

COMMUNICATIONS UPDATE

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It's Christmas. You are busy. This is going to be brief!

Ronnie Semley, Diocesan Communications Manager

Bishops' Christmas messages

Bishop Julian and Bishop Philip have written and recorded their traditional annual messages to the County. You can watch them on YouTube and read them on the Diocesan website. They will also appear in local and regional media across the coming days.

[Bishop Julian's Christmas message](#)

[Bishop Philip's Christmas message](#)

(Both pages on the Diocesan website include links to YouTube video versions of the messages.)

Delight at £1.54m grant for urban estates ministry

You may have heard, but just in case ... our ambitious programme aimed at deprived urban estates in Lancashire has been singled out for funding as part of a national drive to renew the whole Church of England. [It was announced recently](#) that a total of £1.54 million has been allocated for the programme in Blackburn Diocese to fund work in outer urban estates and parishes over six years. It will focus on training new leaders, both lay and ordained, with a view to providing a model for other dioceses, while also strengthening mission in the areas where the work is located.

Use #GodWithUs across social media this Christmas

Last year the national #JoyToTheWorld initiative was a fantastic success – it has gone on to win several awards – and this year the national digital Christmas campaign is #GodWithUs. Bishop Julian said: "I encourage all of our parishes to get involved and to retweet, share, like and follow the social media posts and use the online material as appropriate." [In this story on our Diocesan website](#), Bishop Julian talks about #GodWithUs and also encourages parishes to ensure their details are up to date for Christmas on the new-look 'A Church Near You' website.

... and finally, did you watch Bishop Philip's pilgrimage vlog?

More than 8000 people (so far!) have viewed the short two minute daily vlogs on YouTube recorded by Bishop Philip while on the recent Diocesan pilgrimage to the Holy Land. If you haven't caught up with them yet [they are collated here on the Diocesan website](#).

Have a very peaceful and happy Christmas!

HEALTHY CHURCHES TRANSFORMING COMMUNITIES