

COMMUNICATIONS UPDATE

communicate@blackburn.anglican.org

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A selection of recent news and forthcoming events

Get Your Church Noticed!

There is still time to book on the FREE communications and marketing advice day which takes place on October 7 at the Diocesan Offices, Clayton House, Walker Business Park, BB1 2QE from 10.30am until 3.30pm. Entitled 'Get Your Church Noticed', Ronnie Semley, our Diocesan Communications Manager, will be joined by his colleague, Neil Pugmire, the Communications Manager for Portsmouth Diocese to give some practical, common sense ideas for promoting your church, its mission work and activities in your immediate local area. [More information here](#) and you can [book via this page on the Diocesan website](#) (link to Eventbrite booking on the page) or you can email karen.ashcroft@blackburn.anglican.org with your details. Please note, refreshments will be served but please bring your own lunch.

Witnessing through words and deeds

Do you want to think about how your church can be witnesses through words and deeds and help to transform its community? Organised by the Parish Mission Support Department and Together Lancashire, a series of evenings (7pm for 7.30pm start) will offer some advice about how you can get to know the needs of your local community as well as thinking about a rhythm of mission for your parish. Bring a group from your parish so that you can discuss together and return ready to put the suggestions into action. For more information and to book a place [visit this page](#).

Call for young to join Diocesan Youth Council

The Diocese is planning to set up its first Youth Council; an opportunity for young members of the church across the County to champion the voice of the younger generation. The Blackburn Diocesan Board of Education is [proposing a 16-strong group of 13 to 18 year olds](#), recruited by direct application, that will raise awareness of youth culture and how this might be harnessed and engaged with by churches. The Council will also collate and discuss the key issues affecting young people across the Diocese; act as an advisory body for the Board of Education on matters relating to youth work in churches and act as an advisory body for the Diocese on new initiatives and their impact on young people in parishes. You can also hear Ben Green, Diocesan Youth Adviser, talk about the plans on BBC Radio Lancashire, this Sunday at 8.10am.

Lancashire South Asian Christians gather for convention

A significant gathering of South Asian Christians from across Lancashire [took place recently](#) at Blackburn Cathedral. The South Asian Christian Convention was attended and supported by the Bishop of Burnley, Rt Rev. Philip North and the Archdeacon of Blackburn, The Venerable Mark Ireland. The main sermon was delivered by Rev. Canon Dr Arun John, Vicar of St James' Blackburn while Rev. Kamran Bhatti, Curate at The Risen Lord, Preston coordinated and led the whole gathering.

More stories/ over

HEALTHY CHURCHES TRANSFORMING COMMUNITIES

[Little monks explore big world at our ancient Abbey](#)

The historic Whalley Abbey in Lancashire's picturesque Ribble Valley was host to two successful Family Days recently. [A group of little novice monks took over the Abbey for the day](#). Organised by the Children's Team from the Blackburn Diocesan Board of Education (BDBE) the theme was 'God's Wonderful World' as families from across the County were invited to experience, explore and encounter God in new, interesting and fun ways.

[Sweet gesture lights up Blackpool](#)

Profits from The Meaningful Treat Pack, a new resource designed to help with mission work on and around the eve of All Saints (Hallowe'en), [will help support the new 'Jesus Light'](#) appearing in Blackpool illuminations right now and until November 5. The Jesus light was first turned on in Easter this year by the Anglican Bishop of Lancaster, Rt Rev Geoff Pearson, and will be seen by an estimated 52 million people over its 15-year lifespan. The dynamic new display is 15ft tall by 10ft wide and shows a dark Good Friday cross which transforms into a resurrection scene.

[Edinburgh Fringe success for our theatre group](#)

A Christian theatre group formed by The Church of England in Lancashire and Lancashire Methodist District appeared at the Edinburgh Festival Fringe, where their successful production played to packed houses most evenings of a week-long run. 'Home Front, Front Line' was written by Rev. Canon David Banbury who is the Diocese's Parish Mission Support Leader. The play had already been seen at several venues across Lancashire before the successful appearance at the Fringe. Earlier in September the same group performed their other play - 'Brothers in Arms' – at Liverpool Cathedral as part of a commemoration of the lives of the Chavasse brothers. If you want to see the theatre group perform locally, your next opportunity is a performance of Brothers in Arms at All Saints Higher Walton on October 22. [Visit this page](#) for more on all of this, including details of the October 22 appearance.

[Free lunchbox scheme was a great success](#)

More than one thousand children in Blackburn and Darwen [received a daily free lunchbox](#) during the school holidays thanks to the efforts of a team of community organisations in the area. The local Christian community, including Methodists and Anglicans worked together to support the scheme under the umbrella of Kingdom Outreach, a Christian charity providing practical support and solutions to those in need regardless of age, race, gender and religion. [Watch a video here](#) and subscribe to our YouTube channel for the latest videos as they are posted.

[Next Reading Day for clergy](#)

On October 18, as part of the Spirituality Programme at Whalley Abbey, Archdeacon Mark will lead a 'Reading Day' for clergy, starting and finishing with prayers. Reading Days are free and refreshments are provided but please bring your own lunch. For further information about this event (plus other events that are part of the ongoing Spirituality Programme) and to book, please contact the Abbey office on 01254 828400 or email office@whalleyabbey.org

[Sports Ministry Morning](#)

Do you play sport, coach sport, watch sport? Do you use sport as part of your church outreach? Have you ever considered how your sporting life and your Christian life connect? You are invited to come along to a Diocesan Sports Ministry Morning at St Cuthbert's Fulwood on Saturday October 21, with keynote address, Workshops and Marketplace from 10am until 12.45pm.

[...and finally ... Reformation 500](#)

Everyone from across the Diocese is invited to join church leaders from across Lancashire to commemorate the [500th Anniversary of the Reformation](#) at 2pm on Thursday October 19 in Blackburn Cathedral.

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