

LONG PRESTON PARISH PROFILE

1 PARISH INFORMATION

- 1 The Parish is Long Preston
The only C of E church in the parish is St Mary the Virgin
- 2 Long Preston is in the Deanery of Ewecross and Bowland
- 3 St Mary's Long Preston is in a joint benefice with St Aidan's, Hellifield
- 4 Long Preston does not have a church hall, however there is a Village Hall which is available for use by the church and other village organisations.
- 5 The population of Long Preston is 742 from the 2011 census.
- 6 Number on church Electoral Roll; 22 as at APCM 9th Aug 2020
- 7 The average number of Communicants; Wednesday 4.3, Sunday 12.23
The average total Sunday attendance; 13
No regular evening services are held.
- 8 Number of Occasional Offices in the year Mar 19 to April 20;
baptisms 3 weddings 1 funerals 5 burials 4 confirmees 0
- 9 The parish and village magazine is produced by a village committee; it is no longer under the control of the PCC, neither financially nor editorially. It is delivered free 10 times a year to every house in the village. It always includes notification of church services and church life.
- 10 Relevant contact details;
Church warden; Andrew Slinn, 01729 840154, jaslinnmrpharms@gmail.com
Church warden and Lay Worship Leader; Janet Wood, 01729 840709,
j.wood197@btinternet.com
PCC Secretary; Jim Woodward-Nutt, 01729 851808,
jim@woodward-nutt.co.uk
Licensed Lay Minister; Philip Johnston, 01729 840760
philip@johnston1962.co.uk

2 PARISH COMMUNITY INFORMATION

- 1 The Parish consists of the village, surrounded by a number of outlying farms.
- 2 The population is 742; age group 0-17; 114
age group 18-64; 426
age group 65+; 230
(taken from 2011 census)
Number of houses 318, with 16 more being built

It is on the whole a settled community
- 3 The population is mixed and includes all social groups; professional, executive, manual, retired and unemployed.
- 4 The majority of houses are owner occupied, with some privately rented including some second homes and holiday lets and a number of Housing Association homes.
- 5 The incumbent is also an ex officio member of the Hartley Educational Foundation, a local property owning charity which provides funding for the Village School and bursaries to assist young people who continue in full-time education and/or training beyond the statutory school leaving age.
- 6 The local school is Long Preston Endowed (VA) Primary School and is now part of the Ribblesdale Federation of Schools, along with Hellifield Primary School and Giggleswick Primary School. At the time of writing, the appointment of a new Executive Head for the three schools is imminent.
The school can provide places for up to 91 children, with 12 places available for the coming Reception Year.
The incumbent will be an ex-officio governor of the school and there are strong links between the church and school.
The local secondary school is Settle College, which caters for children up to and including 6th form.
- 7 There are no nursing or care homes in the parish, the nearest being in Settle, some 3.5 miles away. The nearest doctors' surgery is also in Settle, and the nearest hospital is Airedale general Hospital some 15 miles to the south-east. The vicar has no chaplain responsibilities for this hospital.
- 8 The Hospital of James Knowles CIO owns and manages a terrace of seven almshouses on the edge of the village, for the benefit of poor people of the ancient parish of Long Preston, Hellifield and Halton West. The incumbent is no longer an ex-officio member of the Trustees, but if he or she was interested and

so wished they would be very welcome to join the panel.

9 There are a number of active groups in the village, including Brownies Guides, a Badminton club, the Heritage Group, W.I, Over 70's, Playing Fields association, May Day committee and Keep fit.

3 CHURCH INFORMATION

1 The congregation is generally elderly, predominantly female and middle class

2 The pattern of services is one service of Holy Communion each month, Morning Prayer twice monthly using the Book of Common Worship, and Informal Worship once a month. There is a mid-week service of Holy Communion using BCP.

Except for the major festivals of Easter, Harvest and Christmas, where attendance tends to be larger, we can usually expect between 9 and 15 people at the Sunday morning service.

We are open to try other more imaginative forms of service, and have in the past tried, for instance, cafe church or a breakfast service with some success.

3 The hymn book used is Mission Praise, sometimes augmented by a folder, Songs for Joy, put together by our previous incumbent. We have 3 organists who share out the Sundays between them. There is no regular choir, but we do form a small community choir for special services.

4 3 members of the congregation have permission to assist with Communion, and a small group have been trained to lead intercessions.

5 The church is moving towards a Planned Giving Scheme; currently most of the congregation give by Direct Debit

6 Under normal circumstances we raise money through coffee mornings and the occasional concert ,the village Mayday celebrations and the Village Christmas Fair.

7 Clergy expenses in the last financial year were £960. The Treasurer and Vicar have met regularly to discuss expenses and the PCC are kept informed.

8 The requested share for 2020 was £12340 of which £8000 was paid. The share for 2021 is £12,232. We pay a regular amount by Direct Debit, and the rest when and if we can.

- 9 Under our Welcome Project from 2019 the carpets were replaced, a new dais built at the front of the chancel to create a performance space, the wooden floor at the west end was stripped and re polished and new notice boards installed. Following the recent quinquennial inspection, the roof has been cleaned of moss and other vegetation.
- 10 Copies of the church accounts are attached in Appendix 1
- 11 The general state of repair of the church is very good, as the PCC has made sure that it is well maintained and kept clean and welcoming by a happy band of volunteers. The churchyard is regularly maintained to a very high standard by a large group of volunteers from the village.
- 12 Although our congregation is small, we are very well supported throughout the village.

4 OUTREACH AND MISSION

- 1 A Pastoral Co-ordinator maintains links with the congregation and the vulnerable within the village.
- 2 Individual members of the congregation do a great deal to help those in need both on a personal basis and through links with Skipton Foodbank and the Settle Refugee ReSettlement Group.
- 3 As a PCC we have agreed to support, mainly through prayer, 2 members of our congregation who volunteer with Reach Beyond, a charitable organisation which among other things physically supports the main refugee camp in Lesbos.
- 4 Once a month a prayer walk is led round the village.
- 5 There is a Mission Group with members from both St Mary's and St Aidan's who meet regularly to pray and plan for mission and outreach.
- 6 The vicar and one member of the congregation frequently take the weekly assembly in the Primary School.
- 7 A member of the congregation runs the weekly Brownies and Guides, and they participate in special services including the annual Christingle Service and Carol Singing round the village.
- 8 We use our coffee mornings in the Village Hall to reach out to our

parishioners as well as to raise money.

- 9 Whilst our churches were closed for lockdown we were able to broadcast services online, which reached many people who would not normally attend church.
- 10 There is a monthly Sunday lunch group involving parishioners from both Hellifield and Long Preston which is always well attended, usually with around 22 people who are not necessarily members of the congregation. We visit a different local pub each month.
- 11 There is a monthly Messy Church for children and families of Long Preston and Hellifield.

5 ECUMENICAL RELATIONS

- 1 We are a member of Churches Together in Settle.
- 2 There are strong links with Long Preston Methodist church and joint services are held for Remembrance Sunday, Good Friday and the Covenant Service. We sometimes join together for a Harvest Supper and Agape Supper.
- 3 Sometimes joint services with St Aidan's are held, such as the annual memorial service at the end of October and Christmas Eve Communion.
- 4 There is a Lent study group with St Aidan's and the Long Preston Methodists.

Approved by the PCC on 30th Nov 2020

Signed

Janet Wood, church warden and chair of PCC