

JC Lytham Parish Office

The Parish Hall

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Lytham

FY8 5QL

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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



**TWO HOMES; ONE FAMILY.**

The Ecclesiastical Parish  
of St John the Divine and  
St Cuthbert 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

**PARISH MAGAZINE – MARCH 2025**

Dear Friends

The PCC recently received a letter from the Diocesan Secretary advising them that the Board of Finance has agreed to give us a Parish Share support grant of £50,000 for both 2024 and 2025.

We are so grateful to them for this support and it shows that they are committed to our parish and the Church of England presence in Lytham.

We do however face a major challenge as we owe £20,853 to complete the Share payments for 2024. Our Parish Share for 2025 will be £76,578, which comes to £6,961.63 per month, with effect from February 2025.

We can cover these costs by drawing on reserves but it is clear that our running costs are very stretched.

If each one of us is committed to maintaining our churches and sharing our faith in the town and beyond, then we each need to seriously consider our giving and come forward with other suggestions as to how we can improve our income.

In every parish I have worshipped in there has been a grumble about Parish Share, or Parish Quota as it used to be called. It is the contribution each parish makes to their diocese to cover the costs of ministry. The vast majority of this Share is for the cost of our two clergy, including their stipend, pension provision, national insurance, training and housing.

As you know our School Governors are in the process of appointing a new Head. One of the things they have to agree during this process is the salary band the Head will be placed in. The Head of a primary school the size of ours will earn more than double what a parish priest will receive. Each time we set the salary band for a Head I just pause for a moment and think about what Parish Share would be if clergy were paid at the same rate as a Head of a primary school, not an unreasonable comparison.

I am not complaining about my stipend level but just laying out what value



## The Ministry Team

**Vicar:** Revd Nick Wells 07852 254 907

**Mission Enabler:** Revd Emma Swarbrick 07866 335230

**Hon. Assistant Priest:** Revd Helen Houston

**Licensed Lay** Jacqui Briscoe, Joanne Hutchinson,

**Ministers:** David Matthews, Bev Wells, Nicola Whitehead

**LLM Emeritus:** Angela Lee

**Authorised Lay Ministers:** Marianne Cottier Brown and James Walmsley

## Our usual 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	St Cuthbert
10:15am Morning Service	Parish Communion	Holy Communion St John	Holy Communion Both churches	Holy Communion St Cuthbert	Holy Communion Both churches
		All Age Service St Cuthbert		Service of the Word St John	
11am Communion	Each Wednesday at St Cuthbert				

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for money churches receive for the Parish Share. Our Parish Share covers the costs our clergy and supports other churches in the diocese which are less affluent.

The theme of giving to JC Lytham is not one I like to return to, but I must in order to avert the possibility of decline.

Of course the bottom line is that when we give to the church we are giving to God and His Kingdom. Without God we would have nothing and as we say frequently in our Communion Services it is 'of Your own that we give You'.

So please consider again your giving to God for His goodness and to the costs of our parish and let us be grateful both for the support of our diocese and all that we are as God's church in Lytham.

**Parish Communion for March**  
 Our March Parish Communion will be  
 at St Cuthbert's on  
 Sunday 2nd March at 10.15am

Our guest preacher at the next Parish Communion will be the Venerable Mark Ireland, Archdeacon of Blackburn. This will be his final visit to us as he will be retiring in April.

We would love you to come along and invite a friend too.



World Day of Prayer is a global ecumenical Christian movement, led by women, which is celebrated annually in over 170 countries around the world on the first Friday in March.

Its motto is 'Informed Prayer and Prayerful Action'. It has its origins in the USA and Canada back in the 19th century.

Each year the service is set by the women of a different country who tell us about their life and their faith. The service includes hymns, prayers, bible readings and testimonies sent to us by the women of the originating country.

This year's service is set by the people of The Cook Islands in the Pacific. There is a very informative Order of Service booklet which gives an insight into the lives of the Cook Islands people.

This year's service is at St John the Divine on Friday 7th March at 2.00pm. Everyone is very welcome and we hope you will join us for coffee and cake after the service.

### Monday Compline on Zoom

As part of our increased focus on prayer, especially for our participation in the Diocesan Renewal Programme, we are offering the service of Night Prayer on Zoom every Monday evening at 9pm.

The Zoom link will be shared by Nick on his Saturday email. The words of the service will be available on the link and we will include a time of prayer for the renewal and growth our parish.

