

# St Thomas' and St Luke's Ashton - in - Makerfield Magazine



**April 2021**

**50p**

**[www.stthomasstluke.org.uk](http://www.stthomasstluke.org.uk)**

# Church Services in St Thomas' and St Luke's

## Sundays

### St Thomas'

#### 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday

9am Communion  
10.45 All Age  
Worship

#### 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday

9am Morning

**SUSPENDED AT  
PRESENT**

in the hub  
ones in the hub

at 11am

Communion

Family Worship

Family Worship

## Weekdays

Thursday 9.45am  
Holy Communion (BCP)  
in St Thomas'

Please see weekly notice sheet or visit  
website for additional services details or  
exceptions.

**Deadlines:** Handwritten material should be given to Malcolm Taylor and email material to [magazine@stthomasstluke.org.uk](mailto:magazine@stthomasstluke.org.uk)

Deadline	May	June
Hand Written	16th April	14th May
Emailed	23rd April	21st May
Magazine Release	2nd May	30th May

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## Important Information

### **Baptisms**

Baptisms normally held at St Thomas' Church at 12.45pm on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of the month.

Baptisms at St Luke's are at 11am on the 3rd Sunday.

To qualify for baptism parents should live within the parish boundaries or be a regular worshipper at St Thomas's or St Luke's. Parents and godparents should have been baptised and be prepared to attend a baptism preparation session.

### **Funerals**

Every parishioner has the right to a service in church (if church is open), followed by a committal.

### **Marriage**

You can marry in a CofE Church of your choice if certain criteria are shown to be met.

If you would like further information or to book a funeral, wedding or a baptism, please ring 01942 727275 or email [office@stthomasstluke.org.uk](mailto:office@stthomasstluke.org.uk)



# Letter from Bishop Paul

## The light that pierces the darkness

There is no doubt, after a year of the Coronavirus, that we have become more closely acquainted with death. Many of us have lost loved ones, and only a very few of us have come through the year without experiencing the loss of someone, perhaps a friend or neighbour or workmate.

As a result we have come to know what most of the generations before us knew all their lives - that the shadow of death is always close at hand, and that the light of faith shines all the more brightly in such a shadowed world. We believe in a living God who knows what it is to die, and so the death that surrounds us does not have the victory.

In the fifteenth chapter of his first letter to the Corinthians, St Paul points to the heart of our faith - indeed he literally nails it; it is the death of Jesus on the cross, and what happened thereafter:

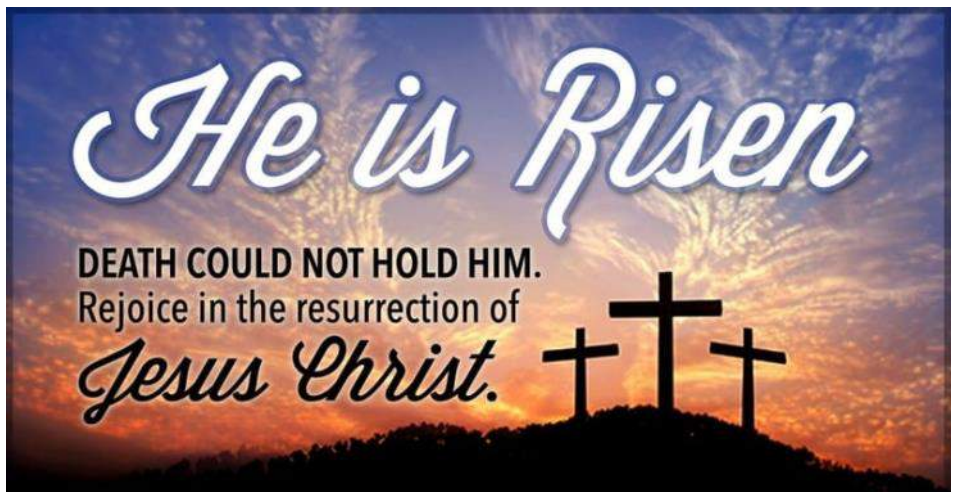
*Now if Christ is proclaimed as raised from the dead, how can some of you say there is no resurrection of the dead? If there is no resurrection of the dead, then Christ has not been raised; and if Christ has not been raised, then our proclamation has been in vain and your faith has been in vain...*

*For if the dead are not raised, then Christ has not been raised. If Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins. Then those also who have died in Christ have perished. If for this life only we have hoped in Christ, we are of all people most to be pitied.*

*But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have died. For since death came through a human being, the resurrection of the dead has also come through a human being; for as all die in Adam, so all will be made alive in Christ.*

I wish you a blessed Easter, and I pray that the Gospel of the Resurrection may bless and comfort you always, and especially in any darkness that may have touched your own life in this past year. May the risen, living Christ – the light that pierces the darkness – be close to you, always.

**Paul, Bishop of Liverpool.**





# Mothers' Union

**Diary: Wednesday 21 April** Another opportunity to join the MU in a zoom meeting at 7.00pm when the speaker will be Babs Hennessey on an unsung heroine Mary O'Shaunessy.

