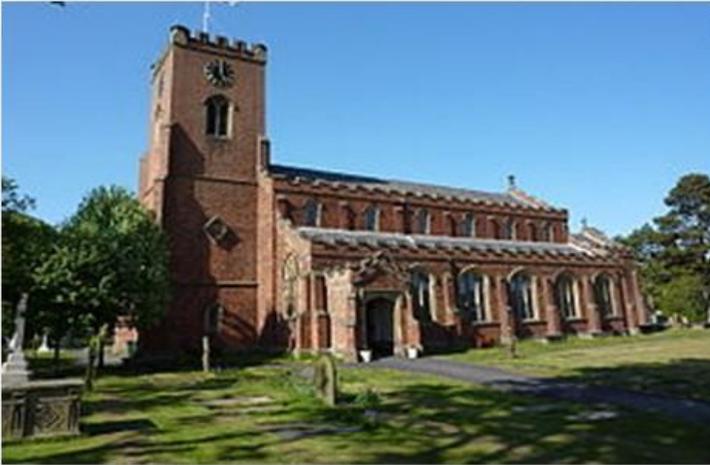


Lytham St Cuthbert



*and Lytham St John
worshipping together*



Church Magazine January 2021

Dear Friends

One of our Christmas decorations in the Vicarage is a battery-operated string of warm white LEDs set in an old sweet jar. It is a lovely feature which we all enjoy.

However, it has a strange effect on me, it makes a connection and draws an emotional response every time I see it, my response is beyond the simplicity of

the display. You see Bev made this for me and brought it into hospital to decorate and cheer up my sterilized isolated room three years ago now, when I had my Stem Cell Transplant.

As many of you know I was diagnosed with Multiple Myeloma in 2016 and after several months on chemotherapy underwent an autologous stem cell transplant. I am so grateful to Bev and the rest of my family as well as NHS staff, friends and church members who cared, loved and prayed for me through this time. For several weeks I was very weak and at times quite emotional.

The Christmas light display seems to short circuit something within me in a way I have not often experienced in my life. Making a deep connection with my very being.

I am sure many of you have had similar experiences when something you see or hear connects you to a significant moment in your past. We are all likely to have something of this as a result of the Covid19 pandemic.



Yet that stirring and connecting of emotion is so often a positive which emphasizes how that moment was a building block in your life, part of your journey.

The Son of God being born into our world should surely draw a similar reaction within us and I don't know about you but some of the streamed worship has brought an emotional response within me that I may not have felt so clearly in regular worship.

In 2021 I really hope we can allow God to connect with us at a deeper level. It seems likely we will begin to emerge from lockdown at Eastertime if the anticipated vaccine role out is successful. We and the whole of society will experience a freedom for life, an echo of all that Jesus achieved through the crucifixion and resurrection, perhaps the greatest vaccine ever.

Please be safe through these coming weeks and do not be afraid of the moments when your heart too is moved.

Yours in Christ,

Nick

I would like to thank everyone who has worked so hard to clean our churches and decorate them too, your work is so greatly appreciated. Further thanks to those who have contributed to our Christmas services, you have all helped to ensure the real essence of Christmas has shone through.

And more personally thank you for your many cards and best wishes for Christmas.

From our Curate, Adam

The Diocese has officially announced that I have been appointed the new director of Whalley Abbey, the Diocesan Retreat Centre, from 1st March 2021. My final Sunday in Lytham will therefore be Sunday 28th February. I will have much more to say about my time here in the parish at that point.

The Diocese has a new vision for Whalley Abbey. It is to focus on being a Retreat Centre and a resource for parishes to deepen and grow their relationship with God through a discipleship programme. We will also be forming a new monastic community of prayer, resident and non-resident, lay and ordained. The Abbey buildings have been closed since April, but we are looking to gradually re-open after Easter and be fully open by September 2021. There will opportunities for day retreats, a supper club, short and long residential retreats, a chance for parish away days and weekends, and even a self-catering cottage by the river for some time out with God.

The future of the Magazine

You may have noticed from the cover of this magazine that we are beginning to produce a joint Church Magazine for St John's and St Cuthbert's.

Both churches have produced their own magazine in the past in slightly different ways and it will take a few editions to ensure that a correct balance of items is achieved.

