

The New Sentinel

July / August 2026



St Chad's, Poulton-le-Fylde

St Hilda's, Carleton

St Anne's, Singleton



Welcome to the July/August 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 **Sept/Oct 2026** edition. Any contributions must be with us no later than **15th September** 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

I had intended to write this letter last week before going away, but the delay means it is a very different letter. Last week we were still dreaming of “Football coming home” but sadly it was not to be, and we must wait at least another four years. Life brings a series of adjustments, as we adapt to disappointments and hopes dashed, or open our horizons and embrace new possibilities as they occur.

The second influential thing is that I read a book. I rarely read for pleasure, except when I’m on holiday. Packing to go away I grabbed a book by Andrew Graystone, a theologian whose name I’d come across, with the intriguing title “Faith Hope and Mischief”. It was a gift, handed to me a couple of days before, so I thought I would give it a go. In a series of autobiographical stories, the author explores the three themes of the title.

Faith is about deciding to believe that there is a big picture that governs history. The opposite of faith is not doubt, which has its part to play, but cynicism, which is to be avoided at all costs.

Hope is about choosing to believe that, despite a lot of evidence to the contrary, the world’s story is going to end well. The opposite of hope is not pessimism. Pessimism may well be the most realistic stance in any given situation. The opposite of hope is giving up.

Andrew Graystone is not giving up, and instead of being immobilized by a sense of his impotence and insignificance, he is looking for creative, joyful, cheeky, unorthodox ways to shift the status quo, which is what he means by mischief. I’m not quite sure

I have the same rebellious streak as the author, but a bit of faith hope and mischief would not go amiss!

I love the story, which went viral on the internet, of how following the killing of 49 Muslims at Friday prayers in Christchurch New Zealand, he stood outside his local mosque in Manchester, with a homemade placard “You are my friends. I will keep watch while you pray”.

Thirdly a new week brings our country a new Prime Minister. I once got into trouble at election time for displaying a poster, showing The Houses of Parliament, and saying “We pray for those in authority”. I declined to take it down because it was not endorsing one party but a summons to pray for all those who serve and represent us. Nevertheless, there is a particular onus on us to remember those who govern, in the difficult decisions and choices they face. It is easier to point out where others have gone wrong than it is to effect lasting change to a nation, but those who offer themselves for political office deserve our prayers, a refusal to give in to cynicism and perhaps a mischievous challenge when they get it wrong. “To err is human; to forgive, divine” wrote Alexander Pope. Our politicians, like all of us, will make mistakes.

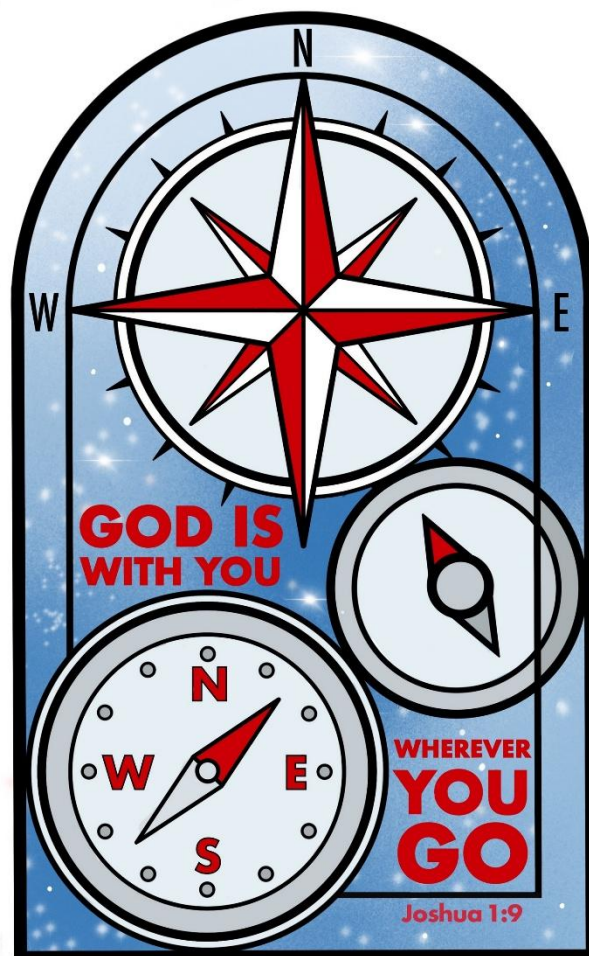
However, as Pope Francis reminds us, in the Christian life, it is not how many times you fall, but whether you get up. “To get up with the grace of God; this is the witness. And that restless heart gets up and says: “Yes, I am a sinner, I did wrong but I go ahead because the Lord is with me””. As a good Roman Catholic, I hope Prime Minister Andy Burnham will heed those words and remember that he is held in the prayers of Christians of all traditions.

