

# *The New Sentinel*

May / June 2026



St Chad's, Poulton-le-Fylde

St Hilda's, Carleton

St Anne's, Singleton



# Welcome to the May/June 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 July/Aug 2026 edition. Any contributions must be with us no later than **15<sup>th</sup> July** to be considered for inclusion in the next edition.

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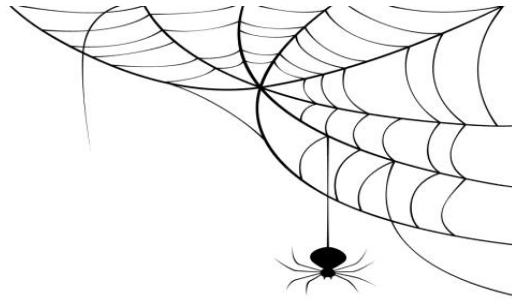
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A warm welcome from the Benefice of St Chad's Poulton, St Hilda's Carleton and St Anne's Singleton. We are part of Blackburn Diocese within the Anglican Communion and are members of the Poulton and Carleton Churches Together community. We hold a pattern 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

I will try again. Having somehow lost version 1 of *From the Registers* and *Vicar's Notes*, I am hoping for better luck this time around. I am reminded of an adage my mother would often use, which she attributed to her aunt, who quoted it to her, "If at first you don't succeed, try, try, try again".



The internet tells me that it was not coined by my mother's family but can be traced to an American educator Thomas Palmer in the 1840's. Like most proverbs it has much to commend it, with the focus on perseverance and resilience, which teachers have to work hard to foster in children and young people. Indeed, it may be that the assumption of a quick fix and instant gratification have reached many generations in today's world.

The summons to perseverance and resilience is one we should all heed, but I must admit the proverb sometimes grates! Not every problem can be solved by greater effort on our part, and when you have just lost your efforts in the ether "try, try and try again" is rather galling!

As I write the Church has embarked on "Thy Kingdom Come", a Novena, or time of prayer, running from Ascension Day to Pentecost. The first Christian community did not pray for God to take the gospel into the world. They prayed for the coming of the

Holy Spirit, that it would change them and give them power to go out and share the good news. Prayer is not so much about asking God to change the world, it's as much about asking God to change us. Prayer reshapes the pray-er.

We are asked to pray for the growth of the Church, and for five people we would like to see come to faith. It sometimes feels like “try, try and try again”, as we offer our prayers year after year, and sometimes the change is hard to discern. There are always accounts of individuals who have come to faith, and churches whose numbers have multiplied, but they can leave us feeling powerless and in the dark. Lord, when will your Kingdom come?

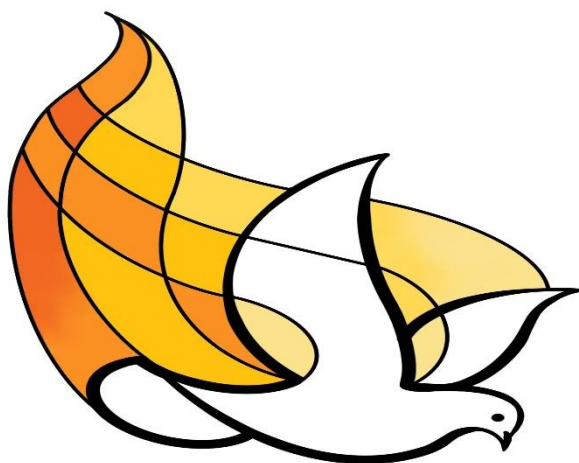
There are several responses to this. First and foremost, it is God's Kingdom, and when and how it comes is not for us to know. “Try, try and try again” is not a summons to pray harder so we can twist God's arm. Our efforts will never succeed in bringing about God's Kingdom. Instead, we persevere in praying for God's power to be at work in us, and in the world. For the Holy Spirit to equip us, as Christians have been empowered and equipped in every generation, including with the gift of resilience in dark and difficult times.

