

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



One family; two homes

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



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Charity Registration No. 1199630
Registered Office: - Swyncombe, Talbot Road, Lytham, FY8 4JJ

PARISH MAGAZINE – February 2026

Dear Friends

Well January has been a strange month for me with lots going on.

At the beginning of the month I wrote to the Bishop of Blackburn to inform him that I intend to retire in October, my last Sunday being the 4th which will be our Harvest Festival.



As a result Bev and I have begun to talk about how we will decorate and furbish out retirement home and about the need for me to develop new hobbies and interests. That will be quite a change as being a vicar can be all consuming at times. A number of people have said I need to make sure I engage my creative side – I think that will begin in the garden.

Almost connected to this I then received my first State Pension payment a few days later and I will have to get used to a four weekly income which I guess goes back to the weekly pension queue at the Post Office.

Then last week I got a phone call from the Bishop asking me to become Area Dean of Kirkham for the few months until my retirement. The Revd Glen Brook, the Vicar of St Annes Parish Church, has been our Area Dean recently, but he has now moved to a new post outside the diocese.

You may not be aware but I have previously been Area Dean in both the Bootle Deanery and then the Ormskirk Deanery in the Liverpool Diocese, so have history in the role. It seems a ridiculous thing to accept at this time, but I have experience and I hope that I can be of use to the Diocese and the Deanery as Area Dean for the time being.

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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Tributo d'amore

Being an Area Dean is a role you fulfill whilst still being the Vicar of a parish and sadly does not come with a pay rise! The Area Dean is a go between, between clergy and parishes, and the bishop and the diocese, a cross between a middle manager and a shop steward I guess. The prime responsibilities are to support clergy in the deanery, arrange Deanery Chapter and Deanery Synod meetings and assist parishes which are in interregnum (the time between a vicar leaving a parish and a new vicar being instituted) in their efforts to maintain ministry and make the appointment of their new vicar.

I have learned over the years that we serve a God of Surprises and it would seem he continues to ask me to do the unexpected, but as I was once told by Martin Cavender, a strong support of my ministry for several years, 'don't play safe - take risks!'

I hope others of you remain prepared to accept invitations from God too.

Yours in Christ



PARISH COMMUNION

Our March Parish Communion

will be on

Sunday 1st March 2026 at 10.15am

in St Cuthbert's

Toddler Praise

We were delighted to hold our first ever Toddler Praise at Lytham CE Primary School on Tuesday 13th January. We learned all about creation through story and song and play, including making binoculars, playing with playdough and building with the bricks. Revd Emma and Anne told the story of creation from Genesis and built a story box along the way. Lots of fun was had by all!

Our next Toddler Praise, for anyone with children under the age of 5 is on 10th February, 9:30-10:45 at Lytham CE Primary School when the theme will be "God Made Me".

Minecraft Church



There was no fowl play at our first Minecraft Church of 2026, and no-one chickened out of the "build a hen" challenge!

After getting to grips with the bricks and blocks, we teamed up to be Noah and sons, checking out God's boat

building plans in Genesis chapter 6, and having a go at building our very own arks. Our next Minecraft Church is on 22nd February, 4-5:30pm at St Cuthbert's Church.

Please book on using Eventbrite – tinyurl.com/JCLytham-Eventbrite



Participants need Minecraft loaded onto a suitable device (laptop / tablet / phone) and a Microsoft Account to join in.

Church have a few devices available to use if necessary.

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Can you help?

Our school is looking to strengthen its promotional efforts and would love to connect with anyone who has experience in marketing. If you, or someone you know, works in this field and might be willing to offer guidance or support, they would be incredibly grateful. Even a small amount of expertise could make a meaningful difference as they continue to share the great things happening in our school.



Coffee Morning

Saturday 14th February at St John's.

Doors open at 10am until 12noon.

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

Not only do the coffee mornings provide funds for the parish they are a wonderful opportunity to spend time together and get to know each other better.

Lent

This years Diocesan Lent Course developed by Bishop Philip will be running in the Vestry at St Cuthbert's on a Tuesday evening at 7pm from 24th February.

We will be looking together at the Acts of the Apostles.