Following the successful zooming of our Annual General Meeting and I was delighted that Juliette, who is the chaplain to Byrchall High School, agreed to speak at a meeting which was organised for March last year. Once again I am obliged to Jan and Juliette who agreed to set up the meeting and also to Jan for interviewing Juliette so that we could all learn about a young person who has come in our midst and been such an influence for good. I am hoping that more of our members will be able to join us in zoom land until we can once more meet in person. Please look out for the details in the weekly notice sheet.

It is with considerable sadness that I must record the death of another of our members. Lynne Walton who died on the 24th February. It had always been a pleasure to take home communion to Lynne as her health in recent years has severely curtailed her mobility. She was always interested in what the MU was doing and, in particular, what was going on in the parish. Along with her husband, Barry, she had been a regular member of our 10.30am Sunday zoom service. Lynne will be sadly missed and I am sure that I speak for all our members in passing on our sympathy to Barry and her family at this difficult time.

# Mothers' Union

I kneel before the Father, from whom every family in heaven and earth derives his name

**Ephesians 3:14 -15**

We give you thanks, O God, for the gift of families.  
Lord, you have placed us into our family circles;  
you have called us to love, serve and support each other.

In times of joy, let us celebrate each other;  
in times of sorrow, let us be a source of comfort;  
in times of trouble, let us uphold each other;  
may God's peace and love ever abide with us.  
This is our family prayer. Amen

*Evelyn Alleyne, Mothers' Union USA*

Love and God bless  
**Barbara**



# News from our churches

## **New Chairs**

The reordering of St Thomas' church is now at the exciting stage of being able to choose final finishes for the flooring and seating. We are currently waiting to look at samples of seating. They range from upholstered and stackable to plush arm chairs. None will cost less than £100 each. We want to buy the best we can whilst ensuring that they are fit for purpose for the diverse uses of the building we expect over the coming years.

We are sure that many of you would love to be involved at this stage by making a donation to enable us to purchase the chairs. This would be greatly appreciated. We do not plan to attach plaques to the chairs but to issue a certificate recording your generosity in making a donation. The certificate will record the name of the donor and the amount donated. Donations could of course be made for example 'in memory of...'. We need many chairs so there is no limitation on the number that you can donate for.

There are a number of ways that donations can be made:-

- Cash or cheques, made payable to St Thomas' PCC, can be posted through the vicarage letter box. This needs to be accompanied by name of the donor, the details for the certificate and if gift aid can be claimed.
- Bank transfers can be made directly into the church bank account. The account number is 94395918 and the sort code is 60 - 01-24. Please reference your donation with your name and the word 'chair'. If this is your choice, please email [phaytonuk@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:phaytonuk@yahoo.co.uk) with the details of the donor, the details for the certificate and whether gift aid can be claimed.

It is important that any donations eligible for gift aid are recorded. Currently, the government will donate a further 25% to any donation eligible for gift aid. Therefore, if you wish to make a donation and are a UK tax payer please let it be known that gift aid can be claimed.

## **Church Re-order**

Unfortunately I must report that the work will now take some weeks longer and church will not reopen until July. We have had an excessive amount of condensation arising from the drying out of the concrete and the cold weather. This condensation has caused so much damage to the existing paint work that it has now been necessary to include the redecoration of the whole of the nave and chancel. The equipment needed to reach the high ceiling has meant that the insulation to the floor and central heating pipe work has been held up.

On a more cheerful note a small group led by Jan is finalising the floor finishes in readiness and also have had a hand in the acquisition of the chairs mentioned above.

We are so looking forward to re opening the doors of our church so that we can worship together, learn together and share with others the Good news of our Lord Jesus. Thank you for your part in making this re order a reality.

During the work I was also intrigued to discover that a paper aeroplane had made a forced landing on top of one of the light fittings and was found in a singed condition but fortunately had not broke out into flames!



## The Past



A little bit of more recent history came to my notice when I discovered an article in the local paper celebrating the silver jubilee of our, sadly now dissolved, BB Company I am sure that you will remember some of those shown in the picture.

***Malcolm***

## The Leprosy Mission

A very big thank you for your support for the Leprosy Mission at this very difficult time for everyone. Your generous donations totalled £250, including £60 from the sale of jam, made by Ann Roby – a wonderful effort. The money has been forwarded to Mission Headquarters where it will be doubled by the government and used towards the Unconditional Appeal for its work in Mozambique. Thank you again. We look forward to meeting up again when it becomes possible.

***Barbara, Margaret and Sue***

## **Local History**

I am pleased to say that our local historian David Fearnley has been digging further into the history of Legh Master who you will remember had a family crypt at St Thomas' Church:

### **LEGH MASTER (1717 – 1796) OF NEW HALL, ASHTON IN MAKERFIELD & MARYLAND, AMERICA**

In my previous article I mentioned the Master family's burial vault which was built beneath the floor of the chancel in Ashton Chapel in 1745 by Legh Master, of New Hall. New Hall was a large mansion house situated on what is now Ashton golf course. In 1750 Legh Master died and was succeeded by his eldest son and heir Legh Master, the younger (1717 – 1796), who became the owner of New Hall.