All those who formerly advertised in the St John's magazine will be contacted to see if they wish to secure an advert for the future and

others who may be interested in advertising with us are asked to get in touch through the Parish Office at St Cuthbert's.

We will, of course, welcome contributions from our church organizations and updates on things you may be involved with around the parishes.

Joint PCC Meetings

The PCC's have been holding joint meetings, via Zoom, where we have been looking at the things we most value about our churches and beginning to seek a future vision.

The next virtual joint meeting is on the 14th January and we will be looking together at some of the practicalities of the two churches working together, how this is to be staffed, the future pattern of services and other nuts and bolts.

With Nick being the only full-time cleric in the set up when Adam finishes at the end of February it is important we are realistic with our expectations.

The Bishop of Blackburn and the Archdeacon of Lancaster have both promised a second clergy associate, but at present it is unclear what the details of this are. It is important to recognize that we must try not to make an appointment just to keep our services going but we need to seek an appointment which brings fresh ideas and creativity as we reach out in God's love to our town.

Please remember that the PCC is elected by you as parishioners and if there is anything you would wish us to include in our conversations and

decision making please speak to a member of the PCC and also hold them in your prayers.

May we together seek God's guidance and support those taking the lead through this time of transition.

Message from the Bishop of Blackburn

I have to be honest and say mixed emotions race around inside me when I visit a foodbank. Some feelings are of appreciation for what is being so generously and graciously offered: that is fantastic and thanks to all involved here and around the country.



But my other emotions are of shame and embarrassment that such a place and service is needed at all. What is it saying about our society that so many are having to rely on the support of foodbanks?

Some may have seen the news item a couple of weeks ago about the serious poverty that some in Lancashire are facing at this time. Many were deeply moved and I am delighted that the country and even other parts of the world have responded with gifts of support.

And while these charitable initiatives are to be applauded, they are not the solution in the longer term.

Yes, they bring relief for this week - for today - and for that we are hugely grateful; but they do not get to the root of the problem.

Why is it that there seems to be an ever-widening gap between those who have and those have not? What is being done to reduce the pressures that foster a decline in our nation's mental health?

How can we prevent addictions to drugs, alcohol and gambling causing more damage to relationships and general wellbeing? Sadly, all of these issues have escalated because of the 2020 pandemic, with increased job losses and debt adding to the problem.

I don't want in a Christmas message to spread doom and gloom, but we have to face facts and the truth of the situation. It is too easy to bury our heads in the sand, hoping the problems won't be here tomorrow.

But the reality of how things are sets me up to speak of the hope the Christmas message brings to the table. It's all about a God who sees all that and demonstrates He wants to do something about it.

God sent His only Son into this messy and confusing world, arriving as a vulnerable baby and knowing all along that from the start He would be rejected and vilified, ultimately leading to His crucifixion.

Love came down at Christmas. We celebrate God's intervention. But it was not just an appearance on the world stage. It was a rescue mission. He came to give His life as a sacrifice, to take on Himself the consequences of the sin of the world, so the world could be free. He came to do what we could not do for ourselves, so that we might be able to receive His forgiveness of our sins and be assured of eternal life.

Now that does go to the root of the problem. When we turn to Him in repentance and faith, God gives us a new heart, a new nature. We are a new creation. That doesn't remove all the pressing problems of day-

to-day living, but it does give us the strength to handle them; to see them in a proper perspective and to begin to live differently.

It is a very big temptation to hope that after the pandemic ceases its ravaging campaign of destruction around the world everything will go back to normal; to what we were used to and to the familiar and so many of us say it. I want to encourage us to think of and plan for a new and better 'normal'.

A normal where foodbanks are not necessary; where those able to work can find meaningful jobs; where our mental health hospitals have got empty beds; where communities care for one another; where addictions are reducing and where there's a groundswell of new faith in Jesus rising up all around the County.

So as I wish all the people of Lancashire a happy Christmas, it is with this hope, that many will discover why the birth of Jesus of Nazareth is so significant; will discover the difference that knowing Him today can make in our lives and so embrace the new and better normal for 2021 and beyond.

Let me leave you with words from the New Testament...

For you know the generosity of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though He was rich, yet for your sakes He became poor, so that by His poverty you might become rich.

Knowing Him deals with the root of the problems in our society. It's a big claim, but I am convinced it is true!

