

Parish Church of Saint Cuthbert Lytham



July 2020

Services

Sunday

8:30am Holy Communion (BCP) in St Aidans Chapel

10:00am Holy Communion (CW) in the Nave

10.00am Holy Communion live streamed on Facebook from the Vicarage

Monday to Saturday

9:00am Morning Prayer live streamed on Facebook

The Leadership Team

Vicar:

Revd Nick Wells



01253 279676

Curate:

Revd Adam Thomas



07968 434328

Hon. Assistant Priest:

Revd Helen Houston

LLMs

David Chapman

Angela Lee

David Matthews

Bev Wells

Nicola Whitehead

Parish Administrator

Fiona Newbold

Dear Friends

At present in our Sunday Worship we are concentrating on some of the well-known Old Testament stories. We began with the story of Noah.

As Noah, his family, and the animals return after the floods, safely to dry ground, God makes a covenant with Noah and his descendants to never flood the whole earth again. The symbol of the covenant, the promise, is a rainbow in the sky.



The evening before that Sunday's service there were tremendous thunderstorms all around us and at one point there was a full rainbow over St Cuthbert's church which we could see from the Vicarage, our cover picture this month. It underlined to me that God is around and still seeking to have a relationship with us, everyone of us.

The rainbow follows a lockdown for Noah, his family and the animals in the ark. As they emerge from their lockdown God is seeking to strengthen his relationship with them and their relationship with him. I believe God seeks to do the same with us as we emerge, tentatively, from our lockdown brought about by the storm of coronavirus.

I love a rainbow, and see it as a reflection of God in our creation. The rainbow is the splitting of light caused by the sun refracting off the rain drops. We know there are three primary light colours – red, green and blue and together they make the full spectrum of colours and fully combined they make white - light. They prompt me to think of both the Trinity and the light of Christ. They also show that between black and white is not so much grey as all the glorious colours of the spectrum.

It is no wonder that God used a rainbow as a symbol of a covenant of love between us and him. It is no surprise that others have, through the ages used and seen the rainbow as a sign for peace and symbol for good relationships.

As we continue to emerge from lockdown as individuals, as a church, as a nation and as a world, I pray that we may find ourselves closer to God and commit to create lasting caring relationships with all others.

Yours in Christ
Nick

Sunday Worship

We are now pleased to be hosting the following services each Sunday:

- 8:30am Holy Communion (BCP) in the St Aidan's Chapel
- 10:00am Holy Communion (CW) in the Nave
- 10:00am Holy Communion live streamed from the Vicarage on Facebook

You will not be surprised to hear that because of Covid-19 things are a different when you come to church:

1. the total number of people at either of the services in church will be limited to 30. If you wish to attend, you will need to book in advance by emailing the parishoffice@stcuthbertslytham.org or by ringing the Parish Co-ordinator on 07470 165893 between 9am and 1pm, Monday to Friday. The bookings will be on a first come first served basis. *(Please note that if numbers are exceeded you will be offered a place for the following Sunday, but we will not accept a booking for more than one service at a time);*
2. there will be a one-way system in and out of church;
3. you will be asked to fill pews from the front backwards and which pews are available will be made clear to ensure social distancing;
4. we insist that everyone covers their nose and mouth with a mask or scarf;

5. hands are cleaned on entry and exit and no gloves worn;
6. congregational singing is not permitted, but the 10am service will include music;
7. as we were doing just prior to lockdown only bread will be distributed at communion, the priest will receive the wine on behalf of us all;
8. we aim to have copies of the service available through our website to print off in advance, though paper copies will be available in church. Prayer books will not be available.
9. Our toilets will not be accessible.

We will continue to live stream a service at 10am each Sunday through Facebook for those unable to make it to church. It will be available through the week on Facebook and on our YouTube channel and for those who don't have internet access the service will be available to listen to on the telephone on 01253 486 701 from the Sunday lunchtime until the following Sunday.

