

COMMUNICATIONS UPDATE

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It's been a busy month! Here is your latest Communications Update highlighting some of the key stories. Have a very happy and peaceful Easter.

Ronnie Semley, Diocesan Communications Manager

Bishops' Easter messages

Easter messages from Bishop Julian and Bishop Philip are now available. All the links you need are [on this page](#) of the Diocesan website, including links to the videos on YouTube. Why not share them with your family and friends and play them at your church services if you have the capability to do so? The Easter messages will also appear across the local and regional media in the coming days, including on Joe Wilson's Easter Sunday programme on BBC Radio Lancashire between 6am-9am on April 1. Meanwhile Bishop Julian was prominent in promoting [The Real Easter Egg](#) recently.



More BBC radio coverage over Easter

You will be interested to know that, in addition to the above programme, there is an extra edition of Joe's faith-based morning programme on BBC Radio Lancashire this Good Friday between 7am and 10am. During that programme there will be a chance to hear again an edited audio version of Bishop Philip's 'virtual pilgrimage' videos recorded in the Holy Land last November. (The videos are also [still available to watch](#) on our YouTube channel.) Later on Good Friday, from 1pm – 2pm, you can also hear a special programme featuring Bishop Philip and several of our clergy. An ecumenical broadcast, 'The Holy Week Mixtape' features contributors using music to illustrate the events of Holy Week. As well as Bishop Philip, contributors from our Diocese include Rev. Fleur Green; Rev. Brian McConkey; Rev. Nancy Goodrich and Rev. Tracy Charnock.

The next Bishop of Lancaster



By now you will have seen the extensive media coverage of the appointment of Rev. Dr Jill Duff to the role of Bishop of Lancaster.

Jill will be consecrated in York on June 29.

As well as being announced to the media, details of the appointment were also sent to parishes on the day of the announcement, along with a message from Jill herself.

If you haven't caught up with everything yet, [this story](#) on the Diocesan website will bring you up to speed and [this page](#) on our website contains a YouTube video message from Jill to the whole Diocese; links to various radio interviews with Jill and others from across the Diocese alongside written greetings from the Archbishop and other senior clergy.

More!

HEALTHY CHURCHES TRANSFORMING COMMUNITIES

Key appointment for our Diocese's ambitious outreach programme

Things are really moving now with [a key appointment being made](#) as part of our ambitious outreach programme aimed at deprived urban estates in Lancashire. Matthew Rowley, 43, (right in picture with Rev. Peter Lillicrap) is originally from Stoke-on-Trent and is currently working at Christ Church with All Saints, Blackpool. He will begin work as the Lead Evangelist for a Church Army Centre of Mission on Grange Park from June of this year. The funding for the role will come out of a £1.54m grant awarded to the Diocese in December last year as part of The Church of England's 'Renewal and Reform' initiative.



'Resourcing the Mission of God in Lancashire'

This very important and successful Diocesan meeting, attended by more than 200 people from our parishes, took place in mid-March 2018. Keynote speaker was Canon Dr John Spence CBE, Chair of the Archbishop's Council Finance Committee. After the event was over John Spence said: "From what I have heard today there is a real sense of opportunity in your Diocese tempered with realism from Bishops Julian and Philip about the way ahead. Organising events like this one are an excellent way of driving engagement. There has to be a 'can do' attitude. Don't just see the barriers; see the opportunities and add a dose of creativity as well." [Read more about the meeting](#) and listen to the talks on the Diocesan website.

Thy Kingdom Come 2018

Thy Kingdom Come – the massive nationwide and international prayer event led by the Archbishops – is back again this year! Once again we have a launch service taking place at Blackburn Cathedral on May 9 at 7.30pm, the day before the 10 days of prayer start in earnest. Hundreds attended last year and all parishes are invited to attend again this year. Read more about the planning for Thy Kingdom Come [on this page](#) of the Diocesan website which also contains links to resources and will be regularly updated in the coming weeks.



Contactless payment now possible across the Diocese



Following a trial of contactless card readers, the national Parish Buying service has finalised contracts with two companies. Now, if they want to do so, Church of England parishes across Lancashire and the rest of the country can buy card readers at a discount through the Parish Buying website (in conjunction with the companies SumUp and iZettle) and use them with specially negotiated low transaction rates. [More information here](#), including a link to a BBC Radio Lancashire interview with Archdeacon Mark. In addition, parish treasurers have been emailed with further information by Stephanie Rankin, Parish Development Resources Officer, copied to clergy.

...and finally

Finally this month, we said farewell to Rev. David Banbury, Leader of the Parish Mission Support Department. You can read a [final interview with David here](#) in which he reflects on his last seven years with the Diocese. David has moved to be Vicar of St John's Burscough, in the Diocese of Liverpool. He will be much missed by everyone.



... there's more happening across the Diocese! Go to www.blackburn.anglican.org to catch up with the latest news and keep checking back regularly for updates.

HEALTHY CHURCHES TRANSFORMING COMMUNITIES