

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



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



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PARISH MAGAZINE – June 2026

Dear Friends

Trinity Sunday often leaves even experienced preachers wrestling for words. How do we explain something so central to Christian faith, yet so difficult to define fully? The doctrine of the Trinity stretches our language and our imagination because it speaks about the very nature of God — a mystery both profound and beautiful.



One of the reasons the Trinity can feel elusive is that the word itself never actually appears in the Bible. Yet while the term is absent, the principle is woven throughout Scripture. From the opening verses of Genesis, through the life and ministry of Jesus, and into the work of the Holy Spirit in the early Church, Christians have always recognised God revealed as Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

The importance of this belief becomes especially clear when we look at Church history. In the early centuries of Christianity, believers worked carefully and prayerfully to express what they understood from Scripture and worship. This led to the creation of the Nicene Creed and the Athanasian Creed, both of which affirm strongly the threefold nature of God.

In the Nicene Creed, Christians proclaim Jesus Christ as “God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made.” The creed also declares that the Holy Spirit “with the Father and the Son is worshipped and glorified.” These are not merely theological phrases; they are statements of faith that continue to shape Christian worship and identity today. It is this shared belief that enables us to affirm that we belong to “one holy, catholic and apostolic Church.”

Yet understanding the Trinity in everyday language remains

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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challenging. Over the centuries many comparisons have been offered — none perfect, but each giving us a glimpse into the mystery.

One example is the humble clover leaf. A single leaf grows from one plant, yet it is formed of three distinct parts. Together they make one leaf, while each section remains recognisable in itself.

Another comparison comes from family relationships. One person may be a parent, a spouse or partner, and also a son or daughter. The same individual relates to others in different ways, while remaining one person throughout.

Even the world of science offers an illustration. The primary colours of light — red, green and blue — combine together to produce white light and the full visible spectrum. Individually distinct, together they create something complete and unified.

None of these examples fully captures the majesty of the Trinity, but perhaps that is the point. God is greater than any comparison we can devise. Human language can only point toward divine reality, never contain it entirely.

What remains wonderfully clear, however, is that each person of the Trinity is essential to the Christian understanding of God. The Father is the Creator, the Son the Redeemer, and the Holy Spirit the giver and sustainer of life. Distinct, yet perfectly united, they reveal the fullness of God's love and power.

The Trinity reminds us that relationship lies at the heart of God himself. Love, unity and communion are not simply things God does — they are part of who God is. And because we are made in God's image, we too are called into loving relationship: with God and with one another.

Perhaps Trinity Sunday is not meant to provide simple answers, but rather an invitation into wonder. In a world that often demands certainty and neat explanations, the Trinity encourages humility, worship and awe before the mystery of God.

And maybe that is where faith begins most deeply — not in fully understanding God, but in trusting the One who is Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Yours in Christ



Mothers' Union

On Thursday, 4th June we celebrate the 150th Anniversary of Mothers' Union with Afternoon Tea at Lytham Hall at 2.30pm.

Every Branch has been asked to try raise £150.00 as a celebration. We will hold a raffle to hopefully achieve this, so gifts of prizes would be much appreciated.

Margaret Fisher

PARISH COMMUNION
Our June Parish Communion
will be on Sunday 7th June 2026
at 10.15am in St John's

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Church Concerts

Following the success of hiring St Cuthbert's church out for the Russell Watson Concert in February, the PCC has agreed to look to hire out the church once a month for concerts. The first concert is on Friday 10th July (a flyer for the concert is on the next page). To assist us we are looking for members of the congregation to volunteer for part of these days to ensure there is someone from the church always available to assist the hirers. Training will be given to support volunteers in this role.

If you are able and willing to assist in this way please would you make contact with Linda Hyland at linda@tidemill.co.uk who is coordinating the concerts for us.

From the Registers

Baptisms

April 26th Rose Baer, Esme Baer, Eloise Coaker

May 3rd Felicity Pitman

Weddings

May

22nd Candice Nichols and Stephen Walne

23rd Ella Warhurst and Richard Openshaw

Funerals

May

18th Gary Ferguson

21st Gillian Carlisle

27th Chris Kitchener

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Annual Parochial Church Meeting

At the APCM last month we accepted the reports and accounts for 2025 and the Vicar thanked everyone for all they had done in so many ways throughout the year.

