

JC Lytham Parish Office

The Parish Hall

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Lytham

FY8 5QL

Tel: 01253 736488

Email: [parish.office@jclytham.church](mailto:parish.office@jclytham.church)

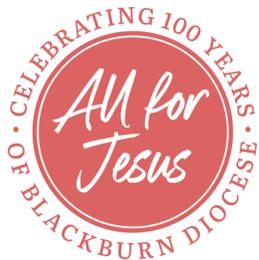
Usual office hours: Monday – Friday 9.00am – 1.00pm

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



HAPPY EASTER

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

PARISH MAGAZINE – April 2026

Dear Friends

People often say to clergy as we approach Christmas ‘this must be your busy time vicar’ and yes there are lots of special services and activities then, but I believe our busiest time is Easter and rightly so.



For me it is Good Friday and Easter which changes our world to reveal fully God’s love for you, me and everyone. Yes, the birth of Jesus is incredible, as God is born in human form, but that would have meant next to nothing if Jesus had not been nailed to the cross, died and rose again.

So I am looking forward to spending Holy Week with you once again and I encourage you to give the events of Easter, as we recount them, a priority in your arrangements. John 3:16 tells us that ‘God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that whoever believes in Him will not perish, but have everlasting life’.

As Holy Week journeys from Jesus’ Triumphant entry into Jerusalem on a donkey on Palm Sunday, to the Last Supper, the arrest on Maundy Thursday, to the trial and crucifixion on Good Friday we clearly see God giving Jesus for each one of us in an unconditional act of love – surely the very least we can do is spend precious time with him in thankful appreciation and awe.

In the Garden of Gethsemane, with his arrest imminent Jesus was in prayer and despite his requests the disciples succumbed to sleep. ‘Could you not watch with me one hour’ asks Jesus, but they cannot and he prays alone, just as a few hours later he is left to face trial and crucifixion with no friends around him.

We fully know that Easter follows, and good news arises from these hours of isolation.

## 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 <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	
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So my question to you this Holy Week is are you going to join the disciples sleeping through these most Holy of days or are you going to do your best to give the crucified and risen Jesus, who did all this willingly for you, some of your gratitude, time and attention this year.

I look forward to walking with Jesus this Easter time and hope you are able to join me.

Yours in Christ

### **Annual Parochial Church Meeting**

Our APCM this year will be after our Parish Communion on Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> May at St Cuthbert's. At this meeting we receive a review of the accounts for 2025 and hear something of the PCCs plans for the current year and beyond and also importantly elect our Churchwardens and PCC. More details will appear soon, but for now please get the date in your diary.

If you are not already on our church Electoral Roll please consider joining, forms are available from both churches and on the web-site.

Nomination forms for the posts of Churchwarden, Deputy Churchwarden, Kirkham Deanery Synod Representative and PCC member will also be available shortly at each church, please do consider putting yourself forward to serve and be part of the future planning under God of JC Lytham

## Easter Celebrations

Our Easter celebrations begin on Palm Sunday, 29<sup>th</sup> March, with our usual Communion services in the morning.

On Monday 30<sup>th</sup> the Easter Message will be taken into Lytham CofE Primary School during the day and then the all the pupils and staff will be welcomed into St John's on the Tuesday morning for their Easter Service.

Maunday Thursday, 2<sup>nd</sup> April, is the Chrism Eucharist in Blackburn Cathedral when clergy are encouraged to attend and renew their Ordination Vows. The Bishop has extended an invitation to all members of our congregations to attend at 11am.

In the evening we will be marking the Last Supper with Communion and the Stripping of the Sanctuary at St Cuthbert's

