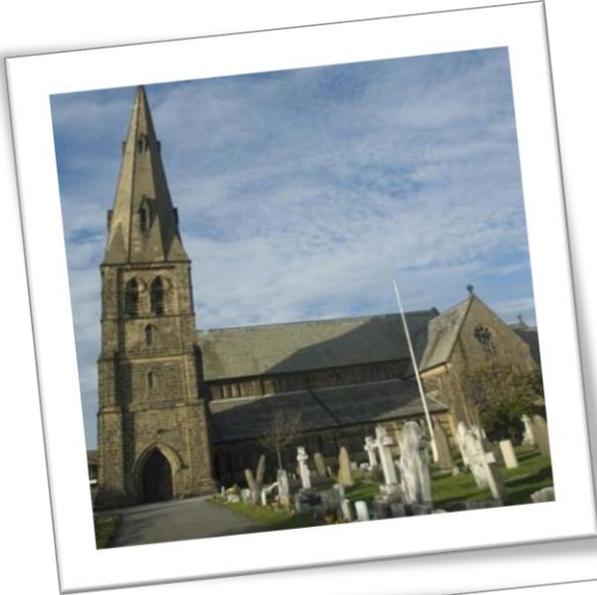


St
LYTHAM



March 2023

Dear Friends,

I am writing this month's letter having just returned home from presiding at our Ash Wednesday Communion which marks the beginning of Lent.



Lent is referred to as a penitential season; a period for reflection & self-examination and relates most especially to the 40 days Jesus retreated into the wilderness immediately after his baptism.

In those 40 days he spent time praying and preparing for his ministry which he already knew would conclude in his betrayal and death. He is tempted by Satan to make selfish decisions rather than follow the way God has set out for him.

Lenten tradition is about recognising our faults and failings, saying sorry, and then coming to God seeking forgiveness. It strikes me this holds less resonance in our society today as we are not encouraged to recognise, and even less to admit to, our shortcomings, errors and selfishness. Fewer people believe there will be a judgement of our lives when we die, and eternal life with God cannot be given.

The belief in our sinfulness and shortcomings has been very much part of the Christian tradition, and seeking to restore our lives has been part of our message of hope. Currently people are less prepared to acknowledge their failings, certainly in any public setting, which means trying to present the restoring love of God to them is much more of a challenge.

Of course, the Church has not always helped itself in this mission. Allowing itself to be the moral judge, and somehow presenting itself as a community of perfection. Yet when we own up to our shortcomings it is often seen as though we have completely failed, even though that is far from the truth.

May I encourage you to commit to using this Lenten time

- to reflect honestly on your life as an individual, and as a member of the church community.
- to approach God with honesty.
- to seek and to receive His forgiveness and restoration.

As we receive the gifts of forgiveness and restoration, we will then be able to set an example and be able to allow others to admit their imperfections and help them to discover how they can be forgiven and made whole too.

Lent is also a time to prepare us for Easter and it is this restoration that is at the very heart of Good Friday and the resurrection of Christ.

Yours in Christ,

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

Lent Course 2023

Our Lent Course this year is at 7pm in St Cuthbert's on Tuesday evenings beginning on 28th February. We are 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.’

There are a few copies of the book available from our churches and can be downloaded via Kindle. If you can’t see them, please ask the Churchwardens and we can order more hard copies if needed.

Our Parish’s Holy Week and Easter Activities and Services

			Venue
2 nd April	8.30am	BCP Communion	St Cuthberts Church
Palm Sunday	10.15am	Communion	Both Churches
Monday	All Day	Easter Experience with School	Lytham C of E School
	7.00pm	Holy Week Reflection	St John’s Church
Tuesday	7.00pm	Lent Course	St Cuthbert’s Church
Wednesday	7.00pm	Reflection	St John’s Church
Maundy Thursday	10.30am	Communion	Foxbrooke House
	7.00pm	Celebration of the Last Supper	St John’s Church
Good Friday	10.15am	Messy Easter	To be confirmed
	2.00pm	Hour by the Cross	St Cuthbert’s Church
9 th April	8.15am	BCP Communion	Both Churches
Easter Sunday	10.15am	Easter Communion	Both Churches
	12noon	Baptism	St Cuthberts Church

Duggie Dug Dug 17th – 20th March

Doug Horley, aka Duggie Dug Dug, is a popular Christian children's entertainer, evangelist and songwriter with a national and international ministry working with children and families. His songs have been used, and are being used, by churches across the world!

