

**February
2023**

Dear Friends,

When I was ordained I was strongly committed to pastoral care, indeed the idea of evangelism hardly registered on the to do list. If we cared for people in times of illness or bereavement then the church was in maintenance mode and more then survived.



Over the past 30 years I have been involved in creating and maintaining Pastoral Care Teams in each parish where I have been. Sadly, the team at St Cuthbert's was petering out when I arrived and circumstances meant it did not continue, though we remain grateful to the ministry the members of the team offered for a number of years.

I have increasingly recognised that the level of pastoral care we have been able to offer through the pandemic and on to today has been less to limited. I am saddened that the energy we have put into bringing the new parish together, the reduced number of clergy and my own health issues have been factors in this. So I am very grateful to those who have maintained care through the administration of home communions and other contacts that have been maintained.

It is therefore with real delighted we will be commissioning a new Pastoral Care Team shortly, so we will be able to offer support to the sick, aged and bereaved. If there is anyone you are aware of who would appreciate and benefit from a visit or visits from the team please get in touch with me. The primary purpose of the visits will be to give people some time, and an opportunity to talk, so the visitors key ministry will be to listen, not to offer solutions or assist with tasks.

The pastoral care of a church is a key element but is only a part of the ministry of a healthy church. Worship, individual discipleship, telling others and community involvement are also important strands. I am delighted to see us re-establishing several of these as we continue to come together as one family with two homes. May we offer our faith in word and deed.

Yours in Christ,



The Churches In Lytham – Ecumenical Partnership

There was a full church at The Churches in Lytham Annual Covenant Service on Sunday 22nd January at Lytham Methodist Church. Our guest speaker, The Revd Anton Muller, Lancashire's Ecumenical Officer, reminded us of the importance of our churches working together to point people to Jesus Christ.

According to 'St Wiki of Pedia' (Wikipedia - online encyclopaedia) "Ecumenism is the concept and principle that Christians who belong to different Christian denominations should work together to develop closer relationships among their churches and promote Christian unity. The adjective ecumenical is therefore applied to any initiative that encourages greater cooperation and union among Christian denominations and churches".

The Churches in Lytham, previously known as The Lytham Ecumenical Partnership, has been working together since 1984 and was the first such initiative in Lancashire and indeed the Northwest of England.

In 2023 we are anticipating lots more joint working to further the good news of Jesus in Lytham, starting with Doug Horley (Duggie Dug Dug) returning to our town to do more work in two of our primary schools and a Families Event at the YMCA in March.

Bev Wells, JCLytham rep, has been heavily involved in co-ordinating the Doug Horley visits and in moving The Churches in Lytham forward to become a Charitable Incorporated Organisation to be registered with Charity Commission this year.

Bev has been our rep on the Council for the last five years and has decided that she would like to give someone else a chance so will not be standing again. We will be looking to appoint two people as our reps as Ian Bernie, who has been a staunch pioneer since its launch in 1984, was made an Emeritus of the Council last year. Ian has made a massive contribution to the work in Lytham over many years and many projects. Huge thanks to Ian and to Bev for their contribution to the ecumenical partnership. If you are interested in hearing more about what's involved in being the JC Lytham rep please speak to Nick.

Lent Course

Our Lent Course this year will be looking at and discussing the book *Saying Yes to Life* by Ruth Valerio. Written as a Lenten reflection, it is described as perfect for individuals and groups to think, reflect, pray and be challenged together.

In his introduction to the book the Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby, says 'Saying Yes to Life lifts our focus from natural, everyday concerns to issues that are having an impact on millions of lives around the world. As people made in the image of God, we are entrusted to look after what he has created: to share in God's joy and ingenuity in making a difference for good. Ruth Valerio imaginatively draws on the Days of Creation as she relates themes of light, water, land, the seasons,

other creatures, humankind, Sabbath rest and resurrection hope to matters of environmental, ethical and social concern.'

We will be meeting at 7pm in St Cuthbert's on Tuesday evenings beginning on 28th February. We are ordering a few copies of the book which will be available in the near future.

Mothers' Union



We commenced the New Year with a very enjoyable Musical Afternoon with a very talented Mr. David Mawson treating us to a feast of music.

The Annual General Meeting is on Thursday 9th February at 2.30pm, this will be followed by Mrs Pat Ascroft giving a talk entitled 'From the Red Sea to the Dead Sea on a bicycle'.