The theme of Thy Kingdom Come 2026, is “God with us”, and in her reflections the new Archbishop of Canterbury, Sarah Mullally, writes of her time as a palliative care nurse. She reminds us that people coming to terms with the shock and grief of their life being cut short, didn't always ask for a solution that no one could provide, rather they asked for someone to be there with them in person and in spirit. “God works through us – His Spirit can be felt through us – and He calls on us to be present with all those who find themselves in darkness” she writes.

I suspect the task of making disciples and growing the Church, always involves this element of being present with others, and for others, and allowing them to be present with and for us. Such presence is not just about changing others and bringing them within the Christian fold, it involves the risk, or rather the certainty, that we will be changed in the process. Rather than chasing outcomes, we need to stay rooted in prayer, listen well, and let relationship lead the way.

In John 17 v 26 Jesus prays, *“I made your name known to them, and I will make it known, so that the love with which you have loved me may be in them, and I in them.”*

Pray for those you would long to see come to faith, but remain open to the Holy Spirit, already at work in them, as well as in you. And yes, try, try and try again, remain resilient and persistent in your prayers, not because you must, but because love will not let us go. As through the Holy Spirit, God in Christ remains faithfully present with us, so we seek to practice faithful presence to others.



Yours sincerely

Martin Keighley

### From the Registers

#### Baptisms

March	22nd	Florence Evie Cottle
		Owen Jack Clarke

March	29th	Matilda McLaughlin Leo Paul Charles McLaughlin-Cross
April	10th	Hannah Lucy Miller
	12 <sup>th</sup>	Marlowe Darcey Wells-Percival Honey Elizabeth Newell
	26th	Callum Bethell Noah Luke Steven Oates
May	3rd	Clementine Emilia Cox
	10th	Ronni Jay Turner Bobbi Grace Turner Noah Conrad John Beacham-Green

### Confirmation

April 26<sup>th</sup>

Jacob Butcher, Patience Currie, Finley Duffy, Jack Hayton, Charlotte Knapman, Nathan Osborne, Evie Potter, Annabel Smith, Dougie Richardson, Tia Swift, Callum Bethell, Helen Spooner, Ami Coppard, Joseph Monk

### Weddings

March	21st	<i>Stephen Paul Ciotkowski and Dee Elizabeth Alice Laurie</i>
April	10th	<i>William Alfred Powell and Olivia Jane Grayson</i>
May	9th	<i>Jon Dixon and Janine Marie Birch</i>

## Funerals

March	23rd	Marion Holroyd
April	9th	Roy Hacking (St Hilda's)
	13th	David Blackburn
	20th	Dorothy Fisher (St Hilda's)
		Ann Marie Connor
	24th	Eileen Saville
May	1st	Jim Workman
	8th	Rachel Reilly

## Vicar's Notes

### *Bishop's Visitation*

To mark the Diocesan Centenary, those elected as Churchwarden will be admitted to office by Bishop Philip, at the Bishop's Visitation on Tuesday 2nd June at 7.30 pm in Christ Church, Thornton. We record our thanks for those who have served for the past year, and we pray for Geraldene Rogers, Lynne Brackpool, David Gascoigne and Joan Swan who have offered themselves and been duly elected as Churchwardens for the coming year.

### *Songs of Praise Sunday 14th June 3.00 pm in St Hilda's Garden*

Christians from across the town will come together in the grounds of St Martin's and St Hilda's Church Carleton, for a Songs of Praise with Poulton Band, on the afternoon of Sunday 14th June at 3.00 pm.

We hope for good weather and the pleasure of your company!

## Miracle at the Table

Thy table is set, but no lavish spread  
A simple communion of red wine and bread.  
Simple yet holy – where heaven bends low  
That those knelt before Thee Thy true grace may know.

