

ST. PETERS, LANESIDE



**Parish Profile
February, 2025**

**St.Peters Avenue,
Haslingden,
Rossendale,
Lancashire
BB4 6SX**

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1. Introduction

Thank you for showing an interest in a post in the Diocese of Blackburn.

Our Diocese 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.

What's more, you would be coming to the Diocese at a fascinating time as we look towards our centenary in 2026. We are in the midst of a major process of listening to God and listening to our County as we discern where God is calling us next, a process that will result in a new strategic vision that will last until 2033, the 2000th anniversary of the Resurrection.

We have also recently been successful in obtaining a grant of £25.5m from the Diocesan Investment Programme run by the national church. This will enable us to:

- Offer a transformed pattern of ongoing training and support to clergy, including sabbatical leave as an expectation for all rather than a treat for the few
- Deploy 30 'Ignite' youth and children's workers to parishes around the Diocese
- Invest in urban areas through expanding the M:Power course for urban leaders, employing 18 Urban Pioneers and re-imagining Christian life in areas of particular challenge.
- Expand our Diocesan Renewal Programme which has led to an average of 6% growth in RWA in participating parishes.

We are a Diocese that is united in defying the declinist mindset that has taken hold of so much of Western European Christianity. Through a firm belief in the power of Jesus Christ to change lives combined with strong pastoral ministry and imaginative developments such as new local congregations, we are seeing growth in churches of all traditions. Strong relationships with our amazing family of 191 schools (95% of whom benefit from practising Christian Headteachers) provide another springboard for mission.

As a Diocese we do all we can to love and treasure our clergy. Our programme of Annual Conversations means that every licensed priest has a 90 minute conversation with a Bishop or an Archdeacon every year about their vocation, wellbeing and spiritual life. We have appointed an Assistant Archdeacon to advise on clergy wellbeing and we work hard to create networks that enable clergy to belong and find mutual support.

Those in their first incumbency are offered especially focused support. This includes participation in a two year Start of Ministry course, advice and care from a mentor and the oversight of our two outstanding Start of Ministry officers.

Lancashire has been described as 'England in miniature' and we can offer a vast diversity of parishes. We serve the most deprived communities in the United Kingdom on the Fylde coast and in East Lancashire as well as remote countryside. We are not immune from the particular challenges to ministry provided by an increasingly secular culture and a divided Church. But what brings us together is a profound and shared love of Jesus Christ and a passionate desire that all should know him, and in knowing him find life.

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*



*The Bishop of Burnley
The Rt Revd Dr Joe Kennedy*

2. Vision 2026 and Beyond

Vision 2026 is an agenda for growth 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. For example:

- To make disciples we have 'Fruitful', our Diocesan Discipleship app and distribute 10,000 devotionals at Lent and Advent which enable people to study the scriptures. We also encourage greater generosity in the 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 human need.
- New leaders are emerging as we seek to enable and equip those God is raising up for lay and ordained ministry. Our M:Power course is a nationally innovative resource for forming leaders from working class backgrounds.
- Our focus on children and young people is enabling creative thinking to raise up a new generation for Jesus Christ. This is supported by our family of church schools, teams to support children and youth work and our Youth Forum.

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.

As we look to 2026 and the completion of the current Vision, the Diocese has embarked on a major programme of listening to God and our communities as we discern when he is leading us next. This is being supported in prayer as we observe a Year of Prayer for Growth and Renewal in 2025.

