



TWO HOMES; ONE FAMILY.

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



PARISH MAGAZINE – August 2025

Dear Friends

Every year on Strictly Come Dancing we hear of the contestants going on journeys. How taking part in the programme has consumed their lives and brought about change in them through their experience. Each one of us goes on a journey throughout our lives, we often see our lives take us to places we never expected, but also often touching other people's lives for good too.



Whilst Bev and I were away earlier in the year we met up with two of my old friends from my early college days. The first lived down the corridor from me in the Hall of Residence and we often shared a Gaelic Coffee together in the evening. As he completed his degree he progressed to train as a teacher, expecting to develop a career as a geography teacher, but quickly realised teaching in the school was not for him. Eventually he became a trainer and facilitator around IT development and even wrote a book. His life went on quite a journey, but proved the value of being open to fresh directions.

The second friend was a fellow dance student. She completed the dance theatre course with me in 1981 and within a week was on a plane to Italy to join a dance company there. She danced professionally for over a decade and then began to teach English as a second language in Italy. Eventually she returned to England to raise her family, becoming the lead at a nursery school, even gaining a national award. In her 60's she has returned to her first love and is teaching adults to dance.

One question she asked me over coffee was how had I become a vicar having said more than once at college that I would never 'be a vicar like my dad'. I was able to talk about the call God placed on my

life and how eventually being ordained proved to have been right for me.

Reflecting on these opportunities to meet and catch up with old friends emphasized to me that life is indeed a journey. We can end up in different places, doing different things to what we wanted when we were younger and had planned for and dreamt of. As we journey though we touch other people and hopefully influence them for good as both these friends have, I certainly hope I have.

As we read the Gospel and encounter Jesus, we hear of a man who went on an incredible journey and by his life influenced, and continues to impact, many lives today. His life fulfilled prophecies and seemingly unfolded as he expected, even if it was not quite how he would humanly have wished.

Jesus' life has affected so many lives over the past 2000 years, affected them for good. Let us ensure our lives affect people for good too and be prepared to talk about how our faith has been part of that journey.

Yours in Christ

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'M. Wells', with a stylized flourish at the end.

PARISH COMMUNION

Our next Parish Communion is on
Sunday 3rd August at 10:15am at St John's

Anchored in Faith

Please remember that on the 11th September we will be celebrating the 175th Anniversary of the Consecration of St John the Divine Lytham, the first of daughter church of St Cuthbert's. To mark the day the Bishop of Blackburn will be with us in the evening to preside and preach at a special Anniversary Eucharist.

This will begin a weekend of mission called 'Anchored in Faith' and we need your help to invite as many people as possible to a range of events over the weekend.

The timetable of events we are looking to arrange are as follows:

Friday 12 th	Daytime	Visits to Lytham CofE and Hall Park Schools
	Evening	A Concert with Lytham Community Choir and friends at St Cuthbert's
Sat 13th	Morning	A 'Sports Breakfast' at Green Drive Golf Club
	Daytime	Family Activities at St John's
		Both churches will be open through the day participating in Heritage Week
Sunday 14 th	Morning	A Celebration Service at St Cuthbert's

A Mission is always an exciting time and we need to underpin it with your persistent prayer to ensure the mission speaks to as many people as possible about God's love for them at an event which sparks there interest.

Anchored in Faith prayer:

Heavenly Father we pray for our Mission 'Anchored in Faith'. Give us hearts full of love and lives centred on Jesus Christ, so our words and actions preparing, during and following this Mission may present Jesus' love afresh to our town. Place on our hearts five people we especially wish to invite to hear about you so those few days will change lives and bring others into your family. We offer our prayer before you in Christ's name. Amen

PRESENTED BY JC LYTHAM

ANCHORED IN FAITH

11-14TH SEPTEMBER 2025
CELEBRATING 175 YEARS OF ST JOHN THE DIVINE

**THUR
11**

175 CELEBRATION SERVICE WITH WALK OF WITNESS

FREE

6:30pm @ St Cuthbert's (to walk), 7:30pm @ St John's

FREE

LYTHAM COMMUNITY CHOIR

AND GUESTS

7:30pm @ St Cuthbert's

**FRI
12**

**SAT
13**

SPORTS BREAKFAST* WITH GUEST SPEAKER TONY PORTER

9:00am @ Green Drive Golf Club

*there will be a charge to cover costs at this event

FREE

FAMILY FUN DAY INC. BOUNCY CASTLE, BBQ, FACE PAINTING AND MORE!

11-2pm @ St John's

**SAT
13**



BOOK NOW!!



