

## Blackburn Prayers

### FEBRUARY 2020

In 2020 we are continuing to share Bishop Julian's three Bible verses to meditate on and memorise each month as part of his '**Bishop's Bible Challenge**' and to encourage the spiritual discipline of learning Bible verses by heart. There is more information from Bishop Julian about the Bible Challenge on the Diocesan website [here](#).

We are continuing with Vision 2026 prayers that reflect the themes of Making Disciples, Being Witnesses, Growing Leaders and Youth/Children and Schools. For 2020, we have also included prayers for our National Church Funded Projects in Blackpool, Blackburn and Preston.

As always, if you have an event coming up in your parish for which you would particularly value prayer, please let us know by **February 7** for the March edition. Any comments, amendments or updates regarding Blackburn Prayers should be directed to [karen.ashcroft@blackburn.anglican.org](mailto:karen.ashcroft@blackburn.anglican.org). If you want to find out more about any of the parishes in this month's edition, click on the name of the parish and it will take you to either their own website or to their page on the [A Church Near You](#) site.

Anglican Cycle of Prayer – [click here](#)  
(<https://bit.ly/2GCLycV>)

**Key:** cw = churchwarden of vacant parish

**Saturday 1 February**  
Brigid, abness, c525

***Bishop's Memory Verse: Making Disciples - Luke 18.1***

And Jesus told them a parable to the effect that they ought always to pray and not lose heart

For **Derek and Nerina Harborne** working with African Inland Mission (AIM) in Mbarara, Uganda. Their sending churches are St Andrew's, Leyland and Buckshaw Village Church

**Vision 2026:** That many church members will be inspired by Bishop Julian's challenge to try learning Bible verses by heart, and that having God's Word stored in our hearts will equip us in our daily life.

**Diocese:** [Barrowford St Thomas](#) and [Newchurch-in-Pendle St Mary](#), **Rev Julie Smith**; also in this benefice the schools of Barrowford St Thomas CofE Primary, Newchurch-in-Pendle St Mary CofE Primary and Roughlee CofE Primary.

**Braunschweig:** The link between Blackburn Diocese and the Braunschweiger Landeskirche

**Free State:** The Bishop of the Free State, **Bishop Dintoe** and his family

**Sunday 2 February**  
Presentation of Christ in the Temple;  
Candlemas

***Bishop's Memory Verse: Making Disciples - Luke 18.1***

And Jesus told them a parable to the effect that they ought always to pray and not lose heart

**Vision 2026:** For Ruth Hassall, our Director of Discipleship, as she continues getting to know the parishes; supporting them in developing confident Christian disciples

**Diocese:** [Brierfield St Luke](#), **Rev Dr Stephen Adesanya**, **Rev Stephen Large**

**Braunschweig:** Growth in links between Blackburn Cathedral and the Braunschweiger Dom

**Free State:** The Cathedral Church of St Michael and St Andrew and its Dean, **the Very Rev Lazarus Mohapi**

### Monday 3 February

Anskar, archbishop, missionary, 865;  
Ordinary Time starts today;  
Daily Eucharistic Lectionary week 4

#### ***Bishop's Memory Verse: Making Disciples - Luke 18.1***

And Jesus told them a parable to the effect that they ought always to pray and not lose heart

**Vision 2026:** For Carolyn Barton, our new Vision Coordinator as she gets to know the parishes and seeks to support them in implementing Vision 2026

**Diocese:** Colne ([Holy Trinity](#) and [St Bartholomew](#)), **Rev Lisa Senior Braunschweig:** The Local Ecumenical Partnership between Poulton, Carleton and Singleton and Flöthe

**Free State:** The Bishop's Council

**Meeting:** Bishop' Leadership Team

### Tuesday 4 February

Gilbert, founder of the Gilbertine Order, 1189

#### ***Bishop's Memory Verse: Making Disciples - Luke 18.1***

And Jesus told them a parable to the effect that they ought always to pray and not lose heart

**Vision 2026:** For Whalley Abbey as it becomes a Centre for Christian Discipleship, and for God to call into being a small community of prayer, resident and dispersed, praying for the Abbey and the Diocese.

