

Parish	Parish of Oswaldtwistle
	<i>Immanuel, St. Paul's & All Saints'</i>
Address	The Parish Office New Lane Oswaldtwistle Lancashire BB5 3QN

Contents

1.	Introduction	3
2.	Vision 2026 and Beyond	5
3.	Clergy Care and Wellbeing	6
4.	Executive Summary	7
5.	The Town and Amenities	8
	Transport links	8
	Local events.....	9
	Green Spaces.....	9
6.	The Church	11
7.	The Church Buildings	13
	Immanuel	14
	Saint Paul's.....	15
	All Saints'	16
	The Vicarage.....	17
	Parish Office	18
	Parish Hall	18
	Cricket Field and Bowling Green.....	18
8.	The Church Finances	19
9.	Schools	20
	Church of England schools in the parish	20
	Other schools in the parish	21
10.	Our Links Into the Wider Community	21
	Uniformed organisations	21
	Oswaldtwistle Churches Together Food Bank	22
	Residential and nursing homes.....	23
	Local Authority.....	23
11.	Our Vision	24
12.	What We Offer	25
13.	Who is God calling?	25

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

Oswaldtwistle is a small town, with a population of approximately 12,300 people, and a village atmosphere with a strong sense of community. The population of the town is centred around the main road and close by housing estates, with an outlying area mainly of farm land. The town centre boasts a range of shops, restaurants, pubs and other amenities. There are regular community events in the town, and plenty of green space including parks and two local nature reserves.

One Church in three worship centres, Immanuel, All Saints' and St. Paul's, joined together to form the Parish of Oswaldtwistle in 2017, with one PCC. Our church buildings are distinct, each with committed congregations and with facilities that suit different activities and different worship styles.

Our teams include a worship leaders team, consisting of self-supporting Associate Priest, two Licensed Lay Ministers and an Authorised Lay Minister, together with pastoral assistants, music, safeguarding, and finance teams, and a volunteer admin team who carry out various tasks in the parish office. The PCC includes members from the congregations of all three churches. We have Junior church groups, an active Mothers' Union, bible study groups, a walking group, book club and a group with which to "knit and natter".

Reflecting on, and facing up to, the challenges arising since the Covid pandemic we have just completed the creation of a new Vision Action Plan, together with a review of our financial situation with a view to finding a more sustainable plan for the future. Funding has been secured from the National Strategic Mission and Ministry Investment fund (SMMI) to allow the Parish to prepare to employ a paid administrator, and from the Vision Fund for a Families and Children's worker, as part of a project to reimagine ministry in Accrington and Oswaldtwistle, funded by the Church Commissioners.

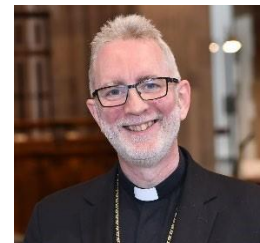
We have good links with the two Church of England primary schools and other community schools in the parish, with wider links to the community through Scout and Girlguiding groups, residential and nursing homes, the Oswaldtwistle churches together food bank, and the local authority.

The vicarage is modern construction, and equipped with a new kitchen, a band-A boiler and double glazing throughout. The M65 and M66 are within easy reach, Church & Oswaldtwistle train station provides access to rail services, and the town is served by regular bus services to Accrington and Blackburn.

We are a big parish in a big area with big potential, offering an exciting opportunity to work with a team of committed people who are prepared to get stuck in. We are looking forward to welcoming a new vicar with the energy and experience to guide us into a new phase of regrowth.

Our appointing Bishop writes:

Oswaldtwistle takes its name from St Oswald who was hugely important in the spread of Christianity in Northumbria, and from the old English word twistle meaning 'meeting of brooks'. Legend has it that Oswald passed through this area in the 7th Century and as a result it became known as Oswald's Twistle. My prayer is for a mission-hearted priest to lead the parish of Oswaldtwistle, who will love this town and its people. May the churches of this parish in this new season of their life be places where many people will meet Jesus.



The Bishop of Burnley
The Rt Revd Dr Joe Kennedy

5. The Town and Amenities

Oswaldtwistle is a small town but has a village atmosphere with a strong sense of community. Geographically, Oswaldtwistle covers a very large area but the town is centred mostly around the main road with several housing estates close by. A lot of the outlying area is farm land.



