

Parish Church of Saint Cuthbert Lytham



November 2020

Dear Friends

On a couple of occasions in the last few days I have been challenged by bible passages. Last Sunday the theme of the BBC's Songs of Praise was the abolition of slavery, and in our Morning Prayer's New Testament reading a couple of days later we found Paul writing about the role of women in church and in their family.



In the passage from 1 Timothy 2, Paul writes about how he expects women to behave and in Ephesians 6 we read how he writes about how slaves should behave.

In today's world we find such instruction more than challenging as, for most of us, they do not resonate with the world we live in. It has widely been agreed such teaching fitted with the culture of the day, but no longer remains as foundational teachings of the church. The church of today sits in a world where the roles of women and the culture of slavery are much changed.

Of course, there is a danger in the church reinterpreting scripture to fit different cultures, but the command to love God and to love our neighbours has to be the overriding authority.

The PCC has recently considered whether St Cuthbert's should be prepared to offer Services of Thanksgiving for same sex marriages. It was clear from the discussions that people, including myself, had moved in their thinking on this emotive topic in recent years. Unanimously the PCC agreed that love was the overriding command and therefore the PCC would support me in offering Thanksgivings in the future.

I believe the necessity to be relevant as Christians within culture is a constant challenge to the church. So many church members are hesitant about change and this is very clear within the conversations our PCC is having with St John's PCC. There is a thread that many wish to maintain the traditions, patterns and security they have found in the past, yet this is set against acknowledging we would like to include more children and younger families. It is acknowledged that some of what we treasure is less attractive to those we wish to invite and include, yet we need to take the risk of being more relevant.

I have often said that God is the immovable and reliable one, the world is ever changing, and the church is somehow a bridge between the two. This means we must teach about the constant-ness of God's love and seek ways to connect that love into our society. The church therefore has to be flexible and willing to adapt to maintain a connection between the world and God.

We have learned more of this throughout 2020 as a result of the pandemic. Our ability to share worship, prayer, meetings and bible study over the internet has shown how adaptable we can be. How we can develop new bridges between God and the world.

May we love and trust God; make sharing his relevance with the world a priority; take the risk of being more flexible; and ensure our tradition is efficacious.

Yours in Christ,

Nick

Gift Day

Thank you to everyone who gave generously to our Gift Day on the 17th October. The amount given at church was £3590, much of which has been gift aided. We still await our Bank Statement for the month as we know that others paid directly into the bank account and I will confirm the final figure next month.

Donations towards our flowers and weekly service sheet

We are delighted that we are once again enjoying flower arrangements in church each week and we are grateful to Dawn Barnes for the time she puts in to overseeing them.

We have long welcomed contributions towards the cost of the flowers and people have often linked this to significant dates in their families lives (e.g. birthdays; wedding anniversaries; the anniversary of the death of a loved one).

Donations towards the cost of the Weekly Service sheet are also welcomed and we will acknowledge such gifts on the sheet on the appropriate day.

The suggested donation is £25 for either the flowers or the service sheet or £40 for both. If you are a taxpayer, as it is a donation we also encourage you to Gift Aid it.

Please contact the Parish Office for further details and to progress the necessary arrangements.

Miscellany of Mirth and Meditation

At the beginning of the year Thelma and Barry Band kindly produced a book for us called a Miscellany of Mirth and Meditation. Copies sold well and raised £100 for the church and we are so grateful to them for their thought and work.

We still have a small supply of the book available and it strikes us that it would make an excellent stocking filler. Copies are available from church or by contacting the Parish Office. All monies raised have been gifted to the church.

Services at St Cuthbert's

We keep an eye on Government instructions regarding worship in church during the pandemic. Numbers allowed vary depending on the service we are conducting with limits on Baptisms, Weddings and Funerals. Our regular services can continue with numbers only limited by our ability to ensure social distancing, we also need to take simple contact details in case there is a need to track and trace.

We are fortunate to be able to gather as a church still and we urge everyone to respect this privilege to ensure it is retained. So please do not gather in groups before or after a service, that is not to say ignore everyone, but to limit contact.