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

3. Clergy Care and Wellbeing

- Clergy are invited to participate in an 8 year annual programme to keep ministry fresh and vital. This includes periods of sabbatical and regular retreats.
- We offer an Annual Conversation in which every licensed priest spends 90 mins with a Bishop or Archdeacon discussing ministry and wellbeing.
- Ongoing theological training and teaching is offered through our partnership with Emmanuel Theological College. Clergy receive free access to a theological library of 22,000 books and regular seminars.
- Annual Diocesan Clergy Study Days and an occasional clergy conference seek to provide opportunities both to keep ministry fresh and to build relationships with colleagues.
- We offer first incumbents a mentor and participation in our Start of Ministry Programme.
- 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 offer a Clergy Assistance Programme. More information about this can be found on our [website](#)
- 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 have a beautiful diocesan retreat house in the grounds of a ruined Cistercian abbey, where clergy are welcome to have personal reading days for a modest charge (you can book in for lunch or bring your own).
- 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.
- If you are looking for a spiritual director or a mentor we have an excellent Warden of Spiritual Direction and 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 free counselling to clergy and their families through the [Inter Diocesan Counselling Service](#) and our own Diocesan counsellor.
- Clergy Wellbeing is overseen by the Assistant Archdeacon for Clergy Wellbeing, Canon Neil Kelley. In addition our Dean of Women's Ministry, the Revd Lucie Lunn, offers support and care to female clergy in the Diocese.



Whalley Abbey Centre for Christian Discipleship and Prayer

4. Executive Summary

We are looking for a new part time incumbent for St Peter's Church, Laneside, Haslingden, situated in an attractive semi-rural setting on the edge of the West Pennine moors.

We are looking for someone who will grow the congregation at St Peter's and work collaboratively with our two neighbouring churches in the town to strengthen and advance God's presence in this place. We want someone who can offer vision in worship and ministry, and model deep pastoral care. We seek a priest who will inspire and support us to join in God's mission of love and hope.

The new incumbent will receive support and encouragement from two church wardens, a committed PCC an ALM and a congregation of willing volunteers who perform various roles within the church. Accommodation will be provided within the parish.

We are looking for an incumbent with the following qualities:

- A person of deep faith in Christ, as well as gifts of vision, pastoral care, and prayerfulness..
- Active in encouraging young people and their families, as well as our local uniformed organisations, and willing to help them take a fuller part in the life of the church.
- Confident in working ecumenically and with local community organisations in the life of the town and across the borough.
- Supportive and encouraging of both mature and new disciples to help us grow deeper in our faith.

We welcome applications from all candidates, noting that the post might work well for a priest who seeks to balance an additional time commitment to other projects, or to family or carer responsibilities.

5. The Parish and Wider Community

St. Peter's has a congregation from diverse backgrounds (which sadly, is now an aging congregation) who have found a comfortable and secure spiritual home at our Church. We have been an established church here in Haslingden since the 19th century. The town is served by three Anglican churches – St Peter's, St James' and St Thomas', and one Roman Catholic church. All four churches are within in a one mile radius of each other with St Peter's being located at the centre of the four. In addition, the Methodist and Baptist faiths have a presence in the town although they no longer worship in a church building. There is also a mosque in the town. St Peter's has always had good ecumenical links with our neighbouring churches and faiths in the town and across the borough of Rossendale.

The Parish has several private nurseries, two Primary schools (including one Roman Catholic school) and a

large Comprehensive school just on the edge of the Parish. There are also a number of nursing homes in the Parish and a Veterans in the Community (VIC) Centre.

6. The Church Community

Whilst our church appears a standard 19th century place of worship on the outside, we are fortunate that inside we have a very large, open and flexible space. The church has a short tower with a bell which is rung at services.

St Peter's has one non stipendiary priest, one ALM, two church wardens and twelve PCC Members. We also have people who act as servers, sides people, Sunday Funday leaders, collection counters, readers and operate a computer for music on a rota basis.

We use the Revised Common Lectionary for our Eucharist services. Our main service is on Sundays at 10am and is a family Eucharist using the Revised Common Lectionary. We also have a Wednesday morning Eucharist service, a healing service once a month and a well-attended monthly Tuesday afternoon service for those who find mornings a struggle. Seasonal robes are worn by the priest and incense has been used at key services. We feel we are a child friendly church, with a creche area in church for under 3's and a Sunday Funday Club for children aged 3 - 12.



