

COMMUNICATIONS UPDATE

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AUGUST 2019

Calling all Vision Champions!

Carolyn Barton, our new Vision Coordinator, is organising autumn 2019 Vision Champion gatherings. These events are open to all Vision Champions in the Diocese; providing an opportunity to share ideas and experiences whilst learning more about the support available in implementing Vision 2026. They take place in September and October – with a huge choice of venues and times of day – including evenings. For the full list of events [click here](#) and once you have chosen an event, please email Carolyn on carolyn.barton@blackburn.anglican.org with the one you plan to attend.

Wonderfully made': Youth Pilgrimage

Bishop Philip and his team of leaders once again took a group of young people from our parishes on a pilgrimage to Walsingham over the summer holidays. The pilgrimage took place from July 29 to August 2 and had the overarching theme of 'Wonderfully Made: Your Body, Christ's Body. Reports, including an article written by Bishop Philip, [are here on the Diocesan website](#) and include links to BBC Radio Lancashire 'audio-diary' coverage of the event.

Clergy training in Africa

Bishop Julian is currently in Africa leading clergy training schools alongside his wife Heather. The couple departed on August 10 and are in our link Diocese of Free State in South Africa this week. Later they will head to Kenya for a similar week; with a further week's holiday in between. Bishop Julian said before he left: "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." [Read more.](#)

Training for Lancashire 'Faith Visitor' Service

For a healthy society, children need an understanding of those from other traditions. Building Bridges in Burnley provides a unique service of faith visitors to Lancashire schools. Visits promote interfaith and cultural understanding for both pupils and staff but more volunteers are needed, especially Christians, to meet demand. Training is necessary, with two sessions planned for Thursday September 26 and Tuesday, October 1 from 10 – 1pm each day at the Xaverian Centre, Sharoe Green Lane, Preston. More details: Peter Lumsden, Methodist District Interfaith officer at pjlumsden58@gmail.com or call 07929 270753.

HEALTHY CHURCHES TRANSFORMING COMMUNITIES

Working in partnership

The partnership project to convert the former Parish Rooms at St Silas in Blackburn (mentioned in previous communications) continues with the BBC's DIY SOS programme and BBC Children in Need. This week there was a 'trades day' to encourage local trades people to volunteer their services. BBC Radio Lancashire were there to cover the event and met with Bishop Philip and Rev Sheelagh Aston, the local Vicar. Bishop Philip spoke of how the project was a great example of a church working in partnership and helping to 'transform communities'. [Visit this page on our website](#) for the link to the programme and timings to go straight to the interviews.

Thank Your Vicar Week

Thank Your Vicar Week is 13-20 October this year. Do you want to support your vicar and thank them for their hard work? Clergy wellbeing charity St Luke's invites you to join with hundreds of parishes and schools in doing just that. Thank Your Vicar Week invites you to celebrate your vicar and all they do for the local community while also raising money for St Luke's. Sign up at www.stlukesforclergy.org.uk for more information and free resources to support your efforts. If you do get involved, email communicate@blackburn.anglican.org and tell us how you have 'thanked your vicar'.

Edna: 98+ years at same church!

The latest edition of the Diocesan magazine 'The See' will be out in parishes shortly, and it asks the question ... 'who has been a member of the same church in Lancashire for longest'? The question was inspired by a picture of Mrs Edna Emery with Bishop Philip as parishioners and friends of St Peter's Church in Darwen celebrated the building's 190th anniversary as the parish church recently. Edna who was born in 1920, was baptised at the church and married there. Currently 98, she will turn 99 later this year. [Read more here](#) and if you know someone who exceeds Edna's record, email thesee@blackburn.anglican.org

... and finally ... an updated approach to 'e-bulletins'

As we move towards autumn, you will start to notice some changes in relation to the e-bulletins sent from the Diocesan Offices. There are several that currently go to parishes with varying frequencies and in different formats – some are quarterly and for specific audiences only (like 'Safeguarding Matters') while this one is monthly and sent to all Clergy and Parish Officers. Soon all the e-bulletins will be sent from a central Mailchimp account, while they have also been redesigned and refreshed to make them clearer and easier to read. Most importantly, we will shortly introduce a new e-bulletin entitled 'Parish Update' every two weeks. 'Parish Update' is the new home for specific stories containing information, advice and resources from the Diocesan Offices for parishes; while updates on the latest news stories only will continue to appear monthly in Communications Update. [Read more.](#)