Parish Profile
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Website
http://www.stbartschurch.org.uk/

Facebook
St Bartholomew’s & St John’s Church Great Harwood @StBartsStJohns
Dear potential applicant,

1. Introduction

Ministry in the Diocese of Blackburn

In the Diocese of Blackburn we profoundly believe in the difference that the Gospel makes to peoples’ lives and so have a deep commitment to building healthy churches which can transform the communities in which they are set. We are looking for clergy of all backgrounds and traditions who share our passion for making a difference in the name of Jesus Christ.

‘Vision 2026’ is a bold and ambitious strategy which presumes that growth is what God wills for his church and which seeks to deliver growth through making disciples, being witnesses and growing leaders. You can read much more about this on other pages.

Our Diocese serves an area of extraordinary variety, from the stunning countryside of the Trough of Bowland to the former mill towns of East Lancashire, from the University cities of Preston and Lancaster to the seaside towns of Blackpool and Morecambe, from elegant villages to Presence and Engagement Parishes, there is something for everyone. We have Parishes of all traditions and are strongly committed to the principle of mutual flourishing. We are also seeking to grow 50 new congregations by 2026 so need people who are gifted as pioneers and evangelists.

If you think that the Church of England is at its eventide and that decline is inevitable, then these pages are probably not for you. But if you believe that all things are possible if we trust God, love his people, pray fervently, preach the Gospel of salvation in Jesus Christ and work hard, then we would love to hear from you. Even if none of the jobs on these pages seem quite right, get in touch anyway. And please be assured of our prayers as you seek to discern where God is calling you.

+ Julian

The Bishop of Blackburn

The Rt Revd Julian T Henderson
2. Diocesan Vision

The year 2026 marks the centenary of the formation of the Diocese of Blackburn. Vision 2026 is our strategy to turn around the long-term trend of gradually declining church attendance. Our vision is to develop healthy churches which transform their communities, a vision in which making disciples for Jesus Christ and pursuing social justice sit side by side.

In 2015 we spent time in prayer with Vision 2026 as the focus. 2016 saw over 80% of parishes appoint lay Vision Champions whose role is to gently nudge /encourage parish leaders and congregations to plan and deliver activities that make disciples of Jesus Christ, be witnesses to Jesus Christ, grow leaders for Jesus Christ and prioritise work among children, young people and schools. We also hosted the Crossroads Mission, with visiting northern province bishops and their teams leading over 400 mission events over an autumn weekend. In 2017 we held a series of study days providing an opportunity for clergy to think about how they engage contextually with Vision 2026 and actively supported Thy Kingdom Come and promoted opening our churches as a place of welcome (and not just on a Sunday).

For 2018, we are encouraging parishes to transform their communities through words and deeds, and are holding a diocesan conference focussing on apologetics in late November. 2019 will be a year focussed on encouraging all of us to be effective disciples.

As a diocese, we are willing to face the cost of change; and in prayer we see the grace and power of God which can alone bring renewal and growth. We are committed to work together (clergy, laity, church schools, diocesan staff and the cathedral) to deliver Vision 2026.

Our Diocesan Vision Prayer is: Heavenly Father, we embrace Your call for us to make disciples, to be witnesses and to grow leaders. Give us the 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. 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).

  **Whalley Abbey Retreat and Conference Centre**

- 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 have a unique pattern of peer-led Ministerial Development Review, designed by the clergy for the clergy.

- We are setting up a pilot reflective practice group for clergy new in post, in partnership with St Luke’s Healthcare.

- If you are looking for a spiritual director or a mentor we 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, and a clergy walking group. Further suggestions are welcome.

  Bishop Philip leads a walking party
4. Welcome to our Parish

Welcome to the parish of St Bartholomew and St John, Great Harwood, situated on the edge of the beautiful Ribble Valley.

Our medieval church is located in a Conservation area and in a prominent position in the town. Recent re-slateing of the roof and an internal reordering including a new heating system costing almost £250,000 has made the church fit for the foreseeable future.

Great Harwood is an ancient market town that prospered in the nineteenth century cotton boom but has since developed with light industry and suburban housing. The town is expanding with a new development of 217 houses being built.

The parish currently has a population of around 10,500 and the boundary covers the town and the surrounding countryside.