The Churches in Lytham are delighted that Doug Horley is making a return visit to Lytham in March. On Friday 17th March he will be leading collective worship with his Crazy Science Shows at Lytham C of E School and Hall Park School which supports their science week curriculum.

On Saturday 18th March Doug is presenting a Circus Praise Party at the Lytham YMCA on Mythop Road. There will be aerial skills, aerial hoops, juggling, puppets, singing, sharing the Gospel and lots of fun for everyone. Tickets are available through Eventbrite and from the churches. The show is aimed at 5-11 year-olds but there will be something in it for everyone to enjoy. Please do encourage friends and family to come along. Why not buy tickets for them as a surprise gift.

On Sunday 19th March Doug will be leading the All Age Service at St Cuthbert's a wonderful way to round off his visit. Please pray for this visit as we seek to present the gospel of Jesus to the children of our town. A significant mission and outreach weekend.



aimed at 5 – 11 year olds

The Circus Praise Party is being held at
Lytham YMCA on Mythop Road FY8 4HB
on Saturday 18th March 2023

2pm – 3.30pm

Tickets sold through the local churches and Eventbrite
£5 per adult £3 per child

Small group booking £10 for 1 adult and up to 3 children

Hosted by The Churches in Lytham

Mothering Sunday Services at JCLytham

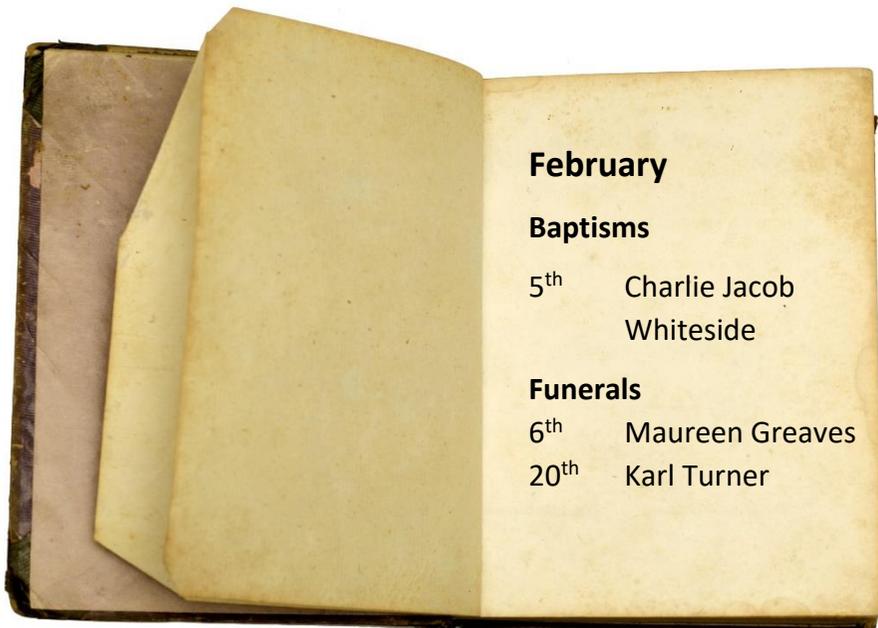
There will be a 10.15am Communion Service as usual at St Johns on Mothering Sunday and an All Age Service at St Cuthberts.



Whilst he is with us in Lytham, we have invited Doug Horley to lead the Mothering Sunday All Age Service at St Cuthbert's. This means that the All Age Service normally held on the second Sunday of the month has been delayed by one week and there will be a Communion Service on the 12th March.

We very much look forward to welcoming people to both our services on the 19th March.

From the Registers



Community Drop-In

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.

The Alpha Course

Our Alpha group has been meeting since the beginning of the year and they are currently anticipating their Holy Spirit Day 4th March. This is a special moment on the course for the group and we ask that you hold them in your prayers especially on this day.



Licensing of Marianne as an ALM in JCLytham

We are delighted that on Sunday 4th March 2023 at 10.15am in St Cuthbert's Church Marianne Cottier-Brown will be licensed as an ALM in our Parish. She has previously been an ALM at a church in Blackpool, but has been worshipping with us since 2021.

We look forward to Marianne's licensing and for her exercising her Pastoral ministry in our Parish.

Authorised Lay Ministry (ALM)

There are thousands of lay ministers using their gifts in a wide variety of different roles within the church serving alongside ordained ministers.

