

# COMMUNICATIONS UPDATE

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Is it still OK to say Happy New Year? I think I just did! Hope your parishes saw good visitor numbers over the Christmas period and, as 2019 begins, we can look forward to a fresh focus on 'whole-life discipleship' as a Diocese; part of our ongoing work in relation to Vision 2026 Healthy Churches Transforming Communities. This edition of Communications Update is a 'resources special'; including links to all the great resources now available online in the wake of our Diocesan Conference 'The Mystery of Faith'. Engage with them and enjoy!

Ronnie Semley, Diocesan Communications Manager

## Diocesan conference resources

Resources from 'The Mystery of Faith' for parishes to use and to support local discussions/meetings/awaydays etc are now live on the diocesan website. Under the 'News and Events' menu on the homepage you will find a 'dropdown menu' taking you to:

- [Conference overview](#): Event round-up, with links to feedback; media coverage (including BBC Radio Lancashire); social media; highlights video and more.
- [Conference speakers](#): All key speakers in video and/or audio format (mostly both) and any related files for download (eg PowerPoint slides) provided by speakers.
- [Conference workshops](#): All workshop leaders were asked if they wanted to have anything featured on our website and all material supplied thus far has been uploaded to this page.
- and drop an email to [communicate@blackburn.anglican.org](mailto:communicate@blackburn.anglican.org) in due course to let us know how you are using the conference resources locally.



## Discipleship video

As part of our ongoing focus on discipleship [a great new video](#) featuring people from across the Diocese sharing what discipleship means to them in their daily walk with Christ is now available. The video was first shown at the Diocesan conference.

Use it to help people in your parish engage with the importance of whole-life discipleship and to start discussions. The video is also embedded [on our website](#) alongside further information and links to additional and related discipleship resources.

## Bishops' New Year messages

All three of our Bishops issued New Year messages to the Diocese. You can [view them here](#) on the diocesan website.

View, like and share their messages, as well as playing them in your church services, if you have the facilities to do so. And don't forget ... subscribe to our YouTube channel and hit the 'bell icon' to ensure you get alerts about the latest videos.

HEALTHY CHURCHES TRANSFORMING COMMUNITIES

### Clergy Study Days and new DVD course

The theme of the Clergy Study Days, now under way across the Diocese, is 'Generosity, Gift and Grace' in the context of whole-life Discipleship. The first study day took place at Whalley Abbey on January 10 and you can [read a summary report](#) on the diocesan website. The remaining study days take place over four more days during January and February (all run from 9am – 2pm). Booking links for all of them can be found at the end of the report link above.

Meanwhile, to help clergy and parishes in further discussions on Generosity, Gift and Grace, a whole host of resources are now available [here on Diocesan website](#). Parishes have also received a new DVD-based course including five teaching films, ideal for use during Lent. All the videos are now available on our Diocesan [YouTube channel](#) and are also embedded for easy access on Generosity, Gift and Grace page of the website linked to above.

### Vision Coordinator

You may have heard [or read on the diocesan website](#) that, as we enter the new year, Dave Champness, Diocesan Vision Coordinator and Deputy Diocesan Secretary, is taking on fresh challenges. Dave says: "At this point, I have decided I will be reducing my work with the Diocesan team to one day per week, becoming Vision Consultant from mid-January and returning to secular employment for the remainder of my working week."

In the meantime, the Diocese is [now recruiting a new Vision Coordinator](#) who will work for the Diocese for at least three days a week.

### Exploring your call

The next vocations event of 2019 will be an evening for potential Readers at 7pm on Monday 25 February at St Thomas' Church, Garstang. There will also be a day to explore licensed lay and ordained vocations, from 10am to 4pm on Saturday 2 February at Whalley Abbey.

In addition, the Occasional Preachers Course starts on Saturday 2 February in Christ Church, Fulwood and the next Small Group Leaders course will be on Saturday 9 February in St James' Church, Clitheroe.

For more information or to book for any of these events, please contact [training@blackburn.anglican.org](mailto:training@blackburn.anglican.org) or call Sara on 01254 503078.

### Board of Education elections

After recent elections the following people have been elected as members of the Diocesan Board of Education. Two clergy members – Rev. Stephen Haskett and Rev. Philip Venables; six members of Diocesan Synod – Rev. Canon David Arnold, Mr Gerald Burrows, Mrs Natalie Cox, Mr Tim Cox, Rev. Canon Andrew Holliday, Mrs Elizabeth Radford and six lay members who are Mrs Anne Abernethy, Mrs Heather Henderson, Mrs Deborah Metcalfe, Mrs Lyndsey Simpson, Miss Joanne Snape and Ms Julie Woolford.