

Brindle Voice

February 2026



**‘Be joyful in hope,
patient in affliction,
faithful in prayer.’**

Romans 12:12



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APPLES OF GOLD

As we begin Lent, you might think there is little new to say about this familiar season of the Church year. But in reflecting on what I would write, I was reminded that March 2026 also marks the twenty-first anniversary of the return of a favourite cultural icon. Doctor Who returned to our screens on 26 March 2005, introducing a whole new generation of children and adults to a series that has become a British cultural phenomenon on a par with Sherlock Holmes. Even if science fiction isn't your thing, the show has left its mark on our language, with words like "Dalek" and "TARDIS" now appearing in the Oxford English Dictionary.

You might be wondering what Doctor Who has to do with Lent. On the surface, very little. Yet at the heart of the show is the idea of "regeneration," by which the Doctor changes appearance and is completely renewed. In a different way, the Christian faith places regeneration at the centre of its message. Lent is a season when we are invited to open ourselves to the renewing power of God, allowing spiritual growth and transformation in our lives.

Traditionally, Lent has been a time of self-reflection, prayer, discipline, and sometimes abstinence. These may not sound exciting in our instant-gratification culture, but these simple spiritual practices help us grow closer to God and strengthen our faith. Lent gives us space to examine our lives, to ask where God is calling us to change, and to allow the Holy Spirit to renew us from within.

This year, Ash Wednesday falls on **Wednesday 18 February**. You are warmly welcome to our Ash Wednesday service at 10.30am where the sign of the cross in ashes reminds us of our need for God and of God's enduring love, forgiveness, and renewal.

As part of our Lenten journey, we will be running a four-week Lent Study Group called 'Journeying with Jesus', starting on **Thursday 5 March at 7.00pm in the Cavendish Chapel**. This course, based on Luke chapters 9–19, invites us to walk prayerfully with Jesus on his journey towards Jerusalem. We will explore how he teaches, listens, challenges, and encourages those he meets along the way. It is a space for reflection, conversation, and shared learning, open to all, whether you are new to Bible study or a seasoned hand!

This year also marks the centenary of the Diocese of Blackburn. One hundred years ago, the diocese was created to serve the people and communities of Lancashire in all their diversity and challenge. Bishops Philip, Jill, and Joe have invited all parishes to mark this special milestone locally over the weekend of **11–13 September**. Keep your eyes peeled for details as they emerge – it promises to be a joyful celebration of faith, service, and community across the diocese.

As we enter this Lent, rather than focusing solely on giving something up, I encourage you to consider "taking something up": inviting God to begin the process of spiritual regeneration in your life. True regeneration is life-changing and life-affirming, shaping us to be more like Jesus and enabling us to be signposts of God's kingdom in our communities. Lent is a chance to allow God to work in our hearts, to help us lay aside what hinders our journey with him, and to embrace the small, patient signs of God's presence along the way.

May this Lent be a season of renewal, reflection, and hope. May we, like the Doctor, be open to regeneration – allowing God to transform us, day by day, and lead us toward the fullness of life in Christ.

With my prayers and every blessing,
Jon.



BRINDLE ST JAMES LIFE EVENTS (DEC - JAN)

BAPTISMS

It's a joy to welcome those recently baptised. We give thanks for each new life and pray that they - and their families - will continue to grow in faith within our church community.



Grace Marsden
Kelly White
Thea White
Harper White

WEDDINGS

It's a special joy to celebrate with those married at Brindle St James. We wish each couple plenty of joy, laughter, and blessings as they begin this exciting new chapter. Let's keep them in our prayers as they start their journey as newlyweds.

If you are thinking about getting married at Brindle St James, please do contact the Rector for further information.

FUNERALS

We remember with love those whose funerals took place recently. As we give thanks for their lives, we hold their families and friends in our prayers, asking for comfort and peace in the days ahead.

