

JC Lytham Parish Office

The Parish Hall

Church Road

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



One family; two homes

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 – July 2026

Dear Friends

Bev, Sally (and yes, we mustn't forget our dog!) and I have just returned from a truly refreshing holiday in France. Nestled in the gentle beauty of Normandy, we discovered a peaceful campsite that offered more than simply a place to stay. Each spacious pitch was enclosed, which meant Sally could roam freely without a lead—a small detail, perhaps, but one that added to the sense of ease and rest that surrounded us throughout our stay.



The site was created and lovingly run by a Dutch couple, and many of our fellow campers were from the Netherlands, with others from Belgium, Switzerland, and Britain joining the community at different times. What struck us most profoundly, however, was not simply the scenery or the facilities, but the atmosphere—a genuine and heartfelt sense of community.

Twice a week, the hosts arranged a table d'hôte: a shared meal where guests could book a place and gather around one large table. Food, conversation, and laughter were shared generously. Although Bev and I often found ourselves unable to fully understand the conversation, we were never made to feel outside of it. Instead, we were warmly included. From time to time, someone would kindly translate a snippet of conversation and encourage us to join in. Thankfully, English often served as a helpful bridge, but it was the spirit of welcome—rather than the shared language—that truly brought us together.

There was something deeply moving about that experience of being welcomed despite difference. Different languages, cultures, and backgrounds didn't create barriers; rather, they became

## 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				



# Wyre Memorials Ltd

*Creating timeless tributes*

*"With over 400 headstones in stock at our Fleetwood showroom, our professional friendly staff can help you chose and design the perfect, everlasting memorial for your loved one"*



Showroom:-

62a, Preston Road, Lytham, FY8 5AE

**Tel: 01253 734889**

[www.wyrememorials.co.uk](http://www.wyrememorials.co.uk)

[wyrememorials@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:wyrememorials@hotmail.co.uk)

opportunities for kindness, patience, and connection.

It felt especially significant, then, that on our first Sunday back, the Gospel reading was from Matthew 10:40–42. In these verses, Jesus speaks to his disciples about the importance of welcome—about both offering it and receiving it. He teaches that in welcoming others, we are in fact welcoming him, and through him, welcoming God himself.

This passage invites us to reflect on how we practice hospitality in our own communities, particularly within our churches. Many churches take welcome seriously, and rightly so. There is often a sincere effort to greet newcomers, offer invitations, and create a sense of belonging. Yet, like all areas of our life together, there is always room to grow.

Our experience in France gently challenged me to think more deeply about the nature of our welcome. How do we include those who are different from us—those from other countries, other cultures, or other generations? How do we make space for those who may not speak the same language or share the same assumptions? Do our efforts at welcome extend beyond politeness into true inclusion?

What I appreciated most on that Normandy campsite was not simply that we were greeted, but that others actively made space for us. They went out of their way to include us in conversations, to bridge the gaps, and to ensure that we felt part of the community each day. It wasn't complicated or elaborate—it was simply genuine care expressed in small, consistent ways.

Jesus' words remind us that such acts of welcome carry spiritual significance. To receive the stranger is to receive Christ himself. That is both a humbling and an inspiring thought. It calls us to see each encounter as an opportunity for grace, each new face as a bearer of God's presence.

My hope is that the spirit we experienced on that campsite might shape and deepen the welcome we offer in our churches. That we might not only greet others warmly, but truly include them. That we might notice those on the margins and invite them into the circle. That we might be willing, like our fellow campers, to make a little extra effort to bridge the gap.

Because in doing so, we are not simply building community—we are participating in something holy.

And in that shared welcome, we may just find that we, too, are being welcomed by God.

Yours in Christ



### **Celebrating Ministry, Renewal and Looking Ahead**

June marked a very special milestone for one of our Ministry Team. Twenty-five years ago, Bev Wells was licensed as a Reader, as Licensed Lay Ministers were then known, by the Bishop of Sodor and Man, the Rt Revd Noel Jones, at St Peter's, Onchan, surrounded by family, friends and parishioners.

Over the past quarter of a century, Bev's ministry has touched many lives. She served as Children's Work Adviser on the Isle of Man before offering her Readership Ministry in Netherton, Maghull and Melling, and now here with us in Lytham. Throughout these years she has brought dedication, wisdom and compassion to every aspect of her ministry.

