

Newsletter

February 2020



Diary

1st – 13th

Textile Exhibition in the South

Transept. This will be open all day during normal cathedral hours, but please be mindful of services taking place at various times and in various places around the building.

2nd

Patronal Festival

12.00 Refreshments after the Parish Eucharist to celebrate 50th anniversary of the cathedral organ.

4.00pm Choral Evensong sung by the Renaissance Singers.

6.30pm Epiphany to Candlemass Service. All welcome.

4th

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

7.30pm Installation of Archdeacon of Lancaster, The Venerable David Picken.

5th

1.00pm Lunchtime 50th

Anniversary Organ Recital by James Thomas

11th

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

12th

1.00pm Lunchtime 50th

Anniversary Organ Recital by David Goodenough

13th

2.00pm Mothers' Union AGM

3.00pm Textile Exhibition
Interactive talk by the Artist. See website for more information.

Conversion: A Journey.

It's dark and gloomy! Christmas seems a very distant memory, the rain is incessant, the days don't seem to get any longer, the glimmer of sunlight and the balmy evenings when we lounged around on outdoor furniture seem a distant memory. It's January.

Good news then that, at this dark time of the year, the Church throws in our direction a whole load of feasts that bring light into our midst. Epiphany. Candlemas. And on January 25th, the Feast of the Conversion of St Paul. Because of a blinding light from heaven, Saul the persecutor of the Christians becomes Paul, the great apostle to the gentiles and the most significant Christian theologian of all time.

The word 'conversion' suggests a profound turning around, a complete change and purpose. When you convert a loft, it may inhabit the same physical space but it is unrecognisable. When you convert currency, you still have cash but its use is wholly changed. And it was the same with Paul. After that dazzling moment of conversion, he may still have inhabited the same physical body. But everything else about him – the purpose of his life, the places he went, the decisions he made, the things he lived for, the relationships that supported him, even his name – was different. For now he was alive for Christ and Christ alone.

Paul's conversion was instant. One minute he was persecuting Christians, the next he was one. In fact it was so sudden that it took quite some time before his fellow Christians learnt to trust him. For most of us, conversion is not quite that spectacular.

When I look back on my own Christian life, I can't identify a single moment of conversion. I can however recount a whole host of occasions in which Jesus has been at work in my life or when I have experienced his presence ever more intimately.

14th

1.00pm Bible Study Group Meeting

7.30pm Rossendale Hospice

'Hearts and Voices' Concert.

Checkout their website for more information.

16th

1.30pm Knit and Natter group in

Caedmon – all welcome.

19th

1.00pm Lunchtime Organ

Recital by Tom Bell (Royal College of Organists).

24th – 29th

Exhibition of Photography by students of Blackburn College – in the Crypt.

25th

1.30pm Knit and Natter group in

Hilda – all welcome.

22nd

1.00pm Lunchtime Organ

Recital by Christopher Jones (Bristol).

26th

Ash Wednesday

9.00 St Wilfrid's Ash Wednesday Service.

11.00am Holy Communion with the Imposition of Ashes.

7.00pm Solumn Eucharist with the Imposition of Ashes.

28th

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

29th

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

Perhaps that is so for you. Conversion has been a slow process, perhaps one that lasts a lifetime.

But that should not in any way undermine the radical and far-reaching impact that Jesus has on our lives. We all need conversion. However long it takes, we all need to be changed thoroughly by Jesus Christ. It can be tempting in the modern age to think of our Christian faith as a bolt-on to basically secular lives. Or to use a mobile phone metaphor, we can think of faith as an app that we choose to download onto our phone rather than the operating system that impacts everything.

But as St Paul shows, there is no aspect of our lives that is not touched and changed by Jesus. He converts our hearts as we try to live more and more for him. He converts our minds as we learn more and more about the wonder of his saving work. He converts our relationships as we seek to live out our faith in every aspect of our lives. He converts our decisions as we hear his call and go where he sends us. He converts our wallets as we learn habits of generosity and sacrificial self-offering. Nothing is left untouched by his dazzling and glorious light.

I remember once visiting a monastery in southern Italy. They gave me a wonderful ikon of Mary, Joseph and Jesus which had written (in Italian but I have translated it) the motto of the community. 'Holy Family of Nazareth, protect our way of conversion.' Conversion is a journey. It takes the whole of our lives. But as we offer ourselves more and more to Jesus, so like Paul, like Mary, like Joseph, we will discover to the full the joy of what it means to find life in Christ, our light and our salvation.

+Philip

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)).

The Cathedral Organ's 50th Birthday!

Please join us on Sunday 2nd February to celebrate the 50th birthday of our legendary Blackburn Cathedral Organ! There will be birthday cake after the 10.30am Eucharist, and a celebratory talk about the organ by Dr. John Bertalot at 2pm. This will be followed by a short demonstration of the organ by our current Organist and Director of Music, John Robinson.

Dr. Bertalot will tell the fascinating story of the commissioning of the organ and how 'it nearly didn't happen!' John was responsible for the design of the organ as well as raising the money for its building, and as Organist Emeritus is still a highly active and notable member of the Cathedral community.

Blackburn Cathedral's organ, built by renowned English Organ Builders, J W Walker & Sons Ltd is one of the most iconic 'modern' Cathedral organs in the world, and is rightly famous because of its extraordinary power, and distinctive sound. You can hear the organ most Wednesdays at our lunchtime recitals, and this year at 1.00pm every Wednesday during term time we have a series of special events featuring returning Blackburn Cathedral Organists: February 5th James Thomas, 12th David Goodenough, March 4th Richard Tanner, March 18th John Robinson, April 1st Gordon Stewart. Tom Bell will also perform a celebratory recital on Wednesday February 19th at 1pm.

Please join us for this exciting celebration of a truly great Blackburn treasure!

Mindscape and Melody: a book of poems by Canon Ian Stockton, former Canon Chancellor. Expected in bookshops shortly, but obtainable direct from Ian at a cost of £10 to include postage. Please contact him on ian.g.stockton@gmail.com

Lent, Holy Week and Easter at Blackburn Cathedral 2020

EVENTS

Ash Wednesday 26th February **Ashes to Go**

We'll be out and about in Blackburn offering ashing, and there will also be:

11am BCP Eucharist with Imposition of Ashes
7pm Choral Eucharist with Imposition of Ashes

Sat 29th Feb and Sunday 1st March

7.30pm **The Mark Drama**

A fast-paced production based on Mark's Gospel. Suitable for adults and children aged over 8.

Cost £5.

Book through our website.

Friday 20th March

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.

Saturday 21st March

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.

Saturday 21st March

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.

Cont ...

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
BBI 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 Dir. of Music: The Right Rev'd Philip North
Catering & Hosp. Manager: Mr John Robinson
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Friends of Blackburn Cathedral

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Lent events cont ...

Thursday 26th March

7.30pm **An evening with the Archbishop of York**, the Most Revd and Rt Hon Dr John Sentamu.
Free of charge. Booking through our website essential.

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

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.