

The Ecclesiastical  
Parish of JC Lytham



**TWO HOMES. ONE FAMILY.**

PARISH MAGAZINE – FEBRUARY 2024

Dear Friends,

On Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> January we had the pleasure of joining the congregations from the other Churches in Lytham for our annual Covenant Service at St Peter's RC Church.



I must say I was heartened by the number of you from JC Lytham who were able to attend. The Covenant, forty years old this year, is one of the oldest in the North West of England and almost seems to be part of our DNA locally, thanks to the passion and work of the late Ian Birnie who represented St Cuthberts from the very start.

The service reminded me of being in the youth group at Wrea Green. The group met on a Sunday evening and for some time was led by my dad, the Vicar of Wrea Green and Father Wells the Roman Catholic Priest at St Anne Westby. The two clergy, with the same surname and both originating from Aston on Ribble got on well, and the young people of each church mixed, studied and prayed together easily. Eventually I took on the leadership of the group and it is heartening to find one of them is now the organist at St Peter's.

The Covenant Service was within the Mass that morning and Father Peter talked in his sermon about the things which continue to divide us, suggesting the church was possibly one in Jesus' time as he quoted John 17:21 where Jesus prays that his disciples 'may be one. As you, Father are in me and I am in you, may they also be in us'.

Being unable to receive communion as non-Roman Catholics and indeed unable to read the bible during the service made clear the division, but also seemed to strengthen our joint commitment and understanding.

It also made me mindful of potential division of the Church of England over the issue of the blessing of same sex marriages and our wider response to the LGBTQIA+ (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, questioning, intersex, or asexual) discussions that General Synod and others are having at present.

Personally, my beliefs and views on this have change significantly over the years, but I also respect that members of our congregations might be wrestling with this too.

My prayer is that this latest development will not further divide Christ's church, making unity even more distant.

As we say in our Communion service: Though we are many, we are one body because we all share in the one bread. May we resolve to maintain and improve that faith and commitment.

Yours in Christ,

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

## **Parish Communion**

This coming month's Parish Communion is at 10,15am on the 4<sup>th</sup> February at St John.

## From the Registers

### January Funerals

5<sup>th</sup> Robert Gregson

11<sup>th</sup> Valerie Aldred

### Evening Prayer

Due to the darker evenings of the winter we have agreed to hold our monthly Evening Prayer service at 4pm for the next couple of months. So on February and 10<sup>th</sup> March we will gather at 4pm rather than 6pm at St Cuthbert.

### Mothers Union

The January Meeting was very much enjoyed by everyone. We were entertained with a Musical Afternoon by a very talented musician, Mr. David Mawson, with a wide selection of famous & not so famous pieces and all with a very interesting dialogue.

The next meeting is on Thurs. 8th February at 2.30pm and this will be a short AGM followed by a talk by Rev. Emma Swarbrick. All welcome.

A gentle reminder that subscriptions are now due at this meeting.

*Margaret Fisher*

## Lytham CofE Primary School

A slightly belated Happy New Year from everyone at Lytham Church of England Primary School! Our new term has got off to a fantastic start and although we are only just over a week in, we have so much to be thankful for.

The Advent Season was particularly busy and our children delighted in telling us the Christmas Story in a variety of ways. Our Nursery children impressed us immensely with their acting and singing skills and our Reception and Key Stage One children thrilled us with their acting, dancing and musical skills.

The KS2 Carol Service led by the Y3 children was a particular highlight and we received lots of positive feedback from parishioners and families. We also enjoyed taking part in the Christmas Through the Keyhole and were grateful to one of our parents who took photographs for us. We also welcomed the Blackpool Schools and Youth Work Team into school who led the Christmas Journey experience for our Y2 children. As if this wasn't enough, our fantastic PTA made warm chocolate for us and we raised over £80 to put towards new reading books for our KS2 children. It's no surprise that we had some very tired children (and staff!) at the end of the term.

