

Wigan South Parish Magazine

- Holy Trinity
- St Andrew's
- St Peter's
- St Aidan's
- St Luke's
- St Thomas'

St Thomas' and St Luke's edition

**He is not
here;
he has
risen,
just as
he said.**



April 2024

70p

Wigan South Parish Contacts

Hub Leader	Rev Sandra Jones sandra.jones@churchwigan.org / 07598847391
Associate Hub Leaders	Rev Jeremy Thomas jeremy.thomas@churchwigan.org / 07877704645 Rev Sue Fulford sue.fulford@churchwigan.org / 01942 242369
Self Supporting Ministers	Rev Izzy Schafer izzy@schaferassociates.co.uk / 01942 717300 Rev Sue Thomas sue.thomas@churchwigan.org / 07877704645
Wardens	Paula Gillepsie 07716667763 Helen Weavers 07796334457
Administrator	Cheryl Knowles cheryl.knowles@churchwigan.org
Treasurer	Sarah Riley sarahtreasurerstthomas@outlook.com / 07712584954
PCC Secretary	Tricia Hancox triciahancox@gmail.com
Magazine Editor	Jess Bradley magazines@stthomasstluke.org.uk



Parish Information

Baptisms

Baptisms (also called Christenings) are held around the Parish throughout the month. Please come along to the morning service at the church of your choice, and you can talk about booking a date that works well for you and church. Godparents must have been baptised themselves and be prepared to attend a baptism preparation session with the parents.

Funerals

Every parishioner has the right to a service in church, 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 wedding or a baptism, please attend at one of our churches or see the contact details at the rear of the magazine. Funeral Directors will book any funerals.

Magazine Deadlines

Please send any material for the magazine to your local assistant editor (see contact details at the back) or magazine@stthomasstluke.org.uk.

	May	June	July
Deadline for material	18 April	16 May	20 June
Publication date	28 April	26 May	30 June

Contents

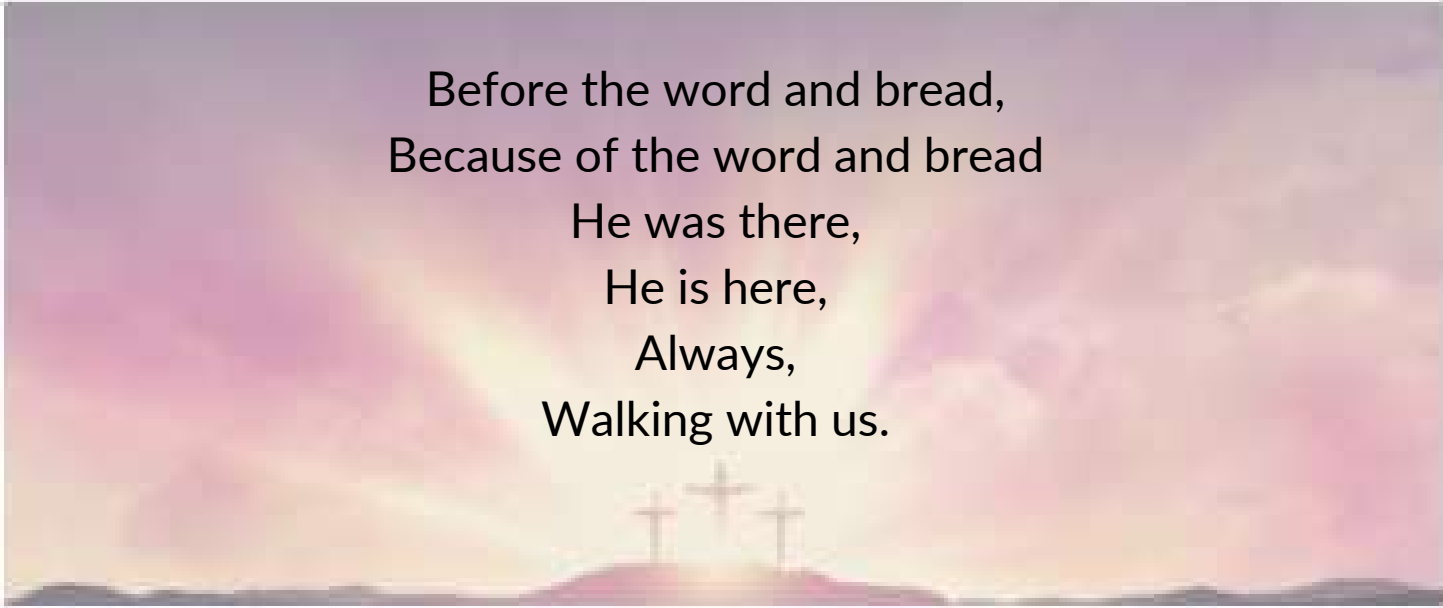
Emmaus - Luke 24: 13 - 32	5
Letter from Helen	6 - 7
Parish News	8 - 11
April Services	12 - 13
Crossword	14 - 15
Prayer Walking in our Community	16
The Treasure of Easter	17
St George of the Golden Legend	18 - 19
News from our Churches	25 - 26
Local History	27 - 29
Mothers' Union	30 - 31
Donations & Remembrance	32 - 33
The Registers	34



Emmaus (Luke 24:13-32)

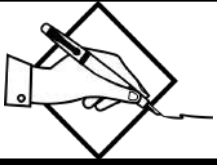
In the breaking of the bread
Our eyes were opened,
We knew Him then.
The Lord was with us
In Emmaus,
There was no doubt.
He was alive and with us,
The scriptures made sense.
What a difference!

