

The Parish of Bolton-le-Sands Holy Trinity and St Mark's, Nether Kellet Parish Profile



Painting by a parishioner of Holy Trinity Church

INDEX

A Warm Welcome

Our History

- Holy Trinity
- St Mark's Nether Kellet

Church Buildings

- Holy Trinity
- St Mark's
- Our Regular Worship
- What we believe.
- Child Friendly Church
- Special Occasions

"Talking the talk and walking the walk".

- The Diocese of Blackburn
- Bolton le Sands Church of England School
- Other Christian Communities
- Churches Together
- Other Local Links

Holy Trinity – The Church in the Centre of the Village

- Where we are
- Demographics
- Holy Trinity Audit – 2017
- Further Statistics

Parish Organisation and Current Status

- Summary of Finances.
- PCC
- Status of the buildings
- Social Media and Communications

Where do we go from here?

- Holy Trinity Mission Action Plan
- Comments from the parish and local community
- Our New Vicar and the vicarage

OUR VACANCY PRAYER

A Warm Welcome

Holy Trinity and St Mark's churches are both known for their warm welcome.

Our Welcome Teams are quick to answer questions and direct people to where they can get the information they need.

Our Communion Service includes hymns, bible reading and prayer with a talk from one of the leaders at the Church. All are welcome.

The third Sunday Morning Prayer Service is prayer and bible readings and can include hymns.

Children and Families

We are a child friendly parish. There are toys, books and drawing materials for children to use at the back of church.

Second Sunday Service is our new "Contemporary, Interactive and Godly" service taking place on the second Sunday in each month. This is for all parishioners but especially families and children.

Messy Church takes place bi-monthly on the third Saturday.

Service and hymn books are available for all services.

After the main service on Sunday at Holy Trinity we meet for coffee and juice.

We have many other services and activities, for all ages, to get involved with

Our History

Holy Trinity Church is in the village of Bolton-le-Sands, Lancashire. It is an active Anglican parish church in the deanery of Tunstall, the archdeaconry of Lancaster and the diocese of Blackburn. Its benefice is united with that of St Mark's, Nether Kellet.

Holy Trinity is the oldest church in the village and is listed II*. The church and its mission of preaching the Gospel has existed on this site since at least 1094 and has survived up to the present day. There is evidence of Anglo-Saxon use on the site based on the survival of sculpture from that period. The remains of what is thought to be a six-foot-high preaching stone cross is kept on display in the tower area. Viking burial stones recovered from the local area are on display in the oldest part of the church, the tower, which is of pre-Norman origin. There was a major refurbishment in 1880 and various improvements during the early 19th century. The magnificent church organ was installed in 1863.

Use the QR Code to take a tour of the church and grounds:



Holy Trinity - Bolton-le-Sands

In recent times we had lead stolen from the roof gutter in 2017. This theft initiated a project called 'Raise the Roof and Open the Door' which was funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund; other charities and a significant contribution from the local community. During the project major areas of dry rot were exposed, the affected areas were replaced, and the remaining woodwork was treated. Half of the Nave and North Aisle roofs were replaced, and the roof gutter was re-made in stainless steel. During that project we installed a new inner door and automatic glass doors to encourage people to enter church. The internal decoration was completed.

In 2020 a new Kitchenette and an additional, accessible toilet were installed, along with CCTV and an improved sound system.



St Mark's - Nether Kellet

The church of St. Mark's is one of the smallest churches in the area. Erected in 1878 by John Lee Booker of Swarthdale House. On the north wall of the Church, there is a memorial to the men of the village who served in both World Wars. Nether Kellet is one of only 13 Doubly Thankful Villages in the UK where all those who left for war returned.

Though its congregation numbers have naturally been small, a recognition of the need for redecoration and renovation came in 1978 when several faithful members came together and contributed their time and skills at no cost to get it back to rights for a centenary celebration that year. After a magnificent concerted effort the successful completion was marked by a celebratory procession down the main street headed by the then Bishop of Lancaster. The procession culminated in a centenary fete at the village playing fields and was a highlight in village life, reported in the local papers.



Our Regular Worship

Prayer and worship is at the heart of the parish.

Holy Trinity Church meets every Sunday at 10.30am for our Sunday Services and at 10.00am on Wednesday.