We returned to school on the 4<sup>th</sup> January and straightaway we were busy making plans for our children. Our Reception children took part in Go Velo Bicycle Training and many of them learnt how to ride their bikes without stabilisers. What a fantastic achievement! A group of our Y5 and Y6 children went out to play in a football tournament on Friday and although they didn't win, they all tried their best and showed immense team spirit even taking the time to console a goalie from an opposing team who was upset as she'd let some of our goals in.

We were fortunate to welcome the Blackpool Schools and Youth Work team into school and they led Worship for us on Wednesday before working with Y3 and creating doves to symbolise Baptism.

Plans are already in place for our PTFA Movie Night and our School Council have been busy speaking to their peers to find out which films will be most popular to show. I don't envy the PTFA having to pick from a shortlist of approximately 27 films!

We have remodelled our Curriculum Overviews this term so that families can be informed about more of the events and work we complete in classes. As always, our staff have embraced the changes and are keen to ensure that all that we do is in the best interests of our children. Numbers are growing in our Nursery and it has been wonderful to welcome new children and families. We never ever take for granted the privilege it is to play a part in these children's lives.

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

We also ask that you pray for the whole school and especially the School Governors as we interview for the post of Deputy Head during February. May we recognise the person God is calling to this post with us.

## Resume of JC Lytham PCC Meeting held on 20 November 2023.

*The PCC are keen for others to know what we are considering and discussing in our meetings. We are grateful that Paul Olive has offered to write articles about the meetings for the Magazine.*

Discussions continued on the matters arising from the PCC and Leaders away day at Whalley Abbey last October. These centred on ways of growing our church congregation and suggestions included creating welcome packs; social events; involvement of our school in some church services; connections with teenagers; the condition and fitness for purpose of our buildings; support for the elderly and lonely people in our community and offering of further pray for those in need. All these matters are ongoing and will be monitored and revisited regularly over the coming months.

Detailed matters on the state of our three building were further discussed with particular reference to the lightening detectors, electricity supply and maintenance issues, repairs to the hall roof, removal of a tree at St John and upgrading telephone installations in each building.

Outreach and Discipleship was discussed, particularly Worship in Wellies, Christmas Through the Keyhole and Parenting take for Faith course, this latter initiative will be received in the new year as up has been low.

The Finance Committee presented a report on our parish finances with particular reference to outstanding parish share and our investments. It was agreed the Committee would bring to the next PCC meeting a clearer picture of our financial position.

The safeguarding report was considered and there were no incidents to report. It was noted that Linda Hyland, our Safeguarding Officer, has completed her Leadership Course. PCC members have completed the Basic and Foundation courses. A policy concerning Ex-Offenders was accepted by the PCC

The school report (as included in the last magazine) was received with particular mention of potential admissions for September 2024.

The meeting closed with the Diocesan Vision Prayer.

## **What is the Parish Share**

The Parish Share is a sum of money contributed by each Parish every year to the Diocese to support local ministry, in essence funding parish clergy stipends, pension contributions, housing costs, and training.

To a lesser extent it also contributes to a wide range of diocesan support services, including legal services, human resources advice, safeguarding and property management, though much of these costs are covered by the Church Commissioners. There is then also further support both centrally and from Parish Share for church schools, mission, discipleship, social outreach projects and support for parishes in deprived areas.

The Diocese of Blackburn is responsible for 211 parishes and 280 churches across most of Lancashire. The Parish Share Budget is in excess of £10m of which some 80% is represented by parochial staffing and related costs. The calculation of each church's parish share is somewhat complicated and takes into account attendance figures over the last three years, stipendiary costs, affluence of the parish population and a contribution to the most deprived parishes.



The figures for our combined churches are significant and, against a backdrop of the COVID pandemic where we experienced a substantial reduction in attendance, and a lack of resurgence in those numbers we have not been able to pay our Parish Share in full, despite attempts to increase giving by the introduction of the new Parish Giving Scheme.

