

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



TWO HOMES; ONE FAMILY.

The Ecclesiastical Parish
of St John the Divine and
St Cuthbert Lytham



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Registered Office: - Swyncombe, Talbot Road, Lytham, FY8 4JJ

PARISH MAGAZINE – November 2025

Dear Friends

Following an invitation to speak to Year 2 at Lytham CofE Primary School about my favorite bible prompted me to preach on the following Sunday about the significance of the bible in the light of St Paul's Letters to Timothy, especially in the second chapter of the second letter.



One of the questions from the pupils was how many bibles did I have; well, there are at least 16 on my bookcase and on my desk as well as one or two downloaded onto my phone, not including those that Bev has; we did however move a good number on when we moved house last summer so the total of bibles we own has decreased.

After my sermon in St Johns and St Cuthberts that Sunday I received a few emails where people told me how many bibles they had. Susan also mentioned in her email that as Churchwarden she is responsible for all the bibles in church thereby making this a substantial number. I would love to hear how many bibles you have.

With Bible Sunday this Sunday I also wonder how well used our bibles are. My New Revised Standard Version (NRSV) pocket bible is quite worn. I bought it with money from the people in Netherton as I left St Oswald's in 2007 and have used it so much.

For me a bible should be worn because it shows that it has been well used. As Christian's the Bible is our guide and inspiration, yes a history book, but also a book which speaks clearly into the world today and will assist each of us on our earthly pilgrimage.

On many occasions I have found bible passages leap off the page and guide me, even though it was collated nearly 2000 years ago, it is so

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

LLM Emeritus: Angela Lee

Authorised Lay Ministers: Marianne Cottier Brown and James Walmsley

Our usual 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	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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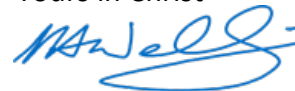
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relevant to today. As the writer of Hebrew's says 'the word of God is living and active'. Of course it can only be active in our lives if we are frequently reading it, hearing from it and reflecting on what it says.

May I encourage you to count the number of bibles you have at home; consider which is your favourite, and why; and commit yourself to opening it and reading from it daily. It contains many amazing stories and will help us to be more like Christ himself.

Yours in Christ



PARISH COMMUNION

Our next Parish Communion

will be on

Sunday 2nd November at 10.15am

in St Cuthberts

From the Registers

Wedding

September 27th

Kathryn Stewart & Kevin
 O'Brien

Funerals

October

1st Patricia Broughton-
 McCabe

15th Roger Meredith

17th Sheila Hill

Mothers' Union

Our next meeting is on Thurs. 13th November at 2.30pm in St. Cuthbert's Church when our speaker will be Mr. Steve Halliwell who will talk to us & show slides of 'St. Kilda: The lonely Isles'.

Mrs Christine Hodgkinson will bring along her Literature Stall for sale of cards, diaries etc.

The Christmas Lunch is on Thurs. 11th December at 1.00pm at Lytham Hall, cost £27.50. Payment at the meeting by cash or cheque.

Memorial Service

This year's Memorial Service, when we remember those who have died, especially focusing on those whose funerals we have conducted over the past year, will be on Sunday 9th November at 6pm at St Cuthbert's.

We are sending out invitations to the families of those whose funerals we have conducted over the past twelve months and extend a welcome to anyone who wishes to remember their loved ones that evening.

We have lists at the back of both churches where you are invited to write the names of loved ones you would like to be named in the service.

Harvest

Our Harvest gifts, which you generously brought to our Harvest Festival, were donated to the Fylde Foodbank and we have received the following message of thanks from them:

'Thank you for the Harvest donations from St Cuthbert's & St John's. The donation was weighed in at 74.75kg, this equates to 166 meals. Once again many thanks to everyone who donated. Regards, Samantha - Project Manager, Fylde Foodbank'



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Confirmation

Our Confirmation service this year is on Advent Sunday, 30th November. This will be our Parish Communion too and it is St John's turn to host. The Confirmation will be led by Bishop Joe, the Bishop of Burnley, and we warmly invite everyone to come and support our candidates.

Following guidance from our Bishops we are no longer Confirming children before they reach Year 6 so our normal classes in Year 5 are postponed until later in the year.

We will be holding children's Confirmation preparation sessions at the following times and locations:

Friday 14th November, 5-6pm, St Cuthbert's Church

Friday 21st November, 5-6pm, St Cuthbert's Church

Friday 28th November, 5-7pm, St John's Church (including rehearsal)

We have a number of adults interested in being Confirmed at present, anyone else who wishes to be confirmed, could they please talk to one of the clergy as soon as possible.