The Diocese of Blackburn, as part of its vision to grow leaders, trains and licenses ALM's for specific roles within the church including :

- Administration
- Mentoring
- Worship Leading
- Small Group Leadership
- Children's Ministry
- Later Life Ministry
- Youth Ministry
- Community Ministry
- Preaching
- Pastoral Care

The ALM training programme is designed to nurture and equip people from diverse backgrounds and perspectives who bring a variety of gifts to the body of Christ. The aim is to train people to minister and lead in their local context, who have a firm foundation of faith in Christ, expressed in daily life, and who are skilled in their specific areas of calling and gifting.

If you are interested in exploring the ALM Pathway please speak to Nick or visit the Diocesan YouTube channel for more information

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xVXuv2hdQ4U&t=3s>

or scan this QR code with your smartphone to get the link to watch the video



Safeguarding

Safeguarding children, young people and vulnerable adults is central to our mission and ministry and is integral in the Diocesan Vision, which asks us to consider how to make our church communities healthier.

Angela Lee has been our Safeguarding Officer for the last few years and has decided it is time to hand over the role.



At the PCC meeting in February, Linda Hyland was appointed as our new designated Parish Safeguarding Officer (PSO), with Marianne Cottier-Brown as the Deputy PSO. These are important roles within the parish to ensure the safety of everyone but especially children, young people and vulnerable adults.

However, it is important to recognise that safeguarding is everyone's responsibility so if you have any concerns in respect to any issues you may experience or become aware of or have any concerns within our two churches, you should report it to Linda or Marianne who will ensure that proper procedures are followed in making sure people are kept safe and protected.

Linda can be contacted at linda@arcblackpool.co.uk or 07976 623171

Our Safeguarding Policy can be downloaded from our website <https://www.jclytham.church/pcc/policies/safeguarding/>

Nick and the PCC would like to say a big Thank You to Angela Lee for all her work in the role and thank you to Linda and Marianne for taking over the responsibility.

Mothers' Union

Our meeting on 9th February was the Annual General Meeting and handouts were given to all members so that they can be aware of all the good work and generous donations made by our branch over 2022.

This was followed by a wonderful talk by Mrs Pat Ascroft of a Bicycle Ride from the Dead Sea to the Red Sea and as always it was such a delight to hear of her fantastic adventure. She surely is an amazing lady, raising the biggest total for Mencap in the UK.

Our next meeting is Thursday 9th March at 2.00pm in St Cuthbert's when the speaker will be Mrs Joanne Helliwell as 'Betsy the Scullery Maid' which I am sure will be very amusing,

We also get together on Saturday 18th March at 10.00am to prepare the daffodils for Mothering Sunday, help and greenery would be much appreciated.

Margaret Fisher

Sponsored walk from St Cuthberts to Durham Cathedral

Ian Squire, a 56-year-old, local man is walking from St Cuthberts Lytham to Durham Cathedral.

He grew up in Durham City and has always desired to walk the 130 miles from St Cuthbert's Church and stone cross in Lytham to Durham Cathedral, the burial place of St Cuthbert. Ian says "I have always felt inspired by St Cuthbert and the Celtic saints, and my friend Tim Firth and I are doing this walk over six days starting out early morning on Monday 13th March 2023 in order to be at Durham Cathedral for the feast day of St Cuthbert on 20th March".



Ian is raising funds for the very worthy local cause, Trinity Hospice, a leading palliative care provider across the Fylde. Trinity Hospice only receives a fraction of their funding from government and needs to raise around two thirds via voluntary contributions. If you are able to contribute any amount you can do so in one of three ways:

1. Complete the sponsor form at the back of St Cuthbert's Church
2. Donate cash in the collection box, or through
3. JustGiving: www.justgiving.com/fundraising/ian-squire2

Any donations, however small are all most gratefully received.

Ian was a teacher for many years in primary and special needs schools across the Fylde. In 2013 he left teaching and together with his wife, Kirsten owns a local cleaning company, Complete Floor Care Ltd.

Ian's cleaning company has very kindly cleaned the runners and carpets of both St Cuthberts and St John's in the last couple of weeks free of charge and so we thank Ian very much for his support and so if you are able to support him and Tim in their quest that would be fantastic

We hope to follow Ian and Tim's progress through our Facebook page @jclyham

Saint Patrick

One of the few saints' days that everyone knows is 17 March, St Patrick's day, very much seized upon now as an opportunity for celebrating Irishness. He is known as the Apostle of Ireland and is, of course, one of Ireland's patron saints, along with Brigit of Kildare and Columba. This recognition of him as the patron saint of Ireland can be traced back as early as the seventh century; the familiar association of him with Irish national identity is a much later development, springing out of the political experience of Ireland in more recent centuries.

