

archdeacons' visitation news

Spring 2017 - issue 14

Dear churchwardens

Welcome to a special edition of the Archdeacons' Visitation News – with more pages covering updates and news about realising our Vision 2026.

Inside you will find four extra pages of news from the parishes – how you are starting to realise our vision and how we can all take heart from the successes so far.

There are many resources which are helping us on this journey. Our Vision Champions continue to be an inspiration, working in parishes and across Deaneries to drive and support your hard work.

This edition will bring examples of each of the three themes...

**Making disciples of Jesus Christ
Being witnesses to Jesus Christ
Growing leaders for Jesus Christ**

There is a wealth of information and resources readily available on the Diocesan website – just click on the Vision logo on the home page! Of course the Parish Mission and Support Department staff are there to help too.



Archdeacon Mark Ireland and Rev. Martin Duerden with parishioners from St Peter's Church in Salesbury prepare to greet newcomers to a morning service



Archdeacons' Contact details

Mark Ireland, Archdeacon of Blackburn
mark.ireland@blackburn.anglican.org
Tel: 07866 778791

Michael Everitt, Archdeacon of Lancaster
michael.everitt@blackburn.anglican.org
Tel: 077 15 490144

Archdeacons' office

**Gillian Beeley, PA/Secretary to
Archdeacon of Lancaster**
gillian.beeley@blackburn.anglican.org

**Kelly Quinn PA/Secretary to
Archdeacon of Blackburn**
kelly.quinn@blackburn.anglican.org

Diocesan Offices, Clayton House,
Walker Office Park, Blackburn, BB1 2QE
Tel: 01254 958836

Office hours:

Monday – 9 am to noon
Tuesday – 9 am to 4.30 pm
Wednesday – 9 am to noon
Thursday – 9 am to 4.30 pm
Friday – 1 pm to 4 pm

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Welcome...

One summer Gill and I visited the Isle of Man. We were delighted that almost all the churches were open every day for visitors. For fun, we wondered what a visitor from another planet would decide what these buildings were for; we noted carefully the notices and signs, any literature displayed, and what was in the pews. Any Martian would quickly conclude that the building belonged to a cult focused on architecture and raising money. There was almost nothing on display to tell people about who Jesus is, about what Christians believe, or about how to read the Bible.

A few weeks later, we went to an RSPB bird sanctuary. The contrast could not have been greater. Everything we saw from the moment we entered was all about birds – pictures of birds we might see, details of recent sightings, literature about birds. On every table in the café were details of introductory courses to learn more about birds, and outside every window were bird feeders, so that you could look at birds.

This year we want to encourage every church in the diocese to open their doors every day; to enable those who are curious or searching to come in and experience a place of worship for themselves; to enjoy an oasis of calm in a busy world, to find somewhere to think and to pray. If we do leave our doors open, let's ensure that our posters, literature and information tell people what the building is really for – to help people meet God in the person of Jesus Christ, to help them grow as his disciples, and to show the love of God to the community around.

Don't let fear of theft or damage keep your church locked. We have checked and Ecclesiastical Insurance advises us that, with a few simple precautions, churches are actually safer left open than locked. Here are a few tips from Ecclesiastical to guide us.

Mark Ireland

Archdeacon of Blackburn



Archdeacon Mark Ireland and Rev. Martin Duerden chat to parishioners of St Peter's Church in Salesbury before a morning service

Tips for being open and secure

Ecclesiastical supports the Church of England Cathedral and Church Buildings Council's drive to help churches be "Always Welcome" – their top ten tips for encouraging church visitors is a starting point. Fact sheets are available from www.ecclesiastical.com/churchguidance.

Open Churches can find the right balance between accessibility and security by taking a few key steps:

- Carry out a full **risk assessment**
- Tell local residents the church has open door policy so they can observe activity
- Encourage local people to pop into the church
- Draw up a rota of volunteer stewards to be present in church - but don't forget to consider their **personal safety** if for example, they might be alone in a church at any time
- Create a secure storage area to lock up all valuables.

Ecclesiastical's **open churches fact sheet** and **health and safety guidance** give more detailed advice.

Will being open affect insurance premiums?

There is no impact on the church insurance premiums if a church is open during daylight

hours and proper risk assessments have been completed.

Talk to Ecclesiastical's customer services team on **0345 777 3322** about any concerns or visit: <http://www.ecclesiastical.com/churchmatters/churchguidance/churchsecurity/keeping-your-church-open/index.aspx>



A welcoming space in which casual visitors may encounter God?

Some resources and advice on welcoming visitors:

Order an attractive banner from the Diocesan offices to display outside your church.

Have attractive leaflets with Bible verses and prayers for people to take away:

- **Lifewords** (formerly SGM) has high quality leaflets and booklets available free of charge, including special ranges for historic churches and ones to encourage Bible reading (donations welcomed) – visit <http://www.sgmlifewords.com/uk/resources-you>
- **The Prayer Book Society** has a very high quality (free) leaflet designed to help a visitor appreciate a visit to any church – with quotations from the Book of Common Prayer. Contact PBS at <http://www.pbs.org.uk/pbs/home>

Christian Publicity Organisation

(CPO) offers attractive prayer cards for sale in packs of 10, designed for various pastoral situations. For more details visit: <https://www.cpo.org.uk/catalogue.aspx?cat=1635>

Have somewhere where people can leave prayer requests,

with a promise that they will be prayed for and when, perhaps a prayer box, or a prayer board, or a candle stand.

