

THE DIOCESE OF MANCHESTER

# *Parish Information and Profile*

## The Benefice of Littleborough



## 1. THE NEXT PARISH PRIEST

**As our next parish priest, we are looking for someone who:**

- Gives wholehearted assent to the creeds, including the bodily resurrection of Jesus.
- Has a strong faith developed through persistent and sustained prayer.
- Is open to the gifts and promptings of the Holy Spirit and encourages others in their own spiritual growth.
- Can hold together diverse congregations with different traditions.
- Can preach and teach the Gospel message enabling both new and mature Christians to develop their faith.
- Has ambition to continue to reach and draw in the local community.
- Has a commitment to collaborative ministry encouraging all to develop and use their gifts.
- Can inspire and lead the congregation in mission activities.
- Will continue to develop links with other churches in Littleborough and our Mission Community.
- Will maintain and develop further the close relationship with our schools.
- Will support the churches in growing stewardship
- Will support the improvement of the condition of the buildings leading to changes and upgrades to the facilities.

To create, in collaboration with the congregations, a vibrant Christian presence in the centre of and at the service of this community, testifying to the risen Christ.

## 2. INTRODUCTION

We are three churches in the village of Littleborough, situated on the outskirts of Rochdale in the Deanery of Rochdale, joined together as one Benefice. We seek to share Christ with Littleborough by serving our community.

## 3. BASIC INFORMATION AND STATISTICS

**3.1. Full name of benefice:** Benefice of Littleborough consisting of three parishes:

- Holy Trinity, Littleborough
- St Barnabas, Shore
- St James, Calderbrook

**3.2. Title of the post that is vacant:** Interim Minister of the Benefice of Littleborough.

### 3.3. Name and address of patron:

Holy Trinity

- Bishop of Manchester
- Incumbent of St Chad's, the Parish Church of Rochdale
- Dean and Canons of Manchester Cathedral

St Barnabas

- Bishop of Manchester

St James

- Bishop of Manchester

### 3.4. Archdeaconry, Deanery and Mission Community; and name of Area Dean and Mission Community Leader:

Archdeaconry: Rochdale

Archdeacon: The Ven. Canon Karen Smeeton

Email: [karen.smeeton@manchester.anglican.org](mailto:karen.smeeton@manchester.anglican.org)

Mobile: 07504 960446

Deanery: Rochdale

Area Dean: The Revd. Anne Gilbert

Email: [annegilbert@manchester.anglican.org](mailto:annegilbert@manchester.anglican.org)

Telephone: 01706 346774

Mobile: 07384 254262

Mission Community: ROC MC4

Mission Community Leader: The Revd. Janet Pitman

Email: [hildaofwhitby67@gmail.com](mailto:hildaofwhitby67@gmail.com)

Telephone: 01706 594284

### 3.5. Official clergy housing: address and brief description:

4 Stansfield Hall  
Littleborough  
OL15 9RH

A substantial, detached family home close to St James Church built in the 1960s. It has a large drive and two parking bays for six cars, with gardens on all sides. It is set in a semi-rural location, five minutes' drive from Littleborough village centre, and with well-regarded local schools.

The interior comprises a large lounge with separate dining room, fitted kitchen with utility room leading into the large garage. Downstairs there is a combined cloakroom and toilet. The study/office can be accessed separately from the house. Upstairs are four good-sized bedrooms, bathroom (including a shower and bath), and separate toilet.



**3.6. Official population:**

The official population of the benefice, taken from the 2021 census, is 8,779.

Breakdown by parish: -

- Holy Trinity 3,421
- St Barnabas 3,188
- St James 2,170

**3.7. Number on electoral roll:**

- Holy Trinity 41
- St Barnabas 34
- St James 19

**3.8. Average weekly attendance year on year, over the last 3 years:**

- Holy Trinity 25
- St Barnabas 20
- St James 12

**3.9. Average Weekly Attendance of children and young people under 16:**

- Holy Trinity 7
- St Barnabas 4
- St James 1

**3.10. In the last twelve months, numbers of: -**

**a. those baptized:**

- St Barnabas 1
- Holy Trinity 3
- St James 3

**b. those admitted to holy communion before confirmation: None**

**c. those confirmed: 3**

**d. marriages:**

- St Barnabas 1
- Holy Trinity 1
- St James 2

**e. funerals:**

- St Barnabas 11
- Holy Trinity 2
- St James 5

**f. Christmas communicants (all services):**

- 120 attended joint Benefice services

**g. Easter communicants (all services):**

- 98 attended joint Benefice services

**h. last October survey:**

The last October survey coincided with several joint benefice services and a baptism which made recording accurate numbers difficult.

- Average attendance at the three churches - 73

### 3.11. Anglican churches and licensed places of worship in the benefice profiled here: -

#### 3.11.1 Holy Trinity, Littleborough



- a. **Name of principal church:** Holy Trinity
- b. **Approximate key dates for the building:**  
 The nave of the current building dates from 1817, replacing an earlier church building. In 1889 a new chancel was added. The intention was to rebuild the whole church, but the plan was abandoned with the onset of the First World War.
- c. **Approximate seating capacity:** 350
- d. **When was the last Quinquennial inspection done?** 2019
  - i. What are the top 3 priorities as highlighted by the architect?
    - Cleaning and repair of gutters
    - Testing and update of service records
    - Condition of nave windows
  - ii. How much did the architect estimate they might cost?
    - Nave windows - £90,000 in 2019, we are currently waiting for a faculty to start grant applications.
  - iii. What progress has been made thus far by the parish?
    - Cleaning and repair of gutters completed 2023
    - Testing and update of service records completed 2024
    - DAC have agreed to replacement of nave windows under Phase 1 of Project 2020, currently awaiting faculty.
- e. **How accessible are the parish buildings?**  
 There is no level access, or accessible WC, this would be part of Phase 2 of Project 2020.
- f. **Name of any attached or nearby hall or other similar facility:**  
 There is no church hall, however we have use of the nearby church school premises with permission of the headteacher.

### 3.11.2 St Barnabas, Shore



- a. **Name of principal church:** St Barnabas
- b. **Approximate key dates for the building:** The church was built in 1901.
- c. **Approximate seating capacity:** 200
- d. **When was the last Quinquennial inspection?** June 2019
  - i. Top 3 priorities as highlighted by the architect
    - Roof repairs to a number of locations
    - Damp ingress relating to roof and pointing defects
- e. **What progress has been made thus far by the parish**

Following successful grant application repairs were undertaken in 2025 to the roof to halt water ingress in a number of areas. Areas of stonework have been repointed. Sections of damaged plaster will be repaired when the masonry has dried out following repointing works. A grant application of £10,000 was successfully made for replacement lighting. In late 2025 all fluorescent, SON & metal halide light fittings were replaced with energy efficient LED fittings. This change will significantly reduce electricity consumption and the churches carbon footprint. Total cost £12,000 with the additional £2000 paid from Church funds
- f. **How accessible are the parish buildings?**

The church has a level carpark and access road from public highway. There is an accessible ramp to the main entrance. An accessible toilet is provided on the ground floor and all doors within the Narthex are wide enough to accommodate wheelchairs. The Narthex with parish hall at first floor was completed in 1992. It was designed to allow the installation of a chair lift on one of the staircases and has the potential for a lift to be installed should funds be available in the future making the first floor fully accessible.
- g. **Name of any attached or nearby hall or other similar facility:**

The church has a Narthex with a hall on the upper level.

### 3.11.3 St James, Calderbrook



- a. **Name of principal church:** St James
- b. **Approximate key dates for the building:**  
The church was built in 1860 as a Chapel of Ease of Holy Trinity.
- c. **Approximate seating capacity:**
- d. **When was the last Quinquennial inspection done?** 20<sup>th</sup> September 2024
  - i. What are the top 3 priorities as highlighted by the architect?
    - Dry rot affecting areas of church (dealt with January 2025)
    - Electrics (highlighted in EICR report and repeated in Quinquennial (fixed in September 2024)
    - Priorities for 2026 is to replace outdated and failing lighting.
  - ii. How much did the architect estimate they might cost?
  - iii. What progress has been made thus far by the parish?
- e. **How accessible are the parish buildings?**
  - There is ramp access to the church and an accessible toilet.
- f. **Name of any attached or nearby hall or other similar facility:** None.

### 3.12 Details of Anglican churches or licensed places of worship in the benefice or parish(es) profiled here with whom you will share an incumbent undergoing pastoral reorganisation, or likely to, in the near future:

None.

### 3.13 Details of any publicity/literature that the parish produces e.g. newsletter, magazine:

A Benefice newsletter is produced every Sunday, the Benefice magazine stopped during Covid and has not yet been restarted.

### 3.14 ADDRESS OF WEBSITE AND/OR OTHER SOCIAL MEDIA OR REMOTE SERVICE OFFERING:

- Website: <https://cofe-littleborough.co.uk>
- Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/cofelittleborough>
- X: @cofelittleborough
- Instagram: CofELittleborough

### 3.15 NAMES OF CHURCHWARDENS:

#### Holy Trinity:

- Graham Windslow

#### St Barnabas:

- Sheila Wildman
- Cynthia Moulton

#### St James

- Thomas Gordon

### 3.16 NAMES OF PARISH REPRESENTATIVES:

#### Holy Trinity:

- Frank Kershaw
- Graham Windslow

#### St Barnabas:

- Sheila Wildman
- Cynthia Moulton

#### St James

- Thomas Gordon
- Linda Gibson

## 4. PRIESTS (ORDINATION OF WOMEN) MEASURE 1993 HOUSE OF BISHOPS DECLARATION ON THE MINISTRY OF BISHOPS AND PRIESTS 2014

Since 17 November 2014 it has no longer been possible for a PCC to pass resolutions under the Priests (Ordination of Women) Measure 1993 or to petition under the 1993 Act of Synod for Extended Episcopal Oversight. It is no longer a requirement that parishes should consider passing or rescinding resolutions under the Measure at a Section 11 Meeting in a vacancy. Any new resolutions must now be passed under the House of Bishops Declaration on the Ministry of Bishops and Priests. A PCC, on grounds of theological conviction, may resolve to request that arrangements are made for it under the House of Bishops Declaration.

Under transitional arrangements, though, any resolutions passed under the Measure will be treated as if they are resolutions under the House of Bishops Declaration until 17 November 2016.

**Please record details below if either,**

- a. *any resolutions under the Priests (Ordination of Women) Measure or the 1993 Act of Synod were passed by the PCC prior to 17 November 2014 and have not subsequently been rescinded, or*
- b. *any resolution under the House of Bishops Declaration on the Ministry of Bishops and Priests 2014 has been passed.*

None of the three P.C.C.'s has adopted resolution A or B or have petitioned for extended Episcopal Oversight.

## 5. LOCAL COMMUNITY

The three parishes that make up the Benefice of Littleborough are semi-rural and located on the north-eastern edge of Greater Manchester. The area contains a mix of housing, including older terraced properties as well as newer developments. The population has remained largely stable in recent years, although this may change with the recent housebuilding taking place within the benefice.

At the most recent census, 95% of residents identified their ethnicity as White British. Around 50% described themselves as Christian, while 40% reported having no religious affiliation. The Index of Multiple Deprivation varies between the parishes but generally falls within the lower deciles, largely due to factors relating to age and health. Littleborough and Calderbrook have lower levels of deprivation compared with Shore.

Littleborough is primarily a residential area, but the town centre near the railway station includes a range of shops, pubs, restaurants, and cafés, as well as some small offices and factories. A nearby coach house, located within a two-minute walk of Holy Trinity Church, attracts many artists and hosts a range of community crafts. It also contains a large community room and a well-used café. Hollingworth Lake is the jewel in the crown — a popular local beauty spot that attracts walkers, visitors, and campers.

A variety of community events take place in Littleborough throughout the year. These include the Christmas Lights Festival, the Summer Festival, and a small “Glastonboro” music festival organised by Littleborough Cricket Club. Other annual events include Rush Bearing, the Arts Festival, and the Food Festival.

Transport links are good, with rail connections to Manchester (around 20 minutes), Rochdale (7 minutes), and Leeds (about 40 minutes). The M60 motorway is only a few miles to the south at Milnrow.

The village is undergoing significant change. More than 1,000 houses are in the process of being built, which will also bring the benefit of a new primary school. At present, Wardle School and Hollingworth Academy are the two main feeder secondary schools for pupils from Littleborough’s primary schools. However, there are discussions about the possibility of a new secondary school being funded by the government.

### Local councillors:

The Benefice covers parts of two council wards -

Wardle, Shore and West Littleborough	Littleborough Lakeside
○ Councillor Ashley Dearnley	○ Councillor Tom Besford
○ Councillor Adam Branton	○ Councillor Janet Emsley
○ Councillor John Taylor	○ Councillor Richard Jackson

- Member of Parliament: Paul Waugh MP

## 5.1. SCHOOLS AND VOLUNTARY GROUPS

Within the Benefice there are four primary schools:

- Holy Trinity CE Primary School (VA)
- Stansfield Hall CE/Methodist Primary School (VC)
- Littleborough Community Primary School
- St Mary's Roman Catholic Primary School

The Benefice has links with the two church schools (on both of which the Incumbent of the Benefice sits ex-officio), and in addition to this we are looking to build a stronger relationship with Littleborough Community Primary School.

