

JC Lytham Parish Office

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

The Vicar's Day off is Friday and Emma works Sunday to Wednesday.  
If you need urgent support on a Friday, please contact Fiona in the office who will be able to put you in touch with someone who can help.

Website: [www.jclytham.church](http://www.jclytham.church)

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One family; two homes

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



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PARISH MAGAZINE – September 2026

Dear Friends

I have often heard from clergy that they count down to retirement by the number of Parish Magazines they have left to write for. I must say I have not found that to be the case and have normally enjoyed writing my monthly letter.



However this is my penultimate magazine and I have been reflecting on some of the highlights of my ministry over the last 35 years.

Following five years of part time and full time training in Durham I was ordained Deacon in Blackburn Cathedral in 1991 at the age of 31, and was ordained Priest the following year. At that time it was usual to serve two curacies and it was the second of these which took the family and I to the Isle of Man. The years spent on the island were very formative especially when I was appointed as the Diocesan Decade of Evangelism Officer, prior to that mission and evangelism did not seem to have been a priority for the church. Today it is definitely recognised as fundamental in parish ministry and my years as Diocesan Missioner challenged and supported me to develop fresh gifts.

After the Isle of Man we moved to the Liverpool Diocese and twice alongside parish ministry I became an Area Dean, a role which again challenged me to develop my ministry, becoming much more aware of diocesan structures and the importance of clergy supporting each other. So often in the past clergy had been so parochial and protective of their parish and during my time as an Area Dean I found clergy became much more supportive of each other.

Over the past 35 years the church has changed position on a number

## 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<br>BCP<br>Communion | St Cuthbert                   | St John                           | St Cuthbert                           | St John                           | St Cuthbert                           |
| 10:15am<br>Morning Service | Parish<br>Communion           | Holy<br>Communion<br>St John      | Holy<br>Communion<br>Both<br>churches | Holy<br>Communion<br>St Cuthbert  | Holy<br>Communion<br>Both<br>churches |
|                            |                               | All Age<br>Service<br>St Cuthbert |                                       | Service of the<br>Word<br>St John |                                       |
| 11am<br>Communion          | Each Wednesday at St Cuthbert |                                   |                                       |                                   |                                       |



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of things, the fresh positions I generally welcome. It was only after I became a Priest that women were accepted into the priesthood. In those days divorce was regarded as also an unforgivable sin, thankfully today the Church of England is much more supportive of people marrying in church after their previous marriage ended in divorce.

At present the church is wrestling with issues surrounding sexuality and same sex relationships, I wonder how long it will be before another issues overtakes it?

My years in ordained ministry have been a real privilege and I have loved seeing people come to faith, offering themselves for further lay or ordained ministry and training and supporting curates as they began their ordained lives.

Although I will no longer be an Incumbent I look forward to serving God and His church into the future and thank Him for the privilege of serving him in Lytham and all the other parishes where I have been called.

Yours in Christ



# Celebration Weekend

Friday 2nd Oct @ 7.00pm Tickets £10

## Musical Variety Show

in St Cuthbert's Church

proceeds to Laugh Live Love and Lytham CE School

Saturday 3rd Oct 10am - 3pm

## Family Fun Day

at the Parish Hall

Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> Oct @ 10.15am

## Parish Communion & Harvest Festival

in St Cuthbert's Church

Sunday 4th Oct @ 12.15pm Tickets £9

## Nick's Retirement Meal

in the Parish Hall



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## **Mission Weekend**

Over the weekend on 2<sup>nd</sup> – 4<sup>th</sup> October we are having a Parish Mission, something many parishes are doing this autumn as part of the Diocesan Centenary Celebrations. The weekend will include our Harvest Festival, Nick's last Sunday with us as he retires and the Commissioning of Alex Walmsley as an ALM (Authorised Lay Minister).

