

COMMUNICATIONS UPDATE

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I hope you were energised by the Diocesan conference if you were there. *'The Mystery of Faith: Believing It, Living It, Sharing It'* was a wonderful opportunity for clergy and laity of the Diocese to consider some of the fundamental tenets of our faith in depth. It was also a chance to listen to fantastic speakers and enjoy the company of our wider Christian family. Resources are beginning to be uploaded to the Diocesan website, with the bulk of material going on there in January. So, after Christmas, those who weren't there will be able to get a real flavour of the conference; while those who were there will have material to help them share the learning in more depth with their fellow parishioners.

Ronnie Semley, Diocesan Communications Manager

['The Mystery of Faith'](#)

As well as gathering a full set of resources, the organising team is also getting your feedback on the conference. A favourite quote so far is one lay delegate who said: "It was like God was buzzing about everywhere!" Here is the [conference resources page](#) where you will find some initial material – including the official conference [highlights video](#) to view and share with friends and play during church services if you can do so. Here is the [conference news story](#) on the Diocesan website. There are also links on the resources page to extensive coverage of the conference on BBC Radio Lancashire; pictures on Flickr; other social media coverage and much more.

[Focus on discipleship – video resource](#)

As we move forward together with Vision 2026 we will be placing important emphasis on whole-life discipleship as part of our ongoing 'focus on discipleship'. To help with this, we have produced a [great new video](#) involving people from across the Diocese sharing what discipleship means to them in their daily walk with Christ. The video was shown first at the Diocesan conference when it was introduced by Bishop Julian as part of the closing Eucharist. You can use it as a resource to help people engage with the importance of whole-life discipleship. The video is also embedded [on our website](#) with further information and links to additional related resources.

[Clergy Study Days](#)

The Clergy Study Days are approaching and discipleship is also on the agenda for them. The overall theme is stewardship, including teaching on whole-life discipleship as part of our 'focus on discipleship'. The study days take place over five days during January and February (all run from 9am – 2pm). For more information and for the booking [links click here](#).

[Looking back on Remembrance 2018](#)

You can review extensive coverage of Remembrance 2018 on the diocesan website [news section](#), including services that were held to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the WW1 Armistice being signed. There were many imaginative ideas as part of the commemorations, including this [great idea](#) from St Michael and All Angels, Ashton-on-Ribble with St Mark, Preston.

HEALTHY CHURCHES TRANSFORMING COMMUNITIES

Parish Share 2019

All parishes should, by now, have received their copies of this year's Parish Share leaflet. Each parish has been sent 15 copies for their PCC in the first instance. PCC members are encouraged to pass round the leaflet to members of the congregation as well. There is an electronic version of the leaflet on the Diocesan website ['Parish share 2019' page](#), together with other resources, including PowerPoints and the full text of the speech to Diocesan Synod in October by David Barlow, chair of the Diocesan Board of Finance.

'Weekly Sermon'

A new 'Weekly Sermon' page is now available on the Diocesan website. Each week a member of the clergy or laity from across the Diocese (including the Bishops and Archdeacons) will write a topical column to appear on the page, The sermons are also free to use in parish magazines as well. [Click here](#) for the Weekly Sermon page.

Archbishop: Reflections and vocations

The Archbishop of York Dr John Sentamu is currently sharing daily online extracts of his chosen Advent book for 2018 'The Art of Advent' written by Jane Williams. Extracts are published on the [Archbishop's website](#). Meanwhile the Archbishop is hosting the 'Step Forward' young vocations conference on Saturday March 2, 2019, 11am-4pm at Bishopsthorpe Palace, York. It is open to anyone aged 18-30 and will be a great opportunity to explore potential vocations to ordained ministry. Visit www.stepforwardanglican.org.uk for more information and bookings.

Get on the map and #FollowTheStar

The national Advent and Christmas social media campaign for the Church of England (#FollowTheStar) is well underway and all our parishes can get involved using #FollowTheStar on social media. Crucial to the campaign is the new-look 'A Church Near You' website; aiming to ensure people don't just view messages online but also come to a church and hear the Good News about Jesus Christ. There is an [interactive map on 'A Church Near You'](#) of all Christmas services taking place across the country. When you put details of your own church events up on the site they will automatically transfer to the map! All the links you need for #FollowTheStar are [here on the Diocesan website](#).

Counting down to a HOPE-filled Christmas

The Christmas HOPE Magazine features the Duchess of Cambridge with Prince Louis; Leeds Rhinos rugby league player Jamie Jones-Buchanan; TV Presenter Simon Thomas; Adun, one of 12 teenagers who was trapped in a cave in Thailand plus a child-friendly nativity story, competitions and much more. Copies of Christmas HOPE are available for churches to buy in bulk at 10p a copy. Visit www.hopetogether.org.uk/Christmas to preview the magazine and to order.

... and finally

You can take your church collection by contactless card this Christmas! As less and less people carry cash, it's becoming increasingly important for parishes to look at alternative ways to receive donations. There's a new area on the 'Parish Buying' website to help churches consider the different types of contactless machine. Alongside small hand-held card readers (which cost as little as £19 each) there now are more sophisticated self-service donation units available for churches to buy. [Find out more](#).

Please note: Word and pdf versions of the Communications Update are uploaded [to this page](#) of the Diocesan website.