

The Parish
Magazine
for December 2023



WITH LOVE THIS CHRISTMAS TIME
FROM ALL AT JC LYTHAM

PEACE ON EARTH



Dear Friends

One of the issues I have wrestled with since coming to Lytham nearly eight years ago is how to enable the church to be more inclusive and involved in the town.



Reading old articles about the building of, say, the Lytham Institute, it is clear the clergy and church had quite an influence. Of course the church was much more central in wider culture and society in those days.

I could come up with a number of theories for this, most on the basis that somewhere along the line the Church has lost the respect of many and is not considered relevant in today's world.

One of the many reasons I was keen to see the parishes of St Cuthbert Lytham and St John the Divine Lytham unite was so the new parish would cover the whole town without a geographical divide. For decades the parish boundaries went through the centre of Lytham from Clifton Square (the Piazza) to the bridge by the railway station. In other words through the heart of the town.

The church involvement in community events, including Club Day is important, with Julie Smith, one of our Sunday School Leaders, representing us on the Club Day Committee, indeed we have provided two of the Rose Queens either side of the Covid pandemic. The PCC is also supportive of the Lytham Voice initiative especially the potential creation of a Lytham Town Council. Information about Lytham Voice can be viewed at www.lythamvoice.co.uk

I was delighted that we were invited to take part in the recent switching on of the Christmas Lights, joining the torchlight procession and being invited to bless the event.

Christmas has changed much in my lifetime. The centrality of the birth of Jesus has been pushed into the background in the same way that our churches have been moved to the fringes of the town.

Having been missed off the list of invitations for a few years, I am excited that the churches in Lytham are once again being invited and encouraged to be part of the Christmas Lights switch on, it is so encouraging.

The challenge for us as a church is growing these opportunities so that the community gets to know that our churches are 'Good News' and also to bring Christ to greater recognition in the Christmas season.

Yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Margaret Fisher', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Mothers' Union

The December meeting is on Sat. 9th December and is the Christmas Lunch which is being held at Lytham Hall, 12.30pm for 1.00pm.

The Christingle Service is on Sun. 10th December at St. John's Church at 6.00pm. As always the Mothers' Union provides and prepares the oranges and help would be much appreciated after the Morning Service on that day at 11.45am.

May we wish everyone a very Happy Christmas and a Healthy & Peaceful New Year.

Margaret Fisher

Confirmation

We look forward to welcoming Bp Jill to St Johns on Sunday 3rd December for our Confirmation and joint Parish Communion Service.



We have four candidates for Confirmation – Harriet, Jenn, Max and Holly. Please pray for them and their families as they seek to make their commitment to the Christian faith.

Christmas Through the Keyhole



Plans are now well advanced for our Christmas Through the Keyhole event – 7th to 9th December. This is a Christmas trail that we are hosting in St John’s Church.

Christmas Through the Keyhole is a multi-sensory trail for all ages that leads groups of children and adults on a journey around the church, through ‘rooms’ of characters from the nativity story, each time looking through the keyhole to ask, “Who would live in a place like this?” Participants will visit Mary’s house, the Shepherds’ field, the Wise Men’s tent, and Joseph’s workshop, before setting out on a journey to find the baby Jesus.

On Thursday 7th and Friday 8th December, groups from Lytham C of E and Hall Park (with a drop-in from Bishop Philip) will join us during the day to embark on their journey.

On Saturday 9th December, the trail will be open for anyone in the community to come and join in. The regular coffee morning will look a little different that day. There will still be refreshments available, but there will also be the opportunity to join in with the trail, to engage in

Christmas themed crafts, and to see how we as a church are engaging with the children and families of Lytham. Please do come along and support it.

Before then, WE NEED YOUR HELP!

We need to furnish these rooms to make them look as authentic as possible. At the back of both churches there are photographs of these spaces as they have been set up in other churches and a list of possible items that we need to source to furnish them. Look at the pictures, and scan the list, and have a look around your homes to see if there is anything you can loan us to make the spaces sing! We will especially be looking for earthenware, fabrics, and rustic tools.