On the Friday evening of the 2nd October there is a Musical Variety Show, at St Cuthbert's, with confirmed artists including Paul Dobie, Kerry Rogers and James Edgar and more surprise guests. Tickets are £10 payable on the door, and proceeds will, at Nick's request, be shared between Laugh Live Love community organisation and Lytham CofE Primary School (who hope to buy an Altar as a focal point for their daily worship). There will also be a raffle and light refreshments.

Everyone is invited to a Family Fun Day on the Saturday which will be in and around the Parish Hall from 10am until 3pm.

On Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> our Parish Communion and Harvest Festival Service is at 10:15am at St Cuthbert's with children from our school taking part.

The service is followed by Nick's Retirement Do in the Parish Hall, tickets are available at £9 adults and £5 under 14th and are now available from each church. The menu is as follows : Lasagna followed by Tirimasu or Creamy Honey and Mustard Chicken followed by Sticky Toffee Pudding or a vegetarian option of Macaroni Cheese followed by either dessert above.

Please get these dates in your diary and begin to invite your family and friends and let's have a celebration weekend to remember.

## Mothers' Union

We begin our Autumn Session on Wednesday, 10th September at 2.30pm in St Cuthbert's when we welcome Greg Anderton of Lytham Hall Garden Hub.

Greg, will as usual, give a very a interesting talk on Autumn Containers and bring along lovely plants for us to purchase.

All welcome.

## PARISH COMMUNION

Our September Parish Communion  
will be on Sunday 6th September 2026  
at 10.15am in St John's

## PARISH COMMUNION AND HARVEST FESTIVAL

Will be on Sunday 4th October 2026  
10.15am in St Cuthbert's

**Followed by Nick's Retirement Do**  
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**From the Registers—July/August**

**Baptisms**

July—26<sup>th</sup> Harrison David Starkie

August—9<sup>th</sup> Jacob Christopher Jakins; 23<sup>rd</sup> Luca Stephen Oakes; Celia Davidson

**Funerals**

July – 27<sup>th</sup> Roger Hughes; 28<sup>th</sup> Ann Caddy

August—5<sup>th</sup> Phillip Sleight; 10<sup>th</sup> John Thacker; 14<sup>th</sup> Nicholas Parsons

**Coffee Mornings**

12th September at St John's 10am—12noon  
and  
26th September at St Cuthbert's 10am-12noon

We look forward to welcoming you back after  
the August break



## Confirmation : A Special Step in Faith

This September, JC Lytham will have the privilege of welcoming Bishop Jill, Bishop of Lancaster, to St Cuthbert's for our service of Confirmation on Sunday 27th September at 2.00pm.

Confirmation is an important milestone in the Christian journey. It is an opportunity to publicly affirm the promises that were made at Baptism and to make a personal commitment to following Christ. During the service, those being confirmed receive the Bishop's prayer and blessing, asking the Holy Spirit to strengthen and guide them in their faith.

This year, we are delighted to offer Confirmation preparation not only to children in Year 6 at Lytham C of E Primary School, but also to any young people in Year 6 or above who are connected with our churches. The invitation is equally open to adults who have not yet been confirmed, whether they were baptised as children or more recently.

Many people find that Confirmation marks a significant moment in their spiritual life, providing an opportunity to explore faith more deeply and become more involved in the life and worship of the Church.

If you have ever wondered whether Confirmation might be the next step for you, why not find out more? There is no obligation, simply an opportunity to ask questions and explore what it means.

For further information, or if you would like to be confirmed, please speak to Nick or Emma.

We look forward to sharing this joyful occasion with our church family and celebrating those who choose to take this important step in their faith journey.



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## Our Parish Magazine

A big THANK YOU to Bev, who has edited and typeset our Parish Magazine for nine years, and Richard and Jackie who have looked after it's printing.

With Nick's immanent retirement they all feel it is time to hand on the baton, and to enable the magazine to continue we are looking for people to come forward and take over these important roles.