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(OFSTED 2019)



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

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### **Resume of January's PCC meeting**

Diocesan Renewal Programme - Emma reported that she, Nick and others had attended a further training session at Whalley Abbey. A presentation of the slides used was made, relating to Mission and Spiritual and Numerical growth. Discussion followed and then Emma introduced two further topics, namely Prayer and Presence. It was noted that a prayer for growth is now included in the service sheets and a service of Compline will be held every Monday evening at 9pm on Zoom for everyone to join. Discussions around our Presence in the parish then followed it being agreed that progress was being made on this aspect.

The organ at St Johns is almost unplayable. A visit to St Peter's to view their electronic organ will be made and the estimated cost of a new two manual electronic organ is estimated to be in the region of over £20,000. A recent legacy of this amount from the estate of Hildi Leary would, with thanks, go towards this cost.

The figures for the financial year ended 31 December 2024 were presented which showed a provisional surplus of some £22000 arising in the main from substantial legacies received in the year, slightly increased income and control over utility costs which, with two churches, can be a substantial. The Diocese are currently considering our finances with a view to mitigation of Parish Share. The current payments are £42000 per annum and the most recent demand for 2025 indicates a figure of £126,000.

The Tower Captain, Sid Lloyd, has indicated that the frame for the bells at St Johns is a cause for concern and will probably need to be replaced in the near future at considerable cost. The bells are an independent charity and as such may well be eligible for a grant

Linda, our Safeguarding Officer, will be conducting an audit of the completeness of mandatory training by PCC members and will report accordingly. She was also updating the Safeguarding Dashboard. The updated Safeguarding Policy was presented and unanimously approved to be displayed on the notice boards of both churches.

At Lytham CofE Primary School it was noted that Stuart Booth, the Headteacher at St, Michael's Grimsargh, is the acting Executive Headteacher following the departure of Amanda Wooldridge.

BLAST our Sunday School were heavily involved in the Crib Service at St Cuthbert's being well supported by the young people who narrated the story with their puppets. Plans for the coming year are being made and it was mentioned that Bishop Philip will be with us for the Crib Service two years hence.

The vicar made mention of the following items:

- David Taylor retires on 7<sup>th</sup> February after 39 years tending the grounds at St Cuthberts. A presentation will be made on 5<sup>th</sup> February at David's leaving do and all contributions will be gratefully received. The churchyard at St Cuthberts covers over 4 acres and a sub-contractor will be sought to carry on this important maintenance.
- Debbie Edwards was appointed a Communion Assistant.
- It was agreed that in the future Baptisms will be part of the 10.15am service. Liz looks after baptism arrangements at St Cuthbert's and a volunteer is needed for St John's. We are also inviting baptism families to attend services in advance of their baptism.
- Emma discussed plans for our application for available funding to the position of a Youth Worker. This scheme is being



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promoted by the Diocese with funding available for 30 Youth workers.

- Alex and James Walmsley are to run a Sunday PM (Prayer and Meditation) each Sunday Evening from 6-7pm (apart from the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in the month when Evening Prayer is held).
- Nick advised the meeting that the Electoral Roll is due to be renewed during 2025.

The meeting drew to a close agreeing the date for the Annual Parochial Church Meeting as Monday 19th May, St Johns at 7.30pm.

#### **From the Registers**

February Funerals

- 10<sup>th</sup> Tony Holman
- 11<sup>th</sup> Reg Carlisle
- 12<sup>th</sup> Patricia Kinnear
- 17<sup>th</sup> Jean Taylor  
Edward Leyland

#### **Flowers at St John's**

Hilda Swindlehurst has recently retired as the flower arranger at St John's. We are so grateful for the care and dedication she has shown over the years in this ministry.



If anyone feels able to pick up the mantle from her please speak to Susan Holman or one of the clergy.

If you are able to help we require assistance decorating the church for the major festivals, but help every week would be very welcome.

## Lent Course

Bishop Philip's new 'Hear our Prayer' course has five sessions and will be our Lent Course this year. It examines the prayer lives of five Old Testament figures who prayed, how that relates to the prayer life of Jesus and by doing so, we can reflect on our own prayer lives. The sessions are:



Personal Prayer (Hannah); Ambitious Prayer (Elijah); Hopeful Prayer (Ezekiel); Communal Prayer (Esther); Constant Prayer (Daniel)

In each sessions there will be a chance for conversation and discussion and most importantly we will do some praying.

For each session there will be opening time of prayer; listening to the Scriptures; video talk; discussion; prayer exercise; closing prayer for Growth and Renewal

The course is designed to be reasonably simply and could last anything between an hour and 90 minutes, depending on how long people wish discussion and prayer to flow.