We still need VOLUNTEERS!

The trail culminates with a live action scene. Could you be Mary? Joseph? A Shepherd? A Wise Man? An innkeeper? There are very few lines to remember, and a full script will be provided.

Can you volunteer your time to be a host – welcoming school groups and making refreshments?

Can you help with set up and take down?

This is a Parish event and *all of us* are needed to make it a resounding success and an event that will be remembered by the children and the community for years to come.

Any offers of help please contact Emma at emma@jclytham.church or pop your name and contact number on a piece of paper to give to Emma or Nick when you see them.

Christmas Cards

We have published Christmas Cards again this year and wish to get them into as many people's hands as we can over the next couple of weeks. We will be sending them out through school and handing them out at our services.

This touches a few people and homes in the parish, so we are asking as many church members as possible to take a bundle of cards and deliver them in their local area. There will be a list of streets at the back of each of our churches and if you can make a delivery no matter how small, please can you put your name against the area you are delivering to, to save duplication.

Christingle

The Christingle Service this year is on Sunday 10th December at 6pm at St John's.

Christingle celebrations have been taking place for over 50 years. The first Christingle service supporting the work of the Children's Society took place at Lincoln Cathedral in 1968, but Christingles themselves go back much further to the Moravian church in Germany.

At a children's service in Marienborn in 1747, Bishop Johannes de Watteville looked for a simple way to explain the happiness that had come to people through Jesus, and created a symbol — the Christingle — to do this.

It is a simple service but gives a strong message of how Jesus is the Light of the whole World.



Over the last 50 years, Christingle celebrations have raised millions of pounds to support the life-changing work of The Children's Society with children and young people. The money raised helps to connect them to their services, and rekindle the hope they deserve.

From The Childrens' Society – "The generosity and support shown at Christingle services is overwhelming and every year we are reminded of the compassionate Christinglers that help bring hope to young people across the country".

RNLI Service

This year's RNLI service will be at St Cuthbert's on Sunday 10th December at 10:15am. And it will be a joint service.



Lifeboats

As well as celebrating and praying for the work of the RNLI we will be marking the anniversary of the Mexico Disaster which has affected our community so deeply ever since.

We will also be commemorating the life of Thomas Henry Rimmer who became Coxswain of the replacement boat after the disaster. His grave has only recently been marked with a memorial stone in St Cuthberts Churchyard and this will be dedicated after the service.

We are also delighted that the Mayor of the Fylde, Cheryl Little has accepted an invitation to join us for the service and will be accompanied by her Consort Paul Little who has strong connections with our local RNLI.

Our December and Christmas Services

10 th Dec	8:30am	BCP Communion	St John
	10:15am	RNLI Service	St Cuthbert
	6.00pm	Christingle	St John
17 th Dec	8:30am	BCP Communion	St Cuthbert
	10:15am	Carol Service	St John
	10:15am	Holy Communion	St Cuthbert
	6.00pm	Carol Service	St Cuthbert
Christmas Eve	8:30am	BCP Communion	St John
	10:15am	Service of the Word	St John
	10:15am	Holy Communion	St Cuthbert
	4pm	Crib Service	St Cuthbert
	4pm	Quiet Crib Service	St John
	9pm	1 st Communion of Christmas	St John
	11:30pm	1 st Communion of Christmas	St Cuthbert
Christmas Day	10:15am	Christmas Communion at both Churches	

From our School

Hello from everyone at Lytham Church of England Primary School! As I approach school each morning I frequently pray the line 'Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow' and this strength and hope is always showered on us abundantly.



Life at Lytham continues to be busy, varied and full of joy. Our children are working very hard and I have a steady stream of visitors to my door bringing me work, raps and poems. The children are always proud of their achievements but willing to take feedback too as we strive to be the best that we can be

Our Y5 children led a reflective Remembrance Worship in school and read a beautiful poem they had co-constructed together.

