

The New Sentinel

September / October 2026



St Chad's, Poulton-le-Fylde

St Hilda's, Carleton

St Anne's, Singleton



Welcome to the Sept/Oct 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 **Nov/Dec 2026** edition. Any contributions must be with us no later than **15th November** to be considered for inclusion in the next edition.

Contents

From the Vicarage	3
From the Registers	6
Vicar's Notes	7
Parable of the seed	10
Mothers' Union	11
Book Reviews	14
Contacts / Social Media	15
Service Times	16

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

Last week, in Morning Prayer, I read again the story of how God offered King Solomon any gift he wanted, and Solomon asked for the gift of wisdom “to discern between good and evil: for who can govern this your great people?” The story serves as a reminder to me to pray for our leaders. Just this week, Members of Parliament have been required to vote on assisted dying, and to discern between passionate and strongly held views on both sides. I believe that on balance the right decision was reached, on this occasion, but it is not an issue that will go away, and we are right to be aware of the burden of responsibility we place on those who serve and represent us.

The story also made me think of what gift I would request. I think the virtue I prize most in others, and which I hope they see in me, is integrity. The dictionary defines it as “wholeness, soundness, uprightness, honesty” but for me none of these feel adequate to encapsulate the sense of being true to oneself, which for a Christian includes being true to one’s Christian faith. Whilst we can seek to practice integrity, we cannot claim to have achieved it. It is for others to say whether they see it in us, and perhaps only on judgement day will we discover whether God regards us as having been true to our calling.

Integrity is attractive. We are drawn to Christians who are true to themselves and by the same token want the best for others too. We see it in the saints, the heroes and heroines of Christian history, but it is always humbling and inspiring to encounter ordinary parishioners praying faithfully, telling their story and putting their faith into practice.

If integrity is a personal virtue, it also describes the way we must live as citizens of this world. The Anglican Church regards safeguarding “the integrity of creation”, as one of the marks of our mission to the world. As we prepare to celebrate Harvest Thanksgiving and the climax of what the Church now calls The Creation Season, we are reminded that we are not separated from the created world around us but bound up with it, and that we carry a responsibility for its care and nurture, not to mention its very survival! Bound together, integrated with the world of which we are part, integrity finds a new and vital meaning.

One area of integration in our modern world is the field of communication, where events on the other side of the world are brought to us in real time. Bishop Philip wrote recently of returning home from General Synod, and receiving a WhatsApp message from Bishop Joseph, of our Linked Diocese of Liwolo in South Sudan, reporting civilians in danger and sheltering in churches. That message, and the continuing humanitarian crisis, has formed the basis of this year’s Bishop’s Harvest Appeal, supporting emergency relief and healthcare provision in that part of Africa.

But this is also a profoundly personal story, which began with a chance encounter at the Lambeth Conference. Bishop Philip writes with warmth about the integrity of his friend, “Joseph is the most remarkable and inspiring person I have ever met. Though the external circumstances of his life are unimaginably hard, he is alive with the joy of Christian living. His profound trust in the saving work of Jesus motivates everything he does, and he has taught the Diocese of Blackburn so much about what it means to live out a radical trust in the Lord.”

Integrity will always draw others in. We follow our Saviour Jesus Christ, whose life integrated humanity and divinity, remained supremely true to himself and his calling, and constantly sought the best for his friends. As we seek to follow in his footsteps, caring for one another and for the world entrusted to us, I am reminded of the collect for Trinity 13, which captures for me the spirit of Christian integrity, and speaks to us at Harvest, as we remember the needy.

Almighty God, you search us and know us: may we rely on you in strength and rest on you in weakness, now and in all our days; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Every blessing!

