

Parish Magazine

Saint Cuthbert Lytham



December 2020

Dear Friends

We are beginning to hear how we will be able to meet others to celebrate Christmas this year. Clearly it will not be in quite the way most of us would wish, but there is some relaxation to the regulations, I just hope it does not prove to be at too high a cost.



One big change for us as church members is that we will not be able to host large congregations. This means our Crib Service on Christmas Eve will be rather different this year.

Rather than hold the Crib Service in church we will be filming and putting together a service which will be streamed through our usual channels. Being involved in several streamed services through Facebook and YouTube now, I have to say they have proved to be very powerful and moving and I am sure this will be no exception.

One of the titles given to Jesus, especially the newborn Jesus, is Immanuel – ‘God with Us’. This name has an added power this year as we celebrate his birth from the safety of our own homes.

Just as children anticipate with excitement what Father Christmas will bring them let us capture that feeling ourselves and welcome Immanuel into our homes and look forward with anticipation to what He will bring us.

There will be no need to leave a glass of sherry and a mince pie for Him, but let us make sure our hearts are ready to welcome him afresh - Yet what I can, I give him, give my heart’.

Have a good Advent and may Immanuel - God be with you all this Christmas.

Nick

Advent and Christmas Services

Even if we are out of lockdown on 2nd December as hoped we will have to recognize Advent and celebrate Christmas in a different way this year, but please remember Christmas is not cancelled. We will still rejoice on the birthday of Jesus.

With St John's re opening we will be holding one Sunday service in each church through December at their usual times of 10am at St Cuthbert's and 10:30am at St John's. The anticipated timetable will be:

Sunday 6 th December	10:30am	Holy Communion @ St John's
Sunday 13 th December	10:00am	Holy Communion @ St Cuthbert's
	10:30am	Holy Communion @ St John's
Sunday 20 th December	10:00am	Holy Communion @ St Cuthbert's
	10:30am	Carol Service @ St John's
	6:00pm	Carol Service at St Cuthbert's
Christmas Eve	4:00pm	Crib Service a joint service pre-recorded and streamed on Facebook and YouTube
	9:00pm	First Communion of Christmas @ St John's
	11:30pm	First Communion of Christmas @ St Cuthbert's
Christmas Day	10:00am	Christmas Communion @ St Cuthbert's
	10:30am	Christmas Communion @ St John's
Saint John's Day	10:30am	Holy Communion @ St John's
Sunday 27 th December		

Please note there will be no midweek communion services during December.

Christmas Card Distribution

Jointly with St John's we will deliver a Christmas card to every home in Lytham this year. We think this is really important to wish people a Joyful Christmas and to remind them of its true meaning and special significance for Christians. This also provides us with an opportunity to let everyone know about all our services and how they can access them and be involved.

We will need lots of help to get these through every letterbox in the first part of December – if you can help please ring Fiona in the Parish Office **01253 736488**.

One Parish in Lytham

The conversations between the PCCs of St John's and St Cuthbert's have been taking place through the autumn. After considering some of the practicalities and answer various questions we have begun to explore what being together may look like. We have been working with the Diocesan Discipleship Advisor and are beginning to explore and develop a mission statement.

Both churches at their Annual Parochial Church Meetings in October took a straw poll which was strongly in favour of progressing the creation of a single parish for Lytham with two worship centres.

Our school is also involved in these conversations and supportive of the change. The school can also be considered a third worship centre as they share Collective Worship most mornings and indeed have hosted Messy Church prior to the pandemic.

We expect the Archdeacon of Lancaster to begin to progress the move more formally in the new year.

Lytham St John the Divine

Following many long months, it is great to have St John's ready to open for worship again as soon as the latest lockdown is lifted. The church has been thoroughly cleaned and tidied and made Covid safe.

On Sunday 29th November, our live-streamed Sunday Communion will be at 10:00am from St John's and the following week we will share one service there at 10:30am.