The town centre boasts a range of independent shops, restaurants, take-aways, pubs and three small supermarkets. Oswaldtwistle Mills is a popular retail outlet offering a variety of clothing and housewares and garden products with cafés and a conference centre, housed in a former weaving mill.

The Carnegie library in the town has served the community for over a century.



Locally you may hear Oswaldtwistle referred to as Gobbinland. "Gobbiners" were born in the area "above the lamp" near the library.

There are various retail employers and other small businesses within the parish, but significant number of residents will be employed outside of the parish boundary, with the main sectors of employment locally being manufacturing, retail and healthcare.

Transport links

Church & Oswaldtwistle train station provides rail services to Blackpool and Colne with wider network connections to other area of the country through Blackburn & Preston.

The M65 and M66 are within easy reach, and the town is served by regular bus services to Accrington and Blackburn linking to services serving Manchester, Clitheroe and other destinations.

The Leeds-Liverpool canal also passes through the town.

Local events

Ossy Carnival is held biennially in June with several thousand people attending the 2022 event. Stanhill Fete is a smaller community event held annually also in June.



Our annual Service of Remembrance is held at the war memorial with the number of people attending usually requiring the road to be closed for the duration of the service.

At Christmas time, carols are sung around the Christmas Tree in the Hargreaves Memorial Gardens; dedicated to James Hargreaves, inventor of the Spinning Jenny who lived in Stanhill Village.

Green Spaces

Rhydding's park sits within the parish. A group of local people & volunteers working with HBC & other partners to enhance the park, represent the community on all park matters & raise funds to put on events & activities whilst promoting and supporting the well being



of the community of Oswaldtwistle. Harvey Street and White Ash playing fields are also welcome open spaces close to the town centre.

There are two nature reserves within the town boundary, at Foxhill Bank and Jackhouse Reservoir.

The town is also largely surrounded by farm land, with plenty of public footpaths providing access for the keen walker.



PARISH DEMOGRAPHICS - Based on 2021 Census data (2011 data)	
Population	
Approximately 12100 residents at time of 2021 census. 2021 census data suggests 1.8% increase in population for the local authority area since 2011.	
Age spread	
0-15	16.7% (18.05%)
16-64	60.8% (64.21%)
65+	22.5% (17.47%)
Ethnic Mix	
White	95.9% (95.9%)
Asian/Black	2.5% (2.0%)
Mixed/Other	1.5% (2.1%)
Faith Mix (2011 data)	
Christian	61.3% (74.3%)
Muslim	2.3% (1.2%)
Other faith	0.7% (0.7%)
No religion or not stated	35.2% (23.8%)
Education background of population (2011 data)	
No qualification	20.8% (25.9%)
Degree level or above	26.7% (19.5%)
Employment <i>Approximated social grade for workplace population, Hyndburn local authority area, 2021 census data (2011 data)</i>	
Managerial, administrative & professional, L1-L6	28% (32.3%)
Intermediate occupations, L7	12.3% (15.1%)
Small employers & own account workers, L8-L9	9.9% (9.5%)
Lower supervisory & Technical, L10-L11	7.3% (6.3%)
Routine	29.1% (25.2%)
Unemployed	8.5% (4.3%)
Students	4.8% (7.3%)
Deprivation Index	
LSOAs within the parish range from 2 nd to 8 th decile in the 2019 IMD ranking	
Child Poverty	
27.4% (Hyndburn local authority area 2021)	
Housing Mix	
Owner occupied	68.3% (70.9%)
Social rented housing	13.6% (13.0%)
Private rented housing	18.0% (16.1%)

6. The Church

One Church in three worshipping communities, Immanuel, All Saints' and St. Paul's joined together to form the Parish of Oswaldtwistle in 2017. Reflecting on, and facing up to, the challenges arising since the Covid pandemic with our Interim Vicar, we have just completed the creation of a new Vision Action Plan with the aim of making the church more accessible and putting it back at the heart of the community.

We are a parish with three different church buildings, each with their own distinct style of worship and complementary to each other; each having committed church wardens and congregations, and with facilities that suit use for different activities.



Our worship leaders team includes a self-supporting Associate Priest, two Licensed Lay Ministers and two Authorised Lay Ministers. Congregation members from each of the three churches act as sacristans and chalice assistants, along with others who read and lead intercessions in church.

