

Parish Church of Saint Cuthbert Lytham



September 2020

Dear Friends,

Throughout September we will continue to consider Old Testament stories at our Sunday services and David will be our focus. He is regarded as the greatest King of Israel and Judah, uniting them into one kingdom and establishing Jerusalem as the capital.



As we move through the life of David we discover someone with a simple faith and a deep commitment to God. As a teenager he shows that the giant Goliath can be overcome if you have faith and utilise your gifts. Even after he has been selected to be the next king he continues to show respect to the established King, Saul, the Lord's anointed, until his time comes. Traditionally we associated the psalms to David and in them we find a faith of real honesty in the way they speak of and to God.

Yet we also discover he is not a perfect person, he commits adultery, arranges murder and falls short of the life we may expect from a person of God. Yet he acknowledges his shortcomings, the times he has let God and himself down and seeks to restore the relationship, but finds his actions have consequences.

Even the great King David, who did so much good for God's chosen people falls short of the perfect life God wishes us to have. It is only in David's greater son, Jesus Christ, that this perfection is finally found.

I hope we do not commit the sins in the way David did, but do pray in any event we may always show the same faith and commitment to God. We each journey through life, many of us seeking to walk the way of the Lord, but from time to time stumble from the path. May we like David recognize those moments and quickly seek to get back on the way.

May we all learn more about David and more about God and his love and providence through the coming month.

Yours in Christ,

Nick

Outdoor Service

On the 9th August, the sun shone kindly on us for our outdoor service on the front lawn of the Vicarage.

The theme for the service was the Passover and we included a game of Simon Says to help us understand how Moses and the Israelites listen carefully to the word of God.



We were blessed to have Kerry Rogers introducing some music to the service including a powerful song new to many of us, 'I can only imagine'.

Everyone was careful to socially distance, but it was good to be able to see one another and share this service together.

The way the weather has been on a Sunday since it is unlikely we will be outside again for a while.

Occasional offices

Baptisms

August	22 nd	Kristian Michel Waters
	23 rd	Ralph John Hall

Funerals

August	14 th	Terence Hudson
	21 st	Jean McNamara
	27 th	Martin Bradshaw

Sunday Worship

Although our church services are still limited to 30 households it is beginning to feel less strange. I know a few people find the arrangements prevent them feeling able to worship, but we have rules and guidance that we must follow concerning social distancing, hygiene, face coverings and singing, and it is important that we do everything we can to reduce the risk of spreading the virus which is very much still alive and kicking and having a debilitating effect on some of our vulnerable members of society. Volunteers clean where people have been after every service, whether for worship, a funeral or a baptism or Open Church on Saturday. Thank you so much to those volunteers.

Once again Nick asks that people respect the difficult decisions that have been made and respect those who are left with responsibility for overseeing them.

He also stresses that he would never wish to restrict numbers coming to services, but that we do so to protect each other and any visitors. If you wish to attend one of the services on Wednesdays or Sundays, please let Fiona in the Office know, ring 01253 736488. This is so that should we be told that someone who attended one of our services has tested positive for Covid-19 we can track and trace people who may have come in contact with that person.

There are some local churches which do not limit numbers, but there are also some churches which are still closed and will remain so for the foreseeable future. St Cuthbert's is placed in a midway point and will continue to listen and respond to advice.

It has been lovely to conduct a couple of baptisms recently and the families have been very understanding and supportive



of the measures we have in place for these. We are also looking forward to conducting our first wedding for many months shortly too – the bride has arranged special facemasks for their guests, the latest wedding accessory.

Finance

With services coming back into church our income is showing an early glimpse of improvement, but the gap between our income and expenditure is still expected to be around £75,000 for the year, which is going to seriously impact our reserves..

The Bishop of Blackburn is calling the church across the whole diocese to a fortnight of prayer in October, concentrating on finance and how the church should be shaped if income is severally reduced moving forward.

We will hold a gift day on Saturday 17th October. The church will be open through the day and we are encouraging everyone to come and make a one-off gift to St Cuthbert's. There will be an opportunity for the gift to be used either for:

- the day to day ministry of the church or
- towards the improvement of access for all, repointing of the Tower and the reordering of the St Aidan's Chapel, which we would love to progress.

Alas as we go to press, we have just received a quotation in the region of £4,000 to update and repair the roof alarm on the church, despite our best efforts our expenditure continues.

