

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



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OUR PRAYER

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. It's 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. 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.



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:



A Warm Welcome

Where and when does the church meet?

Holy Trinity Church meets every Sunday at 8.00am and 10.30am for our Sunday Communion Services and at 10.00am on Wednesday. On the third Sunday of the month there is a prayer service instead of Communion.

St Mark's Church meets every Sunday at 9.00am.

Both churches are served from Bolton le Sands.

What should I expect when I visit the church?

You will receive a very warm welcome particularly from our Welcome Team who will be able to answer your questions and direct you to where you need to go. Our Communion Service includes hymns, bible reading and prayer with a talk from one of the leaders at the Church. All are welcome. Tea and coffee are served in the church after the service. The 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 and takes place on the second Sunday in each month from 9.15am till 10.00am. All children and families welcome.

Messy Church takes place bi-monthly on the third Saturday 10 till 11.30 .

Is there a dress code? No! Please just be yourself and come dressed in your 'normal' clothes.

Joining in? Service and hymn books are available for all services.

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

WHAT WE BELIEVE

What we believe

For us, church isn't a building, church isn't an event – church is about a community of people 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, seeking to deepen that relationship and to follow the way that Jesus taught.

Central to that relationship is knowing we can trust God. Saint Paul says at the end of the eighth chapter of his letter to the Church in Rome, 'if God is for us, who can be against us?' And this is the heart of faith.

How do we know that 'God is for us? Because Jesus Christ, the one human being who is completely in tune with God – with what God wants and what God is doing – has carried the burden of our human betrayals of God and running away from goodness. He has let himself be betrayed and rejected, executed in a humiliating and agonising way, and yet has not turned his back on us. Death did not succeed in silencing him or removing him from the world. He is alive; and that means that his love is alive, having survived the worst we can do.

Our Regular Worship

Prayer and worship is at the heart of the parish.

Holy Trinity Church meets every Sunday at 8.00am and 10.30am for our Sunday Services and at 10.00am on Wednesday.

The Sunday 8.00am Communion service is quiet and reflective with no hymns using the service booklets appropriate for the season.

The 10.30am Communion service is a much livelier service for all ages. Again we use the service booklet appropriate for the season. 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.

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 hymns. As with the Sunday 10.30 service, readings and prayers are led by the congregation.

St Mark's Nether Kellet has a service of Communion with hymns each Sunday at 9.00am.

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

Listen to our bells



Child Friendly Church



We love children. They are our future of the and they bring youthful light and joy to our church.

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

Each month we have “Messy Church” for very young families.

Special services such as the Christingle Service and Easter Service are also great fun for young parishioners.

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

We would like to do more!

Special Occasions.

There are many special occasions in the life of our church and we like to celebrate as many of them as possible. Remembering births, marriages and deaths are key.

Other services and celebrations include:

- Compassionate Friends Remembrance Service
- Christingle Service
- Nativity Service
- Carol Services
- Community Coffee Mornings
- Week of Prayer for Christian Unity
- First Friday Services
- First Tuesday Hub
- Messy Church
- School Leavers Service
- Concerts by local choirs
- Mothers Union Wave of Prayer
- Remembrance Service
- Men's Breakfast
- World day of Prayer
- Lent and Advent Courses
- Second Sunday Service for Families
- Holy Week Lunches
- Thy Kingdom Come
- Spiritual Study Days
- Confirmation Courses



“Talking the
Talk
Walking the
Walk”.
How we
relate to the
wider
Community

- Our Diocese
- Our School
- Mothers Union
- 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
 - Toilet Twinning

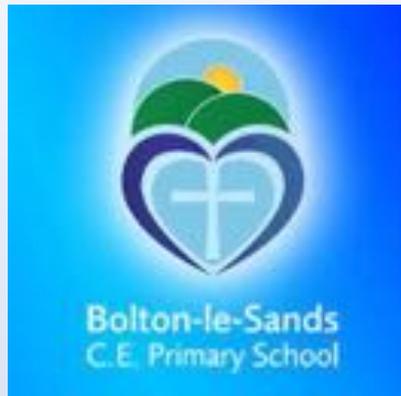


The Diocese of Blackburn provides us with leadership and support.
“Vision 2026” inspires us:

”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.





At Bolton-le-Sands Church of England Primary School, we believe that God is at the centre of all we aim to achieve, as such, our Mission Statement reflects this:

“With God at the centre, we reach out to support each other in learning, growth and community”

It is our goal to ensure that all the members of our school community are given the opportunity to get to know God and thank Him for His goodness to us. We are the village school and are at the heart of this village community, **all** members of this community are made very welcome in our school.

