



## Blackburn Prayers April 2026

**This is our centenary year ... we are celebrating!**

'All for Jesus' explains in three simple words why there is a Diocese of Blackburn and what our purpose is.

This year is an opportunity for people to come to know Jesus Christ either for the first time or more deeply than they do now, because a personal relationship with Him is what lies at the heart of every movement for renewal.

Please be praying for more and deeper disciples of Jesus.

### Blackburn Diocese Centenary Prayer

**Heavenly Father,**  
in our Centenary year  
we rededicate ourselves and our Diocese to you.  
Send the Holy Spirit to give us  
confidence in our witness,  
generosity in our service,  
and love for our neighbours,  
that your Church may be renewed  
and many come home to you,  
through your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ, **Amen.**

In our prayers we will continue to pray for our link dioceses and for peace in our world. Prayer resources for the Israel/Gaza and Ukraine conflicts can also be found [here](#) and [here](#) or by scanning the QR code on the right.

You can sign up for a daily email containing the Blackburn Prayers for each day. [Visit this page](#) 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.



If you have any comments, amendments or updates regarding Blackburn Prayers, send to [karen.ashcroft@blackburn.anglican.org](mailto:karen.ashcroft@blackburn.anglican.org) in the first instance.

We would love to hear how God is answering your prayers during this Centenary year. Please get in touch with Joy Rushton: [joy.rushton@blackburn.anglican.org](mailto:joy.rushton@blackburn.anglican.org)

Resources for adults and children to support discipleship, Bible reading and inspiration for prayer can also be found on our Fruitful Discipleship app.

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

**Wednesday 1 April**  
**Wednesday of Holy Week**

**Making Disciples:** We pray for the Making Disciples Team as they continue to develop the Fruitful app. We give thanks for its creative resources and pray for wisdom for those offering technical and communications support, creating content and sharing it more widely.

**Diocese:** St Annes on Sea St Thomas, Rev Canon Michael Manley, Miss Elizabeth O'Connor (Ilm), Mr Peter Watson (Ilm), Mrs Debbie Wood (Ilm); also in this Benefice, St Annes on Sea St Thomas' CofE Primary School

**Mission Partners:** Life Association 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: 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 Victoria Nyanza – The Anglican Church of Tanzania

**Thursday 2 April**  
**Maundy Thursday**

**Making Disciples:** We pray for the growth of joyful and generous stewards across the Diocese, that giving may be embraced as a vital part of faithful discipleship.

**Diocese:** Treales Christ Church, Rev Canon Anne Beverley, Rev Terry Scholz, Dr Janet Roberts (Ilm); also in this Benefice, Treales CofE Primary School

**Anglican Cycle of Prayer:** The Diocese of Virgin Islands – The Episcopal Church

**Event:** [Maundy Thursday Eucharist](#) at Blackburn Cathedral

**Friday 3 April**  
**Good Friday**

**Making Disciples:** We give thanks for Whalley Abbey as a Centre for Christian Discipleship and Prayer. We pray for the whole team as they lead a community rooted in prayer, hospitality and service.

**Diocese:** Wesham Christ Church, Rev Tracy Swindells, Rev Jono Peatman; also in this Benefice, Medlar with Wesham CofE Primary 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 Virginia – The Episcopal Church

**Saturday 4 April**  
**Easter Eve**

**Making Disciples:** We thank God for national church funding for Children's, Families and Youth Workers and Lay Pioneers. We pray for those sensing a call to these ministries, that God will guide and equip them.

**Diocese:** Lancaster and Morecambe Deanery Officers, Rev Carol Backhouse, Mrs Jacqueline Stamper, Mrs Barbara Gardner

**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.

**Anglican Cycle of Prayer:** The Diocese of Southern Virginia – The Episcopal Church

**Sunday 5 April  
Easter Day**

**Making Disciples:** We pray for the Diocesan Renewal Programme, that parishes taking part may grow in prayer, deepen discipleship and see more people come to faith.