Unless we are given new advice and guidance this will be our pattern throughout July, and we will continue to assess the situation for August and beyond. Please be understanding of the rules and requests, we are aiming to safely negotiate the situation we are faced with and if, like the vicar, you are at all vulnerable please do not come to church just yet. Let us cherish the opportunities to worship God whether at church or at home.

Looking ahead

We are already planning how we can continue to share our main 10am service when we are all able to return to church together. If you or someone you know would be interested in assisting with live streaming our 10am service, please email the Vicar at nick.thevic@stcuthbertslytham.org or ring him on 01253 279676. We believe it is important we continue to share a service online as clearly new people have engaged with us in this way through lockdown. It serves an important need and helps us develop a contact with new people.

Costly Worship

by Ven Mark Ireland, Archdeacon of Blackburn

Tucked away at the end of 2 Samuel chapter 24, is a little story about King David that gives a really helpful pointer about how to worship God in the time of pandemic. In the time of King David there was a plague which had cost the lives of 70,000 people. David, as leader of the people felt responsible and so he decided to buy a field so that he could build an altar and offer burnt sacrifices so that the plague might be stopped.



The field in question belonged to a man called Araunah. But when David went and approached Arunah to buy this field from him for this very worthy cause, Araunah refused and wanted to give it to him for nothing, but King David replied in verse 24,

“No, I insist on paying for it. I will not sacrifice to the Lord my God burnt offerings that cost me nothing”, King David refuses to offer worship that costs nothing, because he knows that generous giving and sacrifice are an integral part of true worship.

That got me thinking; How costly is our worship? How costly is the worship I’m going to offer this weekend? We haven’t been able to attend church services for over 3 months. Hopefully, that will end soon. But in that time, we’ve discovered ways of worshipping God online that have been a lifeline to many. But have we maintained our generous giving to God’s work? Have we increased it? The mission of the church has continued unabated all this time. Clergy have learnt new skills in leading worship online and in mastering technology. The hungry have been fed in very practical ways through food banks and soup kitchens. The sick have been ministered to, they dying and bereaved have been offered the comfort of the Gospel of salvation in Jesus Christ and all this work costs money. The one thing I’ve noticed in all the wonderful online services that I’ve been able to share in is that money has scarcely been mentioned at all. It’s as if our English reserve has kicked in all over again. We don’t like talking about money. How different our brother and

sisters for example in the Diocese of the Free State in South Africa which I visited a while ago. There, the offertory in the townships was the most joyful part of the Eucharist, with clapping and dancing and drumming as people gave with exuberant joy out of the little that they had.

King David knew that generous giving is an integral part of true worship and so he said, "I will not sacrifice to the Lord my God burnt offerings that cost me nothing." So how costly is the worship we're going to offer to God this weekend? Now is a good time to review how much we give and also how we give. Giving through a Standing Order is much safer than handing over cash in church which has to be collected by one person then counted by another person and put in the safe and then taken by yet another person to the bank.

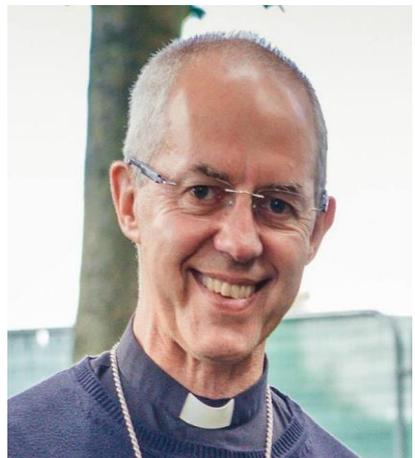
Giving online makes life so much easier for our hard worked treasurers and sidesmen and if you thought about giving directly through the bank but aren't sure quite what to do or how to go about it, why not this week, have a word with your church treasurer?

May God bless you in your worship this weekend and however, or wherever we worship, let's remember the example of King David who said, I will not sacrifice to the Lord my God burnt offerings that cost me nothing." Amen

A Thought from the Archbishop of Canterbury

On Monday Pope Francis spoke powerfully of the bashfulness of poverty. A few weeks back I was in a nearby hospital as a Chaplain meeting some of the lowest paid, the most invisible. Invisible, yet indispensable. Their worth and necessity not measured in pounds - although it should be - but in love.

