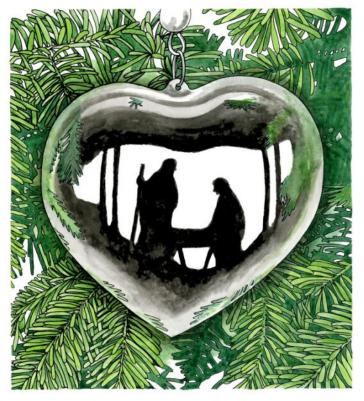
# St.Thomas' and St. Luke's Ashton-In-Makerfield Church Magazine Price: 50p





December 2016

www.stthomasstluke.org.uk

## Church Services in the Parish of St Thomas, Ashton-in-Makerfield

S	U	n	d	a	У	S
---	---	---	---	---	---	---

St Th	nomas's	St Luke's	
9.00a.m.	Holy Communion	8.30 a.m.	Holy Communion (1st Sunday Only)
10.45 am	Family Worship (1st Sunday Parade & 4th Sunday Family Communion)		Family Worship (2nd Sunday Family Communion)
Evening Worship 6.30 p.m. (3rd and 5th Sunday Holy Communion)		4.15 p.m.	Holy Communion (3rd Sunday Only)

### Weekdays

Thursday
9.45 a.m.

Holy Communion (BCP 1662) Other services and Saints' Days as announced. Please see weekly notice sheet or visit website for dates, details or exceptions.

<u>Parish Office:</u> St Thomas's Church Vestry, **Thursday 6.30 – 7.30 p.m:** For all enquiries regarding church matters and arranging baptisms and weddings. Contact - 01942 721 484.

<u>Deadlines:</u> Handwritten material should be given to Malcolm Taylor, and email material to stthomasandstlukesmagazine@gmail.com

Deadline	January 2017	February 2017
Hand Written	4th December	8th January
Computer	11th December	15th January
Magazine Release	23rd December	29th January

Deadlines	2
Bishop of Liverpool Christmas Message	4
Letter from the Vicar	6
Services in December	7
Message from the Curate	8
■ Diary	10
Parish News	11
Mothers Union	12
St Thomas's CE Primary School	14
Flower Guild	28
Christmas is Coming	29
St Thomas' and St Luke's Giving Information	30
St Thomas' Donations	32
8t Luke's Donations/The Film Review with Rob Carson	34
Our Page	36
Mouse Makes	37
Registers	38

### Important Parish Information

#### **Baptisms**

Baptisms are held at St Thomas Church at 12.45 on the 2nd & 4th Sundays. Baptisms at St Luke's are at 11 am on the 3rd Sunday.

To qualify for baptism parents should evening. live within the parish boundaries or be a regular worshipper at St Thomas's/St Luke's. Parents and be Godparents should also prepared to undertake baptism preparation classes.

#### Marriage

You can marry in a C of E church of your choice if certain criteria are shown to be met. For details please contact the vicar or call in at Vestry Hour on a Thursday

#### **Funerals**

Every parishioner has the right to a service in church, followed by a committal.



### Christmas Message

### Make a bigger difference this Christmas

Nearly everyone will utter, at some point over the festive season, the well-known phrase "It's the season for Goodwill". Most of us agree that Christmas, amongst other things, is a time to do something for someone else. Something well-meaning. Something that will bring, as they say, a bit of Christmas cheer.

And goodness knows there's nothing wrong with that. Jesus endorsed doing good things for others. He taught about it, spoke parables about it and modelled it in his own life. He showed, commanded and implored us all to look out for our neighbour, to speak up for justice and walk alongside those in need.



This is the "bigger difference" I have been talking about wherever I go. The real difference that Christians make across our area day in and day out. I applaud, commend and thank God for all of you who are doing that - who make a difference.



Because the real story of Christmas is a story of the difference that one child made to the world. A child who even in his birth taught the world about love, poverty, humility, grace and service. A child who was worshipped then as we worship the saviour now. This is the difference-making story that outlasts the Christmas baubles, tinsel and turkey. A difference that

lasts for ever.

If we believe in that then we need to act. So I give the challenge to myself and I give it to you. What difference will you make this Christmas?