We are very grateful to everyone who has continued to give through the year and to those who have gone out of their way to get your gift to us.

The Parish of JC

At the open-air service in August the Vicar spoke about the future of the Anglican church here in Lytham. The PCCs of both St John's and St Cuthbert's have agreed to meet together to explore the possibility of becoming a single parish, whilst retaining the two worship centres.

Such a move would allow us to be united in our mission to the town and have the added benefit of sharing resources. Nick would become the Incumbent of the new parish and the diocese will look to appoint an Assistant Priest too. Lytham would be too large a parish for one stipendiary person, especially when you consider the number of baptisms, weddings and funerals the two churches conduct.

We would value both your prayers and your responses to this proposal. There will be time for consultation and eventually the move will have to be signed off by the Queen. The first joint PCC meeting is on Thursday 3rd September via Zoom (a video conferencing program).

Daily Prayer



Since the beginning of lock down the clergy have been continuing to say Morning Prayer from their homes because of restrictions on meeting and going into church. It has been said in a fresh way through Facebook at 9am each morning Monday – Saturday, with others praying alongside in their own homes.

The Morning Office includes saying psalms and canticles, reading scripture from both the Old and New Testament, as guided by the Church of England Lectionary, and offering intercessory prayer. All key ingredients for disciples of Christ.

We will return to saying Morning Prayer in church soon and will continue to share it through the internet. Sharing prayers through Facebook means that anyone can say Morning Prayer from wherever they are. And as Facebook saves all the videos recorded anyone can say Morning Prayer anytime.

It is so good to read the bible and pray together in this way day by day. When Nick was speaking to Bishop Jill recently he mentioned that nine people had joined together that morning for this precious time with God to start the day, Bishop Jill was quite taken aback and really encouraged to hear that.

If you have a Facebook account search @stcuthbertlytham. Why not join us?

From the Bishop of Blackburn

We are not yet out of the woods of the Pandemic, with the ongoing anxiety about localised outbreaks or a second wave, but the lockdown is being eased gradually with services of public worship and weddings allowed, with different households allowed to meet and stay, and with hair salons and restaurants allowed to open, but all with wise social distancing. What an extraordinary time it has been.



I want to say how well many have managed to keep going, to keep sane, to keep fit. It has been more difficult for others, the bereavements, the isolation, the separation from family and friends. Yes, it has been a challenge for our national life, and all around the world.

So let me begin with a massive thank you to so many around the diocese for the energy, creativity, and adaptability you have displayed during the lockdown in ensuring that church life remains open; yes buildings have been closed, but church has remained open. That has been demonstrated in the greater care for neighbours, the provision of meals and food parcels, the streaming of services of worship and teaching, and times of prayer over zoom. There has been a heightening of interest in spiritual matters, people asking questions about God and meaning and a greater number of people praying. The spiritual temperature has been rising, people have been focussing on the things that really matter, families have been seen out together, exercise has become more common. It's been a moment to rethink, reset, reboot, reconsider.

And it goes without saying that we have learnt to appreciate those who are fundamental to maintaining the provision of our National Health Service and Care Homes and other supply chains so vital for our wellbeing, the supply of food, the collection of rubbish, the care of the most vulnerable, teachers in schools. Lock down has brought into the limelight an amazing army of workers, committed to the service of others and often at their own risk.

When we think of how other countries have had to cope with far fewer resources and support, though it is a matter of great grief that so many lives have been lost to Covid 19 in the U.K., we still have so much to be thankful for.

By contrast with a grateful look back, we must keep our eyes fixed on the future, looking forward with expectant anticipation for what lies ahead. Vital that we do not forget the important lessons which God has been trying to teach us during this pandemic. Given the grim financial forecasting, the environmental challenge, and the need for the creation of many new jobs, that is not easy. But Christians are called to the ongoing task of making Jesus Christ known, calling others to follow Him, as the One who can bring fulness of life, the unique gift of eternal life. And to make that message credible we serve the whole community, seeking justice, peace and love, seeing His Kingdom be established in communities and individual lives.

Our passion for others to hear and receive the Gospel message of salvation found in Christ remains undimmed. We are undeterred. We are resolute. We continue with embedding Vision 2026 into our DNA as a diocese, promoting healthy churches that have a transformative impact on their wider communities, by making disciples, being witnesses, growing leaders and inspiring young people for the future.