Our Y4 children took part in the Dance Festival at the Opera House in Blackpool, and it was wonderful to see them performing on such a grand stage. They thoroughly enjoyed themselves and came back bursting with pride at their achievements.

Our children in Y1-Y6 enjoyed a visit from Zoolab and enjoyed the opportunity to learn more about various animals and also have the chance to handle some creatures. The rat was definitely my favourite!

In other news, a group of our Y6 children were very fortunate to attend a Cyber escape activity at the University of Central Lancashire. With only ten sets of tickets available to all of the schools in Lancashire, we were incredibly lucky that our fabulous Mrs Patterson was able to secure these. A great time was had by all!

Reading continues to be a priority in school and we have been very fortunate in securing funding from some local businesses to sponsor sets of books for our classrooms. So many of our children are such avid readers that it is a joy to watch them devouring the pages of their latest book. Our School Council have so many good ideas about how we can improve reading opportunities in school. Watch this space!

As you'd expect, our children and staff are now beginning to prepare for the Christmas season. We have lots of events planned and we are particularly looking forward to our Carol Service on Monday 11th December at St Cuthbert's Church at 6pm. It would be lovely if you could join us.

We have welcomed lots of families to our open days but we always love the opportunity to show off our school so please do spread the word if you know of anyone whose child will be starting school in September 2024.

I hope you've enjoyed reading about the times we share at Lytham Church of England School; we remain grateful that so many people pray so faithfully for our school community.

Love, prayers & best wishes,
Amanda Wooldridge Head teacher

Resume of the PCC meeting held on 16 October 2023.

Detailed discussions took place following the PCC away day at Whalley Abbe, in particular looking at where the future growth of our Church family would come from, homing in on young adults, Sunday School, Youth Club, and greater integration and participation from our primary school in Lytham. In addition raising awareness of our JC churches throughout the Parish was considered and the concept of “marketing “ and consideration of having more social events. The follow up of all matters raised at the Away Day would continue to be considered at future meetings and reported thereon in the Parish Magazine.

Debate also centered on the Parish buildings, in particular the electrical work at St Cuthberts and the damage to the office roof caused by a tree which is the subject of an insurance claim. As regards St Johns, roof tiles are to be replaced and work on three trees is ongoing. The leak in the Church Hall is being addressed with builders quotes received and quotes being sought for scaffolding.

Wi-Fi and mobile hub upgrades are ongoing at both St Cuthberts and St Johns.

Presentations were made on Outreach and Discipleship ,in particular Worship in Wellies, Parenting for Faith, Christmas Through the Keyhole, and the Alpha course. Reference was made to Worship for Everyone and in particular, during November, the substitution of lectionary readings with sermons based on Worship for Everyone.

The Church finances were considered and in particular the progress of the new Stewardship Campaign. It was noted that take up of the new Parish Giving Scheme had been less than expected and letters were to be sent to those parishioners still paying in to the old church accounts, noting that these accounts would be closed by the end of the current

financial year, 31 December 2023 and they should be moved to the new scheme with the accompanying direct debit.

A Safeguarding report was considered and it was emphasized that PCC members should complete their basic training modules as soon as practicable.

A school report was presented by the Head Teacher providing an update on matters over the last few months since the new term began. Emphasis was placed on the priority placed on reading skills and the advent of the new Library Bus. Reference was made to the School being awarded a Gold Award for the school gardens at the Lytham in Bloom Presentations. Christian values permeate all that is done at the School.

The Vicar presented his report mentioned that the RNLI service will be held on the 11 December at St Cuthberts and it was agreed that this would be a joint service, with the Mayor of the Fylde being invited. Discussions also took place on the concept of social events held at the vicarage gardens next year and other types of social events.....more on this at other meetings.

