

The Parish Church of
Saint Cuthbert Lytham

Parish Magazine

January 2017



Wishing all our readers a
Happy and Peaceful New Year

Magazine £1

The Leadership Team

Vicar: The Revd Nicholas A Wells



01253 279676

Hon. Assistant Priests: The Revd David Hirst
The Revd Helen Houston

Readers: Mr David Matthews
Mr David Chapman
Mr Barrie Stacey
Mrs Nicola Whitehead

Sunday Services

8.30am Holy Communion (BCP)

10.00am Holy Communion (CW) and Sunday Club

6.00pm Evening Prayer (BCP)

Weekday Services

Friday 11.00am Holy Communion

Monthly Services

7.00pm 1st Monday Service of Wholeness & Healing in the Lady
Chapel

3.30pm 3rd Thursday Messy Church (term time only)

Bi-monthly Service

4.00pm Taize – next service 15th January

Dear Friends

We begin the New Year celebrating the Epiphany – the visit to Bethlehem by the Magi. In the calendar, we mark this event on the 6th January, 12 days after Christmas. Their visit rounds off the Christmas season.

The visit of the Wise men or Kings is fascinating and has become woven with tradition. Now a days we think of there being 3 of them, although this is not mentioned in the bible – just that there were 3 gifts. They seem to visit sometime after the birth and find the young family now residing in more suitable accommodation – they certainly would not have met the shepherds.

Yet all this is of less significance than the fact that they did journey to acknowledge the birth of the Messiah. Their attention was caught by a change in the skies and also by their understanding of Israel's history that a greater son of David would one day be born. These people from another land recognise that God is on the move before the home nation realise it themselves.

This highlights one of the important aspects of the Epiphany, it shows this is a worldwide, if not universal event. The birth of God's Son is not just for one smallish country, but for all creation – including people from other nations and traditions. In other words, the first glimpse that Jesus is for you and me.

As I said earlier, they bring 3 gifts – gold, frankincense and myrrh – 3 symbolic gifts. Gold is considered of great value to humans and is associated with wealth and power and hints that this child is Royal; secondly the frankincense an ingredient of incense used by the priest in the Jewish Temple when they offer a sacrifice, so hinting that the child is a Priest; and also the myrrh, often used to

anoint the body of someone who has just died, a gift that points towards the death of the Messiah, something very significant in the future.


The gifts of the Magi therefore highlight the coming of God's Kingdom beginning at His birth, the priestly aspect of God's giving of His son and that his life will be given as a sacrifice for history.

So, the Epiphany has much to be celebrated woven within it. It is similar to a sacrament in that there are so many signs of God's loving plan and how it is being played out within his creation.

Yours in Christ

Nick

Afterthought. I've been wondering what the root meaning of Lytham is (e.g. kirk ham is church town) so presumably it is Lyt town. Anyhow I looked up lyt and lyth, neither of which seem to have any established meaning. However, LYT in text speak means Love You Too, so this must mean that in the 21st century we live in 'Love You Too Town' which sounds good to me. If you have any other learned suggestions, please do let me know.



Sunday Services

Following recommendations from the Worship Team the PCC has agreed to the following developments in our Sunday services.

Preaching. As the number of people currently on the preaching rota has reduced over time; from the beginning of January the 8:30am BCP Communion will begin to use the same readings as the 10am service, following those set out in the Common Worship lectionary. These follow a three-year cycle, rather than the present annual cycle, and will allow the same person to preach at both services.

Healing Ministry. From the beginning of February, we will be introducing the ministry of anointing and prayers for healing on the first Sunday of each month in the 10am service. For many years, there has been a separate monthly service for Wholeness and Healing on a Monday evening, but this important aspect of Christian ministry is to be included in our main service. This ministry will be offered alongside the receiving of Communion and will be explained and talked about further in the coming weeks.

Baptisms. It has also been agreed that baptisms in our 10am service will now normally be on the third Sunday of the month.

Discipleship

Following on from the successful New Community course which ran through the autumn, it has been agreed that rather than re-start the home groups we will continue to meet each week in the new year.

