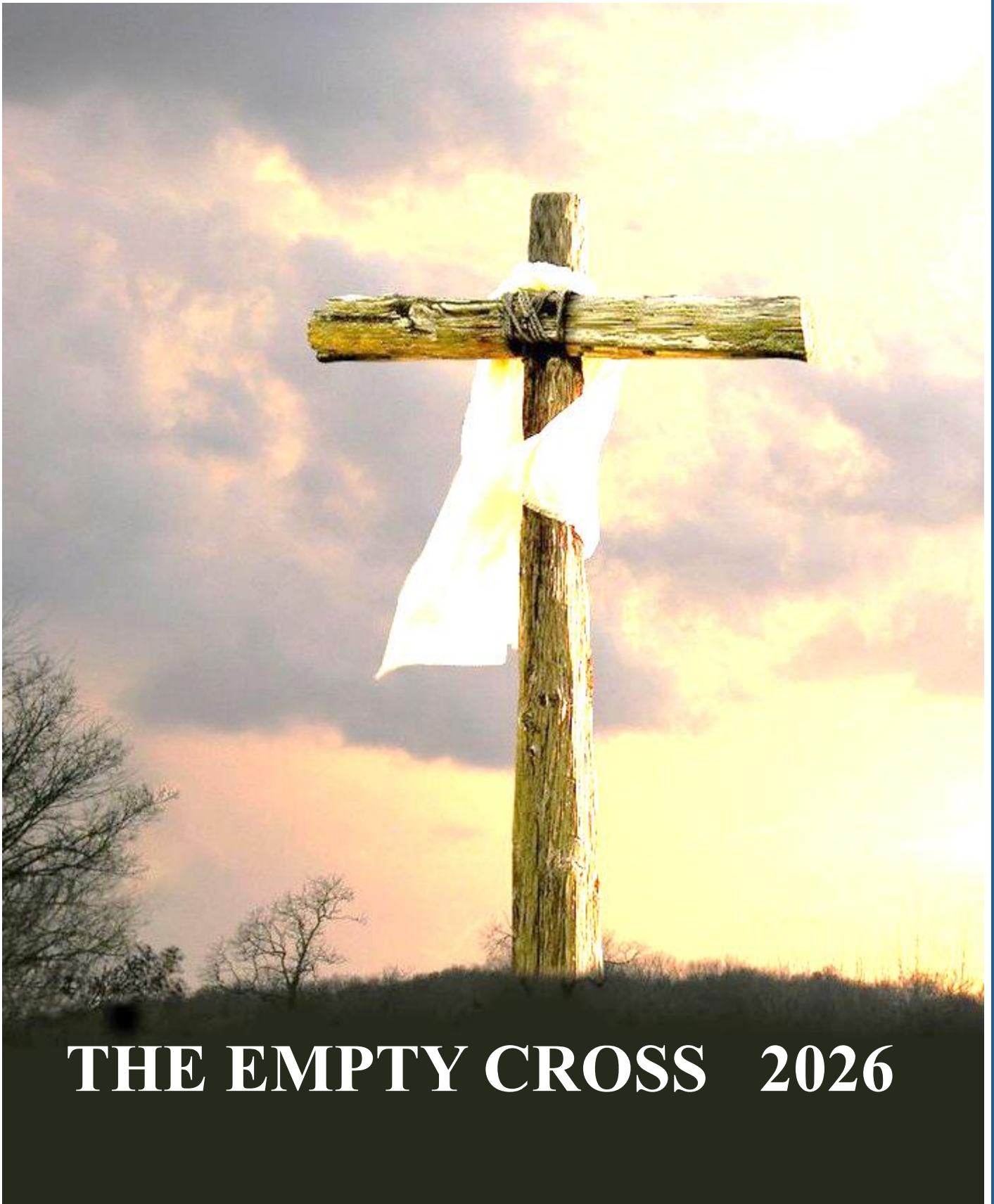


# John Paul Church Magazine



**THE EMPTY CROSS 2026**

for

## PARISH INFORMATION

### Contacts: St. Paul's wardens

Kathleen Jones 01254 232367  
Heather Pitman 07921237592  
St. John's: Assistant wardens  
Austin Cook 07890727924  
Marion Wilkinson 07816532086