**Diocese:** [Fence-in-Pendle St Anne](#) and [Higham St John the Evangelist](#), **Rev Lesley Hinchcliffe;** also in this benefice the school of Higham St John CofE Primary

**Braunschweig:** The link between the Lancaster City Parishes and the Goslar City Parishes

**Free State:** For greater financial responsibility

**Clergy Moves:** The Venerable David Picken to be collated as Archdeacon of Lancaster at Blackburn Cathedral

**Event:** Clergy Study Morning at Hallmark Hotel, Leyland

### Wednesday 5 February

#### ***Bishop's Memory Verse: Making Disciples - Luke 18.1***

And Jesus told them a parable to the effect that they ought always to pray and not lose heart

**Vision 2026:** For a deepening of the prayer life of our churches, and for those planning Pathways to Prayer events around the Diocese this year.

**Diocese:** [Foulridge Laneshawbridge](#) and [Trawden](#), **Rev John Knott;** also in this benefice the schools of Colne Christ Church CofE Primary and Foulridge Saint Michael and All Angels CofE Primary

**Braunschweig:** The link between St Luke, Brierfield and Delligsen.

**Free State:** For Mosamaria Aids Ministry

**Meeting:** Staff Eucharist at Blackburn Cathedral

### Thursday 6 February

Martyrs of Japan, 1597;  
Accession of Queen Elizabeth II, 1952

#### ***Bishop's Memory Verse: Making Disciples - Luke 18.1***

And Jesus told them a parable to the effect that they ought always to pray and not lose heart

**Vision 2026:** For churches using the Generosity, Gift and Grace course, that many will catch a fresh vision of how generous giving to their local church can impact their community for Christ.

**Diocese:** [Great Marsden St John the Evangelist with Nelson St Philip](#), **Rev Lorelli Hilliard, Rev Victor Sohail;** also in this benefice the schools of Great Marsden St John's CofE Primary Academy and Nelson St Philip's CofE Primary

**Braunschweig:** The parish link between St Mary's Clitheroe and Schandelah and Gardessen

**Free State:** For the link between our two Dioceses

**Meeting:** Financial Assistance Group

## Friday 7 February

### **Bishop's Memory Verse: Making Disciples - Luke 18.1**

And Jesus told them a parable to the effect that they ought always to pray and not lose heart

**Blackpool Ministry Experience:** Pray for the recruitment process for the next intake of the Blackpool Ministry Experience to be starting in September 2020.

**Diocese:** [Nelson Little Marsden](#), **Rev Guy Jamieson**; also in this benefice the school Nelson St Paul's CofE Primary

**Braunschweig:** The parish link between Euxton and Wolfenbüttel (Church of Reconciliation/St James/Gross Stöckheim)

**Free State:** For the President of the Republic of South Africa

## Saturday 8 February

### **Bishop's Memory Verse: Making Disciples - Luke 18.1**

And Jesus told them a parable to the effect that they ought always to pray and not lose heart

**Vision 2026:** For men, women and children across Lancashire to hear the gospel in their own language.

**Diocese:** [Poulton Deanery Officers](#), **Rev Canon Martin Keighley, Mr David Thompson, Mr Liam Burns**

**Braunschweig:** The Local Ecumenical Partnership between Warton and Timmerlah

**Free State:** For the urban poor in the townships

**Event:** Open Day at Trinity College, Bristol

## Sunday 9 February Third Sunday before Lent Proper 1

### **Bishop's Memory Verse: Making Disciples - Luke 18.1**

And Jesus told them a parable to the effect that they ought always to pray and not lose heart

**Vision 2026:** For plentiful workers of all backgrounds for the plentiful harvest fields across Lancashire.

**Diocese:** [Cleveleys St Andrew](#), **Rev Jayne Ward**

**Braunschweig:** For new parish links to be built or old ones renewed

**Free State:** For **Fr Joshua Skee**, the Free State Link Officer

## Monday 10 February Scholastica, abbess, c.543; Daily Eucharistic Lectionary week 5

### **Bishop's Memory Verse: Making Disciples - Luke 18.1**

And Jesus told them a parable to the effect that they ought always to pray and not lose heart

**Vision 2026:** For a visitation of the Holy Spirit on Lancashire to light beacons in every community.

**Diocese:** [Fleetwood St Nicholas](#), **Rev Carolyn Leitch**

**Braunschweig:** Growth in links in the area of Social Responsibility

**Free State:** For those engaged with the Church Schools in Welkom and Bloemfontein

**Meeting:** General Synod Residential

## Tuesday 11 February

### **Bishop's Memory Verse: Being Witnesses - 1 Peter 2.24**

He himself bore our sins in his body on the cross, so that, free from sins, we might live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed.

