

The Ecclesiastical  
Parish of JC Lytham



**TWO HOMES. ONE FAMILY.**

PARISH MAGAZINE – JANUARY 2024



Dear Friends

One of the sayings you often hear from clergy is 'they didn't teach me that at Theological College'. Normally it is said in connection with day-to-day aspects of managing a church. Two of the topics that raise that kind of response in me are trees, and alarm systems.



Churches and their consecrated grounds usually sit in conservation areas and the trees are often listed and when they require attention it frequently involves getting formal permissions locally and from the diocese. It can be rather time consuming to say the least.

Alarms installations may deter people from breaking in, but in my experience, they are often triggered by faults, the weather or even spiders creeping over the sensors. When I attend to the alarm going off in church, I am conditioned to believe it is a false alarm, though Health and Safety means that I normally attend with a member of my family or one of our dogs, even in the middle of the night.

It has become like the Aesop's Fable, 'The Boy Who Cried Wolf'. The tale concerns a shepherd boy who repeatedly fools villagers into thinking a wolf is attacking his town's flock. When an actual wolf appears and the boy calls for help, the villagers believe that it is just another false alarm, and the sheep are eaten by the wolf.

Reflecting on the story I wonder if the Good News of Jesus has suffered in a similar way. In the past people have been almost forced to go to church and had Christianity imposed on them. The result has been that Jesus has become sidelined and ignored.

As we enter 2024, we need to consider how we can talk of Jesus in fresh ways, not by shouting 'beware' and 'you're damned', but by presenting and living out the love which is the essence of our faith. I am sure that was something all clergy did learn at Theological College.

We also need to make sure that we don't become complacent and deaf to the incredible news of the Son of God either. Let's get out of the habit and make it our hobby. Let's enjoy our faith and our relationship with God daily.

Yours in Christ,



## A New Years Message from the Rt Revd Philip North



I remember some years ago reading a book to a group of children called "The 'What If' Monster".

The 'What If' Monster whispered into children's ears fears of doom and dread and so infected every situation.

What if I get scared? What if I get lost? What if it all goes wrong?

Now that may have been a children's book, but it seems to me the 'What If' Monster has been quite busy in our world in recent years with stories and fears of dread and doom and perhaps, as 2024 begins, the 'What If' Monster has got himself busy with you?

What if ... these terrible conflicts we are seeing in Gaza and Ukraine, spill over and become global configurations?

What if ... the fragile seeds of economic recovery come to nothing?

What if ... fuel prices rocket again and give us all trouble with our finances?

What if ... the big elections coming up in 2024 in this country and in the United States increase social division?

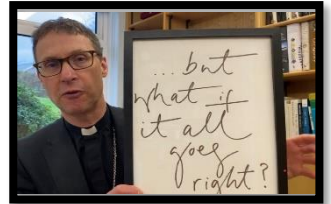
What if ... there is another pandemic?

What if it all goes wrong? What if ...? What if ...? What if ...?

It is so easy to make ourselves feel anxious and afraid with those fears.

I was struck in contrast, therefore, by a picture which was given to me by a friend early this year.

It says, '...but what if it all goes right?'



Now, if you take off the 'what if' that's actually quite a powerful statement of the Christian faith, because Christians believe that it WILL all go right.

It will all go right because of the child whose birth we have just been celebrating, Jesus Christ.

Jesus grows up to give his life away upon the cross and, as Jesus dies, He destroys death and sin and evil and all that is at enmity with human flourishing.

And so he rises again to a whole new way of life; a new creation.

In Jesus we know the future. In Jesus we know that we are safe in Him. In Jesus we know that it will all go right.

And it is in that calm, assurance and that confidence in the future can reach its way back to fill our present with joy.

So what would it mean to live 2024 through another set of 'what ifs'?

'What ifs', not of dread and doom but 'what ifs' of joy.

What if ... 2024 was to be a year of peace? We all can do something to achieve that, as we work for peace in our communities and homes and places of work.

What if ... 2024 was to be a year of justice? Again, we can all work for that as we give voice to the poor, as we serve and meet human need.

What if ... 2024 was to be a year of stronger families? We can do something about that too as we give attention to our families and show them just how much we love them and just how much we care.

What if ... 2024 was to be the year when you explored a little bit deeper, to live your life with Jesus Christ and to know the assurance - the joy - that comes from following Him and knowing that your future is safe in Him.

I hope you all have a really Happy New Year and a good 2024. And I hope that this can be a year when you can see that, in Jesus, things will all go right.