The World Day of Prayer is on Friday 3rd March at 2.00pm at St. Joseph's RC Church Ansdell.

A gentle reminder that 2023 Subscriptions will be due at the latest at the February meeting.

Margaret Fisher

All Age Service

Our forthcoming All Age Services are on the 12th February at 10:15am at St Cuthbert and 26th February at 10:15am at St John.

From the Registers – January

Baptisms

1st Arthur William Horatio Heap

Funerals

4th Keith Slater

6th Reg Turville

16th Jonathan Cooper

20th Ian Scott

23rd Lyn Boardman

25th Alma Todd

Sponsorship of the Service Sheet and Flowers

The sponsorship of the Service Sheet and Flowers at St Cuthbert's continue to be available. It may, for example, be you wish to do this in memory of a loved one or at the time of a special event within the family. Name/s and suitable wording chosen by the donor will feature on the service sheet. The cost of each sponsorship is £25.00; for the sponsorship of both together, the cost is £40.00. Arrangements should be made via the Parish Office, at least four weeks in advance. For those who are taxpayers, there is a reminder that gift-aiding the money will provide even greater financial benefit to the Church. In order to do this, please complete the details on the front of the envelope.

The flower rota is also out at St John. If you wish to sponsor flowers and remember someone or something special to you please add your name and this will be arranged.

The 10th Bishop of Blackburn has been announced

The Right Rev. Philip North has today been announced by 10 Downing Street as the next Bishop of Blackburn.

Bishop Philip currently serves as the Bishop of Burnley in the Diocese of Blackburn, and as Bishop of Blackburn he will lead the whole Diocese, serving people and communities across Lancashire.

The King approved the nomination of Bishop Philip, who will succeed the Right Rev. Julian Henderson following his retirement last year.

The announcement was made this morning as Bishop Philip visited St Christopher's Church of England High School in Accrington with his episcopal colleague, Rt Rev. Dr Jill Duff, bishop of Lancaster, where he spoke with pupils about his vision for The Church of England in Lancashire.

Warm Hubs

Our Warm Hubs continue offering a welcome to members of the community into our churches each week. This is an opportunity for people to come and be warm but also there is a warm welcome, plenty of refreshments, soup, activities, chatter, laughter and catch ups with friends not seen for quite a while.

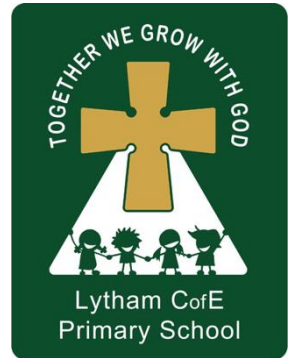
St John is open on Tuesday and St Cuthbert on Thursday from 10am until 4pm. As we say, everyone is welcome.



From our School

Would you be interested in spending time with our wonderful children?

Lytham Church of England Primary School would appreciate voluntary helpers to listen to our children read on a rota basis.



We are planning to hold a meeting to share details of what is required and to assist interested parties in applying for DBS clearance.

If you would like to help us, please contact: office@lytham.lancs.sch.uk for further details.

All volunteers will be required to apply to the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) for a 'disclosure'. Information provided by you or the Disclosure and Barring Service will be dealt with in a confidential manner in accordance with the DBS's Code of Practice.

**Amazing Grace, how sweet the sound, that saved a wretch like me
I was once lost, but now am found, was blind, but now I see.**

In December 1772, in Olney, Buckinghamshire, John Newton, at the age of 47, started writing one of the most popular hymns of all time, "Amazing Grace".

The hymn is about a grace that is so immense; amazing grace, that saved him out of his wretchedness. Although every person's conversion story is unique, there is something about this hymn that remains relatable to Christians everywhere. John Newton tells us where he was when he found God, or rather, when God found him. He was a wretch. He was lost. He was blind in sin.

John Newton grew up with both his mother and father, but sadly when he was six years old, his mother died whilst his father was away at sea. When John grew up he was pressed into following in his father's footsteps and joined the Royal Navy and became a sailor, his career began by searching the African coast for slaves to capture and sell on for profit.

One night a terrible storm battered his vessel so severely that he became frightened enough to call out to God for mercy, a moment that marked the beginning of his spiritual conversion. His career in slave trading lasted a few years more until he quit going to sea altogether and began studying theology.

He spoke openly of his conversion, was eventually ordained as an Anglican Priest and became curate of St Peters and St Pauls Olney where he served from 1764 - 1780.

