

JC Lytham Parish Office

The Parish Hall

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Lytham

FY8 5QL

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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)

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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 – January 2026

## 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 Ministers:** Jacqui Briscoe, Joanne Hutchinson,

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 <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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Dear Friends

We have talked a lot about church growth during 2025 as the PCC engaged with the Diocesan Renewal Programme, and we will be revisiting much of this moving forward too. Church growth though is not just about increasing the size of our congregations, but also providing opportunities for people to grow in their faith, learning more about what the bible teaches us and drawing ever closer to God.

This is why we are offering a study course on the Book of Joshua as we enter 2026 and will be then inviting you all to join the Diocesan Lent Course in a few weeks time. Please do seriously consider coming along to the vestry in St Cuthbert's on a Tuesday evening at 7pm commencing on 6<sup>th</sup> January.

Joshua is the man who succeeded Moses as leader of Israel and the person who brought the people, under God's protection, into the Promised Land. You could easily assume that as the book is named after him that Joshua is the hero of the story, but what we will increasingly recognise through the study is that the true hero of the book is God. In the Book of Joshua we read of God working out a promise he made generations earlier to Abraham that through His guidance and shepherding he shows what it truly means to be in relationship with Him.

In the first chapter we hear God saying to Jonah 'Be strong and very courageous' words I have returned to time and again in my ministry. I hope and pray that through studying the Book of Joshua together in the next few weeks each one of us will become stronger and more



courageous in our faith and commitment to serving God and that our churches will indeed grow as a result.

Yours in Christ



## Christmas 2025

Thank you to everyone who contributed in any way to our celebration of Christmas 2025 - from the Mothers' Union providing the Christingles, the Choir and our musicians leading the Carols; support for Christmas Through the Keyhole, BLAST performing our Nativity, the flower arrangers at each church, lesson readers, welcomers, cleaners and others too. It was wonderful to once again welcome so many people into our two homes and we hope and pray that the story of the incarnation may have encouraged people to consider what God's love revealed in Jesus means for each of them.

Further thanks to everyone who generously donated gifts at the Crib Service at St Cuthbert's. Once again this generosity has been greatly appreciated by families finding life a struggle in Blackpool this winter. These gifts make such a difference to the children each Christmas.

## Deputy Head

The Governors at Lytham CofE Primary School are in the process of advertising and interviewing for a new Deputy Head at the school. They would value your prayers for a good appointment to be made speedily.



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### **The Vision, Mission and Values of JC Lytham**

The PCC invites the members of each church to a meeting to pause and consider the life and ministry of each church within the parish. Whilst we have come together so well as the Parish of JC Lytham over the past five years it is important that as we move forward we look at our role as the Anglican Church in Lytham, how we maintain our church buildings and how we support the communities we serve.

The meetings will take place after the main Sunday service with those who usually worship at St Cuthbert's meeting on the 25th January and those who worship at St John's meeting on the 8th February.

We would love you to contribute to our future plans so please come along to a meeting and help to encourage and strengthen the future ministry of JC Lytham.

### **PARISH COMMUNION**

Our February Parish Communion

will be on

Sunday 1st February at 10.15am

in St John's

### **Registers**

Funerals—December

4th Barbara Towers; 9th Barbara Storey; 22nd Stuart Winward<sup>5</sup>

## Mothers' Union

The first meeting in the New Year is on Thursday, 8th January at 2.30pm in St Cuthberts, when we welcome Mr. Len Curtis, MBE who will talk to us about 'Donnas Dream House' in Blackpool.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the members for the wonderful cards & gifts I received at the Christmas Lunch at Lytham Hall following my retirement as Branch Leader.

I will continue to help when needed and I hope our Mothers Union continues for many years ahead.

Wishing everyone Good Health & Happiness in 2026.

Margaret Fisher

## St Cuthbert's Church Roof

Early in December we went in to St Cuthbert's to find puddles in the south aisle and water pouring in from the roof.

We quickly discovered this was due to the theft of lead from the roof leaving the building very vulnerable to the elements.

Repairs are currently underway and an insurance claim is being made. Sadly, we were not the only church to have been targeted recently and the police are confident they have found the perpetrator.