But thinking back
To that journey –
To the grief that overwhelmed us,
The discussions, disagreements
And debilitating disappointment –
A different opening of the eyes,
We never were alone.



Before the word and bread,
Because of the word and bread
He was there,
He is here,
Always,
Walking with us.

By Daphne Kitching



Letter from Helen

Spring has sprung. We have celebrated Easter.
Time is moving on.

For much of the world, Easter is only a tradition celebrated by chocolate or coloured Easter Eggs and the Easter Bunny. The eggs will soon be eaten and the shops will have moved on to Eurovision and putting out the summer season items. It doesn't last.

For Christians though this celebration of hope, new beginnings and eternal life made possible by the resurrection of Jesus Christ continues to mark our services for more than 6 weeks before we start to think about Jesus ascending into heaven. And we continue to celebrate Easter every Sunday of the year. Every time we take the bread & drink the cup of the New Covenant at Holy Communion we are proclaiming that Jesus is the Messiah, the Lamb of God, and Saviour of the world. Every prayer of confession acknowledges our relationship of trust in his sacrifice. Every service marks the hope that we have in Him.

How much we need that hope! Looking around the world news such as in the Ukraine and Gaza, our national news, with knife crime and political backstabbing for example, and no doubt thinking through our day to day lives we see that sin is all around, selfishness, hurt feelings, physical abuse, killing, mental health problems... But we have eternal hope because in the life, death, burial and resurrection of Jesus, he paid the price for it all and introduced a better and more perfect way – the way of God's 'New Covenant'. Salvation and Eternal life are now available to anyone who will believe and accept Jesus as their Saviour.



To the Followers of Christ, the true message of Easter proclaims the greatest act of love known to man - new beginnings and Eternal Life made possible by the One who loved us enough to die in our place – Jesus Christ. Because of Him mankind can have a relationship with their Creator, and be with Him for eternity. God's infinite love for mankind is the true message of Easter, a love that will continue into Eternity for all those who accept Him.

May you know the peace of mind and the hope that springs from the Easter message.

Helen Steele

Easter is a great time to be reminded of our bible passage for the year:



Parish News

Weekly Events

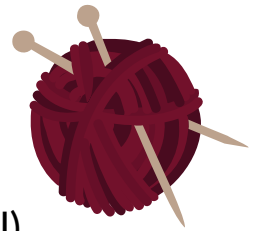
Mondays

- 9.30am - 10.30am: Mini Street Pop Up Play (St Andrew's)
- 6.30pm: Girls Brigade (St Peter's)



Tuesdays

- 10am - 12pm: Coffee Morning (St Thomas' church hall)
- 6pm: Boys Brigade (St Peter's)



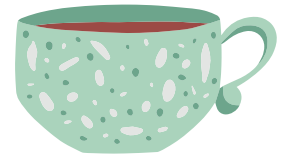
Wednesdays

- 1pm - 2.30pm: Wednesday Weenies (St Thomas' church hall)
- 1pm - 2.30pm: Walk the Walls (St Thomas')
- 1pm - 3pm: Knit and Chat group (St Peter's)
- 2.30pm - 4pm: Hot Spot for Y7 - Y11 (St Thomas' church hall)
- 7.30pm: Women's Fellowship (St Peter's)



Thursdays

- 2pm - 3pm: English Classes (St Thomas' church hall)
- 2pm - 3.15pm: Gentle dance class (St Luke's)



Fridays

- 2pm: Bible Study (St Thomas' church hall)
- 9.30am - 10.30am: Mini Street Pop Up Play (St Andrew's)



Sundays

- 1pm - 3pm: Asylum seeker and refugee drop in (St Thomas' church hall)

Please check locally for dates around term times

April Diary



Monday 8th April

11am: Communion at Garswood House (organised by St Peter's)

Tuesday 9th April

10am - 11.30am: Bereavement Support Group (St Luke's)

1.30pm - 3pm: Bereavement Support Group (St Andrew's)

Tuesday 16th April

1.30pm - 3pm: Peace of Mind Dementia Cafe

Wednesday 17th April

7pm: Mothers' Union meeting (St Thomas' Church Hall)

Saturday 20th April

10am: Litter Pick (meeting at St Thomas' church car park)



Brighter School of Discipleship

Exploring the Psalms:

Saturdays 9.30am – 1pm 2024

St. Francis of Assisi WN5 0BA

Church
WIGAN

1] Prayers of David, Jesus & us - 20th April

2] Psalms to give praise & thanks to God - 8th June

3] Psalms to express sorrow & suffering - 13th July

4] Psalms of God's word & wisdom - 14th September

5] Psalms to pray "Your kingdom come" - 2nd November

Book your free place for each session
via website or QR code

<https://buytickets.at/churchwigan>



POP UP SALE OF QUALITY HIGH STREET GOODS



Heavily discounted
prices for
One day only



Clothing & accessories,
toys, homeware, gifts.

We accept cash & card.
All proceeds go to the
Rebuild with Hope
Foundation & Ashton Food
Hub



Tuesday 16th April 2024
St Thomas Church,
Warrington Road,
Ashton in Makerfield,
Wigan,
WN4 9PL
10:30am till 13:30pm



Find us on Facebook

REGISTERED CHARITY NO: 1193007

Together with local businesses, we are working to reduce the amount of food going to land fill.

