



# Padiham Parish

THE  
DIOCESE  
OF  
BLACKBURN  
THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND IN LANCASHIRE



## The Church

The parish consists of two churches: St Leonard's Padiham and St Margaret's Hapton. Both churches come from the tradition called Lancashire Low/Central though with a recent history of evangelical ministers. The Sunday morning services are usually Holy Communion and clearly Anglican. The music is a mixture of traditional and modern songs, with the evening service at St Leonard's being more informal with generally more modern music. There is a firm commitment to the authority of the Bible and the exposition of scripture is the priority at our services.

Our Sunday morning congregations are between 100-120 people at St Leonard's and 30-45 people at St Margaret's. We also have around 20-30 people at both our Sunday evening and Wednesday morning congregations. Within these we are blessed to have a varied demographic from small children to seniors adding to the sense of family within the church. There are also three Church schools attached to the parish, each giving us ample opportunity to minister to the next generation.

The parish is committed to supporting overseas mission. Our main link is with Debbie and Alan Burt who are serving in South Africa with Crosslinks. In addition, we are involved with an East Lancashire charity called The Bethany Project which runs an orphanage in Tanzania.

## The Location

The Parish consists of the town of Padiham, the village of Hapton, and extensive rural areas stretching from Padiham Heights to the summit of Hameldon Hill with the population is around 11,000. There is attractive countryside around Padiham; in particular Pendle Hill to the northeast dominates the local skyline. Located on the River Calder, Padiham is a typical, traditional small Lancashire mill town – though the cotton industry is now entirely gone.

## Working Details in Brief

This post is a full-time unpaid role, beginning September 2020 and lasting one or two years.

- ✚ We will provide accommodation with electricity/gas/water bills met by the church.
- ✚ An annual grant to help cover living expenses will be provided, however, it is important that you to seek to raise around £2000 per year to help support yourself.
- ✚ Ministry trainee course paid for by the parish and provided through the North West Gospel Partnership.
- ✚ In line with other staff, you would work six days per week (including some evenings) with one uninterrupted, full day off.
- ✚ You would be entitled to 36 days annual leave each year (inclusive of public holidays and a maximum of six Sundays) and an extra day off each month in addition to your regular day off.
- ✚ The Clergy will be responsible for the supervision of the trainees, along with an appropriate mentor, though the trainees are finally accountable to the Parochial Church Council.
- ✚ The Parish of Padiham is committed to the safeguarding of children and vulnerable adults, and the trainee will be subject to appropriate checks, at our expense.

Much of Padiham and Hapton is made up of old-fashioned terraced housing, and there are half a dozen residential homes. More recently the parish has seen an increase in small, more middle class, owner-occupied estates, often built on the sites of disused mills. Padiham has plenty of local amenities and shops, a recently opened moderately sized supermarket, and a National Trust property, Gawthorpe Hall. The Cathedral town of Blackburn is 10 miles to the west of Padiham, Manchester 25 miles to the south, rail links from Burnley and Manchester and good Bus links in all directions.

The church and location offer an ideal setting for this role giving opportunities for training, practice, evangelism, discipleship and study – to name a few. The parish continues to grow in both busy and active, while retaining the quiet and contemplative.

## **What we offer you**

We are committed to developing leaders in the church, whether they are looking to serve in full-time ministry or otherwise. Padiham Parish has employed several ministry trainees/assistants over the past decade: some have gone on to study at theological college, others have gone on to serve in other churches. If you are considering ordination, then the parish has supported four people over the past decade through the CofE BAP process.

Whatever your present situation or plans for the future, we offer our ministry trainees:

- A church family committed to seeing you grow in ministry, service and love for the Lord.
- A church member to read the Bible with you on a 1-to-1 basis.
- A programme as much focused on your own personal discipleship as it is on developing your ministry.
- Full course fees and transportation costs associated with the North West Partnership's ministry trainee course.
- Accommodation, including all utilities and local council tax.
- A grant to help with living costs

## **The Role**

We are looking for volunteers, who are committed evangelical Christians, to help with the Biblical and Gospel ministry of Padiham Parish – whilst themselves learning about Christian ministry. The post will include practical ministry, opportunities to lead and speak as appropriate, and training through the North West Gospel Partnership. The post is for one or two years starting September 2020, including a three-month probationary period.

The Ministry Trainee roles we are seeking to fill will be tailored to fit the persons filling them. Below are some of the ministries the Trainee might assist with:

- Ministry to Children and Youth
- Teaching the Bible so that young people grow in loving and following Christ
- Developing Godly relationships
- Helping groups on Sundays and throughout the week
- Helping with music
- Disciple young people in 1-1 ministry
- Administrative support for various ministries
- Helping with practical jobs

## **The Person**

We are looking for men and women who have a clear understanding of the gospel and Christian faith, maturity of character, and a desire to work with individuals and groups of different ages and stages. A servant heart is essential as well as enjoying working both in a team and individually, and being willing to humbly following directions from other staff. You will need to be able to work in the background at times, taking on unfamiliar or difficult challenges, and organising yourself to get things done on time.

This role could suit a range of persons in varying circumstances such as:

- A graduate or school leaver
- Those considering full-time Christian ministry
- Those discerning their next-step in life
- Those wanting experience before theological college
- Those looking to serve in this way prior to starting their career

## **Getting in Touch**

For further information or an application form please get in touch with the Assistant Minister – Kit Walker

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