

DS 2072

**Minutes of a Meeting
of
Blackburn Diocesan Synod**

held on Saturday 14 October 2023 at Fulwood St Cuthberts

Present

2 Members of the House of Bishops (100%)
41 Members of the House of Clergy (62%)
30 Members of the House of Laity (55%)
1 Visitor

Apologies

10 Members of the House of Clergy (15%)
11 Members of the House of Laity (24%)

1. Opening Worship

The meeting was chaired by **Bob Collins (Chair of the House of Laity)** and commenced with worship led by **Jane Atkinson (Vicar, Little Thornton St John the Evangelist)**, **Claire Cooke (Tutor Emmanuel College, General Licence)**, and **Diane Dennett (Lay Chair, Blackpool Deanery)**

2. Presidential Address

Bishop Philip welcomed Synod members to the meeting. He spoke about the current violence and loss of life in Israel and Palestine, Living in Love and Faith and the importance of reconciliation through committing ourselves anew to hold up the Cross.

His full address is attached to the minutes.

3. News Update

Bishop Philip thanked John Rodwell (Diocesan Environmental Officer) for all his contributions towards our Carbon Net Zero action plan and to Carolyn Barton (Director of Vision Delivery) for her work on the SMMI funding application.

The process of searching for a new Bishop of Burnley has now begun. Bishop Philip asked for Synod's prayers in finding the right person. Once appointed, the new Bishop of Burnley will lead on the Being Witness strand of the Vision and Bishop Jill will move to heading up Growing Leaders.

The recruitment process is also underway for a new Director of Ministry.

Anna Walker will be starting as the new Director at Whalley Abbey at the beginning of December, taking over from Joy Rushton (Being Witnesses Manager) who is looking after Whalley Abbey in the interim.

Bishop Philip is engaging in conversations nationally about the injustice attached to the high level of giving required in our Diocese in comparison to other, more wealthy dioceses.

4. Terms of Engagement and Feedback from the Synod Business Group

Bishop Jill, having recently taken over from Archdeacon Mark as Chair to the Synod Business Group, provided an update.

Four new members had recently joined the group, Jane Atkinson (Vicar, Little Thornton St John the Evangelist), Claire Cooke (Tutor, Emmanuel College and General Licence) and Diane Dennett (Lay Chair, Blackpool Deanery).

At the beginning of the new triennium in 2024, some induction will be held for new Synod members.

The adoption of four postures: Gentleness, Humility, Faith and Courage, at Synod meetings had been suggested by Bishop Jill and Bishop Philip with the intention of enabling Synod to set the tone for worship in the Diocese:

Synod members were asked to consider "What makes a good Synod?".

Susan Procter (Pendle Deanery House of Laity) answered with diversity among members, people daring to speak out and thinking outside the box.

Hugh Scriven (Accrington Deanery House of Clergy) spoke of transparency and trust.

David Hodge (Diocesan Chancellor) would like there to be more younger people on the Synod.

Awena Carter (Lancaster and Morecambe Deanery House of Laity) felt that more external speakers at Synod would help extend horizons.

Dianne Dennett (Blackpool Deanery House of Laity) suggested an openness to listen to and learn from the view of others.

James Nash (Preston Deanery, House of Clergy) suggested keeping necessary business to a minimum and maximising interesting discussion

Adrian Wolton (Blackpool Deanery House of Clergy) spoke about keeping the mission of Christ and loving each other as the main agenda.

Paul Bye (Kirkham Deanery House of Clergy) felt there should be more space to consider difficult topics especially when the answer is not clear.

Further ideas should be forwarded to Bishop Jill or Stephen Whittaker (Diocesan Secretary).

5. SMMI Application and Update

Carolyn Barton (Director of Vision Delivery) presented on the application for Strategic Mission and Ministry funding. She explained that the application is due to be submitted by the end of January 2024. Her slides are attached to the minutes.

Questions and comments were invited.

Joseph Brookfield (Preston Deanery House of Laity) asked if the £30m bid was split into separate parts and whether we might be awarded for some and not others.

Carolyn Barton explained the amount in the bid had been sense checked with National Church. Because this is a whole strategy that fits together as one coherent logic that is difficult to split it up, this is unlikely to happen.

Roger Parker (Burnley Deanery House of Clergy) said he hoped there would be something more viable in the bid for Burnley. He spoke about the decline in Burnley and the need for further consultation and a specific plan to suit its particular disposition.

Carolyn Barton explained that she would like to see some of the family workers and lay pioneers that deaneries can apply for going to the Burnley. She agreed there are particular challenges in Burnley and that something suitable needs to be included in the application.

Bishop Philip stated that there is a clear need for further investment in Burnley and that thorough work needs to be carried out to consider this carefully.

James Nash (Preston Deanery House of Clergy) would like the Diocese to be ambitious about children's and youth work and to see more training rolled out. He asked that funds go to where they are needed rather than to the central office.

Carolyn Barton agreed with the importance of keeping 'boots on the ground'. New central roles receive heavy scrutinisation as part of the funding application process. Small central teams have been created in response to questions raised by Synod about support for people within parishes. She also pointed out the importance of ensuring people on the ground go to the right places.

Sarah Gill (Blackburn with Darwen Deanery House of Clergy) asked about plans for supporting those serving in culturally and ethnically diverse parishes and if there are any other areas in the Diocese that we can identify where there are other cultures present needing support.

