

# **St John the Divine, Holme in Cliviger**



**Address**  
**Church of St John the Divine**  
**Holme in Cliviger**  
**Burnley**  
**BB10 4SU**

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## 1. Introduction

Dear Sister or Brother,

The Diocese of Blackburn is passionate about the renewal of Parish life. Vision 2026 sets before the churches of Lancashire a profound belief in the power of the Gospel to transform lives and communities and expresses a firm commitment to maintaining clergy numbers and investing in the mission of the local church. We therefore seek clergy with a personal faith fiery enough to make new disciples for Christ, with a sincere commitment to the Parish as the heart of the church's mission and with the resilience and courage to bring growth and renewal to local churches. We don't want superheroes. Rather we are seeking authentic, prayerful priests of all traditions who share our passion for confident proclamation and generous service.

Lancashire is a wonderful place to minister, without doubt the most diverse and beautiful county in England. We can therefore offer an extraordinary range of contexts for ministry: from areas of great opulence to the most income deprived communities in the UK, from remote countryside to densely populated former industrial communities and from brightly lit coastal towns to elegant university cities.

We have the most wonderful and precious family of church schools (95% of our headteachers are practising Christians) which offers both an evangelistic opportunity and the best possible start for clergy children.

People in Lancashire have high expectations of their priests who play a key role in the communities they serve. Ministry can therefore be hard work and so this is a Diocese which will offer all the support it can to its parish clergy. Bishops, Archdeacons and Area Deans do their best to know their clergy well, we offer supportive programmes such as our new five year Start of Ministry Course and the Parish Renewal Programme and there are close friendships and strong networks between clergy of all traditions.

We really hope you enjoy reading this profile and that it provides all the information you need. If this particular post does not feel quite right, please do get in touch about other parishes in the Diocese that are vacant.

Most importantly of all, please be assured of our prayers as you discern the will of God for the next stage in your ministry.



*The Bishop of Blackburn  
The Rt Revd Philip North*



*The Bishop of Lancaster  
The Rt Revd Dr Jill Duff*

## 2. Diocesan Vision

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

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



people is enabling creative thinking to raise up a new generation for Jesus Christ.

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

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,  
 to grow leaders and to inspire children and young people.  
 Give us eyes to see Your vision, ears to hear the prompting of Your Spirit  
 and courage to follow in the footsteps of your Son, our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen”***

You can find out more by visiting the Vision 2026 pages on our website:

[www.blackburn.anglican.org](http://www.blackburn.anglican.org)

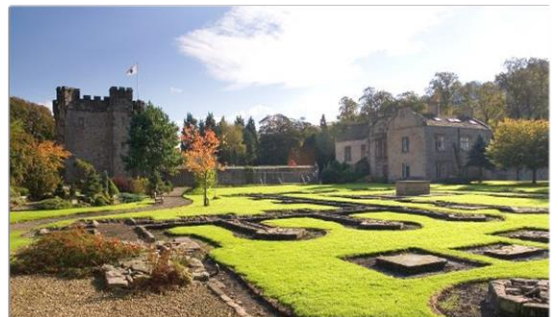
Carolyn Barton  
 Director of Vision Delivery and Deputy  
 Diocesan Secretary



### 3. We Look After You

#### *If you come to Blackburn Diocese we will look after you...*

- We have a great property department, who will do their best to ensure your house works for you and your family and is well maintained.
- All clergy are entitled to an uninterrupted rest period of 24 hours in each period of seven days and one additional rest period of 24 hours in each month, and in the remaining weeks of the month to take a rest day and a light day.
- 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).
- We offer a Clergy Assistance Programme to all our Stipendiary and Self Supporting Clergy, more information about this can be found on our [website](#)
- 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 offer an Annual Conversation in which every licensed priest spends 90 mins with a Bishop or Archdeacon discussing ministry and wellbeing.
- If you are looking for a spiritual director or a mentor we have an excellent Warden of Spiritual Direction and 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, a cricket team and a clergy walking group. Further suggestions are welcome.
- We offer first incumbents a mentor and participation in our 5 year Start of Ministry Programme.



*Whalley Abbey Centre for Christian Discipleship and Prayer*



*Bishop Philip leads a clergy walk*

## 4. Executive Summary

This is a House for Duty post, and the expectation is the post holder will work two days a week plus Sundays. Currently there is no vicarage in the parish, but a vicarage will be purchased for the new incumbent if required or a housing allowance will be payable.