Mrs Joan Kershaw
Mr Alan Bennett
Mrs Pauline Gilson
Mrs Winifred Nelson

BRINDLE ST JAMES FEBRUARY CHURCH SERVICES

1st Christingle Communion 10.30am
** Join us for our Christingle Communion, with contributions from our Sunday School, as we celebrate Jesus, the Light of the World.**

8th Holy Communion (Said) 9.00am
Holy Communion 10.30am

11th Praise Service 6.30pm

15th Holy Communion 10.30am

18th Holy Communion & The Marking of Ashes 10.30am

** Come and join us for a reflective service of Holy Communion and the marking of ashes, as we begin the journey of Lent **

22nd Parade Service 9.00am
Holy Communion 10.30am

25th Praise Service 6.30pm

You are warmly invited to worship with us. All are welcome—whether you come every week or are visiting for the first time. For further information please see our website

<https://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/11478/service-and-events/events-all/>

You can also contact our Rector, Jon:
rector@brindlestjames.co.uk

**BRINDLE ST JAMES
BOOK OF REMEMBRANCE**

FEBRUARY

2nd	MATHEW DYSON	1990
3rd	JACK CRANSHAW	1990
4th	OLIVER SEYMORE	1984
	JOAN DUXBURY	2008
5th	JOHN CROMPTON	1998
7th	ELENOR WALLACE	1991
	SARA BETHALL	2021
10th	JOSEPH EDWARD CLITHEROE	2017
11th	ZOE KITSON	2022
12th	MARTHA ANNE ANDERTON	1984
	JOYCE ECCLES	1998
13th	MARJORIE CRANSHAW	2002
	DAVID REID	2002
19th	KENNETH FENTON WILSON	1985
22nd	FRANK PORTEOUS	2012
26th	ROBERT MILNER SPEAK	1998
	JOSEPH HACKETT	1992
	WILLIAM GORDON CROSSLEY	2018
28th	ARTHUR INGRAM	1959
29th	DIANA MARY MOORE	2008

If you would like to have a loved one remembered in the Book of Remembrance, please ask one of the Church Wardens for a form to complete.

**BRINDLE ST JAMES
FLOWER ROTA**

FEBRUARY

The flowers in church for February are in loving memory of Jack and Marjorie Cranshaw.

The altar flowers are kindly provided by:

1ST	MR D CRANSHAW
8TH	MR D CRANSHAW
15th	
22ND	LENT ~ NO FLOWERS

Would you like to sponsor the church flowers to mark a special anniversary or event?

As part of your dedication, your name would be included in The Brindle Voice.

For details please contact Joan Hopcraft ~ 01254 854 465



**“Even though I walk through the valley
of the shadow of death,
I will fear no evil, for You are with me;
Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me.”**

Psalm 23

JOURNEYING WITH JESUS

A FOUR-WEEK LENT COURSE
EXPLORING HOW JESUS TEACHES, CHALLENGES,
AND INVITES US DEEPER INTO FAITH.

THURSDAYS IN MARCH, 7:00PM:

5TH, 12TH, 19TH, 26TH

ST JAMES CHURCH, BRINDLE

BRINDLE SAINT JAMES MONEY MATTERS

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THANK YOU!



ORGANISED CRIME AND COVERT POLICING

History is the study of the past, but should it still be called history if people remember it within their own lifetime? The answer is yes. Events such as the miners' strike or 9/11 are unquestionably history, so the Brindle Historical Society makes no apology for hosting a talk in January about events from the 1990s.

The talk was delivered by author and former detective Roger Price, who gave a fascinating and frequently entertaining account of his career with Lancashire Constabulary. He began with a light-hearted and humorous overview of his probationary year, recalling the various "character-building" tricks played on him during training. It all sounded less like modern policing and more like an episode of *Life on Mars*.



Having survived this initiation, Roger moved through a series of gradually more interesting roles before eventually joining CID. The talk then turned to the rather more serious work he later undertook with the national drugs squad, where the laughs were fewer but the stories no less gripping.

Sadly, for those unable to attend, almost all of the juiciest details from Roger's more intriguing cases cannot be committed to print – for reasons best left unexplored. You'll therefore have to rely on your imagination. To help it along, you could always read one or two of Roger's crime novels which, whilst technically fiction, draw on his real-life experiences

and give a strong hint that the truth was probably even stranger.

When he was asked whether he ever felt nervous about his safety following his police career, Roger said that he didn't because in doing his job he always treated criminals fairly and he believed that they respected that.



THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY'S AGM Monday 16 February at 7:30 pm.

The meeting is open to everyone, including non-members, and is free to attend. The formal agenda will last around 20 minutes, followed by an informal session where members are invited to bring an old artefact and share its history.