Music for our worship is coordinated by our music ministry team, who are also developing the "Parish Choir". This is made up of members from all three churches, who come together to augment the celebrations at our One Parish Celebration joint services. These services are always followed by a buffet lunch, and have proven to be a great success.

Our Safeguarding team promote safety and wellbeing across the parish and is formed of officers each with a focus for one of the three churches.

We have a team of pastoral assistants in the parish, who make home visits and take communion to those in residential homes.

Our PCC is comprised of a representative body of members who normally worship across the three church buildings, and we have a number of volunteers who assist with the administrative tasks in the parish office. Funding has been secured from the National Strategic Mission and Ministry Investment fund (SMMI) to allow the Parish to employ a paid administrator in the near future.

We have Junior Church groups, and would hope to be able to appoint a paid Children's/Family Worker for the parish, shortly after the appointment of the new incumbent; funded with assistance from the Diocesan Parish Vision Fund as one of the Vision 2026 priorities.

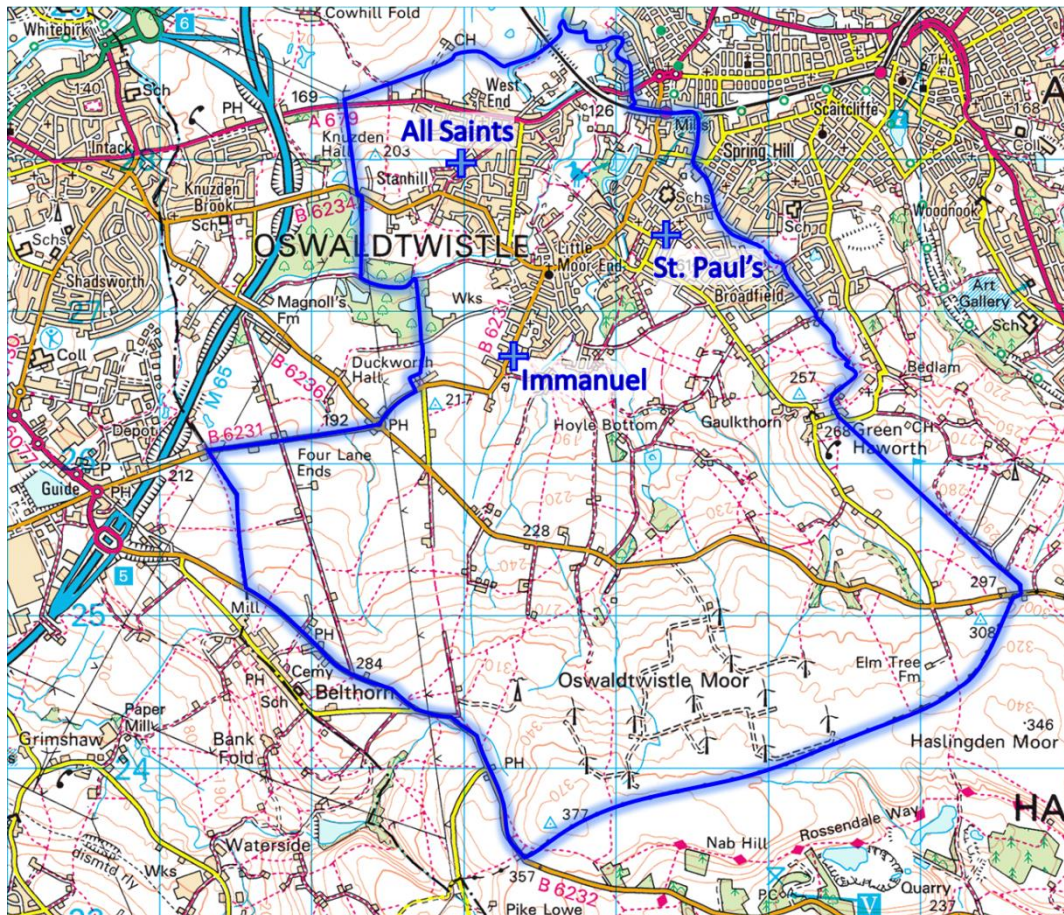
We also have an events and hospitality group, an active Mothers' Union, bible study groups (in-person and via Zoom), book club and a group with which to "knit and natter" (knitting optional!).