## Alpha!

We will be running an Alpha Course at JC Lytham this new year. Alpha is a great opportunity to discuss faith in a laid back and friendly environment. It is especially good for those who are new to faith or still at the seeking stage, for those who have recently come back to faith, and for those who may have been coming to church for a while but have lots of questions they'd like to explore.

We will be meeting at 49 Victory Boulevard on Wednesday evenings, Starting Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> January at 7:30pm for a shared meal. Subsequent weeks begin at 8:00pm with drinks and cake or biscuits.

Please email [emma@jclytham.church](mailto:emma@jclytham.church) to register your place and to inform us of any dietary requirements for the meal on the first evening.

## Christmas Through The Keyhole

What a wonderful time we had at Christmas Through The Keyhole. Around 200 children from Lytham C of E and Hall Park Schools came to experience the Nativity Story in an immersive and multisensory way. They were taken on a journey from empty room to empty room before finally finding the Innkeeper who directed the children to the stable where Mary, Joseph, a shepherd and a wise man were gathered around the baby Jesus.

With thanks to all who played a part in making it happen, from those who set up and packed down, led groups, ran crafts, made drinks and even played real life characters. It could not have happened without you! Here's to Christmas Through The Keyhole 2024!!



## **From the Registers**

### **Baptisms**

December

3<sup>rd</sup> Roman Chalwe

10<sup>th</sup> Betsy Cagney McAlister and Hudson Frazer McAlister

17<sup>th</sup> Leo Thomas Cartmell

### **Funerals**

November

30<sup>th</sup> Wendy Lever

December

1<sup>st</sup> Edith Rothwell

4<sup>th</sup> John Knowles

7<sup>th</sup> Marion Bahr

## **Covenant Service**

The Churches in Lytham Covenant Service is being hosted by St Peter's RC Church this year. All the town's congregations are invited to worship together at 10:30am on Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> January. It is a rather special occasion and we mark the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Signing of the Covenant this year.

This means we will have our 8:30am BCP Communion at St Cuthbert that morning but there will be no 10:15am service at either of our churches.



## Harbour House

Following our collection for the residents of Harbour House during Advent we have received the following notes:

*Christmas evokes tenderness for the past, courage for the present and hope for the future. It is not as much about opening our presents as opening our hearts.*

*It is a porefect time to reflect on our blessings and seek out ways to make life better for those around us. We thank you for all you do.*

*Harbour House send best wishes for a healthy and happy Christmas.*

*Benji, Sheriff, Ruisa, Libby, Beth, Tegan, Karl, Em, Chris, Brandon and Aiden.*

As a parish we also recognise our appreciation for the link Maragret and Colin Holt make for us with Harbour House.

## Pastoral Ministry Team

Our Pastoral Ministry Team is now becoming well established and offers Pastoral Care to those who need it in our parish. If you are aware of someone who may benefit from visits from one of the Team please speak to Nick or email him at [nick.thevic@jclytham.church](mailto:nick.thevic@jclytham.church). Nick will check with you the circumstances of the request and make appropriate arrangements.

If you or someone you know, would appreciate receiving Communion at home brought by a member of the congregation, again, please let Nick know.

## Safeguarding

Our Licensed Lay Ministers, Bev, David, Jacqui, Joanne and Nicola, have been preparing for their Triennial Licensing Service at the Cathedral in March. Here at JC Lytham we are fortunate to have five LLMs who give of their time and gifts in preparing to teach, preach, lead services, intercessions, and provide pastoral support.

All of them have recently attended training to keep up to date with their safeguarding knowledge which is a requirement of their licensing and relicensing.

Recently the church has been highlighted as being poor in dealing with alleged abuse within the organisation and high-profile cases have come to light. The aim of the training provided by the Church of England is to get church leaders, clergy, LLMs, and PCC members to reflect deeply on their own values and beliefs and integrate them with the values and beliefs underpinning good safeguarding behaviour. The idea is that good safeguarding behaviour can then flow from an inner motivation, rather than be experienced as an external process to be followed under duress.

Our church is committed to safeguarding as an integral part of our ministry and mission, promoting a safer culture and the welfare of every child, young person and adult. We will be promoting our Safeguarding procedure in the magazine over the next few months so that we are all aware as we all have a responsibility.

## Mothers' Union

The Christmas Lunch at Lytham Hall was very much enjoyed by everyone. The lunch was excellent and the ambiance of the dining room, so beautifully decorated, created a lovely atmosphere.