Our school is a happy and caring place where each child is valued and given opportunities realise his/her potential. We have high academic, social, sporting, cultural and behavioural standards and are extremely proud of the achievements of our children. Our children are our best advertisement.

We believe in a strong home-school partnership and wish that you have an active role in the education of your children. We recognise that the choice of a school is one of the most important decisions that parents are called upon to make on behalf of their children. Therefore, we aim to provide as much information as you need in order to make this choice and be certain that your child’s education and care are in good hands.

We are blessed with a supportive Governing Body and a fantastic PTFA (the “FOBLES”), both of whom enhance the children’s experience of life in school.





Since 1876, when Mary Sumner first brought together parents in her own parish to build their confidence in bringing up their children in the Christian faith, Mothers' Union has grown to over 4 million members worldwide. Their members work around the world bringing hope and practical support to millions of people every year through our parenting, literacy and community development programmes and as part of the volunteer base of local churches.

- Active in the parish for 125 years.
- 50 members
- Open to women and men.
- Supporting the parish baptism programme
- Supporting the diocesan holiday caravan in Morecambe for families in need.
- To demonstrate Christian faith in action by the transformation of communities worldwide through the nurture of the family in its many forms.
- To promote and support married life.
- To encourage parents in their role to develop the faith of their children.
- To maintain a worldwide fellowship of Christians united in prayer, worship and service.
- To promote conditions in society favourable to a stable family life and the protection of children.
- To help those whose family life has met with adversity.

Other Christian Communities

St Mary of the Angels – Catholic Church.



The Church of St Mary of the Angels was built in 1882-4 by E Simpson and is situated in the centre of the village of Bolton-le-Sands. The church was formally linked with the neighbouring parish of Our Lady of Lourdes, Carnforth in 2007, and later with St Marys Yealand Conyers in 2009. The three parishes are served by **Canon John Gibson** (Parish Priest) with the communities working in close partnership but retaining individual parish councils.



Christ Church – URC

The most modern church in the village was opened in 1935. Part of the Lancaster North Team ministry. A new minister has recently been appointed Rev. John Gordon. 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. Supported by many members of the village it has provided essential support to many of the vulnerable and housebound members of the community.

Bolton-le-Sands Parish Council is the administrative authority for Bolton-le-Sands. The village is a civil parish of the City of Lancaster in Lancashire listed in the Domesday book as Bodeltone. It was renamed Bolton-le-Sands to differentiate it from similarly named towns.