Carolyn Barton agreed there is a need for extra capacity in this area. The plan includes a residentiary canon at the Cathedral who will support inter-cultural ministry within the Diocese and an inter-cultural enabler in Blackburn and North Burnley.

Alan Roadley (Burnley Deanery House of Laity) asked if there are plans to increase clergy numbers within Burnley Deanery as part of the application, as clergy within the deanery feel tired and overworked.

Carolyn Barton explained that there are plans for numerous lay supporting roles included in the application. Whilst the cost of additional clergy is expensive, there could be some further ordained roles in places where this is necessary.

Bishop Philip moved:

“That this Synod supports the application to the national Strategic Mission and Ministry Investment Board for grant funding in the region of £30 million over three triennia to deliver the work outlined in papers DS 2065 and DS 2057.”

The motion was **carried** unanimously.

6. Blackburn Diocesan Board of Finance Limited Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting of the Blackburn Diocesan Board of Finance followed. The minutes are available separately.

7. Board of Education Accounts

Bishop Jill welcomed **Iain Parks (Director of Education)** to the meeting. A prayer for the new Director of Education, and for our children and young people followed.

Iain Parks presented on the Board of Education accounts for the year ended 31 December 2022. His slides are attached to the minutes.

There were no questions asked.

Archdeacon David Picken moved:

“That the Board of Education accounts be accepted as presented to Synod.”

The motion was carried unanimously.

8. Carbon Net Zero

Carol Backhouse (Vicar, Lancaster Christ Church) and **John Rodwell (Diocesan Environment Officer)** presented on the Carbon Net Zero action plan. The slides are attached to the minutes.

The following questions were asked.

David Wilkinson (Blackburn with Darwen Deanery House of Laity) asked if we are fully aware of what is in the plan and are we committed to achieving net zero by 2030.

Carol Backhouse pointed out that Synod committed to achieving net zero by 2030 at the meeting in October 2022. She recommended that Synod read the plan.

John Rodwell pointed out that we need to meet the challenges of the future for God's people and creation. Even if do not fully meet net zero by 2030 it will be an achievement.

James Nash (Preston Deanery House of Clergy) stated there are key theological issues relating to the doctrine of humanity. Some secular thought claims we must stop procreation because humans contribute to carbon emissions. He asked how the action plan will help us to proclaim Jesus, particularly that God has sent a Saviour who will return to end our broken

world and usher in the New Creation. He stated that many experts are far from agreed on the extent of the climate emergency and that it is easier to make our church buildings low carbon than to fill them with people. However, when Jesus returns the whole of non-human creation will be reconciled, redeemed and restored and we must set our priorities with this understanding of the future.

Carol Backhouse pointed out that there is nothing in the plan that is anti-humanist or about limiting procreation.

John Rodwell spoke of the evidence available and said that we need to decide if we want to act or not to put right the damage that has been done. He explained it is not necessary to stop procreation as there is enough food in the world to feed everyone, the problem is that it goes to the wealthy. We have to make room for future generations of people to enjoy life as we have done.

Jonathan Carmyllie (Whalley Deanery House of Clergy) talked about working with those parishes that have the heaviest carbon emissions.

Carol Backhouse stated that part of plan will be to ask National Church for funds to help with this.

Ann Hearnshaw (Poulton Deanery House of Laity) asked if the work on church buildings will require a faculty and if this will put strain on the DAC.

Carol Backhouse confirmed that it will require a faculty. However there have been changes to the faculty process to make it much easier for parishes to carry out work towards net zero.

Archdeacon Mark explained that John Rodwell is advising the DAC and that the cost of faculties to reduce carbon emissions will not fall on parishes. He also stated that the Gospel is good news for all creation, not just for human beings. God will return one day but in the meantime he has handed over the care of the planet to us.

Peter Lillicrap (Blackpool Deanery House of Clergy) highlighted the financial burden for the lowest income parishes and the need for a mechanism to help with this.

Carol Backhouse agreed that we need to find ways to support the lowest income parishes.

John Rodwell pointed out that the poor bear an unfair burden of the damage done in creation and that it is important that the rich and poor work together to have one shared commitment.

David Whitehouse (Leyland Deanery House of Clergy) spoke of the 5 marks of mission and asked how this plan is going to serve the work of personal evangelism.

Carol Backhouse said there are plans to introduce a new ALMs training course and clergy study days to better equip both ALMs and clergy to preach about climate change and net zero. She also pointed out the importance of prayer and reading the scriptures with fresh eyes.

John Rodwell explained that this is covered in the plan. Whilst there are some who are afraid of the future, he reminded Synod that there can be no peace where fear exists and the need for reconciliation among us to face the challenge together.

Bishop Philip pointed out that good evangelism begins with asking what the question is on our heart and spoke of the fear amongst young people about the future of the planet.

David Picken spoke about the legacy we leave behind, the anxiety felt by young people regarding the future of the planet and the importance of articulating hope.

David Wilkinson (Blackburn with Darwen Deanery House of Laity) asked about the consequences if we commit to the action plan and fail.

Carol Backhouse asked in response, "What are the consequences if we don't?"

John Rodwell explained that this is covered in the action plan.

James Nash (Preston Deanery House of Clergy) asked where the funding is coming from. He was also concerned this would be a distraction from our key work.

John Rodwell said that we are taken to task each day to protect God's gifts and that the urgency is now.