Many of us have benefited from Bev's thoughtful and powerful



# LYTHAM CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY Nursery School

- Excellent Learning Environment
- Wrap-Around Care Available
- Highly-Experienced Nursery Staff

For more information or to arrange a visit:  
Email: [nursery@lytham.lancs.sch.uk](mailto:nursery@lytham.lancs.sch.uk)  
Tel: 01253 736900

**A place for children to feel  
safe, secure, valued and loved**

Pain relief without medication

## Remedial Massage by Beth



Seated chair massage for the more mature.  
A specifically tailored massage to relieve symptoms  
of arthritis, aches, pains and stiffness.  
Boost circulation and lowers blood pressure.

Home visits.

Minimal undress needed

**Tel: 07740196276**



## CHRIS DANBY

MONUMENTAL SCULPTOR

**MEMORIALS OF DISTINCTION**

*New Memorials*

*Additional Inscriptions*

*Cleaned and Renovated*

1 Keilder Court, Lytham, FY8 4TN

Telephone: (01253) 735547

Mobile Number: 07999076534

[www.chrisdanbymemorials.co.uk](http://www.chrisdanbymemorials.co.uk)

email: [chris@chrisdanbymemorials.co.uk](mailto:chris@chrisdanbymemorials.co.uk)

preaching, while others have been inspired by the creative and imaginative acts of worship she has organised. Her commitment over the years to nurturing faith through Bible study groups has also helped many to deepen their understanding of scripture and their relationship with God.

As Bev celebrates this significant anniversary, we give thanks for her service and for the gifts she continues to share within the life of our church family at JC Lytham.

### **Summer of Renewal**

This summer also brings an important opportunity for refreshment and growth for Revd Emma, who is taking a sabbatical during the coming months. During this extended period away, she plans to visit friends and spend time learning from the experiences of other churches, particularly in the areas of mission and evangelism.

We wish Emma every blessing and pray that she, together with the boys, will return to us in September refreshed, encouraged and enriched by all she has experienced.

### **Save the Date: A Special Retirement Concert**

Plans are underway to mark Nick's retirement with a special concert at St Cuthbert's on the evening of Friday 2 October. The event is being kindly organised by Paul Dobie and will feature not only musicians with whom Paul regularly performs, as well as other musicians Nick has extended ministry to during his time in Lytham.

At Nick's request, proceeds from the evening will be shared between two very worthwhile causes: Laugh Live Love, a local organisation which provides care and hospitality to older people in Fylde; and to Lytham C of E Primary School, to help them purchase an altar to serve as a focal point for their daily acts of worship.

Further details will be available next month, but for now please make a note of the date in your diary and help spread the word among friends, neighbours and family members. It promises to be a memorable evening and a fitting celebration of ministry, community and service.

## PARISH COMMUNION

Our August Parish Communion  
will be on Sunday 5th August 2026  
at 10.15am in St Cuthbert's

## Coffee Mornings

Our Coffee Mornings this month are on  
Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> July 10am—12 noon at  
St John's

Saturday 25th July 10am—12 noon at  
St Cuthbert's

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



**D. HOLLOWELL & SONS**  
FUNERAL DIRECTORS



## SUPPORTING FAMILIES ON THE FYLDE COAST FOR OVER 30 YEARS

As an independent family funeral home we work around the clock to serve our local communities and ease the burden a loss can bring.

We recognise that funerals are unique and memorable occasions and we aim to tailor each service to your needs, from a traditional church affair to the more low key yet dignified 'Simple Alternative' option. Whatever your needs, we are here to assist and serve in every way.

## PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE



As independent funeral directors, we currently offer our advanced planning options through Golden Charter's Independent Plans.