The clergy are limiting the time they are spending at the back of church as part of this process. If you do wish to talk to any of them please do ring them instead, their numbers are printed elsewhere in the Magazine.

You may also notice that Nick and Adam are not at services together. Be assured they have not fallen out and speak most days but have agreed to keep apart should one of us need to self-isolate.

Curacies

You may have picked up from Diocesan briefings that Bishop Julian is bringing forward the end of curacies for all those ordained in 2018. The pandemic has impacted clergy numbers and the ability to fill vacant parishes, therefore curacies in this Diocese have been shortened for the time being.

This means that Adam is currently going through his end of curacy assessments which is twelve months earlier than originally planned. As a result, he will be finishing his training earlier than anticipated.

Nothing has been confirmed yet, but we wanted to let you know the current situation and we will, of course, keep you informed.

Advent Calendars

As in recent years Real Chocolate Advent Calendars will shortly be available from our Fair Trade stall at the back of church. We would also welcome donations to enable us to distribute further calendars to local children.

NHS Test and Trace

If you are able to download apps to your phone, we would be grateful if you could download the NHS COVID-19 APP. We have placed our QR poster on the door as you enter church, please can you open the app on arrival and scan the QR code. The QR code look like this, any concerns please ask Nick, Adam or one of the Churchwardens.



Message of thanks to the Diocese from Bishop Julian



We are not yet out of the woods of the pandemic, with the ongoing anxiety about localised outbreaks or a second wave.

In the midst of this, 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 are displaying during the ongoing pandemic; ensuring that church life remains 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 has been a moment to rethink, reset, reboot, reconsider.

And it goes without saying that during this pandemic we have learnt to appreciate those who are fundamental to maintaining the provision of our national life.

They include those working for the National Health Service and care homes and other supply chains so vital for our well-being, including the supply of food, the collection of rubbish, the care of the most vulnerable and teachers in schools.

Lockdown also 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 UK, we still have so much to be thankful for.

It is vital 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.

Memorial Service

Our Memorial Service this year is on Sunday 1st November at 6pm. The service will be live streamed from church which will be through St Cuthberts Lytham YouTube channel as we have been doing for our 10am services.

During the service we will be remembering all those whose funerals we have conducted during the past twelve months, praying for their families and friends too. We will also name others who you may wish to be included in our prayers that evening, those close to us who have died and we still miss dearly.

We recognise how important this service is to so many and hope many will find strength and comfort as we share this act of worship in this changed way this year.

Fylde Foodbank

The Fylde Foodbank donations basket is in situ once more at the back of church. If you are able, please donate in date store cupboard items, particularly UHT full fat milk, protein,

tea and coffee, white sugar, and chocolate treats. The Foodbank also needs washing tablets and washing up liquid. If people are struggling to buy food, it means that other household items also are unaffordable.

If you, or any one you know, requires a food voucher at this time, please speak with the clergy in confidence. Fylde Foodbank is open Tuesdays and Thursdays - 11.00 - 3.00pm at St Anne's United Reformed Church.



Christmas Present Donation

Unfortunately, we will not be able to hold our usual Christmas Eve Crib Service in church this year, although we are planning to live stream an exciting alternative.

In past years we have welcomed wrapped gifts for children less fortunate in the local area, which get distributed via a charity, we would LOVE to make this happen this year too. To enable you to drop off your gifts, we will have a drop off area at the church hall on Monday, Wednesday and Friday mornings, 9 am to 12.30pm starting on the 2nd December which will run up until Christmas Eve.

If you can donate, we would be so grateful. Let us join together and put some smiles on little faces. If you need any further information or wish to discuss this, please contact the Parish Office 01253 736 488.

Fair Trade

The autumn/winter brochure is now available on the Fair Trade stall at the back of church. There are some Christmas cards, lovely blank occasion cards and gifts and usual store cupboard items.

Please may I encourage you to take a brochure and ring me if you wish to place an order for Christmas, it can be delivered straight to your home. Please place monies in the appropriate envelope and leave on the stall.

Thank you, Julie Webb, 07914 926 422.