Marketing Assistance

One area the PCC is keen to develop is the way we market ourselves: our faith and our parish. To help us ensure we are using as many formats as possible to tell people about who we are, what we are doing and what we believe, we are looking for a volunteer to help us.

If you have these skills, or know someone who does, we would love to hear from you please get in touch with Nick or Emma over the next few weeks.

At present we promote ourselves through our website www.jclytham.church - Facebook @jclytham - daily emails and weekly ebulletins – the monthly magazine – noticeboards (inside and outside) – verbal notices at each service. We have a YouTube channel and an X account which aren't used at the moment. There is more we could do and all this takes time and we would love for someone who has the time and skills to help with this important task.

Parish Giving Scheme

We have now sent letters to our planned givers advising them the old bank accounts for St John and for St Cuthbert are shortly to be closed . We have combined the accounts and opened a new bank account for the new parish.

We encourage everyone to arrange for their giving through the Parish Giving scheme where possible. It will be easier for us to administer and also means we have to handle less cash which can create safety concerns.

If you follow this QR code with your smartphone or tablet it will explain how the Parish Giving Scheme works and help you to set up regular gifts or even make a one off donation.



It is becoming clear we are struggling to meet our costs and the PCC is becoming increasingly concerned; please would you consider how you can support our church ministry and maintenance.

Ambrose, Bishop of Milan

My article for December usually relates to Christmas in some way. But occasionally I write instead about one of the figures we commemorate in the December liturgical calendar. Some time ago, for example, I wrote on St John the Apostle (27 December); this year, I've decided that it's about time I wrote on St Ambrose, Bishop of Milan, revered in the Middle Ages as one of the four great Doctors of the Church, alongside Augustine, Jerome and Gregory the Great. His feast-day, on 7 December, is not his death-day, as it usually is for saints, but the date of his consecration as Bishop of Milan in 374. He died in office on 4 April 397.

Ambrose was born in the Roman city of Augusta Treverorum (modern Trier), c. 339, into a well-to-do Christian family. The western Roman Empire had not yet begun to break up, and Trier was the capital of one of its provinces. But on the religious front things were changing in a major way. In 312 the Emperor Constantine had issued an edict permitting religious plurality so that Christianity was able to be openly practised and, with the support of the emperor, the church was then quite quickly integrated into Roman society. This eventually led to Theodosius (Emperor 379-95) decreeing that Christianity, as defined in the Nicene Creed, was henceforth the religion of the Empire. This Creed had its beginnings at the Council of Nicaea in 325, called by Constantine to settle various doctrinal matters, chief amongst which was whether Christ was human, divine, or fully both. The Council decided on 'fully both'. The resulting Creed asserted this orthodox belief and attacked Arians, who argued that Christ's nature was human. However, this vigorously polemical Nicene Creed was modified and developed under

Theodosius, and that's the version we use. Ambrose's life spanned this extraordinary period of Christian history.

He was well-educated, as one might expect for someone of his class, receiving, in Rome, a good classical education before embarking on a career in the higher ranks of the imperial public service, following the kind of career his father had had. In 372 he was made Governor of the Province of Liguria and Emilia, with its capital at Mediolanum (modern Milan), where the bishop was an Arian. In 374 this bishop died and the local Arians — still a force to contend with — pressed for an Arian successor. Ambrose, as Governor, went to the church where the election was being held in order to prevent serious trouble, and there the crowd spontaneously acclaimed him bishop. He was already well-known to be Nicene in his beliefs, but he was not yet baptized or formally trained in theology and felt unworthy, so he fled to a colleague's house and hid. But he accepted after receiving a letter from the Emperor Gratian, and was baptized, ordained and consecrated within a week. This was the first time in the West that a high imperial official had become a bishop.