Carol Backhouse moved:

"That this Synod accepts the Diocesan Carbon Net Zero Action Plan (V1.0) and commits to delivering the actions contained within it."

The motion was **carried** by a majority vote with 4 votes against and 5 abstentions.

9. Allocation of Members to Diocesan Synod

Stephen Whittaker (Diocesan Secretary) presented the proposed allocated figures per deanery for the 2024 Diocesan Synod elections.

No questions were asked.

Bob Collins (Chair of the House of Laity) moved:

"That this Synod accepts the proposed allocation of Diocesan Synod places to deaneries for the 2024 election process".

The motion was **carried** by a clear majority vote with 1 abstention.

10. Proclamation of Canons

Stephen Whittaker (Diocesan Secretary) proclaimed, promulgated and executed Amending Canon no 42 regarding the responsibilities of the Diocesan Safeguarding Officer.

11. Questions

Two questions had been received. These questions and the answers provided are attached to the minutes.

The following supplementary question was received:

Susan Procter (Pendle Deanery House of Laity) asked about how we can improve communication between the cathedral, parishes and the central office so that it is clear we are

all working together and not against each other. She said it is often perceived as 'us and them' and that the central office take money from the parishes and doesn't provide them with the clergy they need.

The question was overruled by the Chair on the basis that it did not relate to the original question asked. Stephen Whittaker agreed with the decision of the Chair but suggested that Susan contact him separately.

12. Motions

There were no motions received.

Bishop Philip closed the meeting with a prayer.

Signed: + Philip Blackburn

Dated: 3-11-23

**Presidential Address to Synod
October 2023**

¹⁶ So from now on we regard no one from a worldly point of view. Though we once regarded Christ in this way, we do so no longer. ¹⁷ Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here! ¹⁸ All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: ¹⁹ that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting people's sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation. ²⁰ We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God. ²¹ God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God. (2 Corinthians 5)

As we meet in the calm of this room, a tragedy of unspeakable proportions and unimaginable consequences is playing out in the land that St Paul, like the Lord Jesus he followed, knew and loved so well.

Those of us who follow affairs in Israel and Palestine are not surprised by the sudden outbreak of violence. The growing extremism of Palestinian politics has posed an increasing, existential threaten to Israel, and where there is fear there is no desire for peace. The policies of successive right wing Israeli governments have taken away hope from the Palestinians, and where there is no hope there is no incentive for peace.

But no explanation can come close to comprehending the horror that is unfolding. First those horrible acts of terror. The massacres of families and children in Israeli kibbutzim. A slaughter at a music festival costing 260 lives. Hostages even now living in terror. Then in retaliation the Gaza strip under siege and the horrifying prospect of a ground invasion in the most overpopulated part of Planet Earth.

Meanwhile the consequences globally are vast. I have been in touch with Muslim and Jewish leaders this week and heard how much the situation in Israel and Palestine impacts upon their own sense of security. For the Jewish community a threat to Israel leaves even diaspora Jews feeling homeless and alone in a world that has so often scapegoated and persecuted them. And I do not doubt that we stand united in condemning the rise in Antisemitic attacks that we have seen in the UK in recent days. For Muslims the plight of Palestine is the greatest symbol of global Islamic oppression.

Worst of all, it seems so hard imagine what the future might be. We used to think that a two state solution was the way ahead. But very few think that is possible any more. There doesn't seem to be a solution. Only an endless downward spiral of violence and retaliation.

What everyone longs for is reconciliation. What we all pray for is reconciliation. But the problem is that reconciliation is difficult when the two sides have such very different visions of what reconciliation is. One group's reconciliation is the other group's continued oppression.

It would be nice to think that Christians could show another way and model reconciliation. But the trouble is, in the Church of England, we don't seem to be doing that too well ourselves at the moment. The Living in Love and Faith process has reached a stage where everyone feels they have lost. For some the current proposals are a reason to leave. For others they are no more than crumbs under the table.

And part of the problem is the same as in the Middle East which is different understandings of what reconciliation is. This past week I felt compelled to sign a letter dissenting from a set of decisions made by the House of Bishops about how the LLF proposals should be implemented. I know that some of you will have found that decision very difficult. So let me reinforce something that Bishop Jill and I said in our joint letter on Thursday:

Therefore we want to emphasise in the strongest possible terms that our profound love for every person, lay and ordained, within this diocese, regardless of where they stand on these issues, is absolutely guaranteed. We delight to serve a Diocese where there is genuine theological breadth, and we are currently rejoicing to see new clergy keen to come to the diocese who represent the full range of views. LGBTQIA+ clergy may feel especially vulnerable at this time and we want to reassure you in particular of our ongoing love and care.

So why did I do something that I knew many of you would find so hard? The answer is reconciliation. I am profoundly worried that the way we are implementing these proposals is seriously undermining the unity and the missional coherence of the Church and leaving clergy, those who use the prayers and those who will not, deeply vulnerable and exposed to legal action. However I also accept that there will be many, indeed many in this room, who feel that what I am doing is the opposite of reconciliation and that I should pipe down. We have different visions of what reconciliation is.

There are no easy solutions here. But perhaps part of the problem is that, when we think about reconciliation, we start with ourselves and with our relationships with each other. It is interesting to see Paul's starting point. Not us, but the cross of Jesus Christ.