Bishop Julian Henderson

The Afterlife of the Magi

The 'big story' of the season of Epiphany, starting on 6 January, is the Coming of the Magi. Epiphany continues for several weeks, with the lections focusing on the manifestations of the divinity of Jesus — the Greek word *ἐπιφάνεια* (*epiphaneia*), which gives us 'Epiphany', means just that: 'manifestation'. So we have the veneration by the Magi, symbolising recognition by the world beyond Judaea of Christ's kingship, priesthood, and death as represented by the gold, frankincense and myrrh; his recognition as the Messiah by Simeon and Anna in the Temple; the demonstration of his understanding of the Scriptures at the age of twelve, when he disputed with the scholars in the Temple; John the Baptist's acclaim and God's proclamation, together with the descent of the Holy Spirit, at the baptism; and the first miracle when, at the wedding feast of Cana, Jesus turns water into wine, prefiguring the Eucharist. These were all subjects of preaching in Epiphany from the earliest centuries. But it is the Coming of the Magi which is tied to the feast-day itself.

As John Barton has said in his recent *History of the Bible* (thoroughly to be recommended if you enjoy a scholarly read), this is a story 'for which it is hard to imagine any historical source'. But it has undoubted power as a symbolic narrative and it has always seized the imagination, so much so that stories have grown up around these intriguing figures. On the basis of the three gifts, the Western church has always assumed that there were three Magi, although other Christian traditions have different numbers: there are twelve, for instance, in the Syriac tradition. But whatever the tradition, it wasn't long before they were given names. Later, in a further imaginative elaboration, they were represented in art in ways that distinguish them one from another, for

example in age and ethnicity, in order to draw out the essential symbolic meaning: that this story's purpose was to 'manifest' the divine and prophecy-fulfilling nature of the young child and to foreshadow his recognition by people of all ages and races.

The names we are familiar with in the traditions of Western Christendom — Caspar Melchior and Balthazar — differ from those in the east. It's impossible say where they come from. We first find them in a Latin text of the sixth century, known as the *Excerpta Latina Barbari*, which is a translation of a Greek text probably composed in Alexandria round about 500 AD. However, there's no indication here that the names were a new creation at that point, so the tradition doubtless goes back quite a bit farther. It's generally thought that the name Caspar may be traceable to Gondophares (subsequently reduced to Gaspar/Caspar), who appears as a king of India in the apocryphal Acts of Thomas, which seems to have been written before the middle of the third century. There aren't any comparable candidates for the names of Melchior and Balthazar, but not surprisingly, in view of their exotic associations in Matthew's narrative, later legends have them coming from distant lands: Melchior from Persia and Balthazar from Babylonia or Arabia. It was soon assumed that, because of their encounter with the Christ-child, they were converted and were martyred for their beliefs. Constantinople (founded in 330) claimed to have their relics, but these moved to Milan later in the fourth century and to Cologne in the twelfth, where the present gold shrine of the Three Kings dates from c. 1200.

Joyce Hill

Christmas Present Collection

We have been overwhelmed with the support and the amount of gifts that have been donated to this year, in fact we would say that this year has been the biggest donation EVER!! Thank to everyone for your tremendous generosity, you will have put so many smiles on children's faces this Christmas. We can not thank you all enough.

Broadcasting our Services

We have worked hard to ensure that our services have been available to everyone since the beginning of lockdown in March. This has been a real learning curve, but also a great opportunity. On many occasions more people have picked up these services than we would have expected to attend church on an equivalent Sunday.

We have now purchased some cameras and other items to allow us to continue the streaming of services. To continue and grow this ministry we do need volunteers to train and commit to overseeing this into the future.

St Cuthbert's is very grateful to Howard Rawnsley for the gift in memory of his mother Carine Rawnsley which allowed us to purchase the main camera we are using. St Cuthbert's also received monies from the Blackburn Diocese to secure further items and we are so appreciative of this grant. Often it feels as though we only give to the Diocese and so it is with gratitude we have also received from the Diocese.

Although it is possible to move the equipment between the churches it is not easy and is a very time-consuming thing to do. To allow us to

live-stream worship from both churches we really need to purchase and install a few items at St John's. If you wish to give a gift to allow this to happen please speak to Nick, likewise if you would be interested in running the streaming during the main morning service, training and instruction will be given.