The parish is within easy reach of the M65 motorway, Blackburn Cathedral, Whalley Abbey and surrounding towns. The countryside is moments away; the Lancashire coast, the Lake District and Manchester about an hour away.

We are a church that puts welcome at the heart of what we do. Our congregation consists of a good mix of people and age ranges, who have always met the parish share in full.

There are excellent relationships with our two church primary schools – St Bartholomew’s and St John’s. Both schools were rated as “good” in their most recent Ofsted inspections. Both schools regularly visit or attend services in church. There are two Roman Catholic Primary Schools in the town – St Wulstan’s and St Hubert’s, and a county school, Great Harwood Primary School.

Having worked hard to make our beautiful heritage building fit to welcome all people into we now seek to enrich further our community links. This could mean all sorts for us and would welcome a new Vicar’s support and guidance in how best to reach out with God’s love to those who need it most.
5. Our History

At St Bartholomew’s we are really proud of our heritage and can trace its history back to a chapel of ease, which was in existence on the site in 1335.

The present building is largely 15th-16th century and was originally dedicated to St Lawrence. The nave was extended and the chancel and vestry built towards the end of the 19th century to cope with the growing population. During the 1980’s an extension was built to provide toilet and refreshment facilities and a small meeting room. Work on the church roofs, a new heating system and a reordering of the nave to provide more space for parish and community use will be completed by summer 2018 at a cost approaching £250,000.

Our church has served the community for around 700 years and for the loving care of the thousands who have worshipped, visited and maintained it over the centuries. We continue that care to maintain and enhance the building through our well-established property Committee.

The parish is part of Local Ecumenical Partnership, but effectively this is in name only due to a reorganisation and amalgamation of other churches. Ecumenical relationships with other denominations through Churches Together in Great Harwood are good.

St John’s became a separate parish in 1908, but due to structural faults with their church, St Bartholomew’s and St John’s were re-united as a single parish in 2006. St John’s church was demolished in 2009.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PARISH DEMOGRAPHICS</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Population</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<tr>
<td>Age spread</td>
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<td>0-4</td>
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<tr>
<td>5-14</td>
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<tr>
<td>16-64</td>
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<tr>
<td>65+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ethnic Mix</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>British</td>
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<tr>
<td>Minority Ethnic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Faith Mix</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Christian</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Muslim</td>
</tr>
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<td>Education background of population</td>
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<td>Social classification</td>
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<tr>
<td>AB</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Child Poverty under 16 in 2010</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Main Issues</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Housing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amenities</td>
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<tr>
<td>Housing Mix 2011</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Owner occupied</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social and Private rented housing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
6. Our Services and Liturgy

Common Worship (Order 1) is used during our Communion services

Our Current Services are:-

**Sunday**

8.30am  Quiet said communion.

10.00am  1st Sunday – Word Alive  
A service with no communion but varies to accommodate visitor friendly events

2nd, 4th & 5th Sunday – Celebration Communion with hymns and communion music/settings

3rd Sunday – All Age Communion.  
An informal service particularly geared to children and young people and less regular worshippers. Our uniformed organisations are invited to attend.

During the 10am service, there is a crèche for KS1 children in the extension.

**Wednesday**

10.00am Quiet said Communion.

During the reordering works the church was closed for 17 weeks and services held in the nearby Bank Mill House or Churchfield House. This obviously affected attendance and other services such as weddings and baptisms.

Vestments are worn at Communion Services. Cassock and surplice are worn at the 10am Sunday Communion by the 13 strong choir.
There is a rota of Servers and Chalice Assistants who cover all of the services whilst teams of Sides persons attend the major services. There is a crèche during the 10.00am Sunday service. Members of the congregation read the lessons each Sunday and intercessions are led on a regular basis by an intercessors team.

Messy Praise- our younger children’s service targeted at our baptism families on a Saturday morning- is held each term. Refreshments and welcoming are done by members of our Mothers’ Union and Pastoral team.

Coffee and refreshments are served after the 10am Sunday and Wednesday Communion services which provides the opportunity for congregational engagement

Baptisms are held normally at noon around twice a month and BCP Evening Prayer or Holy Communion on an ad-hoc basis.

The parish has an experienced Licensed Reader and an authorised Pastoral Assistant. We have an established and trained Pastoral Visiting Team of four people who also arrange and prepare families for Baptisms. Members of the congregation also prepare adult confirmation candidates.

