceremonial and service to the clergy. The focus has been very much on inclusion and we are keen to continue to have children involved and to increase their numbers



Bellringers



Our tower has a fine ring of 8 bells and we normally manage to ring all eight bells on a Sunday morning. Practice night is Friday and the bells are rung for service on Sunday morning and for other special services. The bells were originally cast and installed in 1890 and are showing signs of their age. We have therefore launched a project to refurbish them and augment their number to ten in time for the church's 150th anniversary in 2023. We need to raise £120,000.



Children



Children's Church was relaunched in September 2019. Having recognised that most Children's Church attendees were of Pre-School or KS1 age, we decided to devise a new format including a lot of music and song, a Bible story and craft activities. Children are brought over to church from the Parish Rooms by their accompanying parent in time for Communion. The children show off their work to the congregation at the end of the service. Children's Church takes place on the second and fourth Sundays of the month and tend to have 10-20 children per session. In 2019 we had 25 children on the roll.

Nursery Praise takes place on a Tuesday afternoon once a month. It is run by a team of four ladies with support from clergy when available and is attended by children from two local nurseries. As with Children's Church the focus is on singing, craft and Bible stories and getting the children familiar with being in church.

We believe that the school community and other youth organisations in the parish are a largely untapped mission opportunity and that there is scope to turn the tide in this area.



Finance and Stewardship

CHURCH FINANCES		
Finance Returns		
Year	2019	2020
Parish Income	£194,527	£164,796
Tax Efficient Planned Giving	£38,533 (nett, 84 donors)	£36,713 (nett, 89 donors)
Amount per person per week	£8.73	£7.93
Parish Expenditure	£211,094	£151,311
Parish Share Assessed	£67,720	£68,568
Parish Share Paid	In full less assigned fees £6022	In full less LICF £19,190

Note: LICF is Lowest Income Communities Fund, a new support fund from the Church Commissioners and Diocese allocated to parishes in the poorest 20% of the Diocese.

We are pleased to say that our Parish Share has been paid in full for a number of years and despite COVID, it was paid in full for 2020. However, margins in our financial situation have certainly got thinner year on year and in 2019 we operated at a loss. Ironically during 2020, when we were deprived of a substantial amount of money due to closure of the Parish Rooms and reduced collections at services, we actually managed to operate with a surplus due to reduced costs, help from the furlough scheme, the one-off Government Business Support Grant and the new LICF scheme. 2021 will undoubtedly be a difficult year though manageable with care. However, a stewardship campaign must be counted as a priority for the near future.

We pride ourselves on being a giving church and determined more than ten years ago to give 10% of our planned giving to four nominated charities, often local charities with some significance to us and possibly where a representative has been to talk to one of our church groups. Many of our congregation and donors take great pride in this. The amount donated in 2019 was £4,440. In addition £945 was donated to 21 charities as a result of our Christmas Tree Festival.



Our Links into the Community

St Annes Parish Church is the mother church of the town and our Vicar has traditionally had a high profile, perhaps most evidently on Remembrance Sunday because the town Cenotaph is in our parish, but also other involvements, including an occasional article in the Wayside Pulpit section of the local paper. In the past when Town or Borough Mayors have been members of our congregation they have invited our Vicar to be their chaplain.



We try and take a prominent part in the local Carnival in July (cancelled in 2020 and 2021) either by walking with our banners or, as in 2019, offering refreshing soft drinks at the church gates as well as the Vicar's blessing to the procession, all accompanied to the sound of our bells. We have also in recent years put on Praise-on-the Prom hymn singing at the seafront bandstand on a Sunday afternoon during July.



Within the parish there are two Roman Catholic, two Methodist, and one URC church plus a synagogue and Islamic Centre. There is also an active ecumenical Ministers' Fraternal in the town which meets regularly and we have two representatives on Churches Together, which organises events, including a joint service during the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity (hosted at SAPC in Jan 2019) and the Pentecost Walk of Witness. We also hosted the World Day of Prayer organised by the MU in early March 2020.

