

Blackburn Prayers May 2022

We continue to pray for the people of Ukraine as they face Russian aggression. You can find prayers, liturgical resources and other updates [here](#); including support being given to Ukrainian aid charities by many of our parishes.

Meanwhile, we recently launched The Vine Community - our flexible framework for living a Christian life. Read about the launch event [here](#) and [visit this page on the Diocesan website](#) where you will find everything you need to get involved in The Vine Community. When you have made your personal pledge to join, you can email vinecommunity@blackburncathedral.co.uk with your name, parish and contact details. You will then receive an invite to a special Service of Commitment at the Cathedral on June 19.

If you have not already subscribed to receive our Daily Prayers email into your inbox, please consider doing so. Simply [click the link here](#).

Bishop Julian's Bible verses continue, to meditate on and memorise each month as part of his ongoing 'Bishop's Bible Challenge' which is encouraging the spiritual discipline of learning Bible verses by heart. More information about the Bible Challenge [here](#). We also continue with Vision 2026 prayers reflecting the Vision key themes of Making Disciples, Being Witnesses, Growing Leaders and Inspiring Youth/Children and Schools. We have prayers for National Church Funded Projects in Blackpool, Blackburn and Preston; and we also pray for the Licensed Lay Ministers (LLMs) in our parishes.

Remember, we continue to ask for people in our parishes to actively report 'Answers to Prayer' to us as an encouragement to all. For current responses [click here](#) to go to the 'Answers to Prayer' page on the Diocesan website. If you have an answer to prayer for sharing, please email beingwitnesses@blackburn.anglican.org with your name, parish and short report of 50-75 words max. Prayer answered can also be submitted anonymously if you prefer - please advise of this when emailing.

If you have any comments, amendments or updates regarding Blackburn Prayers, please direct them to karen.ashcroft@blackburn.anglican.org in the first instance. For more about the parishes in this month's edition, click on the links taking you to either the parish website or its 'A Church Near You' site.

Key: cw = Churchwarden of Vacant Parish
llm = Licensed Lay Minister

Sunday 1 May Third Sunday of Easter

Ukraine: We continue to pray for the country and people of Ukraine as they face the aggression of the armies of the Russian Federation. Our Diocesan Prayer for Ukraine [is here](#).

Bishop's Memory Verse: Making Disciples – 2 Corinthians 9.7

Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.

Vision 2026: For Lent and Advent Devotionals, give thanks for the growing team of contributors, and pray that the 9,500 devotionals distributed each Advent and Lent will encourage many in the habit of daily Bible reading.

Diocese: [Blackburn with Darwen Deanery Officers](#), Rev Canon Andrew Horsfall, Mrs Kathryn Adnitt, Miss Anne Carus, Mrs Elaine Williams.

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

Anglican Cycle of Prayer: The Episcopal Church in the Philippines

Clergy Moves: Rev Lois Ward, Vicar of Woodplumpton St Anne;

Rev Amanda Marshall, Vicar of Baxenden St John and Accrington St Paul;

Retirement of Rev David Ward, Rector of Brindle St James

Monday 2 May
Philip and James, Apostles

Ukraine: We continue to pray for the country and people of Ukraine as they face the aggression of the armies of the Russian Federation. Our Diocesan Prayer for Ukraine [is here](#).

Bishop's Memory Verse: Making Disciples – 2 Corinthians 9.7

Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.

Vision 2026: For the Vine Community, give thanks for the creation of a new community of prayer across the Diocese, sharing a common rule of life based on John 15, and pray that this will help many church members to abide, grow and bear fruit.

Diocese: [Blackburn Christ Church with St Matthew](#), Rev Canon Andrew Raynes; also in this Benefice, Blackburn St Matthew's CofE Primary School.

Free State: Pray for the Lay Ministry and Servers Guilds as they support clergy in the worshipping life of the church.

Anglican Cycle of Prayer: The Diocese of West Lango – The Church of the Province of Uganda

What's Your Story? Our [What's Your Story? video campaign](#) resumes, and we continue to pray for a positive reception and fruitful outcome.

