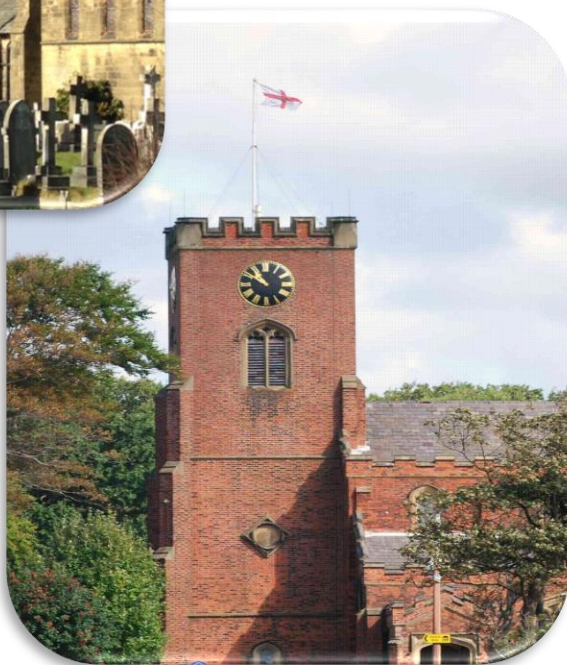


MONTHLY MAGAZINE

Lytham St Cuthbert



*and Lytham St John
worshipping together*



FEBRUARY 2021

The Ministry Team

Vicar: Revd Nick Wells

01253 279 676

Curate: Adam Thomas

07968 434 328



Hon. Assistant Priest: Revd Helen Houston

Local Licensed Ministers: David Chapman Joanne Hutchinson

Angela Lee David Matthews

Bev Wells Nicola Whitehead

Our worship services after lockdown will be

	1st Sunday	2nd Sunday	3rd Sunday	4th Sunday	5th Sunday
8:30am BCP Holy Communion	St Cuthbert's	St John's	St Cuthbert's	St John's	None
10:15am CW Holy Communion	St John's	St Cuthbert's	St John's	St Cuthbert's	Joint Service
10:15am Service of the Word	St Cuthbert's	St John's	St Cuthbert's	St John's	Joint Service
12noon Baptisms	St John's	St Cuthbert's	St John's	St Cuthbert's	Nome

Wednesday 11am BCP Holy Communion	St Cuthbert's	St Cuthbert's	St Cuthbert's	St Cuthbert's	St Cuthbert's
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Dear Friends

In our lives we meet many people, a few we maintain a friendship with, but many we leave behind as life moves on. Then there are times when we meet someone again, memories are stirred and acquaintances made, but then life moves on again and those reconnections often fade again too.



I have begun to call these passing moments as 'kissing points', rather like a kissing gate which you find on country walks. A gate that allows one person through at a time making us stop and connect with others for a moment.

There have been many of these 'kissing points' in my life – my primary school teacher who was in the choir when I was a curate in Accrington; the time I met a couple on the Isle of Man who then got married in Netherton whilst I was vicar of St Oswald's; the sidesman at all Saints Douglas who had been in the choir in Maghull; and since returning to the Fylde they have become an even more regular occurrence.

These kissing points are when lives connect and then lives continue, rather special and somehow affirming.

I once heard Robin Gamble, a Priest Missioner from Bradford, describe receiving communion as being at the kissing gate. The moment our lives connect and reconnect with God. A moment which has a limited time span, but a moment we are invited to repeat, to meet with God, be touched by God.

We have been unable to receive communion for many months now and I know how much many of you look forward to being able to receive the bread and wine once again.

I look forward to sharing fully in this 'kissing points' for each of you when we can all receive communion once again. It too will be so very special and affirming for each one of us.

Yours in Christ,

Nick

Service Times

When lockdown has been lifted and our churches open again for public worship our main morning services will start at 10:15am in both churches. This also means our live-streamed service will be at 10:15am too.

The table on page 2 shows the cycle of our services moving forward.

From the Registers

Funerals - January

5 th	Pat Rylett	21 st	Angela Snipe
7 th	Dorothy Houghton	27 th	Keith Ripley
13 th	Alan Wright	28 th	Joyce Bamber
15 th	Tine Payne		

From our PCCs

Both PCCs have been continuing to meet and have discussed and considered many aspects of our churches lives since the onset of the pandemic. A profile for a potential Mission Enabler has been submitted through the Archdeacon of Lancaster to the Bishop's Council and we look forward to the conversations and negotiations this will initiate.