We meet on Thursday 11th January 2024 at 2.30pm in St Cuthberts when we welcome once again, Mr. David Mawson who will entertain us with a wonderful Musical Afternoon. All welcome to join us.

May we wish everyone Good Health & Happiness in the New Year.

*Margaret Fisher*

## 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.



## 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 be, for example, that you wish to sponsor in memory of a loved one or a special event within the family.

The cost of each sponsorship is £25.00; for the sponsorship of both service sheet and flowers is £40.00. Name/s and suitable wording chosen by the donor will feature on the service sheet.

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 Parish. In order to do this, please complete the details on the front of the gift aid envelope.

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

## **Selling Advertisement Space**

As you will see there are a number of adverts placed in the Parish Magazine again this year, this has raised over £1000 for JC Lytham.

## **A Big THANK YOU**

Thank you to everyone who assisted us throughout Advent and Christmas; everyone who helped prepare for our services and of course 'Christmas Through the Keyhole'.

To those who donated a Christmas present at the Crib Service at St Cuthbert. We are most grateful that you helped us make some child's Christmas special, they may not have received a present otherwise this year. Once again, a big thank you for supporting this cause so dear to our hearts.

Also, to those who supported us in our collections for Harbour House; and those who bought Advent Calendars.

We know people appreciated and enjoyed our Christmas services and hope to see them again very soon.

## The Baptism of Christ: An Epiphany Narrative

The season of Epiphany begins on 6 January. On this day we commemorate the visitation of the Three Wise Men to the Christ-child. The visit of the Magi is a 'manifestation': it is the first instance of how God is made known to and is recognised by those of a different race from the humble Jewish shepherds, whose 'manifestation' we commemorate on Christmas Day itself. Epiphany, which comes from a Greek word, means 'manifestation'. The marking of the beginning of Epiphany by such a radical story as that of the Magi – different race, different religion, different level of learning and social status from Mary, Joseph and the shepherds – foreshadows the universal spread of Christianity. How this began to happen in practice is told in the Acts of the Apostles, the book that follows the gospels in our bibles.

Epiphany continues for several weeks, right up to the beginning of Lent, which itself starts six weeks before Easter. During that time, readings traditionally focus on other 'manifestations' which reveal the special nature of Jesus. A couple of years ago I wrote about one of these: the episode where Jesus, at the age of twelve, went up to Jerusalem with his parents and amazed the leaders of the Temple by debating with them about the teachings of Jewish Scripture (our Old Testament) with a wisdom way beyond his years. Another is the baptism of Jesus by John the Baptist in the river Jordan.

Jesus' baptism is told in a very similar way in Matthew chapter 3, Mark chapter 1 and Luke chapter 3. These three gospels, which are interrelated, are commonly referred to as the synoptic gospels because they present a similar summary of Jesus' life and teaching. The fourth gospel, written quite a bit later, in other circumstances and with different purpose, also presents Jesus' baptism, in John 1 vv. 29-34, but not in quite the same way. Even so, common to them all is the description of the Holy Spirit descending upon Jesus in the form of a dove, and a clear assertion that this person, in one sense a man like all others, is also the Son of God. In John's gospel this is confidently asserted by John the Baptist, but in the synoptic accounts the

narrative gives us God's own words: 'This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased'. These familiar words are from Matthew. There is very slight variation in Mark and Luke, but no difference at all in what is being asserted.

In its own terms, as an incident in Jesus' life, this is an account of a public 'manifestation', an epiphany narrative. But, taking a longer view, the baptism was also seen as an early 'manifestation' of the doctrine of the Trinity. This complex theology of the unified identity of God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit, took some centuries to work out. But the baptism narrative was a constant reference point and, in Christian art, was a scene that could allude to this quite difficult and abstract idea in graphic form since the Father, whose vocal presence is recorded in the gospels, was represented by a hand showing beneath the cloud; the Son (Jesus) is of course central to the image; and Holy Spirit is present in the form of the dove.

*Joyce Hill*

## Quiz Questions for January

### Time, like an ever-rolling stream, ... [Hymns A & M]

It is the time to bid farewell to the year 2023 and to welcome in the New Year. 2023 will have been, for all of us, a period of satisfactions and pleasure mixed with some disappointments and frustrations.

It is always important, however, that we should look to the future with optimism and, in pursuit of this, many of us make resolutions and try our best to keep them. Here are just three resolutions which present good advice: 1. Be grateful that God has taken care of you and this will not change. 2. Take no hatred into the New Year without querying its need to be there. 3. Approach the New Year with determination to find the opportunities hidden within each new day.