**Diocese:** Cockerham with Winmarleigh and Glasson (*St Michael and All Angels, St Luke and Christ Church*), Rev Gary Lewis, Mr Ian Marshall (Ilm); also in this Benefice, Cockerham Parochial CofE Primary School, Thurnham Glasson Christ Church CofE Primary School, Winmarleigh 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:** La Iglesia Anglicana de Mexico

**Clergy Moves:** Retirement of Rev Timothy Kaye, Priest-in-Charge of Burnley St Andrew with St Margaret and Burnley St James

**Monday 6 April  
Monday of Easter Week**

**Making Disciples:** We pray for all who plan and lead worship, that people of all ages may encounter Jesus in word and sacrament and for lives to be transformed.

**Diocese:** Ellel St John the Evangelist and Shireshead St James, Vacant, Mrs Diane Otto (Ilm), Mr Peter Harrison (cw), Mr Alex Peill (cw), Mrs Stephanie Carter (cw), Mr Anthony Chick (cw); also in this Benefice, Ellel St John the Evangelist CofE Primary School

**Anglican Cycle of Prayer:** The Diocese of Southwestern Virginia – The Episcopal Church

**Tuesday 7 April  
Tuesday of Easter Week**

**Making Disciples:** We pray for the growth of new and deeper disciples of Jesus Christ.

**Diocese:** Heysham St Peter, Rev Mark Nelson; also in this Benefice, Heysham St Peter's 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: 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 Diocese of West Virginia – The Episcopal Church

**Wednesday 8 April  
Wednesday of Easter Week**

**Being Witnesses:** 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.

**Diocese:** HMP Lancaster Farm, Rev Diane Gilmore

**Anglican Cycle of Prayer:** The Diocese of Wad Medani – Province of the Episcopal Church of Sudan

**Thursday 9 April  
Thursday of Easter Week**

**Being Witnesses:** 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:** Lancaster Christ Church, Rev Carol Backhouse, Rev Kaarina Leong; also in this Benefice, Lancaster Christ Church CofE Primary School

**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 Waiapu – The Anglican Church in Aotearoa, New Zealand and Polynesia

**Friday 10 April**  
**Friday of Easter Week**

**Being Witnesses:** Pray for a visitation of the Holy Spirit on Lancashire to light beacons in every community.

**Diocese:** Lancaster Royal Infirmary Hospital, Rev Ian Dewar

**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.

**Anglican Cycle of Prayer:** The Diocese of Waikato and Taranaki – The Anglican Church in Aotearoa, New Zealand and Polynesia

**Saturday 11 April**  
**Saturday of Easter Week**

**Being Witnesses:** 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:** Lancaster St Chad Skerton (in plurality with) Lancaster St Luke Skerton, Rev Nikki Mann; also in this Benefice, Skerton St Luke's CofE Primary School.

**Link Diocese: Braunschweig** - Lord of wisdom, we pray for the education team in Braunschweig. Bless their work in kindergartens and their support of RE teachers in state schools. May their efforts in developing a shared curriculum with other denominations bear fruit, nurturing young minds in faith and understanding.

**Anglican Cycle of Prayer:** Te Pihopatanga o Te Waipounamu – The Anglican Church in Aotearoa, New Zealand and Polynesia

**Sunday 12 April**  
**Second Sunday of Easter**

**Being Witnesses:** 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:** Lancaster St Mary with St John and St Anne, Vacant, Prof Richard Carter (Ilm), Mrs Lois Kirtley (Ilm), Mrs Rebekah Mulligan (cw); also in this Benefice, Lancaster Ripley St Thomas, a CofE Academy

**Anglican Cycle of Prayer:** Igreja Anglicana de Mocambique e Angola

**Monday 13 April**

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

**Diocese:** Lancaster St Paul Scotforth, Rev Catherine Haydon, Rev Clare Shepherd; also in this Benefice, Scotforth St Paul's CofE Primary School

**M:Power:** Pray for the M:Power team as they train and support people from urban and estate parishes to become the leaders God is calling them to be.

