

## Where can I get help with Vision 2026?

The first thing to say is there is lots of advice and assistance readily available 24/7 on the relevant pages of the Diocesan website ([www.blackburn.anglican.org](http://www.blackburn.anglican.org)) and the Diocesan Board of Education website ([www.bdeducation.org](http://www.bdeducation.org)). So they are the best places to start for help with Vision 2026.

On the Diocesan website there is even a 'Vision 2026' tab on the homepage with links to background information, other details and a Vision Champions' resources section. However, if you have a question or need some advice then the individuals introduced below are all available to support parishes in implementing the Vision - they'd be delighted to hear from you.

*"I'd appreciate some help with...":*

### 1) Vision 2026

Whether your parish has embraced Vision 2026 or is still grappling with what it means for your church then please contact Carolyn Barton, the Vision Coordinator. Carolyn can offer support in discerning how to implement the Vision in your local context; help with the recruitment and development of Vision Champions or provide guidance on where to turn for advice, support and funding for new ideas and projects. Carolyn is also available to come to speak at your PCC or any other church meeting to support you in promoting and growing healthy churches that transform communities.



**Carolyn Barton, Vision 2026 Coordinator**

Email: [carolyn.barton@blackburn.anglican.org](mailto:carolyn.barton@blackburn.anglican.org)

Tel: 07990 032600

[www.blackburn.anglican.org/what-is-vision-2026](http://www.blackburn.anglican.org/what-is-vision-2026)

### 2) Vision Planning

- **Vision Companions**

If you are developing your parish vision or looking at Vision Action Planning, the Vision Companions Team can help. The Companions are ordinary church leaders both ordained and lay, with practical experience of applying Vision 2026 at parish level. They can provide advice, mentoring, new ideas, an effective sounding board and can walk with parishes through the vision planning process or offer help at key points like PCC awaydays.

**Rev Grant Ashton, Chair of the Vision Companions**

Email: [grant.ashton@blackburn.anglican.org](mailto:grant.ashton@blackburn.anglican.org)

[www.blackburn.anglican.org/vision-companions-assistance-with-vision](http://www.blackburn.anglican.org/vision-companions-assistance-with-vision)

- **‘How to do Mission Action Planning: Prayer, Planning and Process’ (2<sup>nd</sup> Edition)** is a great place to start and to refer to throughout the process of Vision Action Planning. It was written by Archdeacon of Blackburn, The Venerable Mark Ireland with Mike Chew, who is one of our Vision Companions.
- **Healthy Churches Toolkit:** This useful pack is designed to enable churches to ‘assess their health’ against six qualities shown in research to be fundamental to church health and growth. The toolkit is designed for a whole church to use - perhaps as part of a healthy churches away day. Both the long and short versions can be found [here](#) or full url ...  
<https://www.blackburn.anglican.org/tools-to-help-with-vision-action-plannin>

### 3) Making Disciples

- **Discipleship**

For support and ideas in helping your parish to get to know the Bible better and to grow in praying with greater depth and urgency, contact the Diocesan Director of Discipleship Ruth Hassall. Ruth is also available to preach, lead away days and provide training on a whole range of discipleship subjects.



**Ruth Hassall, Director of Discipleship**

Email: [ruth.hassall@blackburn.anglican.org](mailto:ruth.hassall@blackburn.anglican.org)

Mob: 07384 819825

[www.blackburn.anglican.org/2019-diocesan-year-of-discipleship](http://www.blackburn.anglican.org/2019-diocesan-year-of-discipleship)

- **‘Knowing the Scriptures Better’:** A focussed six-week study booklet which Ruth has developed, enabling you to consider the Bible more deeply, with memory verses to learn and space for your notes as you pray and talk to God. Available for free from the Diocesan offices, please e-mail [siobhan.trickett@blackburn.anglican.org](mailto:siobhan.trickett@blackburn.anglican.org)
- **‘Pathways to Prayer’:** This is a wonderful opportunity for all people of every tradition to explore fresh perspectives and styles of prayer, contemplation and meditation through a diverse range of workshops. These courses run throughout the year and Pathways to Prayer could also be run in your parish free of charge. If you’d like to explore this further please contact Gill Ireland ([gillyireland@gmail.com](mailto:gillyireland@gmail.com)) or Tricia Impey ([patriciaimpey@btinternet.com](mailto:patriciaimpey@btinternet.com))
- **‘Bishop’s Bible Challenge’:** This initiative encourages us to learn key verses of Scripture, to create a kind of ‘internal treasure store’ of the promises and commands of God. It works like this: 12 verses (one a month for a year) have been chosen for each of three Vision 2026 themes of making disciples, being witnesses and growing leaders; hence 36 verses in all. They can be sent to you daily through signing up for the Diocesan Daily Prayers e-mails – further details to be found at [here](#) or at the full url: <https://www.blackburn.anglican.org/blackburn-prayers-including-daily-email>
- **Whalley Abbey:** Did you know that your parish can use Whalley Abbey for one day per year for free for a meeting or retreat? Please contact the team at Whalley to book this. There is also a full retreat programme, running throughout the year, for you to enjoy. Details of upcoming events are available on the Whalley Abbey website [www.whalleyabbey.org](http://www.whalleyabbey.org)