Choir Practice

The choir is now regularly practicing and will be helping lead our Memorial Service, Confirmation and Christmas services.

The next practice is on Friday 21st November at 7pm with extra rehearsals following in order to focus on music for Christmas.

Anyone who enjoys singing is warmly invited to come along.

Remembrance Sunday

A reminder that our Sunday morning services on Remembrance Sunday, 9th November, will be at 9am at both churches.

The services will be Communion and will include an Act of Remembrance. We will then join with the rest of the town at the War Memorial in the Market Square at 10:45am.

Our Church Organs

As you may be aware the organ at St Cuthbert's has been doing odd things recently and despite a couple of visits from an engineer the issue has recurred.

We are hopeful that when they have attended on the 27th October the organ will be back in glorious voice ready to lead us through Advent, Christmas and beyond.

The organ at St Cuthbert's is a unique and complex instrument and we wish the engineer success as he addresses the issues.

The faculty for the new Allen Organ at St John's has been issued and the order confirmed, we anticipate this being installed early in the new year.

Churchyard Regulations

The PCC has approved regulations for the churchyards, especially concerning how graves are cared for, and these are in line with diocesan guidelines.

Copies of the regulations are displayed outside both churches and will be issued to the families of any interments with us in future.



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Alistre Lodge Nursing & Care Home provides accommodation for persons who require support with personal & Clinical Care. The home accommodates up to 43 people. Please contact the management team for more information and to arrange a visit.

Finance Committee and Parish Share

Our Finance Committee meets each month to monitor our financial position and make recommendations to the PCC.

The members support Wendy our PCC Treasurer to ensure our books are kept up to date. At present there are only four people in the group and we really need two or three more people to be involved. If you have some financial knowledge and would be prepared to give a couple of hours each month to join our Finance Committee please will you speak to Nick.



Coffee Mornings

Our Coffee Mornings in November are on
Saturday 8th at St John's and 22nd at St Cuthbert's.

Doors open at 10am.

Everyone is very welcome
so why not come along and bring a friend.

Lytham Christmas Lights

Saturday 15th November sees the Lytham Christmas Lights being switched on. There will be a lantern procession along Clifton Street followed by a concert in Clifton Square.

On the afternoon of Sunday 9th November at 2pm we are hosting a lantern making workshop in the Parish Hall.

The concert will include a Blessing of the Lights by Revd Emma.

Christmas Through The Keyhole

We are excited to be running our popular Christmas Through The Keyhole event again for 2025. As in previous years, the trail will run on Tuesday 2nd and Wednesday 3rd December in school time for children in years 2 and 4 at Lytham Hall Park and Lytham C of E primary schools.

The trail is an exciting, multi-sensory Christmas experience, following the key characters from the nativity story on a journey from Nazareth to Bethlehem.

In addition, we will be opening up the trail to the community on Saturday 6th December, 10-12:30. Parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles and family friends are invited to attend with their connected children! Tickets are free and are available online at tinyurl.com/jclytham-eventbrite.

Ticket sales open on 9th November for church connected families with the code JCLYTHAM2025 then on 16th November for general release.

For those who wish to join for the atmosphere, but are happy not to go on the trail, adult non-trail tickets are available. These tickets include refreshments and a Christmas ornament to make and create.

Volunteers needed to run the trail in roles such as: group leader, serving refreshments, acting role (scripted and non-scripted parts) for Mary, Joseph, shepherds, kings), set up and pack down. Please speak to Emma to volunteer.



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Quiz Questions for November—A Complete [Unusual] Miscellany

Variety, we are told, is the spice of life. This description dates back to the late 18th century, in particular to the words of the English poet William Cowper who wrote in his poem *The Task* [1785], 'Variety's the very spice of life; it gives it all its flavour.' Clearly, the antithesis is that a lack of variety can lead to a dull existence, much in the way that unseasoned food lacks taste.

In practical terms, there should always be encouragement for variety to be incorporated into daily routines. Stepping with confidence outside comfort zones can be exhilarating and rewarding. There are many ways by which this can be achieved. Examples might include exploring new hobbies and thus fresh interests, trying new foods to make dining more satisfying, or travelling to new places to gain fresh perspectives and experiences. We must conclude that diversity in life is essential for optimum well-being.

The human brain is wired to seek out new activities. Hormones made naturally within the body allow for the stimulation of curiosity. It is within our very nature that anything which is unusual holds allure and attracts our attention. The value of connecting with that which is adrift from mainstream should not be underestimated.

This month's thirty-five questions may not produce an adrenaline rush, but they are intended to be unusual, so do expect the unexpected.