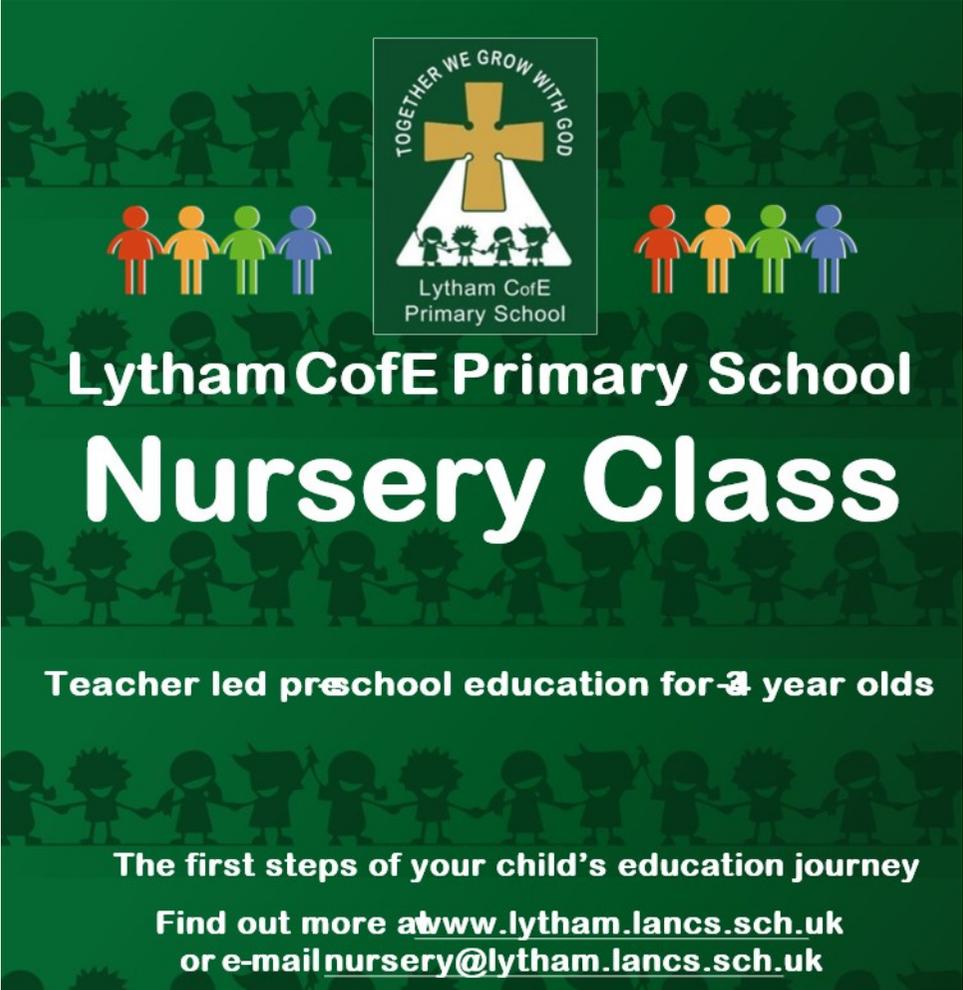
Messy Easter will be on Good Friday at St Cuthbert's, with an invitation to families to come along at 10:30am for Easter crafts, an All Age Service and a light lunch. More information on page 5.

On Good Friday afternoon there will be a reflective Hour by the Cross at 2pm in St John's.

Our Easter celebrations are marked by our 8:30am Communion at St Cuthbert's and Easter Communion at both churches at 10:15am.



Obviously we would love to see you on Easter Sunday and would encourage you to bring family and friends, but also for you to encourage people you know to get involved in at least one of the days beforehand to share and truly mark God's most loving act in all history and creation, an act He fulfilled with you on His heart. Let's rejoice and celebrate together this Easter.



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The poster features a green background with a repeating pattern of small, colorful cartoon children holding hands. At the top center is a logo with a cross and the text 'TOGETHER WE GROW WITH GOD' and 'Lytham CofE Primary School'. Below the logo are four colorful stick figures (red, orange, green, blue). The main title 'Lytham CofE Primary School Nursery Class' is in large white letters. Below that, it says 'Teacher led preschool education for 3 year olds' and 'The first steps of your child's education journey'. At the bottom, it provides contact information: 'Find out more at www.lytham.lancs.sch.uk or e-mail nursery@lytham.lancs.sch.uk'.

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### Messy Easter

On **Good Friday** we will be holding a **Messy Easter** at St Cuthbert's Church **10:30-12:30**. It will be a fun morning of creative crafts, challenges and an Easter egg hunt as we learn about that first Easter Day. Suitable for preschoolers to preteens.

Booking available on [www.tinyurl.com/jclytham-eventbrite](http://www.tinyurl.com/jclytham-eventbrite)



We are still looking for volunteers to help with crafts and setting up the hall for lunch after the craft activities. If you are able to give your time, please contact Emma by emailing [emma@jclytham.church](mailto:emma@jclytham.church)

### PARISH COMMUNION

There will not be a joint service in April with it being Easter so the next Parish Communion will be on Sunday 3rd May 2026 at 10.15am at St Cuthbert's

### CHRIS DANBY

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## Pastoral Team Ministry

Our Pastoral Ministry Team continues to thrive and grow and is proving a much-needed part in the life of our church community offering care, support, and prayerful presence to those in need.