The editing and typesetting role involves collating articles, ensuring future events are introduced, checking if there are things occurring in the diocese which people may be interested in and ensuring the articles are set out in a readable and attractive manner. The completed edition then needs forwarding to the person printing the magazine and arrange for it to be uploaded onto our website. The advertisements are paid for and managed through the Parish Office.

The printing of the magazine can be done on the photocopier in the Parish Office.

We would normally aim for the magazine to be available in both churches for the last Sunday of each month, which means articles etc need to be available before the Monday of that week to give the person chance to get the magazine ready for printing on the Wednesday and delivered to the churches on the Saturday.

If you think you could assist the parish ministry in this way please speak to either Bev, Nick, Emma or a Churchwarden for more information.

## Quiz Questions for September: Food and Drink

‘Tis an ill cook that cannot lick his own fingers’

[Romeo & Juliet, Act 2, Scene 3]

Food provides the energy we need to function and nutrients to support growth and repair. Our meals can include a mix of proteins such as fish and chicken, carbohydrates like potatoes and rice, plus fruit and vegetables. Each type of food plays a role in keeping us healthy, so a balanced diet is essential to ensure our bodies get everything they need. Sharing meals is a main part of family life. It provides time spent together, discussing the events of the day and enjoying each other’s company. Food can also introduce us to different cultures through new tastes and dishes.

‘Good wine is a good, familiar creature, if it be well used’

[Othello, Act 2, Scene 3]

Water comprises about 60% of the human body and is crucial for maintaining fluid balance. Drinking fluids, especially water, is essential for hydration, the correct functioning of our organs and overall health. Staying hydrated supports physical performance especially when temperatures are high, preventing dizziness and fatigue. Even mild dehydration can impair concentration, memory and mood. It is well known that alcohol in excess can have harmful effects on bodily systems.

Sadly, access to clean drinking water remains a challenge for many people worldwide. Population growth and climate change strain freshwater resources. Water-efficient technologies and conservation should ensure a more equitable availability of clean water.

Here are forty clues – cryptic, of course – solved by finding the names of items of food and drink. Enjoy!



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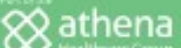
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1. A motto cleverly disguised [6]
2. Is this made in reverse? [4]
3. In the centre, Steven is on camera [7]
4. Sounds as if a golfer could use this for support [3]
5. Food to gorge on [7,6]
6. Brea\_ - a biscuit, maybe? [10]
7. Pops up into Aston Villa [5]
8. A jug for winners of golf's Open Championship? [6]
9. Free boats differently [5,4]
10. Bad man's gnasher can manage this [7,3,4]
11. This French dynasty takes the biscuit [7]
12. Limitlessly entwined [4]
13. Wise men travel round America [8]
14. You'll find these on your calendar [5]
15. Was this served at Waterloo? [4,10]
16. Drink from endless platter [5]
17. Mr Brush or Mr Fawlt? [5]
18. You may find her attending at a wedding [4,2,6]
19. The French think this is doubly good [6]
20. Demon ale drunk [8]
21. Surprisingly, this gives awful recoil [11]
22. This is nothing significant [6]
23. Mobile phone falling to pieces [10,7]
24. Change map around [9]
25. Mac for a young princess [5,9]
26. On hearing, this could be the Gulf Stream [7]
27. It's in! Andy Murray lobs terrific winner [7]
28. Mixed up re a jug on ice [6,5]
29. Can be found inside a large Latin textbook [7]
30. Terrible wash, all mixed up [5,7]

31. This could be a western or a junction [9]
32. They enjoyed top ten hits in the 1970s [3,9]
33. This herb helps you remember, according to Shakespeare  
[Hamlet, Act 4, Scene 5] [8]
34. Rich eat OK round here [9]
35. A place famous for its stone [5]
36. Any one of these will suffice in bad weather [4]
37. Edwina gets grumpy initially [3]
38. Smile for the photographer, please [6]
39. Players rearranged to produce this result [7]
40. Reportedly, this should be a day of rest [6]