The church of St. John the Divine is located in the tranquil village of Holme Chapel in the parish of Cliviger, which lies on the outskirts of Burnley in East Lancashire. Surrounded by beautiful countryside and with breathtaking views, the church is a grade II Georgian building with a Victorian extension. It retains many of its original and most interesting features.

There are an active number of volunteers who help in church both in maintenance and assisting in services.

We have a good relationship with St John C of E Primary school which is a church aided school with around 200 pupils which was rated good at the last Ofsted and has seven foundation governors.

## 5. The Parish and Wider Community

The village of Cliviger is situated on the eastern fringes of the Blackburn Diocese and the administration county of Lancashire. It is known for being a beautiful part of the country and is a very historic area.

Due to its semi-rural location there are numerous opportunities for outdoor pursuits, for example horse riding, walking and cycling (both on and off road).

The parish of Cliviger is situated on the edge of the town of Burnley, once renowned as the Cotton centre of the country because of the many cotton weaving mills situated here. The town has gradually established a reputation for excellence in other fields. It is home to a number of employers in the aerospace and digital industries. Burnley is recognised as a most enterprising area in the UK and continues to develop and expand. The town has recently benefitted from the Government's Levelling Up Fund, with financial input from the Football Club at Turf Moor as well.

There are shopping areas in the town centre which are still being developed and expanded. There are cinemas, and local Amateur Dramatic Societies. There are also a large selection of restaurants and bars.

The town is ideally located for the motorway network and many of the most scenic parts of the country. The Lake District, the Yorkshire Dales and the Peak District are all around an hours drive away. In Burnley itself there are historical attractions such as Towneley Hall and Gawthorpe Hall, the Weavers Triangle. A collection of 19<sup>th</sup> century industrial buildings of national significance are currently undergoing restoration and redevelopment. The University of Central Lancashire has a Campus and student accommodation in Burnley. There are numerous parks and open spaces within the town.

## 6. Parish Demographics

<b>Population</b>	
2233	
<b>Age spread</b>	
0-9	134
10-19	184
20-59	945
60+	970
<b>Ethnic Mix</b>	
British	99.3
Minority Ethnic	0.7
<b>Other Faith Mix</b>	
Christian	73.2
Muslim	0.4
Other Religions	0.5
No Religion	25.8
<b>Major Employer(s)</b>	
Farms. Pubs, Burnley General Hospital	
<b>Deprivation Index</b>	
least deprived	7760
<b>Housing Mix</b>	
Owner occupied	86.4%
Social rented housing	13 %

## 7. The Church Community

We have a small and welcoming team that make the church a warm and friendly heart of the community, headed by the churchwarden, secretary, treasurer, two Synod Representatives and 9 other PCC members, one of whom is also in our small and dedicated church choir.

Our choir is accompanied by an experienced and talented organist who provides an excellent standard of music.

## Who We Are



Churchwarden:  
Julie Cambridge



Secretary:  
Janet Fedden



Treasurer:  
Joan Lamb



Safeguarding Officer:  
Jenny Jackson



Members of our current PCC

Tea, coffee, and biscuits are served each Sunday morning after the service by members of the congregation, which gives everyone a much-enjoyed opportunity to chat and build friendships.

Our churchmanship is best described as Traditional Anglican and the priest generally wears liturgical vestments reflecting the time of the church year.



## 8. Parish Statistics

CHURCH NAME – St. John the Divine		
<b>Patron</b>		
Enter Name of Patron(s) Ms HG Wells		
Ms DC Wells		
<b>Electoral Roll</b>		
Year	2023	
Number	77	
<b>Age Profile of the Church</b>		
0-17	4	
18-69	19	
70+	20	
<b>Occasional Offices, Celebrations etc.</b>		
Baptisms	7	
Weddings	4	
Confirmation	Adult candidates	1
	Under 16 candidates	1
Funerals	in church	10
	at Crematorium	
Normal weekly attendance	adult	18
	under 16	0
<b>Festivals</b>		
Easter 2023	Communicants	20
	Attendance	26
Christmas 2023	Communicants	17
	Attendance	23

## 9. Our services

Our Sunday service is Eucharistic and takes place at 9:30am each week.

Each Wednesday we hold a Midweek Eucharist at 7pm in Church and if the weather is bad, we have the service in Church House.

The school generally has services in the church on the major festivals - Harvest, Christmas, Easter and usually the Year 6 Leavers service. These are attended by the full school and parents and grandparents.

We have a Harvest service usually to coincide with the school, and another well attended service is Remembrance Sunday when we remember those lost in the wars.

Baptisms, weddings and funerals take place by arrangement.