Ambrose, as bishop, lived a very ascetic life, giving away his money and land. Yet his previous life equipped him to influence people of great standing, including successive emperors. He also fought strongly against Arianism, believing that the Empire needed unity of doctrine. His own writings contributed to the development of theology, which was still very much being debated and shaped at this time, and he was noted as a writer of hymns. He was also a significant influence on Augustine of Hippo, whom he helped to convert to Christianity.

Joyce Hill

Quiz Questions for December

An Advent/Christmas miscellany

According to St Gregory of Tours, Advent celebrations began in the 5th century when the Bishop Perpetuus directed that 'From St Martin's Day on 11th November until Christmas, one should fast three times per week.' Advent was also sometimes known as The Lent of St Martin.

The origins of Christmas date from both pagan and Roman cultures. The Romans celebrated two holidays during December. The first was Saturnalia honouring Saturn, their god of agriculture; then, on 25th December, there was the birth of Mithra, their Sun god. With the spread of Christianity across Europe, Christian clergy adapted this pagan ritual to become a celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ.

The answers to the following thirty cryptic questions all have a December/Christmas connection. These are followed by seven problems which will most surely exercise your brain power.

1. Introduce an air duct [6]
2. This is not very wobbly [6]
3. Hart yell who? [anagram] [5,6]
4. Is this a celebrity? [4]
5. *Ded Moroz* is legendary [6,9]
6. 'Sounds wet, darling' [8]
7. Sounds like a steam train, and you are in the middle [6]
8. This wouldn't detain a prisoner for long [5,5]
9. ... bangles and beads [7]
10. Bovine farm worker [4]
11. SCD's favourite embellishment [7]
12. This can be office, festive or political [5]

13. Often on a wall bracket, but without the need for quiet [3]
14. *Erithacus rubecula* [5]
15. Starts to grow in Belgium [8,7]
16. See no evil, hear no evil, speak no evil – but certainly not monkeys [5,4,3]
17. Him sang midst [anagram] [8,4]
18. A time for the pugilist [6,3]
19. Abcdefghijklmnopqrstuvwxyz [4]
20. Eating stick [anagram] 3,7]
21. $1 + 1 + 2.4 =$ [on average] [6]
22. Silent acting in the lounge after having eaten [8]
23. Not at its best in the wind [6]
24. These twinklers need turning on [5,6]
25. And we won't go until we get some [5,7]
26. You can't ride this, but it does rhyme with a long form of bike [6]
27. This small bed is not part of a play [4,5]
28. Is this hip hop just a covering? [8,5]
29. It's good luck if you shake hands with my sweep cleaner [7]
30. Oh, yes it is! Oh, no it isn't!! [9]

Brainteasers

1. I intend to set a puzzle every day of the Advent period [3rd-24th December inc.]. If I spend 1 minute on the first puzzle, 2 minutes on the second, and so on, how long in hours and minutes will I have spent writing puzzles?
2. Pinocchio's nose is 5 cm in length. It doubles in length each time Pinocchio tells a lie. After nine lies, his nose will be approximately the length of either a football field or a tennis court. Which one?
3. Disagreement has already broken out amongst Santa's reindeer.

Dasher says that Dancer tells lies. Dancer says that Prancer tells lies. Prancer says that both Dasher and Dancer tell lies. Which reindeer is telling the truth?

4. Father Christmas spends 364 days of the year as a Christmas pudding taster. He once came across a Magic Pudding. Having tasted it, a magic code emerged. This was "IP! IP! IP! XIBU B MPWFMZ QVEEJOH! NFSSZ DISJTUNBT BOE B IBQQZ OFX ZFBS UP ZPV BMM!" What was the coded message?
5. Consider planet Earth to be a perfect sphere. Father Christmas, height 1.8 metres, had to walk a complete circumference when his sleigh was in for a service. How much further in metres did his head travel than his feet? [$\pi = 3.142$]
6. I have invited five people to come for dinner on Christmas Day, and am already working on the seating plan. I have a round table which will fit six people. How many different seating plans are possible?
7. When the twelve days of Christmas are over, how many presents have I received from my true love altogether? The total numbers of each present are interesting: what do you notice?

