

Newsletter

March 2020



Diary

1st

12.00pm Congregational Meeting in the Crypt.

7.30pm The Mark Drama. For more information and booking, see the website.

3rd

12.30pm Lent Lunchtime Talk: 'Light and Energy' - see below for more details.

1.30pm Knit and Natter group in Paulinus – all welcome.

4th

1.00pm Lunchtime 50th Anniversary Organ Recital by Richard Tanner

6.00pm Confirmation Class – see Canon Pailing for more information.

6th

8.00pm Compline sung by the Gentlemen of the Cathedral Choir.

7th

All Day Blackburn Diocesan Choirs' Festival.

3.30pm Choral Evensong sung by the combined Diocesan Choirs.

10th

12.30pm Lent Lunchtime Talk: 'Water' - see below for more details.

1.30pm Knit and Natter group in Caedmon – all welcome.

11th

1.00pm Lunchtime Recital by John Hoskins (Organ) and Olivia Hunt (Soprano).

6.00pm Confirmation Class – see Canon Pailing for more information.

12th

2.00pm Mothers' Union Meeting in Hilda, all welcome.

Love Life, Live Lent

One of the glories of the Anglican tradition is the seasonal approach to our worship and the reading of scripture. Sunday-by-Sunday we encounter God afresh as we meander our way through the stories of faith in the lives of biblical characters, events and theological writings. Each week we break open God's written word through applied preaching and personal reflection. And we journey on; nourished by the knowledge that God journeys with us and in his story is our story.

And so, as the season of Lent arrives, what difference will it make to your faith and life this coming year? How will you 'move on' in your faith and allow God to increasingly inform your decisions and actions?

In his book *What's the Point of Being Christian*, Timothy Radcliffe OP writes:

'A religion that tries to market itself as useful for some other purpose – because it helps you to live a stable life, because it gets rid of stress or makes you wealthy – is shooting itself in the foot. If it has to justify itself by serving some other end, then it cannot be a religion that one can take seriously. The point of any religion is to point us to God who is the point of everything. That is why it makes no sense to ask whether belief in God is 'relevant', because God is the measure of all relevance.'

He continues, 'If the truths of Christian teaching do not have any effects in one's life, any fruit, then what sort of truths would they be? If God is the point of everything, then being religious, being pointed towards God as one's ultimate goal, must show itself somehow in one's life'

If God is the point of everything, and if our worship and liturgical tradition points us to God, then one might assume that the more we encounter him the more we are changed by him. But change, whilst a very normal and natural process is not always easy for us to embrace. It is much simpler for us to remain where we are, to sit with what we know and to delight in the familiar.

13th

1.00pm Bible Study Group in Caedmon, see Canon Pailing for more information.

8.00pm Compline sung by the Gentlemen of the Cathedral Choir.

14th

10.00am Diocesan Mother's Union Pop Up Shop in Temple Gallery.

17th

12.30pm Lent Lunchtime Talk: 'Land and Plants' - see below for more information.

1.30pm Knit and Natter group in Caedmon – all welcome.

18th

1.00pm Lunchtime 50th Anniversary Organ Recital by John Robinson

6.00pm Confirmation Class – see Canon Pailing for more information.

20th

6.30pm Feast Through the Seasons Cooking demo with Matt Hunter in our newly relaunched café.

Cost £20 including snacks and drinks on arrival, main course and dessert. Book through our website.

10% of ticket sales go to support the work of the Wish Centre, tackling domestic abuse.

8.00pm Compline sung by the Gentlemen of the Cathedral Choir.

21st

9.30am-12noon Quiet Morning

'In the garden: Eden to Gethsemane' led by the Revd Canon Dr Rowena Pailing. Free of charge. Book through our website.

Biscuits to Go!

Visit the Cathedral tent in Church Street this afternoon and make an edible gift to give on Mothering Sunday. Free of charge.

7.30pm Blackburn Symphony

Orchestra Concert Please see their website for more information:

<http://www.blackburnsymphony.org.uk>

But this is not an option for us as Christians. God calls us out of the worldly securities that surround us and asks us to trust him for our future. A future, which is inevitably unclear the moment we step out in faith.

This year's Archbishop of Canterbury's Lent Book - Saying Yes to Life written by Ruth Valerio, addresses this subject and encourages us to modify our approach to the values and securities of this world in favour of saying YES to life. Every single one of us has a responsibility as part of our journeying with Jesus to live a life that cares for God's world and all its creatures. Whilst history teaches us that this has not always been the case, the time to think again is right before us.

As Justin Welby rightly says, 'as people of faith we cannot just say that we believe. We are obliged to live out the life that Christ calls us to live, to care for our neighbour, for the creatures and the creation that God has so generously given to us.'

So, try to take some time this Lent to reflect on the priorities of your life and the world in which we live - what you value and how you reflect that in the choices you make. Take time this Lent to renew your commitment to Jesus as Lord - allowing His priorities to become your priorities so that the faith you embrace increasingly impacts the way you choose to live. Take time this Lent to stop - allowing God to speak to you through the activity of His Holy Spirit and changing you so that your life increasingly points to God in whom our hope is fixed.

**The Very Reverend Peter Howell-Jones
Dean of Blackburn**

**“In The Garden: Eden to Gethsemane” led
by the Revd Canon Dr Rowena Pailing.**

Saturday 21st March 9.30am – 12 Noon
Free of charge; book via the website

This is a chance to take some time out and reflect on the season of Lent, and on our Lent theme of restoring God's Creation. The morning begins with a Eucharist at 9.30am; Canon Pailing will lead reflections; and there will also be space for you to be still, or read, or walk around the Cathedral and its environs. The quiet morning concludes with midday prayer at 12noon. If you would like to have lunch while you are at the Cathedral, Checks & Greys will be open as usual.

