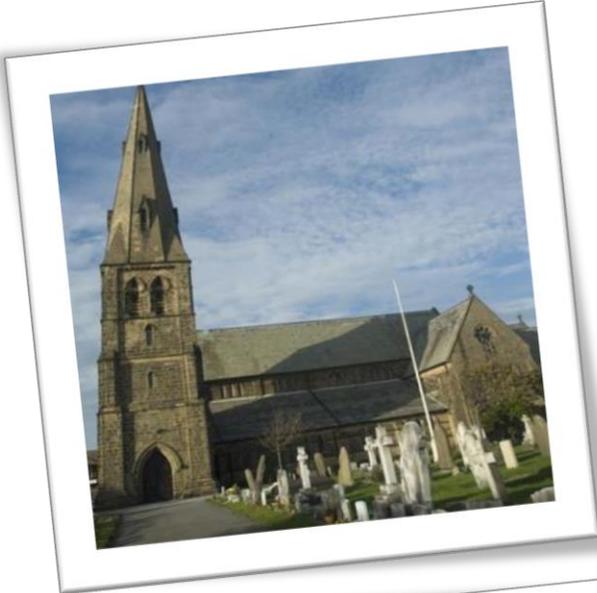


St
LYTHAM



**December
2022**

Dear Friends,

Thank goodness it looks as though we will be able to celebrate Christmas together this year. For the past two years we have had to find different ways of remembering together the joyful events which unfolded in Bethlehem 2000 years ago.

We are opening our doors to School Carol Services, Nine Lessons and Carols, Christingle, Blue Christmas, our amazing Crib Services not to forget our First Communion of Christmas and then the great day itself.

I am so looking forward to hearing and telling the greatest story ever told once again. To proclaim afresh the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of God being born as a human into our world, as God reveals his love for us and the fulfilment of all creation.

The words of our carols give weight to this miracle as we sing about how Jesus' 'hands that flung stars into space' and how we can respond saying 'what I can I give him, give my heart'.

Please make the most of the opportunity we have this Christmas. A freedom to come together for the greatest Christmas for years – putting Jesus, his birth and his church at the centre of your Christmas and ensuring we invite family and friends to come with us too.

Yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'M. Wells', with a decorative flourish underneath.

The Vine Community

The Venerable Mark Ireland, Archdeacon of Blackburn recently spoke at a Kirkham Deanery Synod Meeting about the Vine Community, which you can join online.

The Vine Community offers a simple and flexible framework for living out a Christian life. Whatever your situation, there are three questions to help you explore what faith means to you already and how to make the most of it. Not necessarily having to do anything extra, but it is about giving yourself the space to be the person God has made and to grow in your relationship with Him, with an active, practical response to the teachings of Jesus Christ.

An easy way to remember is: Abide, Grow, Bear Fruit which is on their logo. The Vine refers to passages from John 15 :4,5 &12 which says, *'Abide in me as I abide in you. I am the vine you are the branches ... this is my commandment, that you love one another'*.



Prayer has to be at the centre of being disciples.

There is a pack available at the back of each church which gives you a page on reflection entitled My Commitment to answer the 3 Vine Community questions and review them in one year.

For more information you can visit the diocesan website www.blackburn.anglican.org/the-vine-community-main-homepage

Debbie Edwards - Deanery Synod Representative

Alpha

Alpha will begin again in January.

Alpha is a series that explores the basics of the Christian faith in a welcoming, open and friendly environment. It's free and there's no pressure or follow-up.

Each session you'll be hosted in a group where you'll hear different topics on Christianity, and have time to chat through any thoughts. You can say anything you like or nothing at all. Everyone's welcome. No matter your background or beliefs, **you're invited.**

Beginning Wednesday, 11th January 2023, 7:30pm for food, 8pm start. 49 Victory Boulevard. (Subsequent weeks, 8pm start)

Any questions? Email emma@jclytham.church





Blue Christmas

For a number of years now The Churches in Lytham has arranged a Christmas Service for those who may find celebrating Christmas a little more challenging. Those for whom it stirs emotions following the death of a loved one, those who may be feeling lonely, those who may have sad memories from the past.

Our Blue Christmas is a quieter carols based service which will be followed by refreshments and with clergy available for any who would appreciate a quiet word or prayer.