Paul Brown

Barrie Grime

Treasurer Roger Longworth\*07801143168

Organist St. Paul's K. Livesey 01254694720

### Licensed Lay Ministers:

Tony Hindle

Dr Patricia Wilkinson

Safeguarding Officer: Michael Ledwith

### Groups using St. Paul's Church Hall

Brownies (age 7-10) Thursdays

Angie Johnson 07523026031

Rainbows (age 5-7) Mondays

Kelly Johnson 07756660090

Flowers St. Paul's

Mrs Hilary Davis 01254301286

Flowers St. John's

Pam Stewart 01254382051

Keep Fit

Monday afternoon 01254235791

Knit & Natter 1<sup>st</sup> Thursday in the month

See weekly notices for the venue or contact  
01254381 / 07527551672

Magazine editor: Terry Jones 01254232367

e-mail for articles and photographs

[mini1108k@outlook.com](mailto:mini1108k@outlook.com)

- Mr Longworth is the acting treasurer

### Latest news

We are in vacancy and with the help of the Diocese of Blackburn we have prepared our parish profile. Shortly we will be advertising for a new incumbent. In the interim we can be contacted through the wardens/ assistant wardens of both churches.

### Service Times

St. Paul's Sunday services 9.00am

Morning worship/All Age Service/ Holy Communion. The Communion will include wafer & wine

All services will include singing. The traditional services include hymns, organ and choir. Refreshments after the services

### Families @Five

Twice a month at 5.00pm in the Church Hall  
See church notice boards for dates.

St. John's Sunday services 10.30 am-including  
Children's Church

Third Tuesday 10am to Noon in the lounge

Communion followed by a coffee morning

### Joint Services

There are also joint services for the two congregations. See notices

### Mission Statement

*We worship Jesus, welcome everyone, care for one another as family and serve God with generosity in our community*



## THE “LIONS” OF LANCASHIRE

*With the Complements of*

Matthew Brown & Co. Ltd  
and Nuttall's Breweries Ltd  
Lion Brewery, Blackburn

This is a 'catch you eye' publicity book from the 1950's by the Lion Brewery includes suggestions for pleasant evening or afternoon motor tours and this statement ....

*'No scenery is so attractive that it cannot be improved by the addition of a good inn in the foreground, and the majority of the beauty spots, to which the itineraries lead, are duly provided with the finishing touch in the shape of a hostelry belonging to the Lion Brewery.'*

Now we would be forgiven for thinking this is just hype but there is also a 7 page list of all the 1000+ licensed premises in Lancashire supplied by the Lion Brewery including 19 in Accrington, 76 in Blackburn and 116 in Preston.

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To Accrington and Oswaldtwistle

At Church, one mile west of Accrington, is the Queen's Hotel, probably the most up-to-date in the area. Its accommodation is extensive and it enjoys immense popularity. In Accrington itself are, amongst others, the Hope and Anchor, a noted house of call, long famous for the excellent range of its cellar and the Hargreaves Arms, a popular house on the main Manchester Road, which has facilities for parties and where, if you have time, you can enjoy a game of billiards. At Baxenden also – really part of Accrington – is the Bridge Inn, where you  
for

may be sure of a welcome and the best fare. Teas are served and parties for in regal style. The Dog and Partridge is another prominent and efficiently controlled rendezvous, where everything is done to make you comfortable. "The best is only good enough" sums up the policy of the house,