**FUNERAL PLANNING AUTHORITY REGISTERED WITH PROTECTED PAYMENTS**

**Devonshire House Funeral Home** | Telephone 01253 355663  
287 Devonshire Road, Blackpool FY2 0TW

**Highfield Funeral Home** | Telephone 01253 408886  
497 Lytham Road, Blackpool FY4 1RE

**The Willows Funeral Home** | Telephone 01253 859159  
57 Fleetwood Road North, Thornton Cleveleys FY5 4AB

**The Oaks Funeral Home** | Telephone 01253 720998  
19 Wood Street, Lytham St Annes FY8 1QR

**website:** [www.fyldefunerals.co.uk](http://www.fyldefunerals.co.uk)

**email:** [info@fyldefunerals.co.uk](mailto:info@fyldefunerals.co.uk)



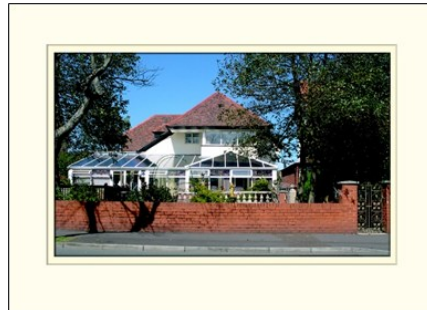
*Alistre Lodge Nursing & Care Home*  
*J Parker (Care) Ltd*

67-69 St Annes Road East ♦ Lytham St Annes ♦ Lancashire ♦ FY8 1UR  
Tel: 01253 726786 ♦ E-mail: [joan-parker@btconnect.com](mailto:joan-parker@btconnect.com)

**Booking enquires- Suzy Peters - Tel: 07595 628 211**  
**Website: [www.alistrelodge.co.uk](http://www.alistrelodge.co.uk)**

**Registered Manager: Mrs Toni Shaw**  
**Clinical Lead: Mrs Fiona Nicholls**

**Alistre Lodge Nursing & Care Home**



**Type of Registration: Care Home with Nursing**

Alistre Lodge Nursing & Care Home provides accommodation for persons who require support with personal & Clinical Care. The home accommodates up to 43 people. Please contact the management team for more information and to arrange a visit.

**Sharing Your Faith**

Have you ever frozen, or been stuck for words, when someone asks you about Jesus, your faith, and why you go to church? Do you wish you had the tools to tell them?

Do you have a heart for sharing the good news of Jesus with others?

Over the summer we are running an evangelism course written by a well known international evangelist, J John. The Natural Evangelism Course is spread over five sessions and we hope this will help us both as a parish and as individuals to more easily speak about our Christian faith.

We would love you to join us at the home of Linda and Dave Hyland, Church Wood, Church Drive, Lytham, FY8 5PX. on Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> July at 7pm.

No matter what your experience is please come along. If you can't make it, you are invited to pray for those attending as prayer is so important. So please pray, pray, pray. Otherwise we'll see you on the 15th.

**From the Registers—June**

Baptisms—31<sup>st</sup> May - Sonny Ross; 21<sup>st</sup> June - Thomas Hulme

Weddings—20<sup>th</sup> Olivia Ball and Anthony Lees

Funerals—3<sup>rd</sup> Margaret Phillips; 18<sup>th</sup> Peter Rodwell



## Lytham Club Day

Many of us enjoyed another wonderful Lytham Club Day weekend last month.

We especially thank Natalie Simpson who completed her year representing JC Lytham as Rose Queen over the last twelve months. We thank her family for their dedication during the year and to everyone who made up her retinue.

This year we shared a float with our school, which was on the theme 'All Things Bright and Beautiful' and won first prize in its category.

Thank you to children, families and parishioners who walked in the procession.

At the Songs of Praise in the marquee on the Sunday afternoon Nick was surprised and delighted to receive a bottle of wine and card as appreciation for the support he has given to Club Day during his time as Vicar with us. Nick prays that Club Day and the Songs of Praise continue to grow from strength to strength.

Links  View

## Mature Living at its best

In this luxurious St Annes development, we take care of all your daily hassles; property, maintenance and security issues, leaving you free to enjoy your life as you choose. We have a beautiful Lounge and Restaurant serving delicious meals prepared daily by our Links View chef, 24/7 on site Duty Manager support, guest suite, laundry room, small shop, sensory room and gym, hobby room and library all on site. We also have 2 lifts for easy access to all floors.



If you would like a tour, or would like to call in for a chat, please contact us on 01253 721678.