How much attention did you give to events during 2023? Here are forty questions which will determine your memory level.

1. At the year's beginning, which country reopened its borders three years after the start of the COVID pandemic?
2. Whose funeral took place in the Vatican on 5<sup>th</sup> January?
3. What was the title of Prince Harry's memoir published in January?
4. Supporters of which former president stormed the Congress building in Brasilia in January?
5. Which European country adopted the euro as its currency?
6. Amazon Prime Video released a second season of *Clarkson's Farm* early in 2023. What is the name of this farm?
7. The longest serving First Minister of Scotland resigned on 15<sup>th</sup> February. Who was this?
8. Which charity event held annually on the first Thursday in March gives every child in the UK a voucher?
9. In April, which nation became the 31<sup>st</sup> member of NATO?
10. By what stage name was Barry Humphries better known?
11. Tata Consultancy Services sponsored which event on 23<sup>rd</sup> April?
12. Planning for the Coronation of King Charles III took place under what code name?
13. Where was the Coronation held?
14. Which guest was unable to find her seat at the Coronation?
15. Resplendent in blue, who carried the Sword of State during the ceremony?
16. Which crown did Charles wear when he was officially declared King?
17. Kept in Edinburgh Castle, which Stone was used at the Coronation?
18. In which city was the Eurovision Song Contest held?
19. Name the singer and the title of the winning Eurovision song.
20. Which British novelist, known for his works *Money* and *London Fields*, was given the honour of a posthumous knighthood?
21. Which Oscar-winning actor and politician died on 15<sup>th</sup> June, age 87?
22. Who closed the Glastonbury Music Festival on 25<sup>th</sup> June?

23. On which Greek island did tourists flee from wildfires in July?
24. Who removed a *Just Stop Oil* protestor from the cricket pitch at Headingley?
25. Who won the Men's Singles title at Wimbledon?
26. Who won the Open Championship at the Royal Liverpool Golf Club?
27. Name the Scottish celebration of arts and culture held 4<sup>th</sup>-28<sup>th</sup> August.
28. Which two countries jointly hosted the FIFA Women's World Cup?
29. What was the final score in this Women's World Cup Final?
30. In September, what unwanted epidemic was thought to be arriving in the UK from Paris?
31. Which famous tree was tragically cut down on 27<sup>th</sup> September?
32. Officially opened by HM Queen Elizabeth II on 20<sup>th</sup> October 1973, which iconic building celebrated its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary?
33. Name the UK venue for the world's first summit on AI security held in November.
34. Which group's last song was called *Now and Then*?
35. Which landmark birthday did King Charles III celebrate in November?
36. David Cameron was made Lord Cameron of ... where?
37. What was the Oxford English Dictionary word of the year?
38. What does this word of the year mean?
39. The 16<sup>th</sup> December was the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary of which historic American event?
40. What phrase links Loyd Grossman with a December event held at St John's Church?

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

### **Quiz Questions for Dec: An Advent/Christmas Miscellany: Answers**

1. Advent, 2. Stable, 3. Holly wreath, 4. Star, 5. Father Christmas 6. Reindeer, 7. Church, 8. Tinsel, 9. Baubles, 10. Oxen, 11. Glitter, 12. Party, 13. Elf, 14. Robin, 15. Brussels sprouts, 16. Three Wise Men, 17. Midnight Mass, 18. Boxing Day, 19. Noel, 20. Ice skating, 21. Family, 22. Charades, 23. Candle, 24. Fairy lights, 25. Figgy pudding, 26. Icicle, 27. Crib scene, 28. Wrapping paper, 29. Chimney, 30. Pantomime.



## Answers to the Brainteasers

1. 4 hours 13 minutes, 2. Tennis court, 3. Dancer, 4. Ho! Ho! Ho! What a lovely pudding! Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to you all!, 5. 11.31 metres, 6. Factorial 5: 120, 7. 364, symmetry of numbers between 12 [min.] and 42 [max.].

## The Parish Hall - For more info call 01253 736488

<b>Tuesday</b>	9am-3pm	Tumble Tots – <a href="mailto:Tumbltotstlynz@hotmail.com">Tumbltotstlynz@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>	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

6pm 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  
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- 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday of the month at St Cuthbert





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Martin E. Gunson  
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Lytham St. Anne's  
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[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)



## *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