Martin Keighley



From the Registers

Baptisms

July	26th	Theo James Ripley
August	1st	Jessica Rose Marion Strachan
		Mia Sofia Dean Mclver
	9th	Bowen Ryder James Blore
	23rd	Connie Jennifer Whitworth
		Albert Scott Mark Fleming
		Bobby Peter Richmond
		Amelie Mae Hulme
September	13th	Dexter Kai Whittingham
		Lottie Lavinia King

Weddings

July	25th	James Stephen Burgess and Emily Sarah Dickson
August	1st	Andrew James Fielding and Jessie Alexandra Crook

Funerals

July	21st	Ruth Kane
August	7th	Annie Riley
	14th	Joan Rutter

August	14 th	Beryl Gilmartin
	24 th	Marion Mellor
	25 th	David Sandham
September	4 th	Barrie Smith
	15 th	Audrey Dewhurst

Vicar's Notes

Harvest Thanksgiving 2026

We will keep Harvest at St Chad's on October 4th, and on Monday October 5th at 9.30 am Poulton CE School will hold their Harvest Service at St Chad's.

On October 11th we will keep Harvest at St Anne's Singleton and at St Hilda's. In addition to decorating St Chad's Church, our Flower Guild will prepare floral arrangements for sick and housebound parishioners. As in previous years we will be



...I take it our local supermarket has a rather good offer on tinned peas at the moment!

collecting dried and tinned goods to help homeless projects and the local Foodbank.

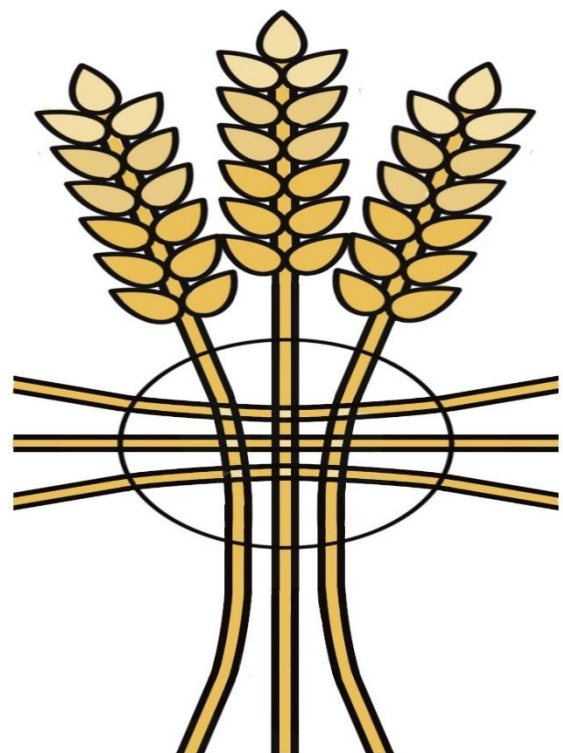
Charities are reliant on harvest donations to stock up for winter, but in the case of the Foodbank you will find a donation point at the back of church, so that we can contribute throughout the year.

Harvest gives us the chance to pass on thanks for your generosity throughout the year to this worthy cause.

This year, The Bishop of Blackburn's Harvest Appeal will go to support our Link Diocese of Liwolo, where armed conflict has forced families to flee. Several thousand people are leaving homes and livelihoods behind to seek shelter in churches and primary school classrooms. They urgently need food, water, medical supplies and other essentials. The Diocese is working with Christian Aid to raise funds. Our partner, the South Sudanese Development and Relief Agency (SSUDRA), is responding to the crisis by delivering immediate cash support and other essentials to communities in Liwolo. Joseph Aba, Bishop of Liwolo, has called for support to ensure that displaced families can meet their immediate needs.

In addition, the diocese is seeking to support the Jehovah Rapha Healthcare Centre in Liwolo. This is a simple but life-saving intervention that will ensure continued local access to essential healthcare.

Contributions to the Bishop's Harvest Appeal can be made at both St Chad's and St Hilda's, or online through the diocesan website.



Christianity Explored

Christianity Explored is an informal and relaxed seven-week course for anyone who wants to explore the Christian faith – or have a refresher. You don't need to know anything about the Bible and you won't be asked to pray or sing. You can ask any questions you like, or you can sit and listen.

