

JC Lytham Parish Office

The Parish Hall

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Lytham

FY8 5QL

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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



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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 – May 2026

Dear Friends

Over Easter I have been struck by the relationship between Jesus and Simon Peter in a fresh way. This has come from reflecting on Jesus washing Peter's feet in the upper room at the last supper an image central to the reredos behind the main altar in St Cuthbert's.



As Jesus takes on the servant role of washing others feet, Peter objects, see John 13:1-17. Peter struggles to accept that Jesus, His Master and God's promise to His people, should be humbling Himself in this way. Jesus though tells Peter that unless he allows Him to wash his feet, then he has no future with Jesus. Typically Peter then suggested Jesus should wash all of him not just his feet, Peter wants to show his commitment to Jesus whole heartedly - I am in this with you Jesus, you have my totally loyalty.

Sadly, things quickly unravel for Peter, he cuts off the ear of one of the soldiers coming to arrest Jesus, an act Jesus is not impressed by. Peter then goes into the courtyard near where Jesus is being tried and denies knowing Him three times in quick succession. We then hear little about Peter through the crucifixion, presumably he is keeping his distance scared for his own life.

On Easter Sunday morning Peter is one of the first to view the empty tomb and we are told one of the first to recognise Jesus is resurrected. He is then, in conversation with Jesus on the beach, and begins to admit how much he loves Jesus that he is committed to following Him and feed His sheep. After the Ascension and as the Holy Spirit comes upon the first disciples at Pentecost Peter becomes the key spokesman.

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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What strikes me is how often Peter has failed to be there for Jesus, to recognise that he is of the Son of God living in the world alongside him. It is staggering to think that this man who has fallen short so many times, often at significant moments, is still believed in by God and is foundational to the building of the Church of God on earth.

I believe this gives us hope. Hope to know that even when we let God down and struggle to fully recognise who Jesus is, that God still loves us and calls each one of us to help present Jesus to others here in Lytham and into the wider world.

Yours in Christ

PARISH COMMUNION

Our May Parish Communion
will be on Sunday 3rd May 2026 at 10.15am
in St Cuthbert's

Annual Parochial Church Meeting

Our APCM will take place after the Parish Communion on Sunday 3rd May. We will receive a review of the year and the accounts for the year ending December 2025. There will be information on some of the PCC's future plans and importantly we will elect our Churchwardens and PCC members. Please ensure any nominations are with the Vicar well in advance of the meeting. Nomination forms are available to download from our website and at the back of each church.

This is an important event in the life of our parish and we encourage everyone on the electoral role to attend and vote.

Mothers' Union

The next meeting is on 14th May at 2.30pm in St Cuthberts church when we welcome David Hoyle who will tell us of the 'Two Cliftons'.

On Thurs.4th June at 2.30pm we will celebrate the 150th Anniversary of Mothers' Union with Afternoon Tea at Lytham Hall. The list is available at the May Meeting if you would like to join us, all welcome.



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Social Evening

Our social evening on Saturday 18th April in the Parish Hall was a great success with tickets sold out in advance.

There was a great atmosphere as parishioners and friends relaxed together over food and drinks. The quiz and line dancing once again proved great fun.

We are delighted to say the evening also raised over £500 for church funds.

Thank you to the team who organised the event and made sure everything went as planned.

Easter

A huge heartfelt thank you to everyone who worked so hard to assist our Easter celebrations. The floral arrangements, Messy Easter, the School Easter Experience, the music and so much more are very much appreciated and helped contribute to a meaningful week.

Thank you to all who joined us in celebrating the resurrection of Christ.

Quiz Questions for May - General Knowledge

The more we know, the more we realise how much remains unknown.

Good general knowledge is far more than a random collection of facts. It is the bridge between curiosity and wisdom, the foundation for informed thinking, effective communication and the ability to make decisions with confidence.

Strong general knowledge enhances the skills of problem-solving. A basic understanding of economics, for example, can help with an understanding of the money markets or inflation, while geographical awareness can make travel or international business more efficient. Well-informed individuals who can speak meaningfully on a variety of diverse topics will be at ease during social situations, and others will find value in their contributions. In education and in the workplace, knowledge of past and present contexts can foster critical thinking and the ability to question misinformation.

