

+WEEKLY REFLECTION

communicate@blackburn.anglican.org



Seeds were planted, we can trust God with the results

Our recent Centenary Mission Weekend across Lancashire just one month ago was a powerful reminder that the Church is called not simply to gather, but to reach out.

More than 90 per cent of parishes across the county took part across the weekend, or weekends/days nearby.

There were hundreds of events reflecting the Diocese of Blackburn's centenary theme: 'All for Jesus'.

We took the good news out into streets, schools, parks, community venues and public spaces, creating so many opportunities for people to encounter the message of Christ in fresh and accessible ways.

Reflecting on the weekend, it reminds us of Jesus' words: 'Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation' (Mark 16:15).

Here in our County, from small rural villages to big town and city centres, thousands of Christians stepped out in faith.

As I travelled round the Diocese, capturing various events as part of our Digital Team, one of the joys of the mission weekend for me was seeing first hand our churches meeting people where they were.

Many who came along to events would not normally come to church.

Some may never have crossed the threshold of a church before!

Of course, mission is not just about a single day or weekend. The real challenge is what comes next.

Across Lancashire, many churches are now inviting people to continue exploring the Christian faith through enquirers' courses. These courses provide a warm and informal space where people can be curious, ask questions and discover more about Jesus.

God's invitation remains open to all.

As the prophet Isaiah wrote: 'Come, all you who are thirsty, come to the waters ...' (Isaiah 55:1). Reading this, perhaps you attended an event during the Centenary Mission Weekend yourself and something sparked your interest?

Perhaps a conversation stayed with you, or you found yourself wondering why so many people continue to put their trust in Jesus Christ?

Or perhaps you once attended church but haven't been back for a long time?

Whatever your situation, it would be wonderful if you felt able to take the next step.

Contact your local church if you know how, or find details of one near where you live on the website www.achurchnearyou.com

We may never fully know the impact of every conversation or every welcome offered during our mission weekend but the seeds were planted and we can trust God with the results.

Ronnie Semley, Diocesan Communications Manager