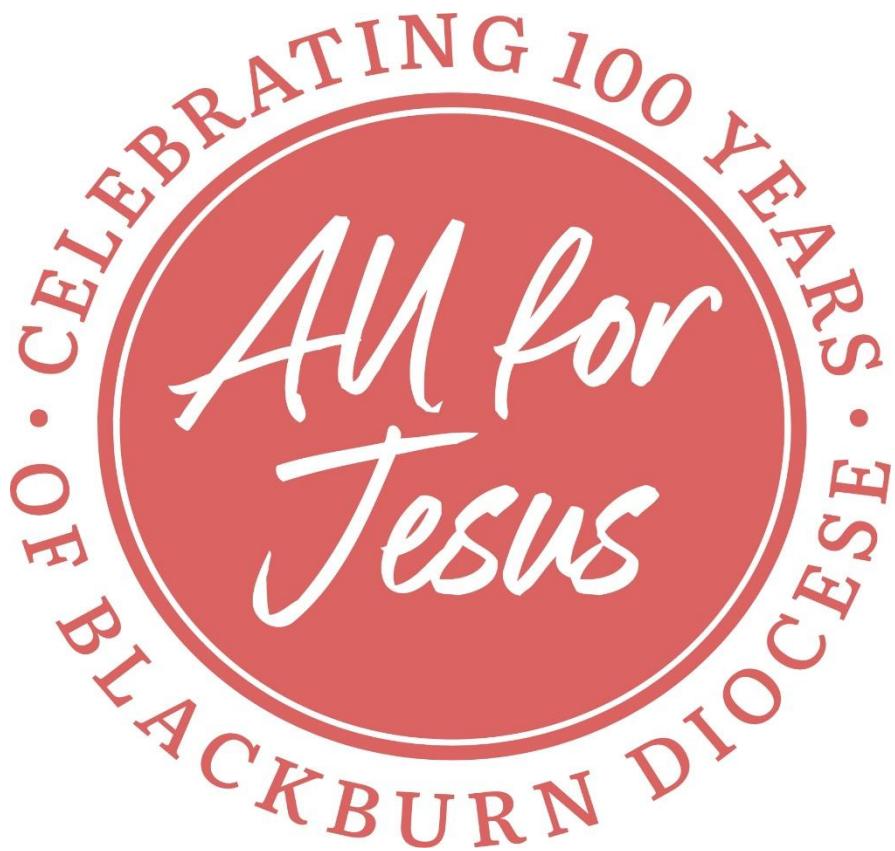


The New Sentinel

January / February 2026



St Chad's, Poulton-le-Fylde

St Hilda's, Carleton

St Anne's, Singleton



THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND



Welcome to the Jan/Feb 2026 issue of the *New Sentinel* magazine

Magazine Articles

Short contributions that may be of interest to readers are welcomed by the Editor and will be published, space permitting, in the next magazine following their receipt. The Editor reserves the right to reject, cut or amend articles if deemed necessary for any reason.

The views expressed in articles are not necessarily those of the Vicar or the PCC.

Magazine Deadlines

To ensure the magazine is published on time, contributions must be in the hands of the Vicar or the Editor by the cut-off date. The next magazine will be the **Mar/Apr 2026** edition. Any contributions must be with us no later than **15th March** to be considered for inclusion in the next edition.

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A warm welcome from the Benefice of St Chad's Poulton, St Hilda's Carleton and St Anne's Singleton. We are part of Blackburn Diocese within the Anglican Communion and are members of the Poulton and Carleton Churches Together community. We hold a pattern of regular prayer and worship at all three churches, details of which are published on our websites.

The *New Sentinel* magazine brings to you recent news from around the Benefice.

From the Vicarage

Dear Friends

This year marks the 100th Anniversary of the Diocese of Blackburn.