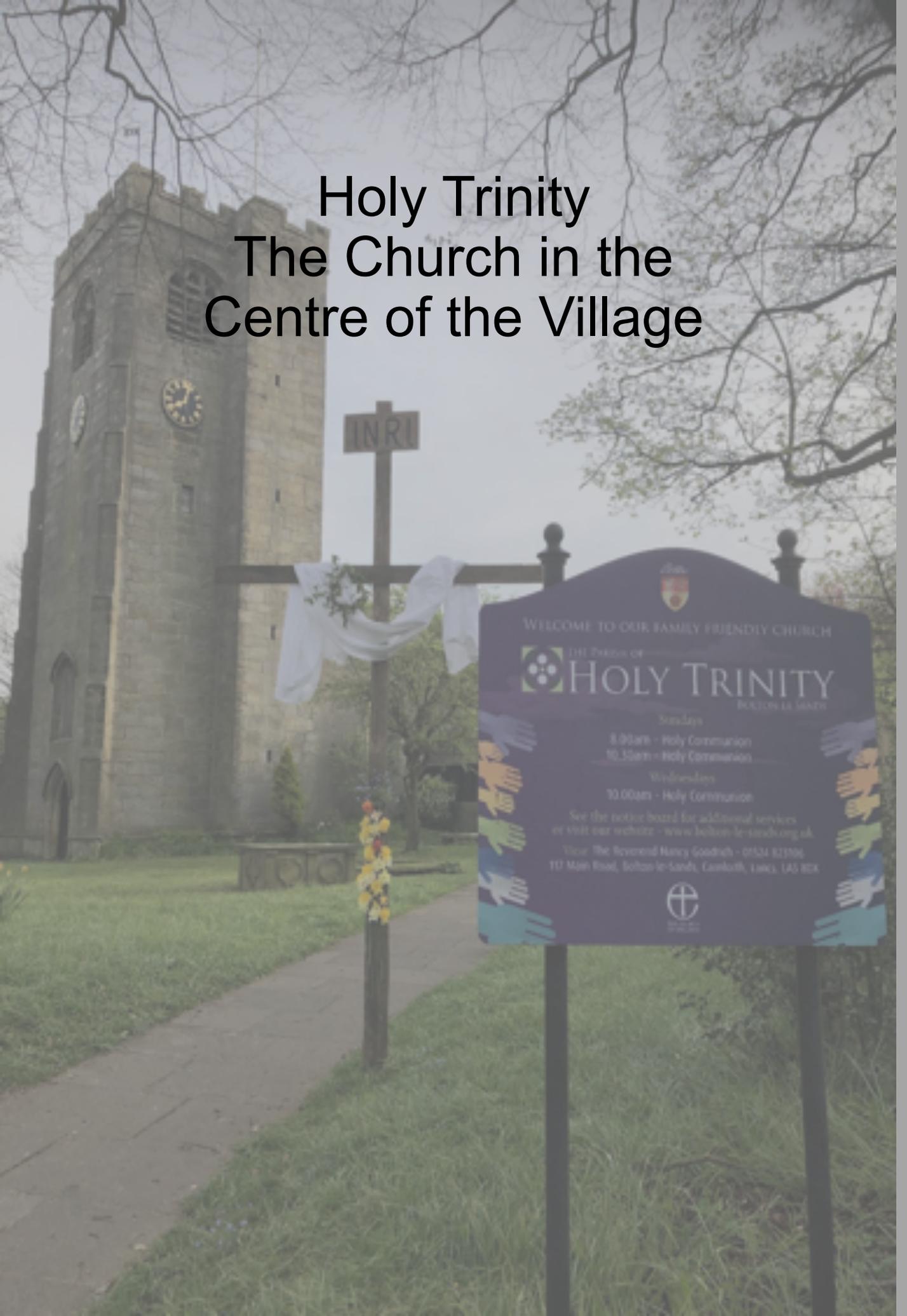


The Bolton-le-Sands Gala is held annually, usually on the first Saturday in June. The Gala gives our church visibility as part of the village.

Holy Trinity Church has for a long time been a supporter of The Children's Society with household collecting boxes, provided by the charity, and the Christingle Service at Christmas

The logo for The Children's Society, featuring the words "The Children's Society" in a bold, black, serif font, centered on a white background.

Holy Trinity The Church in the Centre of the Village



WELCOME TO OUR FAMILY FRIENDLY CHURCH

THE PARISH OF
HOLY TRINITY
BOSTON-LE-SANDS

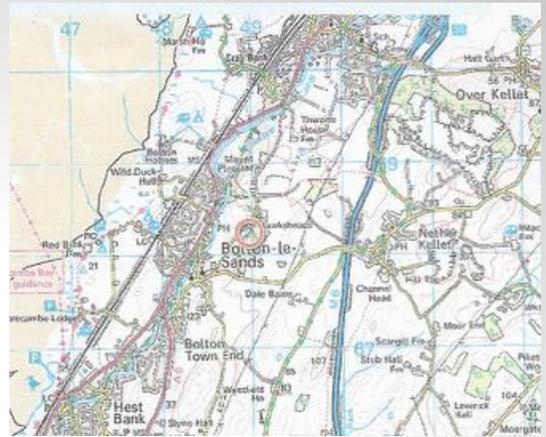
Sundays
8.00am - Holy Communion
10.30am - Holy Communion

Wednesdays
10.00am - Holy Communion

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

Vicar: The Reverend Nancy Goodrich - 01524 823706
117 Main Road, Boston-le-Sands, Cambridgeshire, Lincs, LN43 8DX

Where we are.



The parish of Holy Trinity, Bolton-le-Sands and St Mark's, Nether Kellat (check the official title) 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 Kellat.

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 is an active scout group in the village.

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.

Demographics

According to the National Office of Statistics figures for December 2019, and the 2011 census;

Bolton-le-Sands :

- Population 4,127
- There were slightly more women than men (52%-48%)
- 30% of the population were over the age of 65, which is slightly higher than average.
- 17% of the population were under the age of 18
- 97% of the population were born in the UK, and 98% of the population gave their ethnic origin as 'white'
- 82% gave their religion as 'Christian'; less than 1% gave 'other religion' and 17% answered 'no religion'.
-

The smaller village of Nether Kellet lies on the easter edge of the parish. It is a much smaller village.