It was a meeting in which I found great blessing. As often during



lockdown it was a glimpse of interdependence. We've seen it in the kindness of one neighbour to another, the service of our key workers, and the care of people for those they may not even know. We've been given inklings, reminders, of the God-given value and calling of every single person.

The first move for a hoped-for future must be a change of direction to make that glimpse a reality. Christians call it "repentance" meaning "to reverse direction". Repentance can't come without justice, because changing direction means actively righting wrong.

The second move accompanying repentance with justice is forgiveness. Facing the challenge of our interdependence asks us: what does it mean to be truly in relationship with each other? It requires us to recognise the dignity and value of every person, *especially* those that we too readily overlook, those hidden by the bashfulness of suffering - the old, the poor, those with disabilities, and minority communities of all kinds.

Relationships require the hard graft of saying sorry and changing, repenting where we have hurt others, of seeking strength to forgive where we ourselves have been hurt, and committing to work together across welcomed difference. Right relationships in our households and our neighbourhoods, across our cities and our regions, and around our nation and the world require new hearts, what the Pope called conversion. Repentance and forgiveness convert us and offer a future of hope.

This new future requires of us the ability to receive as gift, with wonder and gratitude, the gift of each other with our differences, the gift of creation, supremely the gift of God. Those are the gifts with which to rethink, to rebuild the future. Repentance, forgiving, conversion of heart and of morals, gifts given and received of love: these are the greatest tools to build the greatest hope for the greatest future.

From the Registers

Funerals	9 th June	Midge Ferguson
	9 th June	Anne Rich
	25 th June	Carine Rawnsley

Finances

We have included an article from the Archdeacon of Blackburn, Ven Mark Ireland, presenting some biblical teaching for giving to God and the ministry of his church which we hope is helpful to you.

St Cuthbert's finances continue to be a concern and this is true throughout the Blackburn diocese and around the wider Church of England. We know administrators in Clayton House, our diocesan offices, have been furloughed and there are likely to be some redundancies. Whalley Abbey, our diocesan retreat house, has effectively been mothballed for twelve months. In other dioceses even some curates have had to be furloughed to reduce costs.

Our expenditure through the first 5 months of the year has been £67,688. Whilst our income has been £40,350, £29,000 of which is from your giving through envelopes, standing orders and credit transfers. Our income over the past three months has been almost exclusively from your kind giving.

Our message continues that we rely on each one of you as Christians, members and friends of St Cuthbert's to assist in covering the costs of maintaining mission, worship and the buildings of this parish. The PCC firmly believe the alterations to the St Aidan's Chapel and an improved kitchen are important for our future ministry, but at present simply covering our regular costs is a severe strain.

The ideal is for each of us to give directly to the church through standing order or credit transfer each month. We are however planning a Gift Day this autumn when we will be inviting everyone to visit the church during the day to make a one-off contribution to both the day to day costs and also the refurbishment work, as you wish.

Through over quarter of a century of ordained parish ministry Nick has never experienced such a financial squeeze. The answer is in our hands (or should that be our pockets) and as Archdeacon Mark points out we must to recognize financial giving is as part of our worship of God.

Coronavirus Teddies

A couple of magazines back we included an article about Coronavirus Teddies. The knitted doctor and nurse teddies have now raised over £1080 towards Victoria Hospital Blue Skies. Thank you ,and congratulations to Thelma Band, Christine Miller and others for their hard work and generosity.



We value your contributions, so if you have any items you think may be of interest please send any for articles for the August's magazine by Friday 24th July to the Parish Office

An introduction to *Mark, our Assistant Safeguarding Officer*

What is your name? Mark Whitehurst

Where were you born? Derby

Where else have you lived?

Nottinghamshire where I was a Police Officer for 30 years (Traffic, Motorway and Firearms), so somewhere that always held a dark but sometimes enjoyable past. I moved to Lytham St Annes at Christmas 2018.