Rewrite signs and church guides,

so that they don't just draw attention to architectural features, but explain their use in worship. Have some Gospels and Bible reading guides available for people to take away.

Handouts giving details of apps and other aids to daily Bible reading can be downloaded from the diocesan website on the Discipleship and Ministry tab.

Dave Champness reflects on the past twelve months as Vision Coordinator



The Vision 2026 at The Guild Hall event in May last year has stayed in my memory as an uplifting service with over 1,600 folk praising God and seeking his blessing on our Churchwardens, Crossroads Mission Deanery Coordinators and the team of over 180 Vision Champions.

Over the past year it has been a privilege to meet with Vision Champions face to face in groups, virtually through a Facebook Group or speaking at a service at their church.

I have been asked to share ideas of how to take forward our Vision priorities of making disciples, being witnesses, growing leaders and prioritising work among children, young people and schools.

I have also supported the Bishop's Leadership Team in producing the Vision Implementation Strategy, a 'Peer Review' of the Diocese by the National Church. As well as working alongside the Diocesan Communications Manager, Ronnie Semley, to replace the Diocesan Directory and website with up to date versions.

You can read more about how Vision 2026 is being received at parish level through the words of three of our Vision Champions team below:



I'm Janet Shaw, the Vision Champion for Holy Trinity Church, Colne. I was a Deputy Headteacher in a local Church of England Primary School but am now very happily retired.

After the Crossroads Mission weekend we decided to re-start a Junior Church as our congregation was ageing and we felt that we needed to do further outreach in our community. This has been a huge success and is flourishing. We now have up to 30 children regularly attending, the majority with parents. New adults have joined us and are helping with the Junior Church

and all are enjoying finding out about the word of God. These young people have invigorated our worship and brought new life to our church.

We in turn hope that we are bringing something new into their lives and helping them along an exciting journey with Christ.



I'm Angie Letchford from St Thomas' Church, Lancaster and I have a number of 'day jobs'; I am a self-employed maths and science tutor, and I work in

psychotherapy and counselling using horses to assist in recover. At St Tees I'm also a Lay Reader involved with pastoral care and counselling, leading prayer ministry and our Alpha and Beta groups.

I am excited to be a Vision Champion as I love the idea of the local church being linked into a bigger Vision. For me personally, Vision 2026 means that I am part of a wider network of Churches working together to bring the Good News of Jesus Christ to the county and also to grow and develop mature disciples. The call to deeper intimacy with God in prayer particularly excites me as from Him all ministries flow. It has been great to be involved in the Vision 2016 working party on Prayer and Bible Study – Maturing Disciples.

In 2016 St Tees had the biggest ever Alpha group attendance with around 20+ regular guests from which a Beta group focussing on exploring discipleship has been formed with the majority of the Alpha 'graduates' attending each week. This year we are seeking for our church to be more deeply rooted in God and reach Lancaster for Him.



I'm Max Iddon, the Vision Champion at Parish Church of St Aidan, Bamber Bridge and a retired Quantity Surveyor, now doing volunteering work for St Catherine's hospice in Lostock Hall.

I became a Vision Champion as I felt called to be part of the discipleship and church growth movements. Being a Vision Champion has been both humbling and inspiring.

Vision 2026 provides an opportunity to keep parishioners informed and involved in Diocesan initiatives, to deepen and strengthen my own discipleship, and to have the satisfaction of seeing others coming closer to Christ through events and courses that we have held.

In 2016 we have taken St Aidan's and St Leonard's parishes out into the street to meet and talk to people on more than one occasion, including the 'Walking Nativity' around the centre of Bamber Bridge. This year we want to sustain and encourage the new 'Young Church' which meets in St Aidan's church hall every Sunday at 6pm and we would like to encourage and deepen the discipleship of every member of our Church.

For those who aren't sure about Vision 2026, I say 'get involved!' The more effort you put into new initiatives, the more benefits you will reap, with the Grace of God. Do not be frightened to try something new, and make sure you plan as well as possible.

In Brief...

The Online Faculty System is now well established and working well. Christine Ellis, DAC Secretary says that feedback has been positive – if you have any queries about faculties, please ring her on 01254 503074 or email christine.ellis@blackburn.anglican.org

The PCC Secretary's handbook is on the Diocesan website under Parish Information/PCCs and Churchwardens tab. A useful matrix of all the returns by PCCs needed nationally, by the Diocese and others is also to be found on the Finance and Mission Returns page under the Finance tab.

The Diocesan website is being updated to make it more user friendly. 'There comes a point in the life of any website when it starts creaking,' said Elaine Hargreaves, Support Services Manager. 'We are developing a new contact management system, which will help parishes to download up-to-date contact information. The website will be easier to use, and enable us to communicate more effectively.' It will still be available at www.blackburn.anglican.org

The Churchwarden's Yearbook 2017 is now available. Now in its 18th Annual Edition, the number of churchwardens who use the Yearbook increases year on year. With a diary, advice on readings, liturgical colours, church calendar, parochial fees, flag days, it can be indispensable for organising duties in church and parish. Order direct from Churchwarden Publications by calling 01985 840189.