Blue Christmas this year is at St Cuthbert's on Thursday 8th December at 7pm. Please let others know too.

Christmas Services

Thursday 8 th	7pm	Blue Christmas Service	St Cuthbert
Sunday 11 th	4pm	Christingle	St John
Monday 12 th	6pm	Lytham CofE School Carol Service	St John
Tuesday 13 th	2pm	Hall Park School Carol Service	St Cuthbert
Thursday 15 th	7pm	Lancashire Sings Christmas	St John
Sunday 18 th	10:15am	Carol Service	St John
	6pm	Carol Service	St Cuthbert

Christmas Eve

4pm	Crib Service at both churches		
9pm	First Communion of Christmas		St John
11:30pm	First Communion of Christmas		St Cuthbert

Christmas Day

8:30am	BCP Christmas Communion	St John
10:15am	Christmas Communion at both churches	

Lancashire Sings Christmas with Radio Lancashire

Thursday 15th December - "There is room at the Inn"

The Churches in Lytham is hosting a local event in St Johns Church, which is a Warm Hub, and opens at 6.30pm for hot drinks and mince pies, ready to join Radio Lancashire at 7.00pm. All welcome

Taken from the Churches Together in Lancashire website - "From the outset Lancashire Sings Christmas has encouraged the people of Lancashire to gather in social places such as pubs and shops, village halls, hospitals and nursing homes, even car parks.

Over the last few years, we have encouraged Lancashire to be mindful of those who are unable to get out to these places because they are at home alone, limited by age, health or simply lack of transport and social support. Over the years more and more church groups have been supporting the socially isolated and providing much needed company for perhaps the only Carol Service that some folk may be able to enjoy in the company of others.

This year in response to the cost of living crisis we are inviting groups, especially those already offering warm hubs and spaces, to host a Lancashire Sings Christmas venue.

Please continue to focus on the socially isolated for whatever reason and again we encourage you to use your network of safe contacts to bring the joy of Christmas into each other's homes and hearts.

"There Is room at the Inn" is an invitation to tune into Lancashire Sings Christmas 2022 and to share this service of carols, readings, stories of hope and healing in the various parts of our wonderful county of Lancashire as across the County we reach out to all those seeking to make the best of life together in the time of crisis.

Pray that we may all receive afresh the warmth and hospitality that God, through the gift of the Jesus the Christchild, gives to the whole world walking in the darkness of these times.”

School Communion

Following the wonderful Confirmation last Sunday, we will be celebrating Communion in school before the end of term. All our children will receive a blessing and pupils and staff who are confirmed will receive communion. The school would also love others from our churches to come to the service too. It is on Tuesday 6th December at 10am.

Please come in good time as guest will need to sign in.



Warm Hubs

It has been lovely welcoming members of the community into our churches over the past few weeks. Not only has it been an opportunity for people to come and be warm but there is a warm welcome, plenty of refreshments, soup, activities, chatter, laughter and catch ups with friends not seen for quite a while.



Coming up in December, as well as the usual activities of knitting, crocheting, crafts, crayoning therapy, jigsaws, there are additional events happening including a Christmas Market stall, Learn Bridge – taster session, Christmas Sing-a-long with David Rushworth, Lytham CE School Choir singing Carols. For dates and times, take a look at the timetable in the centre pages which also includes our church services and Christmas activities

Mothers' Union



The November meeting was very much enjoyed by all the members. Our speaker was Matthew Lepp of Tiger Muffin Soaps who gave us demonstration of how to make soap which was both interesting and amusing. We even had a history lesson!

We meet again on **Thursday 15th December at 12.30pm for 1.00pm** when we have our Christmas Lunch at Lytham Hall.

Raffle prizes would be much appreciated

I look forward to seeing everyone for what I am sure will be a very happy occasion.

Margaret Fisher

Extraordinary Parochial Church Meeting

For personal reasons Dave Hyland has stood down as one of our Churchwarden. We are so grateful to Dave for all he has done in this role over the past couple of years and pleased he will still be around supporting JC Lytham in other ways.