CHURCH AND SERVICES					
Patron					
Bishop of Blackburn joint with Diocesan Board of Patronage					
Electoral Roll					
Year		2022			
Number		140			
Age Profile of the Church					
0-17		10%			
18-69		50%			
70+		40%			
Occasional Offices, Celebrations etc. – 2023 Sept 23-Aug 24					
Baptisms		24			
Weddings		3			
Confirmation	Adult candidates		1		
	Under 16 candidates		0		
Funerals	in church		22		
	at Crematorium		2		
Festivals					
Easter (across 3 services)	Communicants		144		
	Attendance		156		
Christmas (across 4 (2) services)	Communicants		60		
	Attendance		95		
Our Services – 2023 figures					
Day	Time	Venue	Service	Normal weekly attendance	
				Adults	Under 16s
Sunday	08:00	St. Paul's	Communion (BCP)	8	0
	09:00	All Saints	Communion or Morning worship	20	
	10:00	St. Paul's	Communion or Morning worship	38	10
	10:30	Immanuel	Sung Eucharist or Morning Worship	30	6
Wednesday	10:30	St. Paul's	Communion	10	1
Thursday	19:00	Immanuel	Evening Prayer	2	0
Friday	18:30	St. Paul's	Friday Praise (2 nd Friday of month)	12	20

7. The Church Buildings

The three church buildings are spaced across the town, meaning that the majority of the town's population are within a short walking distance of at least one of them.



Immanuel

All Saints

St. Pauls



The quinquennial inspections of all three church buildings were completed in 2022, and the results and plans for completion of required works are in the hands of the church wardens.

All three churches are accessible to the disabled, although due to the layout and construction there are some limitations to full access at Immanuel. Plans for improved access and utility of the buildings are being developed, and Health and Safety audits have recently been completed.

Immanuel

Consecrated in 1836, Immanuel Church on New Lane is a grade II listed building, with a warm and welcoming worship space and congregation. The stained glass windows include three Burne-Jones listed artworks.

Sunday Sung Eucharist, or Morning Worship, begins at 10:30 am with music provided by our organist and music from an excellent organ, with an opportunity for fellowship and refreshments after the service.

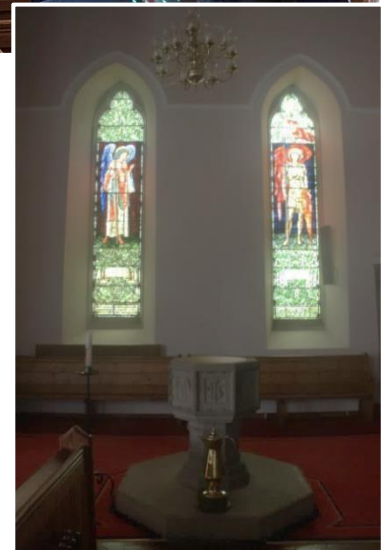
A children's corner in the south transept is equipped with a range of books and toys for little ones who are attending worship.

Junior Church meet in the upper room that was created as part of the re-ordering of the west end of the building in the 1990's, along with a reception area, kitchen and toilet facilities.

Nine lessons and carols by candlelight is a popular, well attended and moving annual service.

The peal of eight bells is rung regularly for services and weddings, with regular practices on Thursday evenings. They are also used for Lancashire Association of Change Ringers training events and are a hit with visiting bands.

The churchyard is open for burials, and is maintained by a group of volunteers, assisted by regular visits from the Community Payback team. We are currently pursuing formal closure of the older and larger section of the Churchyard.



The church also has a good car park with space for 36 cars.

There are some issues with the fabric of the building, with damp in part of the vestry block and some running repairs needed to the roof. Relevant professional advice has been sought to determine the best course of action to resolve them.

Saint Paul's

Consecrated in 1884, St. Paul's Church on Catlow Hall Street is a church with a welcoming congregation.

On Sundays there is a said BCP Holy Communion service at 8:00 am. At 10:00 am there is a sung Common Worship Communion or Morning Worship service with our dedicated choir and organist leading the music. On the first Sunday of the month the service is adapted for all age worship, when we are joined by the uniformed organisations. There is a children's corner in the nave of the church for little ones. The service is always followed by refreshment and fellowship in the lounge at the west end of the church.

There is also a Wednesday morning said communion service at 10:30 am, and on the second Friday each month there is Friday Praise all age worship service at 6:30 pm.

We have an active junior church group, and "No Strings Attached" puppet ministry. Our memorial garden is maintained by a volunteer group of congregation members.