In 1926 the then Bishop of Manchester, William Temple, allowed the northern part of his diocese, roughly equivalent to the County of Lancashire, to form a new diocese, centred on the mill town of Blackburn. I wasn't there a hundred years ago but I do remember the 50th Anniversary in 1976, when every parish received a small green plaque, still visible beneath the first window in the south aisle of St Chad's, and by the time of the 75th Anniversary in 2001, I was in post as Vicar of Poulton.

In recent years there have been a series of debates about parish and diocese and the right relationship, or balance of power, between them. Some see today's church as more centralized, with bishops adopting a more managerial role, and seeking greater control over parishes and parish priests. In response the organization Save the Parish has been founded, to push back against that trend.

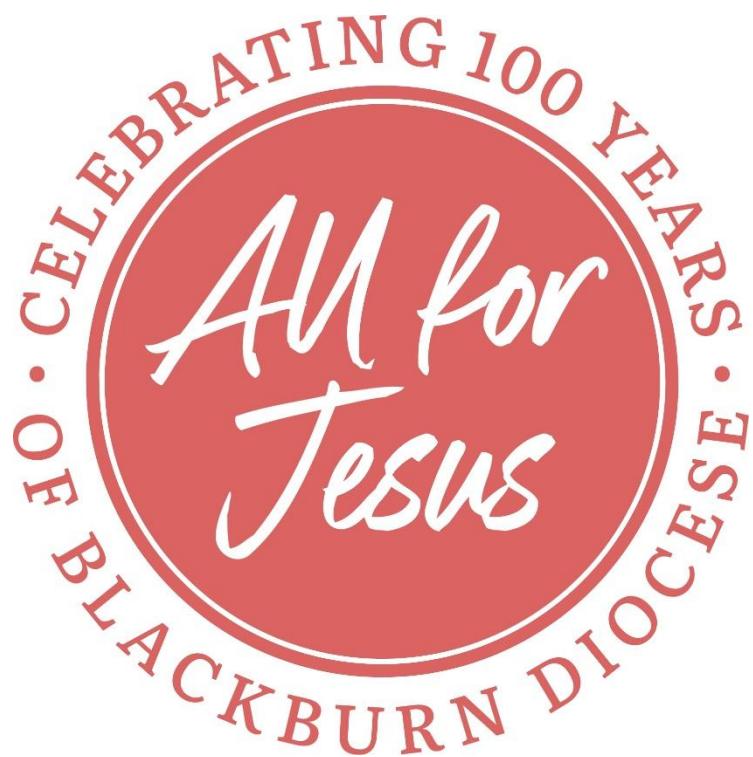
It is undoubtedly the case that for a majority of parishioners, their point of contact with the Christian faith, comes exclusively through their parish church. This should not surprise or disappoint us. The Church can and must be built up from this parish base, where people have a sense of belonging. That, for me, is the privilege and calling of a parish priest, whilst at the same time finding ways to remind the local church, that we are part of a wider whole.

For many people the Centenary Celebrations will largely pass them by but listen out in the prayers and notices for what is going

on, including a Big Day Out in Blackpool on Saturday 16th May. We are fortunate in Blackburn Diocese to have bishops and senior staff who value parish ministry and who see the Anniversary as being less about a celebration of the past, than a fresh impetus for the future.

It is hoped that, as part of the celebrations, every parish across the Diocese will plan a weekend of outreach and mission on September 11th to 13th . Our plans are already underway, so look out for what's on offer.

The logo for this centenary year proclaims, “All for Jesus”, a simple phrase with a wealth of meaning.



The rather faded plaque from 50 years ago offers the phrase, “Christ our Light”. Both in their different ways remind us that the focus is not on us but on the one we serve, and without whose help all our efforts will come to naught.

That is true in both parish and diocese alike. As one who will be engaged with the events of the year, and who values the

enrichment of being part of the Church of England across Lancashire and beyond, I close with The Diocesan Centenary Prayer, which provides us with a focus for our local vision, as well as that of the wider church.