In the elections the following people were nominated and appointed to serve for the next twelve months:

Churchwardens: Deborah Edwards and Susan Holman

Deputy Churchwardens: Dave Hyland and Paul Bedford

Kirkham Deanery Synod Members: Debbie Edwards, Wendy Riley and Liz Willis

Parochial Church Council Members: Marianne Cottier Brown, John Dixon, Anne Dixon, Diana Harris, Rachel Higginbotham and Alex Walmsley.

Further Ex-Officio members are: Linda Hyland (Safeguarding Officer), Michelle O'Neill (Head Teacher's nomination) and Jacqui Briscoe (LLM representative).

Co-options include Julie Smith and Mick Phillips

Please hold them in your prayers as they support and lead the parish in these positions.



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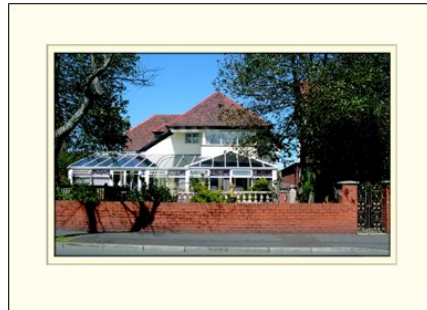
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Man Alive

For the past few years Blackburn Cathedral has hosted an evening called Man Alive with some excellent guest speakers. This year Man Alive is being hosted by Fulwood Free Methodist Church and the main speaker is Revd Matt Guilder chaplain at Lancaster University. The date is 18th June and the evening begins at 7:30pm. We are not able to arrange this as a group visit from the parish, but if you are interested please visit the Fulwood Free Methodist website at [Fulwood Free Methodist Church](http://www.fulwoodfree.org.uk)

Man Alive 2026

Let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us – Hebrews 12:1

An evening of worship, testimony and teaching to inspire and raise up men of faith from across the North West.


Featuring:

Revd. Matt Guilder – Anglican Chaplain, Lancaster University – God on Campus
Pastor Jamie Haxby – Lead Pastor, Hope Church – Hebrews 12


Testimony by special guest

10 of those bookstall, refreshments and cake.

Thursday 18th June - 7:30pm
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THU
18
JUN

📅 Thursday, 18-Jun-2026
🕒 7:30pm - 9:30pm
📍 Fulwood Free Methodist Church

Coffee Mornings

Our Coffee Mornings this month are on
Saturday 13th June 10am—12 noon at
St John's

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

NB As it is Lytham Club Day there won't be a
coffee morning at St Cuthbert's
this month.



All for Jesus in our centenary year: Families from parishes across Lancashire gather in Blackpool for 'The Big Day Out'

People from parishes across Lancashire were 'All for Jesus' as they gathered in Blackpool at the weekend for The Big Day Out – a vibrant, faith-filled celebration held as part of our Diocesan centenary year.

Taking place in and around St John's Square, in the shadow of the world-famous Blackpool Tower and close to the iconic Winter Gardens, the event on Saturday 16th May welcomed more than 1000 people from Blackburn Diocese's parishes from every part of the County.

Videos, photos and more information can be found on the Diocesan website—[All For Jesus Big Day Out](#) or the Diocese of Blackburn Facebook Page.

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Lytham Club Day

Every year, Lytham Club Day brings together the local community in a wonderful celebration of tradition, friendship and service. This year, we offer our sincere thanks and appreciation to Natalie Simpson, who has served with grace and dedication as the retiring Rose Queen.

Throughout the past year, Natalie, together with her family and retinue, has represented JC Lytham with warmth, enthusiasm and commitment. Their participation in local events and community activities has reflected the very best of the spirit of Club Day, and we are deeply grateful for all they have contributed.

As one chapter closes, preparations are already underway for this year's celebrations. Once again, we are delighted to be entering a float jointly with our school, continuing a valued partnership that highlights the strong connections within our community.