The 10.30am Communion service is a service for all ages. We use the service booklet appropriate for the season. Music is an integral part of our collective worship. We sing many of the responses in regular Sunday worship as well as the hymns, We have an occasional choir which performs at special services (Easter and Christmas). We also have a group using guitars, keyboard etc. The music is wide ranging from the very traditional to the very modern. We have an audio visual system which can be used to show the latest hymn videos (Stuart Townend, Hillsong Worship, Leeland.) We love reflective hymns from Taize and Iona. The music in Church attempts to reflect the joy with which we all worship God.

Readings and prayers are led by the congregation and we have a number of "Occasional Preachers" in the parish who support the vicar in doing sermons.

The Wednesday 10.00am service is a simple service of Communion with a hymn. As with the Sunday 10.30 service, readings and prayers are led by the congregation.

St Mark's Nether Kellet has services of Communion or morning prayer with hymns each Sunday.

Services can be in church or online and often both. Zoom provides us with an outreach locally and internationally.

**NB. CURRENTLY, ALL SERVICES MAY BE AFFECTED BY COVID RESTRICTIONS.
THE CALENDAR ON OUR WEBSITE HAS UP TO DATE INFORMATION.**

The Bells at Holy Trinity QR Code



WHAT WE BELIEVE

For us, church isn't a building, church isn't an event. We believe that church is the hub for the community of people of Bolton-le-Sands and Nether Kellet, praising God together. We believe that we are so much better together.

Christian life is lived in relationship with God through Jesus Christ and, in common with other Christians, we seek to deepen that relationship and to follow the way that Jesus taught.



Child Friendly Church



We love children. They are our present and future of the parish and they bring youthful light and joy to our church. We have lots of resources for them to use during services.

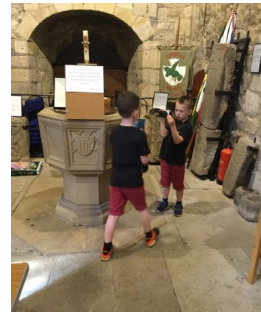
We have a regular service on the Second Sunday of the month for families which is "Contemporary, Interactive and Godly." This is run by our special Second Sunday team.

Each month we have "Messy Church" for young families. Special services such as the Christingle Service and Easter Service are also great fun for young parishioners.

On occasion young people take part in our regular services giving presentations of the gospels and leading prayers. etc.

Bolton-le-Sands School visit regularly for services and activities in the church.

We would like to do more!



Celebrations at Holy Trinity and St Mark's

There are many special occasions in the life of our churches that we like to celebrate. Remembering always births, marriages and deaths.

Services	Other Events
Christingle Service	Local Choir Concerts
Nativity Service	Men's Breakfast
Carol Services	Lenten Lunches
Thy Kingdom Come Course	Community Coffee Mornings
Week of Prayer for Christian Unity	Spiritual Study Days
First Friday Service	Confirmation Courses
Messy Church	Lenten Ecumenical Seder Meal
School Leavers Service	Parish Feasts
Mothers Union Wave of Prayer	Parish Workshops
Remembrance Service	Wedding Fairs
World day of Prayer	Advent Fairs
Lent and Advent Courses	Churchyard Displays
Second Sunday Family Service	Flower Festivals
Easter Morning Beach Service	

***“Talking the
Talk
Walking the
Talk”.***

***How we relate
to the wider
Community***

- **Our Diocese**
- **Our School**
- **Mothers Union**
- **First Tuesday Hub**
- **Other Christian Communities**
- **Churches working Together**
- **BLS Neighbourhood Watch**
- **Bolton-le-Sands Parish Council**
- **The Village Fete**
- **The Children’s Society**
- **Supporting Projects Overseas**
 - **Mothers Union**
 - **Christian Aid**
 - **USPG**
 - **Toilet Twinning**



The Diocese of Blackburn provides us with leadership and support. “Vision 2026” inspires us:

”Healthy Churches Transforming Communities”

- Making disciples of Jesus Christ”.
- Being witnesses to Jesus Christ.
- Growing leaders for Jesus Christ .
- Inspiring children and young people to raise up a new generation for Christ.



Get involved with
Vision 2026.