2000 years ago in the same city as missiles are now falling, a man gave his life upon the cross. That cross is the spring of reconciling love. Paul talks of the cross as a new start, a new creation. The old has gone. For on that cross, the ancient divide between God and the people he made was bridged. The brokenness of the old is replaced with new life.

That is a joy, but it is also a responsibility. In Christ we are reconciled. But as Paul tells us, in the very same breath we are sent to be reconcilers. In a world of conflict and division, the call upon our lives is to model the new humanity. And that's where it goes wrong. You see, we're not very good at being reconcilers. Selfishness, anxiety, sin, confusion gets in the way.

But remember, the one thing we can say about reconciliation with utter certainty is that through the cross those who believe are reconciled to the God who made them. The one reconciling act we can do with utter confidence is to hold up the cross and declare its power. We may struggle to be reconciled with each other. But even when we struggle to

know how best to relate to each other, in the cross we are reconciled as brothers and sisters in Christ and so with each other to eternity. For reconciliation, we must look to the cross.

So here is a dare. We are part of a Diocese that is showing a level of missional and strategic coherence that is likely soon to attract tens of millions of pounds of investment from the national church. We have a Parish renewal programme that is turning round ministries and bringing people to faith. We have a team of clergy and lay leaders who almost all share a desire to grow their congregations, not because they want to keep an institution alive but because their own faith in Jesus means that genuinely long for others to have the same. We have remarkable ministry in our schools and chaplaincies. Our greatest shared fear must surely be that our missional coherence is undermined by what is happening in the church nationally.

So in the midst of all that, let's hold up the cross. Let us commit ourselves anew to holding up the cross as we proclaim the Gospel, serve the poor, live lives of self-giving love and offer the world the sacraments of the Church. The fascinating thing about church history is that so often it is the times of theological division that have been the greatest moments of courageous mission. Maybe this moment of division is the time when we can commit ourselves afresh to holding up over Lancashire the cross that reconciles all in Christ.

So this is the dare. What if we did this. The latest data is that between 2021 and 2022 the regularly weekly attendance in churches across the Diocese grew, even though very few of you were as yet including new local congregations in the data. That growth came from churches of every tradition. What if we committed ourselves to praying for five years of consecutive growth as a Diocese. What if in 2026, when we celebrate the centenary of the Diocese, we could celebrate also 5 years of consecutive growth in numbers. Bishop Jill, that queen of the hashtag, has coined yet another new phrase, not mutual flourishing but mutual missioning, the desire to work in harmony for the sake of the mission of the Church. In the midst of national storms, may we dare to go on ministering and declaring the cross together in the Spirit's power for the benefit of the people of Lancashire.

So let's delight to be reconciled to the Father in the cross of Jesus Christ. Let's do all we can in our communities and churches to be reconcilers who work for unity and the flourishing of all, even when that requires hard decisions and even when we get it wrong. But let's remember that the single most reconciling act any of us can perform is to declare the cross of Jesus Christ through our words and by our lifestyle. For that cross in the world's only hope.

+Philip Blackburn

PLANNING FOR AN SMMI APPLICATION

Carolyn Barton (Director of Vision Delivery)

Vision 2026

- Making Disciples of Jesus Christ
- Being Witnesses to Jesus Christ
- Growing Leaders for Jesus Christ
- Inspiring Children and Young People



“How can the Diocese of Blackburn access national funding to ‘catalyse’ all that has been and is being done across Lancashire to faithfully and prayerfully grow healthy churches that transform their communities and make more and deeper followers of Jesus?”



Strategic Mission and Ministry Funding

- Application will be submitted by the end of January 2024
- Considered at the National Strategic Mission and Ministry Investment Board on 28th February 2024

Strategic Mission and Ministry Funding

- Synod to confirm its support for the submission of the application as outlined in the paper
- Minor changes as the application is finalised to be considered and approved by the Bishop's Council and Directors of the Board of Finance

1. A Church that Reflects the Communities it Serves

- A Younger Church
- A Socio-economically Diverse Church
- A Culturally Diverse Church
- Present in all communities

2. A Parish System Revitalised for Mission

- An expanded Parish Renewal Programme
- Administrators for Key Renewal Parishes
- Investment in Under-Resourced Areas –
Accrington & Burnley

3. The 'Rocket Fuel'

- Prayer: A Visitation of the Holy Spirit on Lancashire
- Leadership: Faith-filled, joyful leaders

4. Enablers

- Continued funding for Area Deans
- Central support incl. HR and Finance

5. The Financial Dimension of the SMMI Application

- The application will be in the region of £30 million, or to put it another way, £10 million per triennia of funding.
- We will clearly articulate for each role whether it is fixed term; will raise up lay leadership to continue ministry started; or the cost will be financially sustained locally over time.

“How can the Diocese of Blackburn access national funding to ‘catalyse’ all that has been and is being done across Lancashire to faithfully and prayerfully grow healthy churches that transform their communities and make more and deeper followers of Jesus?”



Any Questions?