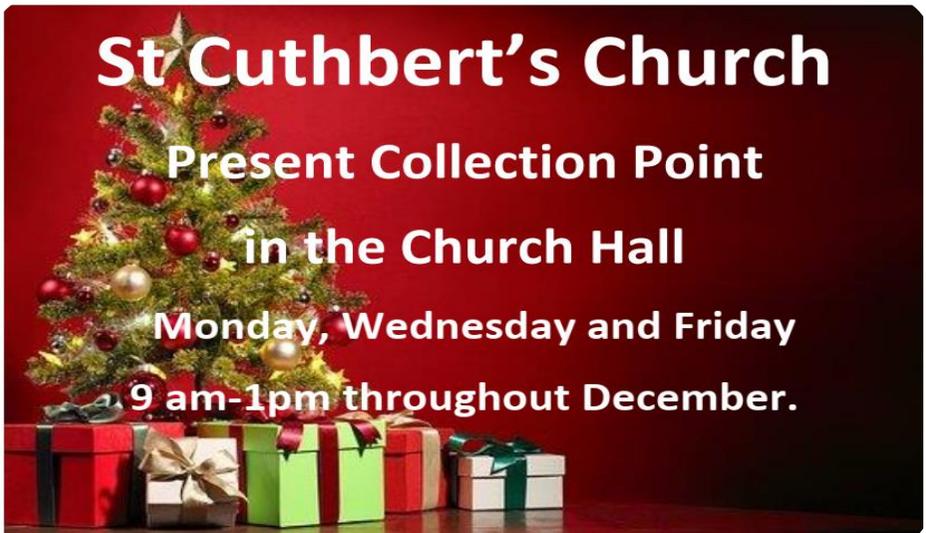
This will be the first service with a congregation in the church since February, prior to the spire damage being noticed. At the service we will be joined by the Archdeacon of Lancaster and Nick will be licensed as Interim Priest in Charge of St John's (he of course will continue as Vicar of St Cuthbert's too).

This means there will be no service at St Cuthbert's on 6th December as we encourage you to come to St John's to celebrate with the congregation on their return to the building and to support Nick in his new role. This service will also be live streamed on YouTube.

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 18th December

Christmas Present Collection

As we can't be in Church this year for the annual Crib Service on Christmas Eve, we are collecting gifts for a local charity again, which distributes gifts on Christmas Eve to children less fortunate than ourselves. So if you could spare a present, we would be so grateful, just wrap it and label it if it's for a boy or a girl and the age it is suitable for. Let's pull together and make this a bumper year and put some smiles on little faces. If you need any further information, please contact the Parish Office.



Christmas Day Lunch

We are delighted to be partnering with Laugh Live Love in providing a hot Christmas Lunch this year. Laugh Live Love is a local community organisation which has been preparing, cooking and delivering hot three course meals to older people across Lytham, Ansdell and St Annes since the beginning of the pandemic from St Paul's Church Hall.

Meals go out twice a week on a Monday and Friday and include a hot three course lunch plus a sandwich supper.

They are already organised to increase their capacity on Christmas Day and have designed a three course Christmas Menu with turkey and all the trimmings. You can see the menu on the next page.

If you would like to book a Christmas meal to be delivered to you on Christmas day please contact Bev Wells on 07742 709 994 or Julie Webb on 07517 086 530 The cost of the three course lunch, plus supper is £15, payable in advance.

So please do not spend Christmas Day warming a ready meal if you are not able to be with family and friends but take advantage of this wonderful opportunity to eat a Christmas Feast delivered to your doorstep. You could be one of the lucky ones who has it delivered in a Rolls Royce. If not, you will definitely receive it with a happy heart a beaming smile and a friendly wave.

We are grateful to Laugh Live Love and all those volunteering to help provide these meals to help make the day so special for so many.

