

COMMUNICATIONS UPDATE

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Welcome to the latest Communications Update. Not long now until the Diocesan Conference! If you are going from November 26 – 29 I hope to see you there.

I will be presenting a ‘Get Your Church Noticed’ workshop alongside many other colleagues who are also delivering a wide variety of fantastic workshops. After the conference, and once we have got Christmas out the way, look out for a variety of post-conference resources – including videos of speakers – which will be uploaded to the [Conference page](#) on the Diocesan website in January.

These resources serve two purposes: conference delegates can use them to help share key messages with everyone back in their own parishes while people can also engage directly with them themselves to find out more.

Ronnie Semley, Diocesan Communications Manager

[Centre for Christian Discipleship as part of a ‘focus on discipleship’](#)

A new ‘Centre of Christian Discipleship’ is to be created by 2020 on the site of Whalley Abbey. The new Centre will be based in the existing Retreat House. It will sit at the heart of our ongoing ‘focus on discipleship’ across the Diocese as part of the ‘Making Disciples for Jesus Christ’ strand of our Vision 2026 Healthy Churches Transforming Communities. The new Director of Discipleship for the Diocese, to be announced soon, will oversee the work to develop the new Centre. [Find out more.](#)

[Remembrance events](#)

People from our parishes and schools across the Diocese took part in a huge number of activities before, and services during, Remembrance Sunday. We have wide coverage of events on the Diocesan website [news pages](#) including stories about initiatives as varied as ‘There But Not There’ and numerous poppy displays inside and outside churches. The Bishops also issued a joint statement [giving thanks for sacrifices](#) of generations past.

[#FollowTheStar](#)

The latest national Advent and Christmas social media campaign for the Church of England (#followthestar) is underway and churches across the Diocese are strongly encouraged to participate. The reach of the CofE Christmas campaigns over the last two years has been phenomenal, with millions of people engaging with the messages and, importantly, looking for Christmas services to attend via the new-look [A Church Near You website](#). That website sits at the heart of the campaign – aiming to ensure people don’t just view the messages online but also come to church and hear the Good News about Jesus Christ. All the links you need for #FollowTheStar are [here via the Diocesan website](#).

[Clergy Study Days](#)

Clergy Study Days in early 2019 are on the theme of stewardship and are also designed to help teach whole-life discipleship as part of the Diocesan ‘focus on discipleship’. The study days take place over five days during January and February (all run from 9am – 2pm). For more information and for the booking links [click here](#).

HEALTHY CHURCHES TRANSFORMING COMMUNITIES

Readers begin their new roles

Our latest cohort of four new lay 'Readers' were commissioned recently at a service in St John's Church in Baxenden by Bishop Philip. Readers are volunteer lay ministers who work alongside the clergy in local churches. Their duties vary but they typically help to lead church services, preach and offer pastoral care and support to people in the local community. [Find out more](#) about our new Readers and the service.

Resources for young people

Weekly@, the free lectionary-based resource for Sunday Groups created by the Board of Education has turned five years old. It provides EVERYTHING a church leader would need to plan their weekly group activities. Download a whole term of Weekly@ (or download one at a time) by visiting the [Diocesan Board of Education website](#). On the same website, [under the Youth section](#), you will also find a whole host of fabulous 'Pick and Mix' resources themed on key events across the year, which are also for youth leaders to use with their young people in parishes.

... and finally

Fancy a bit of fun exercise and the chance to raise money for Children in Need all at the same time? Then you may want to exercise to the Zumba beat at a massive 'Zumbathon' taking place inside Blackburn Cathedral this Friday! It's organised by the Diocesan 'Ministry of Sport' team. More information and booking details can be [found here](#).