Bishop Philip will move that:

“This Synod supports the application to the national Strategic Mission and Ministry Investment Board for grant funding in the region of £30 million over three triennia to deliver the work outlined in papers DS 2065 and DS 2057”

BLACKBURN DIOCESAN BOARD OF EDUCATION ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS

Iain Parks (Director of Education)

Duties of the DBE Measure 2021

- The DBE for each diocese must—
- promote or assist in the promotion of education in the diocese that is consistent with the faith and practice of the Church of England;
- promote or assist in the promotion of religious education and religious worship in schools in the diocese;
- promote or assist in the promotion of church schools in the diocese;
- promote co-operation between itself and other persons concerned with education in the diocese

Additional duties assigned by Synod

16. In addition to the functions provided for in the Measure, the Diocesan Synod confer the primary responsibility to the Board of Education for the following:

- (a) The development of youth and children's work across the Diocese
- (b) The support and development of Christian spirituality in Further and Higher Educations institutions in the Diocese
- (c) The support of chaplaincy provision to places of learning across the Diocese, including church based institutions

Children and Youth

- **Board of Education Showcase Video**

<https://youtu.be/DO536NEzYol>

- **Sensory Stories for Christmas**

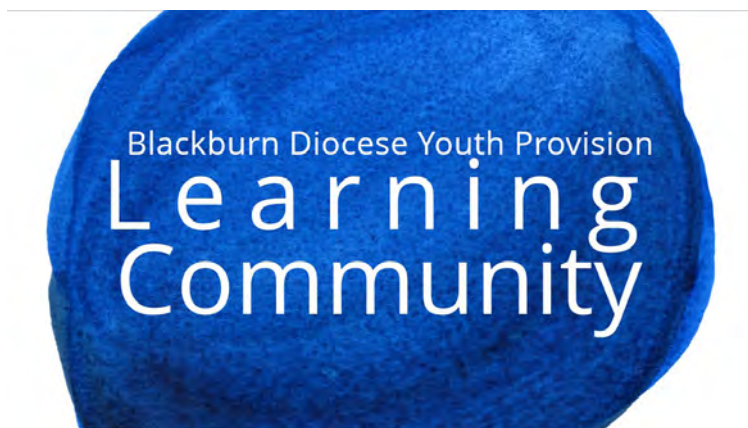
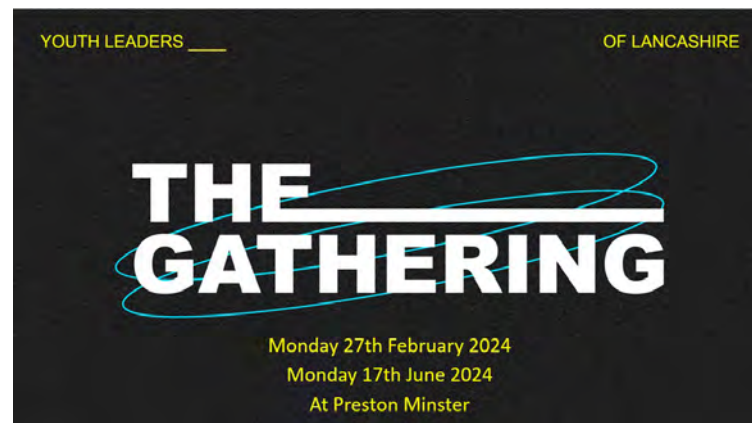
Resources - Board of Education

- **Children's Ministry Conference** which will be taking place on the 23rd
– 24th February 2024

Training and Events - Board of Education



THE BLACKBURN
DIOCESAN BOARD
OF EDUCATION



HEALTHY CHURCHES TRANSFORMING COMMUNITIES

Schools Overview

- There are 190 CE schools in this diocese
- 165 of these are aided (or academies that were formerly aided) schools
- Diocesan CE and CE/Methodist schools educate over 44,000 children
- There are 3 MATs in the diocese
- There are 7 SATs in the diocese
- There are 15 schools in Multi Academy Trusts

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Questful RE is an enquiry based, balanced RE Curriculum for church primary schools.



WORLD FAITHS

Questful RE is an exploration of Christianity and world faiths enabling pupils to discover the ways in which faith influences peoples



SIAMS

Over 90% of schools using this highly effective syllabus have achieved 'Good' or better in SIAMS Inspections

Church School Inspections

NEW SIAMS Framework - September 2023

Be Prepared !

Outcomes are very positive across our Diocese

The purpose of SIAMS is to help a school to be the very best Church school it can be.

© The National Society (Church of England and Church in Wales) for the Promotion of Education 2022



SIAMS inspection data 2022-2023 – Diocese of Blackburn

All schools – overall grades

Grades – 21 schools	All schools	VA	VC
Excellent	7	7	0
Good	14	12	2
Requires Improvement	0	0	0
Ineffective	0	0	0



Equity, Diversity and Justice Strategy

EDJ Conferences – 16th November 2023 (third one) and 19th January 2024 (new materials moving schools forward)

Increased up take of bespoke staff training in schools

Improved range of resources and content of resources and training has an EDJ element

Plus, now started Children's Ministry Workshops

School Buildings

- The SCA system has been run effectively this year.
- Costs have risen through the year leading to reduced ability to deliver the number of programmes that had been hoped for.
- A full programme of capital work has been planned and delivered to meet school needs. As in previous years, the level of need outweighed the funding envelope by around three times the amount.
- The DBE has sought to register a number of titles with the Land Registry for school properties
- The DBE continues to research trusts and land of church schools to build a complete picture of the school estate and ownership of land.