**Vision 2026:** For it to become normal for every parish to be planting congregations and churches to fulfil the Anglican ambition to be a "Christian presence in every community" across Lancashire.

**Diocese:** [Fleetwood St Peter and St David](#), **Rev Canon John Hall, Rev Dr Christopher Dingwall-Jones**

**Braunschweig:** The theological discussions between our two Dioceses  
**Free State:** For the Parish Clergy, the Self-Supporting ministers and Lay Ministers

**Meeting:** Diocesan Mission and Pastoral Committee; Property Committee; Finance Committee; General Synod Residential

## Wednesday 12 February

### **Bishop's Memory Verse: Being Witnesses - 1 Peter 2.24**

He himself bore our sins in his body on the cross, so that, free from sins, we might live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed.

**Vision 2026:** For our church communities to enable people to encounter the love of Jesus in word and in action.

**Diocese:** [Little Thornton St John the Evangelist](#), Rev Jane Atkinson

**Braunschweig:** All who are involved in the next Kirchentag in Dortmund 2019

**Free State:** For the work of the Mothers' Union

**Meeting:** General Synod Residential

## Thursday 13 February

### **Bishop's Memory Verse: Being Witnesses - 1 Peter 2.24**

He himself bore our sins in his body on the cross, so that, free from sins, we might live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed.

For Rev Peter and Hwee Ping Warren in Cambodia. Their sending church is Christ Church, Blackpool,

**Vision 2026:** For our baptism and confirmation candidates to be fired up to be beacons of faith in their schools, workplaces and communities.

**Diocese:** [Poulton, Carleton](#) and [Singleton](#), Rev Canon Martin Keighley, Rev Lois Ward; also in this benefice the schools of Carleton St Hilda's CofE Primary, Poulton-le-Fylde St Chad's CofE Primary and Singleton CofE Primary

**Braunschweig:** The work of the Meissen Commission, working for full and visible unity between our two churches

**Free State:** For the St Agnes Guild

**Meeting:** Investment Committee; General Synod Residential

**Event:** Introduction to Christian Meditation held at Lund Community Hall

## Friday 14 February

Cyril and Methodius, missionaries, 869 and 885;

Valentine, martyr at Rome, c.269

### **Bishop's Memory Verse: Being Witnesses - 1 Peter 2.24**

He himself bore our sins in his body on the cross, so that, free from sins, we might live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed.

**Blackpool Centre of Mission:** Pray for all team members who volunteer in running Kidz Klub. Pray for the start of the Pioneer Youth Evangelist.

**Diocese:** [Thornton-le-Fylde Christ Church](#), Rev Damian Platt

**Braunschweig:** All involved in the work for the Foundation of Ecumenical Learning, including those serving in Blackpool

**Free State:** For the Guild of St Bernard Mizeki

**Meeting:** Audit/Risk/Governance Committee; Diocesan Advisory Committee; General Synod Residential

## Saturday 15 February

Sigfrid, bishop, 1045;

Thomas Bray, priest, founder of SPCK and SPG, 1730

### **Bishop's Memory Verse: Being Witnesses - 1 Peter 2.24**

He himself bore our sins in his body on the cross, so that, free from sins, we might live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed.

**Vision 2026:** Give thanks for all who exercise leadership in our Diocese, for clergy and lay leaders. Pray that they may have the faithfulness, the wisdom and the joy that they will need to lead churches that transform their local communities in the name of Jesus Christ.

**Diocese:** [Preston Deanery Officers](#), Rev Canon Alistair McHaffie, Mrs Stephanie Rankin, Mr Ken Curphey

**Braunschweig:** Growth in links between University Chaplaincies in our two Dioceses; Growth in school partnerships between our two Dioceses

**Free State:** For the judiciary based in Bloemfontein

**Sunday 16 February**  
**Second Sunday before Lent**

***Bishop's Memory Verse: Being Witnesses - 1 Peter 2.24***

He himself bore our sins in his body on the cross, so that, free from sins, we might live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed.

***Vision 2026:*** Pray that all might hear God's call in their life and be ready to respond with faithful obedience. Pray that all Christians may feel equipped to live out their faith in the family, the workplace and in their local communities.

***Diocese:*** [Ashton-on-Ribble St Andrew](#), **Rev James Nash, Rev Jonny Lee**; also in this benefice the school of Ashton-on-Ribble St Andrew's CofE Primary

***Braunschweig:*** Growth in links between youth workers in our two Dioceses

***Free State:*** For the Archbishop of the Province of Southern Africa

**Monday 17 February**

Janani Luwum, archbishop, martyr, 1977;

Daily Eucharistic Lectionary week 6

***Bishop's Memory Verse: Being Witnesses - 1 Peter 2.24***

He himself bore our sins in his body on the cross, so that, free from sins, we might live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed.