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

### **Quiz Questions for August: A Last Resort: ANSWERS**

1. Torquay, 2. Blackpool, 3. Llandudno, 4. Skegness, 5. Whitby,
6. Norfolk, 7. Devon, 8. Essex, 9. Kent, 10. East Sussex, 11. Cumbria,
12. Suffolk, 13. Skegness, 14. Westward Ho!, 15. False: 75 miles is the distance,
16. Robin Hood's Bay, 17. Pontins, 18. Clevedon Pier,
19. Sanditon. 20. Chariots of Fire, 21. Swansea, 22. Clovelly,
23. St Ives, 24. Bamburgh, 25. Torquay, 26. Edinburgh, 27. Penzance,
28. Morecambe, 29. Southend-on-Sea, 30. Weymouth,
31. Broadstairs, 32. Amy Johnson, 33. Padstow, 34. Cromer,
35. Llandudno, 36. Bournemouth, 37. Donald McGill, 38. Brighton,
39. True, 40. Aviktas.

### **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**

|                  |                |                                                                                           |
|------------------|----------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
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| <b>Tuesday</b>   | 9am-3pm        | Tumble Tots<br><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 –<br>07875 590 724                                                   |
| <b>Thursday</b>  | 5pm-6pm        | Rainbows (term time)                                                                      |
|                  | 6.30 -7.30pm   | Brownies (term time)                                                                      |

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## An Update from the Bellringers – August 2026

### From Oak Frame to Candle Blocks: A Remarkable Fundraising Success

A few weeks ago, we announced the sale of a rather special souvenir candle blocks made from the original 151-year-old oak bell frame from St. John's.

Our ambitious plan was to make 100 blocks. It was only when we actually started making them that we discovered quite how much time, care and effort goes into producing each one! At one point, we wondered whether making 100 might have been a little too ambitious and then we had the equally daunting thought: would we actually be able to sell them all?

As it turned out, we needn't have worried! Not only did we manage to make all 100, but they sold like the proverbial "hot cakes". Demand was so great that we have unfortunately had to disappoint some people by telling them that every single block had gone and that there would be no more.

The candle blocks were offered in return for a voluntary donation, with a suggested minimum donation of £15. We were delighted by the generosity of everyone who supported the scheme, with many people donating considerably more than the suggested amount. In total, the candle blocks have raised **more than £1,500 for the Bell Fund**.

We have also received some additional donations through our Just-Giving page following the recent articles about the bell project in the *Lytham St Annes Express* and the *Gazette*. This has helped take our fundraising total to around **£77,000**.

Although this is a fantastic achievement, our fundraising work is not over yet. We still need to raise more to meet the full cost of the project, so we will continue looking for ways to add to the Bell Fund. There will be no more candle blocks, but there may be other souvenirs made from the historic oak in the future. If we decide to produce anything else, we will announce it.

### **Progress at the Foundry**

Meanwhile, there has been plenty of progress with the bells themselves. All six bells have now completed their **refurbishment and retuning** at Taylor's Bell Foundry.

The bells are looking incredibly smart after their work, and we have even captured a lovely video of them being chimed following their retuning. It is quite a moment to hear these historic bells sounding so good after their time away from St. John's and hopefully it won't be too much longer before we can ring them in the tower.

The number two bell has now begun its next important stage and is on its way to the engraver, where the new inscription for **Janet Lloyd** will be added. We hope to have some photographs soon showing the inscription being carefully set out on the bell.

### **Preparing the Belfry**

Back at St. John's, work has also been taking place to prepare the belfry for the bells' eventual return.

The installation of environmental protection in the louvre alcoves has now been completed. This was a much bigger job than it might sound and involved two of our volunteers working for around **35 hours over four separate days**.

Their work will help protect the belfry and the bells from the effects of the elements and is another important part of preparing St. John's for the return of its six bells.

There is still plenty to do before the project is complete, but with the fundraising total now approaching £77,000, all six bells refurbished and retuned, and work progressing in the belfry, we are getting ever closer to the day when the bells can return home and once again ring out over Lytham.