As for the time being Nick will be the only Priest available to us full time the PCCs have jointly agreed we revise our the worship timetable to enable Nick, the LLMs and Helen our Associate Priest to maintain regular worship in both the churches.

Whilst we recognise some Church members will be disappointed with the plan we do hope and urge you to seek to find the right places and times for you to attend worship. May we add that this is not cast in stone but wish to mention that the pattern which we have been used to is not one we can sustain in the future. The timetable was agreed unopposed by the two PCCs.

Nick has also shared a flow chart setting out the relationships, systems and management of the anticipated new Parish of JC Lytham and he looks forward to sharing these more widely when this becomes practical.

A message from the Bishop of Lancaster

Limited bandwidth!

Not a warning message I was used to before lockdown. Perhaps you relate to this experience. You're on a Zoom call with colleagues, friends or family, and suddenly this warning sign flashes up – Limited bandwidth. The screen has frozen - you find yourself speaking to an audience of zero - your valuable contribution to the meeting is being lost into fresh air. Forever. And humbling as ever, when you join back into the meeting, the conversation has moved. The world has kept turning without you.



We are limited. Limited human beings.

This is not our favourite mode of operating. Like the BT advert for unlimited broadband, or the new that phone contract for unlimited minutes, we like to pretend we are unlimited.

Lockdown brings a home truth. We are not unlimited. Many of us are limited physically – my husband commented on the excitement he felt in getting out – to go to our local Co-op! And more than that we are limited in our energies, and capacity. Maybe you have home schooling challenges.

I am thankful my boys have grown out of primary school, but it still feels like I am running a school canteen and an amateur football club as well as being a bishop. But maybe your house is very quiet, you are limited in human contact and you would love to have teenagers running round your house as you work. Or at the other

extreme maybe you're working on the frontline, giving out in demanding circumstances every day, but again finding ...

- We have limited energy.
- We have limited vision.
- We have limited possibilities ahead if you're a holiday addict like me.

Only God is unlimited. His Spirit is not in lockdown.

I found it very moving to read the story of James Matheson in Pete Greig's fantastic book '*Dirty Glory*'. He lived in a tiny Highland village called Clashnagrave in the 19th century. During the Crimean war he would intercede every night, sometimes all night, for the local soldiers, the 93rd Highlanders, away fighting for their lives on the front line.

Sometimes this angelic figure would appear in the trenches bringing comfort and peace. At the end of the war, the soldiers returned and there was a special communion service held. When James Matheson entered the church, the soldiers gasped. Before them stood the man they had seen in those distant trenches, night after night, bringing comfort amid the horrors of war.

What if this time in lockdown became an unexpected opportunity to take home that we are limited. We have less energy. Demands are intense. But with the breath of Spirit of God we can intercede, with His groans, far beyond all human limits.

What if lockdown brewed up a new generation of intercessors who walked the battlefields of our NHS, our schools, our families, our government, our estates, our country. Does that quicken your heart? Ask Jesus to teach you more.

Ephesians chapter 3.20: "Now to him who is able to do *immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine... according to His power that is at work in us*".

Our Curate and Whalley Abbey

An exciting new chapter is about to begin with the announcement of Revd Adam Thomas as new Director for Whalley Abbey in Lancashire; alongside a fresh new purpose for the Abbey site; including establishing a new monastic community for the first time in nearly five centuries.

The Abbey is owned by The Church of England (Blackburn Diocese). It nestles on the banks of the River Calder and on edge of the picturesque village of Whalley, in the midst of Lancashire's stunning Ribble Valley.

Currently the aim is for the site to be fully reopened by September of this year as a Centre for Christian Discipleship and Prayer, pandemic restrictions permitting at that time of course, but the build-up will begin soon as bookings can be made from this Easter.

As well as launching an engaging programme to help people grow in their relationship with God, activities at the Abbey will all be underpinned through the development of a new monastic community of prayer; lay and ordained, resident and non-resident.



Adam said: “I am so excited at this opportunity to ensure that Whalley Abbey is a place where all are welcome; where people can come for respite, rest and restoration. This is needed even more after what we have all been through in the past nine months. People are searching for a safe place to make sense of what has happened; to have time to reflect on what matters most in their lives and to dig deeper into a relationship with God.