Bolton-le-Sands Church of England Primary School is a delightful school set within lush grounds with a commitment to being central to our community. At Bolton-le-Sands, we believe that God is at the centre of all that we aim to achieve and, as such, we reach out to support each other in learning, growth and community. It is our goal to ensure that all members of our wide school family are welcome and are given the opportunity to know God, and know us. Our school is a happy and caring place where everyone is valued and we welcome the prospect of a new priest becoming part of our school family. When asking our pupils about what kind of priest they would like, they said:

"Someone who is kind, fun, approachable, has a good sense of humour and smiles."

"Who makes Collective Worship exciting and interactive, bringing in things to show us."

"Who teaches us more about the church, our community and God."

"A person that we get to see and talk to and acknowledges us."

"We would like a vicar who includes everyone no matter their age."

We are passionate in working together and we look forward to learning more about our new priest of Holy Trinity.

Our 'SIAMS' inspection (March 2018), which focused on our worship provision, R.E. teaching and learning, ethos and behaviour, leadership and management and distinctiveness as a church school, rated our school as OUTSTANDING OVERALL. With a new Senior Leadership team in place, we are now looking to further develop the links between our school, our Parish Church, and our wider community.

As well as involvement in school worship and the pastoral care of pupils and staff, the Vicar is an ex-officio Foundation Governor, and as such we hope that they will take a full and active role in the governance of the school.

A Video Welcome from the School



Mothers' UNION

Christian care for families

Diocese of Blackburn

Our branch has been active in the parish for at least 125 years.

Membership stands at around fifty and we gained four new members during lockdown as we were active on zoom. Each committee member is responsible for a group of members and we support those who are suffering ill health, bereavement and other adversities.

We support the Parish Baptism Programme by purchasing bibles which are given to the children.

Fundraising for MU projects is one of the strengths of this Branch and we do this in a variety of ways including sponsored walks, strawberry teas and regular coffee mornings. The MU caravan which provides holidays for those in need is situated in Morecambe and members help to provide cakes and toys for visiting families. We also support the Lancaster City of Sanctuary and have collected household cleaning products for refugees.

Meetings are on a monthly basis at the back of Holy Trinity Church and we generally have a speaker. Socially we meet twice each year at Morecambe Golf Club for lunch.

We will welcome a new Branch Leader in January 2022 as the retiring Leader takes up a Diocesan post with MU.

There are links with Bolton le Sands School and the Pre School and the children love to entertain us on occasions. We also link up with the other two churches in the village.

Looking to the future we hope to arrange an evening or even a zoom group to encourage younger members.



Other Christian Communities



St Mary of the Angels – Catholic Church.

The Church of St Mary of the Angels was built in 1882-4. Linked with the neighbouring parish of Our Lady of Lourdes and St Mary's Yealand Conyers. The three parishes are served by Canon John Gibson (Parish Priest).



Christ Church – URC

The most modern church in the village was opened in 1935. Part of the Lancaster North Team ministry. A new minister, Rev. John Gordon, has recently been appointed. Miss Audrey Shaw is the secretary.



The Monastery of our Lady of Hying – Warton

Special mention must be made of “Hying” as it plays a vital role in the life of our church. Run by the catholic nuns of the Bernardine Cistercians of Equesmes. It provides retreats and courses which are regularly attended by members of the parish.

Churches Together.



There are a number of times in the year where we come together as churches in the village.

World Day of Prayer

Lenten Seder Meal

First Service of Easter on the Shore

Remembrance Day

Mothers Union Teas

Catholic Women's League afternoons

Monthly Men's Breakfast

Monthly First Friday Service

Advent Festival

Village Fete

Other social activities





Since March 2019, in response to the Covid Epidemic, parishioners of Holy Trinity Church set up the village Neighbourhood Watch Scheme.

Where people can come along to enjoy friendship, refreshments, and receive specialist advice from professional organisations e.g. Age UK, CAB Dementia UK



Supporting those in need locally.

Bolton-le-Sands Parish Council is the administrative authority for Bolton-le-Sands.



Bolton Le Sands Gala

The BIS Gala is held annually, on the first Saturday in June. The Gala gives our church visibility as part of the village.

Supporting The Children's Society with household collecting boxes, provided by the charity, and the Christingle Service at Christmas



Holy Trinity

“The Church in the Centre of the Village.”