What's on...

Churchwarden Briefings – there will be two briefings for wardens; the first on **5 June 2017 at 7.00 pm** at Lancaster Priory, and the second on **19 June 2017 at 7.00 pm** at St James Lower Darwen. The focus of these briefings is to offer information, support and encourage networking. There will also be the chance to meet Diocesan staff regarding processes such as faculties and finance.

In October this year we will be running another '**Get Your Church Noticed**' training day. So if you missed last time, now is your chance to catch up. Find out more via the Diocesan website events calendar and book a **FREE** place; or you can email karen.ashcroft@blackburn.anglican.org



Share finances, for our shared Vision...

The 2017 budget is the first in a series of budgets which will enable financial restructuring for mission.

In mid-November, a comprehensive summary booklet about the Budget was sent to each incumbent and each treasurer. They could also order additional copies for their parish.

If you want to read a full version of the budget booklet (including breakdowns in graphic form) and you haven't seen a printed copy in your parish, there is an online version which is downloadable from our Diocesan website. It can also be printed, should you wish to produce further copies locally for your parish. Just log on to www.blackburn.anglican.org and put 'Parish Finance' into the search box to find the relevant page.

On the same website page, you will also find a link to the PowerPoint presentation (with accompanying notes) which was given by Canon John Dell, Chair of the Diocesan Board of Finance, when presenting the budget for 2017 to Synod for consideration.

That full presentation is also available to view on our Diocesan YouTube channel (slides combined with audio). Just search online for 'YouTube' and 'Blackburn Diocese' to locate the channel and click on the relevant video.

We would appreciate feedback on all the communications relating to the 2017 budget. Email us on communicate@blackburn.anglican.org with your views.

Here to help!

We have heard a whisper that the Diocesan office can be viewed as a burden to parishes – demanding information, financing and time!



As part of the established Church, 'the Diocese', or rather the staff at the diocesan offices at Clayton House in Blackburn, are responsible for minding the backs of parishes in conducting their legal requirements relating to parish incumbents, buildings and other compliance. It is also absolutely committed to providing resources to help parishes flourish and grow – to become healthy churches transforming communities.

'Running a parish effectively is challenging,' said Graeme Pollard. 'Our staff are specialists and professionals who are at the service of parish offices and incumbents. We are a phone call or email away, and will do our best to work through your challenges and issues with you.'

The Great Community Mural – win £10,000 for your church

This year, we really want to celebrate the community work of the UK's churches. In order to do this we want you to help us create 'The Great Community Mural'.

It is time for your church to get creative!

We are inviting all of our church insurance customers to submit a piece of original artwork that celebrates the role their church plays as part of the fabric of its local community. Entries can be created by anyone with a connection to the church and we're actively encouraging collaborations!

The artists can be young or old (or a combination of the two!) and we welcome submissions via any medium: collage, crayons, chalk, felt-tip or embroidery. We're insisting only that the work is original and is true to our theme of celebrating the church as part of the fabric of the community.

We will be combining the best entries with the aim of creating the largest piece of community art that has ever been produced in the UK. 'The Great Community Mural' will be 10 metres in length and three metres high, and will feature as many of the entries as we can include, with the very best five printed at a larger scale, and the overall winner given pride of place in the centre of the mural.



The Great Community Mural Competition 2017

The winning church will receive a prize of £10,000; with four runners-up receiving £2,500 each. The Great Community Mural will be unveiled at a prestigious London venue before touring to a select number of cathedrals around the UK. So, don't delay, get your church to be creative today!



The cloth and the community

Quietly, in every corner of the country, fantastic things are happening. Much of this activity goes unnoticed but its impact is felt by many, weaving its way into the darkest of places and making the world a better place.

In 2016, Ecclesiastical launched a national competition to celebrate the crucial role our churches have in supporting local communities. We asked churches to share their success stories and tell us how they are reaching out to their local community.

With a £20,000 prize fund up for grabs, we were inundated with inspirational projects. The eventual winner, St. John's church in Shildon, who won the top prize of £10,000, had knitted itself into the very fabric of its community. The range of activities not only stretched to every corner but instilled a sense of pride in the people of Shildon, bringing them closer together.

In fact, all of the 372 entries revealed the true value and reach of the work churches are doing. We believe that this should be celebrated and brought to life and as the UK's leading church insurer we are uniquely placed to support and highlight this.

For 130 years, we've had the privilege of protecting our churches and their communities so throughout 2017 we'll be doing even more to highlight and support the fantastic things that they are quietly delivering.

Keep up to date via our website at www.ecclesiastical.com/community or our Facebook page **Church Matters with Ecclesiastical** or via Twitter



@churchmatters

Artist Tim Steward

Our ambassador for the Great Community Mural project is Tim Steward, a Christian artist who has been exhibited all around the UK and whose work is notable, among many outstanding features, for its celebration of church architecture. Tim will be joining the judging panel for the competition and he'll produce an original piece of artwork that will form part of the completed Mural.

Tim said: "As an artist, I'm thrilled to be the ambassador for The Great Community Mural project. I am passionate about the



role of art within churches and this project is a wonderful way of celebrating the unique place that churches hold in our country's diverse communities."

