

# Newsletter



November 2020

## Diary

**1<sup>st</sup> Nov**

**4.00pm:** Commemoration for the Faithful Departed.

**8<sup>th</sup> Remembrance Sunday**

Services running as normal with an act of Remembrance during the 10.30am Cathedral Eucharist.

**11<sup>th</sup> Nov**

11.00am: Prayers and 2 minutes silence in The Nave.

**22<sup>nd</sup> Nov**

4.00pm: Choral Evensong with the Livesey Trust Awards.

**25<sup>th</sup> Nov**

The Cathedral will be lit for Red Wednesday.

**Stewardship:** A number of people who give to the Cathedral via the envelope scheme have asked how they can continue to do so during the Coronavirus pandemic. There are two ways to do this. The quickest and easiest is to use the 'Love Blackburn Cathedral - donate button' on the Cathedral website. You will find this button at the top left hand corner of each page.

Alternatively, you can pay money directly into the stewardship account with online banking. The details you need are as follows:

**Bank:** Nat West

**Account Name:** Blackburn Cathedral Stewardship Account.

**Account:** 04057902

**Sort Code:** 01-00-85

Thank you to all who continue to enable the ongoing work of the Cathedral through Stewardship. This is much appreciated.

## Community

Many years ago, when I was a curate, I served in a church whose dedication was 'All Saints'. At the time I found this slightly disappointing – I thought it would much easier to relate to an individual with a name, rather than what seemed like a whole collection of leftovers. But of course since then I have come to the realisation that the great feasts of All Saints and All Souls which we keep at the beginning of November say much more about the Christian faith than do the specific contributions of any one person, however sacrificial or learned or prayerful they may have been. Apologies to Saints Mary, Peter, Augustine, Benedict and the rest!

For in the celebration of All Saints and All Souls we recognise our own part in a community of the faithful which stretches across space and time, throughout the whole world and through all generations, crossing even the barrier of death itself. It is an opportunity to celebrate that most fundamental of Christian principles: living in relationship. All Saints and All Souls clearly demonstrate a two-way process, as for many people All Souls is a time to remember and pray for those who have gone before us, and All Saints is a time to ask them to remember and pray for us.

This year, All Souls has a particular resonance for those who have been bereaved during the pandemic, whether directly because of Covid or through any other cause. Some of the most challenging aspects of the Covid restrictions have been in limiting contact between dying people and their relatives, reducing the numbers permitted to attend funerals, and more generally affecting the grieving process. And so this year, as always, there will be opportunities at the Cathedral to remember those who have died, to mourn for them, and to commend them to God's care. Please do join us if you can.

And yet perhaps it is All Saints, with its emphasis on the community of faith, which particularly connects with our life at the Cathedral. 'Community' is a word which is so frequently used that it can be in danger of losing its meaning: who is the Cathedral's community, and what is a community anyway? I wonder whether the various different strands of communication which take place (including this newsletter) can help us to come to a better understanding. We have communications aimed at those who regularly attend worship; communications aimed at our volunteers and supporters across the Diocese; communications aimed at those who connect institutionally through local or national civic life. All of those communications are directed towards people who are part of 'our community' even if they do not inhabit the same space at the same time and have never met each other.

Every parish church has different aspects to its ministry: a church school, a Sunday congregation, couples preparing for marriage, and may wrestle with the question of how these are connected. In a Cathedral, the diversity of the work we do can present even more of a challenge – or an

opportunity. Just as we connect as Christians with the saints who have gone before us, but who we have never personally known, so we should be able to recognise that our community on earth is equally diverse.

At Blackburn Cathedral we exercise our ministry at many different levels. If you are reading this as someone who regularly attends worship at the Cathedral on a Sunday, you may not be aware of the educational work we do during the week. Similarly, if you are reading this as a volunteer who does not live locally, you may not be aware of what our choirs contribute. One particular strand of work we are currently developing is in supporting churches across the Diocese in their engagement with mission, with a programme of opportunities to share good practice and inspire creativity. The first event will be a virtual study afternoon led by our Canon Theologian, Jenn Strawbridge.

So, wherever you see yourself belonging in our Cathedral community, please pray for the whole breadth of our ministry, and the people who are part of it, who are as varied as the whole company of saints.

**The Rev'd Canon Dr Rowena Pailing**  
**Vice-Dean and Canon Missioner**

## **On Stewardship**

Firstly, can I thank each and every one of you for your support. In this difficult time, you have kept your standing orders in place, handed in your weekly envelopes and those who are unable to be with us have posted their gifts to the office.

Now it's that time of year to get those standing orders out and dust them off.

Your stewardship pays for heating, lighting, water, cleaning, maintenance, printing, postage and so many other things such as keeping the building safe and secure so that you can come and worship here. But at present we are not covering the weekly running costs. Since 2016-2017 the income from stewardship has fallen by 30%, but as you know the utility bills have not reduced.