Our Worship Group of around six people meet reasonably regularly to plan themed services to supplement the regular worship of the church with creative and imaginative worship services and events.

Morning Prayer is held on Monday, Tuesday and Thursday at 8.30am with a BCP Said Evening Prayer at 4.30pm on Thursday. Whilst these services are open to all, it is often just the clergy.

The Church Wardens attend all services when this is possible, but there is a wealth of expertise within the congregations to assist if necessary.

As part of our mission and outreach, we celebrate in line with the church’s liturgical year. During Advent, we hold a Christingle service for families; ‘Simply Carols’ with a brass band as well as a Carol Service and Roaming Nativity.

Study Groups and Compline mark the season of Lent. We share Maundy Thursday when we join Trinity United Methodist Church to celebrate the Last Supper. Easter is celebrated early on Easter Day starting with a Dawn Chorus in the local park.
## CHURCH AND SERVICE

### Patrons
Joyce Miller, William Humphrey’s representative  
The Bishop of Blackburn,  
The Dean of Blackburn

### Electoral Roll
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Number</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>208</td>
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### Age Profile of the Church

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age Group</th>
<th>Number</th>
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<tr>
<td>0-17</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18-69</td>
<td>65</td>
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<tr>
<td>70+</td>
<td>46</td>
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### Occasional Offices, Celebrations etc.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Count</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Baptisms</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Weddings</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Confirmation</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adult candidates</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Under 16 candidates</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Funerals</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>in Church</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>at Crematorium</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Normal weekly attendance</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adult</td>
<td>99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Under 16</td>
<td>18</td>
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</table>

### Festivals

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Festival</th>
<th>Communicants</th>
<th>Attendance</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Easter</td>
<td>141</td>
<td>180</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Christmas</td>
<td>102</td>
<td>141</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
7. Our buildings and facilities

The Church

In the last two years the heating system inside church has been renewed; some pews in the nave have been removed, steps eliminated, the floor levelled and the whole area re-carpeted.

The nave and north aisle roofs have been strengthened and re-slated. Contracts have been agreed to re-slate the chancel and vestry roofs and the 1898 Foster & Andrews organ, which was rebuilt in 1977, is to be professionally cleaned and retuned. The work is due to be completed by the end of June 2018.

The reordering has opened up and enlarged the mission and community space at the west end of the nave and provided a more welcoming entrance. The church, apart from a step into the chancel, is now much more accessible to all.

The cost has been found from Heritage Lottery Fund and other grants, supplemented by some £50,000 raised by parishioners and parish funds.

The east end of the nave was opened up a few years ago and there are now flexible spaces to facilitate school and other visits and different styles of worship. There is a hearing loop system and a recently enhanced PA system.

A Quinquennial Inspection of the church was due in 2017, but in view of the major work being undertaken at that time, the Archdeacon of Blackburn agreed that it be deferred. That inspection was undertaken in July 2018.

The local authority maintains the closed churchyard. There is a Garden of Remembrance where the ashes of deceased parishioners can be buried. The parish has an extension cemetery at the opposite end of the town but only an occasional interment has taken place in the last three decades or so. We have been fortunate in enlisting the services of Community Payback Team for a number of years. They have maintained the cemetery by strimming the grass several times each summer.

The Vicar’s vestry encompassing the Parish Office, is equipped with the usual office and parish requirements, is situated at the east end of the church.

An extension at the west end of the church, completed in 1988, provides the disabled entrance, burglar alarm, toilet and a small meeting room with refreshment facilities. As part of our general re-ordering, we are aware that the room requires some refurbishment and that work is under discussion.
Ariel view of the church and graveyard taken from the Great Harwood Past and Present Facebook page.
The Vicarage was built in the 1960’s in the footprint of the previous vicarage and is surrounded by a spacious garden with an apple tree and several fruit bushes. There are good views to the south-east.

The well-insulated and easily managed property comprises of a good-sized study, 2 inter-connecting reception rooms, a spacious kitchen, pantry and utility and downstairs WC. There is an integral single garage. The Diocese have indicated that the kitchen and bathroom are to be completely replaced during summer 2018. To the first floor are four good-sized bedrooms - the two larger ones have built in wardrobes whilst the smaller have washbasins and a house bathroom with shower over together with a separate WC.
8. Our Parish and the Wider Community

Great Harwood is an ancient market town that prospered as a (cotton) mill town in the nineteenth century and has developed further with light industry and suburban housing. It is separated by natural boundaries from other local towns, but has similarities with neighbouring Clayton-le-Moors and Rishton.