We warmly encourage as many people as possible to take part in the morning procession. Whether you are able to walk the entire route or only join for part of the journey, your presence and support help make the occasion so special. Club Day is a wonderful opportunity for people of all ages to come together in fellowship and celebration, and every participant adds to the atmosphere and sense of community spirit.

We look forward to another joyful and memorable day and thank everyone in advance for organising this fantastic event.

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Quiz Questions for June - Don't quote me!

Quotations, mottos and advertising slogans

Quotations are taken directly from a text or speech and can be a powerful tool to use in writing. They offer a way to engage with the original ideas of others, thus adding a new aspect to one's own thoughts from a reputable source. Quotations can also better engage the reader by clarifying complex ideas and thus adding credibility.

Mottos are short statements which give encouragement and direction by reflecting on achievable aims. They are the quiet voice that anchors you to your values, providing inspiration because they can bypass the thinking mind. Consider a motto as a touchstone, a means of reconnecting when doubts set in and willpower alone is inadequate. A good motto is specific enough to be meaningful, but wide enough to encompass many situations.

Advertising slogans are pithy phrases used to generate publicity and encapsulate a company's marketing strategy. The wording will likely be chosen to draw attention to the distinctive feature of a product.

Here are twenty quotations. Can you identify the speakers?

The first ten are taken from the Bible.

1. 'Speak, for your servant is listening.' [1 Sam 3.10]
2. 'Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews?' [Matt. 2.2]
3. 'This is really the prophet.' [John 7.40]
4. 'Sirs, what must I do to be saved?' [Acts 16.30]
5. 'Unless I put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe.' [John 20.25]
6. 'Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.' [John 11.32]

7. 'I need to be baptised by you, and do you come to me?'
[Matt. 3.14]
8. 'I have determined to make an end of all flesh, for the earth is filled with violence because of them. [Gen. 6.13]
9. 'Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?' [John 9.8]
10. 'Do not let anyone else know of this conversation, or you will die.'
[Jeremiah 38.24]
11. 'The lady's not for turning.'
12. 'Never interrupt your enemy when he is making a mistake.'
13. 'Always forgive your enemies; nothing annoys them so much.'
14. 'I took a speed reading course and read *War and Peace* in twenty minutes. It involves Russia.'
15. 'History is bunk.'
16. 'When seagulls follow the trawler, it's because they think sardines will be thrown into the sea.'
17. 'Live as if you were to die tomorrow; learn as if you were to live for ever.'
18. 'No man is an island.'
19. 'I refuse to join any club that would have me as a member.'
20. 'Genius is 1% inspiration, 99% perspiration.'

Here are ten mottos. To whom do they belong?

21. Who Dares Wins
22. *Carpe Diem* [Seize the day]
23. *Draco dormiens nunquam titillandus*
[Never tickle a sleeping dragon]
24. In God We Trust
25. *Vorsprung durch Technik* [Progress through technology]
26. Liberty, equality, fraternity
27. My Word is my Bond

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

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)

today), others paid scant attention to what was written. There were also various sects and philosophical systems which had some points of similarity with Christianity, so much so that some of these groups claimed to be Christians – although many Christians (Irenaeus among them) thought they were not. This was the difficult context in which Irenaeus provided formative leadership, helping to lay important foundations for future theologians.

In a world that predated the formation of the Bible, Irenaeus nevertheless argued for the primacy of the four gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John as texts of complementary importance; and in his writings he also made extensive use of the Jewish Scriptures (which became our Old Testament), showing how they related to the new world of Christianity. So he was a major contributor to the development of the Bible as we know it. He also contributed to the challenging debates on nature of Jesus, insisting on the unity of God the Father and God the Son, whilst at the same time giving positive value to Jesus's human nature on earth.

It is thought that Irenaeus was born in Smyrna (modern Izmir) in Asia Minor and so was a native Greek speaker, the language in which his works were originally written. But he studied in Rome and then became a presbyter in Lyon, one of the great Roman cities. He was in Rome on ecclesiastical business c.177, when there was a local persecution of Christians, in which Bishop Pothinus was martyred. Irenaeus succeeded him as bishop on his return in 178, We do not know how he died, or precisely when, but his dates are usually given as c.130-c. 200.

