

COMMUNICATIONS UPDATE

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So here we are in autumn. Where did the long hot days go? It has been a busy time once again across the diocese. Here is just a small selection of stories from recent weeks. As always you can read much more [on the news section](#) of the diocesan website. Also, don't forget 'Get Your Church Noticed' on October 20. It's open to people from all our parishes and is FREE. [More details here](#). **BOOK NOW!**

Ronnie Semley, Diocesan Communications Manager

National estates initiative is launched

We are already ahead of the game here in Blackburn Diocese, but last week Bishop Philip, in his role as Chair of the National Estates Evangelism Task Group, announced The Church of England is 'coming back' to the estates, reversing a trend where over decades, services like shops and children's centres have withdrawn. The plans have been prepared by the Task Group and are part of the Church of England's Renewal and Reform programme. [Read more here](#).

Archbishop of York set to retire in 2020

Bishop Julian paid tribute to the Archbishop of York, Dr John Sentamu, on behalf of the Diocese following the announcement earlier this week of his retirement date. You can [read that tribute here](#).

The Mystery of Faith: Believing It, Living It, Sharing It

That's the title of the Diocesan Conference in November, which will be a chance for clergy and lay leaders from each benefice to gather together for four days of learning that will, in the words of conference planning chair Rev. Toby Webber, 'have a real and enduring impact' on parishes. This is not just a conference for the 300 or so who will attend in person ... the Bishop's Leadership Team wants it to have an impact on **everyone**. So, clergy and lay leaders who attend will be asked to take back the learning and insight and share it with their PCCs and wider congregations. Read the latest news and updates, plus a message from Bishop Julian, [on this page of our website](#).

Christians Against Poverty (CAP) on BBC2 at 9pm Friday

The BBC will be airing a documentary *The Debt Saviours* featuring [Christians Against Poverty](#) (CAP) at 9pm on BBC2 on October 5. The programme focuses on how CAP and the UK Church are caring for the poor and rescuing people from debt across the UK. There are a number of CAP Debt Centres in Lancashire. This week Bishop Julian, alongside Rev. Richard Marshall, an East Lancashire Vicar whose church is home to a CAP Debt Centre, encouraged people across the Diocese to tune in and watch. [Read more](#).



HEALTHY CHURCHES TRANSFORMING COMMUNITIES

[Year of Discipleship in 2019](#)

As part of the ongoing work to achieve our Vision 2026, next year will be a Diocesan Year of Discipleship. There has already been information distributed via the Diocesan magazine, The See, and you can read [more on this page](#), which includes an overview of plans so far from Archdeacon Mark.

[Churchwardens' Yearbook](#)

The 2019 edition of the Churchwardens' Yearbook is now out. [Click here](#) for ordering information.

[New Chair of the Board of Finance](#)

The Church of England in Lancashire (Blackburn Diocese) has a new Chair of the Diocesan Board of Finance Ltd. He is David Barlow, who replaces Canon John Dell who retired from the role in the summer. There will be a longer feature about David to read on the website and in The See magazine soon, but for now [find out more about the new Chair](#).

[Weekly@ resources for children](#)

In the autumn term of 2018, Weekly@, the free lectionary-based resource for Sunday Groups created by our Diocesan Board of Education, turns five years old. From humble beginnings it has grown into a substantial resource. Everything you need for one group session is contained in each edition of Weekly@. A full term's resources are uploaded onto the Board of Education website at one time. [Click here](#) for more information and to download Weekly@.

[Telling the Geordies about Jesus!](#)

Clergy and laity from parishes across Lancashire joined our Bishops recently for the latest 'Northern Bishops' Mission' led by the Archbishop of York. Newcastle was the destination this year and our teams were hosted by local parishes in that Diocese over four intensive days of mission work. You can read a report, including reflections from Bishop Jill, by [clicking here](#).

[And finally ...](#)

- Bishop Philip is climbing The Big One in Blackpool on October 5 to help raise funds for work on the fabric of St John's Church in Lytham. He will pray for the County from a lofty position at the top of the rollercoaster! [Read more.](#)
- Bishop Jill had a busy morning last Sunday speaking to 11 local BBC radio stations across the UK about a fascinating new survey from ComRes about miracles. [The survey shows](#) that three in five UK adults say they believe some form of miracle is possible. [Read more.](#)
- A group of volunteers known as 'The Friday Men' from Christ Church, Thornton-Cleveleys, has been named as [one of six winners](#) of the national 'Little Deeds, Big Difference' contest. The contest is run by specialist church insurer Ecclesiastical.
- The 'Virtual Pilgrimage' series of videos (still available on the [Diocesan YouTube channel](#)) made by Bishop Philip when he led a group of 40 people from parishes across Lancashire on pilgrimage to the Holy Land last November, have been nominated for the top public relations award by the Chartered Institute of Public Relations. [Read more.](#)