

Celebrating 100 years of the Diocese of Blackburn



Pictured left: +Philip, the Bishop of Blackburn, who announced the Centenary plans in a letter to the parish earlier this week.

2026 is our Centenary year as a Diocese. It will be a chance to give thanks for all that God has done through his people in the Diocese of Blackburn since William Temple founded it in 1926, and an opportunity to commit ourselves anew to mission and ministry in the service of Jesus Christ across Lancashire.

To mark the Centenary, the Diocese is planning a year of events and activities and have invited us at St Leonard's to share them as widely as possible.

The Title

'All for Jesus' is the branding for the Centenary year, explaining in three simple words why there is a Diocese of Blackburn and what its purpose is. This means that the Centenary will be an opportunity for people to come to know Jesus Christ either for the first time or more deeply than they do now, because personal relationship with him is what lies at the heart of every movement for renewal. Resources throughout the year, for example the Advent and Lent devotionals, will have this aim.



The Centenary Launch – January 4th 2026

Celebrations start on January 4th the Feast of the Epiphany. As the Wise men lay their gifts before the Lord, they simultaneously reveal who Jesus is and offer their lives to him. That makes it the perfect day to launch the theme 'All for Jesus.'

The Big Day Out in Blackpool – Saturday 16th May

A celebration needs a party. So, on Saturday 16th May 2026 the Diocese will be invited to a 'Big Day Out' together in the centre of Blackpool; a place that has played such an important role in the history of the Diocese. Let's make it the heart of our celebrations and also enjoy a great day together.

They will be hosting activities for children of all ages with games, crafts and stories. They will run sessions for teenagers and grown-ups from sport workshops to live music and more. In the afternoon, there will be a giant picnic before all coming together for a celebration service on St John's Square outside the Winter Gardens. Save the date, from 11am - 4pm. Look out for more information in due course.

The Diocesan Conference – July 6th – 9th

The Centenary Conference 'Found by Jesus' will be exploring Luke-Acts. There are places for clergy and for one layperson from each PCC. The venue is Liverpool Hope University and with great speakers, engaging worship and plenty of time to meet and chat, it promises to be an outstanding event.

CHURCH DIARY

Sunday 14 Sept - Trinity 13

8.30am Said Eucharist
10am All Age Service of the Word, followed by the Baptism of Isaac Owens at 11:30am

Wednesday 17 September

10am Holy Communion

Thursday 18 September

11:45am Funeral for the late Maureen Bell. Followed by 1pm committal at Burscough Crematorium.

Friday 19 September

8am Morning prayer in church for growth and renewal.

Sunday 21 Sept - Trinity 14 / St. Matthew

8.30am Said Eucharist
10am Sung Eucharist

Wednesday 24 September

10am Holy Communion

Friday 26 September

8am Morning prayer in church for growth and renewal.

Please note this Saturday is this Scarecrow Workshop in the main hall.

Saturday 13th September,
from 10am

A quick reminder to come along and help assemble our amazing Noahs Ark display. Bacon and sausage barmes (courtesy of Brian and Jean) will be provided to keep everyone fuelled! Everyone is welcome – bring your creativity and a friend! See you there!

Celebrating 100 years of the Diocese of Blackburn... continued

Centenary Mission Weekends - September 11th – 13th

The Revd Steve Haskett and his team have visited many deaneries to invite every parish to a weekend of mission and outreach between 11th and 13th September 2026. The invitation is to host some simple events and invite those who wouldn't ordinarily come to church to share in fellowship, and also to hear something about Jesus and be invited to learn more.

To help prepare parishes further, a three session course will be available in early 2026 to inspire our people to confidently pray for, invite and share faith with those who aren't yet Christians. This will be accompanied by some simple tips on planning a mission weekend, with stories from lay people who have recently done this in their own parishes.

Finally, there will be three study days for clergy and licensed lay ministers during April and May 2026. With teaching that will be led by Canon J. John, Rachel Gardner, and Bishop Lindsay Urwin respectively. They are all well known for their gifts in speaking, and these days will help all our licensed preachers to sharpen their skills in this area ahead of the mission weekends.

Centenary Service of Celebration – Thursday November 12th, 7pm

November 12th 1926 is the day the Diocese of Blackburn came into being. So 100 years later we will gather in Blackburn Cathedral with friends and guests from across the county to celebrate. Clergy and representatives from every parish and school will be invited along. So save the date and look out for more information next year.

Launch of the New Strategic Vision – Saturday November 14th, 9.30am-1pm

The Diocese are in the midst of the process of discernment that will result in a new strategic vision once Vision 2026 expires next year. Therefore, on November 14th 2026 all will be invited to an open meeting of the Diocesan Synod when the new vision will be formally launched. The event will be live-streamed for those unable to attend in person.

100 Faith Stories

Blackburn Cathedral has its own schedule of events for 2026 and amongst them it is planning a wonderful exhibition and coffee table book celebrating 100 stories of faith from people around the Diocese.

Canon James Lawrence is, therefore, seeking out 100 different stories of faith from a diverse range of voices. He is looking to reflect the full breadth of Christian experience – dramatic conversions, lifelong churchgoers, moments of doubt and rediscovery, and everything in between.