So, from Tuesday 10th January, there will be an opportunity for everyone to worship, reflect, learn and discuss together in an informal setting. Those who attended the New Community course invite you all and would love to welcome others to come along to church at 7:30pm each Tuesday to spend time with God together.

Since Nick arrived he has been conscious that a number of people at St Cuthbert's would welcome a less formal worship time together and this appears to be the right way for this to begin.

To tie in with the development in our ministry of Wholeness and Healing we will be following material produced by the Acorn Healing Trust for the first few weeks.



START! Course

Commencing on the 4th January there is a six-week START! Course for those who are wondering what Jesus is all about and perhaps considering Christianity. The sessions will be held in the Vicarage beginning at 7:30pm each Wednesday.

There are invitations at the back of church to take either for yourself or to pass on to others.

If you know anyone who may be interested, please do make sure you give them an invitation and encourage them to come along.



Christmas - Easter - Church



What's it all for? Is it for real?

If you're interested in finding out come along to the new six week START! course commencing on Wednesday 4th January 2017 at 7.30pm in the Vicarage consider bringing a friend.

It's non judgemental, informal, and makes no assumptions on people's background, experience or knowledge of Christianity or the church. It really does start from scratch.

For more details visit our website www.stcuthbertslytham.org

Hope to see you.

Reminder of the Exploring Mission and Discipleship Weekend on 14th-15th January

We are delighted that Venerable Mark Ireland and his wife Jill, will be with us for the weekend of the 14th – 15th January. To which you are all invited.

Mark, now Archdeacon of Blackburn, has written books about Mission Action Planning and Making New Disciples in which he has developed important themes for the church to learn from and explore.



Our weekend with him will begin at 10am on Saturday 14th in the church hall until 4pm, and will include

- Session 1: The Challenge of Making New Disciples
- Session 2: Growing the Church or Growing People?
- Session 3: God's Work or Ours?

Refreshments will be available throughout the day and lunch will be provided.

Mark will also be preaching on the Sunday morning.

This as a great opportunity to spend time together and to learn from Mark's study and thinking.

Children's Work

December was a busy month with all the preparations for Christmas. So much was happening including, the Christingle Service on the 11th led by Step Up. 120 people attended and £304.53 was raised for the Children's Society. Clips from Despicable Me were cleverly incorporated in to the puppet sketch, written by members of Step Up, highlighting the work of the Children's Society.

On the 16th, Youth Club held its annual Youth Clubs Got Talent show, with entertainment from members of Youth Club. Refreshments were also served by Club members. Recently, there have been 53 young people attending youth club which has meant that there is a need for more helpers. If you have time and feel you can help once a month or every six weeks or even once every two months, please let Ali know. No experience needed just a willing heart.

The Lytham Ecumenical Partnership Walking Nativity was held on the 17th at 4pm. Another successful event portraying the message of Christmas, which was well attended.

One of Step Up members read the first lesson at the Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols on the 18th and read beautifully. There really is some talent amongst the young people.

Work in the schools has been hectic too, with nativity plays and Carol Services. Both primary schools came to St Cuthberts for their Carol Services and we were really pleased that we were able to welcome the staff and pupils into our lovely church.

The puppet ministry in school is thriving as well as the Bible Club. The children built an advent calendar from shoe boxes and made

their own characters from the Christmas story to go behind the windows which went down really well and was a fantastic opportunity to explain about Advent and the preparations for Jesus birth.

At this moment in time, we are preparing for the Crib Service on Christmas Eve and after that Ali intends to flop and have a break between Christmas and New Year.

PRAYER TREE IN THE LADY CHAPEL

The Lady Chapel in church is a quiet and peaceful space, ideal for silent prayer and reflection.

There are prayer cards and leaves that you can write on and attach to the tree or pop in the basket.



Sometimes when we are in a quandary and don't know what to do, or where to turn, we can find that writing down our thoughts, hopes, fears and prayers or simply the name of someone is something constructive that we can do.

The prayer leaves and cards are brought before God, during times of morning prayer.

Come and be still in the presence of the Lord in the beautiful Lady Chapel.

Churchwardens' News from Beryl Matthews and Colin Ballard



The turkey's gone to curry, the Christmas pudding is laying heavy and the Alka-Seltzer has been a God send!