Mothers' Union

Earlier in the year you may recall raffle prizes were very kindly donated in support of a proposed musical concert to raise funds for the Church. Due to Covid-19 this was sadly cancelled. As there is no prospect of this going ahead in the near future, please contact Mrs Marian Burton on 01253 720 456 so these donations can be returned.

As everyone will be aware at the moment we cannot predict when we will be able to hold our monthly MU meetings but rest assured, we will let you know as soon as possible when it is safe to do so.

Keep Safe and Keep Well, Margaret Fisher

From the Registers for October

Baptisms

11th Adam Jonathan Wareing and Francesa Bo Wareing

Funerals

6th Shirley Winifred Wignall

8th William Barnes

20th Suzanne Lynn Briggs

21st Jean Patricia Birtles

29th Alan Wood

Quiz Questions: Anything Goes!

Anything Goes ! has been described as the only principle that does not inhibit progress. So here is a true miscellany: a range of questions intended to be a real test of mind and memory. As an encouragement, some are straightforward; others are less easy.

1. Which musical, lyrics by Cole Porter, involved Billy Crocker as a stowaway ?
2. Which chess piece cannot move in a straight line ?
3. The UK came second in the 1968 Eurovision Song Contest with *Congratulations*, sung by whom ?
4. How many minor prophets are there in the Old Testament ?
5. Which landmark building was surrounded by a sea of ceramic poppies in 2014 ?
6. How many prime numbers are there under twenty ?
7. Much of the 1945 film *Brief Encounter* was shot at which British railway station ?
8. During 2019, where did a spiral slide add fun to the Holy and Undivided Trinity ?
9. What is the world's smallest country ?
10. What is the literal translation of the word *cenotaph* ?
11. Which cathedral city in Cumbria began as the Roman town of Luguvalium ?
12. Which elderly Scottish Disney duck often goes for swims in his money bin ?
13. Who made the first translation of the Bible into English in 1382 ?
14. The odour of ozone is similar to that of which other chemical element, symbol Cl ?
15. Which is the deepest lake in the UK ?
16. Which dual enterprise took over from West and Wyatt ?
17. Which British comedian, keen on football, has described a belief in God as an ability to hear music that others cannot ?

18. Which famous painting is otherwise known as *La Gioconda* ?
19. Name the capital city of Honduras.
20. Ra was the ancient Egyptian god of which celestial body ?
21. Hans Holbein the Younger was appointed painter to which king, ca. 1536 ?
22. Whose weapons were trumpets, pitchers and lamps when he fought the Midianites ?
23. In 1987, Princess Anne became the 7th holder of which title ?
24. Where did Colonel Ross and the Inspector await the travellers ?
25. First appearing in 1947, what is the oldest quiz still broadcast on UK radio ?
26. Which of our patron saints was executed by the emperor Diocletian for refusing to make a sacrifice to a pagan god ?
27. Which English painter considered *Salisbury Cathedral from The Meadows* was his finest work ?
28. The 12th century Coronation Spoon is the oldest object in which collection ?
29. Which Caribbean country is named after a female saint of Syracuse ?
30. Who accompanied Paul on his first missionary journey ?
31. Which rower combined with Andy Holmes to win the men's coxless pair at the 1988 Olympics ?
32. On which day of the year could the High Priest enter the Holiest Place, the innermost part of the temple where the covenant box was kept ?
33. The sources of the rivers Severn and Wye are found on which Cambrian mountain peak ?
34. In July 2019, which myopic nightwatchman fell eight short of a century ?
35. During Paul's third missionary journey, roughly for how long did he minister in the school of Tyrannus at Ephesus ?
36. Which model of car shares its name with both a Spanish and an Argentinian city ?

37. According to legend, which of our saints drove out all the snakes from the country of which he is patron ?
38. Which hero of Waterloo, who lost his right leg to a cannon shot, was created Marquess of Anglesey ?
39. In Greek mythology, what was the name of the multi-headed *Hound of Hades* ?
40. To which destination do Commons members go on resignation ?

Answers in the next issue.