The town has a population of around 10,500 with a wide social mix - overall statistics suggest the town is average for Hyndburn, and “aspirational working class” would describe it reasonably well. Around 10% of the population is of South Asian origin (there are two mosques and building relationships has not been easy, but Churches Together do have some links); part of the town (that served by St John’s School) qualifies as UPA under various heads.

Housing in the town is predominantly small terraced, with some social landlord housing. There is an area of 1950’s semis; a 1970’s development is relatively up-market for the area, more recent developments are typical family housing. A new development of 217 properties has been started recently.

The cotton mills have closed resulting in a considerable amount of unused land in the town but there is an industrial estate on the outskirts. Most people work outside town, including aerospace and other light industry and public sector; there is some self-employment.Whilst there are farms within the parish boundary, farming itself is not significant.

There are three supermarkets, in the town – Tesco, Morrison’s and Aldi, two of which have opened in the last few years. Whilst there are shops in the High Street, for major shopping people will travel to Blackburn, Manchester or the Trafford Centre

There are frequent buses to Blackburn and Accrington with onward connections and less frequently to Clitheroe, the real local market town,

There are five primary schools, several care homes/sheltered housing (not only for elderly - some for vulnerable adults), a large new health centre; a leisure centre and local amateur sports clubs are popular. There is a well-attended Senior Citizen’s Centre. The town hosts an annual Agricultural Show attracting attendances of over 10,000. There is a Community Tent where the church, Churches Together and other local groups have a representation. The town has an active Community Action Group. The local Civic Society ‘Cry the Fair’ on St Lawrence’s Day each year on the Towngate to preserve the Charter.

This year a new 16 page illustrated Historic Guide and an A3 tri-fold Visitors Guide have been published. An explorer’s guide to the church aimed at children and families.
As part of our outreach, we join with other members of Churches Together to ‘Walk with the Cross’ on Good Friday from the Towngate to the Memorial Park for the erection of the cross, followed by a short service in church.

Easter Day starts with a Dawn Chorus in the local park.

Each Christmas for the past few years we have held a ‘Roaming Nativity’. We process in groups from Churchfield House, to the Church, to the local park (where we have a variety of animals – including a donkey) and back to the church. At various locations along the way, part of the Christmas story is unfurled. Ending in Church with the visit of the magi, we have carols and activities for the children along with mulled wine and mince pies. Last year over 300 people attended.
As part of the Diocesan Crossroads Mission weekend in 2016, the parish mission event was packed with attractive events. Starting with Light at the Crossroads - a big outdoor youth event with up to 1000 young people from the town and across the diocese attended by Archbishop Sentamu (who even played the drums on stage). The church itself held a themed three-day event under the heading of Faith and Life’s Journey. There was a full day outdoor fun event; flower and photography festivals and a ceilidh.
9. Our Church Finances

PCC Resources at the end of 2017 totalled £71,745 plus a further £10,197 in restricted funds to be used for the roof and internal works.

Some £2,250 was donated charitably and a payment of £1,573 made to the Barchester scheme in support of the schools. The parish paid the Vicar’s, vicarage and Curate’s expenses. The Parish Share of £54,397 was paid in full.

Parish income and the number of weddings etc. were reduced by the closure of the church for 17 weeks. Following completion of the works, monies received from the Gift Day, fundraising events will come into PCC funds rather than the ‘project fund’ thus boosting parish income.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CHURCH FINANCES</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Finance Returns</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Year</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Description</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Parish Income</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Includes Gift Aid Refund of</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Amount per person per week</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Parish Expenditure</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Parish Share Assessed</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Parish Share Paid</strong></td>
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</tbody>
</table>
10. Our Schools

At the last Ofsted inspections, both St Bartholomew’s and St John’s schools were rated good in all areas.

The Vicar is a Governor of both schools and the Curate also represents the parish on the Governing bodies. At St John’s, two members of the congregation at St Johns are Foundation Governors whilst at St Bartholomew’s there are six parishioners including the Chair of Governors in addition to the Vicar on the Governing body.