Didn't the Church look beautiful for the many special services to greet Jesus' birth. Thanks to ALL of those people who quietly worked hard to achieve the spectacle. Moving the

tree to the 'other' side has helped choir member's visibility to the organist conducting their joyous melodies for the festive season.

The service of Nine Lessons and Carols was very well attended and, we hope, enjoyed by others as we did. Thanks to all who devised, arranged and produced a service to reflect Christmas expectation, reality and projection of the Christian faith. Well done.

We have supported a few more charities this Christmas BUT we can't become complacent and look to what we must do to fulfil our Christian commitment.

A sub Committee of the PCC was set up to determine the recruitment a Parish Coordinator. That Committee has successfully made an appointment, and Fiona will be in post from the New Year. We wish her well and look forward to working with her. Bev will work alongside her for a couple of weeks to help a smooth transition.

Bev, as a freelance consultant, has helped with reviewing, modernising and implementing systems in the office and in the background and has worked over and above to support to our church. Much went on behind the scenes as she carried out an audit and reported in respect of our legal compliancy. Thank you immensely.

We're past the shortest day and can now look forward to the Spring, bulbs, Shrove Tuesday, Ash Wednesday and Lent - well turkey will be left out of that!

EXPLORING FAITH ACCOMPANIMENT COURSE

Following on from the Growing in Prayer Course in 2016, the diocese is now offering a six-month course which offers the opportunity to experience listening to God and to one another in a context where learning is by reflection and practise.

The course explores Christian traditions of spiritual accompaniment, develops discerning listening and explores key themes in this ministry.

It is particularly suitable if you find yourself drawn to listen to others faith journeys, simply wish to deepen your own prayer and faith journey and grow further in your ability to listen to God.

It is also suitable for those already in ordained or lay ministry who would like to deepen their own prayer and listening skills.

You are asked to commit to Tuesdays twice a month and 1 residential weekend. If you are interested there is still time to apply. For more information, you are invited to contact patriciaimpey@btinternet.com or phone 01524 36617

Mothers' UNION

Christian care for families

December was a busy month for the Mothers' Union which started with the Bertie Bear Christmas parties, at which over 60 children attended the two sessions.

It began with the usual party games and Alison provided lots of fun with the puppets which the children love. Ali then told the Christmas story using an extra-large jigsaw which again the children loved.

Finally, there was great excitement as Father Christmas arrived with presents for all the children and the happy faces were a joy to behold.



The next event was the MU party which began with singing carols followed by a beetle drive. The committee provided a scrumptious buffet and then finally a raffle in which nearly everyone won a prize.

We then met again for our Annual Christmas Lunch at the Clifton Arms which was another very happy occasion.

Our first meeting in the New Year is on Thursday 12th January at 2.30pm when we welcome Mr. Tom Boyd who will tell us stories and sing songs of the 50's & 60's. All welcome.

The committee and myself would like to wish everyone Good Health and Happiness in the New Year.

Margaret Fisher

Saturday, 3rd December at Church – “Christmas with the Capricorn Singers” raising awareness and funds for Amazing Graze by Karen Donley

As a member of St Cuthbert's Church, my Dad and I wished to support the event. It seemed a good idea at the time.

However, I had left home at 8.15am on the day to another event. It was an all-day outdoor event, it was cold but I enjoyed it. However, I did wonder if I could muster up the energy at 7pm to attend the concert. I called my Dad at 9am and asked him how he was and if he would still like to go – he answered “Of course I do”. I said I would call again later just to re-check. Half of me hoping he may change his mind.

So, after 2 / 3 checks we agreed we would go along. I guess many people were thinking like me, it's a dark evening, it's cold and maybe sitting by the fire is a better option. As I write this I feel quite guilty.

I picked up my Dad at 7pm and off we went. The concert started at 7.30pm and it was wonderful from that moment on. The Capricorn Singers in the beautiful setting of St. Cuthbert's were truly delightful, amazing and good for our spirits. We loved it!