And how is good general knowledge acquired? Natural curiosity concerning all aspects of human activity is required, as are wide reading, a willingness to learn and the following of news stories from far and wide. The process is not primarily about feats of memory, but about recognising patterns and making connections.

Here are forty general knowledge questions. Numbers 1.-10. involve Bible knowledge, 11.-20. concern past events which happened during the month of May, and the remainder comprise a miscellany.

1. Who was given a coat of many colours by his father? [Gen 37.3]
2. Name the sea parted by God to open a path for the children of Israel to pass through. [Exodus 13.18]
3. Who set the corn of the Philistines on fire by tying firebrands on to foxes' tails and letting them loose? [Judges 15. 4,5]
4. How did Elijah die? [2 Kings 2.11]
5. Which Psalm is split into 22 sections, each one being marked by a



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letter of the Hebrew alphabet?

6. What position of authority was held by Pontius Pilate? [Matthew 27.2]
7. At the baptism of Jesus, the Holy Spirit descended upon him in what form? [Luke 3.22]
8. Who was the wife of Aquila? [Acts 18.2]
9. Name the coppersmith of whom Paul complained because he had done him much evil. [2 Timothy 4.14]
10. In which New Testament book does the writer elaborate on the high priest called Melchizedek?
11. In 1707, the Act of Union joined which two kingdoms together?
12. Workers of the UK went on general strike in which year?
13. In 1969, which British ocean liner began its maiden voyage to New York?
14. In which year did Roger Bannister become the first man to run a mile in under 4 minutes?
15. Who opened London's Great Exhibition of 1851?
16. In 1821, who died in exile on the island of St Helena?
17. In 1960, the Anne Frank museum opened in which European city?
18. In 1961, who was the first American to travel into outer space?
19. In 1994, which World Formula 1 champion was killed in the San Marino Grand Prix?
20. In 1682, which *Sun King* moved his court to the Palace of Versailles?
21. What is James Bond's code name?
22. Which planet is closest to the Sun?
23. Which football club plays its home games at Loftus Road?
24. How many human players are there on each side in a polo match?

25. Who wrote the book *Chitty-Chitty-Bang-Bang: The Magical Car*?
26. How many of the wives of Henry VIII were called Catherine?
27. In which part of the body is the cruciate ligament?
28. Street artist Banksy is originally connected to which British city?
29. Name the northernmost country in Africa.
30. Which surrealist artist is famous for painting melting clocks?
31. What is a circumpunct?
32. What was the former name for a *Snickers* bar, changed in 1990?
33. In which European country will you find the Rijksmuseum?
34. Which Grand Slam tennis tournament is played on a clay surface?
35. What is the currency of Denmark?
36. Name the capital of Finland.
37. Sn is the chemical symbol for which metallic element?
38. Name the capital of Qatar.
39. Name the main protagonist in Shakespeare's play *Othello*.
40. By what name was the city of Istanbul known before 1930?

Answers will appear in the next issue.

Quiz Questions: Holy Week, Easter and the month of April:

Answers

1. Red, 2. All four, 3. cf. Zechariah 9.9, 4. The Mount of Olives,
5. Symbols of peace and humility, 6. Mark, 7. Burned to provide ashes for the following year's Ash Wednesday, 8. Feast of the Passover,
9. The Jewish Exodus from slavery to freedom, 10. Maundy Thursday,
11. Peter, 12. By means of a kiss, 13. Thirty, 14. Hanged himself,
15. Barabbas, 16. 'Jesus of Nazareth, King of the Jews', 17. Alexander and Rufus, 18. The veil was torn in two from top to bottom, 19. Joseph of Arimathea and Nicodemus. 20. Mary Magdalene, 21. Leonardo Da Vinci, 22. Aprillis, 23. Hot cross bun, 24. Jesus Christ Superstar, 25. The

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US Masters, 26. The Bounty, 27. Fabergé eggs, 28. 1984, 29. Something that is too late to make sense, 30. Thomas Tusser, 31. Greece, 32. All of them, 33. A soldier in the Roman army, 34. Daisy, 35. Chile, 36. Spaghetti, 37. The Grand National, 38. Value Added Tax, 39. Thirty-eight, 40. Easter Day will fall on the first Sunday after the full moon occurring on or after 21st March.