By 1770 Legh Master was in financial difficulties – mortgage repayments and debts to hundreds of tradespeople etc. resulted in a debt of £8,000 (today £1,500,000). Legh was very wealthy, as well as New Hall he owned estates in Derbyshire and the south of England. The problem was that all his wealth was tied up in land and property and he did not have the liquid cash to repay his debts. In 1770 he was forced to sell the New Hall estate to raise money to pay his creditors. In 1770, before New Hall was sold, Legh Master packed many of his possessions, carriages, furniture, horses etc. onto 3 sailing ships and with his wife and daughter sailed for Maryland, America, leaving his son behind to administer his estates in England. In 1771, when in Maryland, Legh negotiated the sale of the New Hall estate and 2 farms to the Gerard family for £10,500.

In Maryland Legh bought 6,000 acres of land containing forests and iron ore and became an ironmaster producing iron. He built iron furnaces, used the forest charcoal to smelt/melt the iron ore which was made into arms and cannons. A settlement called "Legh Furnace" developed around the

ironworks. Legh became a slave owner of over 100 slaves using slave labour on his farms and in his ironworks. He built a large mansion called "Avondale", operated schooners/sailing ships between Maryland and the Bahamas and owned an estate in the British Virgin Islands. Many stories, fact or fiction, are told in Maryland describing Legh Master as a cruel slave owner who murdered slaves by throwing them into the iron furnaces.

Legh died alone in Maryland in 1796 his wife and daughter having returned to England many years earlier. In Westminster churchyard, Maryland, 30 miles from the city of Baltimore, is a long, flat gravestone with the inscription "Legh Master, Esquire, late of New Hall, Lancashire, England, died 22<sup>nd</sup> day of March, 1796, aged 79 years".

However, this is not the original burial place of Legh Master. In 1879 Rev. Isaac Nicholson, of Westminster church, Maryland, read in the "Church Times", of London, the obituary of Rev. James Streynsham Master, Rector of Chorley, aged 80. Rev. Nicholson wrote to the executors of the above Rev. Master asking "if there was a family connection to a Legh Master buried in our Westminster churchyard?". He received a reply from Rev. George Streynsham Master saying that Rev. James Streynsham Master who died 1878 was his uncle and the grandson of Robert Master the brother of Legh Master buried in Maryland in 1796. Rev. Nicholson then recounted his story "The remains of Legh Master were placed in their present position by me in 1876. I discovered the grave of Legh Master on an old farm called "Avondale". The grave was dilapidated, the stone broken and scattered and the bones exposed. The grave was in an obscure place, in an old garden and in danger of collapse from nearby iron ore mining. There was no one to care for it, and no one knew much about it. I had the bones removed and interred in the churchyard at Westminster also the

bricks and the gravestone. The remains were placed in a new box, and the entire grave rebuilt, precisely after the original model. The gravestone was mended and welded together. I had great difficulty getting Mr. Seyton to dig the grave, Mr. Seyton refused to handle the coffin saying “That old man used to burn slaves in his furnace”.

***David A. Fearnley***

# Litter Pick

Our brilliant litter picking team have been doing more great work this last month. Households once again worked independently collecting litter across a number of sites in Ashton.

Please do let us know if you'd like to join any future litter picks.



# ACT Foodbank

Thank you to everyone who has been donating food to the foodbank in these difficult times and to Andrew and his team for all their work putting hampers together and delivering them as well as distributing food on a Friday morning.

If you would like to donate any non perishable items, the please bring them to the:

- red wheelie bin outside the foodbank cabin ; or
- The food cabin on a Friday morning between 9.30am & 11.00am (food will be distributed from the church hall doorway)

Larger items can be left at the vicarage by arrangement.

If you want to leave food items for our asylum seeker friends, these can also be left at the vicarage but please make sure your bags or boxes are clearly labelled so we know who they are meant for.

**Thank you very much for your support**

**SOMETIMES IT FALLS  
UPON A GENERATION  
TO BE GREAT,  
YOU CAN BE  
THAT GENERATION.**

NELSON MANDELA



# Food for Thought

Each Sunday, from 3.30pm - 4.00pm St Thomas' Church Hall is open for anyone to come and help themselves to food that has been donated by various stores that is on or past its sell by date on a *pay as you feel* basis to support our collective goal to increase our food ministry.



**Why not pick up some staple items from the church hall and give these Easter inspired cookies a go!**



- 125g unaltered butter
- 100g light brown sugar
- 75g granulated sugar
- 1 medium / large egg
- 300g plain flour
- 1.5tsp baking powder
- 0.5tsp bicarbonate of soda
- 0.5tsp salt
- 100g milk chocolate chips
- 200g mini eggs

1. Add the butter, light brown sugar and granulated sugar to a bowl and beat until creamy.
2. Add in the egg and beat again.
3. Add in the plain flour, baking powder, bicarbonate of soda and salt. Beat until a cookie dough is formed.
4. Mix in the chocolate chips and mini eggs until well distributed throughout the dough.
5. Weigh out balls of the mixture to approximately 80g each.
6. Once complete, place the dough in the fridge for at least 1 hour or the freezer for 30 minutes.
7. Whilst the cookie dough is chilling, preheat your oven to 180 / 200 degrees.
8. Take the dough out of the fridge and place on lined baking sheets. 4—6 usually fit on a sheet with enough room to spread out during baking.
9. Flatten the top of the cookies a little with your thumb and bake for 12—14 minutes.
10. Once baked, leave them to cool on the tray for about 30 minutes as they shall bake a little more whilst cooling.
11. Enjoy!

