

+WEEKLY SERMON

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An exciting year where we tell the County about Jesus!

In a recent Weekly Sermon [available here](#), I shared about what was happening in the first half of 2026 as we journey through our approaching centenary year of 2026.

We are invited not only to celebrate but to rediscover what it means to be *All for Jesus*. This simple yet profound truth lies at the heart of discipleship and mission. In Luke-Acts, we see the story of the early Church - ordinary people empowered by the Holy Spirit, stepping out in faith to share the Good News. That same call echoes for us today.

One of the highlights of 2026 will be our Centenary Conference from July 6–9 at Liverpool Hope University. With the theme *Found by Jesus*, this gathering will offer clergy and laypeople alike a chance to explore Scripture deeply, engage in vibrant worship, and enjoy fellowship with one another. With outstanding speakers and space to learn and grow, it promises to be a time of renewal and encouragement.

But the centenary is not only about gathering - it is about going. From September 11–13, every parish is invited to take part in a weekend of mission and outreach. These will be simple, welcoming events designed to draw in those who might never normally come to church - offering hospitality, friendship, and an opportunity to hear something of Jesus.

Finally, on Thursday, November 12, 2026, we will gather in Blackburn Cathedral for a Service of Celebration - marking 100 years to the day since the Diocese was founded. Clergy and representatives from every parish and school will join together with friends from across Lancashire to give thanks for God's faithfulness.

As we look ahead, let us make this more than a series of events. Let it be a spiritual renewal - a moment to rededicate ourselves and our Diocese to God.

You can read about everything that is planned and access resources [here](#). And keep an eye on our Diocesan website www.blackburn.anglican.org and our Diocesan social channels and our ebulletin 'Parish Update' for all the latest news and updates.

HEALTHY CHURCHES TRANSFORMING COMMUNITIES

I'm praying many will come to faith in this coming year and I'll be doing so while also using our special centenary Diocesan prayer. Join me now in praying:

Heavenly Father,
in our Centenary year
we rededicate ourselves and our Diocese to you.
Send the Holy Spirit to give us
confidence in our witness,
generosity in our service,
and love for our neighbours,
that your Church may be renewed
and many come home to you,
through your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ.
Amen.

Ronnie Semley, Diocesan Communications Manager