

An aerial photograph of Blackburn Cathedral, showing its large, dark, cross-shaped roof with a central spire. The surrounding area includes green lawns, trees, and some modern buildings.

2026 Centenary Projects

"Unless
the Lord
build the
house..."

blackburncathedral.com



**BLACKBURN
CATHEDRAL**

**It's been a
hundred years
in the making...**

and as we approach
our Centenary in 2026,
we've got big plans...



Join us in celebrating our incredible story and unique heritage as we embrace the future.

It is an immense privilege as Dean to be presiding over the Centenary celebrations at Blackburn Cathedral.

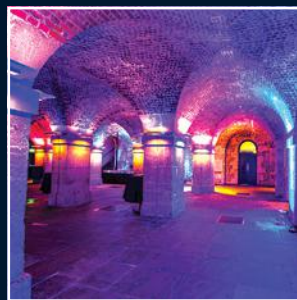
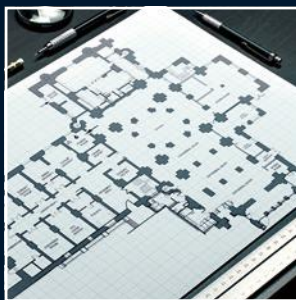
The psalmist says our work is 'but lost labour' without the Lord and previous generations have contributed so much to build Blackburn Cathedral to its current level.

The Centenary presents us with an opportunity to renew and restore our wonderful Cathedral and I invite you to support our projects as generously as you can.

The Very Revd Peter Howell-Jones
Dean of Blackburn

Reimagine our spaces.

Help turn the Crypt
into a unique venue for
entertainment, exhibitions
and community events.





Help transform the Cathedral Crypt into a stunning venue the region needs.

We are creating a unique, atmospheric and flexible space for receptions, parties, banquets, cultural events, chamber concerts, education events and exhibitions.

The free-flowing and flexible space is a natural advantage and highly suitable for a wide variety of events. The creation of different areas within the space will maximise the potential for the Crypt to become a busy and popular venue for businesses, community groups and individuals.

The Crypt will become a central resource for the town and the wider region and once completed, it will form an important part of the Cathedral's commercial strategy.

This large scale project has attracted initial funding from a number of key partners and preliminary works are already underway.

Funding is now required for Phase 2.

Centenary target: **£250,000**

Open Cathedral music for all.

The Lantern Music Trust
exists to transform people's
lives through music.





Our aim is to raise £3.5 million to establish an endowment fund for the music foundation.

The Lantern Music Trust was launched in the Autumn of 2022 following the promise of a six figure sum by a generous anonymous donor.

The Trust now invites others to build on this excellent foundation.

Learn more about the work and aims of The Lantern Music Trust by visiting:
blackburncathedral.com/lantern

Funds from the efforts will support:

- Music education for young people from all backgrounds across the region.
- Professional music outreach to showcase our ministry.
- World class liturgical performances in the Cathedral as well as tours, recordings and television and radio appearances.
- Commissioning new musical works and maintaining the music library.
- Professional development for adult singers and performers.

Centenary target: **£3.5m**

Enhance our welcome.

As we look ahead to
our Centenary, the main
West Doors are in desperate
need of replacement.





We need to replace our West Doors with an accessible, energy-efficient solution.

Access into one of the region's leading landmarks is crucial to the welcome delivered to our guests.

We need to replace the heavy, old, poorly insulated main doors in a way that reflects the Cathedral's values of welcome and generous hospitality.

A number of options have been put forward by a team of specialist architects and these are currently under careful consideration whilst funding is sought.

We are seeking to secure funds that will help us replace the wooden doors with electric, weather-tight, glass sliding doors that will:

- Improve our welcome for all our guests.
- Increase accessibility to ensure that every guest is able to enter and leave the building safely and without obstacles.
- Enhance our energy-efficiency.
- Endorse our commitment to improving every aspect of our operation for the benefit of our guests and the wider community.

Centenary target: **£150,000**

Ensure we continue to shine brightly.

The lighting at the Cathedral must be replaced. We need to introduce a lighting system fit for the next century.





New lighting in the Cathedral will transform the experience for all.

Replacing the aging, obsolete light fittings across the Cathedral with a safe, energy efficient, digitally controlled LED lighting system will make a considerable difference to all aspects of Cathedral life.

Our new design will provide maximum flexibility, enhancing the natural beauty of the spaces and creating new opportunities for the presentation of worship and events.

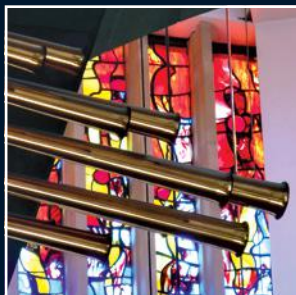
Funds are needed for:

- The safety of the building.
- Significantly reduce energy consumption as part of our commitment to Net Zero.
- Deliver flexible, expressive presentation within the Cathedral environment.
- Highlight the existing features and stunning artwork.
- Greatly enhance our commercial offering by negating the requirement to spend on external lighting suppliers for special events.

Centenary target: **£500,000**

Restore our world-famous organ.

Blackburn Cathedral has one of the most iconic cathedral organs in the country and we need to ensure it remains so.





Essential maintenance to our iconic organ will ensure it can be enjoyed for generations.

Blackburn Cathedral is truly blessed to have a world-class organ. Built by JW Walker in 1969, it was enlarged and rebuilt by Wood of Huddersfield in 2002.