Tuesday 3 May

Ukraine: We continue to pray for the country and people of Ukraine as they face the aggression of the armies of the Russian Federation. Our Diocesan Prayer for Ukraine [is here](#).

Bishop's Memory Verse: Making Disciples – 2 Corinthians 9.7

Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.

Mission Partners: Lisa and Steve Haskett ask us to pray for the new projects they have been supporting; that they will continue to flourish and bring blessing to all those concerned.

Vision 2026: For Whalley Abbey, give thanks that despite Covid, day bookings from churches and Christian groups are well above projections, and trust that residential bookings will begin to grow as people feel more confident about leaving home.

Diocese: [Blackburn St Aidan](#) and [St Luke, St Mark and St Philip](#), Rev Canon Cath Brooks, Rev Jason Gardner; also in this Benefice, Blackburn Mill Hill St Aidan's Primary School, a CofE Academy; Blackburn St Luke's and St Philip's CofE Primary School; Wensley Fold CofE Primary Academy; Blackburn St Wilfrid's CofE Academy.

Braunschweig: All working in church kindergartens.

Anglican Cycle of Prayer: The Diocese of Langtang – The Church of Nigeria (Anglican Communion) (Jos Province)

Meeting: Bishop's Leadership Team Residential

Event: Whalley Deanery Mothers' Union Festival at St Peter's, Salesbury

What's Your Story? Our [What's Your Story? video campaign](#) continues, and we continue to pray for a positive reception and fruitful outcome.

Wednesday 4 May

English saints and martyrs of the Reformation Era

Ukraine: We continue to pray for the country and people of Ukraine as they face the aggression of the armies of the Russian Federation. Our Diocesan Prayer for Ukraine [is here](#).

Bishop's Memory Verse: Making Disciples – 2 Corinthians 9.7

Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.

Vision 2026: For Roots of Faith, give thanks for the newly rewritten Discipleship Course being launched this year, and pray for the tutors as they prepare to lead partly online and partly face-to-face.

Diocese: [Blackburn St Andrew Livesey](#) (in plurality with Blackburn St Barnabas), Vacant, Dr Geralde Bancroft (cw), Mrs Janet Smith (cw); also in this Benefice, Blackburn St Barnabas and St Paul's CofE Primary School.

Free State: Give thanks for the work of 'Green Anglicans', who, with their links to Tearfund and the Anglican Church in Southern Africa help young people and students find their voice in tackling the issues that matter to them.

Anglican Cycle of Prayer: The Diocese of Lebombo – The Anglican Church of Southern Africa

Meeting: Bishop's Leadership Team Residential

What's Your Story? Our [What's Your Story? video campaign](#) continues, and we continue to pray for a positive reception and fruitful outcome.

Thursday 5 May

Ukraine: We continue to pray for the country and people of Ukraine as they face the aggression of the armies of the Russian Federation. Our Diocesan Prayer for Ukraine [is here](#).

Bishop's Memory Verse: Making Disciples – 2 Corinthians 9.7

Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.

Heavenly Father, we place into your hands the Mothers' Union here in Blackburn Diocese. We pray for all involved in the organisation and running of about one hundred branches throughout the Diocese. Surround them with your Holy Spirit as they seek to promote the importance of marriage, to support families and to nurture faith, through prayer, commitment and service. We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.

Vision 2026: For Generous Giving, give thanks for the generous giving of many which has enabled us to maintain stipendiary clergy numbers through the pandemic, and pray for more Christians, including those new to faith, to discover the joy and exhilaration of tithing.

Diocese: [Blackburn St Gabriel](#), Rev Stephen Corbett, Mr Paul Adnitt (IIm), Mrs Barbara Foster (IIm); also in this Benefice, Blackburn St Gabriel's CofE Primary School.

Braunschweig: All preparing for confirmation in the Braunschweiger Landeskirche.

Anglican Cycle of Prayer: The Diocese of Leeds – The Church of England (York Province)

Meeting: Bishop's Leadership Team Residential

What's Your Story? Our [What's Your Story? video campaign](#) continues, and we continue to pray for a positive reception and fruitful outcome.

Friday 6 May

Ukraine: We continue to pray for the country and people of Ukraine as they face the aggression of the armies of the Russian Federation. Our Diocesan Prayer for Ukraine [is here](#).