We do not know Patrick's precise dates and there are uncertainties about various events and locations associated with him. But there are two Latin works generally accepted as being by him, the *Confessio* (or *Declaration*) and the *Epistola* (*Letter*) which give us some information about his life. All other accounts come from later centuries, often much later, and embody legends and stories that develop St Patrick's image, although some of the earliest may preserve a few details from oral tradition. Indeed, one of the most famous stories of all — his use of the shamrock to illustrate the Trinity — is only recorded in writing for the first time in the eighteenth century, although there are coins from the 1680s which show him holding a shamrock, as he often appears in art today, so the tradition clearly predates the written text. And what about his banishing of snakes from Ireland, for which he is also famous? In fact, as was already noted in classical times, Ireland never had any. The story was first recorded by Gerald of Wales in the thirteenth century, but even he, ready as he often was to accept good stories, expressed scepticism about it.

Undoubtedly, though, the Patrick behind the legends was a remarkable man. He was born in Roman or sub-Roman Britain to a reasonably well-do-do Romanised family and was given the Latin name Patricius. His father was a city decurion (senator and tax-collector) and a deacon in the Christian church. But in the troubled conditions of the time, Patrick

was captured from his home by Irish pirates when he was sixteen and lived in Ireland as a slave for six years before escaping and returning to his family. These years had been crucial in the development of his faith, and so, following his escape, he went to Gaul to study, chiefly but not exclusively in Auxerre, where the great and saintly Bishop Germanus ordained him.

Responding to a vision, Patrick then returned to Ireland as a missionary, where he later became a bishop and trained several priests. He claims in his *Confessio* to have converted thousands, and it is clear that his converts included a number of wealthy women, who became nuns in the face of family opposition. Despite these successes, Patrick, as a foreigner and missionary of a new faith which often upset the established cultural norms, was often challenged, beaten, robbed, and at least on one occasion imprisoned in chains.

The uncertainty about details of Patrick's life extend to the date of his death, some arguing for c. 460, and others for c. 493. What we do know is that the relics of Patrick were laid in a shrine by St Colum Cille (Columba) in 553, and that a note was later added (we don't know when or by whom) stating that this was sixty years after Patrick's death. He is said to be buried in Down Cathedral in Downpatrick, now in Northern Ireland.

Joyce Hill

QUIZ QUESTIONS FOR MARCH: It's only a matter of time

Time: friend, or foe? We hear, 'Time and tide wait for no man', 'Procrastination is the thief of time'. For many centuries, people have involved themselves with chronometry, the measurement of time. The calendar, a tool for organising intervals of time, and the clock, a mechanism to count its passage, were invented. Much study has also been fed into grasping the concept of time itself.

The first time-tracking device was developed by the Ancient Egyptians. It was the so-called Shadow Clock which divided the day into two twelve hour periods and used an obelisk to track the movement of the sun.

The first mechanical clocks appeared in the 14th century. They were more reliable than earlier methods of time-keeping. In the 17th century, the Dutch mathematician Christiaan Huygens built a prototype of the pendulum clock. Further advances during the 20th century include the quartz clock [1927] and the atomic clock [1949], this latter being the most accurate timekeeper.

Time for some questions: here are forty that will keep you occupied.

1. Which *-ology* refers to the art or science of making timepieces, or of measuring time?
2. Which European capital city is famous for its astronomical clock?
3. Name the shadow-casting object on a sundial.
4. The Gregorian calendar replaced the Julian calendar in Britain in which year?
5. *Clocks* is a song by which British rock band?
6. On which planet in our solar system is a day two years long?
7. How many years are there in a sesquicentennial anniversary?
8. In *Great Expectations* by Charles Dickens, Miss Havisham has all the clocks in her mansion frozen at exactly what time?
9. How many years are there in a gigaannum?
10. *Woman's Hour* is broadcast on which BBC radio station?
11. Which surrealist painter created a work featuring melting clocks and watches?
12. Which unit of time is equal to one billionth of a second?