*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.*

Every blessing!

Martin Keighley

From the Registers

Baptisms

November	23rd	Tilly Karen Dawn Thompson
		Reggie Ashley Christopher Brett
		Delcie Luella Brett
December	14th	George Robert Powell
	28th	Elizabeth Yuna Armfield

Funerals

November	24th	Rosemary Roberts
	28th	David Collier
December	1st	Alison Purdon
	5th	Tina Yates
	18th	Fred Thornton
	22nd	Ken Dipple
	23rd	Peter Fielding
January	13th	John Broome
	20th	Jean Molloy

Would I like to receive my copy of the New Sentinel by email?

Back in 2018, when we were given the opportunity to complete GDPR (General Data Protection Regulation) forms, many of us opted to consent to receive communications by email, by giving our email addresses. Our first Parish Data Officer completed a spreadsheet which gathered all our responses together. This was particularly useful in 2021, around the time I took over the role, when the Vicar asked me compile another spreadsheet so that he could use the email addresses to send out the New Sentinel electronically when it is published on alternate months. The electronic copy is often available several days before the printed copy.

The Vicar continues to email the latest New Sentinel and I keep the records up to date as far as possible, adding and removing names as appropriate.

Over time, the numbers receiving the New Sentinel by email have fallen, although it was originally the intention to try to build up the numbers.

If any of you reading this would like to start to receive the New Sentinel by email, then *please complete one of the consent forms on the table at the back of church, and return it to church* for my attention. After four weeks, I will collect any completed forms, update my records and let the Vicar know the new details. These details will have been updated in time for the March 2026 edition.

All completed forms will be stored securely and no details will be shared outside of the parish.

Thank You,

John C. Wright

Parish Data Officer

Editor's Note – the latest version of the New Sentinel is also available on your smartphone on the website www.stchadschurch.org. Just go to Latest News.

– useful for service times and parish officer contact numbers.

Vicar's Notes

Confirmation 2026 – Sunday 26th April at 10am

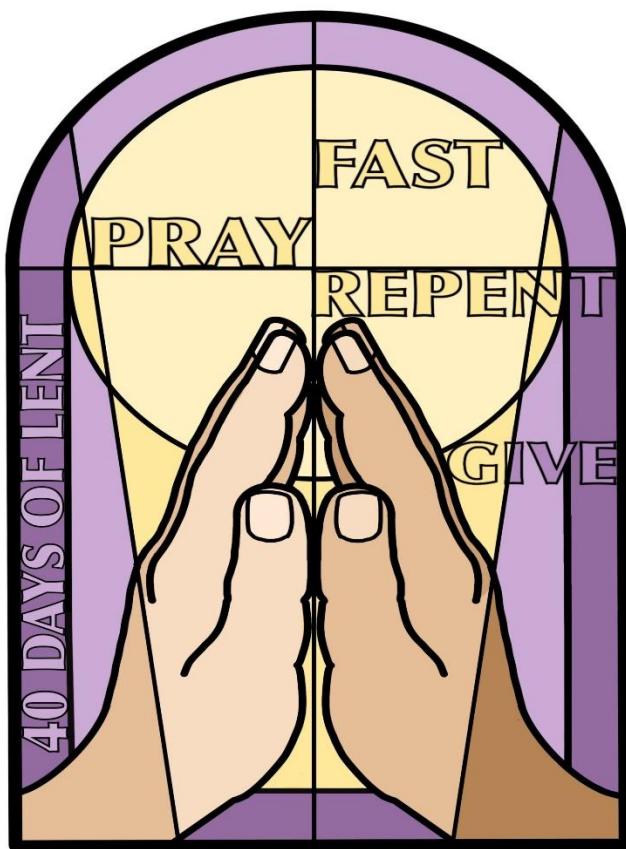
Confirmation and First Communion will take place on Sunday 26th April at 10am. We look forward to welcoming Bishop Philip to St Chad's for this special occasion.