**Mark Mackley, Headteacher at St Bartholomew’s Church of England Primary School wrote:-**

“At St Bartholomew’s Parish School, we welcome and value all, regardless of who they are or what needs they bring with them. We strongly believe that each child is an individual, loved by God and deserves the very best of our abilities in providing learning opportunities and experiences that are creative, stimulating, challenging, fun and exciting. We endeavour to provide the skills and knowledge necessary to progress to the next stage of their learning. We aim for excellence in all areas of learning and believe that it is our responsibility to foster a lifelong love of learning in each child.

Through daily collective worship and prayer, and regular sharing in the Church of England liturgy, children are encouraged to develop an awareness of the presence of God and to make their own personal response.

The School values strong links between home, school and neighbourhood - including our church - in its everyday life and in the education of our children. Children are supported in recognising need and in showing practical concern for one another and the wider world as an outward expression of Christian faith. This was recognised in our SIAMS inspection of 2015 where we were graded as good.

In all we do we endeavour to give our very best – the formal and informal curriculum, worship, relationships, interacting with the wider community for the benefit of the children. All members of our school community are expected to adhere to this.

The children of our school would like a vicar who is “funny, caring and can help us to understand more about Jesus.”

Both schools, St Bartholomew’s and St John’s, welcome full support from the new incumbent in strengthening the existing good ties between schools.

They would like

- Regular links with the church to provide the children with a deeper experience of the Christian faith.
- Greater involvement of the whole church community in the further development of the spiritual life of the two schools. “
Tracey Parker, St John’s Church of England Primary school Headteacher, said:-

“St John’s school is situated over 2 sites at the lower end of Great Harwood. We are a thriving family based school with a caring, nurturing motto of ‘Where Everyone Shines with God’s Love’, which permeates throughout everything we do. We are committed to providing a broad and balanced curriculum within a distinctive Christian environment.

The children who come to our school feel safe and enjoy coming to school to learn as well as having new and exciting opportunities that they may not have at home. We develop our children’s understanding of the Christian faith alongside teaching them respect and understanding of other world religions. This was highlighted in our most recent SIAMs inspection in February 2014 ‘The school, through its distinctive Christian character, is outstanding at meeting the needs of all learners.’

We strive to achieve the highest of standards for all our children and progress across the school is always excellent. We build strong links with our parents to ensure we are developing the whole child and family where needed.

Since losing our own church we have developed strong links with St Bartholomew’s church and visit at least once per half term with a class as well as having the Vicar visit the school as often as they can.

Our children would like a vicar who is ‘inspiring, funny, approachable and who is knowledgeable about Jesus!’ ‘Somebody who would come to school and do fun things’.”

A relaxing time for part of our St Bart’s Tots Group who meet in the church on Tuesdays
11. Our Organisations

Our Mothers’ Union is strong with a membership of around 40 and meets monthly in church with an active and varied programme of events linking into the church calendar. Its members take an active part in many different aspects of church and secular life. ‘Tea and Chat’ is held monthly for older and more infirm members so that they can enjoy the social gathering.

St Bart’s Tots, our playgroup- meets in church every Tuesday morning during term time and welcomes all parents/carers with their children from birth to preschool. The group is a lovely way for new parents to socialize and make friends within the church community. We find that parents will continue to come until they either have to return to work or their child goes onto nursery/school. St Bart’s Tots is the first stepping stone in a young person’s church life before they move on to Smartie Club.

The children take part in a whole range of activities, seasonal walks and annual Easter egg hunt, Teddy Bears picnic and Christmas party. They raise money for both the church and children’s charities by taking part in sponsored walks, baking cakes and holding coffee mornings.

Once a month they hold a Pram Service which is led by our Reader or Curate. The informal service lasts around half an hour and we come together to listen to stories, sing hymns and say prayers. The children are encouraged to join in throughout the story.

Firm friendships are made within the group and the children look forward to seeing each other every week.

The Knit and Pray Group, a small group of committed knitters of all abilities and levels, meet twice monthly providing garments for the local Birthing Centre, Women’s Refuge, homeless and knitted gifts for our Tots Group. Our Flower Committee is a team of ladies who provide the church with beautiful floral decorations and

festivals and weddings.
Monday is a busy night in church. The ‘Smartie Club’ for KS1 children meet from 5.45 to 6.30 – a focused session including play and craft activities with stories and prayer.