## Church Grounds at St Cuthbert's

Last summer we sub-contracted the care of St John's churchyard to a local gardening company and in the light of the retirement of David Taylor in February we are planning to do similarly at St Cuthbert's. An Invitation to Tender has been drawn up and circulated to several local gardening contractors and we hope to make an appointment shortly.

Links  View

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## Sunday PM

We are excited to let you know that there will be a new addition to our acts of worship on Sundays - Sunday PM. This will be a regular time of Prayer and Meditation held at St Cuthbert's each Sunday at 6pm (except the 2nd Sunday of the month when we have Evening Prayer). Sunday PM is being led by Alex and James Walmsley and will be an hour or so of prayer and meditation with coffee/tea available.

This is a great addition to our ministry at JC Lytham and we hope you will feel able to pop in as and when you can.

## Diocesan Year of Prayer for Growth and Renewal

From Revd Steve Haskett, Diocesan Renewal Lead

As many of you know, we are in the midst of a Year of Prayer for Growth and Renewal as a diocese. Bishop Philip called for this after hearing so many encouraging stories of growth in the renewal programme parishes, and how prayers had been a key catalyst for that growth.

As part of this year, there'll be a series of quiet days held at Whalley Abbey, to allow a facilitated space to pray for the renewal and growth of your churches and our diocese. There are five dates to choose from, with two being led by myself (Steve), two by the Abbey's director Revd Anna Walker, and one by our Being Witnesses manager Joy Rushton. The details are in the flyer on the next page. You can book directly with the Abbey as per the flyer, and either go alone or take a small group with you.

As you continue to seek the renewing power of the Holy Spirit at work in your parishes, it would be great to see you at one of these days if you're free.

# Prayer for Growth and Renewal Quiet Days 2025

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or email: [bookings@whalleyabbey.org](mailto:bookings@whalleyabbey.org)



## PRAYER FOR GROWTH AND RENEWAL

### Dates:

- Saturday 22nd March with Rev'd Steve Haskett
- Wednesday 2nd April with Rev'd Anna Walker
- Thursday 5th June with Rev'd Steve Haskett
- Saturday 23rd August with Miss Joy Rushton
- Tuesday 21st October with Rev'd Anna Walker

### Outline of the Day: 10 am to 4 pm

- Opening worship
- Structured and facilitated programme of prayer and reflection
- Lunch
- Prayer time to walk around the abbey
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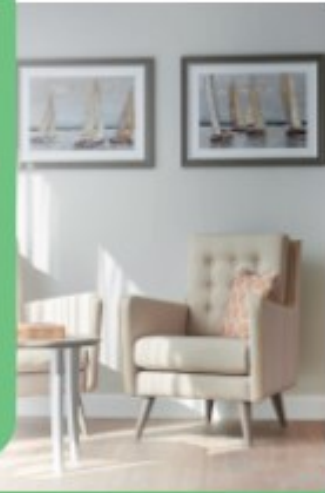
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PLEASE NOTE that if you prefer paper-based there are forms at the back of each church.

## 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>	5pm-6pm	Rainbows (term time)
	6.30 -7.30pm	Brownies (term time)

## Lytham CofE Primary School

I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself. I am currently the headteacher of St Michael's Church of England Primary School in Preston and am excited to lead the school community as headteacher of Lytham Church of England Primary School until the end of this academic year. I would like to thank all school stakeholders for welcoming me into the school community and I look forward to leading the school over the coming months.

### *What some of our classes have been up to...*

Our nursery children we have been learning about people who help us. We have had lots of exciting visitors, including dental nurses, refuse and recycling services and the Fire Brigade. We are now changing for PE in school and our reception children have made a fantastic start at getting changed for PE by themselves- our youngest children have shown true determination with both buttons and zipping up their own coats. Our year 2 children have been enjoying some very exciting Geography lessons learning all about Port Douglas in Australia. They have linked-up with a school over there and, when they return from their long summer holiday, we will organise pen pals! Year 4 had a very special treat as they visited St Bede's school to watch a performance of Aladdin. Some of our year 6 children, who had shown an interest in leadership and politics, visited County Hall and enjoyed a look at the archives. In addition, STEM club went to Jodrell Bank, UNESCO World Heritage site, for a day of exploration and wonder. And, our dancers got the fantastic opportunity to perform at the Tower Ballroom, where they dazzled us with their confidence and amazing teamwork. What a half-term it has been!