Bishop's Memory Verse: Making Disciples – 2 Corinthians 9.7

Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.

Vision 2026: For Spiritual Direction, give thanks for those in training on the Spiritual Accompaniers' Course, and pray that more individuals will be able to grow as disciples of Jesus through the assistance of a Spiritual Director, soul-friend or confessor.

Diocese: [Blackburn St Mary the Virgin with St Paul \(Cathedral and Parish Church\)](#), The Very Rev Peter Howell-Jones, Rev Canon Dr Rowena Pailing, Rev Canon Gary O'Neill, Mrs Christine O'Neill (Ilm).

Free State: Pray for the Mothers' Union as they continue their work in support of women and families around the world, but particularly for their work in the churches across Bloemfontein.

Anglican Cycle of Prayer: The Diocese of Leicester – The Church of England (Canterbury Province)

What's Your Story? Our [What's Your Story? video campaign](#) continues, and we continue to pray for a positive reception and fruitful outcome.

Saturday 7 May

Ukraine: We continue to pray for the country and people of Ukraine as they face the aggression of the armies of the Russian Federation. Our Diocesan Prayer for Ukraine [is here](#).

Bishop's Memory Verse: Making Disciples – 2 Corinthians 9.7

Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.

Blackpool Ministry Experience: Pray for the ongoing recruitment process for the next intake of the Blackpool Ministry Experience to be starting in September 2022.

Vision 2026: For Everyday Faith, pray for those developing online resources and apps that will help Christians to live as confident disciples of Jesus in those places where they spend the most time with those who do not share their faith, maybe at work, the sports or social club, or with family.

Diocese: [Blackburn St Silas](#), Rev Sheelagh Aston; also in this Benefice, Blackburn St Silas CofE Primary School.

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

Anglican Cycle of Prayer: The Diocese of Lesotho – The Anglican Church of Southern Africa

Sunday 8 May Fourth Sunday of Easter

Ukraine: We continue to pray for the country and people of Ukraine as they face the aggression of the armies of the Russian Federation. Our Diocesan Prayer for Ukraine [is here](#).

Bishop's Memory Verse: Making Disciples – 2 Corinthians 9.7

Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.

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

Diocese: [Blackburn St Stephen](#) and [St James](#), Rev Sarah Gill, Rev Joanne Macholc; also in this Benefice, Blackburn St James CofE Primary School; Blackburn St Stephen's CofE Primary School.

Free State: Pray for Helen Ballard as she works linking parishes here in Blackburn with parishes in The Free State. Pray that these links may be fruitful and bless people on both sides of the link.

Anglican Cycle of Prayer: Eglise Anglicane du Rwanda

Monday 9 May

Ukraine: We continue to pray for the country and people of Ukraine as they face the aggression of the armies of the Russian Federation. Our Diocesan Prayer for Ukraine [is here](#).

Bishop's Memory Verse: Making Disciples – 2 Corinthians 9.7

Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.

Vision 2026: For plentiful workers of all backgrounds, for the plentiful harvest fields across Lancashire and for intercessors who are ambitious, insightful and who storm the gates of heaven.

Diocese: [Blackburn The Redeemer](#), Rev Christopher Anderton, Mr John Ashcroft (Ilm), Mr Philip Beresford (Ilm), Mr Geoff Hutchinson (Ilm), Mr Duncan Stowe (Ilm); also in this Benefice, Blackburn The Redeemer CofE Primary School.

Braunschweig: For new links between our secondary schools.

Anglican Cycle of Prayer: The Diocese of Lexington – The Episcopal Church (IV Province)

Meeting: Audit/Risk/Governance Committee

What's Your Story? Our [What's Your Story? video campaign](#) resumes, and we continue to pray for a positive reception and fruitful outcome.

Tuesday 10 May

Ukraine: We continue to pray for the country and people of Ukraine as they face the aggression of the armies of the Russian Federation. Our Diocesan Prayer for Ukraine [is here](#).

Bishop's Memory Verse: Making Disciples – 2 Corinthians 9.7

Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.