## Make *new friendships* at The Hamptons




The Hamptons, located off Heyhouses Lane in Lytham St Annes, is a warm, welcoming and sociable care home offering exceptional residential, general nursing, and residential dementia care.

A varied daily programme of wellbeing activities and events encourages residents to stay active, connected, and to build meaningful friendships.

With fully furnished en suite bedrooms, beautiful lounges, dining rooms, and landscaped gardens, we offer a safe and relaxed home-from-home environment.

If you're considering care for a loved one, we would love to show you what makes The Hamptons Care Home so special.

 The Hamptons Care Home, off Main Dr, Lytham St Annes, FY8 3FF



carehome.co.uk



Care homes making a difference.  
*Because we believe in more for our elders.*

Find out more at [lovettcare.co.uk](http://lovettcare.co.uk) or call The Hamptons on 01253 203440.

## Concerts at St Cuthberts

Following the success of hiring St Cuthbert's church out for the Russell Watson Concert in February the PCC has agreed to make the church available for hire once a month for concert's; the first being on Friday 10<sup>th</sup> July. To enable these to run smoothly we are looking for members of the congregation to volunteer for parts of these days to ensure that a representative from the church is always available to support the hirers and point them in the right direction if asked.

If you are willing to help in this way, or for more information, please contact Linda Hyland at [linda@tidemill.co.uk](mailto:linda@tidemill.co.uk) who has agreed to co-ordinate the concerts for us.

## School Leavers Service

Our year 6 children move on from Lytham CofE Primary School this month to continue their education at a secondary school. As part of their farewell they will be leading an act of worship at St Johns's at 9:30am on Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> July.

During the service we will once again be presenting each of them with a bible from the parish as a farewell gift.

The Leavers Service is open to everyone and we hope members of the congregation will accept this invitation and come along to support the school.

LUMOS

# A Coldplay Candlelight Experience

an unforgettable evening of music in an enchanting  
indoor setting

St Cuthbert's Church, Church Rd, Lytham,  
Lytham Saint Annes FY8 5QL  
Friday 10th July  
2 Sittings: 7-8pm | 9-10pm



Book tickets now!  
[www.lumos-experiences.com](http://www.lumos-experiences.com)



## Windmill Lodge

Residential & Nursing Care Home



Windmill Lodge is a luxury care home in Lytham St. Annes, providing compassionate care in a warm, safe and secure environment.

The purpose built home also offers 'The Nolan Day Care Centre' for those requiring extra support and companionship but are not ready to move into full-time care.

### Providing Compassionate Care



Residential



Residential  
Dementia Care



General  
Nursing



Dementia  
Nursing Care



Windmill Lodge  
Nolan Day Care Centre

01253 800 800

[www.windmilllodge.co.uk](http://www.windmilllodge.co.uk)

Wilding's Lane, Lytham St Annes, FY8 3RJ



athena  
Healthcare Group

Are you:-  
- overtaxed by self assessment?  
- challenged by accounting for paperwork?  
- looking to find the will for probate?

Contact Martin Gunson  
by email or telephone

*Regulated for a range of investment business activities, and authorised to carry out the reserved legal activity of non-contentious probate in England and Wales by the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England & Wales.*

*Member of the ICAEW Practice Assurance Scheme.*



PROVIDING A PERSONAL  
PROFESSIONAL SERVICE  
SINCE 1984

**Martin Edward**  
**GUNSON**  
CHARTERED ACCOUNTANT

Martin E. Gunson  
PGDip (Dunelm), FCA., FRSA, FISM, FCMI,  
FFA, FIPA, FFTA, FIAB.

Bank House  
9 Dicconson Terrace  
Lytham  
Lytham St. Anne's  
Lancashire, FY8 5JY

(01253) 739 611

(07767) 806 177

www.martingunson.co.uk  
accountant@martingunson.co.uk

## Revamp Home Services

where we transform your house into a masterpiece!

Whether it's gardening, jet washing, joinery, plastering,  
decorating, or roofing, we tackle  
all things home maintenance with flair!

As a fully insured father and son team,  
we promise no job is too small for our magic touch.

Call Paul at 07564805818 or Jake at 07592958751  
for a free quote.

Let's make your home the talk of the town!