We would be grateful that when you are passing one of our churches you would take a look to check if there is anything going on you would not expect to see and report it to one of the churchwardens Debbie or Susan; or Nick or Emma.



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## **Joshua**

We are running a Bible Study Group in the Vestry at St Cuthbert's on Tuesday evenings at 7pm commencing on the 6<sup>th</sup> January.

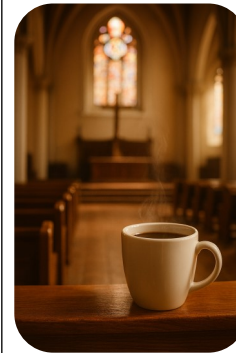
The study is being led by Nick and we will be studying the opening chapters of the Book of Joshua.

Everyone is welcome and we hope this provides time to look at our bible in greater depth.

If you are planning to come along it would be useful for you to have read Joshua 1:1-18 beforehand.

In Lent we will be following the Bishop of Blackburn's Lent Course as in recent years.

If you find it difficult attending an evening meeting and would prefer something in the day time please speak to Nick or Emma.



### **Coffee Morning**

There is just one Coffee Morning

in January which is on

Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> at St Cuthbert's.

Doors open at 10am.

Everyone is very welcome.

## Legacy

We are very grateful to the late Mrs Sheila Pauline Parker, a former member of St Cuthbert's, who very generously left a bequest of £175,000 to the church.

This came as unexpected news just before Christmas. The PCC will be considering how to use this gift wisely and appreciate the potential this could support.

Leaving a legacy to our churches can profoundly shape the future life and witness of our parish, blessing generations still to come.

## More Good News ...

The Allen organ is now fully installed at St John's and, played by John and Graham, helped lead our Christmas services. We are planning an opening concert when the weather is warmer.

The organ at St Cuthbert's was also repaired in time for Christmas, the primary fault having finally been discovered and rectified. Again it was great to have it accompanying our Christmas services with Peter bringing it to life.

## Confirmation

Five candidates were presented for Confirmation on Advent Sunday, when the Bishop of Burnley, the Rt Revd Dr Joe Kennedy, led the service during his first visit to the parish.

It was a joy to see candidates from several generations, and to witness the whole parish coming together in support.

Links  View

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## Hope Explored

There are few emotions more powerful than hope. It's a spark inside you that brings a smile to your lips; a light that shows on your face; a feeling that lifts your head and pulls you forward. Hope is what keeps us alive. But these

days hope often feels hard to come by. Yet real hope is what the Christian faith claims to offer: a joyful expectation for the future, based on true events in the past, which changes everything about my present.

Hope Explored is a free 3 week course which provides an ideal introduction to exploring Christian faith. Each week we watch a video, look at a short section of the Bible and have plenty of time for discussion and questions. No viewpoint or question is off limits. Join us to consider the most important questions human beings can ever ask.

In January 2025, Hope Explored will run on Wednesdays 21st and 28th January and 4th February at 8.00pm at 49 Victory Boulevard. Each session will finish at or before 9:30pm.

Email [emma@jclytham.church](mailto:emma@jclytham.church) for more information or to register for the course.



HOPE | EXPLORED

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## Covenant Service

The annual Churches in Lytham Covenant Service is being hosted by the Hope Church this year on Sunday 18th January at 10:30pm.

Our Covenant is one of the longest established in the North West of England and is a wonderful common commitment for Christians in Lytham to share such unity and continue to work together.

There will be an 8:30am Communion at St Cuthbert's that morning but no 10:15am service at either St John's or St Cuthbert's as we will worship together at Hope Church, 10 Preston Road, Lytham, FY8 5AA.

It is also wonderful to report that Revd Adrian Burden, a former minister at Lytham Methodist Church, has been appointed as Moderator Designate of Churches Together in Britain and Ireland. We wish him well as he prepares for this next step in his ministry.

## Quiz Questions for January—Lord, for the years ...

Marking the transition from one calendar year to the next is an occasion which is celebrated worldwide. The significance of New Year lies in its symbolic representation of renewal, hope and opportunity. It also serves as a time for reflection, allowing each one of us to look back on events and our achievements of the past year. Introspection, assessing with honesty personal growth and successes/failures can be beneficial.