Coffee Mornings

Our Coffee Mornings this month are on
Saturday 9th May 10am—12 noon at
St John's and
Saturday 23rd May 10am —12 noon at
St Cuthbert's.

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



From the Registers

Funerals

20th April Dinah Towler

24th April Bob Barclay

Whitsun

On the fiftieth day after Easter, the feast of the Resurrection, we celebrate the coming of the Holy Spirit to the apostles (Acts 2). The church has always called it Pentecost, a Greco-Latin word which derives from the Greek for 'fiftieth'. This year it falls on 24 May. It also happens to be a bank holiday weekend, although nowadays that only occurs occasionally, because in 1971 the late May bank holiday was fixed as the last Monday in May, whereas the date of Pentecost varies because it is counted from Easter, which is a movable feast. Prior to 1971, the bank holiday (then known as the Whitsun bank holiday) moved around in May because it was the weekend of Pentecost itself.

In Common Worship this feast-day is listed as Pentecost, with Whit Sunday being given in brackets after it, in smaller type and not in bold, indicating that this is an alternative name but not with the same status as Pentecost. Yet the Book of Common Prayer uses Whit Sunday for the feast-day itself, and Whitsun-week for the days that follow (Monday in Whitsun-week etc.) which constitute the Whitsun season, before Trinity Sunday, which occurs on the next Sunday (31 May this year). So why does the BCP use Whit Sunday/Whitsun rather than Pentecost; why have we changed back in Common Worship; where does Whitsun come from; and why is it no longer so commonly used?

Whitsun is an English term for Pentecost, just as there was (and is) a popular English name, for example, for the Feast of the Purification on 2 February, commonly called Candlemas because of the distinctive experience of the day: the spectacle of everyone holding lit candles in church. Whitsun is an abbreviation of Whit Sunday. It's first recorded in 1067 with the unambiguous meaning of 'white Sunday' — although we have changed the pronunciation of the first syllable over the

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centuries by shortening the 'i', leading to a confusion with 'wit', and, as a result, various false explanations of the word. Dictionaries explain that the name denotes the day on which white was worn in church. However, although we know that white was worn in the early church on the set days for (adult) baptism — Holy Saturday being the primary occasion and Pentecost the secondary one — this was not characteristic practice by the time England was converted. Fixed dates were impractical in a missionary context, and in any case infant baptism quickly became the norm. For obvious reasons it was carried out as soon as possible after birth. Yet in an echo of the older tradition, babies were required to be dressed in white for baptism and to be brought to the daily mass for a week thereafter, still in white. The popular naming of Whitsunday suggests, nevertheless, that older traditions were reflected in a practice of wearing white at Pentecost, although I'm not aware of any references to or descriptions of this in Anglo-Saxon times, despite the word coming from the language of this period. The BCP chose the popular English name in preference to the Greco-Latin one of Pentecost as a break from Roman practice. Now, however, we more commonly use Pentecost within the church. Culturally we have lost sight of 'Whitsun' since 1971 when the late May bank holiday was divorced from the church's liturgical year, and so 'Whitsun' is used less and less. This year, however, the dates come together, and Monday 25 May is a bank holiday. It won't be called Whit bank holiday, though!

Joyce Hill

An Update from the Bellringers – April 2026

St John's Bells Begin Their Journey of Restoration

Exciting progress is underway at St John's Church as our long-awaited bell restoration project has finally begun and what a start it has been!

After many months of planning, work officially commenced on **Saturday 11 April**. Four members of the bellringing team arrived bright and early at 8:30am, ready for a long day's work. By the time we finished at 6:00pm we were tired, filthy, and extremely pleased with what had been achieved.

The first task was to prepare the tower for the removal of the bells. This involved stripping out all the bell ropes, dismantling the false ceiling, and removing sections of the rope guide frame. Parts of the original ceiling and belfry floor also had to come out so that the bells could later be lowered safely through the ringing room and down into the front porch of the church. By the end of the day, all six bell wheels and many associated fittings, including clappers and ground pulleys, had been carefully removed and brought down into the ringing room.

