

COMMUNICATIONS UPDATE

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BBC build project takes over ...

The Parish Rooms of St Silas Church, Blackburn, once Billinge End School, are set to be transformed into a supportive living accommodation for 16-18 year olds in a groundbreaking initiative run by the Blackburn with Darwen charity Nightsafe. For two weeks in September and after many months of pre-planning, the BBC DIY SOS team and Children in Need, led by presenter Nick Knowles, have descended on the site, working alongside dozens of volunteer tradespeople; local Vicar Rev. Sheelagh Aston and church/community volunteers to complete the project. Media interest throughout has been huge. Follow the unfolding story, with multiple links to media coverage, [on this page](#).

Exciting times at Preston Resourcing Parish

The new Preston Resourcing Parish of Preston Minster and St George's Church is taking shape and exciting times are ahead. The parish civic launch service is on September 26 at 7.30pm and the first Sunday service at the refurbished Minster is on September 29 at 11am. We caught up with Vicar of Preston, Rev. Sam Haigh, and Assistant Priest, Father David Craven as they took a quick breather from the hectic planning. They told us about their personal journeys to the Preston Resourcing Parish and their hopes for the future. [Read more.](#)

Following in Jesus' footsteps

A group of 36 pilgrims, drawn from the diocese and beyond, sets off on a pilgrimage at the end of September. They will travel out on September 25 and return on October 7. The Pilgrimage will be led by Mark Ireland, Archdeacon of Blackburn and his wife Gill. The pilgrims will visit the well-known sites associated with the ministry of Jesus in Galilee, Bethlehem and Jerusalem, and will also visit the Kingdom of Jordan, sometimes called 'the other Holy Land'. [Read more.](#) During his visit Archdeacon Mark plans to post some pilgrimage updates to his own blog site. You can [follow those reports here](#) where they will appear in due course once the pilgrimage has begun.

National DAC Conference visits our Diocese

The Diocese played host to delegates from other Dioceses across England last week for the annual Diocesan Advisory Committee (DAC) Conference. Around 120 delegates were based in the region for three days and visited several of our churches. The conference theme of 'Healthy Churches Transforming Communities' was inspired by our own Vision 2026 and support came from Bishop Julian, Bishop Philip and Bishop Jill, alongside Archdeacon Mark; all of whom spoke to delegates over the three days. Feedback about the event was very positive. [Read more on this page](#) where you can also listen to BBC coverage from before and after the event.

HEALTHY CHURCHES TRANSFORMING COMMUNITIES

[Latest northern bishops' mission](#)

Bishop Julian and Bishop Philip and their mission teams were in Southwell and Nottingham Diocese for four days last week for 'OneLIFE' – the latest Northern Bishops' Mission event, led by the Archbishop of York. They joined many other Bishops and their teams from across the north of England for mission activities from Thursday, September 12 to Sunday, September 15. Our Mission team representatives came from across the diocese including Blackpool, Accrington, Heysham, Leyland, Chorley, Ribchester and Standish. For a full list of team members; the pre-event news story and links to coverage from across the four days, [click here](#).

[Help reopen Peter of Chester Chapel](#)

At present the Peter of Chester Chapel in the ruins of our Diocesan retreat centre at Whalley Abbey is kept locked for safety reasons. For a relatively modest sum (c£10k) the Friends of Whalley Abbey group want to reopen it. They have £3k already earmarked for the project and are appealing to raise the remainder. If you want to help, send a cheque to the Friends of Whalley Abbey (write on the back 'Peter of Chester Appeal') or make a bank transfer to: 20-09-72; 53550729 (use the reference PoC Appeal). And don't forget to request a gift aid form if you are eligible to gift aid. More information: office@whalleyabbey.org

[... and finally ... in the final!](#)

The joint 'CBD' inter-Diocesan cricket team recently travelled to London to appear in the final of a prestigious national competition for the first time. The team, made up of players from this Diocese, and the Dioceses of Carlisle and Durham – faced the Diocese of London in the final of the Church Times Cricket Cup. Coverage, including a first-hand report from Rev. Tom Woolford [is here](#).