The number of people in the stewardship scheme is almost the same, 182 in 2017 and 177 in 2020. In 2017 the average weekly giving per person was £10.44 whereas in Jan/Feb 2020 this had fallen to £7.98. These figures are based on the fact that I count a couple as 2 people worshipping in the cathedral.

As you may know people have been made redundant and, as a consequence, some have lost their homes as they live on site. The doors are not open 7 days a week and so a shopper or a visitor will not be able to find a place of quiet contemplation.

Each of us needs to look seriously at our giving.

Try to compare the costs of everyday items to your stewardship, £10 a week per person (the cost of a daily newspaper, carton of milk, pack of biscuits), £20 a week for a couple both worshipping regularly.

We, the congregation are trustees with responsibility to ensure the survival of the Church for future generations.

To use one of Michael Emery's themes "Keep the doors open" I ask each and every one of you to think how you can help.

God bless, take care and keep safe.  
Maureen Wood.

**Bible Study Groups** continue to meet, virtually, using Zoom. New people are always welcome, and it may be that now is a good moment to start, as a way of keeping in touch with others and talk about faith together. In order to make sure that no single group is overwhelmed, in the first instance please contact:

[missioner@blackburncathedral.co.uk](mailto:missioner@blackburncathedral.co.uk) to find the right group for you and receive timing and log in details.

## **Blackburn with Darwen Foodbank**

We would still wish to encourage people to donate to the BwD Foodbank. In fact, this is more important than ever, as so many people are facing financial hardship and turning to the Food bank for basic essentials.

Their first preference is for financial donations which will allow them to go out and buy the items they are most in need of. Financial donations can be made via their Just Giving page found here:

<https://www.justgiving.com/blackburnfoodbank>

However, if you prefer, the items we are most in need of at the moment are:

Tinned Meat & Fish  
Tinned Carrots  
Tinned Rice Pudding  
Long Life Fruit Juice  
Tinned chopped tomatoes  
Jam  
Shampoo  
Baby wipes  
Nappies size 5 & 6

To donate directly click [HERE](#)

## **Test and Trace**

In line with Government and Church of England guidance, we now have a new system of Test and Trace in place at the cathedral – that can be used anytime you are in the building for more than fifteen minutes.

We have a number of NHS Test and Trace QR codes that can be scanned via the NHS App if you have it. You will find them in the porch and at the West End of the Nave.

Alternatively, there are small cards in the back of chairs and on the Welcome Desk which you can fill in and place in the labelled slot in the Welcome Desk. If you use them on any day other than Sunday, please put the date of your visit on there too.

If you use the cards you may like to take a few away with you and pre-fill them ready for your next visit.

## A note from the Wardens

It has been just about eighteen months since our last APCM but it seems like so much longer than that. As a wider society we have seen so many changes to our daily lives and it seems like each week brings new rules and guidance for us to try and follow as best we can.

We are thankful for the number of wardens and stewards who have come through the summer lockdown and feel ready and able to return to the cathedral to take up our modified duties. We are just about able to cover each service and ensure that we can meet, greet and care for the congregation whilst ensuring the Health and Safety of all.

But even before the lockdown we were short of stewards for a number of services over the month and regularly had to rely on the goodwill of members of the congregation to help us out.

We are always glad to add volunteers to the relief steward list who we call on to help with extra services through the year and if you would like to join this list, please email [wardens@blackburncathedral.co.uk](mailto:wardens@blackburncathedral.co.uk) or make yourself known to one of the warden team.

However, our biggest need is to be ready to fill a range of gaps in the regular rota for when we return to some kind of normal service in the future.

If you would be interested in joining the stewarding team either immediately or putting yourself forward for a slot in the future, please get in touch using the contact details above.

## Music Listings

At present music for the coming weeks can be found at the back of the 10.30am service sheet – the number of listings will be dependent on the space available in the printed versions, but a more comprehensive list will be available in the online version of the same sheet.

## Some Words from a Gentleman of the Choir

*Blackburn Cathedral has had quite a profound effect on my life. I have been a Cathedral Chorister, man & boy and my Dad was one of the Honorary Canons, before he retired.*

*What first drew me to the Cathedral? The music, with its world class musicians and a world class organ. I view it as an enormous privilege to be a member of Blackburn Cathedral Choir.*

*Through the music at the Cathedral I met my wife, Victoria, singing in the Renaissance Singers and we were married here.*

*Our children, Lucy, James and Rory were all Christened here, and Lucy and James are now choristers too.*

*Chorister recruitment for the choir is an ongoing challenge. I believe it is the hardest part of the Director's job, to find new choristers and then to keep them. It is an enormous commitment for any family to make, particularly if they are not particularly 'churchy!' However, kids of all different backgrounds and abilities continue to be unearthed.*

*The music department and choirs bring people and families into the Cathedral, and many form a lifelong association with it.*

*As the current custodians of the Cathedral, we have a duty to ensure that it thrives and prospers and that it is here for generations to come. We are the Cathedral's only available resource - its membership. Ask yourself 'What can I offer?' And then ask yourself 'What more can I offer?'*

*Ed McCullough*

## On the Building

I was asked by a member of the stewardship team to make some comments about worship here at the cathedral.

