

## **Diocesan Investment Programme: Grant Allocation Committee Members**

### **Mr Charles Hadcock: Chair of the Committee**

Charles is Deputy Lieutenant for Lancashire and will be the Chair of the new Committee. A contemporary sculptor by trade, he Chairs and / or is a Trustee of numerous bodies and is passionate about supporting young people in Lancashire, for example, he is Chair of the Leyland Town Deal Board, as well as Hon Col of the Lancashire Army Cadet Force. Further, he has considerable experience of Chairing grant making bodies and worships at Blackburn Cathedral.

### **Ven Mark Ireland: Archdeacon of Blackburn**

Mark has been the Archdeacon of Blackburn since 2016. He was originally ordained into the Diocese in 1984 and after curacy, became Vicar of Baxenden from 1989-1997. He then moved to become the Diocesan Missioner for Lichfield and Team Vicar, subsequently serving as the Vicar for Wellington with Eyton.

Mark currently serves on the General Synod and has previously been on Archbishop's Council of Directors. He leads the 'Making Disciples of Jesus Christ' strand of Blackburn Diocese's Vision 2026. Mark will be retiring in April 2025.

### **Ven David Picken: Archdeacon of Lancaster & Chair of the Board of Education**

David has been the Archdeacon of Lancaster since 2020, having previously served as Archdeacon of Newark from 2012 to 2020. Prior to that, he was the Team Rector and Area Dean of Wycombe from 2004 to 2012.

David has a lifelong commitment to education and is the Chair of the Diocese of Blackburn's Board of Education (DBE) having previously also chaired the DBE in the Diocese of Southwell and Nottingham from 2014 to 2019. In his role as Chair, he also leads the 'Inspiring Children and Young People' strand of Blackburn Diocese's Vision 2026 through which he has encouraged us to reflect on our role to be inspiring as we are inspired by God the Holy Spirit but also to be inspired by our children and young people who teach us so much. David has also spent several years serving on the Church of England's General Synod from 2015 to 2019.

### **Rachel Gardner**

Rachel is Youth Innovation Lead at St Lukes Blackburn and is the author of a number of books for young people and young adults. She is the Director of National Partnerships for Youthscape ([www.youthscape.org.uk](http://www.youthscape.org.uk)) and is an Ambassador for Home For Good, a Christian Fostering and Adoption charity. With the Diocesan Youth team, Rachel supports Clergy and Parishes across the Diocese to get youth ministry going and growing in their communities.

### **Pete Tomkinson**

Pete is a Licensed Church Army Evangelist who brings a wealth of Urban Church experience to the panel. He has worked alongside his wife Reverend Linda in urban ministry for the last 12 years. Together they planted Freedom Church on the Mereside estate in Blackpool, which is now the Parish Church. Pete is now employed as an evangelist in the Parish of Ribbleton in Preston, ministering in a large parish with 7 social housing estates and lots of challenges. He is also a Training Hub Leader for the M:Power programme. Pete is passionate about raising up leaders from the margins of church and firmly believes that ordinary people, when given the opportunity, training and mentoring can do extraordinary things for the Kingdom of God.

### **Jade Hackett: Representative from the Board of Education**

Jade is the Board of Education's nominee to the new DIP Grant Allocation Committee. She is a committed member of the Diocesan Racial Justice Group, involved as a Youth Leader at Coppull Parish Church and is Chair of Governors at Coppull Parish Church School. Jade works for Lancashire County Council.

### **Ruth Haldane: Representative from the Board of Finance**

Ruth most recently worked for the diocese as the Warden of Lay Ministry and so brings a wealth of knowledge in relation to the joys and challenges of lay ministry. She is also a senior lay leader of one of the diocese's largest churches for which paid children's/youth work has been a vital component of that growth – direct experience of what it is hoped the Ignite project will catalyse elsewhere. Ruth is also the Chair of Ribble Valley Gateway Trust, Chair of Whalley Abbey Governors and comes with a wealth of relevant professional experience at a senior level including being Head of Executive Services for a large housing association.