By reading Mark's Gospel we will consider:

- *Who is Jesus?*
- *What has he achieved?*
- *What does it mean to follow him?*

The course is free and starts in Poulton on Tuesday 27th October and finishes on Tuesday 8th December.

6.45 pm Hot Meal

7.30 pm Explore and Discuss

9.00 pm Finish.

If you'd like to join the course or would like more details, then please contact David and Lee on

davidpgascoigne@gmail.com or 07768 303462.

Parish Meal: Why bother with Jesus?

Rico Tice, one of the authors of Christianity Explored, will address this question, as our guest speaker at the Parish Meal, at Singleton Lodge, on Thursday 15th October 6.30 pm for 7.00 pm.

The price is £37.50 per person including a welcome drink, a three-course meal and tea/coffee. To book a place, with a £10 deposit, please contact David on davidpgascoigne@gmail.com or 07768 303462.

Parable: The Strength of a Seed

At this time of year, we enjoy the fruits of our gardens, fields and hedgerows: vegetables ripen, crops are harvested, and berries begin to show bright among the leaves. Much of this growth started with a few seeds in spring: the miracle of life coming from small dead-looking things. There is a league table of long-lived seeds. The winners so far are from the narrow-leafed campion, buried by squirrels in the Siberian permafrost over 30,000 years ago. When those seeds finally germinated, they became healthy plants that flowered and produced seeds of their own.

The Bible contains many links between seeds and spiritual growth, and the parable of the sower is the most famous (in Matthew 13). A person may hear or experience something of God which has the potential to germinate into a life of following Him, resulting in the fruit of others coming to know God too. But things can happen that snatch that seed away, killing it before it has finished germinating, or choking its growth.

What about the knowledge of God that gets trampled, churned too deep in the mire of life to receive the warmth and light it needs to develop into faith? Buried seeds don't always die, but they can lie dormant, remaining alive but inactive until the earth is turned over. The possibility of that moment of connecting with something divine, scrap of knowledge, or snatch of conversation resulting in a changed life may seem infinitesimally small, but it's not zero. The seed may be incredibly tough, just waiting for a chance to grow.

The Gospel narrative plays on the fact that it took a long time for the disciples to understand the full implications of Jesus' teaching: a germination process that took many of them three or more years. They could have been discouraged, but Jesus was not. I don't think it's too much of a stretch to draw out of the parable of the sower to include the observation that it can take a long time, sometimes decades, for people to work their way through the various barriers, sticking points, and phases of forgetfulness that may keep them from following through on their spiritual experience. When we finally receive – or are open to – the encouragement, challenge, or experience that helps our faith in Christ grow, we can experience the rich fruit of a transformed life.

Mother's Union

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

I am grateful to all who made donations to the 150th Anniversary Appeal. We have collected £186.



On Wednesday 22nd July we had our Open Celebration for 150 years of MU. We had a number of visitors including some children. We displayed examples of work in the UK and in Africa and also exhibited old photographs of the MU at St Chad's and historical successes that the MU had achieved for women and children over the years.

Three of us also managed to go to the celebration of our 150th Anniversary at Blackburn Cathedral on Saturday 8th August at

2pm. It was an uplifting service and a great joy to see the Diocesan Banner carried into the Cathedral. The banner was produced by the St Chad's Embroiderers guided by Anne Riley in 2002.



We look forward to the Deanery Festival at St Chad's Church on Wednesday 23rd September at 2pm when some members will receive Long Service Certificates.

On Tuesday 13th October at the Teanlowe 60+Community Centre at 7.30pm, Stephanie Selby who is local to Poulton will talk about writing children's books. She is an inspiration to children to use their imagination while building on their writing skills.

Then on Wednesday 28th October Judith Beeston will speak to our afternoon group at 2pm at the Poulton Methodist Hall as Edith Rigby (Suffragette). It sounds an interesting talk!

Finally, the Evening MU will meet on 10th November to do some Advent crafts.