After giving it some careful thought – the following came to my mind.

As a group of people we have all met here literally hundreds of times for all sorts of reasons. – worship, social functions, committee meetings, fundraising events etc etc.

This building has been a hub for us and enabled us as a congregation to be together.

In these really strange times, we are connecting with each other in different ways – formally through all the online worship, the pastoral care team, choir groups, and Canon Wedgeworth's newsletter. We also have bible study, zoom sherry meetings and many more, apologies for those activities that I have missed off.

There is also an informal network that has built up over the months which I think is just as important – people ringing others on a regular basis, cakes being baked and distributed, people knocking on windows as they pass by – chatting at the door, from a safe distance of course.

But we are missing a lot of people now and it's getting difficult to see how this situation will be resolved.

Pulling together as a group – although we can't all meet together – is important and needs to continue despite the current difficulties. This has to be at all levels - throughout our worship, fellowship and spirit of goodwill to each other.

I would like to leave you with a short bible passage – 1 Thessalonians 5, verse 11. Therefore comfort each other and edify one another just as you also are doing.

Louise Hicks, Oct 2020

## Service and Opening Times

At present all opening times and events are subject to last minute changes – please check the weekly service sheet, refer to the Cathedral Website or call the main office for up to date information.

The Cathedral is open for Private Prayer at the following times.

**Monday – the Cathedral is closed to the General public.**

**Tuesday - Friday: 8.30am – 2.00pm**

**Saturday – 10.00am – 12.00pm**

Regular Service Times

**Tuesday and Thursday: 8.30am**

Morning Prayer with Eucharist.

**Monday, Wednesday and Friday: 8.30am**

Morning Prayer. In the Jesus Chapel and via Zoom.

**Monday: 5.00pm**

Evening Prayer. In the Jesus Chapel and via Zoom. Please enter by the side door.

**Tuesday to Friday: 5.00pm**

Evensong. In the South Transept. Please enter by the side door.

**Sunday:**

**9.00am:** The Parish Eucharist

**10.30am:** The Cathedral Eucharist

**4.00pm:** Evensong

## Contacts

Blackburn Cathedral

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Website: [www.blackburncathedral.com](http://www.blackburncathedral.com)

Or via email:

The Dean:	The Very Rev'd Peter Howell-Jones <a href="mailto:dean@blackburncathedral.co.uk">dean@blackburncathedral.co.uk</a>
Vice Dean and Canon Missioner:	The Rev'd Canon Dr Rowena Pailing <a href="mailto:missioner@blackburncathedral.co.uk">missioner@blackburncathedral.co.uk</a>
Canon Precentor	The Rev'd Canon Gary O'Neill <a href="mailto:precentor@blackburncathedral.co.uk">precentor@blackburncathedral.co.uk</a>
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<b>Friends of Blackburn Cathedral</b>	Email: <a href="mailto:secretary@fobc.info">secretary@fobc.info</a> Website: <a href="http://www.fobc.info">www.fobc.info</a>

## Digital Service Sheets

**Digital service sheets will be available on the front page of the website every Friday for the following Sunday.**

### Worship via Zoom

Details for Zoom services can be obtained by emailing Gary O'Neill. [precentor@blackburncathedral.co.uk](mailto:precentor@blackburncathedral.co.uk)

### Worship Online

We are still producing a number of short, pre-recorded worship reflections which we will post on our [Facebook page](#) and [YouTube channel](#), click on the links to view. These are available on Wednesdays and Sundays.

## Advent and Christmas at the Cathedral

Subject to any changes in the COVID-19 situation the concerts and Carol services will be held at the Cathedral. Look out for more information in the weekly service sheets and online.

### Friday 18<sup>th</sup> December

**6.00pm:** A short Christmas Carol Concert by the boy Choristers.

### Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> December

**12 noon:** A short Christmas Carol Concert by the girl Choristers.

**6.00pm:** A short Christmas Carol Concert by the boy and girl Choristers.

### Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> December

**4.00pm:** Nine Lessons and Carols sung by the girl choristers.

### Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> December

**6.00pm:** Short Nine Lessons and Carols sung by the Young People's Choir.

### Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> December

**6.00pm:** Short Nine Lessons and Carols sung by the YPC

### Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> December

**4.00pm:** Nine Lessons and Carols sung by the boys and girl choristers.

**11.30pm:** First Eucharist of Christmas sung by the YPC

### Friday 25<sup>th</sup> December

**9.00am:** Parish Eucharist (YPC)

**10.30am:** Cathedral Eucharist (Girls)