ACCRINGTON	Curious Pub names on the list
<p>26, Annie St. 1, Augusta St. Castle Hotel Colliers Arms Edmund St. Hargreaves Arms. Hope and Anchor Palatine Inn Park Inn 98, Stanley St. Steiner St. Tramway Inn Union Inn Warners Arms 17, Washington St. Water St. Welcome Inn Whalley Rd. Willows Lane</p>	<p>Who could a thow't it Hotel Lancashire and Yorkshire Hotel The Hingemakers Arms Cordwainers Arms Steamer Hotel Hand and Banner Buck i' th' Vine Hotel Pedders Arms Dressers Arms Ducal Crown Three Tuns The Shovels Inn, Marton</p>
<p>Baxenden</p>	<p>The Hingemakers Arms: the local for Thomas Crompton and Sons Ashton in Makerfield. They were well known for making hinges and were the largest employer in the town. They closed in the 1990's after 150+ years. Three Tuns: A tun is a barrel with a capacity of 252 gallons (2032 pints). Did this pub have 6096 pints in the cellar?</p> <div data-bbox="1139 1480 1270 1653" data-label="Image"> </div> <p>The Dressers Arms ?</p>
<p>Alma Inn Dog and Partridge Rising Bridge Inn</p>	

## AGAPE



Gathering for the Agape 2<sup>nd</sup> April

Jesus' Last Supper took place during Passover; an annual Jewish festival celebrating their deliverance from Egyptian slavery.[ Exodus]. The Jewish Calendar is based on the positions of the Sun and Moon. Our Gregorian Calendar is based on the sun. The dates for the Festival of Passover are calculated from the Jewish Calendar and the dates of Holy Week on the Gregorian Calendar. This year Holy Week is 29 March to 5 April and Passover is 1-9 April. Holy Week and Passover overlap

Last Supper: *' during the meal, Jesus took bread, gave thanks, broke it and gave it to His disciples, saying " take and eat this is my body, He then took the cup of wine, gave thanks and said "this is my blood of the covenant which is poured for many for forgiveness of sins."* This is the foundation our eucharist ( thanksgiving) service.

This year there was also a special birthday celebration.



Left: Our new Archdeacon Jayne. Thank you for leading our services this Easter.





**Happy Birthday Brenda 92 today!!**

# Good Friday Hot Cross Buns



KNIT & NATTER



Busy knitting and nattering in the church hall Maundy Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> of April



## St. Paul's Church Hall

The hall was built in the 1930's as a men's club room. Snooker was very popular in the Accrington area and at some point a snooker table was put in the hall and any other activities had to take place around the table. Crunch time came in the late 1990's when the hall was in such a poor condition we had to decide whether to: knock it down or use the legacies from the Hilda Thornton and John & Brenda Riley to and restore and extend it. What should we do with our snooker table? Ask Alf Dearden who was a very keen snooker playing member and one-time Church Warden. Alf's answer '*I will ask Chris Henry.*' Chris was very impressed with the table and how it had been looked after. It was then sold to the Burnley Road Bowling Green Club and as far as we know is still there.

Chris Henry:. He is a world class Accrington snooker coach who recently coached Shaun Murphy, Stephen Hendry and Mark Selby.

When the work was finished we had a grand re-opening with Archdeacon John Hawley.



Archdeacon John Hawley – a good friend of St. Paul's

Photo taken 2010

Do you recognise anyone?

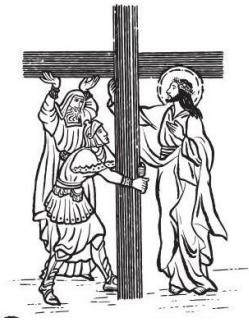
## STATIONS of the CROSS

### 1 Garden of Gethsemane



Mark 14 v 32-36 – they went to a place called Gethsemane and he said to his disciples “Sit here while I pray.” He took with him Peter and James and John and began to be distress and agitated. And he said to them, I am deeply grieved even to death; remain here and keep awake. Then he prayed “Abba, Father, for you all things are possible, remove this cup from me, yet, not what I want, but what you want.