He added: “My wife Cathy and I feel privileged to be a part of this new community and hope that everyone who comes to Whalley Abbey, for whatever reason, feels in their heart that the Abbey belongs to them.”

The Bishop of Blackburn added: “Adam’s appointment as Director is not only an important moment in the life of the Diocese but also in the history of Whalley Abbey; for The Church of England and our ecumenical partners and for Lancashire as a whole. The Centre will be an oasis of refreshment where visitors can meet with the risen Jesus Christ and where He can form them into disciples, witnesses and leaders; inspiring children and young people for the next generation. I fully support Adam and look forward to hearing many new stories being told in the life of a Christian site which was first established more than 700 years ago.”

Adam will take up his new post on March 1. He will steer the Abbey’s life in a new direction during 2021 and beyond as we emerge from the pandemic.



Farewell Gift for Adam

We will be presenting Adam with a gift from the church, as he says farewell, to thank him for his ministry amongst us during his curacy. If you would like to contribute to this please send your gift to Nick at St Cuthbert's Vicarage, Church Road, Lytham FY8 5PX, cheques payable to St Cuthbert Lytham PCC.

Mothers Union

I am very pleased to report that 27 members have responded to the request for 2021 subscriptions. We hope and pray that when lockdown restrictions are lifted, we are once again able to hold our monthly meetings. Thank you to everyone for the very quick response. In the meantime, keep safe and keep well. *Margaret Fisher*

World Thinking Day



February 2016, the Guides, Brownies and Rainbows took part in the Lytham Flag Festival. We made colourful squares and pompoms to yarn-bomb the library and, as it coincided with World Thinking Day, we also flew the World flag on the flagpole at St John's.

Although the flag festival was not repeated, we flew the flag again on 22nd February each year until 2020 when the churchyard was closed for safety. It looks like we

will have to miss again in 2021 due to the lockdown but, one day, we will raise our flag again.

World Thinking Day is a day of international friendship. It is an opportunity to speak out on issues that affect young women and fundraise for 10 million Girl Guides and Girl Scouts in 150 countries.

In 1926, delegates from guide and girl scout organisations across the world met in the USA for the 4th world conference. They decided to create a day for Guides and Girl Scouts to celebrate being part of an international movement. Delegates chose to hold the first celebration on 22 February, the joint birthday of Lord Baden-Powell, founder of the scout and guide movement, and his wife Olave, who served as World Chief Guide. And so, 'thinking day', now known as 'World Thinking Day', was born.

Every year the theme of the event encourages members to think about the big issues affecting them and their global community. Previous World Thinking Days have tackled the subjects of poverty, gender inequality, environmental sustainability and access to education.

The theme for World Thinking Day 2021 is peacebuilding. Peacebuilding is at the heart of Girl Guiding and Girl Scouting and is as vital and relevant today as for the last 100 years. By completing the steps in the Stand Together For Peace activity pack, Girl Guides and Girl Scouts will; Stand Strong, Stand up and Stand Together for peacebuilding.

You can find out more at: www.waggs.org

Susan Holman, Guide Leader

Fairtrade

2020 proved to be a significant year for Traidcraft, one the company could not have possibly imagined a couple of years ago. Many people turned to them and bought goods from them online. Temporary staff had to be recruited to meet the demand and a number of product lines became unavailable because the supply chain dried up as the pandemic spread. Let us hope that those new consumers stay supportive of Traidcraft and similar companies now they have discovered Fairtrade and found not only the quality of the products available, but the difference it makes to the producers lives.

Fairtrade Fortnight is from 22nd February to 7th March this year with the theme 'Choose the World you want'. Our plan is to have a 'Living Fair for Lent '. To recognise the difference being a caring consumer can make to the lives of producers across the world. The worldwide pandemic has affected us all and highlighted just how interconnected we all are no matter which part of the planet we stand on.

If we are still unable to meet together physically then we plan to hold a zoom coffee morning for those who are happy and able to. Refresh your baking skills and make your favourite bake (and don't forget to use Fairtrade sugar), to celebrate that Traidcraft are finally receiving their sugar stocks after two years).

The date for your diary is Thursday 4th March at 11.00am. Please email Julie Webb if you wish to join in her email address is jnj_webb@hotmail.com (that is jnj 'underscore' webb@hotmail.com) and she would love to welcome you.

