

COMMUNICATIONS UPDATE

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JULY 2019

Farewell to Archdeacon Michael and Ruth

A Service of Thanksgiving for the ministry of Archdeacon Michael Everitt and his wife Ruth Everitt took place at Blackburn Cathedral in mid-July. The Thanksgiving event, including a Eucharist, gifts and many warm tributes, was attended by family and friends and many familiar faces from across the County from the span of Michael and Ruth's time in the Diocese. It was a chance to formally thank them both for their many years of service. There has been media coverage across the County – as you would expect after 27 years of ministry here. You can read our story about [the Thanksgiving Service here](#) and our 'farewell interview' with Michael [can be found here](#).

Archdeacon of Lancaster vacancy

The vacancy advert for the next Archdeacon of Lancaster is already live and [can be viewed here](#). Questions about the vacancy or requests for a discussion about it can be directed to Archdeacon Mark Ireland at mark.ireland@blackburn.anglican.org in the first instance.

Diocesan Synod, including Presidential Address

Diocesan Synod this month heard Bishop Julian give his Presidential Address on the theme of 'God's favour', looking at the achievements of the last year; giving an overview of the work for Vision 2026 and looking ahead to future plans – including the next Diocesan Conference, now booked for 2021. Other business included reports on the financial accounts for the Diocesan Board of Finance and the Diocesan Board of Education; a motion to ratify Lower Income Communities Funding (LICF) from the national church should be targeted directly at parishes in most need and a further motion for sending to General Synod calling for weddings fees to be set at nil or a minimal amount. The summary report [on the Diocesan website](#) includes links to the full text of the Presidential address in written and audio format alongside links to other relevant files.

Ordinations 2019 – further coverage

Further to coverage last month of our 18 new Deacons and Priests before the ordination weekend; post ordination coverage is [available here on the Diocesan website](#) and includes links to picture albums and media stories as well as videos on our Diocesan YouTube channel.

New Bishop's Chaplain

The licensing service for the new Bishop's Chaplain, Rev Sam Cheesman, took place last week at Bishop's House. Bishop Julian says: "I am confident Sam will fit in well and make a significant contribution in the months ahead." [Read more](#).

HEALTHY CHURCHES TRANSFORMING COMMUNITIES

[A church at the heart of its community](#)

Churches in Blackburn have shown how they can be visible at the heart of their community - holding an outreach event on the theme of 'Feeding the 5000'. Rev Barbara Pack of St Aidan Mill Hill with St Luke, St Mark and St Philip, Blackburn [takes up the story](#) ...

[Clergy training schools in Africa](#)

Bishop Julian will be heading to Africa from August 10 to lead two clergy training schools alongside his wife Heather. The couple will travel first to our link Diocese of Free State in South Africa for a week of training there before heading to Kenya for a similar week; with a further week's holiday in between. Bishop Julian says: "We are looking forward to all these speaking engagements and we ask for people's prayers for safe travel, good health and blessing on our times of ministry."

[South Asian Christian Convention](#)

People from across the County and beyond attended the third South Asian Christian Convention for The Church of England in Lancashire, which was held on Sunday at St John's Church, Nelson. The theme of the Convention was 'Come, follow me...' based on one of the key aspects of the Diocesan Vision 2026: Specifically, 'making disciples' for Jesus Christ. Both traditional and contemporary hymns were led by the choir and worship leaders and the guest preacher this year was Bishop Julian. [Read more.](#)

[Celebration of Christian diversity](#)

'Faith in our future' is an ecumenical gathering, with particular emphasis on young people and from across denominations, to learn about how to respect and celebrate Christian diversity. Taking place on October 12 at Crossgate Church in Preston (PR1 5LG) and organised by Churches Together in Lancashire, delegates will gather to address a broad range of issues. Donation (to cover costs) is just £3. [Eventbrite booking link.](#)

[Free 'stellar' under 5s resources](#)

Stuck for resources for under 5s (plus a whole lot more ideas for youngsters of other ages)? Then you need to check out the FREE resource pages of the Board of Education website now! Bishop Jill recently described the resources as 'stellar' on Twitter. They have been downloaded many times and by many other dioceses too - but they are principally for parishes in our own Diocese of course. [Click here](#) for endless ideas and remember, everything is FREE.

[Lift up your voice!](#)

In addition to its role in supporting choral music, the Royal School of Church Music, RSCM, is now also offering support to churches which use different styles of music and have neither organists nor robed choirs. The RSCM offer a one-day course (Lift Up Your Voice) which is specifically aimed at churches with no choral tradition, which encourages people to use whatever musical gifts (and instruments) they have. It provides resources and guidance on how to use these to lead worship. More information [on the RSCM website.](#)

[Flower Festival set to return](#)

A spectacular flower festival, which attracted thousands of people the last time it was held, is set to return to Blackburn Cathedral for five days from June 17-21, 2020. Thousands of blooms will fill the Cathedral and the building's stunning light and open architecture will provide an ideal environment to showcase beautiful and imaginative floral displays designed by the internationally renowned Craig Bullock as Artistic Director, assisted by Bill Dixon and interpreted by a team of experienced floral artists from across the UK. More information at www.blackburncathedralflowerfestival.com

Free war memorial display

A 'War Memorial Parks and Gardens' display put together by the Lancashire Gardens Trust was recently on show at our Cathedral in Blackburn ... and the same display is now being made available to our parishes *at no cost*. The Trust can be flexible with timings in relation to when the display is up in your parish - and it can be in situ for a period spanning two Sundays. If you are interested in hosting, contact Alan Robinson at the Trust direct via email alanmuscon@talktalk.net

... and finally ... some sporting updates!

- A Chorley vicar took his place among the country's most elite athletes recently when he completed a gruelling triathlon. Father Eddie Carr, Priest at St Paul's Church in Railway Road, Adlington, is now the self-titled 'Iron Priest' after conquering the 140.6 mile Ironman UK race recently ... a title Bishop Philip declared on Twitter could be Eddie's 'in perpetuity!' Click here to [Read more.](#)
- The combined cricketing side featured last month, which includes players from our Diocese, Carlisle and Durham Diocese, has now progressed to the final of the Church Times Cup! The final will be played at the Walker Cricket Ground in London on September 5, beginning at 11am. [More details here](#) - spectators can watch free; no ticket is required - just turn up. And if you want to join the Diocesan cricket side see the details at the [end of this story](#).
- The Annual Diocesan/Clergy Golf Day is to be held at Darwen Golf Club on Thursday, August 29. The cost of playing is £18 per golfer, which includes green fees and lunch. If you are interested in playing or you know someone in your parish who may be interested (eg, churchwarden, treasurer, etc) contact helen.morris@blackburn.anglican.org. Preferred handicaps are 28 (men) and 36 (ladies).