### 2 Jesus betrayed by Judas



Mark 14 v 43-46 – Immediately, while he was speaking, Judas one of the twelve arrived and with him was a crowd with swords and clubs, from the chief priest, the scribes and the elders. Judas, the betrayer had given them a sign saying “ The one I kiss is the man; arrest him and lead him away under guard.” So when he came up , he went up to him and said “Rabbi “ and kissed him.

### 3 Jesus condemned by the Sanhedrin



Mark 14 v 55-64 – Now the chief priests and the council were looking for testimony against Jesus, but they found none. Many stood and gave false testimony against him saying ‘I will destroy this temple that is made with hands and will build another not made with hands and in three days will build another, not made with hands.’ But even on this point their testimonies didn’t agree. Then the priest stood up before them and asked Jesus “have you no answer? What is it they testify against you? Jesus was silent and did not answer. Again the priest asked him “Are you the Messiah, the Son of the Blessed One?” Jesus said ‘I am and you will see the Son of Man seated at the right hand of the Power’ and ‘ coming with the clouds from heaven.’ Then the high priest tore up his clothes and said “ why do we still need witnesses? You have heard his blasphemy. What is your decision?” All of the condemned as deserving death.

### 4 Peter denies Jesus

Mark 14 v72 at that moment the cock crowed for the second time. Then Peter I remembered that Jesus had said to him.’ *Before the cock crows three times you will deny me.*’ And he broke down and wept.

## 5 Jesus judged by Pilate



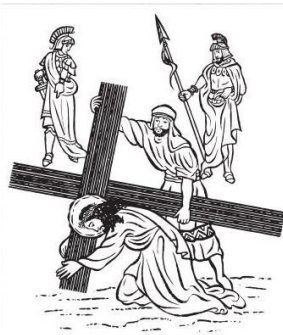
Mark 15 v14,15 Pilate asked 'Why, what evil has he done? But they shouted even more '**Crucify him**' Pilate wishing to satisfy the crowd, released Barabbas for them and after flogging Jesus he handed him over to be crucified.

## 6 The crown of thorns



Mark 15 v17-19 They took him inside then the soldiers took him inside the courtyard and called together the whole company. They dressed him in purple, plaited a crown of thorns, placed it on his head. Then they began to salute him with '*Hail to the king of the Jews!*'

## 7 Jesus carrying his cross



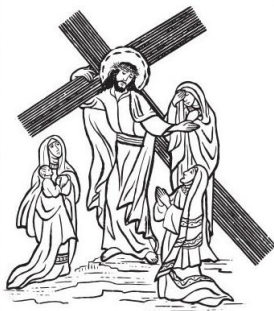
Mark 15 v20 when they had finished their mockery, they stripped him of the purple and dressed him in his own clothes.

## 8 Simon of Cyrene



Mark 15 v21 A man called Simon, from Cyrene, the father of Alexander and Rufus, was passing by on his way in from the country, and they pressed him into service to carry his cross

## 9 Women of Jerusalem

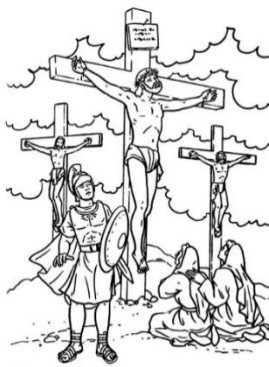


Luke 23 27-31 Great numbers of people followed, many women among them, who mourned and lamented over him. Jesus turned to them and said *'Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for me; no weep for yourselves and your children. For the days are surely coming when they will say "Blessed are the childless women; the wombs that never bore and the breasts that never nursed"*

## 10 Jesus crucified

Mark 15 v24 they brought him to Golgotha *'Place of a skull'*. They offered him sour wine, but he would not take it. They fastened him to the cross. They divided his clothes among them