We offer some form of worship/meditation/reflection on each evening of Holy Week together with a veneration of the cross in our church garden at 2pm on Good Friday and a dawn service in the garden on Easter Day followed by a hearty breakfast prior to the Easter Day Eucharist. We also hold a Eucharist service at 11pm on Christmas Eve and on Christmas Day at 10am.

The readings and prayers are read by volunteers from the congregation on a rota basis. Prayers are written by volunteers as well. We also have licenced people who can administer communion.

We have uniformed organisations who meet in our Community Centre which is attached to the Church and have Parade Sundays over the year at special times e.g. Mothering Sunday, Harvest, Remembrance

Sunday. Our church is also open on a Thursday for an hour for Quiet prayer. We offer a warm space once a week with our 'Toast Friday' where anyone can drop in for free hot drinks, toast, company, or a just to find comfort in a quiet space where everyone is welcome.

We do home communions and go into care homes/residential homes to both visit and give communion.

We have recently offered an Alpha course, a Walk through the Bible day event, The Bible study course, and Advent and Lent study courses from Diocese, which were well attended and have encouraged a few people to attend the Sunday Service. In the past we have held bible study in the pub.



We are open to trying different styles of worship and developing our faith through courses or study groups.

7. Statistics for Mission Dashboard

Please see (appendix/appendices) for details of our latest statistical returns for the parish(es)

8. Parish Statistics

CHURCH NAME	
Patron	
Enter Name of Patron(s)	
Electoral Roll	
Year	2024
Number	65
Age Profile of the Church	
0-17	10
18-69	19
70+	22

Occasional Offices, Celebrations etc.		
Baptisms	4	
Weddings	0	
Confirmation	Adult candidates	0
	Under 16 candidates	0
Funerals	in church	6
	at Crematorium	0
Normal weekly attendance	adult	30
	under 16	3
Festivals		
Easter	Communicants	46
	Attendance	
Christmas	Communicants	51
	Attendance	

9. Our Services



Our principal service is a Family Eucharist on a Sunday morning at 10 a.m. with coffee/tea and biscuits after the service. The children's Sunday Funday group is held at the beginning of the service in a room in the Community Centre that adjoins the church. The children come into church at the peace and show the congregation what they have been doing. The Sunday Funday group follows a 'curriculum' that mirrors the Lectionary.

We do a live stream of our Sunday Eucharist via our Facebook page and we currently have around 80 views each week.

The music is played from recorded music and is set up every week for the forthcoming week services by a member of the congregation on a rota basis. Hymn choosing is also done by a small group from the congregation.

We offer morning prayer Wednesday to Friday at 9am, which is being led by laity whilst in vacancy.

The Wednesday Eucharist is held at 9.30 a.m. and there is a Quiet hour for prayer on a Thursday afternoon at 4p.m. We have monthly Tuesday afternoon services for those who struggle to attend the morning services with drinks and cake afterwards. The monthly prayer and healing service is held on a Tuesday evening.

For several years, we have delivered Messy Easter and Messy Christingle events which have been well attended. This year we are developing a different All Age offering for Easter. These events are publicised across the community.



10. The Church Buildings

The Church building



The Church was built in 1893 and there was a major fire in 1988 causing substantial damage to the roof, side aisle and the vestry after which the Church was re-ordered and extended with a link to the community centre. The wooden pews were taken out and there is now a very flexible open space providing a good venue for study courses, concerts and social events including our annual Summer and Christmas Fairs and other fundraising events. The church is used by the Rossendale Ladies Choir for rehearsals each week.

The main worship area can seat approx. 250 with a small side chapel for smaller services or quiet prayer. We have a newly upgraded sound system with a loop for people with hearing aids and we stream our services which can be viewed on our Facebook site.

The church offers access for those with disabilities via a ramp to the church front door and has a stair lift from the church to the community centre. The disabled toilet is in the community centre and we are looking at ways we can convert the church toilet into better access for those in a wheelchair. The church is wheelchair and pram friendly.