We were delighted to welcome two new members to our team at the end of last year, making a total of six, who will be joining us shortly. The team is currently visiting 23 people every month and, over the course of the past year, has made more than 250 visits or pastoral contacts. I am enormously grateful for the commitment and compassion each team member brings to this Ministry.

The response has been very positive and the folks we visit seem pleased to see us and are keen for us to keep going back.

We meet with the Vicar regularly for prayer, reflection, and planning.

Our training recently saw us visit Trinity Hospice to learn about the work of Rev Helen Houston, who is the chaplain there.

We are always looking for new people to join our friendly team of visitors. Are YOU



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interested in supporting the ministry of the parish in this way? Please contact the Vicar for further information.

If you know anyone who would like a visit from a member of our team, please let me (or the Vicar) know.

*Marianne Cottier-Brown ALM Coordinator - Pastoral Ministry Team*

### **Coffee Mornings**

Our Coffee Mornings this month are on  
Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> April from 10am until noon  
at St John's  
and Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> April 10am until noon  
at St Cuthbert's

We look forward to spending time together  
and welcoming friends old and new.



### **From the March Registers**

#### **Baptism**

8<sup>th</sup> —Hannah Olivia Tingle

#### **Funerals**

3<sup>rd</sup>—Olivia Knowles; 6<sup>th</sup>—Marion Owen; 11<sup>th</sup>—James Morris; and

16<sup>th</sup>—Jack Sumner

## An Update from the Bellringers – March 2026

### A New Chapter for St. John's Bells

There's a real mix of emotions in this month's update from the bellringers—some exciting news, and just a touch of sadness too.

The exciting part is that we now have a confirmed start date for our long-awaited bell restoration project! After lots of planning and fundraising, things are finally about to happen. The slightly sad news is that Easter Sunday will be the last time our bells at St. John's are rung for a while, as they fall silent for around six months during the work.

Even so, there's plenty to look forward to. This project will see the old oak frame, faithfully supporting our bells for over 150 years, replaced with a new one made from steel and cast iron. It's a big step forward and will help ensure that bellringing continues at St. John's for generations to come. We're not just preserving history, we're adding to it.

Thanks to the amazing generosity of so many people, our fundraising total has now reached just over £64,000. That's a fantastic achievement, though we still have around £36,000 left to raise. We'll be continuing with grant applications, events, and our recently updated JustGiving page, so thank you for your ongoing support, every contribution really does make a difference.

We're also delighted to be working with the renowned John Taylor Bellfoundry in Loughborough, who have restored bells across the Fylde and beyond. Some of our ringers have worked with them before, so it's great to be teaming up again.

Links  View

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Work will commence on Friday, April 10th, with the arrival of a scaffold tower in the ringing room. The following day, volunteers from our bellringers' team will roll up their sleeves to remove ceilings, bell ropes, and bell wheels, and to open hatches that will allow the bells to be carefully lowered to the ground.

Then, on Monday, April 13th, the specialists from Taylor's will arrive to begin the delicate and fascinating process of removing the bells themselves. Once down, the bells will be placed at the back of church on sturdy supports giving everyone a rare chance to see them up close. It's not something you often get to experience, and it really brings home just how impressive (and heavy!) these instruments are. One of our ringers once joked, "It's probably the only musical instrument that could kill you!" and when you stand beside one, you'll see exactly what he means.

Throughout the work, the bellringers will share updates and photos in future editions of the church magazine and on social media. Of course, we'll all miss the sound of the bells over the coming months. But this is a positive step forward, and when they ring out again, it will be a moment well worth waiting for.

Until then, thank you for your support, and let's keep the bells ringing in spirit! We will, of course, continue to ring at St. Cuthbert's.

*Michael Phillips (on behalf of the Bellringers)*

## Quiz Questions for Holy Week, Easter and the month of April

Holy Week is the most sacred period within the Christian calendar. It marks the final days of the earthly life of Jesus Christ, thus preceding the celebration of his resurrection. The Week begins with Palm Sunday when Jesus made his triumphant entry into Jerusalem, welcomed by crowds waving palm branches as a sign of honour and hope.

Four days later, Maundy Thursday recalls the occasion of the Last Supper when Jesus shared bread and wine with his disciples and gave the commandment that they should love one another. There took place his act of humble service by the washing of the disciples' feet.

Good Friday is a solemn day for reflection on the crucifixion and death. Christians believe this sacrifice to be the ultimate act of love and redemption for humanity. It is most appropriately observed by prayer and a time of meditation.