1. What colour is an aeroplane's black box?
2. Why did the scarecrow win a Nobel prize?
3. How tall was Goliath? [1 Sam. 17.4]
4. Which make of car has the slogan *The Ultimate Driving Machine*?

5. Two days ago I was 15. Next year I will be 18. On which date of the year is my birthday, and what is today's date?
6. What does the D stand for in D-Day?
7. Which word stems from the Latin for knowledge?
8. Which 7 letter word becomes longer when a vowel is omitted?
9. In the TV game show *Bullseye*, losing contestants were told they would get their BFH. What do these letters stand for?
10. When King Herod died, his son took his place. What was his name? [Mt. 2.22]
11. The shortest commercial aircraft flight in the world takes one minute between which two Scottish islands?
12. What has four legs and a foot but can't walk, a head but can't talk?
13. 'Don't tell him, Pike!' What was this private's first name?
14. The radioactive isotope Americium-241 can be found in which item in many homes?
15. What symbol is an octopusthorpe?
16. What is the phrase inscribed on the tombstone of the man who was the voice of Bugs Bunny?
17. Which word is spelt incorrectly in every dictionary?
18. Which planet was the first to be discovered by a telescope?
19. Where was the wedding feast at which Jesus turned water into wine? [John 2.11]
20. Name the only vegetable that is also part of a flower.
21. Which is the only country in the world to have a flag with more than four colours?
22. What is the alternative name of the Shakespearean character, Robin Goodfellow?
23. In golf, how many strokes under par is an albatross?
24. Which mountain did Moses ascend to look over the promised land that he could never enter? [Deut. 32.49]
25. True or false? In Kansas, it is illegal to shoot a rabbit from a motorboat.
26. Who invented the first functional helicopter?
27. Which letter does not appear in any names of the U.S. states?



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28. In which country is the ancient city of Machu Picchu?
29. Which two cities did God destroy with fire and brimstone? [Gen. 19.24]
30. Which is the only one of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World still in existence?
31. What was the other name of the disciple Thomas? [John 21.2]
32. What is the surname of the singer who was born Barry Alan Pincus?
33. Who wrote the story on which the 1963 Alfred Hitchcock film *The Birds* was based?
34. Which character in Shakespeare's *Julius Caesar* speaks the words '.. lend me your ears'?
35. Mariposa, motyl, papillon and sommerfugl are all European words for which creature?

Answers will appear in the next issue.

Quiz Questions for October: English Counties: ANSWERS

1. Lancaster, 2. 15th century [1455-87], 3. Eric Morecambe, 4. Forest of Bowland, 5. Brief Encounter, 6. Accrington, 7. Blackpool rock, 8. The Pendle witches, 9. 1894, 10. Burnley, 11. Jack Straw, 12. Edge Hill, 13. Whistle Down the Wind, 14. Skelmersdale, 15. Ewbank, 16. Pretoria Pit disaster, 17. Sally, 18. George Orwell, 19. Vimto, 20. The Spinning Jenny, 21. God's Own County, 22. Bradford, 23. Harold 'Dickie' Bird, 24. Haworth, 25. River Aire, 26. Fountains Abbey, 27. The Shambles, 28. Saltaire, 29. Bradford, 30. Riding, 31. York, 32. England's largest single-drop waterfall, 33. Harry Ramsden, 34. Ripon, 35. Ilkley Moor, 36. Pontefract Castle, 37. Whitby, 38. Sir Ben Kingsley, 39. York, 40. Parkin.



Keeping St. John's Bells Ringing – A Community Project

If you have passed by St. John's Church in Lytham on a Sunday morning, you will have heard the familiar sound of its six bells calling people to worship. Those bells have been part of Lytham life for generations, a heartbeat in our community, calling people to worship, celebrating weddings, marking funerals, and sounding out for national and local events. This year, 2025, they celebrate a remarkable milestone, their 150th anniversary.

But there's a challenge. While the bells themselves remain in good condition, the heavy oak frame and fittings that have supported them since Victorian times are now showing serious signs of strain. Decades of exposure to the salty coastal air and two and a half tons of swinging bell metal have taken their toll. Despite heroic efforts by local bellringers over the years, the frame has reached a critical stage and is close to the end of its useful life. Without urgent restoration, the bells could fall silent, possibly as soon as the end of this year.

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.

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

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)

after, in 455, Rome was sacked by the Vandals. Leo, along with other clergy, had met with the Vandal leader to implore him not to enter the city, but although that plea failed, it does seem that Leo prevented the city from being burned and ensured that those sheltering in the three great basilicas of Saints Peter, Paul and John were spared. He also assisted in the rebuilding and repair of the city.