Mission Partners: Our Church Mission Society partners, Alan and Lex, would welcome your prayer for their ongoing work in local schools and communities in Cambodia. Pray for the economy to recover so that people can make ends meet, schools can re-open fully and people receive the treatment they need.

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

Diocese: [Darwen St Barnabas](#), Vacant, Mr Andrew Hudson (cw), Mrs Vivienne Kenyon (cw), Mrs Lillian Duffy (Ilm), Mr Kenneth Lee (Ilm), Mrs Margaret Walsh (Ilm); also in this Benefice, Darwen St Barnabas CofE Primary Academy.

Free State: Give thanks for the joyful attitude to giving in the churches in Bloemfontein. As we think of how some churches dance to the offering plate may we be challenged to give joyfully of what God has given us.

Anglican Cycle of Prayer: The Diocese of Liberia – The Church of the Province of West Africa (West Africa Province)

Event: Pendle Deanery Mothers' Union Festival at St Bartholomew's, Colne

What's Your Story? Our [What's Your Story? video campaign](#) continues, and we continue to pray for a positive reception and fruitful outcome.

Wednesday 11 May

Ukraine: We continue to pray for the country and people of Ukraine as they face the aggression of the armies of the Russian Federation. Our Diocesan Prayer for Ukraine [is here](#).

Bishop's Memory Verse: Being Witnesses – John 3.16

For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

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: [Darwen St Cuthbert with Tockholes St Stephen](#), Rev Nicholas Davis; also in this Benefice, Darwen St Cuthbert's CofE Primary School; Tockholes St Stephen's CofE Primary School.

Braunschweig: All who work at Braunschweig Theological Centre.

Anglican Cycle of Prayer: The Diocese of Lichfield – The Church of England (Canterbury Province)

What's Your Story? Our [What's Your Story? video campaign](#) continues, and we continue to pray for a positive reception and fruitful outcome.

Thursday 12 May

Gregory Dix, priest, monk, scholar,
1952

Ukraine: We continue to pray for the country and people of Ukraine as they face the aggression of the armies of the Russian Federation. Our Diocesan Prayer for Ukraine [is here](#).

Bishop's Memory Verse: Being Witnesses – John 3.16

For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

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

Diocese: [Darwen St Peter](#), Vacant, Mr John Brotherton (cw), Mr Douglas Hargreaves (cw); also in this Benefice, Darwen Holy Trinity VC School; Darwen St Peter's CofE Primary School.

Free State: Pray for the boys and girls at St Andrew's School, Welkom. Pray for their teachers and all who support learning and worship in that place.

Anglican Cycle of Prayer: The Diocese of Limerick and Killaloe – The Church of Ireland (Dublin Province)

Meeting: Bishop's Budget Team; Investment Committee; HR Committee

Event: Chorley Deanery Mothers' Union Festival at St George's Chorley

What's Your Story? Our [What's Your Story? video campaign](#) continues, and we continue to pray for a positive reception and fruitful outcome.

Friday 13 May

Ukraine: We continue to pray for the country and people of Ukraine as they face the aggression of the armies of the Russian Federation. Our Diocesan Prayer for Ukraine [is here](#).

Bishop's Memory Verse: Being Witnesses – John 3.16

For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

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

Diocese: [Feniscliffe St Francis](#) and [Fenisclowles Immanuel](#), Rev David Roscoe; also in this Benefice, Feniscliffe St Francis CofE Primary School.

Braunschweig: All training for ministry at Braunschweig Theological Centre.

Anglican Cycle of Prayer: The Diocese of Lincoln – The Church of England (Canterbury Province)

Meeting: Diocesan Advisory Committee

What's Your Story? Our [What's Your Story? video campaign](#) continues, and we continue to pray for a positive reception and fruitful outcome.

Saturday 14 May

Matthias the Apostle

Ukraine: We continue to pray for the country and people of Ukraine as they face the aggression of the armies of the Russian Federation. Our Diocesan Prayer for Ukraine [is here](#).