How to enter the competition

Entry forms are being sent out during May to all of our customers in their **Church Matters newsletter**. If you don't get the newsletter or want further information about how to enter, go to our website. There you'll

also find more details about The Great Community Mural competition, including a video of Tim Steward talking through some ideas that might inspire you. **The closing date for entries is 21st August 2017.**

www.ecclesiastical.com/churchcomp

Roof alarms

Based on our claims experience, Ecclesiastical believes roof alarms provide the best deterrent to metal thieves. Alarms are highly effective at deterring metal theft and perfect for buildings in remote or rural locations – if the security system is activated, a planned response based on your specific instructions is carried out.

Ecclesiastical maintains a list of approved suppliers who meet our security requirements – call **0345 777 3322** for more information.



Is the price of lead fuelling theft from church roofs?

The price of scrap lead has reached record highs in the last year or so with prices continuing to increase. Andrew Mulholland, Crime Reduction Consultant at SmartWater Technology Ltd updates us on the outlook for this destructive crime now.



The theft of lead from a church roof is a particularly damaging crime. Not only does it cause a severe financial loss, it can also result in water damage to the church and to contents, some of which can be irreplaceable. Even if your church hasn't been subject to lead theft, you are likely to know one that has. So what is fuelling these attacks and what can be done about it?

The vast majority of metal thefts relate to lead and this is not surprising given the rising demand and increasing resale value of scrap lead. There was a clear price increase around 2010-11 and many will remember the surge of lead thefts with around 2,500 crimes against churches reported that year alone.

A national taskforce on metal theft was established with dedicated police resources assigned to address the problem. There was also new legislation with the Scrap Metal Dealer Act and support provided by companies such as SmartWater with both forensic marking and enforcement activities and from Ecclesiastical with the 'Hands off our Church

Roofs' campaign. Although the price of scrap lead remained high in the years that followed, the number of churches falling victim decreased. In fact, by 2015, the number of reported crimes was around a tenth of what it was five years earlier.

However, since then the national task force has been disbanded, police numbers have reduced and priorities have moved away from metal theft. At the same time, the crimes have also become much more organised and large scale. Although the overall number of crimes has reduced, some counties have seen a significant increase in attacks. These are now much more industrial with teams of criminals working overnight to strip lead from whole roofs.

With new record prices for scrap lead it is likely that criminals will become more interested in it again. Given the increase in crime during previous price peaks, it is essential that churches do not lose their focus on this problem and take steps to do everything they can to prevent theft.

Forensic marking

It is a condition of your insurance that you apply SmartWater or an alternative forensic marker approved by us. You will not have metal theft cover if you do not follow this condition. Make sure you have applied the solution to any external metal, put up signage in a prominent position and register with the supplier to comply with your policy.



Here are Andrew's top tips:



- **Be aware** – make sure the local community is 'on the lookout'
- **Take security measures** – remove climbing aids such as wheelie bins
- **Apply a forensic marking solution** – reduce the attraction of handling stolen items
- **Consider a roof alarm** – the ultimate deterrent

Don't forget you can also download Ecclesiastical's Metal Theft checklist from:

www.ecclesiastical.com/metaltheft

A day in the life of an Allchurches Trust Grants officer

Allchurches Trust is the charitable owner of the Ecclesiastical Insurance Group which grants a significant proportion of its profits to the trust so that this money can be given back to society for good causes.

Last year, Allchurches Trust gave grants totalling more than £13 million to Anglican churches and cathedrals, churches of other denominations, heritage and community projects. Paul Playford is one of three Allchurches Trust Grants Officers who visit groups applying for grants. In this article, we find out more about his typical day.



➤ **7.15am** Drive from home in Ledbury, Herefordshire, to Allchurches Trust Gloucester office. Time for coffee and a few emails before my first visit.

➤ **9.30am** A crisp winter morning's walk through Gloucester to St. Mary de Crypt, a medieval church with a Tudor schoolroom that stands on the main thoroughfare between the Quays and the Cathedral. These are the two most visited places in the entire county and St. Mary's plans to entice those passing between them to venture in and discover not just a beautiful church but a venue for art, culture and community.

When projects are over £500,000 in total, I make a point of visiting. It gives applicants a chance to describe their vision to me in person and explain in more detail how the project will address local needs.

St. Mary de Crypt's Project Manager Rachel Court and her team have already formed partnerships with local charities working with refugees, dementia sufferers and young unemployed people, who will become users of the newly equipped church. I'm impressed. The Heritage Lottery Fund is too and has given them £1.36m towards their £2m goal.

➤ **11.00am** Back to the office and straight into a presentation to people who have recently joined Ecclesiastical Insurance –

it's important we let Ecclesiastical's employees know of all the good causes their hard work benefits.

➤ **12.00pm** I'm welcomed at Widden Primary School by Special Needs Co-ordinator Karen Hughes. Of Widden's 380 children, 200 are considered 'vulnerable' and of those, the 10-15 with the most significant emotional needs are given special sessions in a Nurture Room. "Allchurches Trusts' grant has made us able to make the room more like a home than a classroom," explains Karen. "With sofas, a dining table and chairs, toys and furnishings, we can help these children to develop the emotional and social skills they need to succeed back in the classroom." I'm humbled by the scale of the problems Karen and her colleagues are tackling but it's obviously working.

