



ST PAUL'S

LOW MOOR PARISH CHURCH

JUNE & JULY 2026

*Reaching out and growing together
in God's love*



Clitheroe Christians In Partnership

ST. PAUL'S, Low Moor

Sunday Worship at 9.30am
Vicar
Rev'd Catherine Hale-Heighway
Tel: 01200 458019
www.stpaulsdownmoor.org.uk

Small inset logos for Clitheroe Christians In Partnership and St Paul's Low Moor are visible on the sign.

Holidays

We've had some amazing weather recently which has been a wonderful time to give thanks for the beautiful area we are blessed to call home. The Ribble Valley has so many beautiful villages and it is always lovely to see so many enjoying time together at Edisford Bridge.

As the holiday season approaches, we are reminded of the joy, peace, hope and rest that this special time of year brings. Whether we are gathering with loved ones, travelling, resting, or simply taking a moment away from our busy routines, holidays offer us an opportunity to reflect on God's goodness and the many blessings He has given us.

In every season, God remains faithful. Holidays are not only a time for celebration but also a chance to renew our spirits, strengthen our faith, and reconnect with one another through kindness, fellowship, and prayer. As a church community here at St Paul's we are so grateful for each member who contributes their time, love, and dedication throughout the year.

This edition of our church magazine is filled with inspiring stories, community highlights, and reflections that we hope will uplift and bless you during this holiday period. May it and remind you that wherever you go, God's love goes with you.

We pray that your holidays are safe, restful, and filled with happiness, that you return refreshed, strengthened, and ready for the new opportunities God has prepared ahead.

"May the Lord bless you and keep you; may the Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious to you." — Numbers 6:24-25

**The May Magazine is kindly sponsored by
Anne Barnes
John and Catherine**

Cover photo overleaf: Our brand new signboard saying 'WE ARE HERE!'

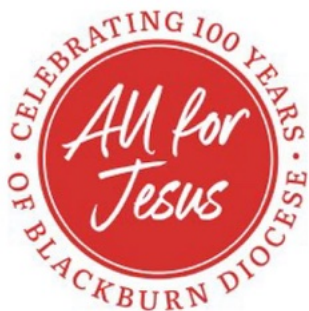
The Big Day Out



You will probably all have seen the invitation to the Diocese Big Day Out at Blackpool on Saturday 16th May. Well if you didn't manage to attend, I thought that you might want to hear a little about it. The Big Day Out was part of the year long celebrations in recognition of the Diocese being in existence for 100 years. As such, let me set the context.

Originally St. Paul's Church, Low Moor was part of the Diocese of Chester and then became part of the Diocese of Manchester. In 1926 the then Bishop of Manchester, William Temple, decided to create the Diocese of Blackburn. The aim was to emphasise Christian Pastoral Support for the expanding cotton towns of Lancashire. At that time, Blackburn was at the heart of the manufacturing industry and as such was a natural home for the new Diocese and subsequently, its Cathedral. You only have to look at our main east stained glass window to see this history illustrated.

The Big Day Out was advertised as a free open-air party with activities, games, food and music. The day started with many family events, particularly for children of all ages, including youth zones, crafts, games, sports workshops and live music. I can't comment much further on this because I was the





wrong age to take part; but I believe that it had a great attendance. The next stage of the event was hosted from a large podium located in St. John's Square in the centre of Blackpool, just opposite the entrance to the Winter Gardens, where there was a live comedy performance led by Andy Kind. Whilst this was going on, we were treated to the a free hog roast, which was well received particularly since at this stage the weather was a little drizzly.

Then came the afternoon Worship Celebration Service led by Bishop Jill.

This included faith stories across Lancashire, meaningful prayers, tunes from the Salvation Army Band and Blackpool Church Worship Team and an inspirational message from Bishop Philip. Reciting the parable of the lost sheep, found in the Gospel of Luke 15:3-7, Bishop Philip spoke of God's relentless, unconditional and universally accessible love. He explained that the lost sheep represents anyone who has drifted from God, made mistakes or feels excluded. This message all gave contextual sense to our centenary logo of "All for Jesus" and how Jesus loves and knows each and everyone of us by name.

I wasn't really sure what to expect, in fact I wasn't particularly initially enamoured, when I had seen the weather forecast, but I have to say I was very pleasantly surprised, spiritually inspired and indeed happy to have experienced the Big Day Out in Blackpool!