**Link Diocese: Liwolo** - Pray for the returnees to Liwolo seeking refuge, hope and restoration. Each one carries stories of loss, resilience and a deep longing for a place to call home. Pray that God would pour out his peace upon them, calming every fear and filling them with courage as they take steps to rebuild their lives and livelihoods.

**Anglican Cycle of Prayer:** The Diocese of Wandi – Province of the Episcopal Church of South Sudan

**Tuesday 14 April**

**Being Witnesses:** Pray for the Creator God to inspire us with the Holy Spirit to be witnesses to His 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 His creation that all may share in its bounty.

**Diocese:** Lancaster St Thomas, Rev Mark Bradford, Rev Jenny Guilder, Rev Will Shepherd, Mr David Bell (Ilm), Mrs Cathleen Dawson (Ilm)

**Anglican Cycle of Prayer:** The Diocese of Wangaratta – The Anglican Church of Australia

## Wednesday 15 April

**Growing Leaders:** 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 that God will give them wisdom, discernment and resilience to lead His church.

**Diocese:** Morecambe St Barnabas, Rev Michael Childs

**Link Diocese: Multan** - Pray for the women's ministry in the Diocese. Particularly for the women's fellowship in the parishes and literacy work especially amongst women working in brick kilns. Pray for women's health, education and spiritual growth.

**Anglican Cycle of Prayer:** The Diocese of Wanglei – Province of the Episcopal Church of South Sudan

**Meetings:** Diocesan Advisory Committee meeting

## Thursday 16 April

Isabella Gilmore, deaconess, 1923

**Growing Leaders:** 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:** Morecambe St Christopher Bare, Rev David Heap

**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.

**Anglican Cycle of Prayer:** The Diocese of Wanyjok – Province of the Episcopal Church of South Sudan

## Friday 17 April

**Growing Leaders:** 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:** Overton St Helen, Vacant, Mrs Julie Butterworth (cw), Mrs Gill Gardner (cw); also in this Benefice, Overton St Helen CofE Primary School

**Link Diocese: Free State** - Some of the churches in Free State have strong links with parishes in Blackburn Diocese. As more lay people take on the responsibility of leading this initiative, we pray that the links will grow. We pray that churches in the Free State that would like a link can be successfully matched with parishes here.

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

## Saturday 18 April

**Growing Leaders:** Pray that 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:** Poulton-le-Sands Holy Trinity with Morecambe St Laurence, Rev Chris Krawiec; also in this Benefice, Poulton-le-Sands CofE Primary School

**Anglican Cycle of Prayer:** The Diocese of Washington – The Episcopal Church

**Sunday 19 April**  
**Third Sunday of Easter**

**Growing Leaders:** 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 to which they have been called.

**Diocese:** Sandylands St John, Vacant, Miss Margaret Carr (IIm), Mrs Julie Guest (cw)

**The Order of the Companions of Martha and Mary:** Please pray for Sister Judith OCMM and Sister Sue OCMM living the vowed Religious Life at St Joseph's House, in Blackpool and their ministry of prayerful presence and hospitality.

**Link Diocese: Braunschweig** - Gracious God, we lift up the parishes of Braunschweig, particularly those experimenting with new patterns of rural ministry. Bless the innovative approaches, such as employing buildings and operations managers. May these efforts strengthen the church's presence in rural communities.

**Anglican Cycle of Prayer:** The Church of the Province of Myanmar (Burma)

**Clergy Moves:** Induction of Rev Emily Barry, Vicar of Leyland St James

**Monday 20 April**

**Growing Leaders:** 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:** Torrisholme The Ascension, Rev Canon Damian Porter, Rev Keith Fenton

**Anglican Cycle of Prayer:** The Diocese of Wau – Province of the Episcopal Church of South Sudan

**Meetings:** Vision and Strategy meeting; DBF Directors meeting

**Tuesday 21 April**

Anselm, abbot, archbishop, teacher of the faith, 1109

**Growing Leaders:** 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:** University Hospital of Morecambe Bay NHS Trust, Rev Amy Bland

**Link Diocese: Liwolo** - Pray for revitalising hope at Jehovah Rapha Health Centre. Pray that God would breathe new life into this mission so that it may be a true beacon of hope, bringing life to those in need. Pray for the mothers and newborns who come to have a safe a secure space for life to flourish. Pray for outreach to vulnerable people who need God's healing touch and a reminder of His unfailing love.