All Saints'

Consecrated in 1965, All Saints' Church on Aspen Lane has a light and welcoming worship space and congregation and a large integrated multi-purpose hall.

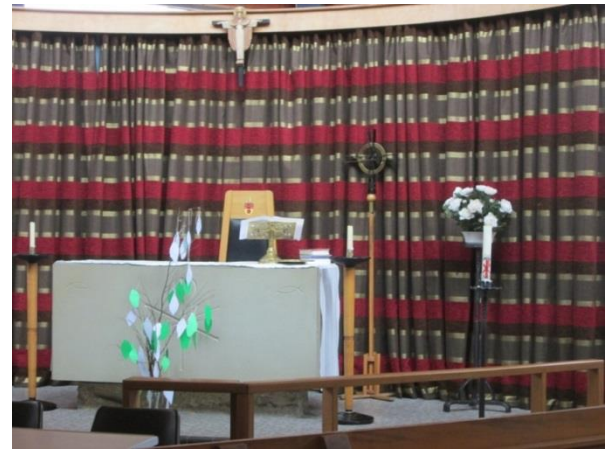
The Sunday service of Holy Communion or Morning Worship is at 9:00 am.

The hall, kitchen and toilets are used during term time by a pre-school/nursery who keep them well decorated and maintained, and after worship on Sundays for refreshments and fellowship and for Knit & Natter on Thursday evenings.

The building has seen a number of improvements to the fabric including a new flat roof, installation of uPVC windows and doors to the entrance and rear of the building, and external decoration.

The memorial garden is maintained by volunteers from the congregation who are also working with Prospects Foundation to develop a community "bee garden" on land adjacent to the church's small car park which provides space for 6 or 7 cars.

The church also has close connections with West End Community Primary School which is close by.



The Vicarage

Built in 2002, the Vicarage at 29 Mayfield Avenue, Oswaldtwistle is equipped with a band A boiler and double glazing throughout, and with a new well equipped kitchen, has two reception rooms, study, utility and toilet downstairs and 4 bedrooms (one with en-suite), family bathroom and walk in storage upstairs.

There are small easily maintained gardens to front and rear of the house and off-street parking for 2/3 cars plus a single garage.



Parish Office

The Parish office is a small building located on the car park adjacent to Immanuel Parish Church. The office is staffed by a number of volunteers provide a range of parish administrative support services including, taking bookings for baptisms, funerals and weddings, answering enquiries and photocopying, including the production of the weekly pewsheets.

It is equipped with a computer, photocopier, tea/coffee making facilities and it has a toilet.

It is also suitable as a small meeting venue.



Parish Hall better pic needed here

Opened in 2005 the Parish Hall is well utilised by various groups for dancing and craft activities, and other social events. The hall is also used as a venue for social activities.

The hall has a kitchen and toilet facilities.

The rentals for use of the hall cover its running costs, including a contribution towards expenses for the volunteer caretaker who ensures the building is opened and fit for use as required.



Cricket Field and Bowling Green

The cricket field and bowling green are cared for and maintained by Immanuel Church Cricket Club and Immanuel Church Bowling Club respectively. There is a shared pavilion complex with kitchen, toilet facilities and changing rooms.



8. The Church Finances

The finance committee have recently undertaken a study to look at the trends in finances over the last five years to assess the impact of the pandemic.

We have reasonable reserves, out of which the shortfall has been made up to complete payment of our full parish share during and since the pandemic, this is recognised as unsustainable.

With a view to better utilising our existing reserves, the PCC is now formulating a finance and stewardship action plan with support from the diocesan stewardship team. We are about to launch a new stewardship campaign following the involvement of PCC members in the Joyful Generous Giving initiative.

CHURCH FINANCES	
Finance Returns	
Year	2023
Description	Amount £
Parish Income	£122,305
Tax Efficient Planned Giving	£27,367
Amount per person per week	£4.75
Parish Expenditure	£127,658
Parish Share Assessed	Y
Parish Share Paid	£53,7271

9. Schools



Church of England schools in the parish

There are two Church of England Primary schools in Oswaldtwistle, Saint Andrew's and Saint Paul's – they are both GOOD schools (*Ofsted 2021*).

We have good connections to the schools and try to play our part in bringing children to know Jesus.

The schools make visits to the churches for occasional services and for educational purposes and the choirs participate in church events. Clergy visit to lead collective worship (including a termly Eucharist Service at St. Paul's) and to work with classes on religious education topics.