This is the book that St Luke wrote about the impact of Jesus after his ascension and the forming of the Church. As the Blackburn Diocese celebrates it's centenary this year spending Lent reflecting on what church can look like and mean seems to hold a stronger meaning and we look forward to considering this together.

Bishop Philip's new 'Knowing Jesus' course has five sessions. The series will help us to know about Jesus as we seek to understand more about who he is, what he has come to do and how he sets us free. It will also help us to know Jesus as we explore what it means to be in a deeper relationship with him and to offer our whole lives to him.

The sessions are The Ascended Jesus; The Sending Jesus; The Suffering Jesus; The Servant Jesus and The Triumphant Jesus.

Daily readings and reflection throughout Lent are available through the Blackburn Diocesan Fruitful App which you can download to you PC, smartphone or tablet—scan the code or go to Google Play or your Apple app store, or, visit the diocesan website

<https://www.fruitful.faith/get-the-app>



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Covenant Service

Hope Church Lytham was full to bursting for this years Annual Churches in Lytham Covenant Service. Although a different style of worship to what many of us are used to it was wonderful to worship together.

We are grateful to their Pastor John for speaking so passionately and thoughtfully about how he believes God instructs the churches to work together and compliment each other.

If you were unable to attend the service you can listen to John's talk which is available through the Hope Church Lytham website <https://www.hopechurchlytham.com/podcasts/> and click on 'So That ...Glorify God—John Filmer'. The talk starts after the music approx. 2 mins in.

Legacy

We are delighted that we have received a second generous legacy in January. Jay Semley, a long standing member of St Cuthbert's, who especially valued the midweek communion service, has left £50,000 to be spent on the Church Hall and £50,000 to be spent on St Cuthbert's Church.

The Hall is in need of some tender loving care and Jay's generosity will allow us to update and refresh it. The money for the church will also allow us to attend to some re-freshing of the building and hopefully allow us to recarpet.

Have you considered giving a legacy to our parish, it can make such a difference to the future life and witness of the parish.

Update from the Bellringers – February 2026

If you've glanced at the "bellometers" at the back of St John's or St Cuthbert's recently, you may have noticed something encouraging: the pointer is steadily climbing! It's been a couple of months since our last update, so this seems the perfect time to share how the bell frame fundraising project is progressing.

When we first launched the appeal back in August 2025, our target stood at £91,000, the minimum needed to replace the existing bell frame at St John's. Since then, expert advice has helped us see the bigger picture. Given our coastal location and the impact of salt air, it makes very good sense to invest in a cast iron frame rather than rolled steel. Cast iron is far more resistant to corrosion and will ensure the bells can ring out safely for generations to come. As a result, our revised (and wiser!) target is now £100,000.

The good news is that we are already well on our way. Thanks to an extraordinary amount of generosity, we have raised just over £59,000 so far. Almost £32,000 of this has come from grants awarded by organisations we have approached, with a few more applications still under consideration. The remaining £27,000+ has been raised through individual donations, our JustGiving page, and sponsored events, including the quarter peal at St Cuthbert's last November.

We are hugely grateful to everyone who has supported this project so far – whether through donations, attending events, offering prizes, or simply cheering us on. Every contribution brings us closer to securing the future of our bells and the familiar sound that means so much to our parish life.

Thank you for helping us keep the bells of St John's ringing strong.

Michael Phillips (on behalf of the Bellringers)



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6th March Friday 6th March 2026 at 2.00pm

at Our Lady Star of the Sea Parish Rooms

63 St Albans Road, St Annes



"I will give you rest" World Day of Prayer 2026 Nigeria

Our sisters in Nigeria invite us to join them for the World Day of Prayer on Friday 6 March 2026. The service they have prepared reflects on the theme, "I will give you rest."

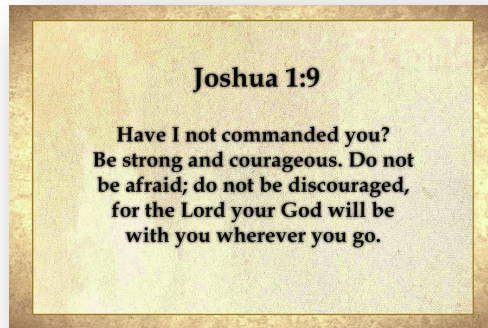
The World Day of Prayer is an international, women-led, ecumenical movement that shares the hopes, concerns, and prayers of women from around the globe. Each year, women from a different country craft a service, sharing their unique spiritual journey and culture. For 2026, the women of Nigeria have created a service that speaks to our need for peace and solace, drawing on their faith and experiences in a world filled with struggles and anxieties.