➤ **3.00pm** It's now a rainy afternoon in Bristol at John and Charles Wesley's New Room, the meeting house built in 1739 which is the earliest Methodist building in the world.



I'm greeted by David Worthington, the New Room's Manager. As with so many of the grant applicants I meet, David has an extraordinary depth of knowledge combined with a passionate determination to see the project through. Pilgrims from among the world's 75 million Methodists arrive daily and David's on a mission to make the New Room a welcoming place for them with a museum and archive, conference facilities and a cafe. It's a £4.5m project to which Allchurches Trust is proud to have contributed.

➤ **7.30pm** Just time to write up the day's visits for the next Board meeting. Today, not unusually, it's all good news.



Paul's most memorable visit?

It has to be my first ever visit as a new Grants Officer. It was to the Salvation Army in Droitwich. Their work opened my eyes to the challenges out there and the fact that the church, in all its forms, is having a hugely positive impact. Its contribution often goes under the radar but take the church out of social care and you'd have a huge gap.



Paul's toughest visit!

I had to visit the church on Lundy Island. The vicar very kindly had arranged for me to be invited onto the bridge by the Captain for the two-hour crossing. Sadly, I was horribly sea-sick. We docked and I had to ask if I could go and lie down! However, once I had recovered, the stunning location and inspirational project fully made up for the travel experience.





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Risk Management Helpline

Need help with managing risks at your church? You can now call expert risk management advisers for advice.

Call: 0345 600 7531

How to contact us

Customer services

Call: 0345 777 3322

(8am-6pm Monday to Friday except Bank Holidays)

Email: churches@ecclesiastical.com

Report a claim

Call: 0345 603 8381


At any time on any day of the week

Email: faithclaims@ecclesiastical.com

Dedicated church customer website:

www.ecclesiastical.com/church

Facebook: **Church Matters with Ecclesiastical**

 [@churchmatters](https://twitter.com/@churchmatters)

Insurance you can believe in

It's our belief that the best insurance is about much more than just words. It's about what we do as well as what we say. Indeed, we have a proven track record of being there for our church customers when they need us most.

Established by the Church of England 130 years ago, we have a unique understanding of how to protect churches. This depth of experience and commitment means that when the worst happens you know that you are in safe hands. We are proud to have been trusted to protect churches and their communities since 1887.

Expertise that sets us apart

We have a dedicated team of church specialists who can respond to your needs

quickly and compassionately. They only deal with church insurance so they understand the issues that you face. Our experts can provide you with a wide range of free advice and support at any time.

And when the unthinkable happens, we want the best outcome for you – to pay you quickly and without fuss – so that you can get on with running your church.

To us, doing the right thing is simply what we do. To our church customers, it's what sets us apart.

Church Insurance Made Simple

Have you looked at our new series of Made Simple guides designed to make understanding your church insurance easier? Based on feedback from customers, the guides look at the insurance aspects of legal protection, building works, church events, community outreach and more. You can read them online or download the guides at:

www.ecclesiastical.com/madesimple



Need financial advice you can trust?

Perhaps you're worried about getting the best return on your savings or you'd like to make sure you're investing ethically. You might be thinking about taking out a mortgage, protecting your family or planning for retirement. Whatever your concerns, Ecclesiastical Financial Advisory Services can bring you independent financial advice from a company you know and trust.

Our team of independent financial advisers offer expert advice and help with your personal finances and can find suitable solutions from across the relevant market.

Our advice doesn't stop at personal finance; we also help PCCs and their members review their investments and find ways to improve potential returns. Please note, the value of investments can fall as well as rise and past performance is not a guide to future performance. Your home may be repossessed if you do not keep up repayments on your mortgage.



Like all advisers, we charge a fee for providing financial advice, and your adviser will talk you through the charges and make sure you understand them before there is any commitment on either part. The first meeting or conversation is at our expense.

Contact Ecclesiastical Financial Advisory Services Call: **0800 107 0190** or email: getadvice@ecclesiastical.com

Protecting your PCC

PCC members make a real difference to their local church. They help to make sure that the PCC is properly run and that it uses its charitable funds and assets wisely. Put simply, it's their responsibility to see that the PCC delivers on its charitable objectives.



PCCs are actually recognised as charities, which means their members are acknowledged as trustees. So what happens if the trustees don't meet some of their duties or responsibilities? Leading church insurer Ecclesiastical explains how you can protect your church and your PCC members.

When might there be a problem?

Sometimes a PCC member might make a mistake that could leave their church open to a claim. For instance, they might not meet their responsibilities due to neglect, or they might breach their authority in some way. Although unintentional, a mistake could lead to costs and a damaged reputation.

How are you protected?

To help protect you, your Parishguard cover from Ecclesiastical automatically provides you with up to £100,000 Trustee Indemnity insurance. This covers any liability claim arising from a wrongful act by a trustee, as well as the cost of defending a claim, which can be significant. It brings you the peace of mind that as long as you have acted lawfully and with a duty of care, you should be covered.