Whilst there are no church secondary schools in the parish, the Church of England secondary schools of St. Christopher's C of E High School in Accrington or St. Wilfrid's C of E Academy in Blackburn, are both are within five miles by road from the centre of Oswaldtwistle.

Saint Andrews School (Voluntary Controlled)

Head teacher Tina Wilkinson describes Saint Andrew's (<http://www.standrewsprimary.com/>) as an expanding school with a warm friendly atmosphere where pupils can learn for life and the learning is fun. Its aims are to provide a learning environment, which is happy, and where pupils enjoy learning. Pupils develop spiritually and learn important life values through RE, PSHE, drama and topical assemblies. They can achieve their dreams, goals and aspirations; develop independence and learn the benefits of working within a team.



Saint Paul's School (Voluntary Aided)



Head teacher Mrs Rachel Wells describes Saint Paul's (<http://www.st-pauls.lancs.sch.uk/>) as a happy and harmonious school, with an excellent Siam's inspection grade, providing a personalised education for all our pupils in a safe and healthy environment. With the aim to ensure children develop into happy, well rounded and confident individuals through modelling and teaching Christian values it is proud to be a Church of England school which maintains effective links with the Church of St Paul's.

The vicar of the parish has an ex-officio position as governor for each of the schools, and the parish clergy are regularly invited to lead collective worship in the schools.

Other schools in the parish

There are two schools of other Christian denominations in Oswaldtwistle:

- Hippings Methodist Primary School
- St. Mary's R.C. Primary School

There are also community schools in Oswaldtwistle with whom we are working to develop better relationships, and we host visits to the churches for educational purposes:

- Moor End Community Primary School
- West End Primary School (Primary Academy)
- White Ash School (SEN)
- The Oswaldtwistle School (Pupil Referral Unit)
- Rhyddings Business & Enterprise School (Secondary Academy)

10. Our Links Into the Wider Community

Uniformed organisations

We are very pleased to have well established scout and guide groups in the parish.



One scout and one leader were part of the East Lancashire Unit that travelled to South Korea for the 25th World Scout Jamboree, on an adventure of cultural enrichment and activities!

The 1st Oswaldtwistle (St. Paul's) Scout Group was established through the Church in 1911 and is one of the oldest Groups in the Country. The group provides opportunities for boys aged 6 to 14 years of age across 3 sections, Beavers (6-8), Cubs (8-10½) & Scouts (10½-14) to join in a range of activities. The young people work hard to earn badges contributing towards the top awards - Chief Scout Awards, Bronze for Beavers, Silver for Cubs and Gold for Scouts. Activities include fire lighting, knife work, camp preparation, cooking and first aid!





The 8th Oswaldtwistle (St. Paul's) Guide unit provides opportunities for girls aged 4 to 15 across 3 sections, Rainbows, Brownies and Guides to join in a range of activities and challenges based on the national Girlguiding programme promoting enrichment, team work, friendship and development of life skills in a safe space.



Both groups are well represented at the parade services at St. Paul's church on the 1st Sunday of the month, and participate in Walking Day and community events such as the Oswaldtwistle Carnival and Remembrance Parades.

Oswaldtwistle Churches Together Food Bank

The churches act as collection points for the local food bank, which is based in a Methodist chapel in the town, and a number of our congregation members are regular volunteers involved with the management and operation of the foodbank.

Residential and nursing homes

Visits and house communions are provided to local residential and nursing homes:

- Braeside
- Church View
- Hollin Bank House
- Merlin Court
- St. Andrew's Court
- Springfield Mews
- Vine House
- White Ash Brook


A good relationship has developed with Pendle Brook – a new facility that opened in 2019 – where the Pastoral ALM team are now helping with a dementia café.

Local Authority

The incumbent of the parish is normally involved in arranging and leading the act of worship at the Remembrance Day parade in the town. Judith Addison (LLM at St. Paul's) is also a local councillor.

North West Combined Choirs Chorale

Immanuel Church provides a home for the North West Combined Choirs Chorale, a collaborative project between various church and community choirs who come together to enable concert performances of both secular and church music. They are looking forwards to their next concert series in April 2025.