We follow where firstly our Saviour has led  
We listen to words that Jesus first said:  
‘This is My body, it’s broken for you  
And this is My blood, shed for you too.’



The bread that is broken, the wine seen outpoured  
They tell of the sacrifice made of our Lord.  
His body was broken that we might be saved  
But death was defeated – He rose from the grave!

So, kneel in the stillness of this holy place  
Gladly receiving these tokens of Grace.  
Then go from here knowing His Spirit in you  
Will help you to do what He'd have you do!

*By Nigel Beeton*

## Mother's Union



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

Our Lent Talk about William Tyndale was very interesting and was made by Rev David Dewey on Wednesday 25th March and was attended by 15 people.

We started EMU again on Tuesday 14th April when we had a Quiz on Wildflowers when 9 came.

Then on Wednesday 22nd April, Stuart Gay and David Johnson showed slides and talked about Coastal Watch when 19 attended.

On Tuesday 12th May, 13 came to the meeting and had a great time sharing photos about family weddings and memorabilia.

As I said at the AGM, the MU Diocese of Blackburn is suggesting that we be part of the 150th Anniversary Appeal. This is for Central Mothers' Union and for the MU Blackburn Diocese Caravan. It is hoped to replace the caravan for *Away From It All* in time for the 2027 season. It is suggested that each branch try to raise £150 during the year and the trustees have offered matched funding. One suggestion to raise money was that at our next afternoon meeting we pay our £2 but add a donation of whatever amount you want to give as you come to the meeting.

Four of us were able to attend the service at St Michael's Grimsargh on Tuesday 28th April when the MU prayer capsule, which is travelling around Mothers' Union Dioceses for the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, was presented to Blackburn Diocesan MU from the Isle of Man Diocesan MU.



We are planning an Open Celebration on Wednesday 22nd July for our 150 years of MU. We hope this will be a time of fun and information.

We continue to collect items for the Fylde, Wyre and Blackpool Women's Refuges and a Men's Refuge. They are very grateful for all we collect.

The theme for June is *Join in, Come On, and Celebrate!*

*“Children, it is your Christian duty to obey your parents, for this is the right thing to do. “Respect your father and mother” is the first commandment that has a promise added: “so that all may go well with you, and you may live a long time in the land.*

*Parents, do not treat your children in such a way as to make them angry. Instead, bring them up with Christian discipline and instruction.” Ephesians 6 vv1-4*

**Lord God, Thank you for our families and for the gift of children. Help all parents to care diligently for their children putting their interests before their own and trusting You to meet their needs and keep them safe. We thank you too for all church-based toddler groups during this national month of prayer for toddler groups. We celebrate the many MU members who provide help and support in these groups, sharing their faith in action. Amen**

June Challis

*'He gave us eyes to see them':*

*John Martin's 'Manfred on the Jungfrau'*

In July we start looking with eager longing to holidays, a chance to get away from it all - to rest and recharge the batteries of life. Holidays are also a time to explore and visit new places. It might be the wild splendour of the Northumberland coast or the serenity of the Italian lakes, the vastness of the Grand Canyon or the magnificence of the Lake District.

John Martin had a gift for creating paintings that expressed this epic quality of landscapes. He was born in 1789, and as an artist was drawn to religious and historical scenes on the grand scale. He illustrated the Bible and Milton, and his final works were on the theme of the Last Judgement. These are in the Tate Gallery in London, but for this work we visit the Art Gallery in Birmingham with its amazing collection of over half a million items, including many Pre-Raphaelite treasures. The entrance to this Victorian building is beneath the clock tower known as Old Brum.

The Art Gallery is home to John Martin's watercolour of 1837, 'Manfred on the Jungfrau.' It is a large work, almost 5 feet by 3 feet, capturing the rugged, imposing glory of the Jungfrau. Now a railway takes tourists to the summit in the Bernese Alps in Switzerland. In the 19<sup>th</sup> century climbers had to navigate glaciers, high passes and steep precipices. John Martin captures the grandeur of all this in his painting of snow and sky, crags and torrents, mountains and pine trees. Against that immensity we see two characters: Manfred, tortured by guilt and about to throw himself off the edge, and the mysterious hunter who leads him to safety.