### Working Together as a Benefice

The Benefice of Littleborough is made up of three individual parishes, each with its own identity, history, and community. While each parish continues to worship and serve locally, we work closely together as a benefice in a spirit of partnership and mutual support.

We join together regularly to celebrate major holy days and special services, and we collaborate on fundraising activities and social events that strengthen the life of our churches and communities. Our Churchwardens work closely with one another, alongside the PCCs, ensuring that decisions and responsibilities are shared in a positive and supportive way.

This strong relationship allows us to share parish resources and expenses where appropriate, while also caring for one another's churches and parishioners. Together we look to build a welcoming, supportive, and vibrant Christian presence across the whole benefice.

## 5.2. WORSHIP AND WORSHIPPERS

As a Benefice of three parishes, our worship brings a variety of styles.

The current pattern of worship was reviewed under the previous incumbent to allow him to be with each parish weekly, and that pattern is:

### Sunday

9.00 a.m.	CW Holy Communion at St Barnabas, Shore
10.15 a.m.	CW Holy Communion at Holy Trinity, Littleborough
11.30 a.m.	CW Holy Communion at St James, Calderbrook

An 8.00 a.m. Said BCP Holy Communion at Holy Trinity each Sunday, monthly Healing Service at Holy Trinity and mid-week services at St Barnabas and St James were suspended during the Covid lockdown and have not yet been reinstated.

On High days and Holy days, as well as 5th Sunday in the month the three churches gather for a Benefice service at 10.00 a.m. During the course of a three-year cycle all three parishes will observe the main festivals of the church year.

Currently baptisms take place within the main worship of the day on a rota between the three churches.

The three parishes would welcome a review of the current pattern of worship. Vesture for ministers is traditional.

All three churches have a similar mix in the congregations, with a small number of young families and older, regular members.

Each of the three churches in the Benefice has a different tradition, with Holy Trinity being more evangelical, St James more catholic and St Barnabas being in between.

## 5.3. CHURCH-BASED ORGANISATIONS AND GROUPS

Between the three churches, a variety of events are organised.

### 5.1.1 Holy Trinity, Littleborough

Located in the centre of Littleborough, close to the shops and railway station, our friendly church has been a part of the community since the 15<sup>th</sup> century. The church maintains close ties with our church school, and Leavers', Harvest, and Nativity services are held in the church. This year we held a successful "Back to School Sunday" service. Given that the new vision for the diocese includes growing younger, it is positive that the Headteacher of the school is looking forward to building better links with the church. As we are a civic church we have opportunities of holding the annual remembrance service at the Cenotaph which is located within a short walking distance to church, Holocaust memorial and other township events and services.

There is a Bible Study group that meets on a weekly basis, usually at one of the churchwarden's homes, and is led by a variety of people.

Sunday school runs for primary age children during school term time.

The Holy Trinity Youth Theatre Workshop meets in church on a Friday evening for young people, aged 9-18, with additional rehearsals as required. There are about 25 regular members, but children from the local primary schools' choir are invited to take part in an annual production. This is part of our outreach to the local community; no charge is made. The group has been invited to take part in local events. The group puts on two shows a year, one of which is a full-scale musical theatre production.

There is an annual Art Exhibition every summer and regular band concerts.

Throughout the year there is a programme of fund-raising events. Coffee is regularly served after the service.

Holy Trinity has a reordering project. This includes a kitchen and toilet facility which, will help the church building become fit for the future and more adaptable for community events.

There are opportunities to link with several care homes in the area.

The church is an emergency evacuation centre for Littleborough in the event of flooding.

### **5.1.2 St Barnabas, Shore**

Located on the outskirts of Littleborough, St Barnabas is a friendly, welcoming and well-equipped church and developing community space nestled in the centre of the village of Shore which was a former close mill community. It has evolved over the years and now enjoys a mixture of private and local council housing. Up to recently St Barnabas was the home to a large Church Lads and Church Girls Brigade, 30 children plus, a thriving Sunday School and a weekly Luncheon Club which attracted over 35 older people each week.

The Benefice Christingle is held every year to raise money for "The Children's Society" after the previous incumbent arrived, this moved to Christmas Eve, the first year (2015) we had 80 in attendance, in 2016 this grew 50% to 120, continues to grow with nearly 175 attending in 2025

As of late the congregation has diminished, however numbers have increased over recent months, and we are positive that we have turned the corner and started to rebuild.