NORTHWEST COMBINED CHOIRS CHORALE PRESENTS

APRIL IN PARIS

JOIN US TO SING THIS ONCE IN
A LIFETIME CONCERT

SONGS INCLUDE:
CHANSON D'AMOUR
LA MER
LA VIE EN ROSE
CANTIQUE DE JEAN RACINE
AND MOZART REQUIEM

EMAIL
WENDY.HOPE22@OUTLOOK.COM
FOR MORE INFORMATION AND TO SIGN UP

IMMANUEL CHURCH, OSWALDTWISTLE
SATURDAY 12 APRIL
7PM

11. Our Vision

“Jesus is calling us to be a church that looks out to the community to open hearts and open minds.”

We have identified three strands for development into a 5 year vision, **Reaching, Sowing and Growing**, loosely linked to the Parable of the Sower. This is in continuing development with the following aims and short term actions identified.

1) Church and Community – “Reaching”

- **Visible and active** both within the buildings and outside the buildings
- **Accessible buildings** – both physically accessible and accessible to be used by the community
- **Involvement in the community** – in community activities and in parish-initiated activities
- **Advertising** to be visible and appropriate

Actions:

1. **ONLINE PRESENCE:** “A Church Near You” page updated regularly and active Facebook page updated. New Parish of Oswaldtwistle website is under construction.
2. **DEMENTIA FRIENDLY SERVICES:** the suitability of St Pauls to hold dementia friendly services has been reviewed. A volunteer team is being organized, and links with Pendle view are being developed.
3. **FEASIBILITY STUDY OF EACH CHURCH:** DAC Building advisor Jen Read consulted to review accessibility at Immanuel, St. Paul’s and All Saints to inform the PCC with regards to potential improvements within our church buildings and potential range of appropriate future activities. Plans for each building to be developed by the churchwardens.
4. **NOTICEBOARDS:** Means to keep noticeboards updated and relevant are to be developed.

2) Open hearts – “Sowing”

- **Prayer and worship** to be central to the life of the church
- **Develop into a unified force for prayer** in the community
- **Sowing seeds** within our church, in the community and for ourselves as individuals

Actions:

1. **LEAFLET:** Create an information leaflet detailing “what, where, who” for our parish prayer programme.
2. **PRAYER BOXES:** Contact the Library to ask about trialling a prayer box.
3. **SPACES:** Identify areas in each church for a dedicated prayer space .
4. **RESOURCE:** Recruit volunteers from each church to take ownership of the prayer programme.

3) Open minds – Growing

- **Opportunities to meet together** for prayer, Bible study and worship
- **Recognising and developing talents**
- **Resourcing the community** to meet Christ, grow with Christ and commit to Christ

Actions:

1. **COMMUNICATIONS:** Create a robust procedure for the dissemination of information throughout the parish, including provision of noticeboards inside and outside the church.
2. **VISIBILITY:** The Parish to organise an annual community event to follow the church's Walk of Witness.
3. **ENQUIRERS:** The Parish to hold at least one explorer course per year.
4. **DISCIPLESHIP:** Review preparation and follow up procedures for baptisms and other life events.

12. What We Offer

In summary of what we hope is clear from the preceding sections of the document, we offer:

- A big parish in a big area with big potential,
- Opportunity to work with a team of committed people who are prepared to get stuck in.
- Established and developing teams for Ministry/PALM/Safeguarding/Admin etc.
- Opportunity to appoint part time paid Families and Childrens worker and Parish administrator.
- A town with a good community atmosphere, good local amenities and transport links.
- A vicarage that is a modern family home.
- Good local primary and secondary schools.
- A semi-rural location with nature reserves and good opportunities for walks.
- A commitment to support the wellbeing of our clergy through encouraging proper time off, retreat and work-life balance.

13. Who is God calling?

The Bishop of Burnley and our parish are looking to appoint a priest who:

- feels a genuine call to love and serve the parish and people of Oswaldtwistle,
- has experience of working in a multi-church parish context,
- is willing to honour and grow each of our churches in their respective style and tradition, and to have a heart for each,
- honours tradition, but who is not afraid to do things differently
- is resilient, self-caring and able to manage and maintain a healthy work life balance,
- will be a visible presence in the community, encouraging an outward facing culture of discipleship throughout the congregations,
- can develop and grow links with people of all ages in the wider community,
- values and builds relationships with schools and youth organisations.

We asked all of our congregation members (young and old) and the students of the two church schools in the parish each to provide three words/short phrases to describe what they see as the most important qualities for the new vicar. This is what they said:

