





Blackburn Prayers April 2025

Welcome to Blackburn Prayers.

'I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth.' 1 Corinthians 3:6

In our Year of Prayer for Growth and Renewal, we are praying together for new and deeper disciples for Jesus Christ and that we will be renewed in the power of the Holy Spirit for a season of mission in our centenary year 2026. Prayer resources for parishes can be found here and resources for children and young people can be found here or by scanning the QR codes on the right.

As part of our commitment to the Year of Prayer, we have refreshed Blackburn Prayers. Our prayer diary will include prayers for our overseas links: the Dioceses of the Free State, Liwolo, Multan and the Lutheran church in Braunschweig.

You can also sign up for a daily email containing the Blackburn Prayers for that day. <u>Visit this page</u> to do so, where you can also see a pdf of the full month's prayers and even find out how to order a printed version to be sent to you, if you would prefer.

We continue to pray for peace in Ukraine and Gaza. Prayer resources can be found here and here or by scanning the QR codes.

If you have any comments, amendments or updates regarding Blackburn Prayers, please direct them to karen.ashcroft@blackburn.anglican.org in the first instance.

We would love to hear how God is answering your prayers. Please get in touch with Joy Rushton: joy.rushton@blackburn.anglican.org

Resources for adults and children to support Bible reading and inspiration for prayer can be found on our Fruitful Discipleship app available on your app store, search 'Fruitful, Diocese of Blackburn' to find it.



Year of Prayer Resources



Year of Prayer Children's Resources



Prayer Resources for Ukraine



Prayer for Gaza and Israel

Leading Your Church Into Growth Prayer

God of Mission, who alone brings growth to your Church.

Send your Holy Spirit to give vision to our planning, wisdom to our actions, joy to our worship, and power to our witness.

Help our church to grow in numbers, in spiritual commitment to you, and in service to our local community, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen



Key: cw = Churchwarden of Vacant Parish Ilm = Licensed Lay Minister

Tuesday 1 April

Frederick Denison Maurice, priest, teacher of the faith, 1872

Vision 2026: We pray for those from the Making Disciples Team continuing to grow our Discipleship app 'Fruitful', which offers creative content that helps people grow in faith. Pray for the support group working together on technical support; ongoing content creation and communications/promotion.

Diocese: Leyland Deanery Officers, Rev Andy Meeson, Mr Bob Collins, Mrs Sarah Phillips, Mr David Tuke

Link Diocese: Liwolo - Pray that the blessings of Deuteronomy 28 will be poured out upon this community. May the people of Liwolo be blessed. Pray for the land, the crops and the work of their hands. Pray for protection from harm and God's peace to reign.

Anglican Cycle of Prayer: The Diocese of Masasi – The Anglican Church of Tanzania

Wednesday 2 April

Vision 2026: We pray for the growth of 'joyful, generous stewards' across the Diocese for whom giving is an integral part of discipleship.

Diocese: Bamber Bridge St Aidan and Walton-le-Dale St Leonard, Vacant, Dr Belinda Hornby (Ilm), Mr Arthur Fish (cw), Mr Ross Kinder (cw), Mrs Heather Thomas (cw), Mr Lester Metcalf (cw); also in this Benefice, Bamber Bridge St Aidan's CofE Primary School, Walton-le-Dale St Leonard's CofE Primary School **Anglican Cycle of Prayer:** The Diocese of Maseno East – The Anglican Church of Kenya

Event: Day of Prayer for Growth and Renewal at Whalley Abbey

Thursday 3 April

Vision 2026: We give thanks for the growth of Whalley Abbey as a Centre for Christian Discipleship and Prayer and pray for those young disciples who offer a year of their time as part of a growing community centred on prayer, hospitality and service.

Diocese: Bamber Bridge St Saviour, Rev Matt Cook; also in this Benefice, Cuerden Church School

Mission Partners: <u>Life Association</u> ask for prayer for God's provision for their work amongst India's poorest people, and for His protection and blessing on their projects, partners and those they serve.

Link Diocese: Multan - Pray for Bishop Leo Paul who leads the Diocese of Multan Pakistan with limited resources but with great passion to proclaim Jesus' gospel. Pray for continual courage for him from God to stand firm in the Lord in a difficult place. Pray for his family and the Diocese to be strengthened by the Holy Spirit to stand together with Bishop Leo in his ministry.

Anglican Cycle of Prayer: The Diocese of Maseno North – The Anglican Church of Kenya

Clergy Moves: Rev Simon Lloyd, Vicar of Haslingden St James with Grane St Stephen and Stonefold St John (in plurality with) Musbury St Thomas

Friday 4 April

Vision 2026: We give thanks for the new funding from the national church for Children's, Families and Youth Workers and Lay Pioneers. Are you, or is someone you know, sensing a call to these ministries? We want to appoint gifted and energised individuals to these posts in due course.

Diocese: Buckshaw Village Conventional District, Rev Ian Sarginson, Rev Stuart Longworth; also in this Benefice, Buckshaw Trinity CofE / Methodist Primary School **Anglican Cycle of Prayer:** The Diocese of Maseno South – The Anglican Church of Kenya

Saturday 5 April

Vision 2026: We pray for the expansion of the Diocesan Renewal Programme that has been enabled by national church funding, that those parishes participating would see growth in prayer, a deepening of discipleship and increasing numbers of people coming to faith.

Diocese: HMP Garth Prison, Rev Dr Rick Bunday

Mothers' Union: Heavenly Father, we place into your hands the Mothers' Union here in Blackburn Diocese. We pray for all involved in the organisation and running of about 100 branches throughout the Diocese. Surround them with your Holy Spirit as they seek to promote the importance of marriage, to support families and to nurture faith, through prayer, commitment, and service. We ask this in Jesus' name.

Link Diocese: Free State - Today we pray for Bishop Dintoe as he leads the Diocese of the Free State. It is an enormous Diocese with many difficulties to be overcome. We pray for discernment and understanding among all clergy. We pray for those with responsibility for the difficult financial situation, and particularly those directly impacted by the lack of a regular income.

Anglican Cycle of Prayer: The Diocese of Maseno West – The Anglican Church of Kenva

Clergy Moves: Retirement of Rev Stefan Dnistrianskyj, Vicar of Wrightington with Heskin St James the Great

Event: Lay Study Morning at St Cuthbert's Fulwood

Sunday 6 April Fifth Sunday of Lent Passiontide begins *Vision 2026:* We pray for fresh inspiration for all those who plan and lead worship, that lives will be transformed as people of all ages encounter Jesus in word and sacrament.

Diocese: Hesketh with Becconsall All Saints, Vacant, Mrs Mary Scambler (cw), Mr John Crook (cw); also in this Benefice, Hesketh with Becconsall All Saints CofE Primary School

Anglican Cycle of Prayer: Iglesia Anglicana de Chile

Clergy Moves: Retirement of The Venerable Mark Ireland, Archdeacon of Blackburn. Service at Blackburn Cathedral, 4pm today. All welcome.

Monday 7 April

Vision 2026: We pray for the growth of new and deeper disciples of Jesus Christ. **Diocese:** Higher Walton All Saints (in plurality with) Hoghton Holy Trinity, Rev Hannah Boyd, Rev Daniel Abraham, Ms Tash Green (Ilm); also in this Benefice, Higher Walton CofE Primary School

Lighting Up New Generations: In this Easter season pray that our churches will once more become a focus of the resurrection message and that they will offer a welcome to all those who feel called to approach their doors.

Link Diocese: Braunschweig - Lord, we lift up the Bishop of Braunschweig and his leadership team. Grant them wisdom and strength in their service as they future proof the work across the Diocese. Give them the courage to spread the Gospel and to focus on the growth of the Landeskirche.

Anglican Cycle of Prayer: The Diocese of Masindi-Kitara – The Church of the Province of Uganda

Meetings: Diocesan Vision and Strategy Team meeting

Event: Discerning a new Vision – Garstang Deanery Synod meeting

Tuesday 8 April

Vision 2026: We pray for the team of Spiritual Directors, for wisdom as they seek to match each person seeking a spiritual companion or director with the right person to help them grow in their spiritual life. And we also pray for the Rev Mary Ashton in her role as Warden of Spiritual Directors.

Diocese: Hoole St Michael, Vacant, Mrs Jane Elphick (cw), Mrs Barbara Wood (cw); also in this Benefice, Hoole St Michael's CofE Primary School

Anglican Cycle of Prayer: The Diocese of Massachusetts – The Episcopal Church

Meeting: Diocesan HR Committee meeting

Wednesday 9 April

Dietrich Bonhoeffer, Lutheran pastor, martyr, 1945

Vision 2026: Pray for more workers of all backgrounds for the plentiful harvest fields across Lancashire and for intercessors who are ambitious, insightful and who storm the gates of heaven.

Diocese: Leyland St Ambrose, Rev Paul Robinson, Mr Alwyn Carroll (Ilm), Mrs Jean Brundrett (Ilm)

Mission Partners: "Pray for the connections L. is making both in the country and internationally to work together with others to improve special educational needs provision systematically within the country where we serve," write mission partners A. and L. in southeast Asia. L. works in education and A. is working to help people overcome addictions.

Link Diocese: Liwolo - Pray for God's forgiveness upon the sins of this generation and those before. Pray for a restoration of peace, an end of the cycle of wars and refugee life. Pray for the return and resettlement of refugees. Pray for a nation rebuilt with love and fear for God. Pray for healing of wounds and unity. Pray for righteous leaders that rule with justice, compassion, understanding and knowledge.

Anglican Cycle of Prayer: The Diocese of Western Massachusetts – The Episcopal Church

Meetings: DBF Directors' meeting; Diocesan Advisory Committee meeting; Diocesan Strategic Programme Board

Thursday 10 April

William Law, priest, spiritual writer, 1761;

William of Ockham, friar, philosopher, teacher of the faith, 1347

Vision 2026: Pray for a visitation of the Holy Spirit on Lancashire to light beacons in every community.

Diocese: Leyland St Andrew, Rev David Whitehouse, Rev Paul Davies, Rev Lloyd Etheridge; also in this Benefice, Leyland St Andrew's CofE Infant School, Leyland Balshaw's CofE High School, Leyland Methodist Infant and Junior Schools **Anglican Cycle of Prayer:** The Diocese of Masvingo – The Church of the

Meetings: Bishop's Appointments Team meeting

Province of Central Africa

Friday 11 April

Vision 2026: Pray for it to become normal for every parish to be planting congregations and churches to fulfil the Anglican ambition to be a 'Christian presence in every community' across Lancashire.

Diocese: Leyland St James, Rev Marc Wolverson, Rev Andrew Kesiak, Mrs Deborah Peacock (Ilm); also in this Benefice, Leyland St James' CofE Primary School

Link Diocese: Multan - Pray for all the clergy and lay leaders and their families. Pray they may be continuing to preach and teach the word of God with courage and sensitivity.

Anglican Cycle of Prayer: The Diocese of Matabeleland – The Church of the Province of Central Africa

Saturday 12 April

Vision 2026: Pray for the continuing growth of the church in Lancashire, building joyful Christian communities with an ever-stronger voice for justice, especially for the poorest, enabling people to know God's love, peace and justice.

Diocese: Leyland St John, Rev Andy Meeson, Mrs Sue Champness (Ilm) **M:Power:** Pray for the M:Power team (Rebecca, Jenny, Pete, Kevin, Hannah and Janine) as they train and support people from urban and estate parishes to become the leaders God is calling them to be.

Anglican Cycle of Prayer: The Diocese of Matana – The Anglican Church of Burundi

Sunday 13 April Palm Sunday

Vision 2026: Pray for baptism and confirmation candidates to be fired up to be beacons of faith in their schools, workplaces and communities.

Diocese: Longton St Andrew, Rev Sam Crossley, Mrs Joan Doerich (Ilm), Mrs Jane Slinger (Ilm); also in this Benefice, Hutton CofE Grammar School **Link Diocese:** Free State - We pray for Father Lazarus, Dean of Bloemfontein Cathedral, and thank God for all the work that is achieved with the homeless people of the city. We give thanks for the regular food kitchen and for the sessions when the homeless come for physical and mental care. We also thank God for the other churches around the Diocese that show compassion with food and clothing banks. **Anglican Cycle of Prayer:** The Church of England

Monday 14 April Monday of Holy Week

Vision 2026: Creator God, inspire us with your Holy Spirit to be witnesses to your generosity in bringing all things to be; make us mindful of our responsibility to care for all our fellow creatures and sustain the life of the earth; open our hearts to meet human need from the gifts of your creation that all may share in its bounty; we ask this through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen

Diocese: Lostock Hall St James and Farington Moss St Paul, Vacant, Mrs Beverley Lambert (cw), Mrs Vivian Cairns (cw), Mr Bob Thompson (cw), Mr Peter Mounsey (cw); also in this Benefice, Farington Moss St Paul's CofE Primary School **Anglican Cycle of Prayer:** The Diocese of Matlosane – The Anglican Church of Southern Africa

Tuesday 15 April Tuesday of Holy Week

Vision 2026: Pray for all those in lay and ordained leadership, for authorised lay ministers, licensed lay ministers, ordinands, curates, priests and bishops. We also pray for our chaplains and retired clergy. Pray God will give them wisdom, discernment and resilience to lead His church.

Diocese: New Longton All Saints, Rev Dr Tom Woolford; also in this Benefice, New Longton All Saints' CofE Primary School

Clergy with PTO: Bless, O Lord, all clergy in our Diocese who are retired with Permission to Officiate. Grant them your continued wisdom and strength to serve. We are thankful for the many ways they provide invaluable support as we work together making disciples, growing leaders, being witnesses and inspiring children and young people for Jesus Christ.

Link Diocese: Braunschweig - Heavenly Father, we pray for the pastors and clergy of Braunschweig. As they face challenges in ministry numbers, inspire more people to answer your call to serve. Provide encouragement and support to those already in service, that they may remain steadfast in their faith and leadership.

Anglican Cycle of Prayer: The Diocese of Mauritius – The Church of the Province of the Indian Ocean

Meetings: Diocesan Safeguarding Advisory Panel

Wednesday 16 April Wednesday of Holy Week

Vision 2026: Pray for Christians who hold positions of authority in our community. Praying especially for those working in health care, policing, education, politics and the media. That they may understand the call God has placed on their life to be uniquely Christlike in a non-Christian environment.

Diocese: Penwortham St Leonard, Vacant, Mr George Cartwright (cw), Mr Philip Walsh (cw); also in this Benefice, Penwortham Middleforth CofE Primary School **Anglican Cycle of Prayer:** The Diocese of Mbaise – The Church of Nigeria (Anglican Communion)

Thursday 17 April Maundy Thursday

Vision 2026: Pray for more vocations to lay leadership, priesthood and to the religious life, especially for vocations amongst young adults and people of global majority heritage.

Diocese: Penwortham St Mary, Rev Chris Nelson; also in this Benefice, Penwortham Cop Lane CofE Primary School, Penwortham Howick CofE Primary School

Link Diocese: Liwolo - Pray for Bishop Joseph Aba leading in the most difficult circumstances. Pray that God's mighty hand would rest upon him, strengthening him, encouraging him and equipping him with everything he needs to shepherd his flock in Liwolo.

Anglican Cycle of Prayer: The Diocese of Mbale – The Church of the Province of Uganda

Event: Chrism Eucharist at Blackburn Cathedral

Friday 18 April Good Friday

Vision 2026: Pray all Christians will identify their God given gifts and have the courage to use them in His service and for His glory. Pray especially for those who have the gift of leadership, for God to make it clear how He would like them to use that blessing.

Diocese: Rufford (St Mary the Virgin) and Tarleton (Holy Trinity), Rev Canon Mark Soady, Rev Joe Kochanski; also in this Benefice, Holmeswood Methodist School, Rufford St Mary's CofE Primary School, Tarleton Holy Trinity CofE Primary School, Tarleton Mere Brow CofE Primary School

Sisters of the Order of the Companions of Mary and Martha: Pray for Sister Judith and Sister Sue at St Joseph's House, Tunstall, living a vowed life of prayerful presence and hospitality. Give thanks for their faithful witness to the gospel and bless all who visit there seeking peace and refreshment.

Anglican Cycle of Prayer: The Diocese of North Mbale – The Church of the Province of Uganda

Saturday 19 April Easter Eve

Vision 2026: Pray for all those in training for leadership, especially our trainee authorised lay ministers, licensed lay ministers, ordinands and curates that they may be formed for the ministries they have been called to.

Diocese: HMP Wymott Prison, Rev Calum Crombie, Rev Philip Knowles **Link Diocese: Multan** - Pray for the church in the Diocese that individuals, families and communities may know Jesus more and better and be strong, visible and intentional witnesses to Christ even in the face of persecution.

Anglican Cycle of Prayer: The Diocese of Mbamili – The Church of Nigeria (Anglican Communion)

Sunday 20 April Easter Day

Vision 2026: Pray for our lay and ordained leaders who are finding ministry difficult, asking that God will protect their ministry and encourage them to re-find joy in serving the Lord. Pray also that God will provide them with other people to support and uphold them.

Diocese: Pendle Deanery Officers, Rev Lesley Hinchcliffe, Rev Guy Jamieson, Mrs Elizabeth Johnston, Mrs Bev Thorpe, Mrs Barbara Shaw **Anglican Cycle of Prayer:** Hong Kong Sheng Kung Hui

Monday 21 April Monday of Easter Week

Vision 2026: Pray for the Growing Leaders team, and Bishop Jill who oversees this work. Ask for God to guide them in their work and to direct their steps as they work to support Christian leadership in Blackburn Diocese.

Diocese: Barrowford St Thomas and Newchurch-in-Pendle St Mary, Rev Nick Murray, Mrs Melanie Clark (Ilm); also in this Benefice, Barrowford St Thomas' CofE Primary School, Newchurch-in-Pendle CofE Primary School, Roughlee CofE Primary School

Link Diocese: Free State - Litter is a huge environmental problem around the Diocese, and we thank God that the churches are in the forefront of teaching the people how to recycle and care for creation. We also praise God for the churches taking a lead in using recycled materials in their buildings.

Anglican Cycle of Prayer: The Diocese of Mbeere – The Anglican Church of Kenya

Tuesday 22 April Tuesday of Easter Week

Vision 2026: Lord, we pray for parents of children with special educational needs and disabilities. Grant them strength, wisdom, and resources to support their children's unique journeys. May they find comfort in your love and guidance. **Diocese:** Colne (Holy Trinity and St Bartholomew), Rev Alex Oehring, Rev Michelle Delves, Mrs Lisa Peynado (Ilm)

ALM Prayer: We pray for our authorised lay ministers, giving thanks for the work they do in Christ's name to further the gospel message and enable mission in the local parishes. We ask that God will uphold them in their ministry and pour out His blessings upon them.

Anglican Cycle of Prayer: The Diocese of Mbhashe – The Anglican Church of Southern Africa

Wednesday 23 April Wednesday of Easter Week

Vision 2026: Heavenly Father, we lift up children and youth who have not yet found faith in you. Open their hearts to your love and truth. May they encounter you in meaningful ways through caring mentors and positive experiences.

Diocese: Fence-in-Pendle St Anne and Higham St John the Evangelist, Rev Lesley Hinchcliffe; also in this Benefice, Fence Wheatley Lane Methodist School **Link Diocese: Braunschweig** - God of compassion, bless the diaconal work and social projects in Braunschweig, especially those already in process and those being devised. May these initiatives continue to serve the community effectively, showing your love in practical ways. Guide the church in balancing state funding with volunteer engagement.

Anglican Cycle of Prayer: The Diocese of Meath and Kildare – The Church of Ireland

Thursday 24 April Thursday of Easter Week

Vision 2026: God of hope, we pray for all children's and youth work in our churches and for the many dedicated volunteer leaders faithfully serving week by week. We also bring the Ignite Project and Youth Hub to you. Bless these initiatives with creativity, energy, and impact. May they provide safe spaces for young people to grow and thrive.

Diocese: Foulridge (St Michael and All Angels) Laneshawbridge (Colne Christ Church) and Trawden (St Mary the Virgin), Rev Canon Andrew Froud, Rev David Hargreaves; also in this Benefice, Colne Christ Church CofE Primary School, Foulridge St Michael's and All Angels CofE Primary School

Anglican Cycle of Prayer: The Diocese of Medak – The Church of South India (United)

Friday 25 April Friday of Easter Week

Vision 2026: Compassionate God, we bring before you children and young people struggling with mental health and wellbeing. Surround them with understanding, professional support, and Your healing presence. Guide their families and friends in offering care.

Diocese: Great Marsden St John the Evangelist with Nelson St Philip, Rev Lorelli Hilliard, Mrs Lesley Wright (Ilm); also in this Benefice, Great Marsden St John's CofE Primary School, Nelson St Philip's CofE Primary School

Link Diocese: Liwolo - We pray for the current and future clergy and lay leaders of the Diocese of Liwolo. Pray that they would be filled with wisdom, courage and steadfast faith as they lead and minister in challenging times. Pray for strength for them to be pillars of integrity and compassion, embodying the love of Christ in all they do.

Anglican Cycle of Prayer: The Diocese of Central Melanesia – The Anglican Church of Melanesia

Saturday 26 April Saturday of Easter Week

Vision 2026: Lord of wisdom, we pray for school and university staff, leaders, chaplains, and governors. Grant them discernment, patience, and joy in their vital roles. May they create nurturing environments where every child and young person can flourish academically, socially, and emotionally.

Diocese: Nelson Little Marsden (St Paul), Rev Guy Jamieson; also in this Benefice, Nelson St Paul's CofE Primary School

Blackburn Cathedral: Prayers today for the Dean and Chapter and all who work at the Cathedral, including administrative staff and all volunteers. We pray for the music department - choirs and organists; Canon Missioner; Education Officer and Safeguarding Team. Prayers also for the Canon Precentor, Virgers, Servers, Wardens; members of the Pastoral Team; staff involved in communications and events; all working at the restaurant (Checks and Greys) and finally the Architect, Archivist and all involved in maintenance and heritage.

Anglican Cycle of Prayer: The Diocese of Melbourne – The Anglican Church of Australia

Sunday 27 April Second Sunday of Easter

Vision 2026: Father, we lift up all children and young people in our communities. Protect them from harm, inspire their dreams, and help them discover their unique gifts. May they grow in confidence, compassion, and character. Help us as a church to always welcome children and young people in as you commanded us, that they might find a safe space there.

Diocese: Poulton Deanery Officers, Rev Jane Atkinson, Mr David Thompson, Mrs Geraldene Rogers

Link Diocese: Multan - Pray for Diocesan schools that are providing education to children from very deprived backgrounds. Pray that they may have provisions to give quality education building lives of children based on solid foundation in Jesus Christ. Pray that the Sunday schools be the places of love and spiritual growth. Anglican Cycle of Prayer: The Church of the Province of the Indian Ocean Clergy Moves: Rev Stephen Martin, Vicar of Bamber Bridge St Aidan and Walton-le-Dale St Leonard

Monday 28 April

George, martyr, patron of England, c.304

Vision 2026: Gracious God, we pray for our schools and educational institutions. May they be places of learning, growth, and positive transformation. Guide teachers and students alike in pursuing knowledge, understanding, and wisdom.

Diocese: Cleveleys St Andrew, Rev Graham Young

Anglican Cycle of Prayer: The Diocese of Meridional – Igreja Episcopal

Anglicana do Brasil

Tuesday 29 April Mark the Evangelist

Vision 2026: For the staff in the Diocesan Offices in Blackburn giving support to parishes through their work in the areas of HR, finance, safeguarding, communications, property, legal and governance, as they share their knowledge and skills for the benefit of mission.

Diocese: Fleetwood St Nicholas, Rev Carolyn Leitch, Mr Phil Deegan (Ilm) **Link Diocese:** Free State - Mosamaria works with all people to curb the spread of HIV and TB through correct knowledge and the ability to make important life decisions. Thank you God for this valuable work and the people who work with the adults and children who attend and are fed, loved, cared for and being shown the love of God.

Anglican Cycle of Prayer: The Diocese of Meru – The Anglican Church of Kenya **Meetings:** Diocesan Finance Committee meeting; Diocesan Mission and Pastoral Committee; Diocesan Property Committee meeting

Wednesday 30 April

Pandita Mary Ramabai, translator, 1922

Vision 2026: For the support provided to clergy and their families to have suitable homes from which to be leaders in mission.

Diocese: Fleetwood St Peter and St David, Rev Damian Platt, Rev Andrew Downes; also in this Benefice, Rossall School

Choir Church: Pray for Choir Churches to work for social justice and model a church which is both of and for the poorest.

Anglican Cycle of Prayer: The Diocese of México – La Iglesia Anglicana de Mexico

Meetings: Diocesan Bishops and Archdeacons' meeting