Byron's poem 'Manfred' inspired the music of Tchaikovsky and Schumann, as it inspired John Martin. They were each attracted by the romanticism of man and nature in

the poem. Like Manfred and the hunter in the watercolour, we look at this grace and nobility and feel humble and insignificant. Byron wrote:

‘How beautiful is all this visible world!

How glorious in its action and itself!’

Manfred seeks redemption, but, sadly, finds only the solace of death. As we look at this painting, we see reflections of the landscapes we shall visit on our holidays. Such beauty, such glory, evoke for us those feelings of wonder and awe that inspired John Martin.

Manfred sees life in its true perspective as he gazes on the majestic scenery of the Bernese Alps. Holidays help us to put life into perspective. Away from the pressure of responsibility and duty, we often realise what is essential in our lives and with those around. We behold the majesty and glory of creation; we see this world as the handiwork of God; and we ask ourselves how we might make our way through it and be always alert to its mystery and its beauty.

## Notices found in church newsletters - that didn't quite come out right!

- Mabel remains in the hospital and needs blood donors for more transfusions. She is also having trouble sleeping and requests tapes of the vicar's sermons.
- The Rector will preach his farewell message, after which the choir will sing: 'Break Forth Into Joy.'
- Irving Benson and Jessie Carter were married last weekend in the church. So ends a friendship that began in their schooldays.
- Eight new choir robes are currently needed due to the addition of several new members and to the deterioration of some older ones.
- Ladies are requested not to have children in the church kitchen.
- For those who have children and don't know it, we have a crèche and nursery in the crypt.
- Don't let worry kill you. Let the church help!
- The organist invites any members of the congregation who enjoy sinning to volunteer for the choir.
- At the church meeting last week, the rector spoke briefly and delighted the audience.
- Remember in prayer the many who are sick both of our church and the community.
- Smile at someone who you find hard to love. Say 'hell' to someone who doesn't much care about you.

## *The Shy Hare Seeking Invisibility*

The shy hare chases after its own safety seeking somewhere to abide, -

someplace to rest and to recover from all the hardships of this long cold winter

that it has had to endure.

Twitching nervously.

Hiding from all the dangers it has encountered.

Yet it needs be –

so swift in its escape.

For the shy hare longs to be free.

Running wild across the farmland and onwards through the windswept woods.

Chasing after its own frail life.

Always taking the chance of running when it has too

for it prefers to disappear from view

seeking its own invisibility.

And tracing itself out of sight, out of range, to preserve its precious frailty.

By Stewart Earl Emmott



## Websites and Social Media Information

St Chad's and St Hilda's Websites:

[www.stchadschurch.org](http://www.stchadschurch.org)

[www.facebook.com/st-chads-parish-church](http://www.facebook.com/st-chads-parish-church)

[www.facebook.com/St-Hildas-Church-Carleton](http://www.facebook.com/St-Hildas-Church-Carleton)

St Anne's Website:

[www.singletonchurch.co.uk](http://www.singletonchurch.co.uk)

## Contacts

LLM & Churchwarden	- 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 Loftus	01772 673201
Churchwarden (St Anne's)	- Janet Ayers	
Safeguarding Officer	- Lynne Brackpool	01253 892440
Verger (St Chad's)	- Margaret Llewellyn	07857 349147
PCC Secretary	- Geraldine Rogers	01253 822877
Mothers' Union	- June Challis	01253 864534
New Sentinel Distribution	- Elizabeth Harrison	01253 884131
New Sentinel Editor:	- Ian Files	07778 521233

email - [ianf723@gmail.com](mailto: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 <sup>rd</sup> 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)
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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