# **Journeying Alone**

## **John 8.21-30 (NRSVA)**



Again he said to them, 'I am going away, and you will search for me, but you will die in your sin. Where I am going, you cannot come.' Then the Jews said, 'Is he going to kill himself? Is that what he means by saying, "Where I am going, you cannot come"?' He said to them, 'You are from below, I am from above; you are of this world, I am not of this world. I told you that you would die in your sins, for you will die in your sins unless you believe that I am he.' They said to him, 'Who are you?' Jesus said to them, 'Why do I speak to you at all? I have much to say about you and much to condemn; but the one who sent me is true, and I declare to the world what I have heard from him.' They did not understand that he was speaking to them about the Father. So Jesus said, 'When you have lifted up the Son of Man, then you will realize that I am he, and that I do nothing on my own, but I speak these things as the Father instructed me. And the one who sent me is with me; he has not left me alone, for I always do what is pleasing to him.' As he was saying these things, many believed in him.

### **Reflection**

Over the past few weeks, I have been learning Spanish with the assistance of an app called Duolingo. Duo is a green cartoon owl that gives you tips as you go through the Spanish lessons on your phone.

There's various incentives Duo gives you if you complete a lesson every day or finish at the top of the leader board at the end of the week, by ways of encouraging you to "succeed at your language goals". However, if you miss a few days of lessons then you do start to get notifications where Duo looks sad and in red letters the text reads "you've lost your top 5 position on the league table". By the way DUO goes on you'd think it was the end of the world by missing a Spanish lesson.

In our reading though, the stakes are higher than losing a daily streak on a mobile app. Jesus is desperately imploring those he's talking to, to take seriously his message. "I told you that you would die in your sins, for you will die in your sins unless you believe that I am he." (verse 24). If these people don't understand Jesus' message, they risk not receiving eternal life. They need this gift of eternal life as there's much Jesus could condemn them for, but chooses not to as his message of salvation is for all of God's people, especially sinners.

Jesus also knows that no one can walk his exact path with him. Only Jesus can die on the cross for the restoration of many, but if God's people can't understand the message he is giving now, then once he's died, they definitely won't be able to understand it.

Have you ever tried to share your faith with a non-Christian? Has it felt like you're speaking a different language to them when you speak of your relationship with Jesus? These experiences of evangelism can be frustrating, not because you dislike sharing your testimony but because you care for these people and you want to see them grow in love for Christ so that they do not have to journey alone through life. Jesus gave the Gospel message almost two thousand years ago for the same reason, he wanted people to have a relationship with the Father, so that they wouldn't have to journey alone.

At the end of the passage, Jesus changes tact and mentions the Father, that with the Father he is never alone and that what he does is pleasing to the Father. After Jesus speaks this some of those listening, understand Jesus and believe in him. When Jesus speaks about the Father, people believe him.

When we share our faith, do we point to the Father as well? In a climate of isolation and fear, do we celebrate the fact that our relationship with the Father means that we are not alone to, as we have been gifted Jesus and the Holy Spirit? When we signpost to the Father, when we speak the language of God the

Father, people will believe us and come to faith. It was true nearly two-thousand years ago and it's true today.

In a similar fashion to me practicing a bit of Spanish each day to learn the language, all followers of the Christian faith need to spend some time learning the language of God. Whether that's in prayer, in study, in singing praises to God, in reading your Bible, receiving the Sacraments, or acts of loving kindness for the people in our communities. That's how we understand God, and that will result in us being able to share our faith, mentor others in the faith and allow them to understand God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit as well. With that knowledge they will never truly journey alone.

## **Prayer**

*The Lord's Prayer in Spanish:*

Padre Nuestro, que estás en el cielo,  
santificado sea tu nombre;  
venga a nosotros tu reino;  
hágase tu voluntad, en la tierra como en el cielo.  
Danos hoy nuestro pan de cada día;  
perdona nuestras ofensas,  
como también nosotros perdonamos a los que nos ofenden;  
no nos dejes caer en la tentación,  
y líbranos del mal.

**Amén.**

**James Taylor**  
**Curate**  
**(Central Hub)**

# Easter Joy

Jesus came to earth,  
To show us how to live,  
How to put others first,  
How to love and how to give.

Then He set about His work,  
That God sent Him to do;  
He took our punishment on Himself;  
He made us clean and new.

He could have saved Himself,  
Calling angels from above,  
But He chose to pay our price for sin;  
He paid it out of love.