This is followed by the KS2 children who attend ‘Time Out Club’ from 7.00 to 8.00pm – including drama, craft, games and story and prayer.

The Youth Group meets from 8.00 to 9.00pm with various planned activities including Duke of Edinburgh Award training outdoor and indoor games and offsite visits.

Rainbows, Brownies (both St Bartholomew’s and St John’s groups), Guides, Cubs and Beavers are all connected to the church and still occasionally attend the All Age communion service.

There has been a long-standing engagement with Cursillo. The group has a significant history of involvement in the movement within the Diocese and the Parish.
12. What We Offer

† A welcoming and friendly parish and church
† A family sized vicarage 50 yards from the church.
† A church which can, and does, pay its parish share monthly in full.
† Well attended services with a good mix of young and old
† A well maintained church building and churchyard equipped for the future
† Good links to the two Church schools with Christian head teachers and leadership teams who want the vicar to be involved.
† Voluntary secretarial help on a regular basis in the parish office.
† Existing groups catering for a variety of ages and needs.
† A committed pastoral team.
† A committed group of volunteers who run all the church groups.
† An active and engaged PCC with a mix of ages and experience
† An active Fundraising Group providing a range of regular and differing events and activities
† A Safeguarding officer ensuring that the correct protocols are followed.
13. Our Opportunities to develop

Our Mission Action Plan priorities for 2018 are:-

1. Youth and children

Sharing in Worship
Young people invited to take part in services in a variety of roles
(Eucharistic Ministers for All-age Communion; Intercessions;
Some sort of Sunday morning provision to cater for our young people who come aside from crèche, issues to consider include leadership, programme and venue.
As additional Lesson Readers.
Sides people;
Some form of youth fellowship/discipleship groups following on from confirmation prep for those interested

Sharing in Leadership
Youth Council convened by clergy and PCC
Invitation to young people to make presentation to PCC?
Dedicated youth worker issues around funding and Job role clarification.

2. Outreach in general and especially to the former St John's parish

Discuss the placing of an Information board at St John's School with the school and governors.
More parish involvement in the school, through reading listeners and governors to strengthen ties.
Annually ask Headteachers and regularly lease with school liaison officer to find out if there is any charitable giving we can do towards struggling families or school issues particularly to do with poverty related issues.
Some form of school club, or service at that end of town, possibly with ecumenical links through the Methodist church or the Christian fellowship.
Continue to explore giving bread (leftover from tesco) out to those who need it. And continue to strengthen links with foodbank and other such local charities.

3. Dementia friendly church and inclusivity

Being led by a member of the Pastoral group with reports to the PCC
A workshop for the whole town to come to and a service from out of that again for anyone to attend.
4. Open Church

To increase the number of times the church is open for prayer and visits. To open on Saturdays during the summer and together with some summer evenings.

To explore being open for prayer in the evenings or afternoon as people walk past. Advertise Daily prayer times and put them up as a service time on a notice board or throughout town.

Schools

Both Headteachers are very keen to collaborate with the clergy on developing opportunities for school based communion services with full participation and involvement of children. The two schools regularly get together to share opportunities for collaborative working and value the support of the clergy when achieving this. Most recently we have partaken in a Spirituality day which was so successful that we are repeating it again this year!

The vicar would be a full governing body member of both schools and become a pastoral support for staff. It is hoped that he/she would have an enthusiasm for working with children to further develop their understanding of God’s love for them.
14. What we need

- A person who is willing to try to engage and inspire all sections of the congregation

- A Vicar who can help us proclaim the Good News of God’s Love whilst maintaining our central Eucharistic churchmanship, encouraging young people and involving them in worship and challenging us along the way.

- A people person who enjoys spending time in the community.

- A leader who is able to discern, encourage and enable gifts and strengths in others. i.e. Someone who can identify and enable others’ ministries at all levels.

- Someone with a love for God and for all people who is willing to take the church forward in line with Vision 2026

- Someone who can engage with families and young people.

- A collaborative strategic thinker who identifies areas for development and can carry the people with them in addressing these.

- A vibrant personable individual with the experience to encourage a collection of volunteers to grow in God.

- Both schools, St Bartholomew’s and St John’s, would welcome full support from the new incumbent in strengthening the existing good ties between schools.

  They would like regular links with the church to provide the children with a deeper experience of the Christian faith. Greater involvement of the whole church community in the further development of the spiritual life of the two schools.