We had tea, and cakes were supplied by the Capricorn Singers, Mark Broughton gave us a very interesting and sincere introduction to the history and the important work at Amazing Graze, and Julie Webb played a key role guiding us through the concert.

Mark talked about the importance of “dignity” at Amazing Graze and I have to say we had a dignified and enjoyable evening too. I am glad my Dad wanted to go, I personally needed a little

encouragement but I have got to say I am truly pleased I went, I returned home feeling very thoughtful about Amazing Graze and also feeling I had been so lucky to have seen the Capricorn Singers ... wonderful! A fantastic evening - absolutely no contest at all for the X factor or Strictly Come Dancing!

And importantly as I reflect on my initial thoughts above, it makes me so much aware of those facing the cold each night.

Thank you so much to all involved for the huge efforts you put into the evening - on all accounts it was great!

60 seconds with Clive Barnes



Clive has been around St Cuthberts quite a while, he used to run Sunday School about 30 years ago; he has been a Churchwarden; a master puppeteer; he is on the PCC and is the Head Server. So most of us will have come across Clive in some capacity but to get to know him a little better we asked him the usual questions and these are his responses.

What is your occupation?

Basically, I only left school 7 years ago having started aged two and then spent 39 years in teaching, the last 16 as Headmaster at Heyhouses CE school, St Annes.

What is your favourite book?

My earliest reading comprised of Capt. W E Johns Biggles stories and I haven't grown up much since. So any adventure / thriller / crime story really.

Where is your favourite place to spend your spare time?

Time to spend on my own in Waterstones fills many a happy hour and if there's a Costa nearby even better.

What do you do to relax?

My wife Dawn and I both enjoy the theatre for plays or musicals. We also like going to the cinema, and eating out which fills our time nicely too.

What do you wish you could do that you can't?

I've always wanted to play the guitar and tried several times but failed miserably.

How long have you been a member of St Cuthberts?

Dawn and I have worshipped at St Cuthbert's for over 30 years starting in the time of Canon Len Cragg.

What is your favourite bible verse?

1 Corinthians 10 verse 13 When things are difficult.

"No temptation has overtaken you except what is common to mankind. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can endure it". (NIV translation)

When, where and how did you come to faith?

As a young child, I was sent to Sunday School and was an Altar server aged 10 until the vicar shouted at me for getting things wrong. I came back to the church when I met Dawn and have attended ever since.

Why is church important to you?

Church and the Church community has remained a constant throughout my life. My faith has supported me through good and bad times and continues to be a central part of my life.

Open Church Day

Welcoming people into our building makes it a living space and creates a whole set of opportunities for engaging with our local community. It's one of the best ways of turning passersby into friends and worshippers.

Thank you to the team that has enabled a welcoming presence in church once a month. Some great conversations have taken place, relationships formed, family ancestry solved, and peace gained.

Our next Open Church Day, with Fairtrade breakfast between 9am and 11am refreshments available throughout the day is Saturday 31st January 2017. Come and join us.



***Deadline for articles for the February Magazine is Sunday
22nd January***

Aelred of Rievaulx by Joyce Hill

At this time of the year I usually write about some aspect of the Christmas or Epiphany story. But this means that the saints of December and January get overlooked, and that's a pity in the case of Aelred of Rievaulx (12 January), who is generally regarded as one of the greatest of England's medieval religious leaders and one of the most interesting and attractive. His family was connected to the community at Durham: his great-grandfather was sacristan there and his grandfather cathedral canon and treasurer until, in 1083, Bishop William required married priests to choose between their cathedral position and their wives.

The grandfather chose his family, and moved to the benefice of Hexham, where his son eventually succeeded him. Aelred was born in 1100 and was probably educated at Durham, where Aelred's father became a monk in 1138 when he was widowed. But Aelred's family was not only a priestly one; it was also of considerable social standing, and around 1124 Aelred went to live at the court of King David I of Scotland, where he grew up with David's two sons, and spent some time serving as steward.

In 1134 he travelled to England on a mission from King David, and met with Archbishop Thurstan of York, who shared David's interest in promoting the newly established Cistercian Order.