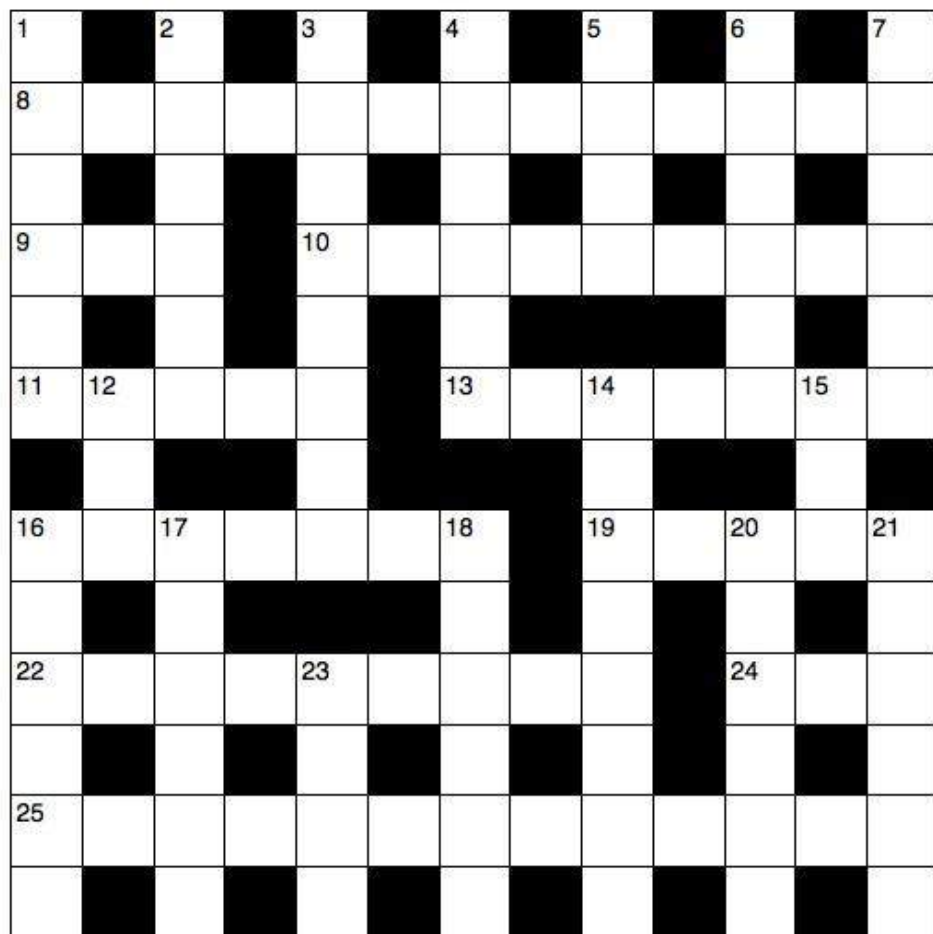
Our Lord died on Good Friday,  
But the cross did not destroy  
His resurrection on Easter morn  
That fills our hearts with joy.

Now we know our earthly death,  
Like His, is just a rest.  
We'll be forever with Him  
In heaven, where life is best.

So we live our lives for Jesus,  
Think of Him in all we do.  
Thank you Saviour; Thank you Lord.  
Help us love like you!

***Joanna Fuchs***

# Crossword



Answers on page 27

## ACROSS

- 8 'He poured out his life unto death, and was numbered with the —' (Isaiah 53:12) (13)  
9 'When they had sung a hymn, they went — to the Mount of Olives' (Matthew 26:30) (3)  
10 Comes between Galatians and Philippians (9)  
11 'Your heart will — and swell with joy' (Isaiah 60:5) (5)  
13 Muslim holy month (7)  
16 Ten ears (anag.) (7)  
19 Under (poetic abbrev.) (5)  
22 How Abram described himself to God when he complained that his inheritance would pass to a servant (Genesis 15:2) (9)  
24 'Go to the — , you sluggard' (Proverbs 6:6) (3)  
25 Debar from receiving Communion (13)

## DOWN

- 1 My — for His Highest (Oswald Chambers' best-known book) (6)  
2 Festival of the resurrection (6)  
3 'His sons will prepare for war and — a great army' (Daniel 11:10) (8)  
4 'Let not the — string his bow' (Jeremiah 51:3) (6)  
5 Name of the River Thames in and around Oxford (4)  
6 'From then on Judas watched for an opportunity — — him over' (Matthew 26:16) (2,4)  
7 'But Christ is faithful — — — over God's house' (Hebrews 3:6) (2,1,3)  
12 Long-handled implement used to till the soil (Isaiah 7:25) (3)  
14 Order to which monks and nuns devote themselves (8)  
15 Appropriate (Proverbs 15:23) (3)  
16 I, uncle (anag.) (6)  
17 'They gave him — — of broiled fish' (Luke 24:42) (1,5)  
18 'Weren't there three men that we — — and threw into the fire?' (Daniel 3:24) (4,2)  
20 Mountain where Noah's ark came to rest (Genesis 8:4) (6)  
21 'Don't you know that friendship with the world is — towards God?' (James 4:4) (6)  
23 Prominent architectural feature of large cathedrals such as St Paul's (4)