Thank you to everyone who massively supported Traidcraft at Christmas and all who made donations for The Real Advent Calendars that were distributed to four local children's organisations. *Julie Webb*

Greek Orthodox Tradition

I had been told that a Eucharist in a Greek Orthodox Church lasted three hours and I wondered what they did for three hours. My friend Pam and I decided to visit the one in Brighton near where we lived. We found out that the time started when the priest came into the church and hung his coat up and ended after the shared lunch. They made us very welcome and invited us to share their lunch; there was a lot of food. If we counted the time from the moment the priest comes into church until after coffee it would be about two and a half or three hours, so not very different.

As I was sanitising my hands before a recent service it occurred to me that all this protection against Covid has become part of our preparation for worship. First we put our masks on, then we are welcomed into church and our names written down or checked off the list. Then we sanitise our hands or in my case park my walker and then sanitise my hands. I wondered whether we should think of these preparations as part of our worship in which case we need some prayers. I wonder what you think about this?

A prayer as we don our masks. ***Holy Spirit, protect us today.***

As we sanitise our hands. ***Lord, cleanse us.***

Finally, as we leave Church we are offered sanitiser and there is an interaction between us and the person offering the sanitiser. I think it could go like this:

Sanitiser ***Keep Well***

Receiver ***And You***

I wonder what you think about these ideas? Hopefully the editor will make space in the next Magazine for your thoughts. *Angela Lee*

Lent Course - Second Chances

With the vaccine roll out in full swing and restrictions looking likely to be easing for April it feels as though we are going to get a second chance. This is so appropriate that we get the second chance at Easter, the key moment in our Christian faith. As by Jesus' resurrection, following his crucifixion, we to are given a second chance. Offered a fresh start in life with our sins forgiven and the promised of eternity with Christ.



This thought has provided the theme for the Lent course that Nick has planned for us. Each Tuesday evening through Lent we will be assisted to consider aspects of life where we or others are given a second chance.

23rd February	2nd Chance to be Ordained	with Revd Adam Thomas
2nd March	2nd Chance after Cancer	with Revd Nick Wells
9th March	2nd Chance for a Child	with Sylvia Lawrinson
16th March	2nd Chance with Fairtrade	with Julie Webb
23rd March	2nd Chance from Prison	with Revd Canon Brian Mayne

You are all very welcome to join the course which will be run at 7pm on Tuesday evenings on Zoom. The link will be available nearer the time on Nick's weekly email.

The Origins of Ash Wednesday



Ash Wednesday, the first day of Lent, falls this year on 17 February. The day is often associated with the imposition of ashes. Hence the day's name: *dies cinerarium*, 'day of ashes', in the Latin of the pre-Reformation church.

These days the priest may mark the sign of the cross on the forehead of each person.

Traditionally, the ashes are created by burning the palm crosses from the Palm Sunday of the previous year. It feels like an ancient ritual, but when and how did it begin?

The Early Church quickly established a period of strict fasting as a form of purification in preparation for Easter, but it lasted only from Good Friday to Easter Eve and it was not until the fourth century that there is evidence for a fast extending over six weeks. There was still no such thing as Ash Wednesday, though, because the fast began on the sixth Sunday before Easter. In these early centuries, this penitential period was when new believers were prepared for baptism on Easter Eve and when those who had been excluded from the church for their sins were prepared for readmission, also on Easter Eve. Increasingly, others in the community were encouraged to join in the sessions of teaching and the acts of penitence as a means of giving focus to their own preparation for Easter. The element of penitence and self-denial, as a shared community experience, soon began to look like a kind of spiritual re-living of Christ's forty day fast in the wilderness, when he resisted the temptations of the devil. This sense of symbolic reliving gave a new dimension to how the six-week period was understood. But it made sense because it was in the fourth century, driven by various theological disputes and developments, that there was an increasing interest in the historical life of Christ, which led to its being reflected in the still-evolving shape of the liturgy.

However, having gone this far, it was logical to go a little further, because with Lent now seen primarily as a spiritual reflection of the forty days in the wilderness, it was clear that, with Sundays never being fasting days, there were not forty fasting days in the six weeks of Lent. So, four more days were added to the beginning in order to provide forty fasting days up to and including Holy Saturday. This extension of Lent, so that it begins on a Wednesday, probably started in Gaul in the sixth century, where it is thought that the solemn ceremony of the imposition of the ashes also began, accompanied with the words, 'Remember, man, that you are dust and to dust you shall return'. These words, familiar from the burial service and from the story of Adam's expulsion from Eden, accompanied by the symbolism of the ashes, powerfully drew attention to our subjection to sin and death. At first the ceremony was used only for those doing public penance for grave sins, who would hope to be readmitted to the body of the church after the prolonged penance of Lent. But as the tradition spread across the western church, it became customary for the whole congregation to take part.