Our total Parish Share outstanding as at 31st December 2023 was some £211,000, representing £84,000 for 2023 (after paying off some £42,000 during the year) and £127,000 for 2022. Going forward our Parish Share for the new financial year to 31st December 2024 will be £116,000.

We have both cash balances and investments totalling more than £200,000, though some of the investments are held on a restricted basis and obviously some of the cash resources are needed to meet day to day expenditure and fund our annual deficit. These figures are subject to final ratification / verification on the finalisation of our Annual Accounts to 31st December 2023, but they are a reasonably accurate representation of the situation.

At our PCC meeting held on 15th January it was agreed that this worrying financial position should be brought to the attention of our Diocese and to that end I have notified the Assistant Diocesan Secretary and the Archdeacon of Lancaster asking for a meeting to discuss a way forward. I will keep you informed of the outcomes.

## **Diocesan Vision Champions**

Grateful thanks to both Liz Willis and Julie Webb, who have been the Vision Champions for St Cuthberts' for nine years, as they stand back from this role.

Liz and Julie feel that now the time is right to hand on the baton. Some of the highlights from the last nine years would include the successful Harvest of Talents, which led to the Community Craft group

forming; events supporting the Thy Kingdom Come initiative; promoting that the Diocesan Vision Prayer is said each week at our Communion Services and at PCC meetings and making sure the Diocesan Vision 2026 is promoted and developed in everything we do as a church.

As Emma now oversees our Mission, Outreach and Discipleship it feels that her role is a result of our working towards the Diocesan Vision.

Thank you, Liz and Julie, for everything you have done to encourage, motivate and help us to move forward in our vision. And not forgetting the passion and enthusiasm of Paula Chapman and the late Marion Smilie.

## **The Vision**

'Vision'? What's this 'Vision', they want us all to see?

The future of a 'Healthy Church', begins with you and me.

Seeing what's around us and searching in our hearts

for ways to take us forward, perhaps a brand new start?

To look where God would have us go, to welcome those outside.

Laying a gentle pathway, with Jesus as our guide.

Some of us will watch and pray, others will be bold.

Speaking of God's love and power, in words as yet untold.

And from our midst Disciples come, following the Lord.

Leaders gaining confidence and blessings new outpoured.

Taking time to understand that our guests are gifts unknown,

needing us to walk with them until their faith has grown.

The past has served us well dear friends, the road we choose is rough  
and we must be prepared to say, the past is not enough.

Our way ahead lies with our God, in relevant, new mission,

to those whose lives we hope to share in service, praise and vision.

Be with us Lord each step we take, walking hand in hand.

Led by the Holy Spirit, 'till we reach the promised land.

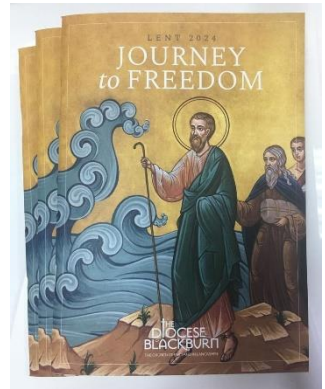
Wendy Anyon May 2016 - Vision Champion St Peter, South Shore, Blackpool.

## Lent Course - Journey to Freedom

In recent years the Diocese of Blackburn has produced Lent Devotional booklets. This year it is entitled 'Journey to Freedom' and offers to walk us through Exodus.

Bishop Philip writes in the preface:

*'Has a greater story ever been told? Exodus has all the ingredients. A flawed hero in Moses. An arch-baddie in Pharaoh. The appalling injustice of slavery. The vivid horrors of the plagues. The jeopardy of a last minute escape. The hyper-real psycho-drama of the wilderness. The promise of a glorious freedom. What more could you want? Well there's much more!'*



Copies of the Devotional booklets are available from each church or can be electronically downloaded through the [Blackburn Diocesan Website](#)

## The Churches in Lytham

The Churches in Lytham has agreed to meet more regularly to pray together and experience a taste of how each denomination worships. These commence at St John on Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> February at 7:30pm. Everyone is welcome and we hope a number of you will come along as we host the first evening of prayer.