Following the relative quiet of Holy Saturday, the darkness gives way to light with the arrival of Easter Day, the joyful celebration of Jesus' resurrection. Christians believe that, through his rising from the dead, Jesus conquered sin and death, thereby offering the promise of eternal life to all who believe.

Easter Day is far more than just another day. It is the beginning of a season of joy and renewal in the Church, lasting for fifty days until the time of Pentecost. Taken together, Holy Week and Eastertide form the heart of the Christian faith, telling a story for all time involving love, sacrifice and the triumph of life over death.

Here are forty questions on this month's title.

1. Which traditional liturgical colour is in use on Palm Sunday?
2. How many of the Gospels of the New Testament describe the



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The graphic is a green rounded rectangle with a white border. It contains six icons: a house with a heart, a house with a person and a heart, a nurse's cap, a cross with a person, a sun with a person, and a group of flowers. To the right of the graphic is a photograph of a modern, bright interior room with a white armchair, a small table, and framed pictures on the wall.

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- events of Palm Sunday?
3. An Old Testament prophecy is believed to be fulfilled by Jesus' entry into Jerusalem. Consult Zechariah chapter 9 to find it.
  4. From where did Jesus begin his procession into Jerusalem?
  5. What are the significances of the palm branches and Jesus riding on a donkey?
  6. Which one of the gospels records the crowd using branches from trees other than palms?
  7. How might the palms given out on Palm Sunday be used at a later time?
  8. Which Jewish festival was being celebrated during the week prior to Christ's crucifixion?
  9. What was the occasion behind this festival celebration in 8.?
  10. On which day was Jesus arrested after his betrayal by Judas?
  11. Which disciple cut off the ear of the high priest's servant?
  12. How did Judas identify Jesus to the soldiers?
  13. For how many pieces of silver did Judas trade for this?
  14. Later repenting, Judas returned the silver and then did – what?
  15. Who was released before Jesus was sentenced to death?
  16. What was the inscription above the cross?
  17. Name the two sons of Simon of Cyrene [Mark 15.21].
  18. What occurred in the Temple as a sign that Jesus' death made way for the individual believer to approach God?
  19. Two men helped to prepare the body of Christ for burial. Who were they?
  20. Who was the first person to see the risen Christ?
  21. Which artist created the famous painting of The Last Supper?
  22. By what name did the Romans know the month of April?
  23. Made with fruit and marked with a cross on top, what food item is traditionally eaten on Good Friday?

24. Andrew Lloyd Webber provided the music for which show about the final week in the life of Jesus?
25. Which major April golf tournament takes place at the Augusta National Golf Course?
26. In April 1789, a mutiny against Captain William Bligh took place on which ship?
27. Name the precious Easter eggs commissioned by Russian tsars.
28. 'It was a bright, cold day in April, and the clocks were striking thirteen' is a quote from which novel by George Orwell?
29. 'Those are figs after Easter' .... To what does this refer?
30. Which poet wrote, 'April showers bring May flowers'?
31. Which country holds to the tradition that Easter eggs are red and symbolize the blood of Jesus?
32. Saint George is the patron saint of which of these countries: Malta, Portugal, England?
33. What was Saint George's profession?
34. A flower of April is *Bellis perennis*. This is the Latin name of which flower?
35. To which South American country does Easter Island belong?
36. In a 1957 TV prank, the BBC showed Swiss farmers picking freshly-grown ... what?
37. Which major UK sporting event will be held on 11th April, 2026?
38. What was introduced into Britain on 1st April, 1973?
39. How many days lie between Easter Day and Ascension Day?
40. Easter is a movable feast. Can you explain how the date of Easter Day is determined each year?

Answers will appear in the next issue.

## 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>Monday</b>	7.00pm—8.30	Cubs <a href="mailto:lynne.mellor@fyldescouts.org.uk">lynne.mellor@fyldescouts.org.uk</a>
<b>Tuesday</b>	9am-3pm	Tumble Tots <a href="mailto:Tumbletotslynz@hotmail.com">Tumbletotslynz@hotmail.com</a>
	6.00pm-7.00pm	Beavers (term time)
	7.00pm-9pm	Scouts (term time)
<b>Wednesday</b>	9.45am-11.30am	Bertie Bear Group (term time)
	7pm-8pm	Pilates with Georgia – 07875590724
<b>Thursday</b>	5pm-6pm	Rainbows (term time)
	6.30 -7.30pm	Brownies (term time)
<b>Friday</b>	9.30am -10.30am	Pilates