The focus on New Year's Eve centres on our bidding farewell to the year ending and welcoming in the new. Traditional festivities include music, dancing and fireworks to light up the night sky. The 1<sup>st</sup> of January encourages the setting of resolutions for the future,



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hopefully to be fulfilled. Such goals might include prioritising self-care, a healthy work/life balance, or the pursuit of some form of self-improvement. Family gatherings involving shared meals, shared memories and reminiscences can also add to the celebrations. On the 1<sup>st</sup> January, the Church celebrates the Naming and Circumcision of Jesus. This day is the eighth after Christmas Day. Luke's Gospel records that, eight days after his birth, the child was circumcised and given the name Jesus. Such was a requirement of the Law of Moses [See Leviticus 12.3]. It had long been customary to make it a festive occasion when family and friends came together as witnesses.

The following thirty-five questions took years to compile! All of the questions 1.-34. inc. follow the starting stem, In which year..? It will help to know that the answers 1.-33. inc. are in chronological order.

1. In which year did the Romans, led by Emperor Claudius, invade Britain?
2. .. was the Council of Nicea held?
3. .. did St Cuthbert die on the island of Inner Farne?
4. .. did William the Conqueror defeat King Harold II at Hastings?
5. .. was the Magna Carta signed at Runnymede by King John?
6. .. did the Black Death arrive in England?
7. .. did Johannes Gutenberg produce the first printed Bible?
8. .. was the battle of Bosworth Field at the end of the Wars of the Roses and the start of the Tudor dynasty?
9. .. did Martin Luther post his *95 Theses* on the door of the Castle Church at Wittenburg in Germany?
10. .. did William Tyndale complete his translation of the Bible into English?

11. .. was the Act of Supremacy passed, allowing Henry VIII to become the Supreme Head of the Church of England?
12. .. did Ignatius of Loyola found the Jesuit movement?
13. .. did Thomas Cranmer publish the *Book of Common Prayer*, later revised in 1662?
14. .. did the Gregorian calendar first come into effect?
15. .. did Guy Fawkes fail to blow up the Houses of Parliament?
16. .. was the publication of the King James version of the Bible?
17. .. did the Pilgrim Fathers sail to North America on the *Mayflower*?
18. .. did the English Civil War come to an end?
19. .. did William of Orange invade England, leading to the overthrow of King James II?
20. .. did John and Charles Wesley lead an Evangelical revival in England and form the Methodist Church?
21. .. was the Gregorian calendar finally adopted in England?
22. .. did the lengthy reign of Queen Victoria begin?
23. .. was the first F A Cup final match played? Which team won?
24. .. was the first Ashes Test match played? Which team won?
25. .. did Albert Einstein formulate his General Theory of Relativity?
26. .. was the first F A Cup final to be played at Wembley? Winners?
27. .. was the Wall Street crash which gave way to the Great Depression of the 1930s?
28. .. was Aldous Huxley's book *Brave New World* published?
29. .. did safety glass in motor vehicles become mandatory in the UK?
30. .. did Yuri Gagarin become the first man to orbit our planet

## 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

<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)

became the Church of England's first female diocesan bishop.

The Archbishop of Canterbury has many roles which, in a way, sit one inside other. Archbishop Sarah will be bishop of the diocese of Canterbury (although in practice the normal diocesan business is carried out by the Bishop of Dover); she will be head ('Metropolitan') of the Province of Canterbury, comprising the thirty dioceses in the southern two-thirds of England; and she will be the chief religious figure in the Church of England, the monarch being the Supreme Governor. What the Archbishop of Canterbury does not do, however, is rule the world-wide Anglican communion. Rather, the Archbishop of Canterbury is a kind of nominal head by common consent, described in more formal language as 'primus inter pares', 'first among equals'. The Archbishop of Canterbury has no formal jurisdiction beyond the Church of England, and so the election of Archbishop Sarah is essentially to the 'nest' of roles within England, not to a role akin to that of the Pope. In this capacity, she is designated as Primate of All England. The Archbishop of York, by contrast, is known as the Primate of England. York is a much smaller province, with only fourteen dioceses. Both archbishops sit in the House of Lords, alongside twenty-four other bishops. Collectively they are the Lords Spiritual.