Our popular weekly lunchtime concert series featuring organists from around the world brings people from far and wide to hear this wonderful instrument in action.

The Centenary year provides a wonderful opportunity to introduce innovative schemes for recordings, organ composition competitions, workshops, masterclasses and live streams.

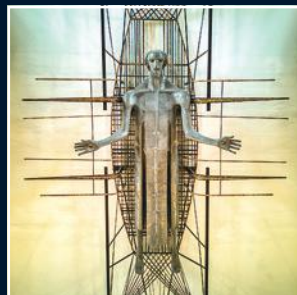
Funds are needed to:

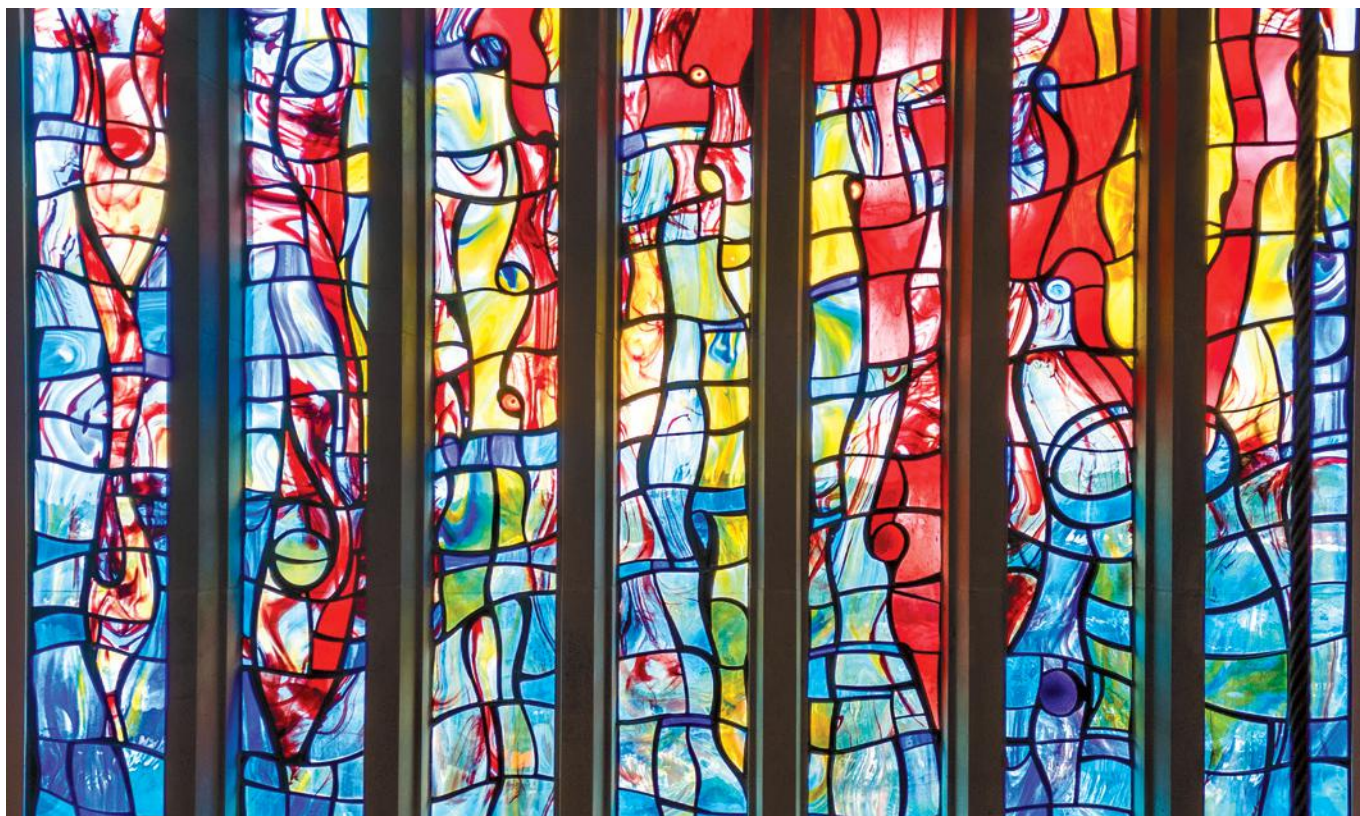
- Undertake comprehensive cleaning, maintenance and repair work to minimise the risks of further deterioration of the organ's condition.
- Ensure the organ performs to its maximum potential especially during the Cathedral's Centenary year.
- Enhance the organ's reputation and standing as a leading instrument on the national and international stage.

Centenary target: **£250,000**

Mark our Centenary with art.

The Centenary is an opportunity to add to one of the country's finest collections of modern religious art.





New artwork will mark the end of a century of worship and welcome us into the next.

Our existing collection includes numerous works by John Hayward, 'The Journey' by Penny Warden and Mark Jalland's 'The Healing of the Nations'.

Our contemporary artwork contextualises the Cathedral's mission in today's world of fighting for justice, equality and respect for all.

The Centenary year is another moment in our history to add to our thought-provoking collection.

This is a unique opportunity to place a new artwork at the heart of our Centenary celebrations. Proposals will be discussed by a leading panel of artists and advisors to ensure the installation is of significance and standing.

Centenary target: **£100,000**

Find out more.

Please get in touch
to discuss how you
can make a difference.

Ian White
Chief Operating Officer

01254 845303
coo@blackburncathedral.co.uk

blackburncathedral.com



**BLACKBURN
CATHEDRAL**