

Parish Profile
**St Peter and St David,
Fleetwood**
2023



**St Peters Church,
Lord Street,
FY7 6DX**



**St David's Church,
Fleetwood Road,
FY7 8AU**

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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 Burnley
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



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

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



*Carolyn Barton
Director of Vision Delivery*

3. We Look After You

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

- We have a great property department, who will do their best to ensure your house works for you and your family and is well maintained.
- We encourage all clergy to take their full annual leave entitlement, and also to use creatively the overtime we all put in to take an extra day off once each month, to enable you to have a midweek 'weekend' away.
- We have a beautiful diocesan retreat house in the grounds of a ruined Cistercian abbey, where clergy are welcome to have personal reading days without charge (bring your own lunch).
- 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. The Parish and Wider Community

Fleetwood, on a peninsula in Morecambe Bay, was a completely new town in 1839. It was the dream of Sir Peter Hesketh Fleetwood, who spent his entire fortune bringing a railway link to the new town, as well as laying out and constructing the town bearing his name. Over the years, Fleetwood and its population grew and spread out further from the older, central part of town.

5. Parish Demographics

Population	
26,232 (2021 Census)	
Age spread	
0-14	4,540
16-64	15,706
65+	5,986
Ethnic Mix	
White	96.9%
Other	3.1%
Other Faith Mix	
Christian	52.6%
Muslim	0.7%
Education background of population	
have no qualification	25.9%
degree level or above	20.1%
Employment	
Lower managerial, administrative and professional occupations	15%
Routine/Semi Routine Occupations	31.4%
small employers/own account workers	9.9%
Long term unemployed	12.9%
Major Employer(s)	
Lofthouse of Fleetwood	
Deprivation Index	
least deprived	412
Housing Mix	
Owner occupied (includes mortgage)	59%
Social rented housing	17.3%
Private rent or Rent Free	23.7%

6. The Church Community

Whilst the two church buildings are at opposite ends of the town, they are both close to transport links and both have car parking facilities. The Parish is blessed with some very capable, committed members of the congregation who fulfil the following essential roles:

Secretary, Treasurer, Fabrics Officer, Parish Worker, Eucharistic Ministers, Healing Minister(Laying on of hands), Lesson Readers, Writers/Leaders of Intercessions, Musical Director, Meeters and Greeters, Gardening and Maintenance Team.

As a Parish we have a thriving Mens Fellowship, and Mothers Union, and we host a local Walsingham Cell whose members make an annual Pilgrimage to the Shrine. The Parish holds regular fund raising events such as Coffee Mornings and Fairs, and is involved in a number of outreach events, for example, a weekly lunch for 30 people served by local school children, a hot meal one evening per week which provides fellowship to those who are lonely and vulnerable, one morning per week a group of long-term unemployed and vulnerable people meet to learn DIY and socialising skills. This last group assists in the maintenance of the Church Grounds. We are represented at Fleetwood Churches together, meeting with all denominations to discuss and plan seasonal religious celebrations in the town. A number of the congregation are greatly involved with Community organisations and activities in the town, for example The Pantry (a foodbank).

Whilst Fleetwood is in a deprived area of the country, the town has many attractions and amenities that offer varied and interesting activities for all ages. We have a lovely promenade with stunning views, a leisure centre, bowling greens, a theatre, beach huts, beautiful gardens and cafes, a museum, a professional football club, rugby club, cricket club, golf club, a boating lake, pitch & putt course, and the market and Affinity outlet, which are popular with residents and visitors alike.

7. Parish Statistics

St Peter and St David, Fleetwood	
Patron	
Society for the maintenance of Faith	
Electoral Roll	
Year	2022
Number	119 (80 resident, 39 non-resident)
Age Profile of the Church	
0-17	10
18-69	46
70+	58

Occasional Offices, Celebrations etc.		
Baptisms	12	
Weddings	3	
Confirmation	Adult candidates	0
	Under 16 candidates	0
Funerals	in church	21
	at Crematorium	10
Normal weekly attendance	adult	86
	under 16	1
Festivals		
Easter	Communicants	99
	Attendance	120
Christmas	Communicants	120
	Attendance	140

8. Our Services

Regular services are held in both churches

St. Peter's

Sunday 8am Said Mass
 11am Morning Worship, broadcast

Tuesday 7.30pm Said Mass

Wednesday 10.30am Said Mass

St David's

Sunday 9.30am Morning worship, PowerPoint

Thursday 9.30am Said mass

9. The Church Buildings



St. Peter's, is a Victorian Grade 2 listed building which has undergone a number of changes and redevelopment over the years. It is in the older, more densely populated, commercial part of the town, on the main thoroughfare, from which there are regular transport links to other towns. The grounds and graveyard are well maintained thanks to a group of able and willing volunteers.

St. David's, was originally built in 1957, serving residents on the edge of the spreading town boundaries. In 2017, the Church was demolished. The Church Hall was extended and modernised, and the new Church Centre was opened and licensed in 2018. It is an excellent community-based centre which is regularly utilised and rented by a number of organisations. This has proved a very welcome source of income for the Parish.



The Vicarage

The Parish Vicarage is a four bedroom detached house dating from the early twentieth century which is located near to St Peters church, the Promenade and the centre of Fleetwood. The property has gardens to the front and rear, a conservatory and a separate single storey extension to the rear. The extension comprises of an entrance area, toilet and study. The fourth bedroom is located in the roof space and was added after purchase allowing formation of an ensuite on first floor

There is a detached garage at bottom of garden which can be accessed from a rear access road.



10. The Church Finances

Please feel free to ask for a copy of the latest parish accounts.

11. Our Vision

We really need someone who can provide clear yet collaborative leadership, someone who can organise and lead but who can readily recognise and utilise the strengths and experience within our congregations in order to build a strong team, in effect growing leaders and disciples.

We need someone who can nurture the faithful, regular members of our congregations, and who will encourage them in their faith and engage their support and full participation in services and further activities.

We are looking for a priest who ;

- Is up for a challenge, is keen and willing to explore ways of encouraging and welcoming young people, and families into our services, by input into local schools, and by varying and adapting services to be appropriate to the age and needs of the congregation. Whilst Eucharistically-centred in our spirituality we remain open to fresh insights into other styles of worship.
- is community driven, who will be a visible leader, well received, approachable, a good listener, who will be ecumenical and keen to work with other churches and faiths in the community in order to extend outreach in a deprived area.
- can interact, liaise and communicate clearly and effectively with the vulnerable and disadvantaged which are prevalent in the town and surrounding area.
- will bring healing and fresh vision to the Parish after a challenging vacancy.
- who will bring fresh ideas to enhance the outreach initiatives already ongoing in the parish, as well as concentrating on the faithful members of our congregations and their wellbeing and spiritual guidance.
- who can enthuse and inspire us, who is caring and passionate about our parish, and who has ideas about how we can reach out with lots of fresh, new ideas to go forward, onward and upward into the future.

12. Who is God calling?

We look for the best person for this Parish, someone who can teach us, pray with us, and bring God's word to us and the town.