WELCOME TO OUR FAMILY FRIENDLY CHURCH

THE PARISH OF
HOLY TRINITY
BOXTON LE SANDS

Sundays
8.00am - Holy Communion
10.30am - Holy Communion

Wednesdays
10.00am - Holy Communion

See the notice board for additional services
or visit our website - www.boxtan-le-sands.org.uk

Vicar: The Reverend Nancy Goodrich - 01524 823106
117 Main Road, Boxtan-le-Sands, Camboth, Leics, L45 8DX



Where we are.



The parish of Holy Trinity, Bolton-le-Sands and St Mark's, Nether Kellet is in the north of Blackburn Diocese, situated close to the shore of Morecambe Bay, some 3 miles from Lancaster to the south and Morecambe to the west. Within the parish are the two villages of Bolton le Sands and Nether Kellet.

During the 20th century, Bolton-le-Sands developed from its ancient roots into one of the largest villages in Lancashire. The 2011 census gave the population as 4127, but this has increased since with the recent development of two new housing estates. The village has developed in linear fashion, following the north/south routes of the A6, the M6, the main west coast railway line and the Lancaster canal. The village has a modern and well used Community Centre, as well as a number of small shops, a doctors' surgery and pharmacy, a library, post office and several pubs and restaurants. The village school is a Church of England Aided Primary School. There are active uniformed groups for young people. Locally, employment opportunities are limited within the village, and most working people commute daily within the Lancaster/Morecambe area or further afield to Kendal or Preston.

Access to the M6 is very easy, with Junction 35 some 3 miles to the north through Carnforth, and Junction 34 within easy reach via the newly opened Bay Gateway. The nearest mainline railway station is Lancaster. Local train services run from stations at Morecambe and Carnforth.

PARISH DEMOGRAPHICS

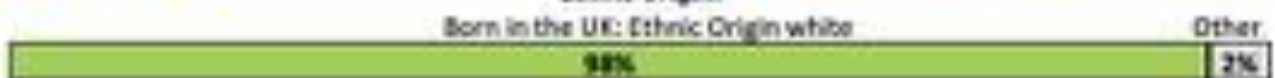
Gender



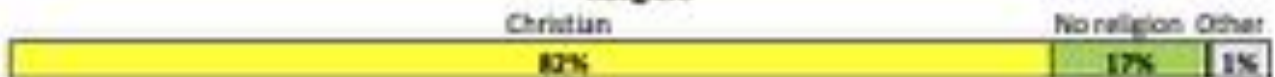
Age Range:



Ethnic Origin:



Religion:



Source: National Office of Statistics (Dec 2019) and 2011 Census.

OUR CHALLENGE: OUR OPPORTUNITY

82% of the residents of the Parish described themselves as 'Christian'. This is about 3500 people. We believe that the average weekly attendance at Holy Trinity, St Mark's, St Mary's and Christ Church URC is at most 200. Even at the Christmas and Easter festivals, only about 10% of Christians within the parish attend a church service. How do we get the other 90% to come to church and become part of our worshipping community?



Holy Trinity Audit - 2017

In 2017, we carried out a Healthy Church Audit, following our involvement with 'Vision 2026' the previous year.

We used a questionnaire based on the '6 signs of a Healthy Church' and invited the congregation to rate each one as:

- 1 this needs further development
- 2 meeting some of the criteria
- 3 this is a strength

The questionnaire was anonymous, and was used mainly at a 10.30am service (ie the principal service at Holy Trinity), although copies were available at other services (8am Sunday, 10.00am Wednesday).

The results of the questionnaire showed that the congregation felt that :

Needing Further Development	Meeting some of the Criteria	This is a Strength
Clear vision that gives direction to the church's ministry and mission	Inspiring worship and dynamic prayer that connects and engages; Positive leadership encouraging collaborative ministry Encouraging active, generous discipleship; Intentional outward looking focus.	A strong sense of warm, open community.

An new audit is planned post the Covid Crisis

Further Statistics.