The pantries are regularly stocked with food that is near its sell by date but can still be used to feed bellies not bins.



**St Thomas' Church Hall,
Ashton in Makerfield**

Tuesday 11am - 12pm
Thursday 3pm - 4pm
Saturday 11am - 12pm
Sunday 3pm - 4pm

Max 2 visits per week

Additional donations welcome to be used to build a pantry and kitchen behind the church hall.



**St Aidan's Church,
Billinge**

Friday 11am - 1.30pm



**Holy Trinity Church
Downall Green**

Friday 9am - 10am

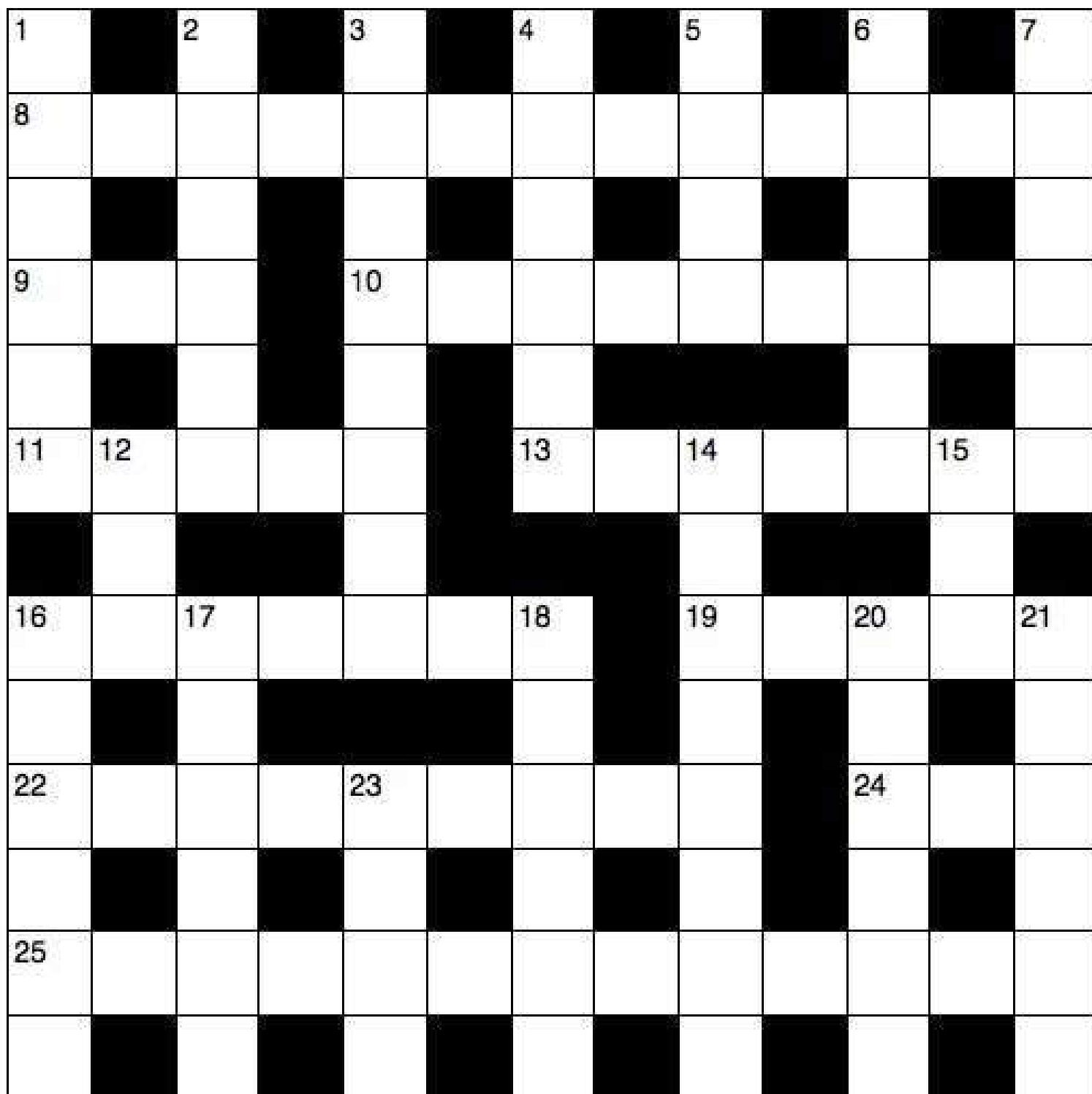
**Each Pantry has a £5 annual membership
and minimum £3 donation per visit**

Services in April

Wednesday 3rd	10.00am: Holy Communion	St Aidan's
Thursday 4th	9.45am: BCP Holy Communion	St Thomas'
Sunday 7th	9.00am: Morning Worship 9.30am: Morning Worship 10.00am: Holy Communion 10.30am: Holy Communion 10.30am: Morning Worship 10.45am: Worship Together 11.00am: Morning Worship 6.30pm: Holy Communion	St Thomas' St Andrew's St Aidan's St Peter's Holy Trinity St Thomas' St Luke's St Thomas'
Wednesday 10th	10.00am: Holy Communion	Holy Trinity
Thursday 11th	9.45am: BCP Holy Communion	St Thomas'
Sunday 14th	9.00am: Holy Communion 9.30am: Holy Communion 10.30am: Sta's4all in school 10.30am: Morning Service 10.30am: Holy Communion 10.45am: Worship Together 11.00am: Holy Communion 4.00pm: Evening Prayer	St Thomas' St Andrew's St Aidan's St Peter's Holy Trinity St Thomas' St Luke's St Aidan's
Wednesday 17th	10.00am: Holy Communion	St Aidan's
Thursday 18th	9.45am: BCP Holy Communion	St Thomas'