For **Nicola Anderson** working in Thailand with 1Step2Step. Her sending Church is St Thomas, Lancaster.

***Vision 2026:*** Pray for more lay leaders in our congregations.

***Diocese:*** [Ashton-on-Ribble St Michael and All Angels](#), **Rev Canon Andrew Evants**

***Braunschweig:*** All working in church kindergartens

***Free State:*** For Chaplains

**Tuesday 18 February**

***Bishop's Memory Verse: Being Witnesses - 1 Peter 2.24***

He himself bore our sins in his body on the cross, so that, free from sins, we might live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed.

***Vision 2026:*** Pray for more vocations to the priesthood and to the religious life, especially for vocations amongst young adults.

***Diocese:*** [Broughton St John Baptist](#), **Rev Shaun Baldwin, Rev Pauline Taylor**; also in this benefice the schools of Broughton in Amounderness CofE Primary and Fulwood St Peter's CofE Primary and Nursery

***Braunschweig:*** All preparing for confirmation in the Braunschweiger Landeskirche

***Free State:*** For all victims of crime

**Wednesday 19 February**

***Bishop's Memory Verse: Being Witnesses - 1 Peter 2.24***

He himself bore our sins in his body on the cross, so that, free from sins, we might live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed.

***Vision 2026:*** Pray for all whose leadership is hidden or unacknowledged and for those who are yet to discover the gifts that the Holy Spirit has given them.

***Diocese:*** [Fulwood Christ Church](#), **Rev Christopher Boland, Rev Elizabeth McLean**; also in this benefice the school of Archbishop Temple CofE Specialist College

***Braunschweig:*** All who teach RE in state schools within the Braunschweiger Landeskirche

***Free State:*** For those engaged in youth work across the Free State

***Meeting:*** HR Committee

## Thursday 20 February

### **Bishop's Memory Verse: Being Witnesses - 1 Peter 2.24**

He himself bore our sins in his body on the cross, so that, free from sins, we might live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed.

**Vision 2026:** Pray for lay and ordained leaders who are struggling, for those who have lost the joy of ministry or who feel despondent or overwhelmed by the challenges that face them. Pray that they draw strength from a deeper awareness of the power of God in their lives.

**Diocese:** [Grimsargh St Michael](#), **Rev Neil Salt**; also in this benefice the school of Grimsargh St Michael's CofE Primary

**Braunschweig:** For new links between our secondary schools

**Free State:** For our linked parishes

## Friday 21 February

### **Bishop's Memory Verse: Growing Leaders – Joshua 1.9**

I hereby command you: Be strong and courageous; do not be frightened or dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.

**M:Power:** Pray for the M:Power work on Roman Road; an outer estate in Blackburn led by Urban Evangelist Sharon Collins who has planted a cultural church based in the local Library. Pray that Sharon continues to communicate the good news of the gospel effectively to her neighbours on the estate.

**Diocese:** HMP Preston, **Rev Gail Miller, Rev Barry Eaton, Rev Susan Maskrey**

**Braunschweig:** All who work at Braunschweig Theological Centre

**Free State:** For **Canon John Hall**, Commissary to the Bishop of the Free State

## Saturday 22 February

### **Bishop's Memory Verse: Growing Leaders – Joshua 1.9**

I hereby command you: Be strong and courageous; do not be frightened or dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.

**Vision 2026:** For parents that they have confidence and are equipped to raise children who have a living relationship with God.

**Diocese:** [Ingol St Margaret](#), **Rev Rie Walker**

**Braunschweig:** All training for ministry at Braunschweig Theological Centre

**Free State:** For the Blackburn Link Committee

## Sunday 23 February Sunday next before Lent

### **Bishop's Memory Verse: Growing Leaders – Joshua 1.9**

I hereby command you: Be strong and courageous; do not be frightened or dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.

**Vision 2026:** For children and young people that they are able to identify their gifts and recognise God's calling on their lives, allowing them to passionately serve and lead others.