“A week is a long time in politics,” said Harold Wilson. Yet, for all of us a week, or even less, can turn our lives upside down. A chance meeting, a phone call, a hospital appointment, a book read, or even a game of football, can leave its mark. But I pray we can all go forward with faith hope and a bit of rebellious mischief as we follow Jesus, whose stories made people smile, but also made them think, who taught that God’s purposes were being worked out in him, even though others failed to see it.

Palm Sunday to Easter Day, now there is a week that changed everything, and continues to transform all our lives!

Every blessing!

Martin Keighley





From the Registers

Baptisms

May	24th	Sophie Elaine Culleton Sophie Jane Bragg Sophia Harriet Preston
June	14th	Oskar Matthew Benson Talia Elizabeth Iona Thorne Angel Jean Smith Bonnie Lou Susan Parry
	28th	Cruz Patrick Dodgeon
July	12th	Jesse Johnny Phelan Presley Alan Phelan

Weddings

June	20th	Christopher David Nutter and Georgia Ann Noble
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Funerals

May	19th	Edna Chimes
	27th	Vera Rosson
June	1st	Ken Beardmore
	10th	Elsie Murray (St Hilda's)
	19th	Dave Mercer
July	10th	James Butterfield
	14th	Malcolm Waddington

Vicar's Notes

Centenary Mission Weekend September 12th and 13th

As Blackburn Diocese celebrates its Centenary in 2026, churches across Lancashire are invited to hold a Mission Weekend on September 11th to 13th . We have a series of events planned, which we hope will cater for a variety of people of different ages, and we hope members of the congregation will support us by inviting along a friend to one or more of the events. Please look out for the professionally produced programme leaflets, which you are free to pass on. Set out below are the four particular events we have planned.

- Friday 11th September

A Benefice Party in Singleton Village Hall with Live Entertainment, Bar and Food, from 7 30 pm to 11 00 pm St Anne's Church Singleton invites members of all three churches to bring a friend and join us for a fun evening of good food, good company and live music to begin our weekend. All are welcome, but if you are able, bring along some food to share, and join us for the evening from 7 30 pm onwards.

- Saturday 12th September 3.00 pm

a showing of The Miracle Maker in Poulton Community Hall with Pizza and Popcorn

The Miracle Maker tells the Story of Jesus, and we are inviting children and families to encounter that story together in an afternoon session, with doors open at 3 .0 pm. Film commencing at 3.15 pm.

We will supply popcorn as we watch and pizza afterwards. We will publicise the film through our Church Schools, but children

and families from across the town are most welcome. No booking is required but children must be accompanied by an adult.

- *Saturday 12th September 7.00 pm*

Centenary Concert 1926 - 2026

An evening of music and readings from across the last 100 years performed at St Hilda's Carleton by The Ecumenical Choir and the Occasional Singers. Following the Concert, we will share Cheese and Wine together.

- *Benefice Eucharist - 13th September , 10.30 am St Chad's*

For the first time ever, the three churches of Poulton, Carleton and Singleton will come together for a Sunday Morning Service, beginning at 10.30 am in St Chad's.

Our guest preacher will be Bishop Geoff Pearson, former Bishop of Lancaster, with music by The Ecumenical Choir.

It is our hope that this special occasion provides a perfect chance to bring along a friend or acquaintance to hear the Christian message and the invitation to explore that faith further.

Following the Service there will be a Buffet Lunch in The Community Hall to which everyone is welcome.

Ignite Youth Leader

Many of you will have heard by now, that we are hoping to appoint someone to assist us in our work with young people, and especially to grow our work with the 12+ age group, for whom we currently have little to offer. This is a venture of faith and

although it comes with substantial investment from the Diocese of Blackburn, it also involves considerable input from our own funds as the project develops.

Please remember this project in your prayers and make use of the prayer below, which we are using at all our services.