**Anglican Cycle of Prayer:** The Diocese of Wellington – The Anglican Church in Aotearoa, New Zealand and Polynesia

**Wednesday 22 April**

**For Parents of Children with SEND:** Lord Jesus, we pray for parents of children with special educational needs and disabilities. Strengthen them with Your grace, fill them with wisdom, and provide the resources they need. May they abide in You and find deep comfort in Your unfailing love and guidance every day.

**Diocese:** University of Cumbria (Lancaster Campus), Rev Clare Shepherd

**For the Care of God's Creation:** Creator God, we are aware that the changing climate is already having an unequal impact on our brothers and sisters in the global south. Help us to strive to care for your creation by taking action to limit our impact on the environment in all that we do at church and in our daily lives.

**Anglican Cycle of Prayer:** The Diocese of Wernyol – Province of the Episcopal Church of South Sudan

**Meetings:** Clergy Study Day

**Thursday 23 April**  
**George, martyr, patron of England,**  
**c.304**

***For Children and Youth Seeking Faith:*** Heavenly Father, we lift up children and young people who have not yet come to know You. Open their hearts to Your truth and love. Through caring mentors and life-giving experiences, may they encounter Jesus and learn to walk closely with Him.  
***Diocese:*** University of Lancaster, Rev Matt Guilder  
***Link Diocese: Multan*** - Pray for mission and outreach in the Diocese, particularly in the desert areas of the Diocese. Pray that those who are leading this mission in remote areas may be strengthened and protected to continue to make disciples of Jesus.  
***Anglican Cycle of Prayer:*** The Diocese of Wiawso – The Church of the Province of West Africa

**Friday 24 April**  
Mellitus, bishop, 624;  
Seven Martyrs of the Melanesian  
Brotherhood, 2003

***For Children's and Youth Ministry:*** God of hope, we thank You for all children's and youth work in our churches and for the faithful volunteers serving week by week. We bring the Ignite project and Youth Hub before You. Bless these initiatives with creativity, energy, and lasting impact. May they be places where young people abide in Christ and grow in faith and joy.  
***Diocese:*** Leyland Deanery Officers, Rev Hannah Boyd, Rev Canon Mark Soady, Mr Bob Collins, Mrs Sarah Phillips, Mr David Tuke  
***Anglican Cycle of Prayer:*** The Diocese of Willochra – The Anglican Church of Australia

**Saturday 25 April**  
**Mark the Evangelist**

***For Mental Health and Wellbeing:*** Compassionate Lord, we pray for children and young people struggling with mental health and wellbeing. Surround them with Your peace and healing presence. Guide families and professionals with wisdom and care. May they find rest and renewal as they remain in You.  
***Diocese:*** Bamber Bridge St Aidan and Walton-le-Dale St Leonard, Rev Stephen Martin, Dr Belinda Hornby (Im), Mr Tony Dunne (Ilm); also in this Benefice, Bamber Bridge St Aidan's CofE Primary School, Walton-le-Dale St Leonard's CofE Primary School  
***ALM:*** We pray for our authorised lay ministers and Anna Chaplains, 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.  
***Link Diocese: Free State*** - Many churches in the Free State have strong links with the community and are seeking to be more involved with local schools. We pray that these links will be forged so that more children will learn of the love of God in their lives. As schools in the Blackburn Diocese link with schools in the Free State we pray that the children will learn and understand from each other.  
***Anglican Cycle of Prayer:*** The Diocese of Winchester – The Church of England

