

# COMMUNICATIONS UPDATE

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Welcome to your monthly round-up of some of the key news stories from the last four weeks. Follow the latest news by regularly logging on to [www.blackburn.anglican.org](http://www.blackburn.anglican.org)

Ronnie Semley, Diocesan Communications Manager

## Thy Kingdom Come: It's coming!



It's not long until this year's 'Thy Kingdom Come' prayer event from May 10-20. For the third year running, Christians across the country and the world are accepting the invitation, originally given by the Archbishops of Canterbury and York in 2016, to set aside time from Ascension Day to Pentecost, and to pray specifically for people they know to come to know Jesus Christ. In our Diocese, on **Wednesday May 9<sup>th</sup> at 7.30pm**, there will be an ecumenical beacon prayer launch event at Blackburn Cathedral and **all parishes are invited**. [Find out more on this page and book for May 9](#). On the same page you can also find links to Thy Kingdom Come resources and if you are holding an event locally don't forget to add it to the national Thy Kingdom Come [events map](#).

## Church growth course success

Two Lancashire clergy are leading a new course for local churches with the aim of encouraging and equipping them to grow both numerically and spiritually. 'Leading your Church into Growth' (known as LyCiG) is a Christian charity which has been serving churches across the country for 25 years and it is also responsible for the Start! Course (for those new to the Christian faith) which many Lancashire parishes have run. [Find out more](#).

## A real leap of faith!



Archdeacon Michael successfully swapped the pulpit for a parachute this month when he made a tandem jump from 15,000 feet for charity. The Venerable Michael Everitt described his recent experience, at the Black Knights Parachuting School at Cockerham Airfield in Lancashire, as 'literally a leap of faith.' It was his first ever experience of parachute jumping and he far exceeded his expectations in donations. [Read more](#) and you can still [make a donation](#).

HEALTHY CHURCHES TRANSFORMING COMMUNITIES

## Resourcing the church in Lancashire



A reminder, further to last month, that more than 200 people attended an important Diocesan event recently at which the challenges and opportunities of resourcing the Church of England in Lancashire in the future were discussed. Feedback from those who attended has been very positive. Hopefully the messages about the day are being shared widely in parishes, thanks to those who were there on the day. Canon Dr John Spence CBE, pictured, Chair of Archbishop's Council Finance Committee, gave the keynote speech. There is [more information on our website](#), as well as audio files of all talks from John Spence, Bishop Philip, Archdeacon Mark and Canon John Dell.

## Army life as a chaplain

Ever wondered what life is like as an army chaplain? The former Vicar of a Lancashire parish has written about his move from parish life to Army life as a chaplain. Six years ago Giles Allen left his role of Vicar of the rural parish of Lund on the Fylde Coast to become a Chaplain (or Padre) in the Army. He wrote about his experiences in a recent edition of The See, the diocesan magazine distributed to parishes across the County every month and [the article is also on our website](#).

## Bishop-designate Jill meets retired Bishop Geoff!



The retired Bishop of Lancaster, Rt Rev Geoff Pearson, met his successor, Rev. Dr Jill Duff, this week to pass on some of his wisdom after 11 years in the role. Geoff retired last summer, while you will remember that Jill was announced as his successor in March of this year. They met in Hope Street, Liverpool and Jill tweeted a picture of the pair together, adding to her tweet that she was getting some 'top tips' as she prepared for her new role! [Read about their encounter](#). If you haven't seen it yet, you can watch the message of greeting [from Jill to the diocese here](#) and read and listen to other greetings on the same page.

## Lancastrians 'Moving Mountains' in Cumbria

Bishop Julian and Bishop Philip have praised the recent 'Moving Mountains' Northern Bishops' Mission event in Carlisle Diocese (which covers the whole of Cumbria). The Bishops were in the Diocese for four days, alongside fellow Bishops from across the north of England and the Archbishop of York. Launched in 2015 by the Archbishop, the first Northern Bishops' Mission was in Sheffield Diocese, followed by our Diocese in 2016 (when it was called Crossroads) and then Durham Diocese in 2017. This year's Mission was the first time it has taken place with ecumenical partners, as part of Carlisle Diocese's 'God With Us' initiative. Several groups from the Diocese were in Cumbria for the event. [Read a report on our website](#).

## Praise for national Ministry Experience Scheme

Bishop Philip has welcomed the success of the Church of England's Ministry Experience Scheme which offers year-long placements in churches across the country for young adults aged between 18 and 30 years old. The initiative is attracting an increasing number of participants, according to new figures released today. One of the ministry experience projects is, of course, the [Blackpool Ministry Experience](#) linked to Freedom Church on Mereside Estate in the town. There are many others around the country. [Read more](#).

## ...and finally

Advance notice there will be another FREE communications and marketing advice day on Saturday October 20 at the Diocesan Offices, Clayton House, BB1 2QE from 10.30am until 3.30pm. Entitled 'Get Your Church Noticed', Ronnie Semley, our Diocesan Communications Manager, will be joined once again by his colleague Neil Pugmire, the Communications Manager for Portsmouth Diocese, to give you some practical, common sense ideas for promoting your church, its mission work and activities. This is the third year we have run the course. Feedback on previous year's events has been very positive. Booking will open soon. Register interest via email to [karen.ashcroft@blackburn.anglican.org](mailto:karen.ashcroft@blackburn.anglican.org) and visit our [website resource pages at any time](#) for further practical communications advice.