## Bernard of Clairvaux and the Cistercians

Last month, prompted by the Feast of St Benedict on 11 July, I wrote about the origins of monasticism and how Benedict's Rule of Life gradually came to be *the* monastic Rule in early medieval western Christendom. The complete dominance of this Rule, written in the sixth century, can be dated to the early ninth century and came about with the support of Charlemagne. Before that, the monasteries of the Western Church followed many different Rules: some used Benedict's, some used often fairly similar Rules written by others, and many used individual Rules drawn up by the founding abbot of the particular monastery, which often brought together elements from these earlier sources and from mixed Rules that they were familiar with in the monasteries of their day.

By the end of the eleventh century, however, there were those who thought that Benedictine monasticism needed to be reformed, to go back to what they saw as its purer and more austere ideals, and so the Cistercian Order was founded. It still followed the Benedictine Rule, but more strictly, with a greater degree of geographical withdrawal; it laid more stress on manual labour; and, although it spread across Western Europe, it remained centralised in its governance, with Provinces owing allegiance to the Mother House. With the Cistercians we also see the development of a standardised layout of monastic buildings, familiar to us from the great Cistercian ruins of England such as Rievaulx and Fountains. This powerful centralisation and standardisation had not been characteristic of Benedictine monasteries up to this date. Of course, the Cistercians did not supplant the existing Benedictines, and were always quick to say that they were Benedictines themselves, but they rapidly became the most popular, prosperous and powerful Order, even absorbing some

smaller Orders and individual monasteries that attempted similar reform around this time.

Bernard of Clairvaux, whose feast-day we keep on 20 August, was not the founder of the Cistercians, but he was by far the most influential of the Order's early leaders. The actual founders were monks from the Benedictine Abbey of Molesme, led by Robert. In 1098 they established the first Cistercian monastery at Cîteaux (Latin Cisterium, hence Cistercian) near Dijon. This was a modest enterprise at first and it was not until the time of their third abbot, an Englishman named Stephen, who was abbot from 1109 to 1134, that the new monastic house really began to flourish and plan to establish new foundations. Bernard, born of noble parents nearby, entered Cîteaux in 1113, along with thirty other young Burgundian noblemen, including his own brothers. Only two years later, Abbot Stephen directed him to choose a place for a new monastery. Bernard chose Clairvaux which, under his remarkable leadership, became one of the most influential religious houses in Europe. It was largely because of him — ascetic, mystical, learned, outspoken, sometimes obstinate, prolific in his writing and preaching, and with the ability to build connections within secular and ecclesiastical society — that the Cistercian Order spread dramatically throughout western Europe. In 1145 a Cistercian monk and former pupil of Bernard was even elected Pope, and it was this Pope, Eugenius III, who announced the Second Crusade (1147-49). It turned out to be a failure, but its initial popularity was largely driven by Bernard's powerful preaching, and its sorry outcome was a great disappointment to him. Bernard died in 1153 and was canonized in 1174. He was created a Doctor of the Church in 1830.

*Joyce Hill*

## 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.mellors@fyldescouts.org.uk">lynne.mellors@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 – 07875 590 724
<b>Thursday</b>	5pm-6pm	Rainbows (term time)
	6.30 -7.30pm	Brownies (term time)

Our aim is to create a small range of unique souvenirs, each containing a genuine piece of St John's bellringing heritage. We hope to share more details soon about how these items can be obtained. Proceeds from their sale will help support the restoration project.

### **How You Can Help**

Although tremendous progress has been made, we are still actively raising funds to complete the restoration.


This 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 deeply 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 in church. Cash donations are welcome, and card donations can be made using the 'Tap & Go' machine at the back of church (please ask a member of the church team to select the Bell Fund option).

It's also possible to contribute through our JustGiving page, here's a link:

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

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

"The bells may be away, but with your support they'll soon be back—restored, protected and sounding better than ever." 

### **Quiz Questions for July—Race Across the World**

The world is a book, and those who do not travel read only one page.

- **Saint Augustine**

Travel, we are told, broadens the mind. It is certainly true that it is an adventure which can enrich life in many ways.