MARCH MEETING Monday 16 March

Adrian Tayler will explore the development of British theatre, focusing on the Lancaster Grand and the many acts that have appeared there over the years. Admission is free for Historical Society members and £5 for guests, including tea or coffee, biscuits, and time to chat.

BRINDLE CUKOO WALKS

The annual Brindle Cuckoo Walks are this year scheduled to take place on Saturday April 18th. These walks began in 2004 as part of a very busy period of fundraising to raise money to build the Community Hall on Water Street. Many events were organised in the years prior to the Hall's formal opening in August 2006 and the Cuckoo Walks played their part.



The first walks took place on Saturday 16th October 2004 and offered distances of three, six and twelve miles. These proved very successful, and so the event was repeated the following April. This time, 147 people took part, surprising the organisers (and the kitchen staff!) since many people turned up unexpectedly on the day. The event turned in a profit of £493 and for the next few years all the money raised from this activity went to the Brindle Community Hall. For 2006, an additional walk of 24 miles was offered for the truly hardy. These walkers set off at 8am, two hours before everyone else, and only returned back at tea time. Lack of demand soon consigned this distance to the history books, but a new distance of nine miles was added.

The walks proved very popular each year until Covid forced a stop in 2020 and the walks were only restored in 2023 after this loss of momentum.

For 2026, a variety of routes and distances will be available once more to walkers of all abilities ranging from a three mile fully accessible route to a more challenging twelve mile hike up onto the moors above Brinscall.

Last year on this social day out, around 160 people of all abilities turned out on a lovely day and raised well over £1,000 for two charities. This year, the charities chosen are the Lancashire Wildlife Trust and the Bowland and Pennine Mountain Rescue organisation.

Bookings are now being taken through <https://www.trybooking.com/uk/events/landing/99637>. The price of £18 for adults and £8 for juniors (under 16) includes a fully guided walk and a two-course meal provided by the Cavendish Arms at the finish. A hot or cold drink will also be provided and home-made cakes and biscuits will be available to buy. Babies in prams/pushchairs on the accessible walk are free and dogs are permitted on three of the walks.





Will take place on

Saturday 18th April 2026



Six routes are offered between 3 & 12 miles on the lanes and paths around the area. One of the shorter walks is fully accessible.



**Check in from 9am
Brindle Community
Hall, PR6 8NH**



Book your place now at
<https://www.trybooking.com/uk/events/landing/99637>

Entry fees if booked in advance:
Adults (16 years+) £18 Juniors £8
(Rising to £25 and £10 for entries on the day)

Babies in prams/pushchairs on the accessible walk are free

The price includes a two-course hot meal at the end

Dogs are permitted on three of the walks



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Community Directory

Rector	Rev Jon Price	07483 948 380 rector@brindlestjames.co.uk
Church Warden	Roger Parr	rogerparr10@aol.com
Church Warden	Elaine Courtney	07941 388 864
Church Treasurer	Richard Howarth	07713 390 722
Sunday School	Catharine Cummins	01772 316 745
Pastoral Visitors	Lynn Packer Ann Greenland	01772 323 267 07973 726 608
Bell Ringers	Stuart Crosby	01257 265 542
Mothers Union	Rana Shiadah Dvaidson	07801546254
PCC Secetary	Julia Dixon	07411 888 090
Weekly Notice Sheet	Lynn Packer	01772 323 267
Cubs/Scouts/Beavers	Ann Hardman	gsl@bsjscouts.co.uk
Guiding/Brownies/Rainbows	Sam Eccles	07749383 888 1stbrindle.guides@gmail.com
Community Hall Bookings	Susan Horrocks	01254 852 173
W.I.	Susan Burgess	01772 311 418
St James Players	Stuart Lockhart	01254 852 522
Historical Society	Henry Stone	01254 854 290 henry.stone.t21@btinternet.com
Brindle Art Group	Shirley Stone	01254 854 290
BOFFS (55+)	Richard Evans	01254 852 894
Gardening Club	Barbara Woods	bwoods@talktalk.net
St. James primary School	Head: Mrs Austin	01254 873 379
Brindle Parish Council	Clerk Darren Cranshaw	clerk@brindleparishcouncil.org.uk Darren.cranshaw@brindle-pc.go.uk

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If you would like your local organisation's contact details included in the Community Directory, or have photos for the cover or inside the magazine, please contact Sally. Contributions are always gratefully received.