**A HOT THREE COURSE MEAL
AND SANDWICH SUPPER
DELIVERED TO YOUR DOOR ON
CHRISTMAS DAY**

Lytham, St Annes, Ansdell and Fairhaven



£15 

Lunch

Prawn Cocktail
or
Salmon and Dill Soup

Turkey
With Stuffing, Turkey Gravy,
Cocktail Sausage, Roast
Potatoes, Buttered Mashed
Carrots, Braised Red
Cabbage and Sprouts

Christmas Pudding
and custard
or
Trifle

Supper

Cream Cheese and
Cucumber Bagel

Christmas Cake
or
Stollen

Clementine

Booking is essential and payment by
11th December 2020
Contact Julie on 07517 086 530



Promoting the physical,
mental, emotional, social and
spiritual health and wellbeing
of older people on the Fylde

From the Registers

Funerals - November

- 5th Thorley Roe
- 18th Ken Cotton
- 19th Peter Shurrock
- 20th Patricia Morris
- 27th Bruce Carter
- 27th Gerard Ashcroft

Christmas Trees

You can't imagine Christmas without Christmas trees. But why this association?

In historical terms the answer to 'why' in this country is Prince Albert. It wasn't, as people often think, that he introduced the Christmas tree into England. In fact, the first instance that we know of in this country when someone decorated an entire small tree for Christmas was in 1800, when George III's wife, Charlotte of Mecklenberg-Strelitz, had a Christmas tree at a children's party. Queen Victoria, as a child, was



familiar with the custom, although it did not at first spread much beyond the royal family. In 1840, however, Victoria married Albert. He, like Queen Charlotte, knew the custom in his native Germany, and the decorated tree became the centre-piece of their family celebrations. The idea quickly caught on amongst the upper classes. But the trigger for its wider popularity was an engraving made for Christmas 1848, which showed a decorated tree, surrounded by Victoria, Albert and all of their children (six of them by that date). This was published in the *Illustrated London News* along with a detailed description. There was no looking back: better-off people wanted to emulate the royal family, and Christmas trees soon featured at public entertainments, charity events and in hospitals. There was even a charity set up in 1906 to make sure that poor children in the London slums, who had never seen a Christmas tree, would be able to enjoy one.

Answering the question this way, though, is too limited: we need to go farther back to understand why the tradition grew up at all. Christmas, which was celebrated from the fourth century onwards, is a mid-winter festival, close to the winter solstice, celebrated by many cultures. Such festivities marked the point when, although the sun was now at its lowest, the year was on the turn, bringing with its hopeful anticipation that the hardships of winter would not last much longer, and that spring and the new growing season would indeed come round again. And so, along with the feasting and partying, evergreen plants, such as holly, ivy and mistletoe were used for decoration to symbolise the hope of new life. When the date of Christmas was fixed in the Christian calendar, close to — although not on — the dates of the great pagan festivals, many of the popular customs continued, with the Christian celebrations eventually supplanting the older festivals. By the fifteenth century we have evidence of decorated evergreen trees being set up for Christmas in the region of modern Estonia and Latvia, from which the custom spread to northern Germany. After the Reformation, trees such as this were to be seen in the houses of upper-class Protestant families as an alternative to Christmas cribs, which were then firmly associated with Roman Catholicism. The popularity of decorated Christmas trees was boosted by German emigration to North America and in Britain and throughout the Empire by the example of Victoria and Albert. Only at the start of the twentieth century, though, do we begin to see Christmas trees appearing inside churches — sometimes meeting considerable resistance on the grounds that they were pagan symbols. However, being evergreens, they serve well as symbols of continuing life in a dark time and of hope for the coming of new life. Looked at in this way, they are fitting symbols of the message of Christmas — evergreen life, the promise of hope, and, in the way they are customarily decorated, bearers of lights which illuminate the darkness.

Joyce Hill

Quiz Questions: A December miscellany

December is the twelfth and final month of the year in both the Julian and Gregorian Calendars. Its name is derived from the Latin word *decem* [10] because it was originally the tenth month of the year in the calendar of Romulus, ca. 750 BC, which began in March. December is the darkest month, yet one in which people from ancient times have held festivities. Here are forty questions all of which have a connection, however tenuous, with the month of December.