First, it provides opportunities to explore new destinations each with their own features and atmospheres. The most popular places to visit have usually acquired their reputation for good reasons. Everywhere across the globe there are tourist attractions waiting to be seen, be it the landscapes of the Swiss Alps, the bustling life of foreign cities or the ancient ruins of Machu Picchu. Travellers can immerse themselves in new cultures, traditions and languages, thereby broadening their perspectives.

Second, travel opens up pleasure and excitement via new experiences. From tasting cuisines previously unavailable to viewing wonders of architecture, memories which will last for a lifetime can be created. There can be challenges to be overcome: navigating new routes or tackling language barriers can teach lessons in patience and adaptability.

Third, at a basic human level, travel offers an often much-needed relief from the monotony of everyday routines, rejuvenating mind and body. Both a weekend away or an extended journey to a distant place are events to anticipate, sparking different possibilities. Either of these can open a door to reconnecting with nature, finding inner peace and serenity.

Essentially, travel is not all about reaching a destination. Like life itself, it's about embracing the journey and its experiences.

Here are forty questions which will embrace your world-awareness,

geography and general knowledge.

1. In which English county is the Alton Towers theme park?
2. The Waldorf-Astoria, The Ritz and Claridge's are famous .....?
3. Which is the largest of the Caribbean islands?
4. Which is the largest country in Africa? ... and the smallest?
5. Which Scottish place of worship features in the film of Dan Brown's book *The Da Vinci Code*?
6. Who were the first two men to reach the summit of Mount Everest in Nepal?
7. Where are the Callanish stones?
8. What is the Aboriginal name for Ayers Rock in Australia?
9. What is the meaning of the word *safari* in Swahili?
10. Which is the only US state to have a one syllable name?
11. Hazard a guess: How many churches are there on Antarctica?
12. Which is the only one of the seven Ancient Wonders of the World which archaeologists have been unable to locate?
13. Between which two cities did the original Orient Express travel?
14. What is the common name for the line of latitude 23.5° north of the Equator?
15. The Golden Temple at Amritsar is the holiest site of which religion?
16. Double Gloucester cheese can roll quickly, down which hill?
17. Which three colours feature on the flag of Germany?
18. Which mountain range separates Chile from Argentina?
19. Which English cathedral has three spires known as *The Ladies of the Vale*?
20. How many lakes are there in the English Lake District?
21. Which American city's airport has the code JFK?
22. Which famous cocktail originated in Singapore's Raffles Hotel?
23. By land area, which is the largest state in the USA?

maintenance requirements and extending their lifespan for many years to come.

### **Preparing for the Return of the Bells**

There is still plenty to do before the new frame arrives, which is expected later in the year.

Alongside general maintenance and tidying work in the tower, we have also ordered a new access ladder between the ringing room and belfry. This will provide safer access and, we hope, will be installed before major work on the new frame begins.

### **Keeping the Bells Ringing**

Although our own bells are temporarily absent, bellringing activity continues.

Last month, our friends at St Peter's kindly allowed us to ring their bells for a wedding at St John's. Despite the extra planning required, everything went smoothly and the wedding party were delighted to hear bells ringing out in celebration of their special day.

We have another wedding at St John's in August. This time, a group of our ringers will provide music using handbells inside the church. To prepare, we have begun incorporating handbell ringing into our regular Wednesday evening practices at St Cuthbert's.

### **A Piece of Bellringing History**

Work is also continuing on a very special fundraising project.

As mentioned previously, we are exploring ways to transform some of the historic oak from the old bell frame into commemorative keepsakes. Several prototype items have already been produced and we are extremely pleased with the results.

to be able to share some images of the computer models in a future update.

### **Protecting the Bells for the Future**

Nathan also brought with him a large roll of specialist "Galebreaker" mesh.

This heritage-approved material is widely used in church towers to provide weather protection while still allowing essential airflow. Installed behind the belfry louvres, it helps keep out driving rain, strong winds and birds without affecting ventilation.

Over the coming weeks, some of our volunteers will be busy manufacturing screens using tantalised timber for the frames and cutting the Galebreaker mesh to fit. Once constructed the volunteers will be fitting the mesh behind the tower louvres. Once installed, they will be completely invisible from outside the church, but their impact will be significant.

For many years, rain blowing through the louvres has caused problems in the tower. The bells sit at louvre level, meaning that wind-driven rain, and even salt carried on our prevailing westerly winds, can reach the bells and their fittings. Water has frequently cascaded down the tower walls and, on more than one occasion, soaked the ringing room below.