A Facebook page was launched recently and is attracting more interest in the parish.

St Barnabas PCC are working towards removing the old pipe organ and creating a room which can be used for small prayer meetings etc. Two grants have now been secured and expended to repair the church roof and replace lighting; however, our church has been well maintained over the years and overall is in a good state of repair.

Music in the church is provided by an electronic organ which replaced the dilapidated pipe organ. All hymns, carols and service music are pre-recorded and played through the organ via a connected laptop. The organ can still be played in the traditional manner when required.

We have a peal of eight bells and a chime frame, there is a ringing team of 10. The chimes are used when a full ringing team is not available and at weddings when requested. In addition, the Bells are rung several times a year by visiting bell ringers' associations. Ringing practice is on a Thursday and new members are always welcome.

### Church Hall

St Barnabas Church Hall is now a hub for Shore and Littleborough. It is used five days a week with the following groups:

- Dance and Drama, Monday and Wednesday evening
- Yoga and Mindfulness, Monday, Tuesday and Thursday
- Youth Club, Friday
- A warm space coffee morning club operates on a Thursday morning each week to provide a venue for our older friends with the view of helping these people overcome loneliness and rising heating bills. On one Thursday each month this event includes a cooked three course luncheon.

The income from all these groups is helping St Barnabas grow and allow us to reinvest in our facilities. The benefit does not just have a monetary value; it is also welcoming more adults and young people into our church building which we hope in turn will increase our parish numbers.



Upstairs Hall



Kitchen Area



Downstairs hall and meeting room

### **5.1.3 St James, Calderbrook**

St James is a small, friendly church on the border of West Yorkshire. Visitors always comment on its welcoming and prayerful atmosphere. Our popular Ladies' Fellowship, Gardening Club, and Macmillan coffee mornings have yet to be reinstated following lockdown.

The church maintains very close ties with the Stansfield Hall CofE/Methodist Primary School (VC), and Leavers', Harvest, and Nativity services are held in the church every year.

St James is now an official polling station for the area, a role previously taken by the school, which necessitated school closure on polling days. A local parent-support SEND group has started to meet in the Lady Chapel.

St James plays host to, and famously caters for, fell races held throughout the year. helping to raise the profile of the Church (and much-needed funds) in the local area. An unofficial "Friends of St James" help with the catering.

There is space at the back of church, and a kitchen, which gives the building an opportunity to be used more widely.

Located in the foothills of the Pennines, featuring a mix of farmland, woodland, canals, and walking routes, Forest Church is being piloted in this mission community, with a view to resources being shared and support given to run it here. Our graveyard attracts local wildlife, especially now we take part in 'No Mow May.' The church is a popular location for weddings.

There is a care home across from the vicarage, and about five minutes' walk from the church.

### **5.1.4 Benefice**

The Benefice has its own website - <https://cofe-littleborough.co.uk>

The Benefice also has a Facebook presence and a healthy following; we currently have two editors, although we need to make much more use of this facility.

The Benefice Church Council (BCC) was set up to plan mission activity across the Benefice and was responsible for creating the Benefice prayer and our mission statement – "Sharing Christ with Littleborough". It is also responsible for organising the Lent groups.

During the Covid lockdown a Pastoral Response Group was set up on WhatsApp to provide prayer support, this group is still active today.

There is a Benefice social committee which meets regularly to arrange fundraising functions for the Benefice and have a full calendar for this year which include Afternoon tea, tombola for the Rushbearing, and Christmas lights switch-on, a quiz night at St Barnabas, band and choir concerts at both St Barnabas and Holy Trinity, and afternoon tea with Santa at St James.

The Benefice participates in Littleborough Churches Together and over the past two years we have begun to make a much more visible presence in the community. Annual events now include – service for the week of prayer for Christian Unity, Harvest praise.

Each week, the Benefice publishes its services / weekly events in the Rochdale Observer (the main paper of the area).

#### **5.4. NEIGHBOURING ANGLICAN CHURCHES AND PARISHES**

The Benefice of Littleborough is adjacent to two Benefices in the Diocese of Manchester and together we form the Rochdale Mission Community 4 in the Deanery of Rochdale:

- Dearnley, Wardle and Smallbridge
  - St Andrews, Dearnley
  - Wardle Village Church (Anglican / Methodist Local Ecumenical Partnership)
  
- Milnrow and Newhey
  - St James, Milnrow
  - St Thomas, Newhey

North and east of our Benefice are parishes in the Diocese of Leeds.