## Feasting and Fasting

Ash Wednesday, the first day of Lent, falls this year on 14 February, which is also St Valentine's Day. This is a fairly unusual coincidence because the fixed period of Lent runs right up to Easter, so its dates are determined by the date of Easter, which this year is 31 March. The calendar date of Easter is different each year because the Crucifixion and Resurrection took place at the time of the Jewish Passover, a feast

whose date is set by the lunar calendar. Our familiar calendar, with its fixed dates, is a solar calendar. The cycles of the sun and the moon differ, so mapping the lunar cycle onto our solar calendar means that Easter, together with all liturgical feast-days and seasons linked to it, such as Lent and Pentecost, vary each year: they are 'movable feasts'. Saints' days, however, are dates within the solar calendar, just like Christmas Day and our own birthdays.

So how, this year, do we cope with these two feast-days being on one day, given that Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of a period of austerity and self-denial, while the modern world uses St Valentine's Day as an opportunity to encourage us to spend on flowers, chocolates, wine, various other gifts, and meals out – any or all of which we might be thinking of giving up for Lent. Slightly tongue in cheek, I suggest that there is a possible solution for anyone who wants to do both things. Following on from the Jewish practice of regarding a holy day, such as the Sabbath or Passover, as running from sunset on the previous day to sunset on the day itself, the Christian church has always allowed a feast-day to be celebrated on the preceding evening, known as the vigil of the feast-day. So, St Valentine's Day could be celebrated, liturgically or indulgently, on the evening of 13 February. This year, that happens to be Shrove Tuesday when, ahead of the rigours of Lent, many societies let their hair down by celebrating carnival and eating the kind of food that then disappears from the diet. That's why, in this country, it is Pancake Day -- treat food and perhaps even some mad fun with pancake tossing and pancake races.

But even in Lent itself there are moments when we can ease back a little. Sundays are never fasting days. And the Fourth Sunday in Lent, also known as Mid-Lent Sunday, came to have a particular association with relaxing the penitential rigours of self-denial. In medieval times this 'day off' was known as Laetare Sunday because of the opening words of the Introit of the Latin Mass, 'Laetare Jerusalem', 'Rejoice, O Jerusalem...'. The Introit addressed the congregation as people who had

been in sorrow, and urged them take consolation and enter God's house with rejoicing — a suitable theme for this special day, when everyone felt ready for a breather before facing up to the increased demands of Passiontide and Holy Week as the climax of Lent. Another common name for the day, especially after the Reformation had done away with the Latin liturgy, was Refreshment Sunday. Less common, but still quite well attested, is the name 'The Sunday of the Five Loaves' because the Gospel reading was the story of the Feeding of the Five Thousand. It carries appropriate resonance for a day that many people must have associated with food-treats! For us, Mid-Lent Sunday is also Mothering Sunday, this year 10 March, when mothers are given treats and often a celebratory meal.

*Joyce Hill*

## Quiz Questions for February

### The London Underground

The world's first underground railway opened in London in 1863, as a way of reducing street congestion. It took until 1933 for all of London's public transport system to come under public ownership and services could be fully co-ordinated. The 150th anniversary of the Underground was celebrated in 2013 with a series of events, including a steam locomotive and 19th century carriages making a journey through central London. The Underground now has 11 lines covering 402km and serving 272 stations, handling up to five million passenger journeys a day.