DATABASE (GDPR) (September 2021)	QTY
Electoral Roll	135
Zoom Email Database	178
Parish Addresses Database	486
Covid Attendance Log (Adults)	166
Covid Attendance Log (Children)	36
Mothers Union Membership	50
Men's Group	31
Social Team	32
Neighbourhood Watch	65
Messy Church	80

Parish Organisation and Current Status



Cross prepared by the children on Good Friday

Summary of Finances

Over the past four years, whilst the Parish finances have been improving, with all expenses, including the Parish Share, having been covered, this has not been without the help of grants from the Diocese. These have reduced the Parish Share by an average of £10000 each year and we are acutely aware that this may deprive less fortunate Parishes of valuable resources.

Nevertheless, the trend has been a positive one, as in previous years a large deficit in Parish Share payments had built up. Additionally, in the same period, expenditure in excess of £400,000 has been made on repairs and upgrades to the fabric and facilities of Holy Trinity. Whilst the majority of the finance for this came from grants, there is no doubt that none of it would have been undertaken without substantial contributions from the congregation and local community, both in terms of volunteer help and cash gifts. More detail about these figures can be found by accessing our audited accounts on the church website.

It will be no surprise that the coronavirus pandemic has had a major, detrimental, effect on our income and a challenge remains for us to meet obligations in 2021 – at the time of writing we are estimating a shortfall of about £20,000. However, a similar outlook was foreseen in each of the previous two years and the congregation responded most generously to ‘one-off’ appeals for donations and fundraising. Similar appeals are being planned for the second half of 2021.

The bedrock of our income is the Planned Giving scheme, and the majority of this is now made by standing order. We estimate that over 90% of the regular congregation are part of the scheme, and all ‘Giving’ accounts for over 70% of total income on average.

The General, day-to-day, Reserve is maintained at the minimum prudent level of £5,000, with any additional income being committed to Parish Share. We have a number of Restricted and Designated Reserves, the main ones being used for any further expenditure on fabric – Holy Trinity is a grade II listed building and there are outstanding works that need to be addressed. St Mark’s, whilst much smaller, does have its own challenges in this respect.

Despite these challenges we are optimistic about the future, with a strong, multi-talented leadership team and enthusiastic congregation.

For more details of our 2020 Report and
Accounts use the QR Code



Parochial Church Council (Committee Structure)

Church Wardens

Peter John Davies

Mary Bunting (Safeguarding Officer)

Secretary to the PCC.

Ann Basham

Finance

Andy Hampshire

Russell Longton

Fabric

Brian James

Rob Daunt

Social and Communications

Andy Williams

David Bateman

Duncan Johnson

St Mark's

Robert Whittaker

Margaret Hutchinson

School Liaison

Kath Brough

Vision Champion and Outreach

Margaret Foster

Holy Trinity The Church Building.



The 2017 quinquennial inspection is up to date with the only category 'A' items being the sliding door to the tower roof and the bell tower louvres. The sliding door issue requires some minor joinery work. The bell tower louvre blades have suffered stone erosion and will have to be replaced. A quote of £22,511 has been received for the work, however there are insufficient funds in the fabric account to finance the work. The louvre blades have been restrained and the area beneath is barriered off for safety. A National Churches Trust application has been made for the balance of money to allow us to complete the louvre work, we are currently awaiting their decision.

Use the QR Code for more details:



St Mark's. The Church Building.



Saint Marks Nether Kellet is a small building with duo-pitch slate roof and limestone rubble walls. A porch on the south elevation accessed via a short path through the church yard from the gate on the public road. A bell cote at the west end of the ridge. On the north side, at the west end, there is a small vestry. The building is not listed.

The 2018 quinquennial inspection is up to date with no category 'A' items outstanding

The church was built in 1878 on land given for the church's use by John Booker. As Nether Kellet was already under the incumbency of the Vicar of Bolton-le-Sands, the church was automatically part of the parish from its consecration.

There are some cosmetic improvements now needed as well as some minor repairs, but our greatest obstacle at the moment is the lack of facilities and the current members of the congregation have been looking into ways that a toilet etc. may be acquired.