Open Church

We are delighted that once again on Saturday's we have begun to 'Open Church'. We plan to open from 11am until 1pm for the time being, so that people can visit, look around and take the opportunity to pray. If you are able to assist staffing these times please let Julie Webb know or contact the Parish Office.

The Authorship of the Gospels (part 1) by Joyce Hill

We so easily take it for granted that the Gospels were written by Matthew, Mark, Luke and John that we probably don't spend much time wondering whether these were the actual authors, or whether their names were given to

these texts in order to confirm their status and authority in the early church. If the latter, we need to bear in mind that this was a very common thing to do in a pre-print culture: there was no notion of copyright, and no established practice of an author naming himself or indicating the year of composition. So, a tradition could easily grow up that a text, recognised as special, was written by a famous person, even if in reality it was not. The Gospels bear the name of two apostles — Matthew and John — and two others whose names we know from the New Testament: Mark named in the Acts of the Apostles and the Epistles, and Luke, named in the Epistles. But since no original manuscript survives for any of the Gospels, we don't know what information, if any, accompanied them when they first went into circulation. The most we can say, based on surviving evidence, is that the names of Matthew Mark, Luke and John were associated with the four Gospels fairly early on in the history of the church.

You might think that none of this matter — and in a way, of course, it doesn't, because what is important is what the texts say, not who wrote them. But the question of authorship isn't entirely irrelevant, just as the question of date is not. Are they, for example, based on first-hand witness? Or maybe not? And how we answer might affect the way we read them.

The difficulty of dating the gospels is something I wrote about some time ago, and I won't repeat the arguments here. But as an entry-point to the issue of authorship we need to remember that a common view of modern scholars is that Mark was written probably in the late 60s, Matthew and Luke possibly in the 80s, and John maybe around 90-110. So, it is immediately obvious that the dates raise questions about the traditional assumptions regarding authorship: one could imagine that someone writing in the late 60s might have known Jesus in their adulthood, but it gets to be less imaginable for later decades.

Mark's gospel was written first because we can tell that it was used by Matthew and Luke. It's not too difficult to believe that he was the Mark/John Mark in the New Testament. Tradition has it that he was one of the Seventy (Luke 10) and maybe the follower who ran away from Gethsemane (Mark 14: 51-52). But the person we encounter by name was a close associate of Peter, Paul and Barnabas, from whom he could have got much of his information. Perhaps, too, the mere fact that he is not a major figure is another reason for accepting his authorship: it's unlikely that popular tradition would have fastened on his name

as one to lend authority to the text when there were bigger names available. Additionally, he is named as the author very early on by Bishop Irenaeus (c.130-200), who claims to be quoting Bishop Papias (c. 60-130). All this adds up to a reasonable though not provable case for Mark being the author of the gospel bearing his name. The picture is more mixed for Matthew, Luke and John, however. I will deal with these next month.



Mothers' Union, it is with much regret we have to inform all members that due to the Covid-19 restrictions we will not be holding our monthly meetings until further notice.

This also sadly applies to our Mums & Toddlers (Bertie Bear Club) due to concerns over social distancing.

We hope that should there be any significant changes in the near future we will review the situation and inform all members accordingly. *Margaret Fisher*

Parish Office

The Parish Office is open again on Mondays through to Fridays 9am to 1pm. Although the office is 'open', we request that you only come to the office if there is something that cannot be dealt with over the phone, or via email, time spent in the office will be limited to keep everyone safe.

QUIZ QUESTIONS: Let the music play

Music in its many forms and styles has universal appeal. To pinpoint why this should be so in a few words is far from easy. Wise men have made known their thoughts: Hans Christian Andersen wrote 'Where words fail, music speaks': Confucius considered that 'Music produces a kind of pleasure which human nature cannot do without.'

Do you consider yourself to be a music aficionado ? This month's forty questions involve popular classical music and its composers.