## 11 The penitent thief.

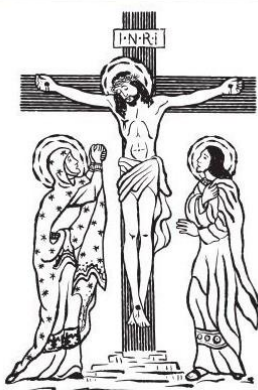


Luke 23 v 39-43 One of those criminals who hung there taunted him saying *'Are you the Messiah? Save yourself and us.'* But the other rebuked him: *'Have you no fear of God'* and he said, *'Jesus remember me when you come to your throne.'* He answered, *'I will tell you this: today you shall be with me in Paradise.'*

## 12 Jesus saw his mother

John 19 v26,27 Jesus saw his mother, with the disciple that he loved standing beside her. He said to her *'Mother, there is your son'* and to the disciple, *'There is your mother.'* And from that moment the disciple took her into his home

## 13 Jesus dies



Mark 15 v 34-37 at midday a darkness fell over the whole land, which lasted until 3 in the afternoon when Jesus cried *"Eli, Eli, lema sabachthchi?"* (my God, my God, why have you forsaken me?) Some of the bystanders, on hearing this, said, *'Hark he is calling Elijah.'* A man ran and soaked a sponge in sour wine and held it to his lips. Then Jesus gave a loud cry and died.

