

COMMUNICATIONS UPDATE

communicate@blackburn.anglican.org



Our Bishops' Easter messages

The Easter messages from Bishop Julian, Bishop Philip and Bishop Jill are now available to read; view and share (if you are on social media) via [our YouTube channel](#). The links below take you to each Bishop's message page on the Diocesan website, where you can watch and read each message in one place.

- [Bishop Julian's message](#)
- [Bishop Philip's message](#)
- [Bishop Jill's message](#)

Archdeacon Michael

The Archdeacon of Lancaster, The Venerable Michael Everitt, has been appointed Canon Pastor at Durham Cathedral. Archdeacon Michael has served God through Blackburn Diocese for almost 27 years in a variety of roles and has been, in the words of Bishop Julian, 'a faithful colleague, priest and friend'. There will be a service of thanksgiving for Michael and Ruth's ministry in the Diocese at 6pm on Saturday, July 13 in the Cathedral, to which all are invited. [Read more.](#)

Primary Visitations and the Bishop's Bible Challenge

Throughout May, Bishop Julian will hold four 'Primary Visitations' across the Diocese, where all the Churchwardens in our parishes will be sworn in as officers. The Bishop will also commission, or recommission, new and existing Parish Vision Champions. Meanwhile, 'Archdeacons' Visitation News', with invaluable information for churchwardens and their parishes, will be distributed as usual. At each Primary Visitation, Bishop Julian will also formally introduce his 'Bishop's Bible Challenge'. To mark the moment, he will talk about our new booklet 'Bishop's Bible Challenge – Knowing The Scriptures Better'. For more information, including dates and times, [read more.](#)

Thy Kingdom Come is coming!

The Diocese is once again embracing the local, regional, national and international ecumenical prayer event 'Thy Kingdom Come'. Parishes are being encouraged to get involved and the 10 days of prayer – from May 30 – June 9, which will be bookended by an ecumenical launch service, on Wednesday May 29, at Crossgate Church in Preston at 7.30pm; and a concluding 'Beacon Service' on June 9, Pentecost Sunday, at 7.30pm at Blackburn Cathedral. [Read more.](#)

Women Priests: Silver Jubilee Eucharist

On May 14, 1994 the ordination of the first 13 women priests in Blackburn Diocese took place. Exactly 25 years on - May 14, 2019 at 7pm - a Silver Jubilee Eucharist will take place at Blackburn Cathedral to celebrate the milestone. Earlier that same day, at 2pm, Bishop Jill will lead a retreat at Whalley Abbey entitled 'Celebrating Women's Voices and Vocations' with a meal to follow at 5pm. For more information, including booking details, [read more.](#)

HEALTHY CHURCHES TRANSFORMING COMMUNITIES

[‘Heartening and positive’](#)

A special meeting to review the various options for Parish share took place in March. Three options were put forward to more than 230 people from parishes who attended. A straw poll indicated option 3, ‘no change’ with Bishop Julian noting: “Though the meeting indicated a preference for no change to the formula, there was a heartening and positive note in the air about the need for us to change ourselves; for better stewardship and greater generosity.” [Read more](#) (with audio files of the presentations).

[New Vision Coordinator](#)

We have a new Vision 2026 Coordinator. If you missed the news (parishes were informed in a separate email message recently from Bishop Julian) then [read the Bishop’s letter here](#).

[Fasting for Vocations](#)

In early April the Growing Leaders team at the Diocesan offices, together with vocations teams across the Diocese, were joined by many others in a day of fasting and prayer for vocations, *writes Rev Nick McKee, Director of Vocations*. We asked God in prayer to raise up the lay and ordained leaders which his Church needs. On the day there were an unusually high number of new vocations leads arriving as we prayed. Listen to an interview with Nick [on BBC Radio Lancashire](#) (from 1h 52m).

[Saying goodbye](#)

We recently said farewell to two Diocesan staff stalwarts: Rev Canon Ed Saville, Lead Officer for Social Responsibility and John Sunter, Diocesan Surveyor. Read coverage about Ed’s departure [here](#) and John’s [here](#).

[Round-up](#)

Some other updates ...

'Walk through the Bible' at ['NT Live' event](#)

[Sports Sunday is coming](#)

... and finally ...

[Award recognition for Gillian and Christine](#)