We have a planned giving scheme with the facility to pay with weekly envelopes or by standing order. The parish tithes its income and we give 10% each year to charities, supporting 3 overseas charities and 3 home charities, these are decided by the PCC after receiving nominations from the congregation.

There is a beautiful garden at the side of the Church which is well maintained by volunteers and can be used by the wider community. It is a lovely space for contemplation, and it is used for a dawn service on Easter Day. There is also a Garden of Remembrance for the internment of ashes. The grass around the church and community centre is maintained by a paid gardener.



We have recently fitted more cost efficient LED lighting.

The Church Wardens/PCC are committed to try and improve sustainability and reduce carbon footprint in the church building.

The Vicarage

There is a vicarage within walking distance of the church, but the Diocese is currently seeking to purchase a property to replace this.

The Parish Hall

We have a community centre which is attached to the Church building by a link. Historically, the community centre was gifted to the Church and has been well used over many years.



The community centre is now used by various groups such as:- Uniformed organisations, conversational language classes, the local college teaching ESOL, sport groups, flower arranging, birthday parties, the Royal British Legion who practise in the Hall and other community groups.

There is also a children's stay and play group which has helpers from the church congregation and is at present being run by one of the church wardens.

The community centre consists of a very large lounge which can be divided into two, a kitchen, toilets and a large hall with sprung floor and high ceiling.



It has a paid caretaker/cleaner and a volunteer bookings secretary and is overseen by the churchwardens and two other members of the PCC. It is well used.

The centre is in need of refurbishment, especially the roof, where we tend to have water coming in when it is raining hard. The church wardens are actively looking at ways to get funding to achieve this.

11. The Church Finances

The church's finances have been impacted by a declining congregation; and the Community Centre finances were affected by the Covid pandemic and have not recovered from that. However, we continue to meet our commitments. We pay the Parish Share in full each year and give 10% of our giving to charities. We also hold regular stewardship campaigns.

There is a Fundraising group who plan regular events throughout the year. We have had occasional legacies and have received a number of donations of varying amounts. We have recently signed up to Easyfundraising to benefit from our supporters shopping online. We also raise money through the hire of the church and community centre.

There are ongoing repairs. A Quinquennial Inspection in June 2024 identified a number of repairs that will be required over the next few years. An area identified as requiring attention is the church tower, for which improvement works are recommended within 12 months. Some roof repairs are required; and a heating, ventilation and air conditioning review has been recommended. The church and community centre boilers are old, inefficient and expensive to run and we would be looking to replace them with more efficient and environmentally friendly ones. There is also little ventilation in the church and it is recommended that actions to address the issue should be linked to the boiler review.

The church building is sound, and that whilst there are limited funds available to meet the cost of the repairs identified in the quinquennial report, the PCC are looking at opportunities to make improvements through grants/fundraising and are mindful of the need to look at more sustainable solutions. A future consideration for new work is to install an accessible WC and sink in church.

The incumbents expenses will be paid by the PCC

Finance Returns	
Year	2023
Parish Income	£72,928.00
Tax Efficient Planned Giving	£18,534.90
Amount per person per week	£9.67
Parish Expenditure	£87,020.00
Parish Share Assessed	Y
Parish Share Paid	£32,749.00

12. Our Schools

We don't have a church school attached to St. Peter's but we have a local primary school and a special needs school within our community. The previous incumbent had a good relationship with the local primary school and special needs school where he would go into the schools to speak with the children. St Peter's offered Experience Christmas/Experience Easter events led by the incumbent and delivered by volunteers from the congregation in the church, where children and staff were invited to visit. These were very well attended. All the staff and children enjoyed the visit.

13. Our Links Into the Wider Community

Within our community and the wider community, we have 14 care homes and visit 7 of these on a regular basis. Visiting is on a rota basis with our local churches St. James and St. Thomas and involves people from all three congregations working together to visit the homes and do a communion service.