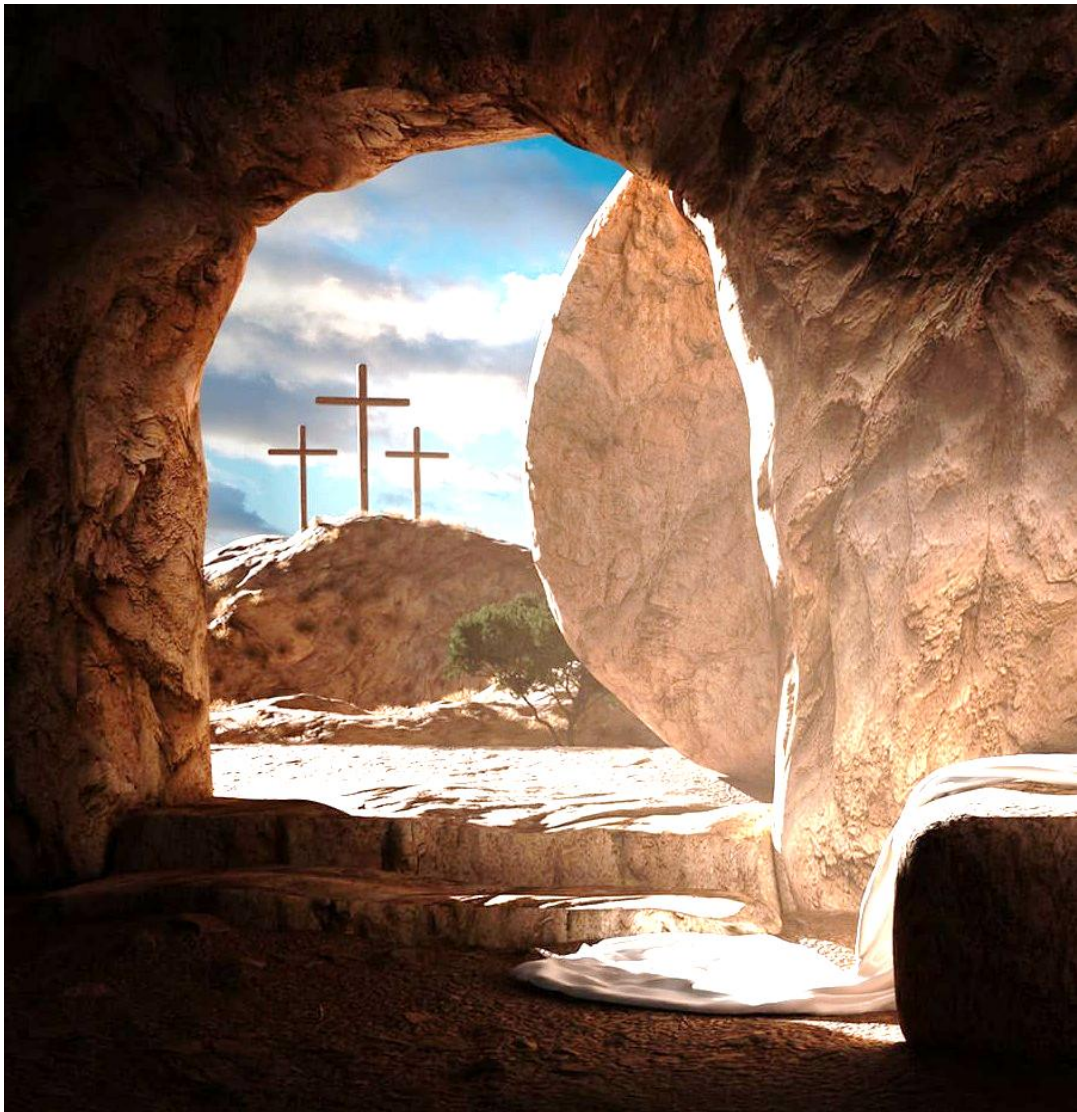
## 14 Jesus laid in the tomb

Mark 14 v42 Joseph of Arimathaea bravely went into Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. Pilate gave him leave to take the dead body. Joseph bought a linen sheet, took him down from the cross and wrapped him in the sheet. Then he laid him in a tomb cut out of the rock, and rolled a stone against the entrance.

## 15 He is risen



Mark 16 v 4-8 When the sabbath was over Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of Joseph, and Salome came to the tomb to anoint Jesus, very early on the Sunday morning, just after sunrise, wondering who would roll the stone away. When they looked-up they saw the stone had been rolled back already. They went into the tomb but the body of Jesus had gone and as they stood there a man sitting on the right-hand side, wearing a white robe said ‘ *Fear nothing; you are looking for Jesus for Nazareth, who was crucified. He has been raised again; he is not here; look, there is the place where they laid him. But go and give this message to his disciples and Peter. “He is going on before you into Galilee; there you will see him as he told you.”* ’



## PILGRIMAGE from WHALLEY ABBEY to BLACKBURN CATHEDRAL

10<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2026



A group of 14 Pilgrims shared the first of a new season of pilgrim experiences from Whalley Abbey to Blackburn Cathedral. It was led by Carolyn Johnson and Rev. Hilary Murphy who is the resident chaplain at the Abbey.

After a blessing in the Abbey Chapel, they walked to the nearby churchyard of St. Mary's & All Saints to learn about three medieval stone crosses with a Celtic Cross



These are thought to commemorate a Celtic mission from Iona.



A Celtic Cross



St. Mary and All Saints Whalley



St. Bartholomew Great Harwood

From St. Mary's & All Saints they walked through the countryside past Whalley Nab to Great Harwood and visited the church of St. Bartholomew. (There has been a chapel or church here since medieval times) Walking on they stopped for a packed lunch prepared by the Whalley Abbey chef and refreshments at Churchfield House Café. Refreshed they walked through Great Harwood, past the Town Hall heading to the Leeds and Liverpool Canal then walked six miles along the tow path noticing allotments, derelict mills factories and mosques, retail parks and massive new factories with plenty of wildlife and canal boats to Eanam Wharfe.



The Nab from King St. Walley



Having a break



Above: Leeds and Liverpool Canal Eanam Wharfe

Below: Gate House

At Eanam Wharfe they left the canal and headed to Blackburn Cathedral where Ian White the Chief Operations Officer met them with refreshments and gave them a guided tour of the Cathedral visiting St. Martin’s Chapel for reflective prayer and received a stamp for the pilgrim’s passport before the Choral Evensong and then taking a train back to Whalley Station they walked under the viaduct and through the ancient gate house to the Abbey. This concluded a 10-mile pilgrimage, with new friends and special spiritual conversation.