Bishop's Memory Verse: Being Witnesses – John 3.16

For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

Blackpool Centre of Mission: Pray for the Blackpool Deanery as the Centre of Mission partners in developing the Deanery Mission Action Plan. Pray for good relationships across the Deanery particularly with ongoing relationships following Launchpad. Pray for the development of outreach and opportunities into new ways to serve the Fylde coast community and the continued Support of newly formed groups.

Vision 2026: For us to be mindful of the gifts of God's Creation – earth, water, air, our fellow creatures and that we come together with all that God has made into a common home, a place of thankfulness and peace.

Diocese: [Knuzden St Oswald](#), Rev Dr Anne Morris; also in this Benefice, Knuzden St Oswald's CofE Primary School.

Free State: Pray for those who work in the Diocesan offices. Give them wisdom and energy as they work to further your kingdom in the Diocese.

Anglican Cycle of Prayer: The Diocese of Litoral Ecuador – The Episcopal Church (IX Province)

Meeting: Bishop's Council and Directors

Clergy Moves: Rev Kevin Colyer, Urban Evangelist of Over Darwen St James

Sunday 15 May Fifth Sunday of Easter

Ukraine: We continue to pray for the country and people of Ukraine as they face the aggression of the armies of the Russian Federation. Our Diocesan Prayer for Ukraine [is here](#).

Bishop's Memory Verse: Being Witnesses – John 3.16

For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

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: [Lower Darwen St James and Over Darwen St James and Hoddlesden St Paul](#), Rev Rebecca Roberts, Rev Alice Cole, Rev Kevin Colyer, Ms Sharon Collins (Ilm), Miss Susan Lloyd (Ilm), Mrs Valerie Lucas (Ilm); also in this Benefice, Lower Darwen St James' CofE Primary School; Darwen St James' CofE Primary Academy; Hoddlesden St Paul's CofE Primary School.

Braunschweig: Growth in links between the Education Departments of our two Dioceses.

Anglican Cycle of Prayer: The Scottish Episcopal Church

Monday 16 May

Caroline Chisholm, social reformer,
1877

Ukraine: We continue to pray for the country and people of Ukraine as they face the aggression of the armies of the Russian Federation. Our Diocesan Prayer for Ukraine [is here](#).

Bishop's Memory Verse: Being Witnesses – John 3.16

For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

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: North and East Blackburn ([St Michael and All Angels](#); [St Thomas with St Jude](#)), Rev Nicholas Heale; also in this Benefice, Blackburn St Michael with St John's CofE Primary School; Blackburn St Thomas' CofE Primary School.

Free State: Pray for Kelebogile Ditema as she leads the work for Mosamaria Aids ministry at St Patrick's in Bloemfontein.

Anglican Cycle of Prayer: The Diocese of Liverpool – The Church of England (York Province)

What's Your Story? Our [What's Your Story? video campaign](#) resumes, and we continue to pray for a positive reception and fruitful outcome.

Tuesday 17 May

Ukraine: We continue to pray for the country and people of Ukraine as they face the aggression of the armies of the Russian Federation. Our Diocesan Prayer for Ukraine [is here](#).

Bishop's Memory Verse: Being Witnesses – John 3.16

For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

Clergy with PTO: Bless, O Lord, all clergy in our Diocese who are retired with Permission to Officiate. Grant them your continued wisdom and strength to serve. We are thankful for the many ways they provide invaluable support as we work together making disciples, growing leaders, being witnesses and inspiring children and young people for Jesus Christ.

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

Diocese: The Royal Blackburn Hospital, Rev Canon Andrew Horsfall

Braunschweig: All who are involved in the link committees for our two Dioceses.

Anglican Cycle of Prayer: The Diocese of Liwolo – The Province of the Episcopal Church of South Sudan (Central Equatoria Province)

What's Your Story? Our [What's Your Story? video campaign](#) continues, and we continue to pray for a positive reception and fruitful outcome.

Wednesday 18 May

Ukraine: We continue to pray for the country and people of Ukraine as they face the aggression of the armies of the Russian Federation. Our Diocesan Prayer for Ukraine [is here](#).

Bishop's Memory Verse: Being Witnesses – John 3.16

For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

Sisters of the Order of the Companions of Mary and Martha: Pray for Sister Judith and Sister Sue at St Joseph's House, Tunstall, living a vowed life of prayerful presence and hospitality. Give thanks for their faithful witness to the gospel and bless all who visit there seeking peace and refreshment.