Chaplaincy

- The UCLAN Chaplain was very well respected in role and worked hard and established a thriving ministry. She decided to move on to a big student church in Manchester and another chaplain was appointed in July who has made a positive start at the Minster and at freshers on campus
- The Chaplain to Lancaster University resigned this summer and plans are in place to interview soon for new Chaplains for both Lancaster University and for the University of Cumbria. They will be managed in churches in Lancaster and build links between churches and campuses
- *School chaplain network events continue to be provided to help networking and develop practice*

Summary position at the end of the year 2022

Unrestricted Funds: £2,001,000

Designated Funds: £3,109,000

Restricted Funds: £544,000

Endowment Funds: £84,000

Reserves policy £1,580,899

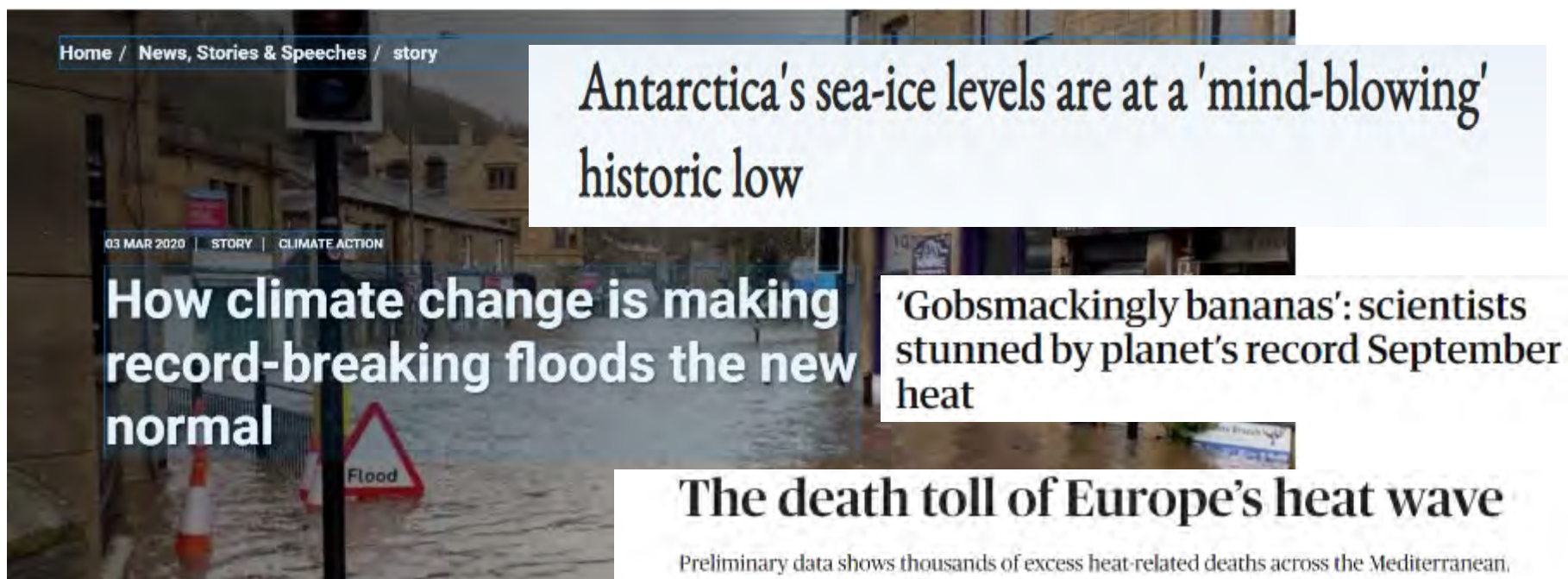
Free reserves below reserves policy £107,889

(directors will designate this figure to meet the commitment of £700 000 to underwrite the DBE grant should the need arise in 2025/26)

NET CARBON ZERO ACTION PLAN

Carol Backhouse (Vicar, Lancaster Christ Church) and
John Rodwell (Diocesan Environmental Officer)

Headline news



Why?

Human activity has raised the level of 'greenhouse gases' in the earth's atmosphere far above natural fluctuations. Carbon Dioxide (CO²) has increased by 50% in 200 years, mostly through the burning of fossil fuels such as gas, oil and coal.

'Greenhouse gases' muffle the earth, disturbing the balance of our climate. Air and ocean temperatures increase, desert conditions extend, wildfires increase, polar ice caps melt.

Throughout the world, human communities are at risk due to drought, fire, and flood and the diversity of natural life is under threat.

HEALTHY CHURCHES TRANSFORMING COMMUNITIES

Our shared responsibility to respond

Anglican Consultative Council Marks of Mission 1984 • 5 - To strive to safeguard the integrity of creation, and sustain and renew the life of the earth.

Diocese of Blackburn 2012 • Diocesan Synod approves a Diocesan Environmental Policy & Procedures

General Synod 2020 motion • 2030 Net Zero target agreed for the bulk of church estate and operations

Diocesan Synod October 2022 motion • To set up a Net Zero Task Force
• To produce a road map to 2030 Net Zero • Establishing projects with specific targets and technologies, and a strategy for resourcing •
Working with every church and property towards decarbonisation plans for its building(s)

Where do we stand?

The Energy Footprint Tool (EFT) provides a measure of emissions from our buildings in terms of tonnes of CO².

53% of our parishes responded for 2022 (compared with 39% for 2021)

Total CO² emissions from respondents was 2,511 tonnes CO²: the highest church emissions were 50 tonnes, the lowest 1.2 tonnes

No account is taken of our lifestyles (our own diet, energy consumption, travel). The average UK person emits 12 tonnes CO² per annum, a small car produces more emissions than a small church.