# Wordsearch

a	q	u	i	c	k	l	y	d	b	o	k	s
c	j	p	h	o	y	y	b	i	w	d	q	h
c	u	e	a	b	m	s	e	s	a	u	c	e
e	d	r	z	j	r	o	t	o	j	j	o	e
p	a	s	s	o	v	e	r	w	e	k	s	p
t	s	o	s	h	s	z	a	n	w	m	s	l
e	v	n	y	n	r	h	y	d	i	o	h	b
d	i	s	c	i	p	l	e	s	s	n	e	j
t	o	m	o	r	r	o	w	p	h	e	g	e
n	e	v	e	r	i	a	o	m	h	y	w	s
p	c	t	i	x	s	c	a	t	t	e	r	u
t	e	i	v	r	o	l	e	a	d	e	r	s
p	l	n	r	f	n	m	d	e	n	i	e	d

scatter

morning

betray

disown

denied

tomorrow

sheep

prison

sauce

Jesus

Peter

leaders

Jewish

never

Judas

John

accepted

bread

quickly

person

Passover

disciples

shepherd

money

# Bible Bite

## A short story from the Bible

It can be read in the Bible in  
Matthew 26: 20-25, 31-35, Mark 14: 17-21, 27-31  
Luke 22: 22, 31-34, John 13: 21-30, 36-38

The Jewish leaders wanted to kill Jesus.  
One of Jesus' disciples, Judas, had  
accepted money from them to betray him.

As Jesus and his disciples ate the  
Passover meal, Jesus said



What do  
you mean?

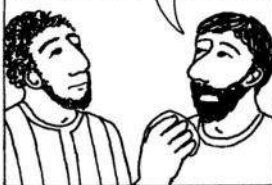
John was sitting  
next to Jesus, so  
Peter said



So John asked Jesus



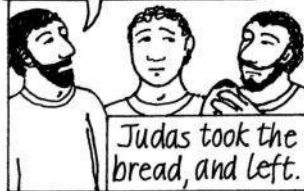
It is the person I give  
this piece of bread to.



Jesus dipped a piece  
of bread in sauce, and  
gave it to Judas.



What you are about to do  
you must do quickly.



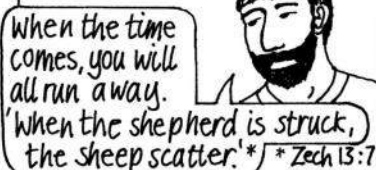
Why has Judas gone out?



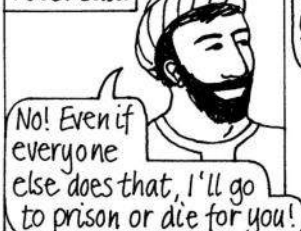
They continued  
the Passover meal



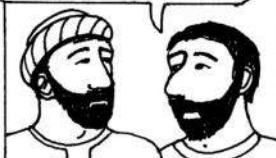
Jesus then told the rest of the  
disciples



Peter said



Before tomorrow morning  
you will have denied you  
even know me 3 times.



Even if I have to die, I  
will never disown you!



# April Holy Days

## Good Friday, Jesus and the thieves on the Cross

Luke's account of the crucifixion (Luke 23:32-43) emphasises the mocking of the crowd, *'If you are the king of the Jews, save yourself'* (35,37,39). In their view a Messiah does not hang on a cross and suffer. In considering the two men who were crucified with Jesus, we are also confronted with the issue of how Jesus secures salvation for us.

The words of one of those crucified with Jesus reflected the crowd's taunts: *'Aren't you the Christ? Save yourself and us.'* He highlights the question of Jesus' identity: how can He save others, when He cannot save Himself from death? He failed to see that the cross itself was the means of salvation.

So – what kind of Messiah was Jesus?

The other criminal's response in his last moments is a moving expression of faith. When challenging the other man, he spoke of the utter injustice of the crucifixion: *'this man has done nothing wrong.'* He perceived the truth that Jesus was indeed the Messiah. In a wonderful picture of grace, *'remember me when You come into Your kingdom'*, the second thief confessed his guilt and secured Jesus' forgiveness and mercy.

In reply, Jesus promised the man life from the moment of death; *'Today you will be with Me in paradise.'* Jesus used the picture of a *walled garden* to help the man understand His promise of protection and security in God's love and acceptance eternally.

Each one of us has to choose how we react to Jesus on the cross. Do we want Him to 'remember' us when He comes into His kingdom, or not? If you were to die tonight, how confident would you be of going to be with Jesus? *'For Christ died for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God'* (1 Peter 3:18).

## **23<sup>rd</sup> April: St George of the Golden Legend**

The Saint of an English Army before he was Patron Saint of England, St George may have been a soldier, but he was no Englishman. Some stories say that he was an officer in the Roman army under Diocletian, who refused to abandon his faith during the Terror, and was martyred at Lydda in Palestine about the year 300 AD - supposedly 23<sup>rd</sup> April. Over the years St George became the example of a Christian fighting-man, a powerful helper against evil powers affecting individual lives. He was the soldier-hero of the Middle Ages, of whom remarkable deeds were reported.