**Diocese:** Lancashire Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust, **Rev David Anderson**

**Braunschweig:** Chair of the Braunschweig Link Committee in Blackburn Diocese

**Free State:** For the Cathedral Staff and members of the Diocesan Office

**Meeting:** Bishop's Appointments Team

## Monday 24 February Daily Eucharistic Lectionary week 7

### **Bishop's Memory Verse: Growing Leaders – Joshua 1.9**

I hereby command you: Be strong and courageous; do not be frightened or dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.

**Vision 2026:** For young people's faith, rooted in Jesus Christ, to be nurtured, disciplined and shared within their communities.

**Diocese:** [Preston St Emmanuel](#) and [Lea St Christopher](#), **Rev Peter Hamborg**

**Braunschweig:** Ralph Ohainski, Chair of the Blackburn Link Committee in Braunschweig

**Free State:** For the Fellowship of Vocation

## Tuesday 25 February

### **Bishop's Memory Verse: Growing Leaders – Joshua 1.9**

I hereby command you: Be strong and courageous; do not be frightened or dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.

For **Padre Giles Allen** who is serving as an Army Chaplain.

**Vision 2026:** For the Youth Provision Development Team's engagement with churches across the Diocese to empower, instil confidence and enable growth in leaders and youth ministries.

**Diocese:** [Longridge St Lawrence with St Paul](#), **Rev Mike Barton**; also in this benefice the school of Longridge CofE Primary

**Braunschweig:** All who work in the RE-Institute (ARPM) at Wolfenbüttel

**Free State:** For the Anglican Women's Fellowship

## Wednesday 26 February Ash Wednesday

### **Bishop's Memory Verse: Growing Leaders – Joshua 1.9**

I hereby command you: Be strong and courageous; do not be frightened or dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.

**Vision 2026:** For all schools and academies to be beacons of faith in their communities.

**Diocese:** [Preston All Saints](#), **Rev Nathan Buttery**

**Braunschweig:** All involved in the Synod of the Braunschweiger Landeskirche

**Free State:** For all Archdeacons and their respective Archdeaconries

## Thursday 27 February

George Herbert, priest, poet, 1633

### **Bishop's Memory Verse: Growing Leaders – Joshua 1.9**

I hereby command you: Be strong and courageous; do not be frightened or dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.

**Vision 2026:** For all schools and academies to encourage and equip pupils to be courageous advocates for the Gospel, fighting injustice locally and globally.

**Diocese:** [Preston St Cuthbert Fulwood](#), **Rev Mark Bradford**, **Rev Michael Hutchinson**, **Rev Kamran Bhatti**, **Rev Dr Mike Clayton**

**Braunschweig:** Bishop Christoph and all who work in the Landeskirchenamt (Diocesan Offices) at Wolfenbüttel

**Free State:** For all school Chaplains

**Meeting:** Financial Assistance Group

## Friday 28 February

### **Bishop's Memory Verse: Growing Leaders – Joshua 1.9**

I hereby command you: Be strong and courageous; do not be frightened or dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.

**Preston Resourcing Parish:** We are church for the unchurched and de-churched – that's 98% of Preston residents! Pray for God given strategies for all churches in Preston to reach the 98%.

**Vision 2026:** For our chaplains in schools and universities, that they may be a Christian presence in education, witnessing to the transforming effect of Jesus on people's lives and encouraging the exploration of the Gospel.

**Diocese:** [Preston St John and St George the Martyr](#), **Rev Sam Haigh**, **Rev Jason Gardner**, **Rev Tim Roberts**, **Rev David Craven**

**Braunschweig:** Deputy Bishop Thomas Hofer

**Free State:** For all involved in Ordination training

**Event:** Open the Door Children's Ministry Conference held at Barton Grange Hotel, Preston PR3 5EE

**Saturday 29 February**

***Bishop's Memory Verse: Growing Leaders – Joshua 1.9***

I hereby command you: Be strong and courageous; do not be frightened or dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.

***Vision 2026:*** For the teams giving support to parishes through finance, safeguarding, communications, legal and governance, as they share their knowledge and skills for the benefit of mission.

***Diocese:*** [Preston St Stephen](#), **Rev David Hanson**; also in this benefice the school of Preston St Stephen's CofE Primary

***Braunschweig:*** All who work in the RE-Institute (ARPM) at Wolfenbüttel

***Free State:*** For Bishop Tom and Bishop Paddy, former Bishops of the Diocese.

***Event:*** The Mark Drama held at Blackburn Cathedral; Retreat at The Xaverian Centre, Fulwood, Preston; Open the Door Children's Ministry Conference held at Barton Grange Hotel, Preston