Aelred spent a day visiting the monastery of Rievaulx, spent the night at Helmsley Castle, where he was hosted by the monastery's founding patron, Walter l'Espec, and the next day presented himself at the gatehouse asking to be admitted as a monk. He quickly rose to be a major figure: Novice Master at Rievaulx in 1141, a representative of the Abbot on a diplomatic mission to the Pope in 1142, Abbot of Rievaulx's new daughter-house at Revesby in 1143, and the third Abbot of Rievaulx from 1147, where he died twenty years later.

He was in regular contact with head of the Cistercian Order, Bernard of Clairvaux, one of the towering figures of Western Christendom, visiting him in France, as well as exchanging letters; he played a major role in developing the Order in England, and was sometimes called upon to resolve disputes in the wider church; he preached and advised at the English and Scottish courts, including preaching at Westminster Abbey when the body of Edward the Confessor was moved into the chapel where it now rests; and he was a prolific author (in Latin, of course), writing histories, lives of English saints, studies in moral and theological enquiry, and above all works of spiritual direction.

On a personal level he was renowned for his spirituality, commitment to prayer and meditation, love of humble manual labour, and was revered for his gentleness, courtesy, and practical wisdom. Above all, he was confident in personal relationships, from which grew some of the distinctive characteristics of his writings, many of which still speak to us today.

Perhaps we should see his acceptance of the conflicts and contradictions of human life as being fashioned by his own experience: an heir of Anglo-Saxons living under Norman rule, a native speaker of English daily speaking French and Latin, a descendant of generations of married priests coming of age as priests were being forbidden to marry, an English monk in a French order, an abbot bred to service in the church but trained for service in the court, and an increasingly prominent figure who had close personal ties on both sides of the Civil War which divided England in his lifetime.

An interesting man indeed!

St Cuthbert's 100 Club

Take part in the monthly draw and you could win £100!

All profit goes directly towards the upkeep of the church!

All you need to do is pay £5 per month by standing order. This buys you a number between 1 and 100. Each month a number is drawn, rather like a raffle, and the owner of that number receives a cheque for £100.

There are standing order forms at the back of the church. Or please have a word with me, Debbie Rogerson. I am usually singing in the choir at the 10am Communion service so catch me afterwards or ring 01253 422500 / 07540284517.

Congratulations to last months' winner Catherine Stacey with no.
42.



Taize Service 4.00pm bimonthly, usually held on the 3rd Sunday

Taize is a religious Community in France with distinctive music in worship.

At St. Cuthbert's we have experimented with this model of worship. The lovely musical chants are meditative. Lighting is distinctive with candles. There are periods of reflective silence and thoughts given for reflection. It is an ethereal experience of worship and no particular churchmanship dominates.



There is a small nucleus of people who lead and participate, but the worship is open to everyone and you will receive a warm welcome. The worship lasts for 30-40 minutes and there is time for conversation over light refreshments afterwards if you wish to linger.

The next meeting is at 4pm on Sunday 15th January. You will be welcome to come and try it and see if it meets your needs to encounter the holiness of God.

**2017 DATES FOR
TABLE TOP SALES IN THE
CHURCH HALL**

Saturday 28th January

Saturday 25th February

Saturday 25th March

Saturday 6th May

Saturday 27th May

To book a table please contact the Parish Office
on **01253 736488**

Tables £5 each - payable in advance

(Non-returnable for no shows)

Set up from 7.15am for doors open at 9am

St Cuthbert's Uniformed Organisations

Monday



Cubs 6.45 – 8.15pm

for more details email Catherine Hughes
catherinehughes0@btinternet.com

Tuesday



Beavers meet at 6 – 7pm

for more details contact Sarah Johnson 01253 739457



Sea Scouts meet at 7.15 -9 pm

for more details contact Graham Igoe 01253 734861

Wednesday



Rainbows meet at 6 - 7pm

for more details contact Karen Boardman 01253 401920

Thursday



Brownies meet at 6.15 - 7.30pm

for more details contact Jeannette 01253 738443

Parish Office

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Email: parishoffice@stcuthbertslytham.org

Usual office hours: Monday – Friday 9.30am – 12.30pm

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Facebook St Cuthbert Lytham



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Charity Registration No. 1143673

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