<p>Sunday 21st</p>	<p>9.00am: Morning Worship 9.30am: Church Café 10.00am: Morning Worship 10.30am: Morning Prayer 10.30am: Morning Worship 10.45am: Holy Communion 11.00am: Family Worship 6.30pm: Evening Prayer</p>	<p>St Thomas' St Andrew's St Aidan's St Peter's Holy Trinity St Thomas' St Luke's St Thomas'</p>
<p>Wednesday 24th</p>	<p>10.00am: Holy Communion</p>	<p>Holy Trinity</p>
<p>Thursday 25th</p>	<p>9.45am: BCP Holy Communion</p>	<p>St Thomas'</p>
<p>Sunday 28th</p>	<p>9.00am: Holy Communion 9.30am: Morning Worship 10.00am: St Aidan's Beacon 10.30am: Morning Prayer 10.30am: Holy Communion 10.45am: Worship Together 11.00am: Morning Worship 4pm: Holy Communion</p>	<p>St Thomas' St Andrew's St Aidan's St Peter's Holy Trinity St Thomas' St Luke's St Aidan's</p>

Crossword



Answers on page 19

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)

Prayer Walking in our community

Prayer walking is just what it sounds. You pray as you walk.

What is the point? Think of it as stepping out as God's children, to intercede for those who are living in your community. Be intentional about praying for God's blessings on what you see and feel.

Simply praying: "Your Kingdom come, your will be done..." is an excellent start.

Prayer walking is NOT about being seen to be praying, you are not doing it to 'show off'. It is about seeing your neighbourhood with compassion, and then praying for God's mercy and blessing to be upon it.

So, as you go along, you can pray quietly, or in silence. If you do want to pray out loud, take a friend along, so that it will seem merely as if you are chatting. In fact, when you do a prayer walk, it is best not to do it alone. Always try and go with someone else. After all, Jesus sent His disciples out in pairs.

On your prayer walk, try and be aware of what God is saying to you as you move around the community. As the former Archbishop of York, Lord Sentamu, once advised: "If any Bible verses pop into your head or if you have any pictures, visions or words of knowledge, turn these into prayer."

At the end of the prayer walk, share with others what you prayed for, and heard from God. Write any impressions down, so you can keep track of how you have prayed for your area.

Again, to quote Lord Sentamu, "If you feel that God has highlighted specific needs or challenges, think about how to take action. Could you or the church be part of God's solution practically, as well as prayerfully?"

Why not join 'Walking the Walls' which takes place at St Thomas' church from 1pm a Wednesday afternoon. All are welcome to walk laps around the church whilst praying, singing, chatting or taking the time for silence.

The Treasure of Easter!

It's amazing what treasure can be unearthed with metal detectors! In this season of Easter, let's rediscover the greatest unburied treasure of the Resurrection.

The Apostle Peter reminds us that God 'has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade.' (1 Peter 1: 3,4). What does he say about this treasure?

On the one hand, it is the reason for hope. Peter was writing to Christians in Asia Minor (modern day Turkey) who faced persecution under the Emperor Nero. In an uncertain world we know that Jesus suffered, but by His resurrection has secured eternal life for us. This inheritance not only guarantees life now, but also for eternity, as it 'is kept in heaven for you' (4). Do we share this confidence? D.L. Moody, the 19th Century American evangelist, spoke of the time when people would read his obituary: 'Don't believe a word of it! At that moment I shall be more alive than I am now'.

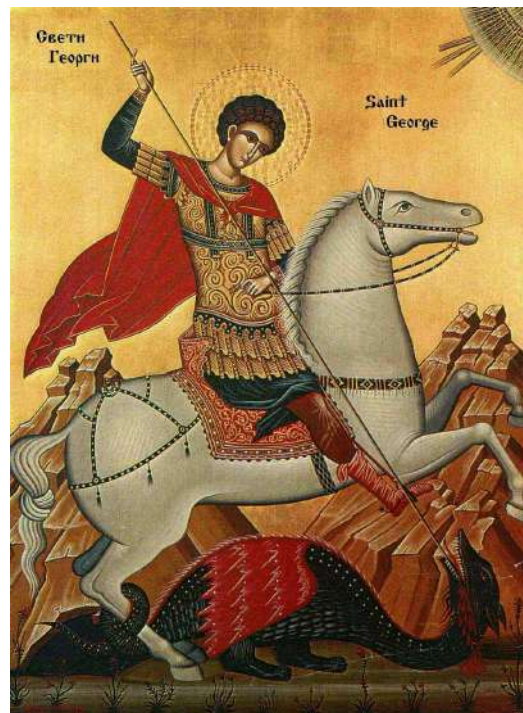
On the other hand, this treasure is a source of joy. This unburied treasure fills us 'with an inexpressible and glorious joy, for you are receiving the end result of your faith, the salvation of your souls.' (8,9). We face all kinds of trials in our lives, but God uses them to refine our faith and character, 'These have come so that the proven genuineness of your faith – of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire – may result in praise, glory and honour when Jesus Christ is revealed.' (7).