## **6. ECUMENISM**

In addition to the three churches within our Benefice, who are all members of Littleborough Churches Together, we also have links with the following:

The Roman Catholic Church  
The Methodist Church  
The United Reformed Church  
A non-denominational fellowship

## **7. MINISTRY**

There is an Authorised Lay Minister with elective in Administration based at St James. There are currently sixteen Eucharistic Assistants in the Benefice. Nine people have volunteered to take out home communion.

## 8. MISSION

Our understanding of the Mission of the church is based on the words of Jesus in the Great Commission. We express it in two forms, that of teaching in order to grow disciples and that of reaching out to share the gospel with others.

We have a Benefice prayer, which sums up our mission:

**Heavenly  
Father, send  
your Holy  
Spirit  
to give vision in our  
planning, wisdom to our  
actions and grace  
through our witness,  
as we seek to serve you as a  
Benefice in sharing Christ  
with Littleborough. Amen**

### 8.1. Teaching:

We have a well-established group that meets weekly for Bible Study and prayer.

We teach our children through the Sunday School which meets during the morning service (term time only).

Our clergy have maintained strong links with our Voluntary Aided Primary school, leading assemblies and teaching some lessons.

Holy Trinity Church has a lending library, for adults and children. We hope that the inspirational books on display and the book reviews will encourage and build faith.

### 8.2. Outreach:

Several members of the church serve as governors at the church schools. Members of the church assist in school as volunteers hearing children read.

Holy Trinity are incredibly proud of our Youth Theatre Workshop. It has been running since 2012 and is the gift of the church to the local community. The group, for which there is no charge is open to any child aged 9-18. We put on two shows a year, one of which is a full-scale musical theatre production. Over the four nights of the main show, over three hundred people come into our church. Whilst only two children are currently members of churches in our Benefice, this group has enabled us to encourage members of the local community through our church doors. In addition, many of them joined us to support the young people who were invited to take part in the Carol Service. Whilst they have not made a commitment to Jesus, we ensure that they have a positive experience of the church and hope to build bridges in our community that may result us being able to reach them for Christ at a time that is right for them.

A small number of members from all three churches meets once a week for coffee in a local cafe. This is important as this group bases itself in the local community. Members are from all three churches. They place themselves in a situation where they are now recognised locally. It is also important in building relationships between members of the church and has been instrumental in helping people to begin to feel a part of the church and ultimately to join in helping with the work of the church.

### **8.3. Annual Art Exhibition:**

Whilst this exhibition is held in Holy Trinity church and is an opportunity for local artists to sell their paintings; as a church, we view this as another opportunity to welcome the public into our building. We hope that they will take time to read and talk about items that we have on display besides the art. It is another opportunity that we make to help others to get to know us in the hope that should they come into church one Sunday, they will see familiar faces.

We recognise that we are a part of the Worldwide Church and support the work of Open Doors. Rather than send each other Christmas Cards, we ask people to send one card and to make a donation to Open Doors. We have a display in church which helps keep us all up to date with information. We also pray for the persecuted church.

## **9. FINANCE, STEWARDSHIP AND SUSTAINABILITY**

Stewardship is practiced in the Benefice, but it is several years since the last campaign. Giving was severely impacted by the COVID pandemic and has not fully recovered. The Benefice is committed to full payment of the Parish Share, St James has paid in full, St Barnabas has paid in full for the last two years (2024 & 2025). Holy Trinity has paid in full in 2025.

All three parishes aim to keep a balanced budget.

The parish priest's expenses were met in full.

All parish officer posts are currently filled, but succession planning has become difficult.

### **Footnote**

The Benefice of Littleborough has been in an interregnum period for the past two years. During this time, the three parishes have worked closely together to sustain and strengthen the life of our churches. While this period has presented challenges — particularly in relation to finances and serving an aging congregation — it has also demonstrated the resilience, commitment, and faith of our communities.

With the support of churchwardens, PCC members, and parishioners, we have continued to worship, serve, and grow together as a benefice. We believe we are now emerging from this period with renewed confidence and a positive outlook for the future.

We are seeking a priest who will help lead us into the next chapter of our shared life: someone who is compassionate, vibrant, positive, and encouraging. With the right leadership, we are confident we can continue to move forward together, strengthening our churches and welcoming new generations, including young people and families, into the life of our benefice.