Use the QR Code for more details:



Social Media and Communications



Visitors to our Website
(last 12 months)
14.89k

“@parishbls” Facebook Page
551 followers.
4,848 Reach



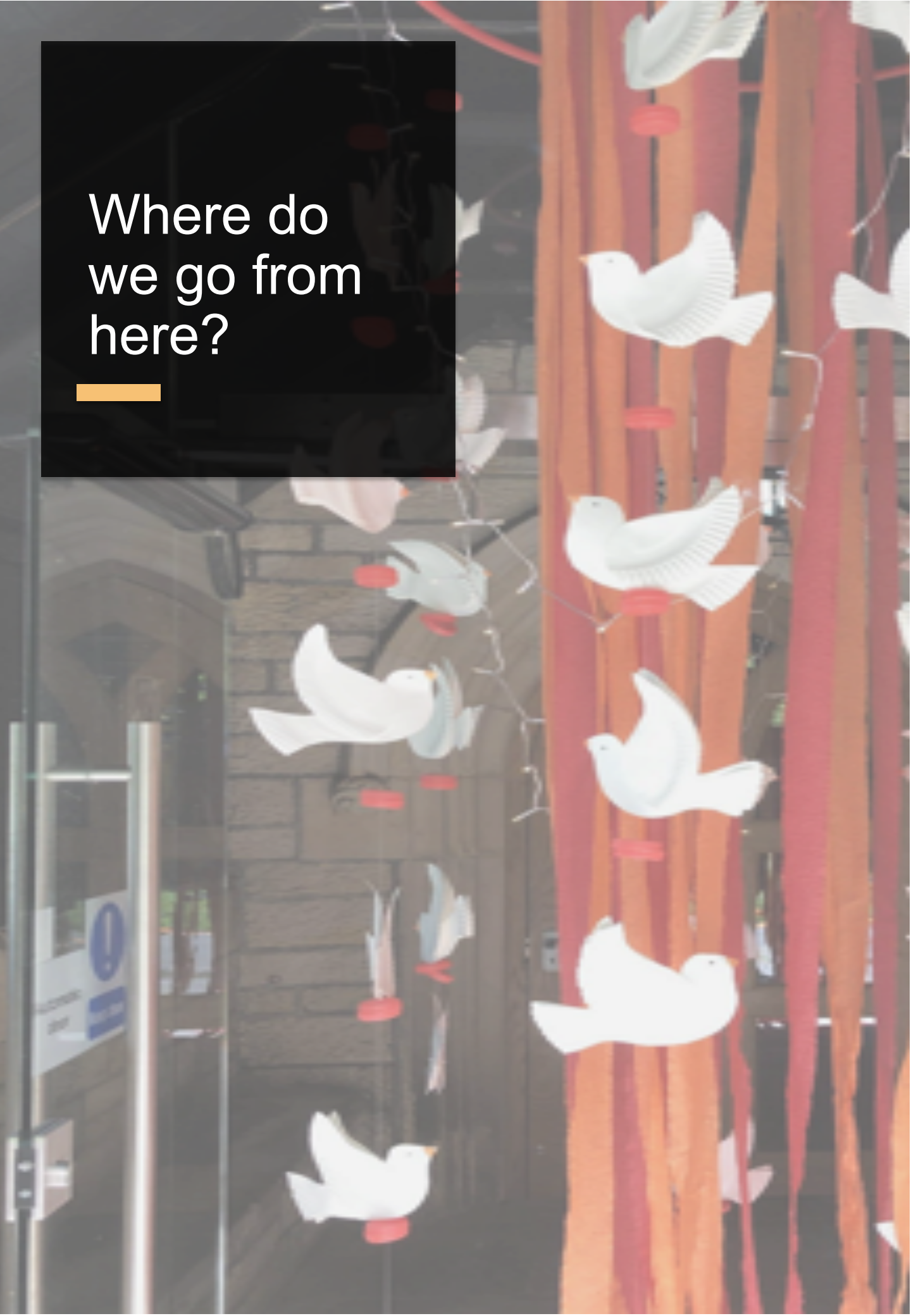
Monthly Newsletters
280 Subscribers

Weekly Email “The Link”.
(Printed out for parishioners not
on the internet)



176 Subscribers to our online
broadcasts and services

Where do
we go from
here?



Holy Trinity - Mission Action Plan.

In the Autumn of 2016, the PCC decided to adopt a Mission Action Plan for the next five years.