An Evening with Archbishop Sentamu

26th March at 7:30 pm - 9:30 pm

On the evening of March 26th we will be holding an event at the Cathedral which will be ideal either for those new to the faith or for people who want to bring along a friend in order to introduce them to faith in Jesus Christ.

It will comprise some lively hymns and enjoyable input and will conclude with an address given by the Archbishop.

Although this evening event is FREE and open to anybody, booking is essential and can be done via the Eventbrite link on the website.

Flower Festival News

Excitement is mounting in the Flower Festival Office as preparations have now moved into the building and construction phase for some of the large installations we will see in June. Some of the design team are now beavering away in parts of the building usually hidden away and angel wings, trees and clouds are taking shape.

Tickets are now selling really well and we have received enquiries from across the country from both individuals and groups as we prepare for another fantastic week in the flower world. Building on the success of 2016, the Festival in June this year is set to be even more popular than last time, and with the introduction of big flower arranging demonstrations by world famous designers will spread out across the Blackburn itself.

Now is the time when we are asking you for your help and involvement in the following ways:

- sign up to be part of the 160 strong team of stewards who will meet, greet and welcome our visitors during the festival. - email: stewards@blackburncathedralflowerfestival.com or telephone 01254 449016;
- make paper doves to be used as part of one of the installations in the Cathedral or around the town - look out for full details in the cathedral bulletin and newsletter next month;
- become a Partner of the Festival - pledge a gift towards the cost of the flowers and have your name included in the Festival programme;
- buy tickets - available from the Festival Office from early March (£10) or online at blackburncathedralflowerfestival.com (£9.00);
- enthuse and encourage your friends, family, groups etc. to do any of these too.

If you would like any more information or to talk to us about the Festival please do get in touch:

01254 449016

info@blackburncathedralflowerfestival.com

drop into the office

24th

12.30pm Lent Lunchtime Talk: 'Stars and Seasons' see below for more information.

1.30pm Knit and Natter group in Caedmon – all welcome.

25th

1.00pm Lunchtime Organ Recital by former organ scholar Karen Au.

26th

7.30pm An evening with the Archbishop of York, the Most Revd and Rt Hon Dr John Sentamu.

31st

12.30pm Lent Lunchtime Talk: 'Creatures' - see below for more information.

1.30pm Knit and Natter group in Caedmon – all welcome.

WALSINGHAM YOUTH PILGRIMAGE.

August 3rd – 7th 2020.

Young people from the Cathedral are invited to join the Diocesan group for the Youth Pilgrimage which is open to those in school years 6 to 13. The cost is £130 (support with this available). There is an information evening at St Andrew's Burnley (BB11 on Thursday March 19th at 7pm, or alternatively contact Bishop Philip (bishop.burnley@blackburn.anglican.org).

Easy Fund Raising for Blackburn Cathedral.

Easyfundraising.org.uk enables you to raise funds for the Cathedral whilst shopping online. Just go to the website, search for Blackburn Cathedral and follow the simple instructions. The retailers you buy from will then make a small donation to the work of the Cathedral on your behalf.

Regular Service Times

Sunday:

8.00am	Holy Communion (BCP)
9.00am	Parish Communion
10.30am	Cathedral Eucharist
4.00pm	Evensong

Weekdays:

Morning Prayer - **8.40am** Monday to Friday

Holy Communion - Every day, but times may differ, please see the Cathedral Website or Weekly Bulletin for details.

Evening Prayer/Evensong - **5.15pm** Monday to Friday please see weekly bulletin or music list for details of sung services.

Saturday:

9.00am	Morning Prayer
9.30am	Holy Communion
5.15pm	Evening Prayer (Except when Evensong is scheduled which will be at 3.30pm – please see Weekly Bulletin or Website for details)

The Cathedral is open from 7.45am on Sundays & 8.00am every other day until after the last service of the day.

Contacts

Blackburn Cathedral
Cathedral Close
Blackburn
BB1 5AA

The Dean:	The Very Rev'd Peter Howell-Jones
Vice Dean & Canon Missioner:	The Rev'd Canon Dr Rowena Pailing
Canon Pastor:	The Rev'd Canon Andrew Horsfall
Episcopal Canon	The Right Rev'd Philip North
Dir. of Music:	Mr John Robinson
Catering & Hosp. Manager	Mr Matt Hunter
Commercial Manager:	Mrs Jo Hunter
Events:	Mr Phil Hunwick
Head Virger:	Mr Mark Pickering

Tel: 01254 277430

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Website: www.blackburncathedral.com

Friends of Blackburn Cathedral

Email: secretary@fobc.info

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Lent, Holy Week and Easter at Blackburn Cathedral 2020

Saturday 4th April

Mini-pilgrimage to the Cathedral, suitable for all ages. Easy 2½ mile walk, mainly along canal towpaths.

Meet at Cherry Tree Railway Station at 12noon and bring your own sandwiches.

Free of charge. Book through our website.

Wednesday 8th April

7.30pm **Holy Week Concert**

The Renaissance Singers perform Victoria, *Tenebrae Responsories*.

Cost £10 adults; under 16s free.

Book through our website.

WEEKLY EVENTS

Tuesday Lunchtime Talks

'Restoring God's Creation'

12.30pm – all welcome.

Soup and a roll available for £2.50.

3rd, 10th, 17th, 24th & 31st March.

Friday Night Prayer

8pm A reflective service by candlelight

6th, 13th, 20th, 27th March.

During Lent we keep our usual pattern of daily services, which can be found on the website. Our regular Bible study groups also continue as normal. For more information on any of these, contact missioner@blackburncathedral.co.uk