- Population: 656
- There were slightly more women than men (51.4%-48.6%)
- 33% of the population were over the age of 65, which is slightly higher than average
- 17% of the population were under the age of 18
- 97.3% of the population were born in the UK, and 99.1% gave their ethnic origin as 'white'
- 82.6% gave their religion as 'Christian', 0.6% as 'other religion' and '16.8% answered 'no religion'

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, in summary, that the congregation identified statement

"A strong sense of warm, open community" as the biggest area of strength.

"Clear vision that gives direction to the Church's ministry and mission" as the area most needing further development.

The congregation felt that we were meeting some of the criteria for the other four areas :

Inspiring worship and dynamic prayer that connects and engages.

Positive leadership encouraging collaborative ministry

Encouraging active, generous discipleship

Intentional outward looking focus

Respondents were invited to give details of :

Age group

How regularly they come to church

How long they have been coming to church

How long they have lived in the area

Although the sample was relatively small (about 50% of the regular Sunday congregation), the responses bore out the anecdotal evidence at that time:

Demographic

85% of the congregation were in the 'over 50' age group; of the other 15%, none were in the under 30 age group.

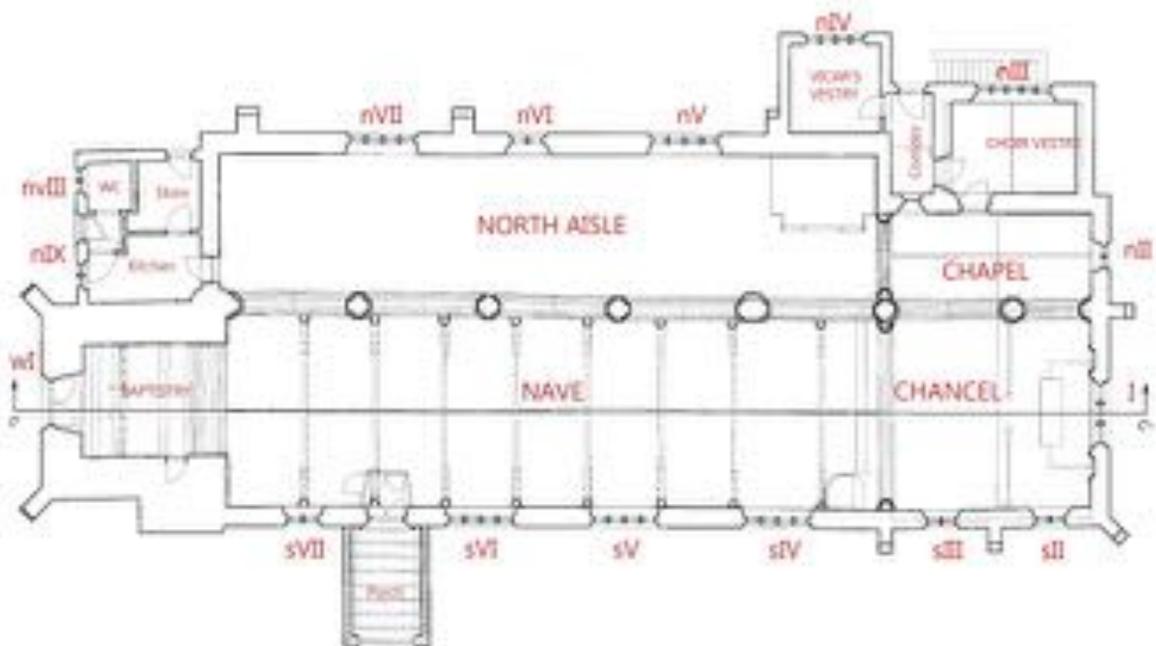
85% said they came to church every week – these were almost all the same people in the over 50s group. The remaining 15% said they came once a month.

50% of the congregation said they had been coming to church for 20 years or more.

80% of the congregation said they had lived in the local area for 20 years or more.

CAVEAT : Since this audit was undertaken, we have seen the introduction of occasional 'Messy Church' sessions and the monthly Second Sunday Service, both of which attract young families. No further audit because of Covid.

Parish Organisation and Finances



Summary of Finances

Over the past four years the Parish finances have been sound, with all expenses, including the Parish Share, having been covered. This was, and is, a most welcome trend 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

Church Wardens

Peter John Davies

Mary Bunting (Safeguarding Officer)

Secretary to the PCC.

Ann Basham

Finance

Andy Hampshire

Fabric

Brian James

Rob Daunt

Social and Communications

Andy Williams

David Bateman

Duncan Johnson

St Mark's

Robert Whittaker

Margaret Hutchinson

Bolton le Sands School

Kath Brough

Other PCC Members

Margaret Foster

Russell Longton

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?