Relationship Status?

Married to Marion for 45 years, we have two daughters and five grandchildren.

Where is the best place you have visited?

This has to be Japan, which I have visited a couple of times. The culture, language and their way of living is so appealing to me. They respect their elders and their country. When visiting I thought I was in a different world. Unbelievable!!!!

What is the best thing you have eaten in the last week?

Because of lockdown it has to be Fish, Chips and Mushy Peas cooked at home, but not quite as good as the old days when served in newspaper.

What is your favourite Bible passage and why?

Got to be John 24; 'Jesus appears to Thomas'. Even though Thomas was a doubter and always required proof, Jesus never gave up on him and said 'stop doubting and believe'.

How did you come to faith?

As a retired Police Officer and now a Justice of the Peace, I had never been a Christian (other than Sunday school as a youngster) because I have and still am dealing with the darker side of human nature. However when I lived in Nottinghamshire I went to an Alpha group knowing that I would change their way of thinking, how wrong could I be. I quickly realised that there was something more of a deepness and attitude to life which was appealing. The appeal was God, Father, Jesus and Holy Spirit. Although I am still a baby Christian I am in a better place than I was before. I still have a lot of doubts, but my sense of wellbeing is better than it ever was.

Thomas Becket by Joyce Hill

In February, before we were hit by the Covid-19 pandemic, I wrote about 2020 being the Year of Cathedrals: The Year of Pilgrimage. That celebration has now been extended to 2021. But what initially generated the idea of having a special year was that in 2020 several cathedrals have major anniversaries. The greatest of these is the 850th anniversary of the martyrdom of Thomas Becket on 29 December 1170. His feast-day is of course the date of his death. But *Common Worship* gives 7 July as an alternative, which is why I am writing about him now. This was the date when, in 1220, Becket's body was translated from his original tomb to that wonderful space at the east end of Canterbury Cathedral where his amazingly rich shrine remained until it was destroyed under Henry VIII in 1538. Throughout these centuries Canterbury was one of the principal pilgrimage centres of western Christendom.

Thomas was born in Cheapside in c. 1118 of parents who were of Norman descent, although not of particularly high rank. However, thanks to patronage, in his early twenties he joined the household of Theobald, Archbishop of Canterbury, and was sent abroad by the Archbishop to study law. On his return Theobald ordained him deacon and appointed him Archdeacon of Canterbury in 1154. By the next year, Henry II had made him his Chancellor. In this role

Becket, who greatly appreciated courtly living, was generally a loyal supporter of the king, even when some of the king's policies were against the church. So it's perhaps not too surprising that in 1162, when Theobald died, the king pushed hard for Thomas to become Archbishop of Canterbury. First, however, he had to be ordained priest! This took place on 2 June 1162, the day before his consecration as Archbishop.

No doubt Henry hoped that Becket would continue to support him, even if this sometimes meant taking a stand against the church. But that was not to be. Thomas immediately adopted a notably ascetic life-style and became the church's staunch defender. Matters quickly came to a head when Henry wanted to transfer to the jurisdiction of the secular court's cases concerning criminous clerics, which had until then been a matter for the ecclesiastical courts. This new set-up was enshrined in the Constitutions of Clarendon (1164), but Thomas resolutely refused to sign them. Reprisals followed, including a demand for a large sum of money supposedly in settlement of accounts when he was Chancellor. He still refused to sign, and although a council called by the king passed sentence on Thomas, he escaped to France. Eventually, after Thomas had excommunicated two bishops who had sided with the king and had threatened England with an interdict, the Pope brought about a reconciliation (of sorts), and Thomas returned to England on 30 November 1170. However, he remained as obdurate as ever, refusing to absolve the bishops he had excommunicated, and he was martyred in his own cathedral less than a month later.