Developing leaders

- A culture of thankfulness
- Recognising gifts and talents
- Inviting people to participate
- Mentoring and working together
- Celebrating leaders

Spiritual Growth

- Prayer
- Bible study
- Short courses
- Worship
- Messy Church

Community Engagement

- Serving the community
- Building on existing links
- Developing work with school
- Developing work with young people and families
- Celebrating special occasions



In 2021 we reviewed and adapted the plan to focus on re-growth post-Covid.

THREE PILLARS

**Children and
Young People**

Discipleship

Pastoral Care

1) Children and young people: (Update 1st October 2021)

- a. All services to be reviewed, in order to engage more with children and young people
- b. Christenings ministry to restart – Christenings Team. (Done)
- c. Messy Church to restart. (Done)
- d. Second Sunday Service to restart. (Done)
- e. Relationship with school children, families and staff to continue to develop.
 1. Communications – including church activities in weekly school newsletter etc. (Done)
 2. Leavers’ service in church.
 3. Welcoming new starters and families.
 4. Weekly engagement/worship (Church led worship every Thursday)
 5. Eucharist in school (has been 6 times a year) or school in church.
 6. Year seven reunion service.
 7. Harvest Service led by the school, and school’s own Harvest Service in church. (Done)
 8. Advent and Christmas – Christingle service/schools own carol service in church. (Arranged)
 9. Confirmation group. (in planning)
 10. School/Church joint activity days.
 11. Relationship with Pre-School to be developed. (Done)
 - i. Communications - invites to Messy Church etc. (In hand)
 - ii. Harvest for Pre-School and families in church. (Done)
 - iii. Christmas for Pre-school & families in church. (Planning)

2) Discipleship & deepening prayerful faith

- a. Helping people grow in faith and share their faith. (In hand)
- b. Encouraging people to know and use their spiritual gifts. (On going)
- c. 3rd Sunday service to focus on deepening faith. (Ongoing)
- d. Encouraging the growth of new House Groups and supporting existing ones. (Ongoing)
- e. First Friday – encourage more lay leadership (In hand)
Exploring further ways to take Christ into the community (Ongoing)

3) Pastoral care

- a. Supporting the “Pastoral Care Link for the Sick” team. (Done)
Expand our ways of caring for all in our communities.
- b. Praying with/for each other and those in need. (On going)
- c. Pastoral care and nurture with the school. (On going)

Comments from the Parish and Local Community (including Social Media Comments.)

OS - " I would say someone that is open minded to all cultures and faiths."

RS - "...They should easily relate to the pupils who are the future of the village."

SB - "They should welcome children at the church and promote the church as a community hub for all."

CJ - "Friendly. Welcoming. Child friendly."

JF - "Sincere person who relates well to individuals and becomes part of the community."

LB - "We do well at Bolton-le-Sands Parish church at welcoming people . We could improve on closer links with the children and other churches

Our new vicar should be friendly and approachable."



For more comments use the QR Code.



Our New Vicar.

We are looking for a new vicar who will:

1. Bring people to know Jesus Christ personally and help develop and grow our faith individually and as a church community.
2. Have the ability to provide and encourage biblical teaching.
3. Provide enabling leadership for the PCC, guide and keep us focused on our parish vision in line with the Diocesan Vision 2026.
4. Help develop, inspire, grow, and enable lay leadership e.g., to develop pastoral care within our parish community.
5. Have the ability to grow and develop our ministry and involvement with the village school; working with the Head Teacher, staff, governors and volunteers.
6. Be confident to encourage and develop our children and youth ministry.
7. Have the imagination, energy and enthusiasm to grow the whole parish of Holy Trinity and St Mark's churches as thriving Christian communities.

Views of the Vicarage





Heavenly Father, during this vacancy, guard and grow this parish of Bolton le Sands and Nether Kellet as we serve you together in this period without a vicar.

Lord Jesus, We know that you have plans for us and that these plans are good. We ask now that you will help us to share responsibility, grow in faith, love one another, care for those in need, reach out to others, and welcome newcomers.

Holy Spirit, Please guide those who are seeking the right person for us, and those who are seeking the right place for their ministry, that together we may discover your way for the future and see your kingdom grow.

Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen



www.bolton-le-sands.org.uk



@parishbls



@ParishBlS

The Parish of Holy Trinity. Main St, Bolton-le-Sands. LA5 8DU
www.bolton-le-sands.org.uk. Charity No: 1144401