We reflect this treasure by developing the Jesus' character and becoming more holy, obedient and loving.

'Christmas is the promise, and Easter is the proof!'

23rd 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 23rd 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 Lybya 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.

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.

ALAN JONES

FUNERAL DIRECTORS LTD

Funeral Directors - Memorials
Local Independent Family Business
Personal & Professional Service - 24 Hours
Funeral Homes & Chapels Of Rest

info.alanjonesfunerals@gmail.com
www.alanjonesfuneraldirectors.com

Ashland House,
87 Old Road,
Ashton in Makerfield,
Wigan WN4 9BG
Tel: 01942 271824

Millbrook House,
56 High Street, Golborne,
Warrington WN3 3BG
Tel: 01942 272027

Danesbrook House,
21 Ladies Lane,
Hindley, Wigan WN2 2QA
Tel: 01942 525504

Dove Cottage,
51 Johns Avenue, Haydock,
St Helens WA11 0QA
Tel: 01942 724777



New Memorial Headstones & Vase's
Inscription & Renovations
Free Estimates
'Eternal Peace' Pre-paid Funeral Plans
For Peace Of Mind
All Enquires Confidential



C & A Hornby Ltd
 Plumbing and Heating Services
 11 Rydal Close, Ashton in Makerfield,
 Wigan, WN4 8AU.



Gas Safe: 11641

GTS0286

www.cahornbyplumbing.co.uk

Telephone: Phil on 01942 727890 or 07867 576164

A local family run business, established for over 25 years and DBS checked.

Contact us for:

All your plumbing needs including emergencies, repairs and replacements.



Boiler replacements and repairs including full systems and upgrades.



Gas Fire replacements and repairs.



All domestic gas work including emergencies.
 Boiler and Gas Fire Service, Landlords Gas Safety Certificates,
 House Move Gas Safety Certificates.



All bathroom work undertaken - complete bathroom refurbishment with design service.



All kitchen work undertaken - complete kitchen refurbishment with design service.



Rental Property Maintenance.



Insurance work undertaken



Find us on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram

RB | R BANKS & SON FUNERALS LTD

Brian Halliwell Dip F.D M.B.I.E.

ESTABLISHED 1921

Independent Funeral Directors • Monumental Masons

A local family run business, R. Banks & Son are one of the largest independent funeral directors in the Wigan area

Founded in 1921 and now with eleven funeral homes across the Wigan area the company has established itself by gaining a reputation for excellence, professionalism and sympathetic attitude.

Golden Charter 
Smart Planning for Later Life

'Golden Charter' Pre Arrangement Funeral Scheme

- Inflation proof
- Peace of mind that painful decisions will be made rationally
- Tailored to your individual needs
- All necessary disbursements included i.e. Church fees, Crematorium/Burial fees[‡].
- One up front payment or monthly installments

[‡] dependent on plan chosen

24 hour service • Caring family firm

www.rbanksandson.co.uk



**Head Office: Halliwell House, 758/768 Ormskirk Rd, Pemberton, Wigan WN5 8BB
T: 01942 222156**

Branches: Clifford House, 1 Grove Lane, **Standish T: 01257 422011** • Hallbank House, 407 Wigan Road, **Bryn T: 01942 271392**
Parsonage House, 100 Railway Road, **Leigh T: 01942 261415** • Windsor House, 232 Scholes, **Wigan T: 01942 820526**
Whitley House, 438 Gidlow Lane, **Beech Hill T: 01942 829200** • Bentham House, 220 Spendmore Lane, **Coppull T: 01257 793880**
Stretton House, 23 Hall Green, **Upholland T: 01695 622099** • Templeton Lodge, Templeton Road, **Platt Bridge T: 01942 863936**
Carina Lodge, 178 Tyldesley Rd, **Atherton T: 01942 318025** • Century House, 6-8 Wigan Road, **Hindley T: 01942 318081**

ARTISAN FRAMING SERVICES

All aspects of Framing

Sports & other Memorabilia

Photos, Paintings, Cross Stitch, Needlework

Canvas Stretching

Free on site customer car parking

01942 718602

info@artisanframingservices.co.uk

www.artisanframingservices.co.uk



25 Bolton Road, Ashton-in-Makerfield, Wigan WN4 8AA

WE ARE THE CHURCH



CartoonChurch.com



April Services

	St Thomas'	St Luke's
Thursday 4th	9.45am: BCP Holy Communion	
Sunday 7th	9.00am: Morning Worship 10.45am: Worship Together 6.30pm: Holy Communion	11.00am: Morning Worship
Thursday 11th	9.45am: BCP Holy Communion	
Sunday 14th	9.00am: Holy Communion 10.45am: Worship Together	11.00am: Holy Communion
Thursday 18th	9.45am: BCP Holy Communion	
Sunday 21st	9.00am: Morning Worship 10.45am: Holy Communion 6.30pm: Evening Prayer	11.00am: Family Worship
Thursday 25th	9.45am: BCP Holy Communion	
Sunday 28th	9.00am: Holy Communion 10.45am: Worship Together	11.00am: Morning Worship

News from our churches

The magazine is dated April but will be produced before Easter and I would like to take this opportunity of wishing all our readers a very happy and blessed Easter.