The confrontation between archbishop and king was part of a power struggle that was played out for centuries throughout Western Christendom. It is this context that explains the extreme speed with which the church stepped in to capitalise on Thomas's murder by canonising him in 1173. The pilgrimage associated with his cult inspired Chaucer's *Canterbury Tales*, while the personal tensions between king and archbishop, together with Thomas's dramatic change of life, have led to works in modern times by T. S. Eliot in England and by Jean Anouilh in France.

Joyce Hill

Quiz Questions for July: Problems on the railways

The first group of questions takes us below street level. Here are thirty cryptic clues for the names of stations on the London Underground. There are two brainteasing railway puzzles to conclude.

1. 007 boulevard [4,6]
2. Home of the Houses of Parliament [11]
3. River crossing for Arthur and Lancelot [13]
4. University for clowns [6,6]
5. Alpine dwelling [5,7]
6. It's falling down [6,6]
7. Stop here to see singles and doubles [9]
8. Limit of 1,760 yards [4,3]
9. Heavenly messenger [5]
10. Entrance for the Red Rose [9,4]
11. A school seen on television [6,4]
12. Dr Jekyll changes and takes the bend [4,4,6]
13. Breadmaker's lane [5,6]
14. Affluent world of the French [8]
15. Bad scene for Napoleon [8]
16. Pallid place of worship [11]
17. Dark monks [11]
18. Every holy person [3,6]
19. Hannibal's vehicle paired with fortress [8,3,6]
20. Black cab in the middle [7,7]
21. Mound [10]
22. Miner's bird quay [6,4]
23. Parish priest's bowling ground [7,5]
24. House of worship [6]
25. Was the Bard born here ? [9]
26. Sound made by leaves multiplied by itself [7,6]
27. Motor company [8]
28. Cove's pond [9]
29. Red cheese conservative [9,6]
30. By the sound of it, glacial movement did this [5,4]

Mind the gap.

1. [Easy]

The distance between two Towns A and B is 100 miles. A freight train leaves Town A and travels towards Town B at a constant speed of 40 mph. Half an hour later, a passenger train leaves Town B and travels towards Town A at a constant speed of 60 mph. Which train will be closer to Town A as the trains pass each other ?

2. [Less easy]

The distance between two Towns C and D is 300 miles. A train leaves Town C and travels towards Town D at a constant speed of 60 mph. At the same time, a train leaves Town D heading for Town C at a constant speed of 90 mph. Also at the same time, a peregrine falcon starts from Town C and flies towards Town D over the same line at a constant speed of 120 mph. When the falcon reaches the train from Town D, it reverses direction and flies back towards the train from Town C. It keeps on flying back and forth until the two trains reach each other. What distance will the bird have travelled?

Answers will be in the next issue.

Puzzles and Brainteasers - answers

1. ONE WORD, 2. The word wrongly, 3. They aren't playing each other, 4. 2 kg, 5. 22, 6. 20, 7. 80 miles, 8. The window is closed, 9. 16 minutes and 22 seconds, 10. [i] a table or chair, [ii] a coin, [iii] a postage stamp, [iv] wind, [v] darkness, [vi] nothing, 11. Consecutive words begin with letters A to Z in correct alphabetical order,

12. One cannibal and one clergyman cross the river and the clergyman returns.

Two cannibals cross the river and one cannibal returns.

Two clergymen cross the river and one cannibal and one clergyman return.

Two clergymen cross the river and one cannibal returns.

Two cannibals cross the river and one cannibal returns.

The remaining two cannibals cross the river.

Q.E.D.

St Cuthbert's Parish Office

St Cuthbert's Church Hall

Church Road

Lytham

FY8 5QL

Tel : 01253 736488/07470 165893

Email: parishoffice@stcuthbertslytham.org

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

Website www.stcuthbertslytham.org.uk

Facebook - St Cuthbert Lytham

Twitter - @cuthbertslytham

YouTube Channel – St Cuthbert's Lytham



Lytham St Cuthbert is a charity registered in England and Wales |

Charity Registration No. 1143673

Registered Office: - St Cuthberts Church, Church Road,

Lytham St. Annes, FY8 5QL