Trustee Indemnity insurance directly protects an individual trustee, rather than the PCC itself. That means a trustee won't have to personally pay out for any

legal claims made against them for any breach of trust or duty of negligence or care. The cover excludes reckless or wilful wrongdoing.

Reassurance for potential new recruits

Just knowing the insurance is in place can make it easier for people to volunteer to join PCCs. As Marcus Booth, Ecclesiastical's Church Underwriting Manager explains: "A lot of people today, particularly those in employment, can be quite clued up about personal liabilities and will make a point of asking what kind of protection is in place. Being able to demonstrate that insurance cover is available can make all the difference."

You can find out more about the role of PCCs at the Church of England's website www.churchofengland.org/clergy-office-holders/pcc-information. Many dioceses also provide their own guidance notes, while the Charity Commission also provides useful information online at http://www.charity-commission.gov.uk/faqs/running_a_charity/governance/834.aspx.

If you'd like more information on the insurance protection that Ecclesiastical offers PCC members, visit www.ecclesiastical.com/churchmatters/churchinsurance or call 0345 777 3322.

Keeping in touch and telling stories

There are many ways of finding out what is happening across the Diocese and keeping in touch with the latest news, writes Ronnie Semley, Diocesan Communications Manager.

- All the latest news (together with communications resources and advice) is always available on the Diocesan website (www.blackburn.anglican.org) which will also be updated shortly with a brand-new look.
- A monthly 'Communications Update' email bulletin is sent to clergy, churchwardens, PCC members, treasurers and other key contacts with selected news highlights from the previous four weeks.
- No internet or email access? Get a copy of 'The See' from your church. This is Diocesan magazine and is produced monthly. The Diocesan website also contains current and archive issues of The See.
- Ronnie is always on the lookout for great stories that might be of particular interest to regional and national media; especially if they effectively illustrate our mission work for 'Vision 2026. Email potential submissions to communications@blackburn.anglican.org

To keep in touch on social media you can also...

- Follow and interact with the Diocesan Twitter feed ([@cofelancs](https://twitter.com/cofelancs))
- Watch Diocesan videos on our very popular YouTube channel (search YouTube online for Blackburn Diocese)
- View pictures of events across the Diocese on our Flickr feed (search Flickr for Blackburn Diocese). If you have pictures of events taking place in your parish send them to the communications@ email above.
- Engage with our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/cofelancs

Interested in giving a bit of time in God's service to communications? If you have professional communications skills please give it some serious thought and prayer before calling Ronnie for a chat. Ronnie's number is 01254 503416 or email him on ronnie.semley@blackburn.anglican.org

Is your church a Place of Welcome?



If you have a café open to all, you may want to consider becoming a Place of Welcome. If you could offer a cuppa, conversation and

provide a sense of belonging (rather than 'being done unto!') at the same time and place every week, then you could become a Place of Welcome. There is no paperwork, it is not a standard, more a concept, but does provide a badge – a blue teacup. The more badges we have across the Diocese then the more people will recognise that you are offering a welcome.

For more information go to <http://www.placesofwelcome.org/> and to develop your Place of Welcome, contact Together Lancashire on 07904 919413.



Welcoming the Dean of Blackburn

The new Dean of Blackburn is the former Vice-Dean of Chester Cathedral, Peter Howell-Jones.

Dean Peter, 54, (pictured) succeeds The Very Rev. Christopher Armstrong. His installation service took place in March. Bishop Philip was Acting Dean in the interregnum.

In his new role, as well as taking overall charge of Blackburn Cathedral as Dean of Blackburn, Canon Peter is a key member of the Diocesan Bishop's Leadership Team.

Dean Peter commented "It is an honour and a privilege to be entrusted with the responsibility for the wonderful Cathedral in Blackburn. I have a real sense of expectation

for what will be an exciting new challenge and I am looking forward to starting work."

Bishop Julian Henderson added: "I was delighted to welcome Peter as our new Dean. He brings a great deal of experience to the role as we prayerfully move forward together as a Diocese with our Vision 2026: Healthy Churches Transforming Communities."

For more about the new Dean visit the news section of the Diocesan website at www.blackburn.anglican.org and the Cathedral website www.blackburncathedral.com

Call for All?

Anyone who's serious about being a disciple of Jesus Christ knows that includes using our gifts in his service. We're offering 'SHAPed for God's Purpose', a course for you to run in your parish so anyone can take stock of their gifts and opportunities to serve God in the whole of life.

We want to affirm the calling of every church member to be a Christian presence in the workplace, family and community, and this course will help you to discover how that applies to you. If you feel your call is to a specific role in the church, we have renewed the way we deal with enquiries and would love to hear from you, whatever your question. Details from vocation@blackburn.anglican.org

Encouraging people to follow God's call is the task of the whole church – is this you? Or is there someone you should be encouraging and praying for?

Do you make a concerted effort to get your church noticed?



From creative use of social media to getting the welcome right as people encounter your church for the first time, there is plenty you can be doing to maximise the effectiveness of how you spread the word, writes *Ronnie Semley, Diocesan Communications Manager.*

All too often local churches do fantastic community work 'under the radar' so no one gets to hear about it!