Ignite Leader Prayer

Lord of every generation,
we ask you to send your blessing
on the young people of our church and community.
Guide us in our provision for their spiritual growth
and the nourishing of their faith in Jesus.
May your Holy Spirit inspire us,
as we seek to appoint an
Ignite Youth Leader for St Chad's and St Hilda's,
to support and encourage us in that task.
Bless those you call to offer themselves and give discernment to
those charged with making the appointment.
We commit to you our vision,
that we might truly be a church of all ages,
and gladly recognize that all are one in Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Visit to Germany - September 17th to 22nd

Please remember in your prayers the forthcoming visit to Germany and those travelling to our Parish Link in the Diocese of Braunschweig. The Link has enriched our life as a parish for thirty years and helped forge many strong and enduring friendships, and we hope it will continue to flourish through this and subsequent visits.

150 years on, Mothers' Union is a "powerhouse" - Archbishop of Canterbury

The Mother's Union is celebrating its 150th anniversary. At a recent service in St Paul's Cathedral, the Archbishop of Canterbury said she had seen first-hand the profound impact" of its work in communities around the world, "in family life, healthcare, education, social projects — challenging poverty, injustice and violence. . . In fact, I often say, if I need something doing, ask the Mothers' Union to do it."

Her sermon on Ephesians had asked: "How do we sustain ourselves as we serve? How do we nourish our own spiritual, mental, and physical well-being, whilst we are tending to the needs of others?"

The answer, she suggested, lay in St Paul's words: "I pray that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith, as you are being rooted and grounded in love. I pray that you may have the power to comprehend, with all the saints, what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, so that you may be filled with all the fullness of God."

She continued. "May *you* know the depth of God's love in the grass-roots work that you do throughout the world. May *you* know the breadth of God's love as you strive to serve this global movement.

"You are salt to our world, in the ordinary, everyday ways you make such a difference to the people you serve, and in the fellowship that you offer to one another."

Mother's Union

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

At our afternoon meeting on 22nd April, Stuart Gay and David Johnson showed slides and talked about Coastal Watch when 19 were present.

On 27th May, 11 attended the Church Drive which we enjoyed in groups on a hot afternoon. We also had a quiz.

On 24th June, Roger Hussey talked about Fraud and Safety to 14 members.

Our evening group and friends enjoyed the outing to see Barnum on Tuesday 9th June.

On the evening of 14th July, we had an Open House in my garden, when 14 enjoyed a lovely sunny evening giving us time to chat and enjoy snacks.

Three of us attended the Deanery 150th Celebration at Christ Church, Thornton on 17th June.

At the last 2 afternoon meetings and the July evening we collected donations for 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. I am grateful to all who made donations and we have collected over £150.

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

We look forward to celebrating our 150th Anniversary at Blackburn Cathedral on Saturday 8th August at 2pm. We plan to take our banner and travel by train.

Finally, the evening MU will meet on Tuesday 8th September at 7.30pm for our planning meeting for 2027.

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 from MU members and the congregation.

The theme for August is

'Be still - a time to rest, reflect, rejoice, replenish.'

This August, let us take time to reflect, rejoice and replenish ourselves for future faithful actions

*'God is our refuge and strength,
a very present help in trouble.*

*Therefore we will not fear,
though the earth should change,
though the mountains shake in the heart of the sea;
though its waters roar and foam,
though the mountains tremble with its tumult.*

Be still, and know that I am God!

I am exalted among the nations, I am exalted in the earth.'

Psalm 46 vv1-3 and 10

Lord, in this quiet month of August, help us to be still, to rest from our busyness, reflect on Your goodness, rejoice in Your faithfulness, and replenish our hearts with Your peace.

As we remember Mary Sumner, we thank You for her vision and love. May her example inspire us to walk in faith, speak with courage, and serve with joy. Amen.

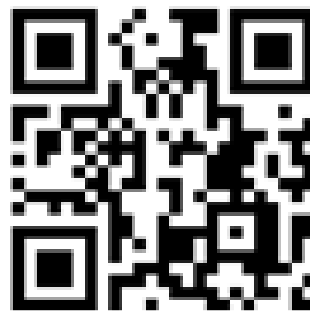
June Challis



The Apple Rhyme

Apples ripe and apples red,
Grow they high above my head.
Alack-a-day! For I am small
And apple-trees are mostly tall;
Dreary me! But what is sadder,
Nobody can find a ladder!

From a poem by Madeline Nightingale



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

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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)
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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