Some ringers have even experienced the consequences of a rather surprising phenomenon of a bell left left in the 'up' position during stormy weather filling with rainwater, only to empty itself dramatically through the ringing-room ceiling when next rung, soaking the unsuspecting ringer!

The new screens will help protect the restored bells, their fittings and the new frame from weather damage and bird droppings, reducing

24. Which is the only country in the world not to have a square or rectangular flag? What shape is this flag?
25. Which landlocked sea is 422 metres below sea level?
26. In which Greek city would you find the Acropolis Museum?
27. Where would you find the Peak Tram, one of the world's oldest funicular railways?
28. YYC, YVR and YYZ are codes for airports in which country?
29. Name the famous art museum in the Winter Palace at Saint Petersburg.
30. Between which two Scottish towns will you find *The Kelpies*?
31. Name Cornwall's open-air theatre built into the cliffs, four miles from Lands End.
32. In which city would you find the *Burj Khalifa*?
33. Which lake is referred to as *The jewel of the Italian lakes*?
34. Emperor Naruhito currently rules over which country?
35. On which TV programme do we see a lot of Ardrross Castle?
36. Which capital city has a name that means *Good Airs* in English?
37. Name the two South American countries which are land-locked.
38. Which country's dining delicacies include souvlaki and moussaka?
39. Where is *Up Helly Aa* celebrated each year on the last Tuesday in January?
40. Which village in North Lancashire holds an annual Scarecrow Festival each year in May?

[One year, I left my coat in the church hall. Twelve months later, I found it ... on a scarecrow!]

I've just been on the trip of a lifetime. Never again!

Time for a holiday to Graceland? It's now or never.

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

### **Quiz Questions for June - Don't quote me! - ANSWERS**

1. Samuel, 2. The Wise Men, 3. Some in the crowd, 4. Jailer, 5. Thomas, 6. Mary, sister of Lazarus, 7. John the Baptist, 8. God to Noah, 9. Neighbours and those who had seen him before, 10. Zedekiah, 11. Margaret Thatcher, 12. Napoleon, 13. Oscar Wilde, 14. Woody Allen, 15. Henry Ford, 16. Eric Cantona, 17. Mohandas Gandhi, 18. John Donne, 19. Groucho Marx, 20. Thomas Edison, 21. Special Air Service, 22. Horace, Roman poet, 23. Hogwarts School, 24. United States, 25. Audi, 26. France, 27. London Stock Exchange, 28. US Marine Corps, 29. Hippocratic tradition, 30. The Olympic Games, 31. Nike, 32. De Beers, 33. Ronseal, 34. Kentucky Fried Chicken, 35. Tesco, 36. Disney, 37. L'Oréal, 38. Carlsberg, 39. John Lewis, 40. MasterCard.

### **An Update from the Bellringers – June 2026**

#### **The Bells Are Away, But Progress Rings On!**

The bell tower at St John's has been unusually quiet this month but behind the scenes, exciting progress continues as our bells undergo their transformation at Taylor's Bell Foundry.

Since leaving St John's on 18 May, the bells have safely arrived at the foundry, where they were carefully inspected for any damage before work began. Their old headstocks and resin pads have now been removed, and the bells have been thoroughly cleaned using a sandblasting process. The difference is remarkable, with decades of grime removed to reveal the beautiful metal beneath.

The sandblasting was completed on the 8th of June, and the bells are now patiently waiting their turn on the tuning machine. We hope

many of you enjoyed the video shared via a YouTube link last month showing how Taylor's tune church bells, a fascinating process that combines centuries of tradition with modern engineering.



"The bells at Taylor's Foundry before and after sandblasting."

#### **A High-Tech Visit to the Belfry**

While the bells themselves are away, there has still been some activity in the tower.

On the 9th of June, Nathan, one of Taylor's design engineers, visited St John's to carry out detailed measurements of the belfry and ringing room. Armed with laser measuring equipment and a remarkable 3D scanning device, he captured every part of the space in extraordinary detail.

The information gathered will be used to design the new bell frame that will support the restored bells for generations to come. We hope