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March 23, 2017

## **SEVENTEEN YOUNG PEOPLE ARE CONFIRMED AT LANCASHIRE CHURCH**

The Bishop of Blackburn, the Rt Rev Julian Henderson, confirmed 17 young people and three adults at a special Confirmation Service in Christ Church, Parbold, yesterday (Wednesday).

Candidates for Confirmation came from Christ Church, All Saints Church, Appley Bridge and St Anne's Church, Shevington.

The church was filled with family and friends of those who were confirmed, and the Bishop was assisted by Christ Church and All Saints Parish Priest the Rev. Sue Timmins, St Anne's Shevington Parish Priest the Rev. Philip Dennison, and All Saints Reader Diane Green.

The service was followed by refreshments as the candidates and their families celebrated with church officials.

Speaking after the service Bishop Julian said: "I was privileged to be able to pray for and confirm 17 young people and three adults and it was exciting to witness so many taking this important step of faith together.

"It was particularly moving to hear the story of how one of the adults had come to faith in Christ. She spoke so clearly and confidently and received a generous round of applause.

"As part of our Vision 2026: Healthy Churches Transforming Communities we seek to make disciples for Jesus. In our Diocese in Lancashire we have one of the highest confirmation rates in the Church of England.

**2/ over**



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“Between 2010 and 2016 inclusive we have confirmed nearly 7000 candidates and have been in the top five Dioceses for total number of candidates. I look forward to many more joyous confirmation services like this one in the future.”

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## **NOTES TO EDITORS**

Picture captions

Pic 1: Bishop Julian (centre, back) with the candidates after the service

Pic 2. The candidates from All Saints School, Appley Bridge, with their teachers

Pic 3: Service over, it's time for a cupcake!