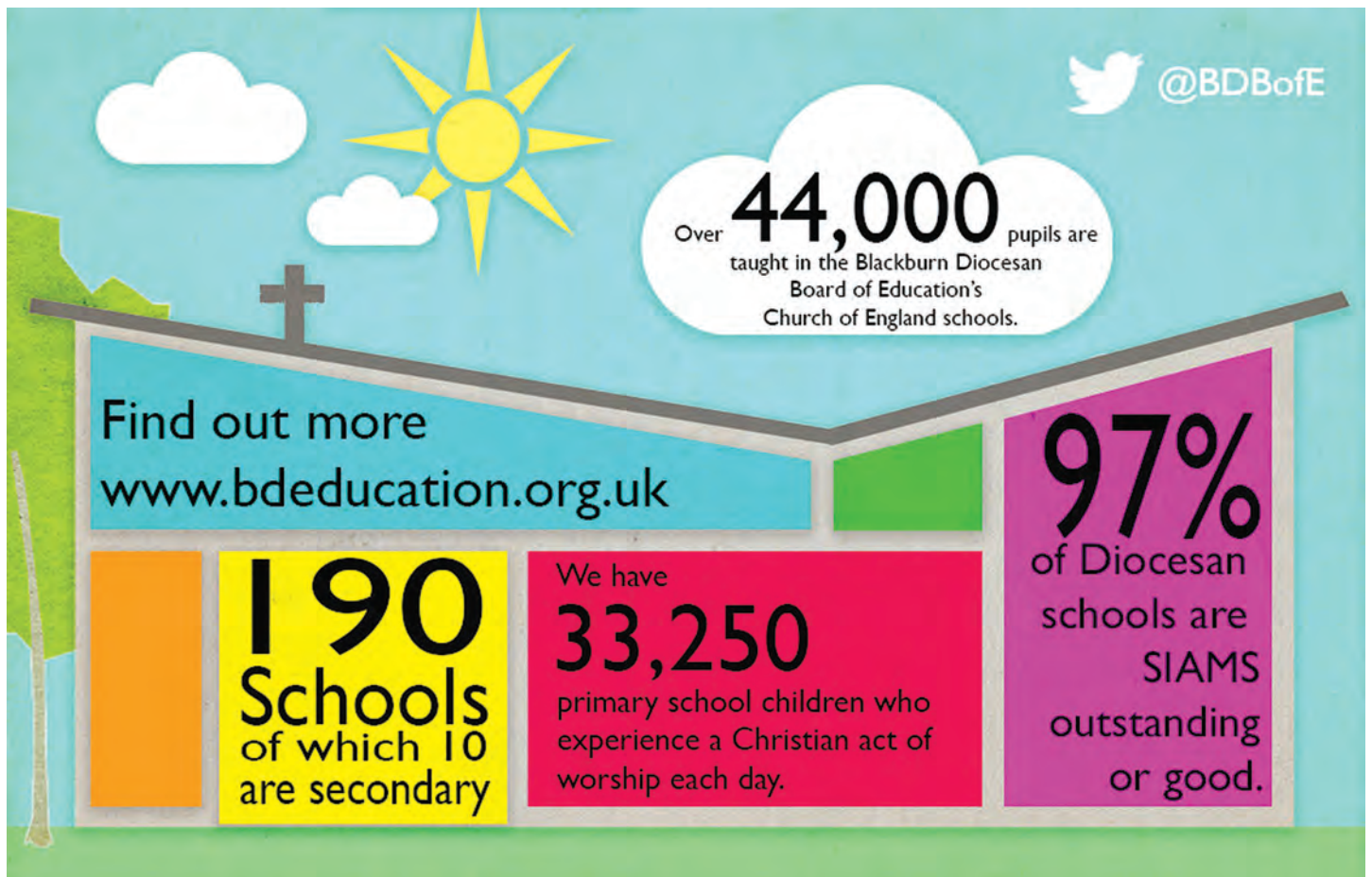
Last summer I presented a special 'Get Your Church Noticed' training with Neil Pugmire,

author of the popular book '100 Ways To Get Your Church Noticed'.

Resources are now available 24/7 on the Diocesan website www.blackburn.anglican.org under the 'Home' menu. You can also visit the companion website to Neil's book – www.getyourchurchnoticed.com for further ideas and resources.

Meanwhile, if you come up with a great idea to 'get your church noticed' don't keep it to yourself! Email me at communicate@blackburn.anglican.org and tell me what you did (and how you did it) and we'll post the details to the website for others to benefit from.

By working together to communicate well we will ensure the maximum number of people get a chance to hear news about the greatest gift of all... the saving grace of Jesus Christ.



Our 190 schools are wonderful communities of faith, each with the spirit of Christ shaping the learning, teaching and activities of the school, and helping them to be significant and transforming places for children and young people. The statistics above give a graphic overview of our reach and impact. 'We are proud of our close and developing links between church schools and their local parishes and churches,' said Archdeacon Michael, chair of the Diocesan Board of Education.

For more information, please see our **website www.bdeducation.org.uk**

Join in a global wave of prayer



May 25–June 4

www.thykingdomcome.global

Bishop Philip has been heavily involved in **Thy Kingdom Come prayer initiative** and is delighted that the Diocese is holding a prayer event at Blackburn Cathedral to which **everyone is invited.**

Over the following 10 days (May 25th – June 4th) people around the world, including in Lancashire, will be coming together to discover new ways of praying that their friends, family and neighbours come to know Jesus Christ.