In the Golden Legend of the 13th century, Jacobus de Voragine gave St George a handsome write-up. The story runs thus:

One day, St George rode up to the heathen city of Sylene in Lybia, where he found the citizens in great distress. A neighbouring dragon had forced them to surrender two sheep each day for its dinner, and when the sheep gave out, two of their children; and now they were about to sacrifice the King's daughter, dressed as if for her wedding. St George encountered the little party by a stagnant lake, where the dragon lived, and persuaded the sobbing Princess to tell him why she was so miserable. At that moment the dragon appeared, looking inexpressibly revolting. St George charged forwards and drove his spear into the dragon's gaping mouth. To everyone's amazement, he tumbled the monster over and over.

Then St George borrowed the Princess's girdle, tied it round the dragon's neck, and persuaded her to lead it back to Sylene herself. The sight of her approaching with the befuddled dragon on its makeshift lead emptied the town. When the inhabitants timidly crept back, St George promised to behead the dragon if they would all believe in Jesus Christ and be baptised.

It was a most effective form of evangelism, for everybody said 'yes' at once. So, 15,000 people were baptised, and four carts were commissioned to remove the dragon's body.

St George thus became a symbol of the war against evil, and he is usually portrayed trampling the dragon of sin under his horse's hoofs. The Crusaders had a vision of him helping them against the Saracens at Antioch, during the first Crusade, and so brought the story of St George back with them from Palestine. Presently England put herself under the protection of the Saint. His day was declared a holiday in 1222. A red cross on a white field is the flag of St George.

# Robert Carson's Film Report



Some more Retro reviews this month, whilst we await big new movies to review...

## **Tomorrowland (12A) Directed by Brad Bird**

**Stars:** Britt Robertson, George Clooney, Hugh Laurie, Tim McGraw, Kathryn Hahn, Raffey Cassidy, Keegan-Michael Key, Thomas Robinson, Chris Bauer, Judy Greer, and Matthew MacCaull

**In a Nutshell:** A film is all well and good, it can entertain nations, make you chuckle or cry or scream or have a grin on your face. But a film with ideas, now that can inspire you and challenge you, make you want to go out and do something, or maybe even make the world a better place. Brad Bird has always been a underrated genius of a director, from his animated gems like *The Incredibles* and *Iron Giant* not to mention *Ratatouille* and making the best *Mission Impossible* movie yet with *Ghost Protocol*. Give him a massive canvas to play with and some serious ideas, and oh boy are we in for something unique. This film is based on the idea that Walt Disney was preparing the way to create a city that would build on the ideas of tomorrow, featuring the best talents and minds from around the world to create a better place for all. To say any more about this storyline would spoil its surprises and ideas! Naturally, the effects are jaw dropping, with future scapes and jet packs and flying cars all doing the rounds whilst so many ideas and gadgets whizz around, it's a whirlwind of invention and fancy. Add to that a really strong cast including a dependably impressive Clooney and a fantastic turn by newcomer Britt Robertson, plus a sinister Hugh Laurie and you have something truly unique. Some of its plot turns and ideas can get a little confused but they still inspire and make enough sense to roll you along for the ride and ideas like this have to be applauded for trying to inspire and make a difference. I won't say too much at all, but make the trip and you won't regret it. Be inspired to make a change!

**Rating: 9/10**

## **Anchorman: The Legend Continues (15) Directed by Adam McKay**

**Stars:** Will Ferrell, Paul Rudd, Steve Carell, David Koechner, Christina Applegate, Dylan Baker, James Marsden, Fred Willard, Meagan Good, Kristen Wiig, June Diane Raphael, and Greg Kinnear

**In a Nutshell:** You know whether or not you're going to go completely crazy about the return of Ron Burgundy and his news team depending on what you reckon to a beautifully sung musical number about a baby shark called Doby who Ron raises and tenders to whilst recovered from blindness. It's a simply genius piece of surreal comedy, but you'll either love it or wonder what on earth is happening. Thankfully, being as massive a fan as I am of the 2004 comedy masterclass I was all on board for the sequel. It could never surpass the brilliance of the original but this comes pretty close at times and is a mini comedy classic in its own right. Everyone is back, all the usual guys with the standout once more being Steve Carrell who is a riot as Brick, whilst a plethora of guest roles brighten up the screen with varying degrees of genius and hilarity. Some actually add a real heart to the piece such as the bonkers subplot involving the physic abilities of Veronica's new flame all culminating in yet another action set piece involving multiple news teams. Bigger and more star studded if never superior, the legend continues and long may it be legendary.