Please also note that we share Morning Prayer at 9am on a Monday through to Saturday on the St Cuthbert Lytham Facebook page.

Worship Services in January and beyond

As we were concluding the production of the magazine the Government has announced that Lancashire is being moved into Tier 4. So once again we are being asked to restrict our interactions and most non-essential services and shops will be closed.

As Nick is in the clinically extremely vulnerable group and recognising the average age of the congregation attending church at the moment, he has asked permission of the Bishop for congregational services to be suspended in both churches for the duration of Tier 4. Please be assured we will be conducting an act of worship online each Sunday at 10am as has become usual for us.

The only exception is that we will continue to host and lead funeral services (for which the congregation is limited to 30).

In the meantime the PCCs will be considering our future worship patterns when they meet together on the 14th January. We need to be ready for some long-term changes as it is unlikely we will be able to offer the same pattern of services as twelve months ago. With both Ann having retired and Adam moving in a few weeks, we can not

expect Nick to be everywhere all the time, indeed we need to look after him and allow our LLMs to extend their ministry here. The Revd Helen Houston is committed to continue assisting as her rota as Chaplain at Blackpool Teaching hospital allows and we will be submitting a role description for an associate minister to the Bishop very soon.

The Churches in Lytham (Ecumenical Partnership)

This year's Week of Christian Unity runs from 18th to the 25th January. As usual we will be holding our Covenant Service here in Lytham on Sunday 24th at 10am and this will be live-streamed. The Covenant document and accompanying bible will be passed on from St John's to St Cuthbert's during the service.

The preacher will be the Revd Stuart Wild who was licensed as the Minister of Park Road Methodist Church last summer and is Superintendent of the South Fylde Methodist Circuit.

In the evening Nick is returning the compliment by preaching at the Methodist circuit service.

From the Registers

Funerals - December

4 th	Brent Smith
8 th	Trevor King
11 th	Patricia Chamberlain
18 th	Alan Dalton
23 rd	Mary Cammell

Quiz Questions: A miscellany for January

Welcome to the New Year! 2020 will be remembered for a long time, though mainly not for cheerful reasons. It is best to consider January not for its cold and dampness, but as a time for new beginnings, new energies, and a time to start over again. The poet and pacifist Edith Pierce wrote: 'We will open the book. Its pages are blank, and we shall put words on them ourselves. The book is called *Opportunity* and its first chapter is New Year's Day.'

The following questions all have a connection with the month of January. Happy quizzing!

1. January replaced which month as the first month of the Roman year?
2. Kiritimati, the first inhabited place to experience each New Year, is more commonly known as?
3. Which currency first entered circulation on 01.01.2002?
4. On the first day of which New Year, 1900 or 1901, did the Victorians celebrate the start of the 20th century?
5. Which state became part of the United States on 03.01.1959?
6. Opened on 04.01.2010, what is *Burj Khalifa* and where is it?
7. What do we celebrate at The Epiphany?
8. How did the Wise Men finally find the Baby Jesus?
9. In Roman religion and myth, January is named after which god of beginnings and transitions?
10. The name of January's birthstone comes from the 14th century English word meaning 'dark red'. What is it?
11. What is the common name for *galanthus nivalis* which flowers between January and April?
12. Which astronomer discovered the four largest moons of Jupiter in 1610?
13. In 1349, Jewish residents of Switzerland were killed after being blamed for which pandemic?
14. 10.01 is Margaret Thatcher Day in which part of the world?