Outreach enterprises in our Parish Rooms include a Baby and Toddlers Playgroup on a Wednesday afternoon and a Pilgrims Coffee Stop (coffee and chat) meeting on a Monday morning. We also operate pastoral groups including Baptism Welcomers and Bereavement Visitors.



Our Charity Christmas Tree Festival held during December is very popular in the town and gets many visitors, who would rarely set foot in church otherwise. Some 30 charities are supported and our Memorial Tree where people can put up a star for a loved one is very popular (and was well supported in December 2020 despite other features of the Tree Festival being cancelled).

We also support initiatives for Christmas presents for underprivileged children. In 2020 this was a scheme run by the Salvation Army, for which we supplied over 100 presents. Our Harvest distribution is a major undertaking in early October, when we distribute items of fruit and foodstuffs to the sick and housebound known to us with flowers and pot plants for the bereaved. More durable items are given to the foodbank. In fact, we support our parish school all year round by contributions of food stuffs for the benefit of school families in need.



Further Information

Further information may be found on our website, which includes an extensive gallery of pictures and a video introducing our church life.

<http://stannesparishchurch.org/>

Also our Facebook page, which includes videos of services during the pandemic

<https://www.facebook.com/StAnnesOnSeaParishChurch>

Our very comprehensive 50-page Annual Report (including accounts) may be found on the Charity Commission website under our Charity number 1155188

<https://register-of-charities.charitycommission.gov.uk/charity-search/-/charity-details/5040689>

Further information about the church school may be found on their website

<https://www.heyhouses.lancs.sch.uk/>





A Message from the Bishop of Blackburn

Thank you for taking time to read this profile. I hope that the information it contains, combined with the guidance of prayer, helps you to come to a view on whether or not to explore this Parish further.

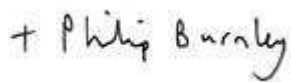
St Anne's Parish Church, St Anne's is a healthy church which serves a mixed community. Whilst statistically the most deprived in the Kirkham Deanery, the parish also has pockets of significant wealth and a congregation which reflects the community it serves. The spiritual tradition is Catholic but also confidently Anglican with Eucharistic worship that has depth and integrity but has little time for needless fuss. The musical and choral life of the Parish is both a delight and an area where there can be fruitful development.

The three form entry church school is a huge blessing to the Parish and it is essential that the new Vicar commits time and energy to the school, its staff and families. There are many able and experienced laypeople and an incumbent will need to bring some strength of character in order to unite the congregation around a vision for the future. The size and energy of the Parish makes it a key place for Catholic life within the Diocese with rich potential for growth.

You will also be coming to a Diocese which is passionate about the importance of parochial ministry in reaching out to the nation with the Good News of the Gospel. Blackburn Diocese rejects the decline narratives that have taken hold of so much of Western Christianity and we seek parish priests who know that the Gospel changes lives and who long to see churches grow.

Blackburn has a strong and genuine commitment to mutual flourishing and it is a place where priests of the Catholic tradition can focus on ministry and play a full part in the Deanery and Diocese. There are good and supportive relationships between clergy of our tradition and we gather together on a number of occasions through the year. At the same time the Diocese is characterised by strong and genuine friendships across traditions for the mutual support of all.

The people of St Anne's are surrounding this whole appointment process with prayer, and please be assured of our prayers for you and for all who are discerning if this might be where God is calling them. Please do get in touch with me direct if you feel that a conversation would help you to explore God's call.



The Bishop of Burnley

The Rt Revd Philip North





A Message from the Bishop of Blackburn

Dear potential applicant,

In the Diocese of Blackburn we profoundly believe in the difference that the Gospel makes to peoples' lives and so have a deep commitment to building healthy churches which can transform the communities in which they are set. We are looking for clergy of all backgrounds and traditions who share our passion for making a difference in the name of Jesus Christ.

Vision 2026' is a bold and ambitious strategy which presumes that growth is what God wills for his church and which seeks to deliver growth through making disciples, being witnesses, 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 Bishop of Blackburn
The Rt Revd Julian T Henderson



Blackburn 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:

<https://www.blackburn.anglican.org/>

Carolyn Barton, Diocesan Vision Coordinator



Clergy in the Diocese are Well Looked After

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