Professional Help Arrives

Work continued on **Monday 13 April**, when three volunteers returned to prepare for the arrival of the professional bell hanger from **Taylor's Bell Foundry** in Loughborough. Together, we moved equipment down into the church, cut new access hatches through the porch ceiling and ringing room floor, and assisted in installing a temporary lifting frame in the steeple. This structure is essential for safely hoisting the bells out of, and eventually back into, the bell tower.

A Remarkable Milestone

Tuesday proved to be an exceptionally successful day. Our goal was to begin lowering the bells into the church, an ambitious task that exceeded expectations. Thanks to plenty of teamwork and

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.

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Monday	7.00pm—8.30	Cubs lynne.mellors@fyldescouts.org.uk
Tuesday	9am-3pm	Tumble Tots Tumbletotslynz@hotmail.com
	6.00pm-7.00pm	Beavers (term time)
	7.00pm-9pm	Scouts (term time)
Wednesday	9.45am-11.30am	Bertie Bear Group (term time)
	7pm-8pm	Pilates with Georgia – 07875 590 724
Thursday	5pm-6pm	Rainbows (term time)
	6.30 -7.30pm	Brownies (term time)

Pastoral Ministry Team

One of the ladies I visit each month in my role as a Pastoral Care visitor is Betty McWilton. Yesterday was Betty's 105th birthday!

As I'm also a governor at Lytham C of E Primary School, it was an absolute joy to combine the two roles and introduce some of the children (along with their head teacher, Miss Davies) to Betty, and take her some birthday cards, as well as videos of the school choir singing for her.

The children were very well behaved and asked some interesting questions about our Pastoral Ministry visitors and Betty was delighted with our visit.

Happy Birthday, Betty. 105 years old. Amazing!

Marianne Cottier-Brown ALM

Coordinator -
Pastoral Ministry Team



determination, **all six bells were safely removed from the tower and placed at the back of church by 2:15pm.**

Seeing the bells standing together in the church for the first time in generations was a truly memorable moment. Later that afternoon, attention turned to dismantling the steel bracing attached to the ageing oak frame that had supported the bells for many years.



The Challenge of the Old Frame

With the bells removed, the belfry suddenly felt much more spacious, though also more challenging to navigate due to the lack of bells etc to climb on. Additional ladders were brought in to make movement safer as work began on the most demanding stage of the project: removing the ancient oak bell frame.

This task is considerably harder than removing the bells themselves. Much of the original metalwork is heavily rusted and seized, while substantial steel reinforcements, added around twenty years ago to



stabilise the failing oak structure, have proved extremely sturdy and very difficult to remove. Progress has required patience, determination, and occasionally a chainsaw!

By **Thursday 16 April**, despite a shorter working afternoon, volunteers successfully removed the entire upper frame that once supported Bells Three and Five, another significant milestone.

Steady Volunteer Effort

After a well-earned few days' rest, work resumed on **Monday 20 April**. Even with just two volunteers working for a few hours, important progress continued, including removing more of the mid-section of the frame and transporting dismantled timber from the tower to storage.

The following day saw further steady advancement. With only around twenty percent of the mid-frame remaining, plus the lower frame still to remove, the team is now hopeful that the entire structure may be cleared from the tower far sooner than originally expected.

See the Bells Up Close

Many of you will already have noticed that the bells are currently displayed inside the church while they await transport to Taylor's Foundry in Loughborough for refurbishment and retuning.

Thanks to Susan, our Churchwarden, we are delighted to invite everyone to a **special Open Day**:

Saturday 2 May, 10:00am – 2:00pm, St John's Church

This is a rare, once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to stand beside these remarkable pieces of local history. Members of the bellringing team will be on hand to answer questions, refreshments will be available, and visitors are warmly encouraged to come along, explore the bells, and take photographs.

Please bring friends and family and help us celebrate this important moment in the life of St John's.

Supporting the Project

While progress on the practical work has been excellent, we have not yet reached the fundraising target needed to complete the restoration. Donations of any size are greatly appreciated as we continue working towards returning the bells to full voice for future generations.

Thank you to everyone who has supported the project so far, through volunteering, encouragement, and generosity. We look forward to sharing further updates as the restoration continues.