Where do we stand?

Emissions from schools is assumed to be 8,009 tonnes CO² in 2022

Clergy housing released 1,441 tonnes CO²

The cathedral + offices, Clayton House, and Whalley Abbey produced 387 tonnes CO²

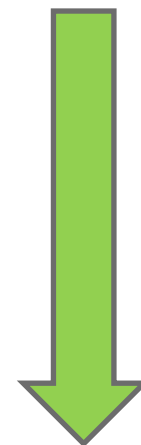
It is assumed that overall CO² emissions were reduced by 2.5% in 2022 compared to 2021; possibly reflecting positive changes in managing energy use in some buildings

NB it is recognised that there is still a lot of assumed data so the reduction is cautiously welcomed

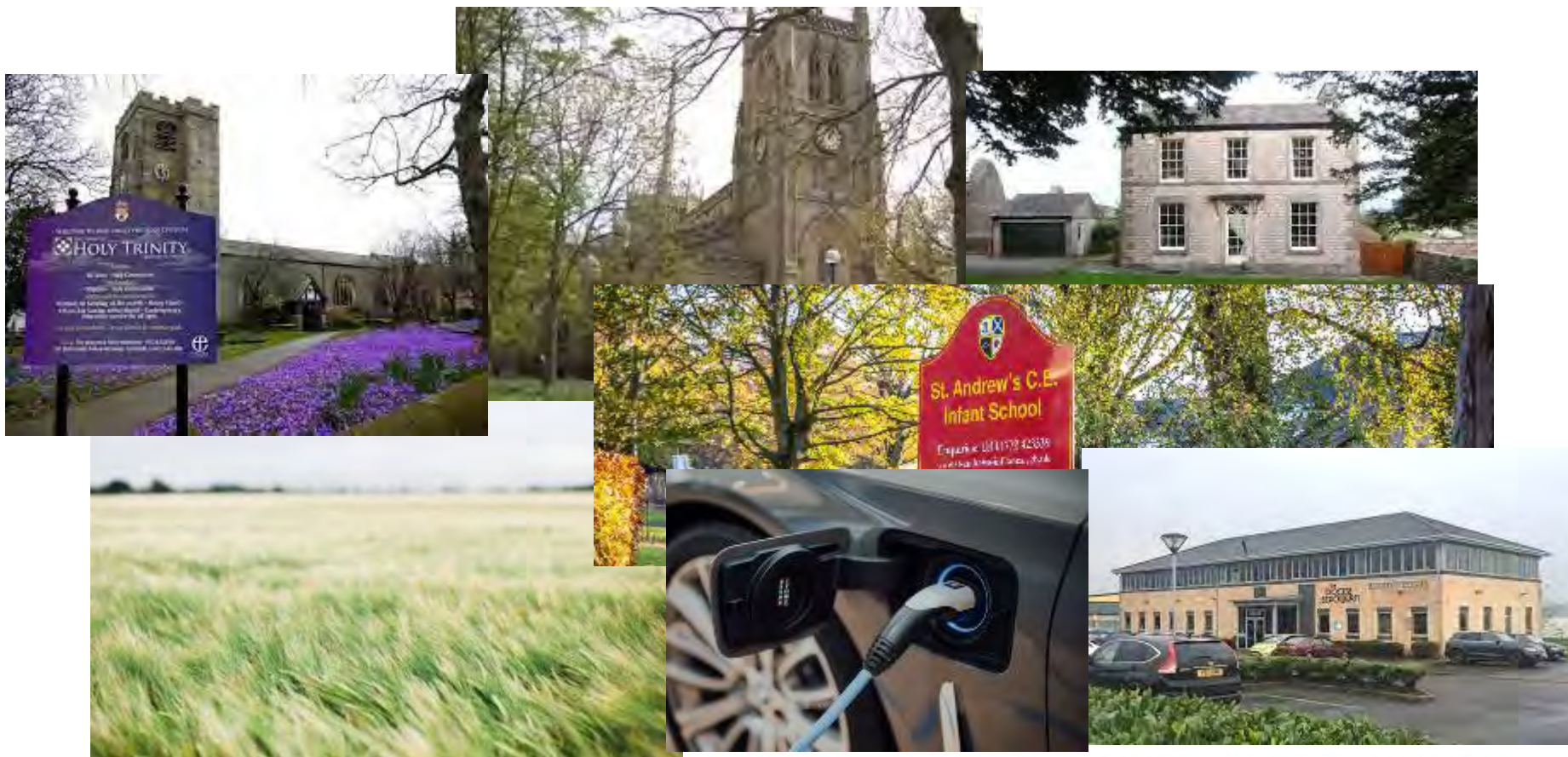
2022 EFT data

	Number of buildings in-scope in 2022 (response rate %)	Carbon emissions 2022 (tCO ₂) (% contribution to total)
Church Buildings	261 (53%)	2,511 (20%)
Schools	176 (0%)	8,009 (65%)
Housing	232 (100%)	1,441 (12%)
Other buildings (cathedral + offices Clayton House, Whalley Abbey)	4 (100%)	387 (3%)
Work related travel	0%	48 (0%)
TOTAL		12,396 (100%)

Total emissions estimated 2.5% lower than 2021



Net Zero Action Plan (October 2023)



HEALTHY CHURCHES TRANSFORMING COMMUNITIES

Working together....

with our highest church building emitters

National funding for:

- Decarbonisation reports
- Demonstrator projects
- 'Small' projects
- Fundraising advice

DBF support via:

- 0% interest loans



HEALTHY CHURCHES TRANSFORMING COMMUNITIES

Working together...

with our schools

- School Condition Allocation overseen via DBE Services



Working together...