It does leave a vacancy though, so the PCC has agreed to hold an Extraordinary Parochial Church Meeting at 8pm on Wednesday 14th December on Zoom to elect a new Churchwarden. As this will be the only item of business on the agenda that evening it will be a short meeting, however it is required to make the formal appointment.

Notice of the meeting will be displayed in both our churches and on the website together with nominations form for the vacant post of Churchwarden which should be returned to Nick by 13th December.

To attend the meeting please email Nick – vicar@jclytham.church for the Zoom meeting entry code details.

From the Registers – November

Funerals

1 st	Joan Dalton
11 th	Jean Ward
16 th	Dorothy Young
23 rd	Margaret Graydon
25 th	Hubert Pierce

Service Times

From the New Year we will be adjusting our services slightly now Emma is settled with us.

The revised pattern means we can offer Communion at 10:15am in each church three Sundays a month and adjust the Service of the Word to be friendlier to all ages.

Sunday School will also meet on the first and third Sundays of each month at St Cuthbert's alongside our 10:15am service.

The monthly timings will now be:

	1 st Sunday	2 nd Sunday	3 rd Sunday	4 th Sunday	5 th Sunday
8:30am BCP Communion	St Cuthbert	St John	St Cuthbert	St John	-
10:15am Holy Communion	St John & St Cuthbert	St John	St John & St Cuthbert	St Cuthbert	Parish Communi on
10:15am All Age Service of the Word	-	St Cuthbert	-	St John	
12noon Baptisms	St John	St Cuthbert	St John	St Cuthbert	-
11am Communion	Each Wednesday at St Cuthbert				

Quiz Questions: A December Extravaganza

The season of Advent is a time of anticipation and excitement. With its arrival, we begin to prepare ourselves for the good news of Christ's coming and the revelation of God which will follow as later time unfolds.

Advent is also a time of short hours of daylight and lengthy dark evenings: a good opportunity to experience the benefits of mental stimulation. The questions which follow are offered as an antidote to brain lethargy and a worthy exercise into the rigours of the festive season.

Advent

1. Why is the name December associated with 10 rather than 12?
2. What is the traditional colour of Advent?
3. During which century was the length of Advent reduced to four weeks?
4. What is symbolized by [a] the evergreen branches of the Advent wreath; [b] the rose candle lit on the Third Sunday?
5. A mathematician celebrated his birthday on the Feast of St Nicholas, Bishop of Myra. When the man reached 80 years of age, he held a lunch party for friends and family. He wanted to provide each invitee with a piece of birthday cake before they departed. *Patisserie Pythagoras* quoted a price for an oblong cake, 40cm x 15cm x 10cm. *CakesAreUs* offered a Swiss roll shape, 10cm radius, 20cm in length, for the same price. Which bakery provided the octogenarian with better value for money?

Christmas – Anagrams: carols and songs

The answers to questions 6.-15. inc. are all Christmas carols/songs.

- | | |
|------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 6. Jill begs Len [6,5] | 11. Kneel dottily [6,6] |
| 7. Worthy jolt ode [3,2,3,5] | 12. This warm ethics [5,9] |
| 8. Let things in [6,5] | 13. Honesty warms font [6,3,7] |
| 9. Tinsel two [3,2,4] | 14. Weary man again [4,2,1,6] |
| 10. Sweet gherkin [2,5,5] | 15. Thy lion hog [1,4,5] |

Christmas – More carols and songs

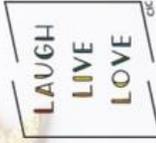
Questions 16.-25. inc. In which Christmas carols/songs are the following lines to be found?

16. 'It's the season for love and understanding'
17. 'And then they found a little nook in a stable all forlorn'
18. 'and a manger full of hay'
19. 'In the meadow we can build a snowman'
20. 'She didn't see me creep down the stairs to have a peep'
21. 'Crowded street, busy feet hustle by him, downtown shoppers,
Christmas is nigh'
22. 'we shall see him, but in heaven'
23. 'he is Alpha and Omega'
24. 'lo, he abhors not the Virgin's womb'
25. 'Snowing and blowing up bushels of fun'