### Children's Ministry

We recognize children are an important part of our church family and would welcome someone who would support and enhance our existing Children's Ministry.

We provide a dedicated 'Children's Church' once a month with an average attendance of 7,

A 'Fun Church' once a month with an average attendance of 13 and we are developing our 'Youth Church' which will also be once a month. These all take place on a Thursday.

Last year we had an Easter Family Fun Day where 36 families attended, and more recently 'Jesus' birthday party where 14 children attended, and our Christingle service attracted 32 adults and children.



ALM: Amanda Cattell



Christingle Service

## 10. The Church Buildings



- The church is in good repair, with major roof works having been carried out, and the rebuilding of the bell tower and re-hanging of the historic bell completing these works. Our ancient clock has recently been mechanised thanks to a grant from Scottish Power, whose windmills are set at the moorland wind farm close by.
- Renovations and repairs to the church, have resulted in upgraded toilet and kitchen facilities, with disabled access, wheelchair provision and baby changing facilities. The organ loft has been converted into a community room.
- There is a Church Hall (Church House) which stands next to the church within the parameters of the school playground. This is used by all church organisations, including the Guides and Brownies groups. Regular fund raising activities take place here and PCC meetings. Occasionally it is used for Church Services. The school has sole use of the building and surrounding land each day from 8 a.m. until 4.30 p.m. during term-time. Should they wish to use it outside these hours e.g. for Parents' Evenings and Concerts etc. it is by arrangement with the PCC. There is an agreement with the Blackburn Diocese Board of Education, that as the school has this facility, repairs and maintenance are taken care of by them.

There is currently no vicarage in the benefice but the new incumbent will have the choice of having a house provided or a housing allowance of £7,000.00 p.a.

## 11. The Church Finances

Finance Returns	
Year	2023
Parish Income	£34,153.03
Tax Efficient Planned Giving	£9,533.14
Amount per person per week	£6
Parish Expenditure	£31,151.66
Parish Share Assessed	£26,698 **
Parish Share Paid	£12,000

\*\*This has been recalculated to £13,887. The PCC have agreed to pay another £1,887 to pay this in full. The figure for 2024 is £13,888 and this will be paid in full.

The Church is just about coping with the Finances. We have managed to pay £1,000 each month towards our Parish Share. Our congregation began to decline after the Covid Lockdown. A number of people did return to services but then we lost our Vicar. This, and the splitting of the United Benefice with Worsthorne, has made people feel very uneasy with regard to the future of the church. Having said that, 2023 saw us host quite a large number of funerals and Weddings, which boosted our income, but not the congregation.

Even though there are absentees from the services, some people continue to give regularly either through the Parish Giving Scheme or by sending a cheque regularly to the Treasurer. We hold fundraising events regularly. We have an annual Christmas Fair, which brings in £1500, (used to be over £2,000) a monthly Lunch Club which raises around £25 each month and a monthly Lottery Draw, £152 each month. We have the facilities to hold more fundraising activities, but we do not have the people to organise them. The average age of the present congregation is over 70. Another reasons why we have not had a Stewardship Campaign for a very long time and there are no plans to hold one.

We have no large expenditure planned. Over the past two years, the organ loft has been turned into a large room intended for Sunday School, or other organisational events. Over £10,000 has been spent already, and we still have money left in the fund to complete the project. This was done through a Grant Scheme with Scottish Power through the Parish Council. Fortunately the church is in good condition due to a large amount of money being spent on the roof and bringing minor works up to date.

We have had quite a number of visiting clergy over the last two years, some of whom have been clergy who are in post and have declined to receive expenses, but these have always been offered. Other clergy have claimed and been paid. Whilst in the United Benefice with Worsthorne, we shared all Vicar expenses with Worsthorne PCC.

## 12. Our School



This is our new worship bench which the children designed and created.

St. John's Cliviger is firmly embedded in our scripture, 'Love one another as Jesus loved us'. John 13 V34-35

Our school family through its Christian values will lead by example as Jesus did. We respect the individuality of everyone, nurture their potential and reward their success. Our love and passion for the children in our care, is at the heart of everything we do, enabling all to flourish.

We are very proud of how this scripture supports us in all we do here at St John's Cliviger and are always pleased when visitors comment on it:

*'Pupils enjoy being part of this close-knit, family-oriented and nurturing school. All pupils receive a warm welcome.'* Ofsted Jan 2023.

