

Article for the Lancashire Telegraph *September 2016*

Watch out! Lancashire is facing an invasion. It's not from aliens or monsters or a foreign power. This is to be an invasion of Anglican Bishops.

For four days from September 8th – 11th September, 25 Bishops and one Archbishop will be coming to the Diocese to share in a special weekend called Crossroads.

They will be taking part in excess of 400 events in almost every town and village in our county. They will be at social events, quiz evenings, special services, coffee mornings, youth events, schools, prisons and football stadia. They will be coming to a place near you. And leading it all will be the intrepid and untiring Archbishop of York, Dr John Sentamu.

So what is this all about? The clue is in the name. I have recently come back from a cycling holiday in France and as we pedalled our way across endless kilometres of Normandy, we passed through numerous crossroads. Each one was a place of choice, a place where we had to consult the map, think, negotiate and choose a route. When you reach a crossroads, you have to make a decision about which way you're going to go.

The Crossroads event in Lancashire, led by the Bishops of the north, will be a time of decision, and the choice we are inviting people to make is about how they want to live their lives. Because the most important decision we ever make is not about routes or careers or homes or pensions. It is about Jesus and whether and how we want to live our lives in a relationship of perfect love with him.

The visit of so many Bishops to our Diocese will be an occasion for immense celebration. Parish Churches across the county are throwing open their doors and inviting people to join them for events which will be great fun with good company. But it will also be a time when we invite people to think and decide. Who is Jesus? How does he fit into your life? Because that's the only decision that matters.

To find out more about the Crossroads Mission event go to our Diocesan website (www.blackburn.anglican.org) and click on the Crossroads tab under 'Mission and Growth'.

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Bishop of Burnley