The preparation for this day is extensive. The writing country and theme are chosen years in advance, and the service then travels to the international committee in New York for translation and dissemination to national committees in over 120 participating countries. From there it is adapted and shared locally, culminating in gatherings at hundreds of churches every March.

This day is a powerful demonstration of global solidarity. It begins in Samoa and moves across the world in a continuous wave of prayer, finishing 38 hours later in American Samoa. It truly is a worldwide day of prayer!

Bible Study Group

On Tuesday evenings we have been studying, and challenged, by the Book of Joshua over the past few weeks and so far we have studied Joshua Chapters 1—5. Here is a quick resume of those first few chapters.



Stepping Into God's Promises: A Brief Look at Joshua 1–5

The opening chapters of Joshua tell the story of God leading His people into a brand new beginning. After 40 years in the wilderness, because of their disobedience and lack of trust, Israel stands on the edge of the Promised Land, a promise made to Abraham some 400 years earlier, learning once again that God keeps His word.

Joshua 1 begins with a leadership handover from Moses to Joshua. God encourages Joshua again and again to *"be strong and courageous,"* reminding him that success comes not from strength, but from God's presence.

In **Joshua 2**, we meet Rahab in Jericho—an unlikely woman of faith who protects Israel's spies. Her courage shows that God can use anyone who trusts Him.

Joshua 3 describes the miraculous crossing of the River Jordan. The waters only stop after the priests step into the flood. It's a powerful picture of faith in action: sometimes we must take the first step before



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we see God move.

In **Joshua 4**, the people set up twelve stones as a permanent reminder of God's faithfulness. These stones were meant to spark conversations with future generations: "*What do these stones mean?*"

Finally, **Joshua 5** focuses on renewal. Before facing Jericho, the people reaffirm their identity, celebrate Passover, and Joshua meets the mysterious "Commander of the Lord's Army," reminding him that the battle belongs to God.

Together, Joshua 1–5 invites us to trust God in transitions, remember His goodness, and step forward with faith into whatever He has prepared for us.

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Quiz Questions for February—Island Treasures

This, the shortest month of the year, nestles between the chills of winter and the first hints of spring. During February, the Church Calendar includes Candlemas [on the 2nd], Valentine, Martyr at Rome c. 269 [14th] and the Feast of Matthias the Apostle [24th]. This year, the season of Lent begins at Ash Wednesday on the 18th.

During February the weather is quite likely to be harsh, and this makes it a good time to revisit the habit of reading. Here is an inexpensive activity which can implant knowledge from all areas. Reading enhances vocabulary, improves writing skills, and boosts confidence in expressing ideas. It also teaches patience and the power of concentration, both valuable for personal growth. Reading is indeed the richest treasury for the active mind.

The English poet and cleric John Donne [1571-1631] is best remembered for his inclusion in a sermon of 'No man is an island entire of itself.' The author P D James is quoted as saying, 'Every island to a child is a treasure island.' For adults too, islands offer an allure, a sense of escape and timeless serenity separate from the routines of everyday life.

This led me to think of the many books which feature the word *island* in the title. There's that famous work by Robert Louis Stevenson, of course, but also *The Mysterious Island* by Jules Verne, *The Coral Island* by R M Ballantyne, *The Island* by Victoria Hislop, and *The Island of Doctor Moreau* by H G Wells, to name but a few.

Here are forty-five clues, cryptic and with a sprinkling of anagrams, which provide answers to the names of islands, or groups of islands,

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)

BRIT Awards, and holds the distinction of releasing the two best-selling classical albums of the 21st century. His groundbreaking debut album *The Voice* achieved one million UK sales alone – an unparalleled feat in classical music.

Over the past quarter-century, Russell has performed for world leaders and royalty including Her Majesty The Queen, King Charles III, Pope John Paul II, and Presidents Clinton, Bush and Obama. His appearances at major international events – from the UEFA Champions League Final to the Commonwealth Games – have cemented his reputation as one of the world’s most powerful and versatile vocalists.