Answers will appear in the next issue.

Quiz Questions for November

Bible Locations: Can you place them? – Answers

1. Egypt, 2. Nazareth, 3. Cana in Galilee, 4. Judea, 5. Samaria, 6. Galilee,
7. Bethesda, 8. Siloam, 9. Nain, 10. Bethany, 11. Golgotha, the place of a skull, 12. Jericho, 13. Bethsaida, 14. Antioch, 15. Philippi, 16. Mars Hill/The Areopagus, 17. Syria, 18. Ephesus, 19. The Galatians,
20. Patmos, 21. Laodicea, 22. Ararat, 23. Babel, in the land of Shinar,

24. Lot, 25. Moriah, 26. Goshen, 27. Moses, 28. Horeb, 29. A pillar of cloud by day, a pillar of fire by night, 30. A molten calf, 31. Ethiopia, 32. Mount Pisgah, 33. Mount Nebo, 34. Ramath Lehi, 35. Sorek, 36. Saul, 37. Elijah, 38. Babylon, 39. Nineveh, 40. Joppa.

From the Registers

Funerals

November

10th Graham Smith

17th Susan Anderson

20th Doreen Irwin

20th Etta Woodhouse

What goes on each week at JC Lytham



Sunday

8.30am Holy Communion at St Cuthbert 1st & 3rd,
at St John 2nd & 4th Sunday of the
month and 5th as announced

10.15am Morning Service at both
churches (except the 1st Sunday
when it's a joint service)

10:15am Sunday School on the 1st
and 3rd Sundays term time

6pm Evening Prayer on 2nd Sunday at
St Cuthbert



Wednesday

9.45am Bertie Bear Toddler Group in the Parish Hall on Church Road –
term-time only

11am Holy Communion at St Cuthbert

Thursday

9.30am Community Craft Group in St
Cuthberts

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



The Parish 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 Bear Group (term time)
	1.45pm-4pm	Over 50's Table Tennis
	7pm-8pm	Pilates with Georgia – 07875590724
Thursday	5pm-6pm	Rainbows (term time)
	6.30 -7.30pm	Brownies (term time)

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Christmas Day Lunch

Broccoli & stilton soup or Prawn Cocktail
Turkey, stuffing, gravy, roast potatoes, pigs
in blanket, buttered mashed carrots, sprouts
& braised red cabbage

Christmas Pudding with white sauce
or Trifle

Christmas Cake, minced pie and a satsuma

Please tell us if
you have any
dietary
requirements
See overleaf.

Booking is essential and payment
by Friday 8th December 2023
Contact Julie on 07517 086 530
Or Bev on 07742 709 994



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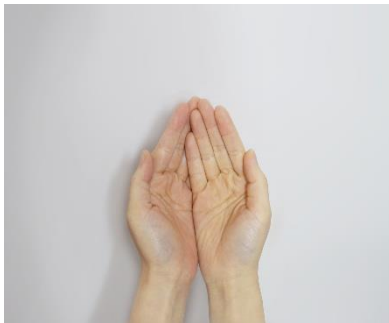
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(SIAMS 2017)

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The Ministry Team

Vicar: Revd Nick Wells 01253 279676

Mission Enabler: Revd Emma Swarbrick 07866 335230

Hon. Assistant Priests: Revd Helen Houston

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

Authorised Lay Minister: Marianne Cottier Brown and James Walmsley

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	As announced
10:15am Holy Communion	Parish Communion	St John	Both churches	St Cuthbert	Both churches
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 Parish Hall

Church Road

Lytham

FY8 5QL

Tel: 01253 736488

Email: parish.office@jclytham.church

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



JC Lytham is a charity registered in England and Wales
Charity Registration No. 1199630
Registered Office: - St Cuthbert's Vicarage, Church Road,
Lytham St. Annes, FY8 5PX