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### Quiz Questions - MARCH and the season of LENT: Answers

1. lamb, 2. Charm, 3. False, 4. War, 5. Saint Piran, 6. Little Women by Louisa May Alcott, 7. Sundays are not included, 8. Julius Caesar, 9. Green, 10. Snakes, 11. Leprechaun, 12. Saint Cuthbert, 13. 25th March, 14. The Book of Mormon, 15. Maundy Thursday, 16. John 3.16, 17. Romans 5.6, 18. Colossians 3.16, 19. John 11.23, 20. Matthew 21.9, 21. Luke 4.23, 22. Genesis 4.9, 23. Matthew 15.14, 24. Isaiah 53.7, 25. Job 15.7, 26. Psalm 107.2, 27. Luke 17.2, 28. Daniel 2.33, 29. Jeremiah 13.23, 30. Ecclesiastes 1.9, 31. Matthew 7.6, 32. 1 Samuel 13.14, 33. 1 Corinthians 15.34 [Ecclesiastes 8.15, Luke 12.19], 34. Job 19.20, 35. Ecclesiastes 10.1, 36. Luke 10.29-37, 37. Matthew 7.15, 38. 1 Corinthians 13.2, 39. Daniel 5.5, 40. 1 Corinthians 9.22.

In case you were eagerly waiting the last three answers from February's quiz which were missed last month they are here:

43. Lismore, 44. Sanday, 45. Hayling

### Looking for Volunteers at the Big Day Out

Could you volunteer to be a Steward for the event to help keep everyone safe, if you wish to help in this way please speak to Emma or Nick and they will put the person in charge of this side of the day in touch with you.

## Commemorating the Resurrection

With Easter Day, the Feast of the Resurrection, falling this year on 5 April, and with a title of 'Commemorating the Resurrection', you might well expect this article to be about Easter in some way. But it isn't, at least not directly. We think that the early church began to commemorate the Resurrection as an annual celebration sometime in the mid-second century, making it the earliest of the annual feast-days of the church's year. Other feast-days associated with Christ's life gradually grew up around it, mostly in the fourth century, when — thanks to Constantine's edict of toleration early in the century, and the adoption of Christianity as the religion of the Roman Empire under Theodosius towards the end of the same century — Christians began to worship publicly and, in the churches that they went on to build, developed a yearly cycle of special days, a practice that was modelled on the annual cycle of public rituals of the secular world. But before the Resurrection came to have its own yearly day, Christians celebrated the Resurrection every Sunday. We still do, of course. And so the purpose of this article, in this year's month of Easter (it is March in some years) is to explore the history of this weekly commemoration.

From the gospels we learn that the Resurrection occurred on the first day of the week (Sunday), the day after the Jewish Sabbath (Saturday), the seventh day of the week. The Jewish holy day, a day of rest and prayer, is on the seventh day of the week because the creation narrative in Genesis tells of how God created the world in six days and rested on the seventh. Within Christian communities, which soon came to include non-Jews, the practice of commemorating the Resurrection on the first day of every week quickly became established. There is a reference in Acts chap. 20 v. 7, to the coming

together of the disciples to break bread on this day, and it is referred to as if it was already a regular habit. That it was on the first day of the week is perhaps not immediately obvious to us as we read the text, because the time-reference is 'on the Saturday night'. But the Jewish Sabbath extends from sunset to the sunset, so the time indicator in Acts carefully tells us that the disciples' practice of breaking bread together was very early on the first day of the week in the usual sunset-to-sunset terms..

Within the Christian tradition, the first day of the week soon came to be called 'The Lord's Day', which in the Latin of the Roman Empire, and then continuing in the Latin of the western medieval church, was *Dies Dominica*, later often shortened to *Dominica*. This is the origin of *Dimanche* in French, *Domenica* in Italian and *Domingo* in Spanish, all languages that derive from Latin. In England, however, which came to speak a Germanic language as a result of the Anglo-Saxon invasions in the fifth and sixth centuries, our days of the week were (and still are) named after pagan gods, the sun and the moon. So *Dies Dominica*, or *Dominica*, as it was officially called by the pre-Reformation church, continued to be called Sun-day, the day of the sun, in everyday speech. Sabbath began to be used in English as a term for the Lord's Day only after the Reformation and is generally restricted to particular church traditions. As a leading liturgist once said, 'Christians sanctified the week before they sanctified the year'.

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