[ Acknowledgment: Carolyn Johnson, St. Hilda’s Church, Bilsborrow & Diocese of Blackburn]

BIG DAY OUT  
DIOCESE of BLACKBURN  
BLACKPOOL SATURDAY 16<sup>TH</sup> MAY

11am to 1pm

Family Zone for pre school and primary children aged up to 7 years + their families: St. John's Church Blackpool

Youth Zone for primary children aged 7-11 years: St. John's CofE School Blackpool activities+ food

Events in St. John's Square:

The main stage live music and entertainment.

1-2pm

Hog Roast lunch + hot and cold drinks. Many nearby cafes and restaurants

2pm to 3.15pm

Open air worship with Bishop Phillip and music by the Salvation Army Band and St. John's worship team.

[see diocesan web site for more details]

**Blackburn Diocese Centenary**  
**BIG DAY OUT**

Family Fun || Hog Roast || Open Air Worship

Celebrating 100 years of  
Blackburn Diocese with a  
party in Blackpool!

Saturday 16 May

All welcome - free of charge!

CELEBRATING 100 YEARS  
All for Jesus

## Mission Aviation Fellowship



MAF fly to remote communities in the Americas/Africa and the Pacific regions of Asia. This is a typical scene; landing on a clearing – bring supplies and taking people for urgent medical care. I know having flown over Africa taking off from and landing on clearings it is a real challenge for the pilot.



In this Mission to the village of Quinga in a remote part of Mozambique, the airstrip was built in 1930 and the last flight was by the Red Cross in 1994. In 2019 there was serious violence between the armed groups vying for power. The village school was broken into and stripped of all its belongings. MAF needed to fly in supplies to open the school again. Men from the community set about clearing the runway removing many mango and



coconut trees and clearing airstrip, which you can see is a very rough piece of ground. It took nearly a week with shovels, forks and machete. Work is still on going and they expect to re-open the school in mid-June.

The road to Quinga

BELOW: the village water supply

Quinga school



for

## ***Baptismal anniversaries***

**16<sup>th</sup> April 2023 Nellie Kathleen Kelly Parker**

### **Holy Week and Easter Services**

**Palm Sunday, 29<sup>th</sup> March at 9 a.m. Joint Service at St. Paul's** and distribution of Palm crosses

**Maundy Thursday, 2<sup>nd</sup> April at 7 p.m. Celebration of Holy Communion and Agape Meal in St. Paul's Church Hall** The Archdeacon Rev Jane Atkinson will be our Celebrant.

**Good Friday, 3<sup>rd</sup> April at 9.30 a.m. Reflection** in St. Paul's Church led by Archdeacon Jane followed by hot cross buns in the Church Hall and the pilgrimage to the top of the Coppice.

**At 3 p.m. Reflection in St. John's Church**

**Easter Day, 5<sup>th</sup> April Celebrations of Holy Communion** at St. Paul's at 9 a.m. and St. John's at 10.30 Archdeacon Jane will celebrate Holy Communion in both churches.

### **Church Magazine**

Annual payments for the Magazine are now due - £10 covering the whole year for a minimum of 10 issues. Please pay Kath or Marion or whoever delivers your Magazine.

**Annual Parochial Church Meeting Sunday, 17<sup>th</sup> May at 12 noon in St. John's Parish Lounge following the morning service**

The APCM follows the annual Vestry Meeting when we elect 2 Church Wardens for each of our parish churches. Anyone on the Electoral Roll or living in the parish is allowed to vote.

At the APCM in addition to accepting the new Electoral Roll, and reports on the finances of the joint parish, the work of the PCC over the previous year and details about the fabric of the two churches and elect members from each Church to serve as PCC members for a 3 year period. This year also there are elections for the Deanery Synod. Nomination forms for these positions and for Church Wardens will be available from Patricia Wilkinson and Kath Jones from 26<sup>th</sup> April and should be returned before the APCM.

Do think carefully if you can serve God and His Church by offering to take on any of the above responsibilities.

**Friday, 25<sup>th</sup> April Film Night in St. John's Lounge from 6.30 p.m.** More details on the poster.

for