We also have a Veterans in the Community organisation who meet in a building in Haslingden and the past incumbent was involved with them pastorally.

We have links with the two other churches in Haslingden and Helmshore (St. James in Haslingden and St. Thomas in Helmshore) and last year had a joint Messy Church event for Christingle. We have in the past had joint services on the 5th Sunday of the month but sadly this hasn't happened for a number of years. The PCC of St Peter's are keen to encourage joint events and work more closely with the other churches so that we can use the wide/variety of skills/gifts available to show effective witness to God in the wider community.

The previous incumbent also had very good links with the local Imam.

14. Our Vision

We are looking for a priest who will:

- Have strong Leadership and Management skills
- Have positive outlook bringing new ideas but is realistic about working them through
- Be someone who can inspire people and be open to different styles of worship
- Grow the Church congregation in this place and especially with families and children/youth
- Build Bridges and maintain relationships with all the Christian Churches in the town
- Engage with those of other faiths

We are looking for a priest who will:

- nurture and grow faith in the Kingdom of God in our community through leadership, collaboration and example.
- grow the congregation at St Peter's

- build strong relationships with the Priest of our neighbouring churches to drive forward real collaboration, fellowship and partnership working/worship
- provide spiritual advice and counsel, and pastoral care
- instruct parishioners in the Christian faith
- reach out to the community, connecting with a range of people from varied backgrounds
- work with families, young people and local schools
- build on existing links with individuals and community organisations already associated with the church and develop new ones with others whose involvement with the church is limited
- develop our vision and motivate, inspire and effectively coordinate volunteers.
- grow disciples by developing the gifts and talents of God's people and building their confidence
- care and tend to the needs of the congregation and the needs of the community through loving service
- demonstrate a secure, personal Christian faith and confidence in God
- evidence a deep and sincere prayer life
- lead in a confident, tolerant and inclusive manner, drawing on a wide range of spiritual resources

15. What We Offer

We have a congregation that is very willing to contribute to the life of the church but unfortunately as we have an ageing congregation that is becoming increasingly difficult.

Our Mission Statement is:

We pray that, in the name of Jesus, we will build bridges of fellowship and love between one another, the wider community, other Christian denominations, the Diocese and the Church throughout the world.

We can offer a warm welcome and a strong commitment to faith and the work of the Church. We have a willingness to work with/support the new incumbent and are very enthusiastic. We are open to moving forward and embracing new initiatives.

We have a Parish Safeguarding Officer and all members of the PCC have had a DBS check in the last 12 months.

The parish office is in a room in the community centre with a computer, printer, chairs and table.

Haslingden is in the Rossendale Valley and is set on the edge of the West Pennine Moors, being approximately 10 miles from Burnley and approximately 19 miles to Manchester. We have good connections to the motorways which give us easy access to the Lake District and the Manchester and Liverpool airports..

We are surrounded by the rolling hills and a lovely natural environment with many local paths and walks. There are several local parks and outdoor spaces.

Haslingden is a traditional mill town but with the decline of the cotton/wool industry has diversified into a variety of other industries. The valley's industrial heritage is celebrated in two local museums and the East Lancs Steam railway runs to the neighbouring town of Rawtenstall.

It is a friendly and diverse community which has a library, sports centre, ski slope(nearby) doctors and good schools.

There is a local Tesco supermarket and the market towns of Rawtenstall, Bury and Blackburn are nearby.

16. Who is God calling?

- We are looking for a half time priest:
 - With energy, motivation and vision to inspire and lead St.Peter's forward in growth
 - Who cares deeply about people within their care and can reach out to those who need care and support within the wider community
 - Who has a high degree of emotional intelligence and excellent communication skills
 - Who will inspire confidence
 - Who has good relational skills and has experience of working collaboratively
 - Who has a sense of humour and will engage with the church and community on a social basis