The quiz comprises cryptic clues which provide the names of Tube stations on the London Underground. Obviously, there was **train**-ing to be undertaken and a strict **timetable** to be followed. Course members changed; there were **arrivals** and **departures**, but I soon found myself **on the right lines**. I needed recourse to search **engines** which provided good **points** and a **platform** for my questions. Be on your **guard**; not every **Oyster card** contains a pearl. Look for the right **signals** [that's the

**ticket**], and do not get above your **station** – it could be a **barrier** to success. Finally, at your **destination**, **MIND THE GAP!**

1. A lovable bear [10]
2. Home to the Houses of Parliament [11]
3. A weapons store [7]
4. Ballet and vegetables found here [6,6]
5. Where one's money can be found [4]
6. Anyone for tennis? [9]
7. Where blackboard materials might be grown? [5,4]
8. A school seen on television [6,4]
9. No acrobats to be found at this university [6,6]
10. Place of worship [6]
11. Official residence of London's Lord Mayor [7,5]
12. Nobleman captured, by the sound of it [5,5]
13. Trumpeting New York thoroughfare [7,8]
14. One of many on Merseyside [9,6]
15. Napoleon met bad news here [8]
16. Motor company [8]
17. Affluent French world [8]
18. Dark monks [11]
19. Female siblings to a number of dwarves [5, 7]
20. Parish priest's bowling area [7.5]
21. 007 boulevard [4,6]
22. Did glacial movement do this? [5,4]
23. Entrance to a London carnival [7,4,4]
24. The last surviving tea-clipper [5,4]
25. Arthur and Lancelot's river crossing [13]
26. A limit of 1,760 yards [4,3]
27. Patella's lair [7]
28. A messenger from heaven [5]
29. Small Alpine dwelling [5,7]
30. Holmes and Watson could be found here [5,6]
31. Might this station be falling down? [6,6]
32. Red cheese conservative [9,6]
33. Applaud some ordinary meat [7,6]

34. Brian's initial payment for a religious symbol [5,5]
35. The sound made by leaves multiplied by itself [7,6]
36. Mad dogs might never stop here [7]
37. Red rose entrance [9,4]
38. The answer to which question contains five consecutive consonants?
39. The answer to which question shares its name with a station on the Paris Métro?
40. The answer to question 11. and South Ealing have something in common. What might it be?

**Answers will appear in the next issue.**

### **Quiz Questions for January**

#### **Time, like an ever-rolling stream – Answers**

1. China, 2. Pope Benedict XVI, 3. Spare, 4. Jair Bolsonaro, 5. Croatia,
6. Diddy Squat Farm, 7. Nicola Sturgeon, 8. World Book Day, 9. Finland,
10. Dame Edna Everage, 11. The London Marathon, 12. Operation Golden Orb, 13. Westminster Abbey, 14. Katy Perry, 15. Penny Mordaunt, 16. St Edward's Crown, 17. The Stone of Scone, aka the Stone of Destiny, 18. Liverpool, 19. Loreen, Tattoo, 20. Martin Amis, 21. Glenda Jackson, 22. Sir Elton John, 23. Rhodes, 24. Jonny Bairstow, 25. Carlos Alcaraz, 26. Brian Harman, 27. Edinburgh International Festival, 28. Australia and New Zealand, 29. Spain 1 England 0, 30. A bed bug invasion, 31. The Sycamore Gap tree, 32. The Sydney Opera House, 33. Bletchley Park, 34. The Beatles, 35. 75 years, 36. Chipping Norton, 37. Rizz, 38. Charisma, an ability to charm, 39. The Boston Tea Party, 40. Through the Keyhole.

## Financial Giving to our parish

If you wish to make a one off gift or begin to give regularly to St John the Divine and St Cuthbert Lytham please follow the link through this QR Code on your smartphone or tablet.