Bells at St John's

The Churchwardens and Vicar were recently invited to attend the AGM of the St John's Church Bell Restoration and Maintenance Fund (Charity No1013586). We shared fruitful discussions whilst discovering the urgency of the replacement of the bell frame at St John's which dates back well into the 19th century.

It was agreed, after consultation with the PCC, that we seek funding for this work in collaboration with the parish as we also seek to install a toilet and kitchen into St John's.

It was further agreed that we seek to rename the charity to include St Cuthbert's bells and thereby recognise the new parish and that the Vicar and a further person nominated by the PCC be appointed as Trustees.

It is worth noting that the bell ringers have rung across both churches for many years already.

Craft Mornings for children

We are hosting three craft mornings for families during August at St Cuthbert's including a Minecraft Morning. These will be on Tuesdays from 10am till 12noon and promise to be lots of fun.

There are leaflets about the days available from both churches, so please will you help to spread the word and make sure families are invited.

40s Weekend

The ever popular 1940s Weekend is fast approaching - Saturday 16th and Sunday 17th August - once again we are hosting a tent on Lytham Green. As last year we will offering a place for prayer and reflection with opportunities for conversations and names and personal concerns being added to a prayer tree.

We will also be joined by Revd Dave Banbury who is a member of the Leading your Church into Growth team based in the Liverpool Diocese. Dave is an avid supporter of such events and will be bring his jeep and other memorabilia with him, which will help us to have more opportunities to talk with people.

We do need your assistance with staffing the stall throughout both days. If you are able to give an hour or two either morning or afternoon please sign up on the sheets at the back of each church or email emma@jclytham.church

Home visits or Home Communion

We have been delighted to be invited to take Communion into the Stella Matutina Care Home on Clifton Drive recently. This was something St Cuthbert's did for many years in the past, but due to lack of demand and then the effect of Covid the service drew to a close. Now though we are once again taking Communion into the home and welcome to use the Chapel each month which is wonderful.

May I take this opportunity to remind you that we do have a Team that take Extended (Home) Communion out to people on a regular basis as well as our Pastoral Ministry Team. If you or someone you know would welcome communion at home or regular pastoral visits please do speak to Nick or Marrienne Cottier-Brown

Uniformed Groups

The Churchwardens and Clergy have met with the Scout groups Committee recently seeking to improve communication with all the Scout and Guide troops associated with our parish.

We were pleased to be able to arrange for the Cubs to once again be able to meet in the Parish Hall and to hear that a new Squirrels group is going to be formed (Squirrels is for children younger than Beavers who in turn are younger than Cubs).

Gaza Vigil

We are in the process of arranging a vigil of prayer for Gaza and the Middle East at present on a Sunday evening in August. The continuing bombardment of that area as an attempt to bring future security is becoming increasingly harrowing to witness on the daily news.

We will be extending an invitation to Churches in Lytham to join us for this and the date will be announced soon.

Registers

Baptisms

July 20th Mila Ives

Funerals

May 27th Peter Walley
Josie McKiernan

July 1st David Ablett
2nd Doreen Boardman
3rd Janet Ellis

Lytham Festival Refreshment Stall

It was a joy to serve the community from our refreshment stall during Lytham Festival, this year. We set up our stall under the lychgate of St John's church overlooking Lytham Green, for a couple of hours each evening that the festival was operating, serving bottles of water, cans of pop, and assorted confectionary.

We had lots of lovely chats with festival goers who came over to say HELLO and tell us their stories, or ask for advice or information.

I'd like to express a HUGE thank you to our team of volunteers who set up and manned the stall each evening, and to the Vicar for his regular runs to the cash-and-carry to restock the stall. You were all magnificent!

Marianne Cottier-Brown ALM (Coordinator)

The Beheading of John the Baptist

On 29 August most Christian churches celebrate the Beheading of John the Baptist. In the Calendar of *Common Worship* it's printed in ordinary roman typeface, in black, showing that it counts as a Lesser Festival, ranking below a major feast-day, such as Christmas, Candlemas, Easter, Michaelmas etc., but above commemorations, which are usually — though not always — of significant people from more recent times. Saints' feast-days are normally celebrated on the anniversary of their deaths, which makes sense because what is being celebrated is their entry into eternal life (their spiritual 'birthday'). But in John's case, as is also the case with Jesus, we know about his physical birth from the gospels. So for John — as for Jesus — the date of his actual birth is a major feast.. This is celebrated on 24 June and is a