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

Diocese: [Blackpool Deanery Officers](#), Rev Peter Lillicrap, Rev David O'Brien, Mrs Diane Dennett, Mrs Janet Rimmer, Mrs Rita Templeton, Rev Clive Lord (Hospitals Chaplain).

Free State: Pray for all men who are part of the Bernard Mizeki Guild in the churches in The Free State. Pray as they meet to support each other and the churches. Give thanks for all they do in the support of the clergy in those churches.

Anglican Cycle of Prayer: The Diocese of Llandaff – The Church in Wales

Event: Leyland Deanery Mothers' Union Festival at St Andrew's, Longton

What's Your Story? Our [What's Your Story? video campaign](#) continues, and we continue to pray for a positive reception and fruitful outcome.

Thursday 19 May

Dunstan, archbishop, monastic reformer, 988

Ukraine: We continue to pray for the country and people of Ukraine as they face the aggression of the armies of the Russian Federation. Our Diocesan Prayer for Ukraine [is here](#).

Bishop's Memory Verse: Being Witnesses – John 3.16

For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

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: [Anchorsholme All Saints](#), Rev Anthony Barnshaw, Mrs Jess Rowe (Ilm).

Braunschweig: All who work in the RE-Institute at Wolfenbüttel.

Anglican Cycle of Prayer: The Missionary Diocese of Lodwar – The Anglican Church of Kenya

What's Your Story? Our [What's Your Story? video campaign](#) continues, and we continue to pray for a positive reception and fruitful outcome.

Friday 20 May

Alcuin, deacon, abbot, 804

Ukraine: We continue to pray for the country and people of Ukraine as they face the aggression of the armies of the Russian Federation. Our Diocesan Prayer for Ukraine [is here](#).

Bishop's Memory Verse: Being Witnesses – John 3.16

For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

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 God will guide supporters who can help them draw strength from Him.

Diocese: [Bispham All Hallows](#), Rev Jonny Lee, Rev Jim Crawford, Mrs Diane Dennett (Ilm), Mrs Annie Riley (Ilm), Mrs Gina Hibbert (Ilm), Mr Keith Stevenson (Ilm), Mrs Linda Whitworth (Ilm); also in this Benefice, Blackpool Bispham Endowed CofE Primary School.

Free State: Pray today for South African Archbishop Thabo. Pray that he leads with truth and love and works always for the furthering of the kingdom of God.

Anglican Cycle of Prayer: The Diocese of Lokoja – The Church of Nigeria (Anglican Communion) (Lokoja Province)

What's Your Story? Our [What's Your Story? video campaign](#) continues, and we continue to pray for a positive reception and fruitful outcome.

Saturday 21 May

Helena, protector of the Holy Places, 330

Ukraine: We continue to pray for the country and people of Ukraine as they face the aggression of the armies of the Russian Federation. Our Diocesan Prayer for Ukraine [is here](#).

Bishop's Memory Verse: Growing Leaders – John 18.36

Jesus answered, "My kingdom is not from this world. If my kingdom were from this world, my followers would be fighting to keep me from being handed over to the Jews. But as it is, my kingdom is not from here".

M:Power: Pray for the work of M:Power in Over Darwen, under the leadership of the new Urban Evangelist. May they be able to build on previous work and seeds sown and find new ways to communicate the gospel in this deprived urban community.

Vision 2026: Pray for all charged with the responsibility of discerning vocation in others in the local church and across the Diocese. Pray for the entire Growing Leaders Team based at the Diocesan offices.

Diocese: [Blackpool Christ Church with All Saints](#), Rev Adrian Wolton, Canon David Gascoigne (IIm).

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

Anglican Cycle of Prayer: The Diocese of Lomega – The Province of the Episcopal Church of South Sudan (Central Equatoria Province)

Clergy Moves: Retirement of Rev Canon Andrew Sage, Vicar of Blackpool St Stephen on the Cliffs

Sunday 22 May

Sixth Sunday of Easter

Ukraine: We continue to pray for the country and people of Ukraine as they face the aggression of the armies of the Russian Federation. Our Diocesan Prayer for Ukraine [is here](#).