- **Spiritual Direction:** Spiritual Direction is on offer to anyone throughout the diocese, lay and ordained. It provides a space for you to talk confidentially about your faith journey alongside someone who will listen to you and to God, trying to help you glimpse His light in your life journey. Please contact the Warden of Spiritual Direction, Rev. Nick Mansfield on email [nickthevic1@gmail.com](mailto:nickthevic1@gmail.com) or by phoning 01772 742367.

- **Giving of time, talents and treasures**

God has made us His stewards or managers of everything He has given to us: our time, our abilities, our possessions, our money, our whole lives. For support in helping your church to think about stewardship and encouraging people to review their giving and join planned giving schemes, contact our Diocesan Stewardship Resourcing Officer.



**Stephanie Rankin, Diocesan Stewardship Resourcing Officer**

Email: [stephanie.rankin@blackburn.anglican.org](mailto:stephanie.rankin@blackburn.anglican.org)

Tel: 01254 503273

[www.blackburn.anglican.org/stewardship-and-legacies](http://www.blackburn.anglican.org/stewardship-and-legacies)

- **'Parish Situation Report':** Stephanie is available to come and meet with your PCC and help you think through your current situation and how you could run a stewardship programme that works for you. In preparation for that meeting she will put together a report based on information you supply to help you which she will talk through with your PCC.
- **Contactless giving and online giving:** Fewer people today carry cash and we need to make sure that we make it easy for visitors who wish to give. Stephanie can provide information about the current options as well as demonstrating the best and most cost-effective solution for you.
- **'Generosity, Gift and Grace' course:** This course is designed to encourage us to grow as disciples by thinking about giving generously of our time, talents and money. The course is available to all churches and includes an excellent series of videos available on a DVD or via our Diocesan YouTube channel. Read more about the course and associated available resources [here](#) or via this full url: <https://www.blackburn.anglican.org/generosity-gift-and-grace-course-material>

#### 4) **Being Witnesses**

- **Sharing the Gospel of Salvation with confidence**

The *Being Witnesses* team would love to support you in:

- Widening the demographic – so all ages and backgrounds in Lancashire hear the gospel of Jesus
- Making the most of occasional offices and confirmations
- Engaging with all spheres of society (eg Ministry of Sport – contact [ministryofsport@blackburn.anglican.org](mailto:ministryofsport@blackburn.anglican.org))
- Missing dimensions of salvation – healing and deliverance

- **Meeting human need: actions as well as words**

For ideas of how to reach out as a church to share God's love through meeting a human need in your community contact Gill Beeley at Together Lancashire at [gillian.beeley@together-lancashire.org.uk](mailto:gillian.beeley@together-lancashire.org.uk)

- **New Local Congregations and Strategic Church Plants**

A key way of reaching new people nationally and internationally is through the starting up of a New Local Congregation. Recently the Diocese has appointed a 'New Congregations Coach', Canon David Gibb, to support parishes with this and he can be contacted by emailing [david.gibb@blackburn.anglican.org](mailto:david.gibb@blackburn.anglican.org). Bishop Jill is integrally involved and is keen to hear from and support any parish that is exploring the possibility of growing a new congregation.



**Rt Rev. Jill Duff, Bishop of Lancaster**

Email: [bishop.lancaster@blackburn.anglican.org](mailto:bishop.lancaster@blackburn.anglican.org)

## 5) Growing Leaders

- **Vocations**

The Growing Leaders team wants to work with everyone, ordained and lay, to help them to discern who God is calling them to be within the church and beyond or in other words to discover their 'vocation'. Finding out what God is calling you to usually starts with a conversation with your parish priest and there are lots of ways that the Growing Leaders Team can support you in the ongoing conversation and discernment.



**Rev. Nick McKee, Director of Vocations**

Email: [nick.mckee@blackburn.anglican.org](mailto:nick.mckee@blackburn.anglican.org)

Tel: 01254 503082 / 07776 685210

[www.blackburn.anglican.org/what-is-god-s-plan-for-you](http://www.blackburn.anglican.org/what-is-god-s-plan-for-you)

- **Training**

A regular programme of training courses is offered by the Growing Leaders Team in order to support both lay and ordained church members to identify and nurture their gifts. They welcome suggestions if your parish has a particular training need?