If you have a story or know of someone who had, please email Canon Lawrence: missioner@blackburncathedral.co.uk

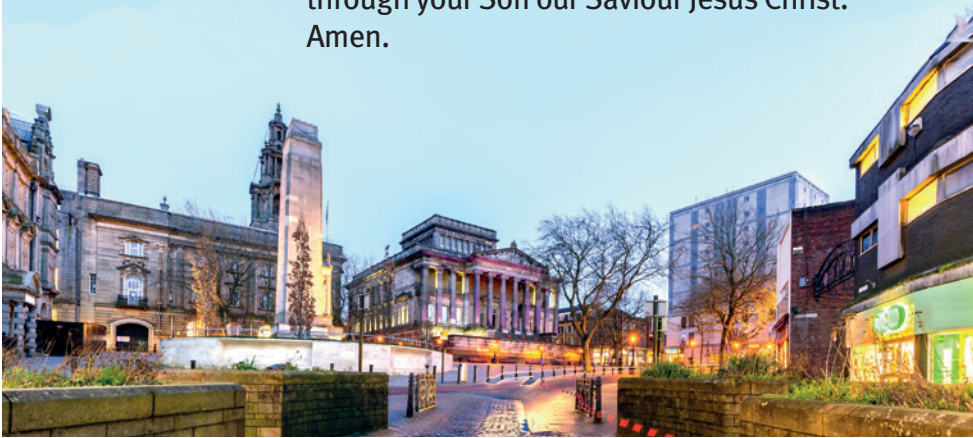
Centenary Merchandise

Look out for the classy Centenary merch coming your way later this year! Mugs, pens, tea-towels and who knows what else!

The Centenary Prayer...



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.



and we are invited to join in too...

Of course, whilst these centrally run events and activities will offer inspiration and times for celebration, what is best is always what is put on locally. Here at St. Leonard's we have been encouraged to use our imaginations and make our own plans for celebrating this special year in the way that is most appropriate for us here in Penwortham.

If you have any ideas or would like to be involved, please email revsimonking@gmail.com

Come and celebrate God's provision at St. Leonard's annual

Harvest Lunch

to be held in the main hall on
Sunday 28 September at 12 noon.

The cost is £15 per person.

All welcome.

To book your place please sign
up on the sheet at the back of
church or for more details,
email revsimonking@gmail.com



PRESTON ARTS FESTIVAL 2025

PRESENTS

MAGIC VOICES

80 PERSON
MUSICAL THEATRE
CHOIR

SATURDAY 27TH SEPTEMBER
ST. LEONARDS CHURCH
PENWORTHAM | 7:00PM | £8



TICKETS



[HTTPS://WWW.TICKETSOURCE.CO.UK/PRESTON-ARTS-ASSOCIATION](https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/preston-arts-association)
WWW.PRESTONARTS.COM



SOCIALS

ST LEONARD'S FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Saturday 27 September at 7pm

"Magic Voices Choir"
A Concert for Preston Arts Week
sponsored by Preston Arts.
(Church)

Sunday 28 September at 12 noon

"Harvest Lunch" (Hall)

Sunday 5 October at 7pm

"An Evening of Music from Stage
and Screen" Preston Symphony
Orchestra (Church)

Sunday 2 November at 12 noon

"Patronal Lunch" (Hall)

Sunday 16 November at 2pm

Concert by St. Leonard's Gilbert
& Sullivan Group (Church)

Saturday 22 November at 1pm

"Christmas Fair" — A Purrfect
Friend Group

Saturday 29 & Sunday 30 November

"Christmas Tree Festival"
(Church & Halls)

Saturday 6 December 10am

"Arts and Crafts Fair" Ian
Hamilton (Halls)

Sunday 7 December at 2pm

Preston Opera presents "Opera
Classics from the Small and
Silver Screen" (Church)

Sidespersons, Readers & Coffee Rota

Sunday 14 September - Trinity 13

8.30am Irene Farrimond and
Elizabeth Bunyan. *Reader:* Rev.
Simon.

10.00am - **All Age Service of the
Word** Lynda and Alistair Woollard.
Reader: Ann Butterworth *Prayers:*
Set Prayers. *Coffee:* Barbara and
Christine.

Sunday 21 September - Trinity 14 / St Matthew

8.30am Franklin Bello and Angela
Milner. *Reader:* Angela Milner.

10.00am Sylvia Johnson. *Reader:*
Laraine Southwell. *Prayers:* Rev.
Janet. *Coffee:* Laraine and Ann.

Sunday 28 September - Trinity 15

8.30am Peter Milner and Angela
Milner. *Reader:* Peter Milner.

10.00am Sylvia Johnson. *Reader:*
Brian Bamber. *Prayers:* Angela
Milner *Coffee:* Brian and Melvyn.

Friday Morning Prayers
Growing Together

Our Friday Morning Prayers for Growth and Renewal continue to be a quiet but powerful part of our week. Meeting at 8am in church, this short time of stillness and reflection offers a meaningful way to begin the day — centering ourselves in God's presence before the busyness unfolds.

If you have any prayer requests that you would like to share in this news-letter, please email revsimonking@gmail.com

ST LEONARD'S CHURCH DIRECTORY

Vicar:	Rev. Simon King (01772 956698) revsimonking@gmail.com
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PCC Secretary:	Ian Dawson (0771 1053722)
PCC Treasurer:	Susan Walsh (01772 745409)
Pastoral Assistant:	Jenny Stanton (01772 748701)
Organist:	David Cookson (07721 677831)
Safeguarding Officer:	Vacant
Leo's (Sunday School)	Please see Jenny Stanton or Jeanette Smith

Church Hall Enquiries:
Social Media:
Eco Champion:
Acting Choir Leader:
Church Flowers:
Electoral Roll Officer:

Gift Aid Officer:

St. Leonard's News

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If you have any news that you
would like to share in this news-
letter, please email
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