pet-king of the Romans) because John criticised him for marrying Herodias, his brother's ex-wife. Luke gives no motive for why Herod then subsequently beheaded him. But there is more detail in Matthew and Mark, who both state that it was done at the request of Herodias's daughter. Mark says that Herod was in fact reluctant to execute John because he recognised John's holiness. Matthew, on the other hand, says that he did want to kill John but was reluctant to do so because he was afraid of the reaction of the people. In the event, as described by both Matthew and Mark, he was cornered into doing it anyway: Herodias's daughter danced before Herod when his birthday was being celebrated, and this pleased him so much that he swore on oath to give her whatever she asked. Prompted by Herodias, what she asked for was John's head on a platter. The name of Herodias's daughter, Salome, is not given in the gospels, but the Jewish historian Josephus in his *Antiquities*, written c. 94, says that Herodias had a daughter named Salome, who then became the step-daughter of Herod Antipas. Josephus, however, makes no reference to Salome's dance or the beheading of John.

Scenes associated with the beheading of John are very common in western art. The richness of the story's detail, with its feasting, dancing, execution, and presentation of the head on a platter, allowed for many different approaches and gave the artists a great deal of scope for imaginative representation.

Joyce Hill

Quiz Questions for August—Food, Glorious Food

Food will always be an item central to human life. It forms the foundation of our existence, providing nutrients and energy that are necessary for survival. From the crisp sweetness of an apple to the reassuring warmth of a bowl of soup, food nourishes our bodies and invigorates our spirits. Its diversity can be considered to be part of the richness of our world.

Food also serves as a channel for human connection. Shared meals bring people together, strengthening bonds of friendship and a sense of belonging. Be it at a family gathering at Christmas time or dinner on a summer evening, the act of sharing food creates moments of warmth and intimacy. It transcends barriers of language and status, uniting people in a shared, pleasurable experience.

Food can also be an expression of creativity and ingenuity.

Gastronomy is the study of the relationship between food and culture, the art of preparing and serving rich or delicate food, perhaps involving the cooking styles of different regions. Talented chefs have the ability to transform simple ingredients into culinary masterpieces, demonstrating the artistry that can be explored in cooking. From attractive starters through to intricate desserts, all complemented by good wine, dishes can reflect the creator's skill and passions.

On the menu this month, randomly arranged, are forty cryptic clues which pair twenty types of food with twenty place names associated with them. Think Pontefract cake or Grasmere gingerbread and you will have the idea. Solve the clues, then arrange them into their pairs.

1. Read note in reverse [4]
2. Gibraltar has a good example of this [4]

3. Alan loses his head and shows anger about some money [10]
4. This describes not the best actor [3]
5. I join the Royal Navy in a PC's means of self-defence [7]
6. America is surrounded by wise men [8]
7. That is Roman five coming after a monarch [4]
8. Airline founder contains a temperature [8]
9. That's a most unusual little piece [7]
10. Barmy motel now needs to be sorted [anag.] [6,7]
11. I'm going on a ship [4]
12. Como, not Perry, almost going back around finish [6]
13. Source of the King's carbohydrates?
14. Sounds like Paul Hollywood's advice to *Bake Off* contestants [8]
15. Usually referred to as lies [4,4]
16. First town in the UK to boast of street lighting [9]
17. An excellent shot by Ronnie O'Sullivan [3,3]
18. Look closely at the jewel she's wearing [5]
19. Say this when the photographer is ready [6]
20. Inspect closely those bewitched dark places [7]
21. Fantastic: a keyhole we ought to examine [4]
22. Look back around 250, Roman style [6]
23. The only one [4]
24. Secret row needs reorganising for this city [9]
25. Herb, not real, changing temperature at the start [4,4]
26. See what I said, Susan – all the starters are involved [5]
27. Select the French [6]
28. Choose to start looking for a brownish earth pigment here [10]

29. The sound of a message arriving; a university theologian is looking into it [7]
30. Jumper [6]
31. You used to do this with a penny at a funfair [4]
32. What Barbie thinks of her boyfriend?
33. That artichoke's contents may taste a bit sour [4]
34. Not much else a man can do: look into it [7]
35. Almost sounds like the start of a river [5]
36. Risky hero: a county that needs rearranging [9]
37. The centre of a problem: take it back [3]
38. It's the start of reconciliation between father and mother [5]
39. Peppa Pig's father may live here [5]
40. Clergyman going back to party [5]

Answers will appear in the next issue.