Joyce Hill

28. *Semper Fidelis* [Always faithful]

29. First, do no harm

30. *Citius, Altius, Fortius* [Faster, Higher, Stronger – Together]

Here are ten advertising slogans. To whom do they belong?

31. Just do it

32. A diamond is forever

33. It does exactly what it says on the tin

34. Finger Lickin' Good

35. Every Little Helps

36. The Happiest Place on Earth

37. Because You're Worth It

38. Probably the best beer in the world

39. Never Knowingly Undersold

40. There are some things money can't buy. For everything else, there's

Answers will appear in the next issue.

General Knowledge Questions for May: ANSWERS

1. Joseph. 2. Red Sea, 3. Samson, 4. He was taken up to heaven in a whirlwind, 5. Psalm 119, 6. Governor, 7. A dove. 8. Priscilla, 9. Alexander, 10. Letter to the Hebrews, 11. England and Scotland, 12. 1926, 13. Queen Elizabeth 2, 14. 1954, 15. Queen Victoria, 16. Emperor Napoleon, 17. Amsterdam, 18. Alan B Shepard, 19. Ayrton Senna, 20. Louis XIV, 21. 007, 22. Mercury, 23. Queens Park Rangers, 24. Four, 25. Ian Fleming, 26. Three, 27. Knee, 28. Bristol, 29. Tunisia, 30. Salvador Dali, 31. A symbol, a dot at the centre of a circle, 32. Marathon, 33. The Netherlands, 34. French Open, 35. Krone, 36. Helsinki, 37. Tin, 38. Doha, 39. Iago, 40. Constantinople.



This year MU members across the globe will be celebrating 150 years since the Mothers' Union was

founded in the small parish church of Old Alresford, Hampshire, by Mary Sumner, a vicar's wife with a bold vision. She believed that women, regardless of class or status, could come together in faith to support one another and strengthen family life within the Church.

From that single spark of an idea, a global movement was born – and Mothers' Union has grown to 4 million members across 84 countries. Members continue working to improve the lives of individuals, families, and communities around the world. At the heart of everything remains an unwavering belief that faith and compassion can transform lives.



Mothers' Union began in 1876. Mary Sumner, the wife of a rector in Hampshire, formed a group to support mothers from all backgrounds in bringing up their children. After delivering a speech in 1885 to the Portsmouth Church Congress, she inspired many women present to go back to their parishes and set up similar groups.

Over time, the groups that met as Mothers' Union became embedded in their communities. They forged strong links with local people and the Anglican Church. They worked to support one another and give a voice to disadvantaged women while addressing wider societal issues. Driven by Mary Sumner's passion for the role of women in bringing about a better society, the groups proved very popular.

Irenaeus

There is an entry in the Common Worship Calendar for 28 June which reads 'Irenaeus, Bishop of Lyon, Teacher of the Faith, c.200'. The date of c.200 shows that this feast-day honours one of the very early bishops of the church.

We don't know the exact dates of Irenaeus's life and we have very few biographical details, but his surviving writings justify the description of him as 'the first great Catholic theologian' (*Oxford Dictionary of the Christian Church*). It's important to remember that he was active at a time when Christianity was still not a publicly practised religion: it did not – and could not – go public until the Roman Emperor Constantine made space for it by his Edict of Milan in 312, which allowed all religions to be openly practised alongside the long-established Roman cults. Constantine tended to favour Christianity, but it was not until the end of the fourth century, under the Emperor Theodosius, that Christianity became the state religion of the Roman Empire. Furthermore, Irenaeus was thinking, teaching and writing at a time when the doctrines of Christianity, the understanding of the nature of Jesus, the concept of the Trinity, and ideas of what was orthodox and what was not, were still being worked out. And in those very early centuries there was not even a fixed Christian Bible, or even an agreed group of texts that would go on to become the books of the New Testament. Although all four gospels existed, other texts were also in circulation, some of which were not, in the end, included in the New Testament; and even the gospels were often not considered together as complementary texts, as we do today. Different groups fastened on one gospel as the definitive text and downplayed the others, and while some groups paid close attention to written texts (not always just one ones we use

heritage while helping to support the restoration project. More details will be announced once plans have been finalised.