In his later years, Newton began to lose his memory, however he could remember two things, "That I am a great sinner, and that Christ is a great Saviour." With this conviction, Newton died in 1807, at the age of 82. He lived long enough to see the signing of The Act for the Abolition of the Slave Trade.

The hymn "Amazing Grace," grew in popularity, not because of its catchy tune, but because the words that Newton wrote related to every human being who encountered the saving grace of Jesus Christ. The hymn has since touched many thousands, in not millions, of people at various stages of their spiritual journeys. It speaks of the sweetness found in Christ's grace for us all. As humans we are lost, blind in sin, and need saving. Jesus's saving grace is amazing!

The Apocrypha

Over the last few years, I've written a number of articles about the development of the Bible, and have referred in passing to the collection of texts that we know as the Apocrypha. In bibles that include these texts, they stand between the Old and New Testaments. Often, however, they

are not included at all; and even when they are, their position and labelling give them a peculiar status. So, as we enter Lent this month, a period which from earliest times has been used for further study, it seems a reasonable point in the year to examine what the Apocrypha actually is.

‘Apocrypha’ comes from a Greek word meaning ‘hidden’, but since the fifth century it has been used to describe certain books that were not universally accepted as part of what had become by then to be a fairly well-established collection of works making up the Old and New Testaments of the Christian Bible.

Why use this term ‘apocrypha’, ‘hidden’, in this way? To find the answer, we need to take account of the fact that, in the centuries before the coming of Christ and for some time after, there were flourishing Jewish communities throughout the East. Most were Greek-speaking, and so tended to use Greek versions of the Jewish Scriptures, which were translated from Hebrew. These Greek-speaking communities, integrated into a wider and more diverse literary and philosophical world than that of the orthodox world of Judaea, gradually added to the recognised (canonical) collection of Jewish texts a number of others which they found useful. It is from these traditions and their accumulated additional books that we have the texts often now classified as ‘The Apocrypha’. They were written in Greek, mostly between 200 BC and AD 200, although some are earlier than this and some later. They were ‘hidden from’ – that is to say, not recognised by – the Jewish canon and were thus ‘apocryphal’. So, as the Bible gradually developed, with the Jewish Scriptures being the basis of our Old Testament, they were sometimes regarded as having a rather ambiguous status. That said, many of these texts appear quite commonly in the earliest surviving bibles. It was Martin Luther’s Bible of 1534 that first bundled them together in a separate section, standing between the Old and New Testaments. This position gives them their alternative name of the ‘intertestamental’ books.

With a history such as this, there is predictably some variation within the many traditions of Christendom about which apocryphal books are 'in' and which are 'out'. In the English Civil War, the Puritans excluded the Apocrypha altogether, and in the nineteenth century the British and Foreign Bible Society, promoting the English Bible in the world-wide mission-field, likewise excluded it. But the apocryphal or intertestamental works were included in the great post-Reformation bibles from Tudor and Stuart times, including the King James Bible. The Book of Common Prayer has some readings from the Apocrypha, and phrases from it are found in the liturgy, although the Church of England's foundational Thirty-Nine Articles makes a clear distinction by describing these books as being 'for instruction in life and manners, but not for the establishment of doctrine' (Article 6). Yet in some Christian traditions certain of the apocryphal books are accepted as part of the Old Testament canon. The Roman Church reaffirmed this at the Council of Trent in the sixteenth century, as did the Eastern Orthodox Church at the Synod of Jerusalem in the seventeenth. 'The Apocrypha' is consequently not a hard-and-fast collection.

Joyce Hill

QUIZ QUESTIONS FOR FEBRUARY - English Castles and Historic Houses

Castles and elegant country houses are to be treasured as a vital part of our heritage. During the summer months in particular, many people enjoy visiting National Trust properties and the like. Much is done to make them attractive to all ages: continuous maintenance, manicured lawns and gardens, mazes to entertain children, perhaps an occasional glimpse of a peacock, a quality café and, of course, careful direction through the gift shop before leaving.

Once inside, volunteer guides bring history to life with their local knowledge, often including amusing insights into the lives and loves of

generations of resident family members. It isn't unusual to be shown round by present owners who often live in a wing of the property.

Here are ten questions on English historic houses followed by thirty cryptic clues to the names of English castles.