Quiz Questions for July: On being a Vegetarian: ANSWERS

1. Date, 2. Kiwi, 3. Lychee, 4. Apricot, 5. Strawberries, 6. Spring onion,
7. Lettuce, 8. Endive, 9. Shallot, 10. Nectarine, 11. Tamarind,
12. Lemon, 13. Celeriac, 14. Cranberry, 15. Parsnip, 16. Yam,
17. Turnip, 18. Pineapple, 19. Asparagus, 20. Coconuts, 21. Thyme,
22. Chive, 23. Basil, 24. Kale, 25. Broad bean, 26. Cucumber,
27. Watermelon, 28. Aubergine, 29. Anise, 30. Apple, 31. Mushroom,
32. Cumin, 33. Sage, 34. Runner bean, 35. Onion, 36. Banana,
37. Artichoke, 38. Spinach, 39. Melon, 40. Horseradish.

Bishop's rallying cry to Diocese to seek continued growth

The Bishop of Blackburn issued an exciting and inspirational rallying cry to the faithful in parishes across Lancashire at the weekend in a bold speech anchored in his firm belief that growth will continue to be seen in churches across the County.



The Bishop was speaking to the latest gathering of the Diocesan Synod, the main decision-making body of any diocese, where clergy and laity work together to guide its mission and governance.

The Synod had their regular meeting on Saturday, with a particular focus on discernment of a new vision for the Diocese. That new vision will build on the impact of the current 'Vision 2026: Healthy Churches Transforming

Communities' as it enters its final phase, following a period of sustained growth for the past decade.

When it launches towards the end of next year, the new vision will take the Diocese to 2033 – a significant moment as it will mark 2000 years since Christ's death and resurrection.

While being realistic about challenges the church still faces, Bishop Philip was laser-focused on the vital importance of Jesus and His joyful message being shared with the people of Lancashire at every opportunity.

In fact, 'joy' was at the heart of the Bishop's speech with the word (or a variation) appearing 18 times as he called on every parish to be 'joyful communities' of the faithful making the love of Jesus known.

Bishop Philip said: "Any Diocesan vision must have Jesus at the centre. We are joyful followers of him. We believe in Jesus and the Parish as the best means available to us to declare Jesus. Nobody is beyond the radar of our ministry.

"We treasure our schools to form the young in the faith. We value stipendiary clergy to declare Jesus in word and sacrament. We love our buildings because they point us to the divine.

"And above all we need joyful communities of faithful lay Christians in every part of the Diocese who can make known the love of Jesus through their worship and fellowship, through their commitment and generosity, through their lives of service and their new congregations."

The Bishop continued: "This new vision is not about what we are going to do for Jesus. It is about what Jesus has already done for us. And so it is about what Jesus is still doing for us through the Holy Spirit here, now in Lancashire. How we hear that and where we join in."

Bishop Philip also pointed to plans put or being put in place to underpin this future work including support for clergy in the shape of an Assistant Archdeacon for Clergy Wellbeing; funding from the national church to enable regular sabbaticals and the single national stipend recently agreed by General Synod.

While support from the national church – which includes an award last year of £25.5m for mission and evangelism projects for all ages –

was 'good news' for the Diocese according to Bishop Philip, he also had encouraging news about ways 'we are also helping ourselves' through giving and through a refusal to plan for decline.

He said: "The sustained giving from ordinary laymen and women in this diocese has been beautiful and heroic. We are one of just two dioceses in the country whose share income increased in 2024."

"Today, as we discern our vision, let's imagine a county filled with wells of joy. May every single one of our parishes, our schools, our chaplaincies be a well of joy, flowing over with the life and love and saving power of Jesus.

Bishop Philip added: "The world says the church is a busted flush; faith in an interventionist God crazy superstition; belief in the power of prayer for the deluded. And they are wrong.

"Many Christians are tempted to despair, to believe the lies that the game is over and that we need to reduce, cut back, plan for decline. And they are wrong.

"So let's keep our vision big as we discern who the Lord is calling us to be as his people in Lancashire. Our task is not to tinker or maintain or to survive. It is to transform, to change lives, to let justice roll down like a river and righteousness like an everlasting stream, to revivify arid lives with the water of life that is Jesus.

"As we join in with his work, may every single person in Lancashire draw deeply from the well of salvation that is Jesus and in so doing find life."

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

Tuesday	9am-3pm	Tumble Tots Tumbletotslynz@hotmail.com
	6pm-7pm	Beavers (term time)
	7pm-9pm	Scouts (term time)
Wednesday	9.30am-11.30am	Bertie Bear Group (term time)
	1.45pm-4pm	Over 50's Table Tennis
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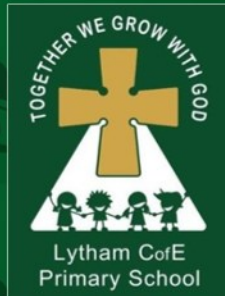
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Mission Enabler: Revd Emma Swarbrick 07866 335230

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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				

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

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