15. One hundred thousand people were killed by an earthquake in which country in 2010?
16. Which spinach-loving cartoon character first appeared in 1929?
17. In 49 BCE, this general crossed the Rubicon.
18. Which world city's name means *River of January*?
19. Who was crowned English monarch on 15.01.1559?
20. In 27 BCE, which man became the first Roman emperor?
21. Which American federal holiday is observed on the third Monday of January each year?
22. On 17.01, in which year did Captain Robert Scott reach the South Pole?
23. Which British sea captain discovered Hawaii in 1778?
24. In 1649, who was deemed by the courts to be *a tyrant, murderer and enemy of the people*?
25. In which country was the Cullinan diamond found in 1905?
26. Whose lengthy reign came to an end on 22.01.1901?
27. This dynasty came to power in China in 1368.
28. After ruling for four years, this depraved Roman emperor was assassinated in 41 CE.
29. What occasion does the Church celebrate on 25.01?
30. Why is Burns Night held on 25.01?
31. What is the name of the prayer traditionally said at a Burns Supper before the guests are seated?
32. Which Scottish food/s is/are traditionally eaten with the haggis?
33. What does *the immortal memory* of Burns Night entail?
34. What name is given to the toast pronounced to women by a male guest?
35. What is Cranachan?
36. The birthday of the manager of Tottenham Hotspur F C is on 26.01. What age will he soon become?
37. Which Commonwealth country's National Day is 26.01, this day being a public holiday since 1994?
38. This city was renamed Leningrad on 26.01.1924.
39. *Up Helly Aa* is a festival held on the last Tuesday in January. Where does it take place?

40. A mad king died on 29.01.1820. Who was he?

Answers to these questions will be in the next issue.

Quiz Questions: A December miscellany: ANSWERS

1. Purple, 2. Babes in the Wood, 3. Saint Nicholas, 4. Narcissus, 5. Eternal life, 6. Capricorn, 7. Six, 8. Henrik Ibsen, 9. Wales, 10. Flight; the Wright brothers in Kitty Hawk, 11. Thomas Becket, 12. To, From, 13. George V, 1932, 14. Rudyard Kipling, 15. The Four Seasons, 16. A cow, 17. Saturnalia, 18. Aliona Vilani, 19. The Merry Wives of Windsor, 20. A mulled wine, 21. Benazir Bhutto, 22. Galileo, 23. Hungary, 24. Kentucky Fried Chicken, 25. 100 years, 26. The Showdance [freestyle], 27. 'Do They Know It's Christmas?', 28. Jacob Marley, 29. Oliver Cromwell, 30. The Stone of Scone, 31. Heart transplant, 32. Matthew, Luke, 33. The World is Not Enough, 34. Denise Richards, 35. The Druids, 36. 1966, 37. Renee and Renato, 38. The Boston Tea Party, 39. Alan Dedicoat, 40. A mince pie.

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 22nd January

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 either church, please can you open the app on arrival and scan the QR code.

Teddy Medics

Two parishioners of St. Cuthbert's are continuing to raise money for the Victoria Hospital Blue Skies appeal with knitted teddies.

Last spring, after the Covid19 virus struck, Thelma Band knitted several tiny teddies in medical

blues and face masks and showed them to Christine Miller, who was fighting cancer.

Christine asked if she could take the teddies for friends and ask for donations of not less than £5. A couple of days later Christine asked if she could have another ten teds, with the intention of raising a total of £100. But a few days later Christine asked for another ten and Thelma geared up for mass production.

By July 140 teddies had raised £985 for the Blue Skies appeal and a further £100 was sent direct by a friend of Christine's daughter, Ruth.

In November, Christine became ill again and had major surgery from which she recovered, Thelma and friends got together to raise another £100 to say thank you to the haematology ward, via the Blue Skies appeal. The sum became £200 and the project continues. If any parishioners want to give support please phone Thelma on 07594 687 575.



We also aware of other members of each church who have do special things to support others and raise funds throughout the pandemic. We say a big thank you to you all.

Services

Sunday

10am A morning service live streamed on our YouTube channel.

*A service sheet will be available for download at
www.stcuthbertslytham.org.uk on a Saturday evening for
download,*

Monday to Saturday

9:00am Morning Prayer live streamed on Facebook

The Ministry Team

Vicar:  Revd Nick Wells
01253 279 676

Curate:  Adam Thomas
07968 434 328

Hon. Assistant Priest: Revd Helen Houston

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

The Parish Office

Fiona will be working from home whilst we are in Tier 4 restrictions. You can contact her via email: parishoffice@stcuthbertslytham.org

Fiona will be on holiday from Friday 8th January and will return on Friday 15th January, during this time if you need assistance, please contact either Revd. Nick Wells or Revd. Adam Thomas, contact details are on the page previous.

Once Fiona is back in the office, we shall let you all know.

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

Tel : 01253 736488

Email: parishoffice@stcuthbertslytham.org

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

Website: www.stcuthbertslytham.org.uk

Facebook pages: St John Lytham

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

Lytham St John is a charity by exception