On **Wednesday, 24 May at 7.30pm**, on the eve of Thy Kingdom Come, please come to Blackburn Cathedral. Come individually, as a family, as a church, so that we can pray together and then go back to our communities to continue to pray during this period.

The Cathedral will be open every day with prayer stations in the Jesus Chapel around

the theme of Thy Kingdom Come. If you are able to open your church daily during this period, and it works, why not arrange to open each day during the summer?

Thy Kingdom Come is a global prayer movement, which invites Christians around the world to pray between Ascension and Pentecost for more people to come to know Jesus Christ.

Join in with this global wave of prayer via www.thykingdomcome.global and to 'Pledge2Pray' individually, as a family, as a church or to run an event. There is more information on our website. If you are holding your own local event, please email us 50-75 words to communicate@blackburn.anglican.org so we can add it to our events section.

Crossroads Mission with Bishops from across the north of England and the Archbishop of York took place in our Diocese in September 2016.

More than 450 separate events took place and we asked you for some responses about how they went in your parishes. You sent us loads of feedback. Here is just a small selection... more can be found on www.blackburn.anglican.org



Family fun outside St Chad's Poulton-le-Fylde

Our Church in the Churchyard event attracted lots of people from the community and some of these came to the Sunday Eucharist service the following day. **St Chad's, Poulton-Le-Fylde**

We asked for comments in our visitors' book - 'lovely to have a coffee break in this fantastic space'; and 'Thank you - such lovely people'. We welcomed visitors from the USA, and Suffolk, as well as local people, one of whom thanked us for drawing her inside the church, saying she'd lived in Clitheroe all her life but had never set foot in it before. **St Mary Magdalene, Clitheroe**

We held an open BBQ. A family came and have attended church every week since. The Mum said; I haven't been in church since I was 8 years old. **St Stephen's, Preston**

Those who attended our Business Breakfast would like to do it again and were pleased the church was interested in this area of life. **St Bartholomew, Colne/Christ Church, Colne**

We held a community celebration party with testimony. We went through the baptism and marriage registers and all the congregation were given invitations for them to personally invite people who had attended church

previously including family members and people for whom they were praying. Over 85 people came, from a baby of 6 months, right through the teenage years, families and the older generation.

Everyone seemed to enjoy our event. We had different people at church this Sunday, some who had never been before, and we have started a Sunday evening service, aimed at more informal styles of worship. **Christ Church, Wesham**

Lots of new families came to our Back to School Service and we recruited a couple of new people for our enquirers' course. A new venue was used for an outreach event. **All Saints' Appley Bridge and Parbold**

We had an open Church for a 'Ladies Afternoon Tea' including numerous 'craft classes' and even dance lessons. An evening family quiz night was held for local families, many of whom do not attend church. **All Saints, Anchorsholme**

Fifty members of our congregation invited friends who are not usually church-goers to join them for a proper afternoon tea - tea from a tea pot and in a china cup and saucer and melt-in-the-mouth scones with jam and cream! All this helped to create a really welcoming atmosphere in church. It was altogether an excellent afternoon. **St Peter's Darwen**

"Three new families have started attending church after events and one new couple are attending START course. **Ribbleton Parish, Preston**

Holding a pet service brought in lots of new people. New families came and have been since. **St Michaels-on-Wyre**

Our youth event went well and we hope to repeat it, to complement existing youth group programmes. It was lovely to have new people join us for our cross-denominational event. **St Mark's, Dolphinholme**

Two mothers with babes in arms, who sat nearby each other in church for several months, nurturing their infants, chatted as they sat outdoors and realised they had a close mutual friend - and so they began a friendship.

St James', Brindle

'Who let the Dad's out' was positive for the dads who attended. Dads' involvement was surprising and encouraging and they wanted more events in **St Hilda's, Bilborrow**

We carried out two 'Church goes to school' events at different schools, we were pleasantly surprised at the number of people who did not currently come to Church. **St Leonard's, Walton Le Dale**

Local shopkeepers responded positively to offers of prayer. **Preston St Cuthbert**

A new craft group has started fortnightly to support local projects; two new bell ringers came forward to join the bell-ringing team and a person offered to help with her time/talent in other ways. **St Cuthbert's, Lytham**

Our Messy Church hosted a Family Fun Day including sports, games, worship and BBQ - all free. It was brilliant and very well attended after we sent personal invites to local families via the schools. **St Anne's, Shevington**



Top tips from Crossroads+ feedback...

- Personal invitations work better than a blanket leaflet drop
- Face to face invitations are effective
- Where lay-people found the courage to invite people, it worked
- Where people are made to feel welcome, they come back

Whilst Ecclesiastical has used reasonable endeavours to ensure that the information in this newsletter is correct at the time of publication, please note: (a) the information is not intended to constitute a definitive or complete statement of the law on any subject, (b) the information may over the course of time become incorrect or out of date; and (c) neither Ecclesiastical Insurance Office plc. nor its subsidiaries can accept any responsibility or liability for action taken or losses suffered as a result of reliance placed on the information provided in this newsletter.



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call **0345 777 3322**
email churches@ecclesiastical.com
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