Christmas – A complete miscellany

26. Traditionally, a Christmas pudding is served with
27. Who sang 'All I want for Christmas is You'?
28. Which two books of the New Testament describe the birth of Jesus?
29. Which song was the Christmas no. 1 in 1975 and again in 1991?
30. Which Christmas cookie is shaped like a small man?
31. Who painted *The Mystical Nativity* in 1500?
32. Which King of England was crowned on Christmas Day, and in which year?
33. What is the birth sign of people born on Christmas Day?
34. What was stolen from Westminster Abbey on Christmas Day 1950?
35. In Jack and the Beanstalk, what does Jack trade for magic beans?
36. Which Welsh poet wrote about his memories of Christmas as a child?
37. In the song *The Twelve Days of Christmas*, what was the new gift given on the 6th day?
38. Who sang the song *Hallelujah*, the Christmas no. 1 in 2008?
39. Which short story by Arthur Conan Doyle features Sherlock Holmes in a Christmas mystery?

Continued ...



CHRISTMAS AT JCLYTHAM



Dates for your December diary

Community Drop-In - hot drinks, chat and activities between 10am – 4pm every Tuesday in St Johns and Thursday in St Cuthberts

Tu 6 th	10.30am – 3.30pm 11.30am 1.30pm	Christmas Market Stall Christmas sing-a-long with David Rushworth DIY Christmas Workshop	St John's
Th 8 th	1.30pm 7.00pm	DIY Christmas Workshop Blue Christmas – Ecumenical Service	St Cuthberts
Su 11 th	4.00pm	Christingle Service	St John's
Tu 13 th	10.30am 1.30pm 2.00pm	Microwave cooking and baking Lytham CofE School Choir Learn to play Bridge – taster session	St Johns
Th 15 th	10.30am 1.00pm 1.30pm 7.00pm	Beetle Drive Organ Recital (to be confirmed) Christmas Market Stall Lancashire Sings Christmas with Radio Lancashire	St Cuthbert's St Johns

Su 18 th	10.15am	Carol Service	St John's
	6.00pm	9 Lessons & Carols	St Cuthbert's
Tu 20 th	10.30am	Get a team together for the Lego challenge	St John's
	1.30pm	Christmas Film Afternoon	
Th 22 nd	10.30am	Christmas Quiz	St Cuthberts
	1.30pm	Christmas Film Afternoon	
Sa 24 th	4.00pm	Crib Service	Both churches
	9.00pm	First Communion of Christmas	St John' s
	11.30pm	First Communion of Christmas	St Cuthbert's
Su 25 th	10.15am	Christmas Communion	Both churches
Closed between Christmas and New Year – restarts on the 3rd January in St Johns			

The Community Drop-In Warm Hub is a joint project with
JC Lytham and Laugh Live Love CIC

Everyone is welcome to drop in for a cuppa, a chat, join in any of the activities, or find a quiet spot to read a book or do your craft project. Stay for half an hour or stay for three or four.

40. Who wrote *A Letter from Santa Claus* which he sent to his daughter Susy Clemens?
41. *The Snowman*: Who wrote the book prior to its animation as a film in 1982?
42. Name Scrooge's overworked and underpaid clerk in Dickens' *Christmas Carol*.
43. Which Christmas ballet features the *Sugar Plum Fairy*?
44. In which Narnia book does Father Christmas appear?
45. Which English leader banned Christmas in 1647?
46. In which direction should a Christmas pudding be stirred in order to bring good luck?
47. Which well-known Christmas carol was written by Isaac Watts?
48. Name the three reindeer beginning with the letter D.
49. Which alcoholic beverage is used to make a Snowball?
50. On which date does Twelfth Night occur?

Answers will be given in the next issue.

Quiz Questions for November: ANAGRAMS: Answers

1. Epistle, 2. Owls, 3. Yes, Ma'am, 4. Second person, 5. Potential,
 6. Nights, 7. Totaliser, 8. Steel drum, 9. Soft option, 10. Semi-finals,
 11. Intelligence, 12. Cloak and dagger, 13. Waterwheel, 14. Accoutres,
 15. Frostbite, 16. Florence Nightingale, 17. Antithesis, 18. Stage directions,
 19. Treasure Island, 20. Assailant, 21. Citrous, 22. Chastity,
 23. Treasure trove, 24. Austerity, 25. Dismantle, 26. Sephardi,
 27. Cabinetwork, 28. Saucepans, 29. Esurient, 30. Penalty spot.
- Anagrams of TIMES: emits, metis, mites, smite, stime, items.