Having shared the stage with icons such as Luciano Pavarotti, Paul McCartney, and Montserrat Caballé, and consistently selling out concert halls across the globe, Russell’s voice continues to captivate audiences everywhere.

Don’t miss this exclusive performance in one of Lancashire’s most beautiful churches – a celebration of 25 years of musical excellence, passion, and world-class talent.

The church has step-free access and accessible toilet facilities; however, wheelchair spaces are limited. If you require a wheelchair space or wish to make specific arrangements, please contact sian.louise@lavocetouring.com in advance.”

around the British Isles. Some are not fully surrounded by water; some may be even landlocked.

1. The fifth month of the year [3]
2. Fast Scottish cycling knight [3]
3. Shout out [4]
4. This group do sound daft [3,8]
5. Vance meddled with an unknown [6]
6. Below a chap’s knee [3,2,3]
7. Reconstructed new lay [6]
8. Hairpiece attached to shortened stature [5]
9. A following on from a group of employees [6]
10. Ponder [4]
11. Potato, lily or cow! [6]
12. Nerd fails in puzzle [11]
13. Sounds as if the Aussie likes what he sees [4]
14. Southern vessel familiar to Noah [4]
15. Magic dragon that’s very popular [6]
16. Yes, a glen that’s hidden within [8]
17. Sure foundation for everyone [7]
18. Above us and, secondly, beyond [4]
19. Party with grammar school heads [4]
20. Hen’s mission statement concerning eggs [5]
21. Sounds all there and is sacred [4]
22. Rejigs on AI [4]
23. Close to brass [4]
24. Meeting of learner and German youth leader [5]
25. A French short saint [4]
26. Agree and it’s dull, all reversed [7]
27. Cuthbert dwelt here, a long way to the North East [5,5]

28. Brew up a brew, son! [8]
29. You and I wander off [7]
30. Odd [3]
31. *Blue Peter* dog agrees to turn tail [7]
32. Deny entry to artist [5]
33. Punctuation mark, for example [8]
34. Seen in Jurassic Park [4]
35. Loud tune [4]
36. Ed nearly tumbled [8]
37. Flag with European origin [5]
38. It's within radar range [5]
39. Ban heartless fish [5]
40. Pass to the left [4]
41. [Often Scottish] noble on time [6]
42. Hut is torn to shreds [5,4]
43. Pound is increasing [7]
44. Rub down, always [6]
45. Dried grass and heather [7]

Quiz Questions for January: Lord, for the years ... :

ANSWERS

1. 43 CE, 2. 325, 3. 687, 4. 1066, 5. 1215, 6. 1346, 7. 1456, 8. 1485,
9. 1517, 10. 1525, 11. 1534, 12. ca. 1540, 13. 1549, 14. 1582, 15. 1605,
16. 1611, 17. 1620, 18. 1651, 19. 1688, 20. 1738, 21. 1752, 22. 1837,
23. 1872, Wanderers, 24. 1882, Australia, 25. 1915, 26. 1923, Bolton
- Wanderers, 27. 1929, 28. 1932, 29. 1937, 30. 1961, 31. 1967,
32. 1989, 33. 2025, 34. *gullible*: think on its meaning! 35. 1900 is
- divisible by 100, but the year is also required to be divisible by 400.

Russell Watson

We are looking forward to the concert Russell Watson has arranged at St Cuthbert's on the evening of Saturday 28th February.

The concert is being organized and run by Russell and his wife who are hiring the church for the day. We understand tickets have been selling well and we look forward to the church being packed with people enjoying 'La Voce'. There are a few tickets still available through TicketTailor



Taken from Russell's website:-

"Celebrating 25 Years of a Remarkable Career

This February, join us in the stunning surroundings of St Cuthbert's Church, Lytham, for a very special evening with the UK's most celebrated classical artist, Russell Watson, as he marks 25 remarkable years centre stage.

This milestone anniversary concert will feature a breathtaking selection of classical favourites and timeless arias, performed by candlelight, offering audiences an intimate and unforgettable musical experience.

From humble beginnings to international stardom, Russell Watson has sold over seven million albums worldwide, earned four Classical