Wendy



Churchwardens' Staves or Wands



Soon it will be time for the Archdeacon's Visitation - held at Hoghton this year, where our Church Wardens will be sworn in.

The photos on the left show the St Paul's church traditional ceremonial finials which are often used on churchwardens' staves or wands of office. Those symbols usually reflect the dual authority structure within the historic Church of England parish system.

The bishop's mitre represents the authority of the bishop and

the wider spiritual oversight of the diocese. It symbolises ecclesiastical governance and pastoral authority.

The crown represents the authority of the monarch as Supreme Governor of the Church of England. In parish symbolism, it can also signify the church's connection to the established church and the temporal or civic side of authority.

Together, the two staffs often symbolise the two strands of authority under which the parish operates:

Spiritual authority - the bishop (mitre)

Royal/civil authority - the Crown

Similar designs became especially common in the 18th and 19th centuries, and many churches, including St Paul's, still use them ceremonially today in processions or during formal services. The brass tops and hardwood shafts of ours are very much in that traditional English parish style.

The mitre finial is particularly associated with a churchwarden representing the rector/vicar or episcopal authority, while the crown often represented the people/parish or the Crown's authority.

Canon Rodney Nicholson



It was with sorrow that we heard of the death of Canon Rodney Nicholson who served our churches so faithfully prior to his retirement.

Rodney was always full of energy and enthusiasm and was often seen riding his bike up and down the town and countryside.

He was Vicar of St Paul's Low Moor for a total of 24 years and on the retirement of Revd Walter Drain became Priest in Charge of Christ Church Chatburn and St Leonard's Downham after 13 years.

Born and bred in Lancaster, he attended Lancaster Grammar School before reading classics at Oxford. After university he taught in Birmingham for a year before attending Ridley College Cambridge and entered the ministry.

His first role was as curate at St Bartholomew's in Colne before moving to take on the same role at St John's church in Blackpool for three years where he met Kathleen. He kept in contact with many in Colne, particularly Revd Noel Hawthorne whose wife stayed in the Parish after the death of her husband. When I was also a Curate at St Bartholomew's, Pat invited Rodney and I to afternoon tea and it was lovely to hear them reminisce.

Before moving to Clitheroe, he was priest in charge at St Bartholomew's in Ewood, Blackburn, for 11 years.

I was fortunate enough to have a training placement with Rodney as part of my Curacy and never ceased to be amazed by his energy and capacity for visiting, sometimes late into the evening!

Alongside running three parishes, Canon Nicholson, served as the chair of governors at Chatburn Primary School and was also involved with Edisford Primary School in Clitheroe.

He was made a canon at Blackburn Cathedral in 2006 and on retirement relocated to Pocklington near York to be closer to his family.

At the time of his retirement Canon Nicholson, who has two children, said: "I have enjoyed my time in the Ribble Valley hugely and being part of three churches has been a pleasure.

"It has been great to get to know three distance communities and it has been wonderful working with some great people over the years.

"I've seen the churches grow and grow but now it's time for a change and for a new ministry to take over.

Kathleen and Rodney recently settled in Lytham where they were very happy.

Typically modest Rodney commented "I think that I have been helpful to one or two people over the years in their journey of faith and I'm proud of my role.

"I hope that I have made a difference and I'm glad that I have been involved in raising a lot of money for Christian Aid over the years."

At his retirement I remember Bishop Geoff, Bishop of Lancaster saying he wished her could clone a thousand Rodneys to evangelise in the way he did. He left a lasting mark on many people and if you have any memories you would like to share, please send them to us and we will put them in the next edition of the magazine.

May he rest in peace and rise in glory.

Catherine

Right: We thought you would like to see this photo of proud Grannie with Rita Grace who was baptised on Sunday 10th May. She is now ten months old and smiling and charming everyone! Not long to her first birthday!



Below: Thank you to all who came to the Vicarage in support of the Christian Aid Coffee Morning in May. Together we raised £187.



BEFORE & AFTER



Memories of Loved Ones



When I was mowing the church grass the other day, I looked up into the sky and saw what I call 'a kiss from Heaven' (see the photograph, left). I know that these aero trails, or contrails (condensation trails) are artificial, white, line shaped clouds produced by aircraft engines exhaust at high speed altitudes (over 8 km) where hot, moist

gases freeze into ice crystals. That scientific explanation doesn't sound just as romantic and nostalgic as I want it to sound. Let me explain why.....