The Theme for September is Peace and Reconciliation – Hope.

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. (Romans 15:13)

God of hope,

fill us with joy and peace as we trust in you.

By your Spirit, help us to abound in hope,

trusting that your love can bring reconciliation

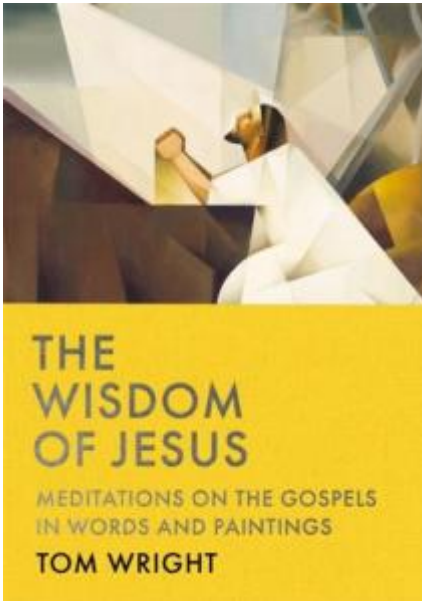
where there is division.

Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

June Challis

Book Reviews

- Available from all good booksellers



The Wisdom of Jesus – Meditations on the Gospels in Words and Paintings

By Tom Wright, Lion Books, £13.99

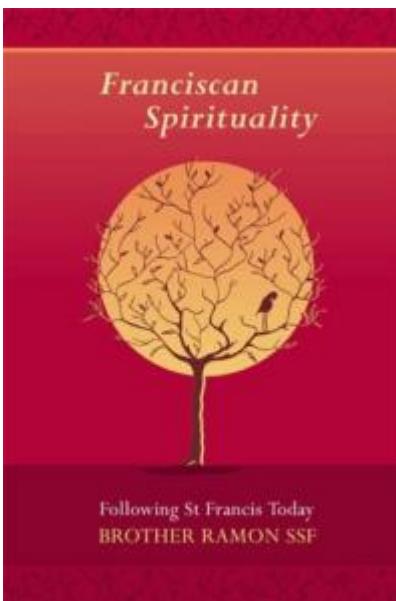
For 2000 years, people have returned to the words of Jesus for wisdom, comfort, challenge, and hope. His teachings continue to shape lives, cultures, and communities across the world.

Here the renowned theologian, Tom Wright, brings together some of Christ's most profound and memorable sayings, offering insightful commentary that reveals their enduring depth, beauty and relevance for modern life.

From happiness and prayer to love, God, and the meaning of true wisdom, these teachings invite readers to see the world – and themselves – in a new light.

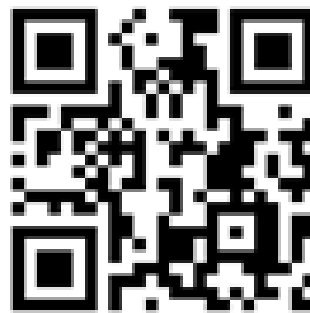
Franciscan Spirituality – Following St Francis Today

By Brother Ramon SSF, SPCK, £16.99



As this October we mark 800 years since the death of one of our favourite saints, it's good to remember what was so special about the spirituality of St Francis of Assisi. Can ordinary men and women today, with families, jobs and other responsibilities, even think of following in the way of a 13th century friar?

Brother Ramon, an Anglican Franciscan friar, shows how Franciscan spirituality is marked by spontaneity and emotional freedom, by openness to every human being and love for nature. It treasures both the evangelical and the catholic nature of the gospel. It is rooted in a biblical faith and in reverence for the whole of creation.



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

Parish Administrator	- Geraldine Rogers	07951 527679
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	01253 224349
Safeguarding Officer	- Lynne Brackpool	01253 892440
Verger (St Chad's)	- Margaret Llewellyn	
PCC Secretary	- Geraldine Rogers	01253 822877
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New Sentinel Editor:	- Ian Files	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)
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 stchadschurchplf@btinternet.com

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