

Lancashire Community Craft Project Project Guidelines



**BLACKBURN
CATHEDRAL**



Supported by Blackburn businesses



Community Crafting

Inspired by the magnificent 'Table for the Nation' currently in residence at Blackburn Cathedral.

This unique 13.2m long Black oak table was created from the 5,000 year old trunk of an oak tree, which was uncovered in a peat bog in Norfolk in 2012. The table itself is a feat of human design and making skills and the peatlands' ability to preserve wood for 5,000 years is also a truly amazing power of nature.

Local crafters working together with the Cathedral's Fellowship of Church Needleworkers and Fundraising Team have designed a project to create a magnificent 800 panel Table Runner celebrating the best of Lancashire.

Individuals, groups and clubs are invited to take part by creating panels that can be stitched together and displayed on the 'Table for the Nation' in the late Spring of 2027.

Submission Deadline -Wednesday 31st March 2027



What's in the Pack?

You will find two pieces of fabric cut into approximately 28cm squares. We are using donated end of roll fabric from Edward Taylor Textiles, so there will be variation across the fabric in the packs. Some will be plain colours and others will have a simple pattern.

One of these pieces is for the front of your panel, the other for the backing.

To decide which of your pieces of fabric is for the front check our colour palette of four colours: green, orange, charcoal grey and light grey.



Your panel for the Table Runner

As well as having a limited, four colour fabric palette for the project we are asking all our contributors to use a circle shape for their panel. This will create a natural, organic shape for the final table runner and, when joined, will allow the colour and grain of the black oak table to show through.

The fabric in the pack could make a completed circle of up to 20cm diameter, but you are welcome to reduce the size down to a minimum of 10cm diameter. The organic shape of the runner will allow for a mix of circle sizes.



Making Circles

Using a dinner plate, or another circular object or a similar size, and a pencil draw a circle on both pieces of fabric and cut them into circles.



Gathering your Circles



Use a needle and sewing thread (machine thread is ideal). Cut a longish piece of thread that can go around the circle and leave 10cm to spare.

With the wrong side of the fabric facing you, sew around the circle about 1cm from the edge using long tacking stitches. Leave 5cm of thread at the start and 5cm at the end - make sure your thread ends are both on the wrong side of the fabric.

Then tie the ends together with a knot.

Gathering your Circles



With the wrong side of the fabric facing you, pull the knotted thread tight to draw up the edges of the circle



Keep pulling the thread until you have created a circle and then even out the gathers so that your circle is even. When you are happy with the shape knot the threads close to the fabric and cut off the long ends.



If you have an iron handy you may want to press the fabric flat.



Your circles do not need to be a precise size, but you should make sure the front is slightly larger than the back, so the back doesn't show when they are placed together.

Sewing your Circles together



Place the backing fabric circle on the back of the front circle and make sure the raw edges of fabric are all covered up in the middle and any loose thread is tucked inside the circles.



Then you are ready to hem the two circles together at the back. Use a neutral coloured thread to join the two sides together. If you have a sewing machine you could sew the two circles together using a machine stitch.



Completed circle ready to stitch onto.

Now you can think about your own unique work and what design you will put on the front of your circle.

Your work will be joining 799 other circles to create a 13 metre long Table Runner.

Theme - Celebrating Lancashire

When choosing what to show in your work think about what you love about Lancashire.

It could be our

Coastline, Moors, rivers, canals, woods and meadows

Landmark Buildings; castle, windmills, towers, churches, mosques

Wildlife; sparrowhawks, squirrels, hares, dragonflies

Plants; hawthorn, oaks, roses, cherry blossom, bluebells

Food; pies, fish and chips, tea and cake, curries

Sport: cricket, football, rugby, bowling, dance



Adding your work to the circle

You can sew directly onto the fabric circle or sew or make a completed piece and then add it to the circle - but you must make sure that at least 2cm (7/8ths of an inch) around the edge are left on display.

You can also decorate the edge of the circle with blanket stitch, crochet, machine stitches etc., but please use the colour palette colours and a soft material that will not scratch the table.



Hand stitched embroidered piece completed separately and then stitched on to the circle shape.

Needle felting, stitch and beading all sown directly on to the fabric circle.



Types of work

Techniques

You are welcome to use any craft technique to create your work. Hand stitch, machine stitch, applique, beading, crochet, lace, knitting, mixed media, needle felting, weaving etc. If in doubt contact Kath to check (see the back of these guidelines). However, your completed work should be raised up no more than 4cm (1.5 inches) from the base.

Fragility

Do think about how robust your piece will be as it will be transported, displayed and stored away so it will need to have everything very firmly attached and with no elements that are breakable.

Back finish

As your piece will be displayed on the Table for the Nation the back must be soft with no sharp edges or anything that could scratch the surface (plastic, metal etc.).



Deadline and Submission

Deadline

Your work needs to be submitted

by Wednesday 31st March 2027

to be included in the Table runner project. *Please complete the Submission Form at the end of the guidelines and attach it to your work.*

You can

Drop off panels (with your Submission form) at Blackburn Cathedral whenever you have finished.

Post it to

Kath Jump

Cathedral Fundraiser

Blackburn Cathedral

Cathedral Office, Blackburn, BB1 5AA

If you need to check the submission details or make special arrangements, contact

Kath Jump

Cathedral Fundraiser

01254 277440

kath.jump@blackburncathedral.co.uk

Lancashire Table Runner

Stitching the panels

We plan to sit around the Table for the Nation to hand stitch together all 800 panels during April 2027

If you'd like to be involved in the stitching,
please contact Kath Jump.

Displaying of the Table Runner

We will be displaying the Table Runner on the Table for the Nation in May/ June 2027 Check the Cathedral website for final details in 2027.

What next?

The Cathedral will keep the Lancashire Table Runner after it has been displayed and will re-show it at appropriate events and times.

Any questions?

Contact

Kath Jump

Cathedral Fundraiser

01254 277440

kath.jump@blackburncathedral.co.uk

Packs and Support Panel pack prices

1 pack £5

5 packs £23

10 packs £45

15 packs £65

20 packs £85

25 packs £100

Thank you for supporting this community fundraising project.

We are a charity and this project is being completed to support the community and to raise vital funds that support our mission and the communities we serve. By supporting this project, you help to secure the long-term future of your Cathedral so that we can remain open to all, both now and for future generations. We thank you for your support. Charity number 1207822



Please click on the QR code to donate your £5.00 towards the panel.

<https://pay.sumup.com/b2c/QT0PMXIA>

Support for Craft Groups and individuals

We may be able to visit your group and support them to get started with the project. Also, Hobkirks in Blackburn will be providing discount vouchers for sewing materials and hosting workshops to support individual crafters with this project.

If you would like to get more panel packs or support with the project, contact

Kath Jump

Cathedral Fundraiser

01254 277440

Lancashire Community Craft Project Submission Form

Name:

Contact Details

Email:

Phone number:

City/Town/Village:

If you completed your panel as part of a craft group,
please give details

Craft Group Name:

City/Town/Village:

*If you are a Craft Group leader and are submitting several
panels you can supply a list of names and use your own
contact details for the whole group.*



Tick here if you would like to be notified of the
launch event for the installation of the
Table Runner in late Spring/Summer 2027.

Submission Deadline - 31st March 2027