The Nurture Group for young people begins on Thursday 22nd January from 4pm to 5pm in St Chad's and will run each week in term time. For further details and information about how to register your interest, please contact the clergy. Candidates must be in Year 6 or older.

We will also run a preparation programme for adults and to aid our planning it would be good to have expressions of interest at this stage. Please let the Vicar know if you are interested.

Lent 2026



Ash Wednesday is on February 18th and marks the beginning of Lent. There will be an 11am Holy Communion at St Hilda's and Parish Communion at 7.30pm at St Chad's.

At both these services there will be the opportunity to receive the Imposition of Ashes, the traditional sign of penitence and dependence upon God.

Please look out for details of this year's ecumenical study course, which this year will follow the study produced by our own Bishop Philip, based on The Acts of the Apostles, which we hope to offer on Wednesdays at St Chad's, and on Thursdays at Poulton Methodist Church. There will also be a variety of study materials, including a book of daily reflections from the Diocese of Blackburn, to assist us in the weeks before Easter.

Christian Aid Lent Lunches

Once again Christian Aid will be organizing Lent Lunches, to raise funds for relief and development projects around the world. In return for a simple lunch of soup and bread, we are invited to make a donation, which can be gift-aided. This year's lunches are as follows, all beginning at 12.30pm.

Sunday 22nd February	Poulton URC
Sunday 1st March	St Martin's and St Hilda's
Sunday 8th March	St Martin's and St Hilda's (Organized by St Chad's)
Sunday 15th March	Mothering Sunday – No Lunch
Sunday 22nd March	Poulton Methodist Church
Sunday 29th March	St Martin's and St Hilda's

Mother's Union

We welcome anyone who would like to join us at our meetings.

18 of us had our Christmas lunch on 17th December at the Blackpool Golf Club. It was a lovely meal which we enjoyed together.

Our next afternoon meeting will be on 28th January at 2pm when the talk is 'My Visit to Kenya'. We will have a collection and raffle for MU International (used to be Overseas).

Our December EMU was a Jacob's Join when 11 of us gathered at Jennie Sly's on 9th December. The Evening MU will not be meeting after our meal at Bistro Italia until Tuesday April 14th.

On Sunday 30th November at the 10am service the Branch was presented with a Silver Award for support of RISE UP against Abuse for Refugees in Blackpool, Fylde and Wyre by Canon Martin. The certificate is now on show in Church.

We have received several thank you emails from the Women's Refuge. They are very grateful for all we collected especially at Christmas.

Mothers' Union Subs are £32.50 only 50p more than last year to be collected as soon as possible.

The Theme for this month is Wonder and gratitude – looking back and looking forward.

‘When Jesus looked out and saw that a large crowd had arrived, he said to Philip, ‘Where can we buy bread to feed these people?’ He said this to stretch Philip’s faith. He already knew what he was going to do.’ John 6:5-6

And the other Gospels say Jesus told the disciples to feed them!

Creator God – we thank you for this wonderful world, with enough for everyone.

As we see the inequalities and need in so many places, we are sorry for the ways our greed or laziness add to these huge problems and tragedies.

We pray for those who are hungry, homeless and afraid.

We pray for those in authority and power – for justice and compassion to guide them.

We pray for those who need to hear that you love them. Thank you that the whole world, and all people are in your loving hands.

We are amazed and grateful as we look back, and full of faith and hope as we look forward. Amen

Wishing you a happy new year in this year of our 150th MU Anniversary. May we walk forward in faith, rooted in gratitude and filled with awe at all that is about to come.

June Challis

Church's concern for Venezuela

The Episcopal Church in America is concerned about the people of Venezuela.

Following the Trump administration's recent night-time swoop on the capital Caracas, and the capture of the country's President, the Episcopal Church says it fears for the people because of the inevitable instability that will follow the dramatic raid.