What is Vision 2026?

'Healthy Churches Transforming Communities'

We desire to make the Good News about Jesus Christ more widely known, because we believe:

- He is the One who brings 'life in all its fullness'
- Healthy church communities have a positive and transformative impact on our society.

We will work together to achieve this by:

Making disciples of Jesus Christ

- Knowing the Scriptures better through reading, teaching, preaching and study
- Praying with greater depth and urgency for the Kingdom of God to come
- Worshipping in spirit and truth
- Giving generously of our time, talents and money to the cause of Christ

Being witnesses to Jesus Christ

- Sharing the Gospel of salvation with confidence
- Meeting human need: actions as well as words
- Planting 10 Strategic Church Plants and 200 New Local Congregations
- Caring for God's creation

Growing leaders for Jesus Christ

- Developing a diocesan-wide culture of vocational discernment so that all may hear God's call and use their gifts in the service of the Gospel.
- Discerning and forming theologically literate lay and ordained leaders, rooted in prayer and with a deep love of the Lord Jesus
- Nurturing a healthy partnership between clergy and laity by fully implementing the Lay Majority Ministry framework
- Forming and supporting a pipeline of highly motivated deacons and priests in order to enable the Diocese's clergy deployment strategy

Inspiring Children and Young People to raise up a new generation for Christ

- Discipling and nurturing children and young people in their Faith
- Holding regular worship that is accessible and appealing to children and young people and their families.
- Enabling growth in the numbers of leaders of children and young people
- Leveraging a step change in ministry with those aged 11-16
- Facilitating effective partnerships between churches and schools

Holy Trinity - Mission Action Plan.

In the Autumn of 2016, the PCC decided to adopt a Mission Action Plan for the next five years to give a sense of direction to the church. In 2021 this remains our current focus.

Community Engagement

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

Spiritual Growth

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

Developing leaders

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

The Three Pillars

Focus for re-growth post covid.



Children
and
Young
People

Discipleship

Pastoral
Care

1) Children and young people:

- a. 10.30am services to be welcoming for children and young people
- b. Christenings ministry restarts – Christenings Team.
- c. Messy Church restarts – Jess Squires to coordinate
- d. Second Sunday Service restarts
- e. Relationship with school children, families and staff re-grows, e.g.:
 1. Communications – inc church things in weekly school newsletter
 2. Leavers service in church.
 3. Meeting new starters and families (invite to school harvest)
 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 (2020's too?)
 7. Harvest inc on Sunday and school's own harvest service in church
 8. Stories of people Jesus helped with reception class in church
 9. Advent and Christmas – Christingle/schools own carol service
 10. Confirmation group
 11. School/Church days eg The Trinit
 12. Relationship with Pre-School re-grows:
 - i. Communications - invites to Messy Church etc
 - ii. Harvest for Pre-School and families in church
 - iii. Christmas for Pre-school & families in church

2) Discipleship & deepening prayerful faith

- a. Helping people grow in faith and share their faith
- b. Encouraging people to know and use their spiritual gifts
- c. 3rd Sunday service to focus on deepening faith
- d. House Groups – rebooting and growing a new one. Use zoom?
- e. First Friday – House groups leading.
- f. Prayer inc an autumn seminar with visiting leader

3) Pastoral care

- a. Caring for the parish and parishioners
- b. Praying with/for each other and those in need
- c. Pastoral care and nurture with the school

Our New Vicar.

- Strong faith in the word of God and his teachings through the Bible.
- An evangelical desire to spread the love of God.
- Great interpersonal skills.
- Ability to communicate ideas effectively with humour and insight.
- Comfortable speaking in public.
- Patience and empathy.
- Good organisational skills.
- A solid grip of Christian theology and doctrine.
- Be a confident, imaginative and wise communicator and teacher of the faith who will help to develop and grow faith
- Enthuse the congregations to effectively be the Christian presence in these parts
- Encourage and develop mission in the villages
- Be a kind listener and pastor who will help develop a lay pastoral ministry
- Continue to develop lay leadership and ministries across the parishes and build team ministries
- Bring an innovative, imaginative and creative approach to helping the churches grow numerically and spiritually
- Grow and develop the ministry and involvement of the church with the village school; and work with the Heads, staff and volunteers.
- Encourage and input into the development a ministry to children and young families
- Work with the wardens and PCCs to ensure the most efficient and effective structures for governance and to develop a mission action plan based upon the Diocese of Blackburn's Mission Action Plan

Views of the Vicarage



Our Prayer during the Vacancy

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



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