1. What is the lowest male voice type ?
2. The annual Festival of Lessons and Carols from King's College, Cambridge includes how many readings ?
3. Name The Three Tenors.
4. Which city was the birthplace of Frédéric Chopin ?
5. The bassoon belongs to which group of instruments ?
6. Which instrument is played by the leader of an orchestra ?
7. In an opera, when is the overture played ?
8. The anthem for the European Union uses a section from which larger classical work ?
9. *Rule Britannia !* is the work of which composer ?
10. How many operas did Beethoven compose during his career ?
11. In which year did the Sydney Opera House open ?
12. In Gustav Holst's *The Planets*, which planet is the bringer of old age ?
13. Which composer was a regular patron of The Red Hedgehog coffeehouse in Vienna ?
14. What is the significance of the title of Handel's *Water Music* ?
15. Who wrote Albinoni's Adagio ?
16. Which event is commemorated by Tchaikovsky's *1812 Overture* ?
17. Louis Spohr claimed to be the first to introduce a now well-known musical implement to England. This was ... ?
18. Which Italian Baroque composer was often referred to as the Red Priest ?
19. Salzburg in Austria is the setting for *The Sound of Music*. Its other claim to musical fame is ... ?
20. The music of J S Bach fell into obscurity after his death until another great composer mounted a revival of the St Matthew Passion. Who was this composer ?

21. Which English conductor always appeared on the podium wearing a white carnation ?
22. Name the composer who spent part of his life running an orange plantation in Florida.
23. In which country was Delibes' opera *Lakme* set ?
24. Which opera was Richard Wagner inspired to write in 1840 after a stormy journey he made to London ?
25. What is the name commonly given to Schubert's No. 8 Symphony in B minor ?
26. *Die Fledermaus* is an operetta composed by Johann Strauss II. What is the meaning of this title ?
27. Frédéric Chopin was unusual in that he composed almost exclusively for which one instrument ?
28. What is the collective name of the four operas *Rhinegold*, *Valkyries*, *Siegfried* and *Twilight of the Gods* ?
29. Which musical masterpiece commemorates the battle fought at Borodino in the Napoleonic Wars ?
30. In *Peter and the Wolf*, which animal is represented by the clarinet ?
31. Who was the first composer to have one of his works performed in space ?
32. Which opera did Giuseppe Verdi compose for the opening of the Suez Canal in 1868 ?
33. What is the meaning of the musical direction *estinto* ?
34. Before he took up conducting, Arturo Toscanini played which instrument in the orchestra ?
35. Beethoven's Symphony No. 6 in F Major is often known as ... ?
36. The sackbut is an ancestor of which modern instrument ?
37. Which British composer wrote the theme music for the film *Murder on the Orient Express* ?
38. To whom did Beethoven originally plan to dedicate his Symphony No. 3 [*Eroica*] ?
39. Which composer's works are known by K-numbers ?
40. Who wrote the Farewell Symphony, and why is it so called ?

Answers in the next issue.

AUGUST QUIZ QUESTIONS: For bibliophiles: ANSWERS

1. Scotland, 2. Mary Anne Evans, 3. Homer, 4. Pride and Prejudice, 5. To Kill a Mockingbird, 6. Paula Hawkins, 7. East of Eden, 8. Isaac Newton, 9. Barabbas, 10. Cordelia, 11. False, 12. John Wyndham, 13. Catherine and Heathcliff, 14. Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows, 15. Christopher Marlowe, 16. St Trinian's, 17. The Mystery of Edwin Drood, 18. William Blake, 19. Family relations: Father Brown, Mother Courage, Uncle Vanya, 20. Deuteronomy, 21. René Descartes, 22. A Study in Scarlet, 23. Chapbooks, 24. Dombey and Son, 25. Gold, 26. Lake Poets, 27. Ode, 28. Copyright, 29. The Mermaid Tavern, 30. Jean-Paul Sartre, 31. The Taming of the Shrew, 32. The Comedy of Errors, 33. Magnum Opus, 34. The Bloomsbury Group, 35. Spanish, 36. Virgil, 37. Soliloquy, 38. Fern Britton, 39. The Wind in the Willows, 40. Wendy, John and Michael.

We would your contributions to the magazine, so if you have any items you think may be of interest please send them to the parishoffice@stcuthbertslytham.org.uk for the next magazine by Friday 25th September

Services

Sunday

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

*10:00am Holy Communion (CW) in the Nave
and live streamed on our YouTube channel*

Monday to Saturday

9:00am Morning Prayer live streamed on Facebook

Wednesday

*11:00 Holy Communion in the St Aidan's Chapel
from 5th August*

The Ministry Team

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Charity Registration No. 1143673

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