Quiet Bells, Loud Progress

Although the tower at St John's is temporarily silent, there is certainly no shortage of activity behind the scenes. Every week brings another step forward in this exciting restoration project.

The bells may be away for now, but progress is ringing louder than ever.

Watch this space for further updates as we move closer to welcoming our newly restored bells home.

How You Can Help

While tremendous progress has been made, we are still actively raising funds to complete the restoration. The project represents a significant investment in the future of St John's, ensuring that our bells can continue to ring out across the parish for many generations to come.

We are pursuing a variety of fundraising initiatives and are extremely grateful for the generosity already shown by parishioners, local residents, and supporters of the project.

If you would like to contribute, donations can be made through our JustGiving page:

[St John's Bells Restoration Appeal](#)

Every contribution, large or small, helps bring us one step closer to hearing the bells ring again from St John's Tower.

The Bells Have Left the Building!

An Update from the Bellringers – May 2026

Visitors to St John's may have noticed something unusual recently: the bells have gone!

After months of planning, preparation and activity, Monday 27th April marked a major milestone in our bell restoration project. On that day, the last pieces of the ancient oak bell frame were removed from the tower. The historic frame, which had faithfully supported our bells for generations, has now been completely dismantled, lowered safely to the ground, and removed from the church.

What makes this achievement even more remarkable is the timescale. In just nine days of part-time volunteer work, our team successfully removed all six bells, all the associated ringing equipment, and the entire massive frame.

Standing at the bottom of the tower on day one, the task looked enormous. There were moments when the scale of the challenge seemed rather daunting, but our team rose magnificently to the occasion. Armed with determination, teamwork, and perhaps a generous supply of tea and biscuits, we tackled every obstacle that came our way.

Special thanks must go to our fantastic volunteer team: Neil McGarry, Paul Hart, Dave Roberts, Ali and John Sawyer, and our Tower Captain, Sid Lloyd. Their hard work, good humour, and willingness to squeeze into some very awkward spaces and balance in some scary places have made this stage of the project possible.

Off to the Bell Hospital

On 18th May, a haulage contractor, Henry Lee and Son, arrived to collect the bells and transport them to the famous Taylor's Bell Foundry in Loughborough.

The bells will remain there for the next four to five months while a brand-new frame is designed, manufactured, and tested. During their stay, the bells will also receive some careful attention from the foundry's experts.

Although the bells will remain in the key of G, each bell will be finely retuned so that its five internal harmonics are perfectly balanced. The whole ring of six bells will then be harmonised together, improving the overall sound while preserving the character of the bells we know and love.

If you've ever wondered how a bell is tuned, Taylor's Foundry has some fascinating videos online that show the process in action. If you would like to see how bells are tuned you can check out this short film from Taylor's foundry.

[S1 EP5. How to Tune a Bell at Taylors Bell Foundry](#)

Engineering the Future

The next stage of the project involves creating a completely new bell frame.

A member of Taylor's design team will soon visit St John's to carry out a detailed laser survey of the belfry. These measurements will allow them to design a custom-made steel and cast-iron frame, engineered specifically for our tower and our bells.

It will be a unique structure, built to modern standards while ensuring our bells can continue ringing for generations to come.

Borrowing Bells

Of course, church life doesn't stop simply because the bells are away.

On Saturday 23rd May, St John's hosted a wedding, and the happy couple wanted bells to celebrate their special day. As any bellringer will tell you, a wedding without bells is rather like a birthday without cake.

With our own bells temporarily absent, we had to get creative.

Thanks to the generosity of our neighbours at St Peter's, we were able to "borrow" their bells, without actually moving them! Instead, our ringers rang at St Peter's while Susan remained at St John's, armed with a mobile phone and ready to provide the all-important cues for when to start and stop.

The result? Perfectly timed wedding bells, a delighted wedding party, and yet another reminder that a little ingenuity can go a long way.

A Piece of Bellringing History

Although the old oak frame has now been removed from the tower, it hasn't all disappeared. The sections of timber are being carefully stored and preserved, as they represent an important part of St John's history.

We're currently exploring ways to transform some of this historic oak into special commemorative souvenirs. These unique pieces will give people the opportunity to own a small part of the church's bellringing