*PTFA*

Thank you so much for all the support and effort with 'Breaking the Rules' day! The excitement and smiles from the children was so lovely to see. We can reveal that the grand total raised from this event is £369!! This is an amazing amount. Thanks to your continuous support, so far this year, we have raised an amazing £1890.15 and we still have some more exciting events coming up this year!!

### *Swimming*

Our year 5 children continue to work towards being able to confidently swim 25m over a range of strokes. They attend swimming lessons each week and have shown a super attitude to the sessions, have listened to instructions excellently, have shown perseverance and resilience when needed, have impressed the swimming teachers and have thus represented our school incredibly well.

### *Coming up...*

We are very excited to be taking part in the 'Big Sing' at Lowther this year. This is such an exciting opportunity for our choir and we can't wait to be part of it. It's on Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> March.

On behalf of our school staff, I wish everyone within our Lytham community well and hope you all continue to support each other and stay safe.

Mr Stuart Booth, Headteacher

what we have now, the penitential season preceding Easter was widely observed over six weeks — the season we now call Lent. It continued to be a preparation for Easter, but now, in the context of an annual liturgy that in part reflected Christ's life, it was also understood as a commemoration of the forty days he spent in the wilderness in preparation for his earthly ministry.

In this new world of public liturgy, Lent began on a Sunday, six weeks before Easter. In the western church the season was called *Quadragesima*, Latin for 'forty', because the association with Christ's forty days in the wilderness became increasingly prominent in the way the season was interpreted. However, six weeks are not forty days; and Sundays — kept weekly as the Day of the Lord, the Day of the Resurrection — are in any case never treated as fasting days, since they are by definition days of celebration. This means that Sundays cannot be counted in the Lenten fast. So, if what you wanted was forty *fasting* days to equate with the forty days of Jesus fasting in the wilderness, the arithmetic simply didn't work. To solve the problem the Western Church added Wednesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday to the beginning of Lent, so allowing for forty fasting days before Easter. That's why Lent begins in the middle of the week. There was a huge advantage in this since marking the beginning of Lent on a day which could be kept as a fast allowed for the subsequent development of the richly symbolic liturgy of the Imposition of the Ashes, with its powerful focus on the humility, penitence and abstinence that would go on to characterise the whole season.

*Joyce Hill*

## The Beginning of Lent

Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of Lent. This year it falls on 5 March. But Lent didn't begin on a Wednesday until the seventh century, and its association with ashes as a sign of penitence is later still, although we aren't quite sure when. All we can say is that from around AD 1000 we find references to the service of the Imposition of Ashes as if it is a familiar practice. From then on, although the official name of Ash Wednesday continued to be *caput ieiunii*, the 'head (or 'beginning') of Lent', it was often referred to, even in church circles, as *dies cinerum*, 'the day of ashes'. The service, in which a cross is inscribed on each individual's forehead, using a paste made from ash and water or holy oil, marks the beginning of a lengthy period of penitence and abstinence running right up to Easter, which this year is on 20 April. It was — and is — a solemn ceremony and so the ashes define the day: Ash Wednesday.

Early on, the only feast-day to be celebrated annually was Easter. Lent didn't exist. But quite soon people came to use the days immediately preceding Easter as a period of preparation for this great celebratory feast-day, doing so by meditating on the key events of Jesus's Trials, Crucifixion and Burial, reflecting on their individual sins and need for redemption, and performing acts of penance, including fasting. It was also importantly a period of learning about the faith since it was at this time that adults were prepared for Easter baptism and further teaching was offered to those already baptised. This period of preparation gradually grew in length, and in the fourth century, when Christianity became a public religion and developed an annual ritual of commemoration similar to

## Mothers' Union

Our February meeting consisted of the Annual General Meeting and handouts were given out to the members to ensure that all the activities of 2024 were easily available.

We were very pleased to welcome Revd Nick Wells & also our speaker David Harrison who gave a wonderful talk & slides on 'No Ordinary Women' which we all enjoyed.

Our next meeting is on Thursday 10th March at 2.30pm in church when our speaker will be Mrs Pat Ascroft & her talk is entitled 'Old Father Thames'.

Look forward to seeing you all then.

Margaret

## Quiz Questions for March

### The Season of Lent/Springtime

Lent is the most important period of penitence and prayer in the Christian calendar. It is a time for self-examination, reflection and meditation. The three days before its start on Ash Wednesday are known as Shrovetide. This Old English word dates from the time when people would confess their sins, subsequently to receive absolution and a written list of their Lenten penance from the priest.