OCTOBER QUIZ QUESTIONS: Year on Year: ANSWERS

1. Regency, 2. HMS Beagle, 3. James Munroe, 4. The Cato Street Conspiracy, 5. Hans Christian Ørsted, 6. The Treaty of Versailles, 7. Switzerland, 8. Antwerp, Belgium, 9. Nellie Melba, 10. Morecambe F C, 11. Barnard Castle, 12. Sajid Javid, 13. Roger Federer, 14. *Waterloo* by Abba, 15. By pitching a bell tent and lighting a fire, 16. Wuhan, 17. Winning the Tour de France, 18. 23rd March, 19. SpaceX, 20. Andrew Johnson, Bill Clinton, 21. Kobe Bryant, 22. Ending child poverty, 23. Instagram, 24. Blackpool illuminations, 25. Bolton Wanderers, 26. Kenny Rogers, 27. JMW Turner, 28. Derek Aconah, 29. Tokyo, 30. The Guardian, 31. Nicholas Parsons, 32. David Hockney, 33. Caroline Flack, 34. Edward Colston, 35. None, 36. Tim Davie, 37. Rebecca Long-Bailey, 38. Leeds United, 39. The *Argos* catalogue, 40. The Fourth Plinth, Trafalgar Square – it's a sculpture.

Collects

The church's new year begins on the first Sunday of Advent, which in 2020 falls on 29 November. The previous Sunday, the last in the old year, is consequently 22 November, and it is on this day that we say the most famous of our collects: 'Stir up, we beseech thee, O Lord, the wills of thy faithful people; that they, plenteously bringing forth the fruit of good works, may of thee be plenteously rewarded; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen'. Common Worship uses modernised language, but here I've chosen its original sixteenth century form as it was created for use in what was then the Church of England's new Book of Common Prayer. Even in its more modern form, however, it begins with 'Stir up...'

and it is this which in recent centuries has made it part of our common culture: the day became known as Stir Up Sunday, when the Christmas pudding mixture was stirred up and wishes were made. So, it has prompted me to write about Collects this month.

The liturgical term 'collect' for a short prayer has the same etymology as the verb 'to collect', although we pronounce them differently. Both come from Latin 'a gathering together', and 'to gather together'. The collect, known for centuries in the Latin liturgy as a *collecta*, is a short prayer which brings together an invocation, a petition, and a conclusion which calls upon Christ or ascribes glory to God. I always think of it as a rather efficient form of prayer! You can see the elements of it in the 'Stir up' collect above. However, as is often the case in the Church of England's traditional collects, the invocation (the address to God) only comes after the no-nonsense opening words of the petition, 'Stir up'. Another well-known example of doing things this way is the Evensong collect, 'Lighten our darkness, we beseech thee O Lord; and by thy great mercy defend us from the perils and dangers of this night; for the love of thy only Son, our Saviour, Jesus Christ, Amen.'

In the medieval liturgy there were elaborate rules about which collects were said when in the church's year, and since the number of days

between Epiphany and Easter and between Pentecost and Advent varies from year to year according to the date of Easter, it was convenient to have the collects in a separate book so that they could be drawn upon as and when required. This special book of collects was known as a Collectar (Latin *Collectarium*). So, when Archbishop Cranmer was putting together the prayer book for the newly created Church of England, he was able to draw upon a rich tradition. Latin texts lie behind most of the BCP's collects, but some are original compositions, as far as we can tell, and each one, whether following the sense of its Latin source, or being completely independent, is sharpened and shaped very skilfully for the rhythms of English speech. In total, Cranmer's 1549 service book has eighty-four collects which cater for the cycle of the church's year, including fixed feast-days for those saints that the new church continued to honour, and a dozen or so collects embedded within services, which remained fixed — for example, 'Lighten our darkness...', said at every Evensong. They have been called 'jewelled miniatures', 'one of the chief glories of the Anglican liturgical tradition'. But it will be a task for another occasion to take a closer look at Cranmer's skill in creating them.

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 20th November

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*

The Ministry Team

Vicar:  Revd Nick Wells
01253 279 676

Curate:  Revd Adam Thomas
07968 434 328

Hon. Assistant Priest: Revd Helen Houston

Local Licensed Ministers: David Chapman Angela Lee
David Matthews Bev Wells
Nicola Whitehead

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