1. What is the traditional colour of the Advent season ?
2. In which pantomime do Robin Hood and Maid Marion appear ?
3. The 6th December is which Saint's Day ?
4. What is the recognized flower for December ?
5. What is symbolized by the evergreen branches of the Advent wreath ?
6. What is the birth sign of those born on Christmas Day ?
7. How many tips do traditional snowflakes have ?
8. Whose controversial play *A Doll's House* premiered at the Royal Theatre in Copenhagen in 1879 ?
9. Bethlehem is a small village in which country of the UK ?
10. What famous first took place on 17th December 1903 ?
11. Which Archbishop of Canterbury was murdered in his own cathedral in 1170 CE ?
12. What are the two most found words on Christmas gift cards ?
13. Which monarch made the first royal Christmas broadcast, and in what year ? ...
14. ... and who wrote the words of this first broadcast ?
15. Which group sang 'Oh, What a Night' about a late December, back in '63 ?
16. In *Jack and the Beanstalk*, what does Jack trade for magic beans ?
17. By what name was the Roman festival held in mid-December known ?
18. Who was the first professional dancer to win the *Strictly* crown twice ?
19. Which play did William Shakespeare write as a Christmas present

for Elizabeth I ?

20. What is *Smoking Bishop* ?
21. In 1988, who became the first woman to lead the government of an Islam-dominated state when she became Prime Minister of Pakistan ?
22. In 1612, which astronomer was the first to observe the planet Neptune ?
23. From which country did Saint Nicholas originate ?
24. Whose takeaway food is so popular in Japan at Christmas that it often has to be ordered weeks in advance ?
25. For how many years should *Sleeping Beauty* sleep unless her spell is broken ?
26. In *Strictly*, which dance features only in the final ?
27. Since 1952, which song has topped the charts at Christmas on three separate occasions ?
28. What is the name of Ebenezer Scrooge's partner in *A Christmas Carol* ?
29. Who banned Christmas carols after the English Civil War in 1647 ?
30. What did Scottish nationalist students take from Westminster Abbey on 25th December 1950 ?
31. What medical procedure was completed on 3rd December 1967 ?
32. Which two books of the New Testament describe the birth of Jesus ?
33. In which Bond film does the character Dr Christmas Jones appear ? ...
34. ... and which actor played Dr Christmas Jones in this film?
35. From whom does the tradition of hanging gifts on the Christmas tree originate ?
36. In which year did the British Post Office first introduce Christmas stamps ?
37. 'Save Your Love' was a 1982 Christmas hit for which duo ?
38. Which famous event happened on 16th December 1773 ?
39. Who is the voice of *Strictly* ?
40. What should be eaten on each of the twelve days of Christmas to ensure good luck for the year ahead ?

Answers for this quiz will be in the next issue.

NOVEMBER QUIZ QUESTIONS: Anything Goes !: ANSWERS

1. Anything Goes !, 2. Knight, 3. Cliff Richard, 4. Twelve, 5. Tower of London, 6. Eight, 7. Carnforth, 8. Norwich Cathedral, 9. Vatican City, 10. Empty tomb, 11. Carlisle, 12. Scrooge McDuck, 13. John Wycliffe, 14. Chlorine, 15. Loch Morar, 16. Crosse & Blackwell, 17. Frank Skinner, 18. Mona Lisa, 19. Tegucigalpa, 20. The Sun, 21. Henry VIII, 22. Gideon, 23. The Princess Royal, 24. Tavistock [The Adventure of Silver Blaze, Conan Doyle], 25. Round Britain Quiz, 26. Saint George, 27. John Constable, 28. The Crown Jewels of the UK, 29. St Lucia, 30. Barnabas, 31. Steve Redgrave, 32. Day of Atonement 33. Plynlimon [Pumlumon], 34. Jack Leach, 35. Two years, 36. Chrysler Cordoba, 37. Saint Patrick, 38. Henry Paget, 2nd Earl of Uxbridge, 39. Cerberus, 40. The Chiltern Hundreds.

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.



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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
David Matthews
Nicola Whitehead

Angela Lee
Bev Wells

St Cuthbert's Parish Office
St Cuthbert's Church Hall
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FY8 5QL

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Facebook - St Cuthbert Lytham

Twitter - @cuthbertslytham

YouTube Channel – St Cuthbert's Lytham



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