With those living in
our DBF properties

- Parsonages planned improvement budget



Working together...

With those who work at Clayton House

- A Rocha awards
- Decarbonisation Report
- Travel Plan
- EV charging points



Working together...

‘One of our biggest
challenges is
winning hearts and
minds’

+Philip



Working together

Carol Backhouse will move that:

‘This Synod accepts the Diocesan Carbon Net Zero Action Plan (V1.0) and commits to delivering the actions contained within it’.

Diocesan Synod on 14 October 2023

Questions Received

From	To	Question	Response
Susan Procter (Pendle Deanery)	The Dean	Parishes have to pay their parish share to allow them to have clergy; so could we be given advice regarding how the cathedral pays for the number of clergy there?	<p>All Church of England cathedrals are structurally independent from the diocese of which they are apart and since the introduction of the Cathedrals Measure 2021 they will all be independent registered charities by April 2024. Blackburn Cathedral will complete its registration by December this year.</p> <p>In order to deliver their mission and ministry, cathedrals receive a limited amount of direct funding from the Church Commissioners who support the ministry of cathedrals through two funding streams. 'Section 21' grants provide every cathedral, except Oxford, with funding for stipend and pension costs of the dean and two residential canons. 'Section 23' grants provide additional support for essential staff costs to those cathedrals with the lowest incomes.</p> <p>In addition, cathedrals raise supplementary funds to enable them to fulfil their role as places of worship, mission and education (supporting those in liturgical roles, clergy, musicians and lay staff, maintaining their buildings, and enabling the cathedral buildings to be open to all every day of the year) from a variety of sources. These include: congregational giving, income from visitors, income generated by trading activities, legacies, income from investments and property (for those</p>

			<p>cathedrals with such assets), monies donated in response to appeals and fundraising activity</p> <p>Cathedrals also benefit from the Listed Places of Worship Grant Scheme run by the Government, which gives cathedrals an amount equivalent to the irrecoverable VAT paid on repairs and approved alterations to the cathedral church.</p> <p>Blackburn Cathedral receives no supplementary funding from the DBF towards clergy stipends and is responsible within their own annual budget to provide for all additional add on costs to do with housing, expenses and other clergy related costs.</p>
James Nash (Preston Deanery)	Dave Champness/ Bishop Philip	<p>There is a growing chorus of reputable voices, from across the scientific disciplines, questioning much of the Climate Change Agenda.</p> <p>There is also a worryingly anti-human strand in the outworking of much Net Zero Policy that is opposed to the doctrine of humanity, specifically that we are uniquely created in God's image, as revealed in God's word.</p> <p>In the light of this, please can you give a full account of the work the diocese has done in preparing the Carbon Net Zero Action Plan, both theologically and practically, with particular reference to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The effect on the poor and marginalised across the diocese in both financial and social terms; • How to guard against the unbiblical anti-human nature of strands of such policies in society more widely; 	<p>The theological basis of the diocesan approach to Creation Care is laid out in the Diocesan Environmental Policy and Procedures, previously agreed by Diocesan Synod. It is grounded in the belief that all Creation is a gift from God and that we share a common home in his love and providence with his other creatures. Made in God's image, we are uniquely charged with a responsibility to celebrate the richness and wonder of Creation, to cherish its gifts and to lament the extent of our abuse of God's generosity. We believe that we shall be held to account by Him for neglect of this privilege and responsibility.</p> <p>The Policy is our response to the Fifth Mark of Mission of the Anglican Communion: 'To strive to safeguard the integrity of Creation, and sustain and renew the life of the earth'. It is given added urgency by the Climate and Biodiversity Emergency, whose reality and impact is self-evident and supported by the vast majority of informed expertise. The Carbon Net Zero Action Plan is the Diocesan response to the Church's commitment to 2030 Net Zero target agreed by the General Synod.</p>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Most importantly, how this doesn't become a big distraction from seeing people in our diocese brought from eternal death to eternal life in regard to the time, energy, finances, resources and other costs that implementing the Policy will entail? 	<p>People are poor and marginalised, in this Diocese and across the world, because they are denied their fair share in the gifts of Creation and unable to celebrate God's providence. Our responsibility to proclaim this injustice is in no way diminished by our commitment to Creation Care. Indeed this commitment asks us to reflect on just what this due share is likely to be when Creation is so badly damaged by human greed, the mismanagement of resources, and a short-sighted preference for profit over investment for the future. There is an intimate link between the poverty of humanity, the condition of the environment and the way in which its resources are exploited by the few at the expense of the many. Neglect of Creation Care unjustly and disproportionately hurts the poor.</p> <p>Our commitment of time and resources in responding to the Net Zero challenge is a long-term investment in the diocesan resilience for mission well beyond 2030, an investment in the well-being of its estate in property, land and people – and in those who have not yet responded to the Gospel of God's sacrificial generosity. It is the responsibility of us all to work together to ensure that the burden of our response does not fall inequitably on those without a safe and healthy life, a sustainable home and a community in which they feel welcome. And to anticipate an eternal life in Jesus Christ grounded in securing an immediate future for all here on God's earth.</p>
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