## The Parish Hall - For more information call Fiona on 01253 736488

<b>Tuesday</b>	9am-3pm	Tumble Tots <a href="mailto:Tumbletotslynz@hotmail.com">Tumbletotslynz@hotmail.com</a>
	6pm-7pm	Beavers (term time)
	7pm-9pm	Scouts (term time)
<b>Wednesday</b>	9.30am-11.30am	Bertie Bear Group (term time)
	1.45pm-4pm	Over 50's Table Tennis
	7pm-8pm	Pilates with Georgia – 07875590724
<b>Thursday</b>	9.30am-11.30am	Costal Collective Drop In
	5pm-6pm	Rainbows (term time)
	6.30 -7.30pm	Brownies (term time)



# What goes on each week at JC Lytham



## Sunday

8.30am Holy Communion at St Cuthbert 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup>,  
at St John 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the  
month and 5<sup>th</sup> 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 1<sup>st</sup>  
and 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays term time

4pm Evening Prayer on 2<sup>nd</sup> 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

- 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of the month at St  
John
- 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday of the month at St Cuthbert





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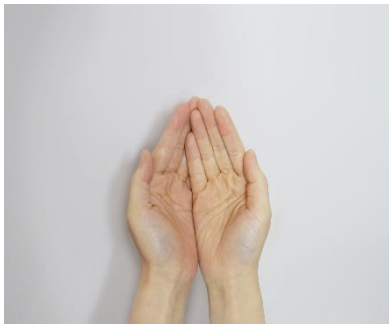
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(OFSTED 2019)



*'Pupils feels safe and special and have positive attitudes to their learning.'*  
(SIAMS 2017)

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We're here for you anytime.  
Whatever your wishes or budget,  
we can provide a funeral to suit you.



[dignityfunerals.co.uk/local](http://dignityfunerals.co.uk/local)

Proud to be a Dignity Funeral Director, providing exceptional services to families across the UK.

\*Pricing is correct at time of going to print and is subject to change. Price stated is for an Unattended Funeral.

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- looking to find the will for probate?

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by email or telephone

*Regulated for a range of investment business activities, and authorised to carry out the reserved legal activity of non-contentious probate in England and Wales by the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England & Wales.*

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[www.martingunson.co.uk](http://www.martingunson.co.uk)  
[accountant@martingunson.co.uk](mailto:accountant@martingunson.co.uk)

# Community Drop-In



**Thursdays**  
**11am - 3pm**  
**join us for a free**  
**cuppa**

Want more info?  
Ring Bev 07742709994

Every Thursday 11am - 3pm  
in St Johns Court, Warton Street,  
Lytham, FY8 5JB

11.15am Seated Exercise session £2  
12noon Soup, sandwich and sweet £5

Digital support is available from 1pm.

Board games, crochet and chat, knit  
and knatter, card making, bingo,  
beetle drive, and loads more

or just relax in the comfy warm lounge



D. HOLLOWELL & SONS

FUNERAL DIRECTORS



## SUPPORTING FAMILIES ON THE FYLDE COAST FOR OVER 30 YEARS

As an independent family funeral home we work around the clock to serve our local communities and ease the burden a loss can bring.

We recognise that funerals are unique and memorable occasions and we aim to tailor each service to your needs, from a traditional church affair to the more low key yet dignified 'Simple Alternative' option. Whatever your needs, we are here to assist and serve in every way.

## PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE

Golden Charter   
Funeral Plans

As independent funeral directors, we currently offer our advanced planning options through Golden Charter's Independent Plans.

**FUNERAL PLANNING AUTHORITY REGISTERED WITH PROTECTED  
PAYMENTS**

**Devonshire House Funeral Home** | Telephone 01253 355663  
287 Devonshire Road, Blackpool FY2 0TW

**Highfield Funeral Home** | Telephone 01253 408886  
497 Lytham Road, Blackpool FY4 1RE

**The Willows Funeral Home** | Telephone 01253 859159  
57 Fleetwood Road North, Thornton Cleveleys FY5 4AB

**Bank House Funeral Home** | Telephone 01253 720998  
Alexandria Drive, Lytham St Annes FY8 1JD

**website:** [www.fyldefunerals.co.uk](http://www.fyldefunerals.co.uk)

**email:** [info@fyldefunerals.co.uk](mailto:info@fyldefunerals.co.uk)





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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 <sup>st</sup> Sunday	2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday	3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday	4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday	5 <sup>th</sup> 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](mailto: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](http://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