The period of lent leads up to the events on Good Friday when our Lord was crucified and to that magnificent day of his resurrection. I do hope that you will all join in our Easter services. The 6.30am communion at the Three Sisters on Easter Morning is a particular favourite of mine, we have been holding this service since Derek Mellors was our vicar and it is always such a wonderful way to start the day. Although I must say that I was less than pleased when realising that is the day the the clocks go forward this year!

Home Communion

We are urgently looking for some more volunteers to administer Home Communion to some of our parishioners who are sick, but mainly to long standing parishioners who are unable to attend church for various reasons. Also to administer Communion to the Care and Nursing Homes in Ashton.

This is a very rewarding part of ministry to visit parishioners in their own homes and get a proper insight into their daily problems, and to form a personal relationship.

We normally take out Holy Communion once a month, usually after the 9.45am service on a Thursday morning. Each pair of volunteers usually visit two or three homes depending on the number of volunteers available.

If you agree to be a volunteer there is a an element of training and the necessity to obtain a DBS certificate regarding safeguarding. If you would like any further information then don't hesitate to speak to me at Church or telephone me on 01942712709.

Henry Hunter
Home Communion Secretary

The mystery of the missing milk pan has not been solved so more detective work needed. We are currently having to use an old pan which is not easy to clean after warming milk.

I have mentioned before my delight in finding photos of previous events in our church life, this one dates back to our centenary and I am grateful to Karen Cunliffe for passing it on to me. It was kept in an envelope addressed to me and from Karen's late mum, Freda.

I am the very young (and I might say handsome!) one on the left.

Malcolm

Praise be for a century of service



In front of the newly-restored window are: The Rev Dennis Lyon (Area Dean), Canon Fred Finney (former vicar of the church), churchwarden Malcolm ~~Adams~~, Bishop Jim Roxborough, deacon Pauline Makin and warden Arthur Edwardson

THE congregation of an Ashton-in-Makerfield church gave thanks for the last 100 years — and looked forward to the next.

The first in a series of special services took place at St Thomas's Parish Church to celebrate its centenary.

Up to 500 people packed into the historic building to celebrate its opening in 1893.

The beautiful sandstone structure, currently undergoing improvement works, has graced the town for a century. But there has been a church on the site for much longer.

As well as a special sermon on the topic of One Hundred given by Bishop Jim Roxborough, thanks was also given for a brand new glazed and Gothic-design window and new ornamental panelling at the rear of the altar, both designed and created by parishioners.

The service was also touched with a tinge of sadness as the congregation remembered the Rev Derek Percival, the church vicar who died just before Christmas.

His wife Brenda carried the ceremonial cross.

By BEVERLY PARKINSON

Parishioner Paul Tushingham said: "It was a lovely service and we thank everyone who came along."

"We all have very fond memories of Mr Percival and the service was quite sad at times."

"But we went ahead in the way that he would have wanted us to."

The church has other special events planned to celebrate its 100 birthday, which takes place in July this year.

Meanwhile thousands of pounds in donations are still needed to continue sandstone renovation.

Once again, our thanks to David Fearnley for another insight into historic Ashton.

A RECREATIONAL GROUND FOR ASHTON IN MAKERFIELD 1878

In 1878 a Committee was formed in Ashton in Makerfield to provide a recreation ground for the people of Ashton. The Committee asked Lord Gerard of Garswood New Hall if he would provide a piece of land suitable for the recreation ground. In July 1878 a meeting was held in Ashton Town Hall where Mr. Adolphus Moubert, of Garswood House (now the white building called “Le Chateau” on Millfield Lane), the land agent to Lord Gerard was to deliver Lord Gerard’s reply. Mr. William Valiant, hinge-maker, of Claremont House 16 Gerard Street and manager of the John Whitley hinge-making factory on Gerard Street which in 1921 was taken over by Thomas Crompton & Sons, presided. Also present were the Reverends Siddall, St. Thomas’, G. O’Reilly, St. Oswald’s, G. Fox, Park Lane Unitarian Chapel and H. Wilson, of The Manse (next to the former police station), Old Road and the Congregational Church. Others present included Mr. Josiah Gaskell, hinge-maker and council member, of Burgrave Lodge, Wigan Road (later the residence of Dr. Levene); Mr. Charles Latham, of Havelock Villas, 26 Bolton Road and Sunday School Superintendent of the Congregational Church, and Mr. John Edward Fairless, clerk of the council.

Mr. Moubert explained that Lord Gerard agreed to the request of the Committee. He would grant them a piece of land, the “Little Town Field”, containing 8 acres at a nominal rent of 5 shillings (25 pence) a year on condition that the Committee would exercise control over people using the ground and keep good order. Lord Gerard was to be patron of the Ashton Recreation Society set up to manage the recreational ground and he gave a subscription of £10. Mr. Moubert was appointed President of the Society and an Executive Committee – Josiah Gaskell, hingemaker, Burgrave Lodge, Wigan Road; Christopher Clarke, manager Garswood Coal & Iron Company, Cranbury Lee, Park Lane; Joseph Mitchell, builder, 15 Bryn Street; William Boardman, grocer, 76 Gerard Street; Henry Siddall, vicar St. Thomas’; James Pennington, surgeon, Rock House, Gerard Street; Peregrine Ball, Garswood Hall estate manager, Dock Lane House, Liverpool Road; Charles Rose, landlord, Railway

Hotel, Garswood; Thomas Livesley, assistant overseer of the Local Board/Council, Gerard Street; William France, colliery cashier, Havelock Villas, 28 Bolton Road; and Gerald O'Reilly, priest St. Oswald's and Treasurer, William Valiant, hingemaker, were appointed.