The Book of Common Prayer introduced a Service of Communion, but the solemnity of the Ash Wednesday ritual is once again common in many Anglican churches today.

Joyce Hill

We value your contributions, if you have any items you think may be of interest please send any articles for next month's magazine to the Parish Office by Friday 19th February.

Quiz Questions for February: FOOD AND DRINK

It is hardly surprising that many people have been more than ready to make known their thoughts on food and drink. Ready for a smile, you may like the following:

‘Wine is bottled poetry’ – Robert Louis Stevenson

‘I’m on a seafood diet: I see food and I eat it’ – Dolly Parton

‘I cook with wine. Sometimes I even add it to the food’ – W C Fields

‘When I read about the evils of drinking, I gave up reading’ – Henny Youngman

‘My doctor tells me that I must stop giving intimate dinners for four unless three others are present’ – Orson Welles

For lockdown amusement, here are forty cryptic clues the answers to which are items of food and drink.

1. Starts to get a real life in Cockerham [6]
2. A jug for winners of the Open Championship [6]
3. Yes, it’s in! Murray lobs terrific winner [7]
4. An endless wading bird [6]
5. Terrible wash; all mixed up [5,7]
6. You’ll find these in your diary [5]
7. Any of these will do in bad weather [4]
8. Is this a Western, or maybe a junction? [9]
9. Demon ale, drunk [8]
10. Something white to eat when in France [10]
11. Only part of Steven is on the picture [7]
12. Fox or faulty, by the sound of it [5]
13. An incomplete Scottish politician [6]
14. Edward goes glamping at first [3]
15. Wise men travel round America [8]
16. Car dust can be found untidy [7]

17. This French dynasty takes the biscuit [7]
18. You may find this knight at Hoghton Tower [7]
19. The French here are no good [5]
20. Mac for a young princess [5,9]
21. Two American companies [8]
22. A greasy tippie could be this sweetie [12]
23. I get involved with angry workers [10]
24. Surprisingly cheap [5]
25. Rebecca initially is over the top, love [7]
26. Tailgate left around by the French [11]
27. You may find her at a wedding [4,2,6]
28. Keel over [4]
29. Is this made backwards? [4]
30. A golfer could use this when driving, we hear [3]
31. It's handy to have inside on a hot day [6]
32. Pops up into Aston Villa [5]
33. Bad man's gnasher can manage this [7,3,4]
34. Put one in position, I hear? [6]
35. Cashmere or tortilla? [4]
36. There's .. [8].., that's for remembrance [Hamlet]
37. Plays harmonicas for Mrs Blair, we hear [10,6]
38. A tropic is around here somewhere [7]
39. Was he an English aristocrat, perchance? [4,4]
40. Ban a national anthem, but not all of it [6]

Answers to these questions will be in the next issue.

QUIZ QUESTIONS: A miscellany for January: ANSWERS

1. March, 2. Christmas Island, 3. Euro, 4. 01.01.1901, 5. Alaska, 6. The world's tallest building, in Dubai, 7. The arrival of the Wise Men in Bethlehem to worship the Christ child, 8. They saw a star in the East that signalled his birth, 9. Janus, 10. Garnet, 11. Snowdrop, 12. Galileo Galilei, 13. The Black Death, 14. The Falkland Islands, 15. Haiti, 16.

Popeye, 17. Julius Caesar, 18. Rio de Janeiro, 19. Elizabeth I, 20. Augustus, 21. Martin Luther King Jr. Day, 22. 1912, 23. James Cook, 24. King Charles I, 25. South Africa, 26. Queen Victoria, 27. Ming, 28. Caligula, 29. The Conversion of Paul, 30. It is the date of his birthday, 31. The Selkirk Grace, 32. Neeps and tatties, 33. A short but meaningful and witty speech about the life of Burns, 34. Toast to the lassies, 35. A traditional Scottish dessert, 36. 58, 37. Australia, 38. Petrograd, 39. Lerwick, Shetland, 40. George III.



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