Our children worship everyday at school. This is a mixture of whole school and in class. All teachers lead worship, and we ensure there is time in the school day to reflect upon our spirituality in our Worship Journey Books and to pray (lunchtimes and home times). We use our Prayer Tree which is outside to reflect the church seasons and develop our understanding.

This is our Worship Club who recently led the whole school in our Christingle service.



They would like our new vicar to be: -

- Funny with jokes in every service.
- Easy to ask for help.
- Friendly and smiley towards each other.
- Share fun, likes and dislikes with us.
- Come and see us in class and do fun activities with us.
- Wants to know and find out about us.
- Respectful towards all our families and their backgrounds.
- Enjoys the job and is happy.

Our children enjoy attending church and we hope for this to develop once we have a new vicar in post. Our school family would welcome a vicar who worshipped with us, in school and in church, on a weekly basis. RE is taught throughout school and we ensure the children have 2 hours in KS2 and 1.5 hours in KS1/EYFS each week. We would welcome support in delivering our RE as the planning suggests inviting the vicar in when discussing key areas of Christianity. Our children are curious and would welcome 'hot seating' our vicar to develop their faith.

Our vicar would also be a member of the Governing Body. Our school's PTA is called the CHSA (Church Home School Association) and the CHSA would welcome the vicar to become part of the hub of the school which raises money to support the additional opportunities for our children in school.

## 13. Our Links Into the Wider Community

Within the parish of Cliviger there are three thriving public houses and eating establishments, a village hall that has a varied programme of activities and is also available for hire for private functions. The annual Cliviger Flower Show is hosted there. There are a number of small businesses, including a petrol station and convenience store, car repair and MOT garage, a hairdressers and beauticians.

We maintain good relationships with our neighbouring Independent Methodist Church, Mount Zion in Cliviger and occasionally have joint services.

Lunch club meets once a month in a local hostelry which supports fundraising and local events.

## 14. Our Vision

We are looking for a priest who will;

- Continue to welcome our congregation.
- Seek to develop and grow the congregation in line with the Diocesan Vision 2026.
- Work with lay and ordained colleagues on the joint Ministry team to develop worship, mission and ministry across the area.
- Continue the strengths of existing patterns of worship.

## 15. What We Offer

Julie Cambridge and Amanda Cattell have taken various modules with the Authorised Lay Ministry (ALM) to help assist with the running of church.

Amanda – M-Power – converted to Mission, Outreach & Evangelism, Leading Worship.

Julie – Administration, Later Life Ministry, Pastoral Care, Leading Worship, and building on the Later Life Ministry to become an Anna Chaplain which is newly introduced to Blackburn Diocese.

We have a rota of readers for the readings on Sunday mornings and Julie assists with chalice at communion and Amanda takes out and administers home communion to eight people who are no longer able to make it to church.

We have volunteers who clean the church and a separate team who manage our building and graveyard, ensuring both are kept in good condition.

We are currently being helped on a Sunday morning by a retired priest who is a Canon from the Manchester Diocese, Canon Neil Barnes, and he has helped us out during our times of need in vacancy. The mid-week services are generally taken by PTO Rev Stephen Large or Rev Paul Benfield.

## 16. Who is God calling?

We pray that our new vicar will be a person of spirituality and resilience, full of energy and enthusiasm.

We need someone to lead us in fulfilling our Vision 2026 goals:

- To bring us closer to God
- To take the church into the community
- To develop our ministry with children and young people



Our congregation have asked for someone who:

“is warm and welcoming, and able to foster positive working relationships”

“will encourage the community to be more involved in church life”

“is good at listening”

“is friendly”

“is able to identify gifts and talents in lay people”

and

“has a sense of humour—this is **vital**”!

The pandemic has had its effect on the Church. Although many have returned to services, we need someone who can bring a new vitality to the church, someone who can inspire those who have so far stayed away to return, especially our young people.

After two successive short incumbencies, we need to rebuild stability and confidence within the worshipping community and beyond.

There is a strong base upon which to build, with groups of dedicated volunteers who readily give their time and skills to the church. Worship is strongly traditional Anglican and the ethos is one of welcome to all who wish to come.

- We value the tradition of the Church, and this is reflected in our services. However, looking to the future, whilst keeping our tradition, we need someone who will guide us into new ways of worship.
- We have learned from the pandemic that we need to find new ways to engage with our Community. We are praying for someone who can inspire our very capable, faithful and willing members who seek to go further into the community to encourage people into the church, so that we are able to show them all we have to offer.
- To identify, grow and develop the spiritual gifts and practical skills of all church members and to be more active in their discipleship and service and to build financial sustainability.