Bishop's Memory Verse: Growing Leaders – John 18.36

Jesus answered, "My kingdom is not from this world. If my kingdom were from this world, my followers would be fighting to keep me from being handed over to the Jews. But as it is, my kingdom is not from here".

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

Diocese: [Blackpool Holy Cross South Shore](#), Rev Michael Fish.

Free State: Pray for the Diocesan Retreat Centre at Modderpoort. Pray that it will be a place of rest and blessing to the Diocese and that the annual cave service there will be an opportunity for unity and growth in the Diocese.

Anglican Cycle of Prayer: Church of the Province of South East Asia

Monday 23 May

Rogation Day

Ukraine: We continue to pray for the country and people of Ukraine as they face the aggression of the armies of the Russian Federation. Our Diocesan Prayer for Ukraine [is here](#).

Bishop's Memory Verse: Growing Leaders – John 18.36

Jesus answered, "My kingdom is not from this world. If my kingdom were from this world, my followers would be fighting to keep me from being handed over to the Jews. But as it is, my kingdom is not from here".

Vision 2026: Pray 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: [Blackpool Holy Trinity South Shore](#) (in plurality with) [Blackpool St Peter South Shore](#), Rev Canon Tracy Charnock, Mr Fred Bridges (IIm).

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

Anglican Cycle of Prayer: The Diocese of London – The Church of England (Canterbury Province)

Meeting: Bishop's Appointments Team

Clergy Moves: Rev Canon Deborah Larkey, Vicar of Lund St John the Evangelist

Tuesday 24 May

Rogation Day

John and Charles Wesley, evangelists, hymn writers, 1791 and 1788

Ukraine: We continue to pray for the country and people of Ukraine as they face the aggression of the armies of the Russian Federation. Our Diocesan Prayer for Ukraine [is here](#).

Bishop's Memory Verse: Growing Leaders – John 18.36

Jesus answered, "My kingdom is not from this world. If my kingdom were from this world, my followers would be fighting to keep me from being handed over to the Jews. But as it is, my kingdom is not from here".

Mission Partners: Pray for 'Graham and Fiona' working in a hospital and a college, in a least-reached part of Africa. Much of their work involves removing obstacles (rocky soil) and walking alongside people who want to grow into a fuller understanding of the love of God in Jesus.

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

Diocese: [Blackpool St Christopher and St Nicholas](#), Rev Martin Daniels; also in this Benefice, Blackpool St Nicholas CofE Primary School.

Free State: Pray for the struggle in the Diocese and wider country with violence perpetrated against women. Remember in your prayers those who have lost family or been harmed in such violence.

Anglican Cycle of Prayer: The Diocese of Long Island – The Episcopal Church (II Province)

Meeting: Finance Committee

Wednesday 25 May

Rogation Day

The Venerable Bede, monk, scholar, historian, 735; Aldhelm, bishop, 709

Ukraine: We continue to pray for the country and people of Ukraine as they face the aggression of the armies of the Russian Federation. Our Diocesan Prayer for Ukraine [is here](#).

Bishop's Memory Verse: Growing Leaders – John 18.36

Jesus answered, "My kingdom is not from this world. If my kingdom were from this world, my followers would be fighting to keep me from being handed over to the Jews. But as it is, my kingdom is not from here".

Vision 2026: Pray for the Inspiring Youth Learning Community, that churches across the Diocese will grow in confidence to enable and grow new youth ministries.

Diocese: [Blackpool St John](#), Rev Andy Dykes, Dr Bill Ward (Ilm); also in this Benefice, Blackpool St John's CofE Primary School.

Braunschweig: Pray for Deputy Bishop Thomas Hofer.

Anglican Cycle of Prayer: The Diocese of Los Angeles – The Episcopal Church (VIII Province)

Meeting: Strategic Programme Board

Thursday 26 May

Ascension Day

Ukraine: We continue to pray for the country and people of Ukraine as they face the aggression of the armies of the Russian Federation. Our Diocesan Prayer for Ukraine [is here](#).

