

COMMUNICATIONS UPDATE

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MAY 2019

Thy Kingdom Come

We are about to begin 10 days of prayer together across the Diocese for the Thy Kingdom Come prayer initiative. A last-minute reminder that tonight (Wednesday May 29 at 7.30pm) is the launch event and all are invited. In keeping with the ecumenical nature of Thy Kingdom Come in recent years, the venue tonight is Crossgate Church in Preston, PR1 5LG. Then we embark together (from Ascension to Pentecost, May 30 - June 9) praying for people to come to know Jesus, before the closing 'beacon service' at Blackburn Cathedral on June 9 at 7.30pm. [This page of the Diocesan website](#) has all the information you'll need during Thy Kingdom Come; including latest news, updates on events and links to resources on our website and the national event site too.

Primary Visitations

During May, Bishop Julian held four primary visitations across the Diocese, where all the Churchwardens in our parishes were sworn in as officers of the Diocesan Bishop and parish Vision Champions were commissioned. Bishop Julian said: "Discipleship is not an optional extra. It is why we have appointed Ruth Hassall as Director of Discipleship and it is what lies at the heart of making church healthy – a crucial part of our work as we move towards 2026." Bishop Julian also formally launched the latest phase of his 'Bishop's Bible Challenge' – a booklet entitled Knowing the Scriptures Better'. Read the news story about the first two Visitations [here](#) and the second two Visitations [here](#). You can also [view albums of pictures](#) from all four services on the Diocesan flickr pages.

One million extra worshippers!

A Lancashire church will be sharing the Gospel message with many more people than usual as they prepare to welcome the BBC for a live Sunday morning broadcast on Pentecost Sunday. Worshippers at St Cuthbert's Fulwood, in Preston, could find themselves welcoming up to a million more people as their service, with invited preacher Bishop Jill, goes out live on BBC One from 11am on Sunday, June 9 – which is also the closing day of Thy Kingdom Come. [Read more.](#)

Festival of Baptism

For the past few years, parishes across Lancashire have been invited to attend a themed festival at our Cathedral in Blackburn, to foster growth in faith. Two years ago, there was a Festival of the Eucharist and last year it was a Festival of Prayer. The response to these events was strong, with people attending from all parts of the region and they also proved to be a good way for the Cathedral to serve local churches, both near and far. This year the third festival will be on Saturday, October 19 and will be a Festival of Baptism. [Read more](#) and mark the date now in your diary.

HEALTHY CHURCHES TRANSFORMING COMMUNITIES

[The Bishop's Harvest Appeal](#)

The Bishop's Harvest Appeal raised £22,817 in 2018. Bishop Julian thanks all the churches and schools which took part in the Appeal, as well as the team from the Diocesan World Development Group who organised it. For more information about where the money will be going [click here](#). Details of this year's appeal will be announced soon. Commenting on the 2018 total Bishop Julian said: "In what are difficult times for many, the giving to my Harvest Appeal is cause for much thanksgiving to God and I am grateful to everyone who has made a contribution."

[General Synod update](#)

We are pleased to announce the Rev. Nancy Goodrich, Vicar of Bolton-le-Sands Holy Trinity and Area Dean of Tunstall, has recently been elected to serve on The General Synod of The Church of England.

[Award winner?](#)

If your church has opened a new extension, completed a re-ordering scheme or undergone a major repair or conservation project, enter it for [2019 UK Church Architecture Awards](#)! And do also let us know how you get on if you decide to enter by emailing communicate@blackburn.anglican.org

[Get Your Church Noticed 2019](#)

This year's FREE Communications and Marketing Advice Day takes place on November 16, 2019 at the Diocesan Offices, Clayton House, Walker Business Park, Blackburn BB1 2QE from 10.30am until 3.30pm. More details [on this page](#) in the Diocesan events calendar. The Eventbrite booking link will be live soon but, in the meantime, reserve a place by emailing karen.ashcroft@blackburn.anglican.org

[Safeguarding and websites](#)

A reminder that all parishes are now required to make their local safeguard arrangements clearly accessible via the home page of their parish website by having an obvious link to further information, including contact details. [Find out more.](#)

[... and finally ... Seed money!](#)

One of our Vicars, Rev. Susan Seed, has set herself a tough running and swimming challenge with some ecumenical friends, to raise money for her churches. [Read more](#) and you can also make a donation via the Just Giving link in the story.