Significant calendar dates during this month are Ash Wednesday [5<sup>th</sup>], Cuthbert, Bishop of Lindisfarne [20<sup>th</sup>], The Annunciation of Our Lord to the Blessed Virgin Mary [25<sup>th</sup>] and Mothering Sunday [30<sup>th</sup>].

Here are 10 questions based around the season of Lent.

1. What is the meaning of the word *Lent*? It comes from the Old English *lencten*.
2. Lent lasts for forty days, the length of time that Christ was

tempted in the wilderness. The period from Ash Wednesday to Holy Saturday, however, is forty-six days. How is this explained?

3. Name the three basic ingredients that define a pancake.
4. How is the ash for Ash Wednesday prepared?
5. Which two prophets appeared with Jesus at the Transfiguration?
6. When do congregations strip the Lord's Table?
7. What is the Triduum?
8. How much was Judas paid for identifying Jesus to the Roman soldiers?
9. How many Stations of the Cross are there?
10. Who helped Jesus to carry his cross?

Marking the end of winter and the beginning [hopefully] of warmer weather, Spring is an attractive season. It is a time for new beginnings and fresh starts, a time of growth as flowers bloom, trees start to bud, and animals emerge from hibernation. There becomes a sense of joy and energy to the world.

Another enjoyable feature of Spring is the appearance of colours hitherto absent. The air is filled with the scent of blossoms and bird songs add to the symphony of nature. Whether it be walking in the open air, creating an attractive garden or enjoying food eaten outdoors, Spring is a time to celebrate life in all its beauty.

Here are thirty cryptic clues which will provide the names of well-known flowers or plants.

11. Say hello to Cynthia [8]
12. She got hitched on a tandem [5]
13. What did Ben rave about? [7]
14. What's in the box? Lipsticks, I think [5]
15. Stringed instrument [5]
16. Does no one want to dance with me? [10]
17. Did this summon Thomas Becket to his death? [10,4]
18. He was terrified: just look inside [5]
19. Right hand finish for Ron around extinct bird coming back [12]

20. All is ready for Mary to come in [9]
21. Sweet talk around Colin to begin with [9]
22. Do remember me [6,2,3]
23. Pineapple and nutmeg spiced yoghurt for starters [5]
24. Take a photograph of St George's adversary [10]
25. We are following a large reptile [6]
26. Let's loose with an empty idea [7]
27. A chartered accountant precedes the US intelligence service [6]
28. Insect could be caught somewhere in the solar system [5,7]
29. Look carefully, chilli lacks any flavour [5]
30. Sacred wine around the end of April [9]
31. What may greet you every morning [9]
32. It's hidden in the porch, idiot [6]
33. Have fun, almost entirely at Tottenham F C [8]
34. Girl living in a dale [4,2,3,6]
35. Blue or green, you will be king and I will be queen [8]
36. In favour of a brew up [6]
37. Sounds as if there are plenty of sheep around [5]
38. Poodle, perhaps, got up [3,4]
39. Is a wild animal following a neatly dressed man?
40. Main goal needs to be rearranged [8]

### Quiz Questions for February: Reading Between the Lines: Answers

1. Just-so Stories, 2. Shelley, 3. War and Peace, 4. Carroll, 5. Pilgrim's Progress, 6. Stevenson, 7. The Canterbury Tales, 8. Tolkien, 9. Crime and Punishment, 10. Barrie, 11. Middlemarch, 12. Brown,
13. Frankenstein, 14. Milne, 15. The BFG, 16. Verne, 17. Death on the Nile, 18. Chaucer, 19. Around the World in Eighty Days, 20. Christie, 21. The War of the Worlds, 22. Joyce, 23. Alice's Adventures in Wonderland, 24. Bronte,
25. Lord of the Rings, 26. Dostoyevsky, 27. Les Misérables, 28. Tolstoy, 29. Peter Pan, 30. Bunyan, 31. Ulysses, 32. Kipling, 33. Treasure Island, 34. Hugo, 35. The Da Vinci Code, 36. Dahl, 37. Jane Eyre, 38. Winnie the Pooh, 39. Eliot, 40. Wells.

Pairings, Title/Author: 1/32, 3/28, 5/30, 7/18, 9/26, 11/38, 13/2, 15/36, 17/20, 19/16, 21/40, 23/4, 25/8, 27/34, 29/10, 31/22, 33/6, 35/12, 37/24, 39/14.