**Rating: 9/10**

### **Also Seen**

Life Itself (15) 6/10

Zach Snyder's Justice League (15) 8/10

News of the World (12) 9/10

Mile 22 (18) 4/10

Predestination (15) 8/10

The Parent Trap (U) 7/10

Greed (18) 8/10

I Give it a Year (15) 8/10

To Olivia (PG) 8/10

The Addams Family (PG) 7/10

Mortal Kombat (15) 7/10

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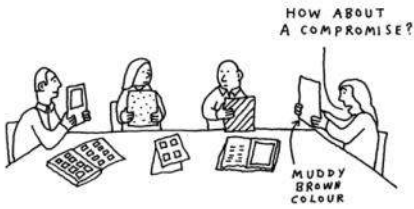
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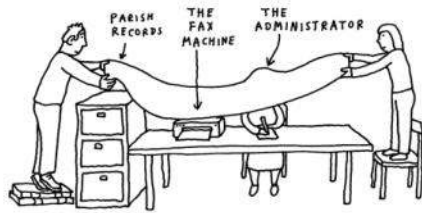
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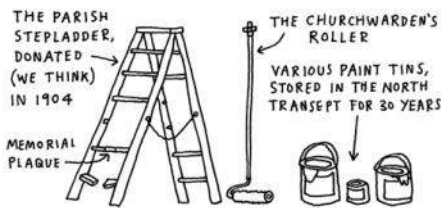
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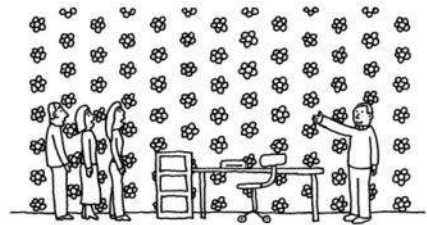
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# Crossword answers

**ACROSS:** 8, Transgressors. 9, Out. 10, Ephesians. 11, Throb. 13, Ramadan. 16, Nearest. 19, Neath. 22, Childless. 24, Ant. 25, Excommunicate.

**DOWN:** 1, Utmost. 2, Easter. 3, Assemble. 4, Archer. 5, Isis. 6, To hand. 7, As a son. 12, Hoe. 14, Monastic. 15, Apt. 16, Nuclei. 17, A piece. 18, Tied up. 20, Ararat. 21, Hatred. 23, Dome.



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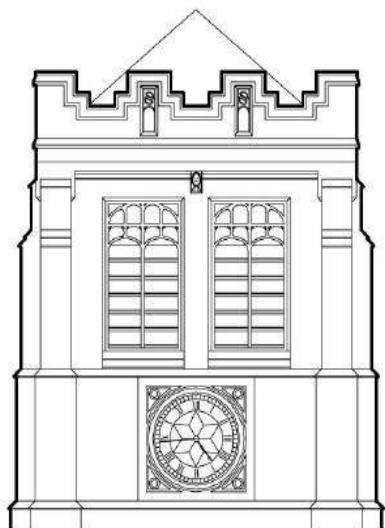
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Birthday remembrance of **Clara Shaw** (23<sup>rd</sup> April)  
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From Barbara, Malcolm and family



# The Registers



**Funerals** - "May they rest in peace"

2nd March	Charles Turner	Eskdale	70
4th March	Doreen Butler	Wigan Road	89
5th March	Christine Gough	Legh Street	73
18th March	Herbert Hoffman	Crossway Close	86
19th March	Jean Piper	Chetwode Avenue	74
26th March	David Croft	Hebdon Close	64
29th March	Lettice Abbott	Hodnet Drive	96
31st March	Sylvia Archer	Fairholme Avenue	84

Even though I walk through the valley  
of the shadow of death,  
I fear no evil, for You are with me;  
Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me.  
PSALM 23:4

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<b><u>Coffee Mornings at St Thomas'</u></b> Tues 10am-12pm Barbara Taylor 205136	<b><u>Flower Guild</u></b> Meta Laites 723679
<b><u>Children, Young People and Families</u></b> Sue Thomas 07877 704645	<b><u>Asylum Seeker Support</u></b> Anne & Chris Wooff 724207
<b><u>Church Architect</u></b> Bill Schafer 717300	<b><u>F.W.O. Secretary</u></b> Vacant
<b><u>Wednesday Weenies</u></b> Wed 1pm-2:30pm - Church Hall Jan Cornthwaite 721626	<b><u>Messy Tots</u></b> Wed 1pm-2:30pm - Church Hall Sue Thomas 07877 704645
<b><u>Duke of Edinburgh's Award (14-18+)</u></b> Sun evenings Church Hall Ceri Mansell 727417	<b><u>St Thomas' Mothers' Union</u></b> 3 <sup>rd</sup> Wed: 7:30pm Barbara Taylor 205136
<b><u>Fairtrade Stall</u></b> 3 <sup>rd</sup> Sun 11.45am Anne Wooff 724207	<b><u>Fur Clemt Stubshaw</u></b> Mon 12-1pm at St Luke's Jennifer Harrison 718618
<b><u>Litter Pick 3rd Sat 10am - noon</u></b> Chris Wooff 724207	<b><u>Bowling Club</u></b> Henry Hunter 712709
<b><u>Girl Guides</u></b> Rainbows (Tues 5:30pm) Danielle Wood 07841 649475  3 <sup>rd</sup> & 4th Ashton Brownies (Thu) 3 <sup>rd</sup> Ashton Guides/Rangers (Tues 7:15pm) Rachel Starkie 718350	<b><u>Children's Sunday Clubs St Thomas'</u></b> Bubbles (Pre-School) Splash (R-Y2) Xstream (Y3-Y6) Bell Tower (Y7-Y11) Karen Cunliffe

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<p><b><u>Ordained Local Minister</u></b> Rev Izzy Schafer 717300</p>	<p><b><u>Saturday FM</u></b> 4pm-5pm - St Thomas' School LML Nicola Burgess 706841</p>
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