**Sunday 26 April**  
**Fourth Sunday of Easter**

***For Educators and Leaders:*** Lord of wisdom, we pray for school and university staff, leaders, chaplains, and governors. Grant them discernment, patience, and joy in their calling. May they create environments where every child can flourish and learn to abide in Your truth and grace.  
***Diocese:*** Bamber Bridge St Saviour, Rev Matt Cook; also in this Benefice, Cuerden Church School  
***Anglican Cycle of Prayer:*** The Church of Nigeria (Anglican Communion)  
***Clergy Moves:*** Induction of Rev Kate Butler, Vicar of Ingol St Margaret; Licensing of Rev Stephen Tisnell as Assistant Curate of Blackpool St John

## Monday 27 April

Christina Rossetti, poet, 1894

**For all Children and Young People:** Father, we lift up all children and young people in our communities. Protect them from harm, inspire their dreams, and help them discover the gifts You have placed within them. May they grow in confidence and character as they remain rooted in Christ. Help us as Your church to welcome them as You commanded, so they find a safe and loving home among us.

**Diocese:** HMP Garth Prison, Rev Becca Clark

**Link Diocese: Braunschweig** - Creator of harmony, we thank you for the central role of music in Braunschweig's church life. Bless the musical endeavours in the Dom and larger parishes. May this ministry continue to be an effective means of outreach, drawing people closer to You through the beauty of sacred music.

**Anglican Cycle of Prayer:** The Diocese of Windward Islands – The Church in the Province of the West Indies

**Meetings:** Bishop's Appointments Team meeting; Audit/Risk/ Governance Committee meeting

## Tuesday 28 April

Peter Chanel, missionary, martyr, 1841

**For Schools and Learning:** Gracious God, we pray for our schools and educational institutions. May they be places of growth and transformation. Guide teachers and students to seek wisdom and understanding in You. May learning lead them closer to Christ, the source of all truth.

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

**Blackburn Cathedral:** Prayers today for the Interim Dean and Chapter and all who work for the Cathedral, including administrative staff and all volunteers.

**Anglican Cycle of Prayer:** The Diocese of Wondurba – Province of the Episcopal Church of South Sudan

## Wednesday 29 April

Catherine of Siena, teacher of the faith, 1380

**Diocesan Board of Finance:** For the staff in the Diocesan Offices who support parishes through their work. From HR and finance teams to legal and governance support and from the communications team to property colleagues, we pray that they might have wisdom in their planning, clarity in their decisions, and compassion in all their interactions as they seek to serve each parish.

**Diocese:** Higher Walton All Saints and Hoghton Holy Trinity, Rev Hannah Boyd, Rev Daniel Abraham, Ms Tash Green (IIm); also in this Benefice, Higher Walton CofE Primary School

**Link Diocese: Liwolo** - Pray for Liwolo Primary and Nursery school and all schools in Liwolo as people strive to rebuild and establish places of learning and transformation. Pray that these schools will become havens of hope, growth and spiritual enrichment. Pray that God would provide all that is needed: resources; teachers and infrastructure.

**Anglican Cycle of Prayer:** The Diocese of Worcester – The Church of England

**Meetings:** Diocesan Finance Committee meeting; Diocesan Mission and Pastoral Committee meeting

**Meeting:** Strategic Programme Board meeting

## Thursday 30 April

Pandita Mary Ramabai, translator, 1922

**Diocesan Board of Finance:** For all involved in safeguarding across our Diocese. For officers, advisers, parish leads, clergy, volunteers, and all who work to protect the vulnerable and uphold God's love in action. Grant them wisdom, resilience, and gentleness of spirit and the courage to speak out for justice.

**Diocese:** Hoole St Michael, Rev Sam Crossley, Rev Mandy Hughes; also in this Benefice, Hoole St Michael's CofE Primary 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 Wulu – Province of the Episcopal Church of South Sudan

**Meetings:** Bishops' and Archdeacons' meeting