13. Who composed *Symphony No. 101*, commonly known as *The Clock* because of its ticking rhythm?
14. Which company produced the first watches with an LED display in 1972?
15. Which invention caused English towns and cities to introduce a nationwide standard time instead of local times?
16. Which fictional species is the main antagonist in *The Time Machine* by H G Wells?
17. In California, Methuselah is reckoned to be about 4,850 years old. What is it?
18. 60 minutes/hour, 60 seconds/minute: to which ancient people do we owe the system based on this number?
19. A mechanical clock dating from the 13th century, thought to be the oldest in working order, is in which English cathedral?
20. To the nearest minute, how long does it take sunlight to reach the earth?

Identify the source of each of the following.

21. 'Time is money'
22. 'Time is an illusion. Lunchtime doubly so'
23. 'Time spent with cats is never wasted'
24. 'If time travel is possible, where are the tourists of the future?'
25. 'The present is the point at which time touches eternity'
26. 'Better three hours too soon than a minute too late'
27. 'Time will not slow down when something unpleasant lies ahead'
28. 'All we have to decide is what to do with the time that is given us'

In which books of the Bible are the following to be found?

29. a time to be born, a time to die; ...
30. making the best use of time, because the days are evil.
31. But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law,
32. We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming, when no one can work.
33. For a thousand years in your sight are but as yesterday when it

is past, or as a watch in the night.

34. In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth.
35. For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly.
36. Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.
37. And saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel."
38. Remember how short my time is! For what vanity you have created all the children of man!
39. So teach us to number our days that we may get a heart of wisdom.
40. Easter is on the horizon. As a moveable feast, the date of Easter Day is determined via a calculation known as *computus* [Latin for computation]. What exactly are the details of this?

Answers will be given in the next issue.

QUIZ QUESTIONS FOR FEBRUARY: Answers

1. Castle Howard, 2. Longleat, 3. Blenheim Palace, 4. Chatsworth House,
5. Burghley House, 6. Leeds Castle, 7. Cliveden, 8. Wilton House,
9. Woburn Abbey, 10. Hever Castle, 11. Kendal, 12. Dudley,
13. Warwick, 14. Hever, 15. Pontefract, 16. Leeds, 17. Windsor,
18. Dunstanburgh, 19. Deal, 20. Lindisfarne, 21. Newark,
22. Middleham, 23. Skipton, 24. Arundel, 25. Corfe, 26. Carlisle,
27. Herstmonceux, 28. Peckforton, 29. Berwick, 30. Pevensey,
31. Tintagel, 32. Chillingham, 33. Totnes, 34. Yarmouth,
35. Scarborough, 36. Portland, 37. Kenilworth, 38. Portchester,
39. Lancaster, 40. Warkworth.

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)

Table top sales: 25th March, 22nd April and 27th May.

Antiques fairs: 19th March, 2nd and 16th April, 21st May, 4th and 18th June and 2nd July.

What's going on each week at JCLytham



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 (except the 5th Sunday when it's a joint service)

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

Tuesday

10am to 4pm St John open as a Community Drop-In, free hot drinks all and soup at lunchtime

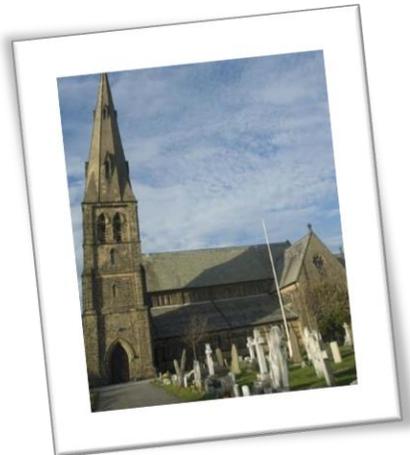


Wednesday

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 Community Drop-In



Saturday

10am Open Church both churches
10am Coffee Mornings
2nd Saturday of the month at St John
4th Saturday of the month at St Cuthbert

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01253 279676

Mission Enabler: Revd Emma Swarbrick

Hon. Assistant Priests: Revd Helen Houston, Revd Peter Law-Jones

Licensed Lay Ministers: Joanne Hutchinson, David Matthews, Nicola Whitehead, Bev Wells

Authorised Lay Minister Pastoral Care - Marianne Cottier Brown

Our Pattern of Services of Worship.

	1st Sunday	2nd Sunday	3rd Sunday	4th Sunday	5th 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	-	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.

Website: www.jclytham.church

Facebook page: JC Lytham

YouTube Channel: St Cuthbert's Lytham

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