The piece of ground provided by Lord Gerard was situated near the Garswood Plantations, the woodland near the present St. Oswald's church, and its elevated position gave it a view of Garswood Park since as yet few houses had been built in this area. The land was ideal for the purposes of which it had been intended – cricket, football, hockey, athletics, bowling etc. In present day terms the recreational ground consisted of the 2 bowling greens off Townfields, Liverpool Road, all the land now occupied by St. Oswald's primary school and the playing field opposite the school.

In May 1880 the new recreational ground was officially opened, by Mr. Moubert, land agent to Lord Gerard, in front of 3,000 spectators. The band of the Lancashire Hussars led the procession to the recreation ground.

A honorary subscription cost 1 guinea; a ordinary subscription of 5s(25p) for cricket; 7s 6d(37p) for bowling; 2s 6d.(12p) for football. A full subscription of 10s 6d(52p) allowed for participation in any game played on the recreation ground.

In August 1880 the captain Dr. Nathan Hannah, medical officer of Health for Ashton, and sub-captain John Simm elected sides for a friendly game of bowls – the first game since the opening of the ground. At this time there was only one bowling green rather than the two of today. In the 1890's a football team "Ashton in Makerfield" played on the recreation ground and in the Lancashire Alliance with teams including Earlestown, Haydock, Hindley, Stubshaw Cross, Bamfurlong Rovers and Park Lane Wanderers.

In October 1880 the bowling and cricket season at Ashton was brought to an end. A cricket match was played on the recreational ground between 22 bowling and 11 cricket members. The cricketers won by 3 runs. In the evening

there was a soiree held at the Town Hall where 160 members and friends attended. Dancing and music continued from 8pm until 2:30 am. The proceeds were devoted to the laying of another bowling green on the recreational ground which was added by 1891.

In 1901 a festival and firework display was held on the Recreation Ground in honour of the visit to Garswood Hall of General Sir Redvers Buller. Lord William Cansfield Gerard served on the staff of Sir Redvers Buller in Natal, S. Africa, during the Boer War. In 1912 Lord Frederick Gerard opened the Recreational Ground pavilion and 25/5/1912 he opened the Young Catholic Men's Bowling Green to the rear of the Catholic Club. In 1917 Lord Gerard was President of the Ashton Recreation Society and Richard Henry Bridge, solicitor, of Wigan Road, and previously of "Seaton Villas", 76 Liverpool Road was Trustee and Treasurer.

The recreational ground was situated off Naylor Street or Townfields as it is now named. By 1908 no houses had been built on this road. By 1928 houses had only been built on the bowling green side of Townfields from Liverpool Road up to the start of the nearest bowling green to Liverpool Road. Older Ashtonians may recall that the recreational ground was very popular in the 1940's and 50's. There were 3 bowling greens and the present playing field of St. Oswald's primary school was occupied by tennis courts and recreational use with swings, slides and roundabouts. The area now occupied by the school was for cricket, football, athletics and other recreational use such as brass band contests

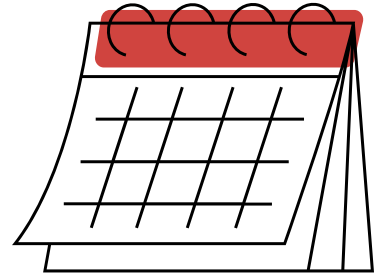
David A. Fearnley

Mothers' Union



Dates for your diary:

Monday 8th April: Lady day - day of prayers and thanksgiving



Wednesday 17th April, 7pm at St Thomas' Church Hall: MU meeting 'Just Open the Book' - actors perform a scene from the bible this includes voluntary audience participation

Thursday 23rd May, 7.30pm at St Mark's, Newtown: 100 year anniversary celebration - RSVP required

Tuesday 9th July, 7.30pm at St Luke's, Orrell: Deanery Festival

TBC September, 2pm at St Mark's, Newtown: Indoor Members Service

Bible Sale

Thank you to everyone who attended last Mothers' Union Meeting, The Bible Sale. Unfortunately, I had to give my apologies, however I have been informed it was an amazing night, and we raised £78!

Women's Refuge - Message from MU Wigan:

On behalf of the Women's Refuge I would like to thank you all for the generous gifts of Easter Crafts and the duvet covers. We received a lot of Easter Craft material and the overspill has been given to The Freedom Project based in Ince who hold sessions for families with children who have experienced or have witnessed abuse at home.



Request from Wigan hospital - Laura Milward Voluntary Service

If you can either knit or supply wool, Wigan hospital has requested for the following:

- Dolls clothes for the Dementia dolls
- Twiddle muffs - they can be any size but not too big as they are for patients in hospital
- Dementia Cannula Sleeves. Sleeves vary in patients wrist sizes a selection of sizes will be great. The cuffs needs to be of a soft wool so not to irritate the skin cotton possibly wool would be best and washable

MU Globally

RISE UP Against Domestic Abuse is Mothers' Union's new campaign to raise awareness about domestic abuse. Our aim is to make sure that activism against domestic abuse and gender-based violence happens 365 days of the year.

The letters of RISE UP stand for Respond, Inform, Support, Empower, Unite and Pray. Mothers' Union are working with their members to ensure that as many churches as possible have information about their local domestic abuse helpline. This information will be found in all toilets within the church and hall. We now have RISE UP teddies available in both churches. These teddies are for anyone that is requiring comfort.