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

Diocese: [Blackpool St Mary South Shore](#), Rev Lindsay Pearson.

Free State: Bring before God the small business owners and local enterprises which might be struggling as a result of the pandemic. Pray for initiatives, set up by local charities which support people.

Anglican Cycle of Prayer: The Diocese of Louisiana – The Episcopal Church (IV Province)

Meeting: Whalley Abbey Governance Committee; Making Disciples Team meeting

Event: [Whalley Abbey Supper Club](#) with Rev Adam Thomas;

[Thy Kingdom Come](#), eleven days of prayer between Ascension and Pentecost.

Friday 27 May

Ukraine: We continue to pray for the country and people of Ukraine as they face the aggression of the armies of the Russian Federation. Our Diocesan Prayer for Ukraine [is here](#).

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

Diocese: [Blackpool St Paul North Shore \(in plurality with\) Greenlands St Anne](#), Rev Dr Deborah Prest, Rev Jane Parker, Mrs Angela Kershaw (Ilm).

Braunschweig: Chair of the Braunschweig Link Committee in Blackburn Diocese.
Anglican Cycle of Prayer: The Diocese of Western Louisiana – The Episcopal Church (VII Province)

Event: [Visit of the Archbishop of York to Whalley Abbey](#) and rededication service.

Saturday 28 May

Lanfranc, monk, archbishop, scholar, 1089

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Preston Resourcing Parish: Thank God for the financial and material provision which has enabled us to generously serve the poor. We want people we serve to find the ultimate hope for all time – Jesus.

Vision 2026: Pray 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: [Blackpool St Stephen on the Cliffs](#), Vacant, Mr Walter Cairns (cw), Dr Keith McLennan (cw).

Free State: Pray for the Sports' Ministry through Mosamaria as they teach sports and life skills to young people in the Bochabela township and feed them as well.

Anglican Cycle of Prayer: The Diocese of Luapula – The Church of the Province of Central Africa

Event: [The Archbishop of York's Evangelistic Celebration Event](#) in Blackpool

Sunday 29 May

Seventh Sunday after Easter
Sunday after Ascension Day

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

Diocese: [Blackpool St Thomas](#), Rev David O'Brien, Rev Emma Swarbrick, Mrs Yvonne Blazey (Ilm), Miss Vicky Bentley (Ilm).

Braunschweig: Growth in links between parishes and Dioceses in England and Germany.

Anglican Cycle of Prayer: The Church of South India (United)

Event: [Visit of the Archbishop of York](#) to Blackburn Cathedral.

Monday 30 May

Josephine Butler, social reformer, 1906;
Joan of Arc, visionary, 1431;
Apolo Kivebulaya, priest, evangelist, 1933

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Ladyewell House: For Rev David Craven, Bishop Jill and Bishop Philip establishing the new contextual training pathway for Traditional Catholic Ordinands based in Preston; to find a first cohort and a suitable house close to St George's church.

Vision 2026: For the support provided to clergy and their families to have suitable homes from which to be leaders in mission.

Diocese: Blackpool Teaching Hospitals NHS and Blackpool Victoria Hospital, Rev Helen Houston.

Free State: Pray for the Christian Union at the University of the Free State. Pray for all learners who witness to God's goodness there.

Anglican Cycle of Prayer: The Diocese of Lucknow – The (United) Church of North India

Tuesday 31 May

Visit of the Blessed Virgin Mary to Elizabeth

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Vision 2026: For the whole community in Clayton House, the Diocesan offices, who through their varied ministries support the work of all the churches and church schools in the Diocese of Blackburn.

Diocese: [Marton St Paul](#), Rev Lesley Atkins, Mr Ian Rushton (IIm); also in this Benefice, Blackpool Baines Endowed Primary School and Children's Centre, a CofE Primary Academy.

Braunschweig: For opportunities for people in our two Dioceses to meet virtually with each other when travel is not possible.

Anglican Cycle of Prayer: The Diocese of Lui – The Province of the Episcopal Church of South Sudan (Amadi Province)

Clergy Moves: Retirement of Rev Canon Linda Macluskie, Vicar of Sandylands St John the Divine