The Church Hall – For more info call 01253 736488

- Tuesday** 9am-3pm Tumble Tots –
Tumbletotslynz@hotmail.com
- 6pm-7pm Beavers (term time)
- 7pm-9pm Scouts (term time)
- Wednesday** 9.30am-11.30am Bertie Bears (term time)
- 1.45pm-4pm Over 50's Table Tennis
- 7pm-8pm Pilates with Georgia – 07875590724
- Thursday** 5pm-6pm Rainbows (term time) 6.30pm-7.30pm
Brownies (term time)



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What's going on each week at



Sunday

8.30am Holy Communion either Church

10.15am Morning Service at both churches

10:15am Sunday School at St Cuthbert on the 1st and 3rd Sundays

Tuesday

10am to 4pm St John open as a Warm Hub

Wednesday

9.45am Bertie Bear Toddler Group in the Church Hall at St Cuthbert

11am Holy Communion at St Cuthbert

Thursday

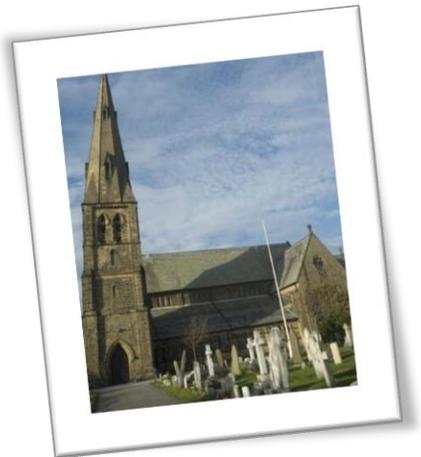
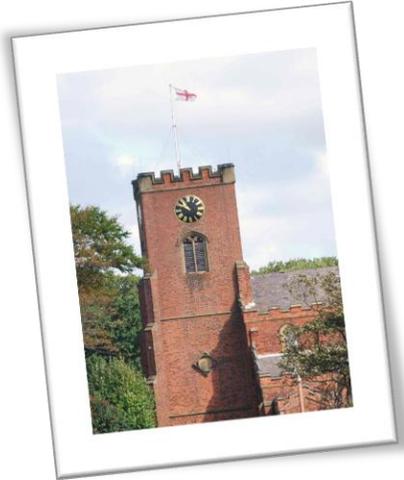
9.30am Community Craft Group at St Cuthbert

10am to 4pm St Cuthbert's open as a Warm Hub

Saturday

10am Open Church

10am 2nd Sunday of the month Coffee morning at St John's





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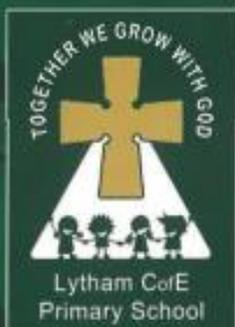
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Mission Enabler Revd Emma Swarbrick

Hon. Assistant Priest: Revd Helen Houston
Revd Peter Law-Jones

Licensed Lay Joanne Hutchinson Angela Lee

Ministers: David Matthews Bev Wells

Nicola Whitehead

Our worship services

	1 st Sunday	2 nd Sunday	3 rd Sunday	4 th Sunday	5 th Sunday
8:30am BCP Communion	St Cuthbert	St John	St Cuthbert	St John	-
10:15am Holy Communion	St John & St Cuthbert	St John	St John & St Cuthbert	St Cuthbert	Parish Communion
10:15am All Age Service of the Word	-	St Cuthbert	-	St John	
12noon Baptisms	St John	St Cuthbert	St John	St Cuthbert	-
11am Communion	Each Wednesday at St Cuthbert's				

JC Lytham Parish Office
The Church Hall
Church Road
Lytham
FY8 5QL

Tel : 01253 736488

Email: parishoffice@stcuthbertslytham.org

Usual office hours: Monday – Friday 9.00am – 1.00pm

The Vicar's Day off is Friday and Emma works Sunday to Wednesday. If you need urgent support on a Friday, please contact Fiona in the office who will be able to put you in touch with someone who can help.

Website: www.jclytham.church

Facebook page: JC Lytham

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