If anyone would like more information on joining the Mothers' Union, please either contact myself or Patricia Hamilton. Alternatively, you can email motherunionstthomas@gmail.com

***Love and prayers
Michelle***

Donations Information

Regular Giving: We have traditionally taken envelope donations in our plate offerings and these monies help towards the payment that has to go to the diocese each month. If you are unable to get to a service and wish to still use your envelopes, please deliver them, to Malcolm and Barbara's (32 Townfields). In the alternative, please consider switching to the Parish Giving Scheme by phoning 0333 002 1271 as we can get the tax back much quicker this way.

Donations: Please place any donations in an envelope with your full name and amount written on it. Please post this through the Vicarage door. Please make cheques payable to St Thomas' PCC. If you want the donation to be for something specific, please write clearly on the envelope.

Gift Aid: If you pay tax in the UK and would like church to be able to claim 25p for every £1 you donate, please complete a Gift Aid form or state on your envelope that you are a UK tax payer, would like church to claim Gift Aid and include your full name and address.


Wills and Legacies: If you wish to discuss any issues around Wills and Legacies please ring the Parish Treasurer, Sarah Riley, on 01942 722747.

Funds currently in use are:

- Africa Fund
- Asylum Seek
- Audio Visual
- Church Hall
- Buildings and Maintenance
- Food Ministry
- Garden of Rest
- General
- Grave Maintenance
- Heath Road Graveyard
- Heating
- Fit for the Future

Unless otherwise stated, donations will go into the General fund

Donations & Remembrance



In memory of **John Fearnley**
From Madge and Family

Birthday remembrance of **Clara Shaw** (29th April)
From Malcolm and Barbara

Garden of Rest
Thanks for home communion
from Elsie Deluce

Thanks for home communion
from Isabel Bowen

Pantry Building Fund
From Helen Waterworth

Flower Guild
In memory of loved ones
from Jean and Les Johnson

Anniversary remembrance of **Austin Bullen** (11th March)
From wife Jean, Karen and Keith, Jaki, Simon, Toni and Ben
Sadly Missed.

The Registers



Funerals or Burials of Ashes 'May they rest in peace'

4 March	Doreen Jones	89
4 March	Irene Joy Evans	82
6 March	Marion Cunliffe	84
14 March	Elizabeth Parkinson	64
14 March	Joan Ashton	84
21 March	William George Potter	79
25 March	Thomas Walsh	81
27 March	Alan James Gadsen	

Holy Baptism 'We welcome them into the Lord's family'

3rd March	Fargol Khaghani Mehrgol Khaghani
24 March	Maisie Rachel Dale Theo Dale

St Thomas' and St Luke's Organisations

Coffee Mornings

Tues 10am - 12pm
St Thomas' church
Barbara Taylor
01942 205136

Wednesday Weenies

Wed 1pm - 2.30pm
St Thomas' church hall
Jan Cornthwaite
01942 721626

Mothers' Union

3rd Wed 7.30pm
St Thomas' church
Michelle
Rawsthorn

Fairtrade Stall

3rd Sun 11.45am
St Thomas' church
Anne Wooff
01942 724207

Litter Pick

3rd Sat 10am - 12pm
Meet at St Thomas' car park
Chris Wooff
01942 724207

Flower Guild

Meta Laites
01942 723679

Asylum Seeker Support

English Class
Thurs 2pm - 3pm

Ashton Pantry

Tues & Sat 11am - 12pm

Girl Guiding

Brownies
Thurs 6.30pm

Social Drop in
Sun 1pm - 3pm

Thurs & Sun 3pm - 4pm

Guides
Tues 7pm

Anne & Chris Wooff
01942 724207

Sue Thomas
07877704645

Rachel Starkie
01942 718350

Children's Sunday Clubs

Sun 10.45am
Karen Cunliffe
07721770305

For more information, please visit our website at stthomasstluke.org.uk



St Thomas' and St Luke's Church,
Ashton in Makerfield



St Thomas

St Thomas' and St Luke's Church Officials

Local Mission Leaders

St Thomas':
Jan Cornthwaite 721626
St Luke's:
Carole Pye 517318

Readers

Tricia Hancox 201540
Alan Harrison 718618
Carole Pye 517318
Helen Weavers 07796334457

Assistant Wardens

St Thomas':
Tony Cornthwaite 721626
Paula Gillespie 711270

St Luke's:
Carole Pye 517318
John Boon 204082

St Thomas' Deputy Wardens

Barbara Taylor 205136

Assistant Treasurers

St Thomas':
Phil Hayton phaytonuk@yahoo.co.uk
St Luke's:
John Boon 204082

Administration, Bookings and Advertising

Cheryl Knowles
cheryl.knowles@churchwigan.org

Magazine Editor

Jess Bradley 07498323469
magazine@stthomasstluke.org.uk

Freewill Offerings Secretary

Malcolm Taylor 205136

Electoral Roll Secretary

Ruth Laemmel see below

Asylum Seeker Support

Anne & Chris Wooff 724207

Children, Young People & Families

Jan Cornthwaite
721626

Flowers

Meta Laites 723679

Church Architect

Bill Schafer 717300

St Thomas' Worship Group

Mary Owen 203277

St Thomas' Organist

Paul Tushingam 711085

Magazine Distribution

Vacant

stthomasstluke.org.uk



St Thomas' and St Luke's
Church, Ashton in Makerfield