The Bishop of London ranks as third in the episcopal hierarchy, and so, while we have been without an Archbishop of Canterbury, the Church of England has been led by Stephen Cottrell, as Archbishop of York, and Sarah, as Bishop of London. The last time a Bishop of London moved (was 'translated') to Canterbury was in 1945, with the election of Geoffrey Fisher.

Joyce Hill

Earth?

31. .. did Christiaan Barnard perform the first human heart transplant?
32. .. did Tim Berners-Lee devise the World Wide Web while working at CERN in Switzerland?
33. .. did Scotland defeat Denmark to qualify for the finals of the football World Cup?
34. .. was the word *gullible* removed from some dictionaries?
35. Leap years are always numerically multiples of four. The year 2000 was a leap year, but the year 1900 was not. How do you explain this?

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

#### **Quiz questions for December: Advent and Christmas: ANSWERS**

1. True, 2. Germany, 3. George V, 4. Christmas cracker, 5. The Elf on the Shelf, 6. Mulled wine, 7. Charles Dickens, 8. Jingle Bells, 9. Silent Night, 10. Dr Seuss, 11. Quality Street, 12. Germany, 13. Kilted soldiers, 14. Sir Isaac Newton, 15. Cupid, 16. Advent, 17. White Christmas, 18. Three French Hens, 19. Mince pies, 20. Sleigh,
21. Pantomime, 22. Boxing day, 23. Bethlehem, 24. Joseph, 25. Three Wise Men, 26. Robin, 27. Manger, 28. Rudolph, 29. Mistletoe, 30. O Come All Ye faithful, 31. Holly, 32. Presents, 33. Figgy pudding, 34. Baubles, 35. Noel, 36. Charades, 37. Glitter, 38. Holly wreath, 39. Candle, 40. Snow flake.



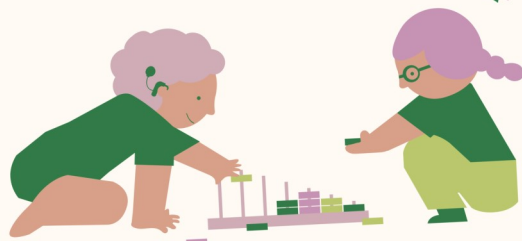
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## WHEN?

13th January 2026  
10th February 2026  
10th March 2026  
14th April 2026  
12th May 2026  
8th June 2026

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## The Archbishop of Canterbury

It was announced on 3rd October 2025 that the Rt Hon Dame Sarah Mullaley, Bishop of London, is to be the next Archbishop of Canterbury, the 106<sup>th</sup> in line of succession from St Augustine, who was sent by Pope Gregory the Great in 597 on a Christian mission to the Anglo-Saxons. Pope Gregory's idea was that in due time there should be a southern archbishop based in London and a northern archbishop based in York. But Augustine landed in the kingdom of Kent and established his ecclesiastical centre in Canterbury, which was its capital, and historical tradition has maintained it there ever since. Pope Gregory's plan for northern province based in York did eventually come about, but not until the eighth century.

Since last October Bishop Sarah has been the Archbishop designate, whilst continuing as Bishop of London. She will be ceremonially installed or, if you prefer, enthroned in Canterbury Cathedral on 25 March this year, the Feast of the Annunciation. However, it is this month that she legally becomes the Archbishop of Canterbury when, on 28 January, her nomination is given formal ecclesiastical approval in a ceremony known as the Confirmation of Election, held in St Paul's Cathedral.

Bishop Sarah's election as archbishop made world-wide headlines because she is the first-ever female archbishop in the Church of England. As a reminder, the first women were ordained as priests in the Church of England on 24 March 1994, but it was not until 2015 that a female bishop was consecrated. That was Libby Lane, who became the Suffragan Bishop of Stockport in the Diocese of Chester. Since 2019 she has been the Diocesan Bishop of Derby. Later in 2015 Rachel Treweek was consecrated as Bishop of Gloucester and