**Mandy Stanton, Lay Ministry Development Officer**

Email: [mandy.stanton@blackburn.anglican.org](mailto:mandy.stanton@blackburn.anglican.org)

Tel: 01254 503084

[www.blackburn.anglican.org/informal-lay-ministry](http://www.blackburn.anglican.org/informal-lay-ministry)

- **Routes of Faith course** – a modular course offered by the Diocese to help you to ‘Know the Scriptures Better’; ‘Pray with Greater Depth and Urgency’; ‘Talk about your faith with more confidence’; ‘Think about how we show God’s love in action’; ‘Reflect on how our churches fit into today’s context’; ‘Consider your own participation in the Church’. For further information [take a look here](#) or via this full url: <https://www.blackburn.anglican.org/routes-of-faith-programme>
- **Pastoral Skills, Occasional Preachers, Leading Worship, Leading Small groups and ‘SHAPE’ courses** are among the courses regularly delivered across the Diocese by the Growing Leaders team.

## 6) Children and Young People

### • Children

Whether you’re new to children’s work or have been doing it for years and are looking for fresh ideas the Children’s Work team would be delighted to support you. They are passionate about seeing children’s work in our parishes, schools and communities grow across the Diocese and offer a wide range of resources, training and events throughout the year.



#### **Sarah Earnshaw, Children’s Work Adviser**

Email: [sarah.earnshaw@blackburn.anglican.org](mailto:sarah.earnshaw@blackburn.anglican.org)

Tel: 01254 503409

[www.bdeducation.org.uk/children/](http://www.bdeducation.org.uk/children/)

- **Resources:** You will find an inspiring and expanding range of resources available to download for free from the Board of Education website (see above) including weekly lectionary-based material and resources for working with under-5s.
- **Annual Conference:** The annual Children’s Ministry Conference takes place in the spring and is a great opportunity to hear brilliant keynote speakers and participate in practical workshops. Bookings will open soon for next year’s conference which will take place on Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> February 2020, so keep an eye on the Board of Education website for further details.
- **Training:** In addition to the conference, there is regular training on offer via Children’s Work Networking Evenings and other events. Again, refer to the Board of Education website (or follow the Facebook Page: @BDBofE) for details of dates and venues near you.

### • Youth

Are you keen to reach out to the young people in your community but don’t know where to start? Perhaps you want to re-invigorate the youth work in your parish making it relevant and engaging for today’s teenagers but need some new ideas? Please don’t hesitate to contact the Youth Team at Clayton House and ask for their help.



**Ben Green, Youth Work Adviser**

Email: [ben.green@blackburn.anglican.org](mailto:ben.green@blackburn.anglican.org)

Tel: 01254 503407 / 07813 903420

[www.bdeducation.org.uk/youth/](http://www.bdeducation.org.uk/youth/)

- **Connecting:** Through regular coffee meet-ups and prayer and worship nights the Youth Team seeks to gather and connect those who love young people and want to see them growing in faith. You can also stay up-to-date with things by subscribing to their Connect mailing.
- **Youth Events and Camps:** Across the year the team runs several events aimed at young people: Youth Camp, Abide and The Weekender. These events seek to encourage and spur young people on in their faith and explore what living out that faith everyday looks like.
- **Training:** At different points throughout the year the teams runs or partners in running training opportunities. They also offer bespoke one-off training events, or the more in-depth Youth Provision Development Project that seeks to raise up and equip volunteer leaders.

## 7) Key Enablers

- **Safeguarding**

Our churches can only be 'Healthy Churches' if they are safe churches. Please don't hesitate to contact the Safeguarding Team at Clayton House with any questions however large or small – their respective responsibilities and contact details can be found at <https://www.blackburn.anglican.org/diocesan-safeguarding-team>

- **Communications**

For help and advice on how to promote what is happening in your parish or if you'd like to promote something through Diocesan communication channels please contact the Diocesan Communications Manager, Ronnie Semley at [ronnie.semley@blackburn.anglican.org](mailto:ronnie.semley@blackburn.anglican.org)

## 8) Finding funding to enable our vision and plans to be realised

- **Parish Vision Fund**

The Diocesan Parish Vision Fund is available to provide funding to parishes seeking financial assistance for one of the four priorities – Making Disciples of Jesus Christ; Being Witnesses to Jesus Christ; Growing Leaders for Jesus Christ; Prioritising work among children, young people and schools. Further details and information as to how to apply can be found on the website [here](#) or the full url is:

<https://www.blackburn.anglican.org/financial-assistance-group-parish-vision>

- **All Churches Trust**

The All Churches Trust has just launched a new funding scheme to support churches and Christian organisations to work with children and young people. The new scheme could provide funding of 10% to 80% of a project's cost up to a total of £25,000. Find out more and how to apply here [www.allchurches.co.uk/growinglives](http://www.allchurches.co.uk/growinglives)

- **Other sources of Funding**

A list of other funding sources can be found [here](#) or via this full url at:

<https://www.parishresources.org.uk/resources-for-treasurers/funding/>