1. Which property was used in the filming of *Brideshead Revisited*?
2. Which was the first stately home to have a safari park?
3. Which house was a gift from a grateful Queen and Nation to a military commander?
4. Joseph Paxton, creator of the Crystal Palace, was head gardener at which property in Derbyshire?
5. Which property, built by Sir William Cecil, hosts an annual horse trials?
6. Which property in Kent was, for 150 years, part of the settlement Queens of England received on the death of their husbands?
7. Name the family home of the Astors, the setting for the start of the Profumo scandal.
8. Which house in Wiltshire boasts a double cube room dominated by two Van Dyke portraits of Charles I?
9. Name the home of the Duke who negotiated the 1763 Treaty of Paris.
10. Which castle in Kent was the home of the young Anne Boleyn?
11. Endless kale with end included [6]
12. Peter Cook's comedy partner [6]
13. Dionne, perhaps?
14. Amidst lithe vermin [5]
15. Bridge in Rome with part of a part [10]
16. Takes up a position at the front, by the sound of it [5]
17. Meanders alternatively [7]
18. Hunts grub and mixes it up [12]
19. Fair or square [4]
20. A riot of Fenland iris [11]
21. Noah not satisfied with the original?
22. Cured meat follows the centre [9]

23. Miss out on heavy weight [7]
24. A single, Peckham wide boy [7]
25. Chemical symbol for iron follows endless centre [5]
26. Cotton yarn following a vehicle [8]
27. Storm hen mixed up with those in French [12]
28. Eat like a chicken at this M6 service station in Lancashire [10]
29. Species of swan about right [7]
30. Seven? Yep, could be a mixture [8]
31. Can thanks hold together? [8]
32. Keeping the meat cold [11]
33. Drink, we hear, and mixed stone [6]
34. Limb within the young man [8]
35. Healed wound, smell is uneven [11]
36. Left, finish journey by aeroplane [8]
37. Fit for a dog, by the sound of it [10]
38. Hector's pert arrangement [11]
39. Ancestral reorganisation needed here [9]
40. The value of Kirsty? [9]

Answers will appear in the next issue.

QUIZ QUESTIONS FOR JANUARY: Answers

1. Ten, 2. October, 3. Julius Caesar, 4. The Epiphany, 5. Christina Rossetti,
6. Jane Austen, 7. Samuel Pepys, 8. 1999, 9. The Times of London, 10.
- Sicily and Bohemia, 11. David Essex, 12. Dennis Taylor,
13. 1940, 14. Richard III, 15. Tutankhamun, 16. The Conversion of Paul,
17. The Selkirk Grace, 18. Robin Cousins, 19. 1986, 20. French,
21. Stefan Edberg, 22. Edgar Allan Poe, 23. Thomas Edison, 24. Watt,
25. Portuguese, 26. Rebecca, 27. Sylvia Plath, 28. Fulgencio Batista,
29. The Three Musketeers/Alexandre Dumas, 30. Australia.

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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Sunday

8.30am Holy Communion at St Cuthbert 1st & 3rd, at St John 2nd & 4th Sunday of the month

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

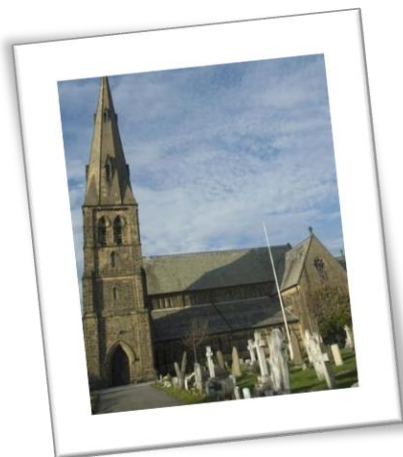
9.30am Community Craft Group at St Cuthbert

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

Saturday

10am Open Church

10am 2nd Saturday of the month
Coffee morning at St John



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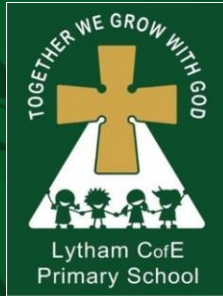
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Mission Enabler

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Hon. Assistant Priest:

Revd Helen Houston

Revd Peter Law-Jones

Licensed Lay

Joanne Hutchinson

Angela Lee

Ministers:

David Matthews

Bev Wells

Nicola Whitehead

Our Pattern of Services of Worship.

	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	-	St Cuthbert	-	St John	
12noon Baptisms	St John	St Cuthbert	St John	St Cuthbert	-
11am Communion	Each Wednesday at St Cuthbert				

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.

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