Leo's claim to the title 'Great' depends, however, on two main aspects of his career: his determined promotion of the orthodox understanding that Christ's nature was indivisibly and wholly both human and divine in the face of many contemporary heresies that took different positions; and his systematic promotion of the papacy itself. He was one of the first bishops of Rome to claim primacy through succession from the Apostle Peter, and it was during his reign that the title of Pope, previously used for any bishop, came to be reserved for the Bishop of Rome. It was also during his papacy that the term 'Patriarch of the West' was first used, in a letter to Leo from the Emperor Theodosius II.

All Leo's writing are sermons and letters. They are not lengthy or profound, but they are clear, forceful and consistent in the way that they address the issues of the day. He was proclaimed a Doctor of the Church in 1754 by Pope Benedict XIV. A later Benedict, Pope Benedict XVI, described his papacy as 'undoubtedly one of the most important in the Church's history'.

Joyce Hill

A Rich History

The bells were first installed in 1875 by the Whitechapel Bell Foundry, the same famous workshop that made Big Ben. They were refurbished once before, in 1992, thanks to the hard work of Eayre and Smith Ltd. and local volunteers. Since then, our ringers have done their best to keep them ringing, but the bells have long been "temperamental." The frame is very susceptible to changes in the weather. Temperature and moisture alter the stability of the oak frame which in turn affects the ringability of the bells making them difficult to ring and sometimes even experienced visiting bands struggle with them.

The Restoration Plan

The solution is clear: replace the old oak frame with a brand-new steel frame. After seeking expert advice and quotes from three different foundries, the team has chosen to work with Taylor's Bell Foundry. The full project will cost in the region of £91,000 – a daunting sum, but one that will safeguard the bells for future generations.

Over the summer, the bellringers have worked closely with the Vicar, the PCC, and the Diocese to get the necessary permissions in place. A faculty, the church equivalent of planning permission, has been



applied for and approval is expected soon. You may have seen the public notice which has been displayed on the church notice board. The faculty is an important step, not just for the work itself, but also for

securing grants, most funding bodies won't even consider applications without it.

Fundraising Efforts

Of course, the biggest challenge is raising the money. So far, around £6,000 has been collected – a great start, but still only about five percent of what's needed. We have been promised a grant of £15,000 from the Lancashire Association of Change Ringers and several other promising applications are in process. A JustGiving page has been launched, and further fundraising events are being planned. Many grant schemes also require evidence of local support before they'll contribute, so every donation, large or small, makes a difference.

There's also a new Facebook page to keep everyone up to date, and a short film about the bells is available on YouTube (though you may need to skip a few adverts!).

How You Can Help

This project is still in its early stages, but with the community's support, the hope is that work could begin as early as mid-2026. If successful, it will mean the sound of St. John's bells continues to ring out across Lytham for possibly another 150 years.

If you'd like to know more, donate, or get involved, you can visit the JustGiving page or contact Michael Phillips at stjohnsbells@outlook.com. Together, we can make sure these much-loved bells are not lost to silence.

Our Facebook page is called, "St. John's Bell Restoration Project". For 'JustGiving' you can go to their website and search 'Lytham Bells' that will bring up our page with a picture of St. John's church.



Leo the Great

In May this year, when the present Pope was elected, he took the name of Leo, referencing Pope Leo XIII (1873-1903), who was a notable social reformer at a time of great change. But there is another Pope Leo, from long ago, who is celebrated as a Doctor of the Church and who is regarded as a pivotal figure in papal history. This is Pope Leo the Great (Leo I), who was pope 440-461, one of only three popes to have the title of 'the Great', the other two being Gregory the Great (590-604) and Nicholas the Great (858-867). The year in which there is a new Pope Leo seems a good time to write about Leo I, and November is the right month: his feast-day is on the 10th. This earlier Leo, a native of Tuscany, was born at a time when Roman imperial power in the west was in decline, and it was also a time of intense theological debate about the nature of Christ incarnate: the Council of Nicaea in 325 had not put the question to rest! Leo, clearly a man of many interests and abilities, rose to all these challenges.

In secular affairs, Leo, then an Archdeacon, was involved in an embassy to settle a dispute with the leaders of the breakaway power in Gaul at the request of the Emperor Valentinian III, which shows that he was already trusted by the imperial court. During his absence, Pope Sixtus II died, and Leo was unanimously elected in his place. As imperial power leached away from the West, Leo continued to be drawn into leadership roles in wider society. On one occasion he famously parlayed with Attila the Hun, who had invaded Italy, attacked some major cities, and was threatening Rome. Attila's withdrawal following the negotiations was seen as a triumph for Leo and it boosted his standing, although modern historians recognise that many complex factors influenced Attila's decision. Quite soon