President Nicolas Maduro and his wife, Cilia Flores, are in New York facing charges on weapons and drug-trafficking.

The Episcopal Church's General Convention has a long-standing policy that: 'condemns in any nation the first use of armed force in the form of a preventive or pre-emptive strike that is aimed at disrupting a non-imminent, uncertain military threat.'

The Church goes on: "Even as we recognise that intervention in sovereign states can sometimes be necessary to prevent atrocities, we discourage the abuse of this norm to rationalise military actions in sovereign states for political ends.

"We urge Congress to call for an investigation and accountability for this most recent unauthorised operation, as well as the related military actions carried out in recent months."

In the hours after the raid, President Trump announced that the US would run Venezuela, and that US oil firms would take over its oil industry.

Are you ready to vote for the new General Synod?

This summer brings us the election of a new General Synod. And the people who get voted on to this new General Synod are the ones who will be voting either for or against the stand-alone services of blessing for same-sex couples that are expected in 2028.

Whatever you believe, when it comes to choosing your candidates for the next General Synod, here are some common-sense tips from synodical experts:

“It’s not always clear from what candidates say about themselves what their actual position is on some quite hot-potato issues like human sexuality.”

“If the candidate does not mention an issue that you care about, don’t assume they would agree with you, and if they do say something be very clear as to what they are and aren’t saying.”

“It might be helpful to talk about listening positively to and respecting the views of others, even when we find ourselves disagreeing.”

Hymns for Professionals

Dentist – Crown Him with many crowns

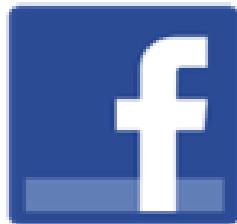
Contractors – The Church’s one foundation

Obstetricians – Come labour on

Golfers – There is a green hill far away

Politicians – Standing on the promises

Librarians – Let all mortal flesh keep silent



Websites and Social Media Information

St Chad's and St Hilda's Websites:

www.stchadschurch.org

www.facebook.com/st-chads-parish-church

www.facebook.com/St-Hildas-Church-Carleton

St Anne's Website:

www.singletonchurch.co.uk

Contacts

Licensed Lay Minister	- David Gascoigne	07768 303462
Churchwarden (St Chad's)	- Lynne Brackpool	01253 892440
Churchwarden (St Chad's)	- Geraldene Rogers	01253 822877
Churchwarden (St Hilda's)	- Joan Swan	07887 880497
Churchwarden (St Anne's)	- Frank/Hilary Loftus	01772 673201
Safeguarding Officer	- Lynne Brackpool	01253 892440
Verger (St Chad's)	- Margaret Llewellyn	07857 349147
PCC Secretary	-	
Mothers' Union	- June Challis	01253 864534
New Sentinel Distribution	- Elizabeth Harrison	01253 884131
New Sentinel Editor:	- Ian Files	07778 521233
email - ianf723@gmail.com		

The Clergy and Churchwardens will be happy to field enquiries and put you in touch with the correct contact in Church.

Sunday Service Times

8:00 am	Holy Communion (St Chad's)
9:30 am	Holy Communion (St Anne, Singleton)
10:00 am	Parish Communion (St Chad's)
	All Age Worship (1st Sunday of the month)
11:00 am	Holy Communion (St Hilda's)
4.00pm	St,Chads@4 (3 rd Sunday of the month)

The 10 o'clock Sunday Service from St Chad's will be streamed to the St Chad's Website and Facebook page (which can be found at: <https://www.facebook.com/St-Chads-Parish-Church-474539146054369>)

Midweek Services

Tuesday	10:00 am	Holy Communion (St Chad's)
Wednesday	11:00 am	Holy Communion (St Hilda's)
Thursday	11:30 am	Holy Communion (St Chad's)
Friday	7:30 pm	Holy Communion (St Chad's)

For any queries about our churches, baptisms, marriages or about our services, please contact the Vicar

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