When my partner Jo died, 12 years ago this September, I looked up in the sky and saw such a cross of contrails, a kiss in the sky. I immediately said to Jo, "if that's a kiss for me, I'll turn around and see another". Sure enough, to my delight, I saw another kiss in the sky. At that stage, now fully engaged in a conversation with Heaven, I said "and another?" To which my fanciful thoughts were immediately curtailed with the response "Don't push your luck!" And to this day, every time I see a kiss in the sky - I think of her.

We've all been encouraged recently to share our stories and that is part of my story of coming to know God more intimately. We all have our own stories, our memories of loved ones, of those other messages from Heaven that reinforce our Faith. It may be robins, feathers, rainbows or some other signs.



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Wendy



Exploring further messages from Heaven, particularly researching artificial intelligence, they are described as comforting, spiritual communication, often in the form of signs, dreams, or near death experiences - suggesting continued love after death, divine guidance or spiritual reassurance. These messages often emphasise faith, hope and love, featuring themes of divine intervention or communication from loved ones.

I don't wish this description to be triggering for any reader. In fact I want it to be comforting. You will all have your own personal memories of loved ones. You may wish to keep them private, you may wish to share them. There is no doubt about it that talking of our loved ones, definitely keeps our memories alive. Most of us probably know the line from Henry Scott-Holland's poem:

"Call me by the old familiar name - speak of me in the easy way that you always used".

One of my personal favourites is the lyrics of Ed Sheeran's "I wish that Heaven had visiting hours, so I could just swing by and ask your advice..." I'd like to conclude with the comforting words read from Corinthians 13 at my Jo's funeral:

"For now we see in a mirror dimly, but then we will see face to face. Now I know only in part; then I shall know fully".

Wendy

A Thank you from Christine



To my Church family,
It's impossible to say in words how much I appreciate all the love and kindness shown by my church family during these past few days. I am so lucky to have the support of two wonderful families - my own and church family. Thank you is too small a phrase to express my gratitude. I will be forever grateful

love
Chris(tine)
xx

SOUP LUNCH

We'll be taking a
break until.....
October 9th
See you then!



Dates for your diary!
CREAM TEAS!
July 25th
and August 15th

Saturday 18th July

11.00am - 3.00pm

Beech Grove Table Top Sale in church



St Paul's Low Moor

Mothers' Union

Come and join us to celebrate 150 years of MU

Fruit, Fizz and lots more



Wednesday 9th June

7.30 pm in Church

Entertainment at 8 by James and friends

Bring and Buy Stall tickets £5

Proceeds towards MU Charities and Church

***Fruit
Fizz
and More!***



Eric Wallace 1948 - 2026

It was with sadness that we heard of the sudden passing of Eric Wallace who has been a faithful member of our congregation for many years.

Our love and thoughts are with Christine, Nicola and Adam at this time.

Diary JUNE

Tuesday 2nd	7.00 PCC
Thursday 4th	10.00 Holy Communion
	1.30 Funeral of Eric Wallace
Friday 5th	7.00 Silent Auction at Christ Church
Sunday 7th	9.30 Holy Communion
Monday 8th	Archdeacon's Visitation at Hoghton where our Church Wardens will be sworn in
Wednesday 9th	7.30 MU 150th Anniversary Celebration Strawberries and Cream with music
Friday 12th	12.00 Wedding of Joshua and Olivia
Sunday 14th	9.30 All Age Service
Sunday 21st	9.30 Holy Communion
Sunday 28th	9.30 Holy Communion

Diary JULY

Thursday 2nd	No HC this day for 1st Thursday
Friday 3rd	11.00 Beech Grove Communion
Thursday 9th	3.00 Abbeyfield Communion
Sunday 10th	9.30 Holy Communion
Monday 11th.- Wednesday 13th	Diocesan Conference at Liverpool
Sunday 12th	9.30 All Age Service
Tuesday 14th.	1.30 Finance Group meet
Saturday 18th	11.00 - 3.00 Beech Grove Table Top Sale in church
Sunday 19th	9.30 Holy Communion
	1.30 Baptism
Tuesday 21st	7.00 PCC
Saturday 25th	2.00-4.00 Cream Teas
Sunday 26th	9.30 Holy Communion
Wednesday 29th	7.00 Deanery Synod