### **Christmas** Message

And who will you make that difference for? Because our faith becomes attractive more through the deeds we do than the words we utter. People are touched by kindness, compassion and love. That's what Jesus did. He healed and fed, often before he taught.



I have always said I want to see a bigger church. But why bother with that? Because the church we want to see is full of people who have felt the difference that knowing Jesus brings and who want to make a difference to others. This is the life-changing message that has echoed down the centuries from the nativity crib to the Calvary cross.

I shall be trying to make a bigger difference this Christmas. Will you try also? What difference will you aim to make?

Have a happy, peaceful, difference-making and grace-filled Christmas! God bless you.

### **Bishop Paul**





### Letter from the Vicar

Last weekend it was a privilege to perform a marriage blessing for a couple immediately after their civil marriage ceremony. Words that turned out to be meaningful for many people were in the introduction where, unplanned, I

many people were in the introduction where, unplanned, I said that we didn't now come to a time where we welcome God in the blessing, because God has been with us in the vows, in bringing the bride and groom together, and in the love that they have for each other. In conversation with a number of people afterwards, often preceded with 'I'm not religious, but...', they were encouraged with the idea of God's presence in the secular, as well as being moved by the contrast with the spiritual, commenting on their favourite part being the blessing.



In God's world, it is clear that he is at work, going before us in the secular, in the ordinary and in the everyday. One of the ways that we can share him with others is to help them to recognise this, of course first recognising it ourselves. Joining the places, people and situations that seem to be

without God or despite God, with him helps to draw people to him. Although not my specific intention in the wedding to do so, it was a pleasant surprise then to be able to have spiritual conversations with family members and friends, who were connecting with the thought of God's presence. Once the presence of God is known, then that person, situation, place or challenge may be transformed.

purposes for the transformation of the whole world. As we prepare to

Advent is a season when we have probably the easiest time connecting people with the presence and the reality of God. It is an evangelistic and missional gift that at this time of year the world looks towards Christmas Day. Although there are many motivations for this, Christians know the reason and the reality of what the birth of Jesus means not just for our own faith but for God's



### Letter from the Vicar

welcome Jesus into our midst this year, may we have many opportunities to offer the presence of God into the times, places, situations where he may not necessarily be seen, and then take the opportunity to offer the peace, love and purpose of the coming King.



"The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth." John 1:14

### **Jeremy Thomas**



### **SERVICES DURING DECEMBER**



**4th December** Toy Service and Christingle St Thomas 10:45am St Lukes 11:00am

**11th December** Crib Service St Thomas 10:45am

St Lukes 11:00am

**18th December** Carol Service St Thomas 6:30pm

**24th December** Meet at Salvation Army at

3:45pm to sing carols through

Ashton to Posada service St Thomas 4:15pm

Midnight Communion St Thomas 11:00pm

St Lukes 11:00pm

**25th December** Christmas Communion St Thomas 10:30am

St Lukes 11:00am



### Message from the Curate

There's a story in the Old Testament that I love. Jacob has just set off from his family home to go and find a wife from a neighbouring tribe. As you do. He travels for a day out beyond the boundaries of where his family has made their home and heads to Haran.

That sounds like a tiny detail: he goes from one place into another, but it matters.

People in Jacob's time thought that gods were in charge of geographical regions. Jacob's tribe has Yahweh, but you go to the tribe down the road and they're worshipping Baal, the next one over has taken Asher. It's like thinking that the people in Bryn worship one god and everyone over in Golborne worships another. Jacob goes into a place where everyone says his God isn't.

Jacob leaves his home and after a day of travelling he falls asleep. And he has a dream. In the dream angels are going up and down a ladder and God, who's at the top of the ladder, speaks and says: 'I am the Lord your God.' When he wakes up Jacob says 'Surely God is in this place and I did not know it.'

This moment changes Jacob's understanding of who God is: God is in the places you don't think you'll find Him.

Right here, in the middle of the wilderness, Jacob, a few thousand years before Jesus arrives, Jacob touches on part of the mission the Church. We're called to go into new places, beyond the traditional boundaries of Sunday morning services and home groups, to the places that it looks like God has forgotten and point people to the presence of God in their midst.

Here's the thing: I think God might want to take us into a space we've not been before, across a line of some sort out and beyond 'the Church'. I think we might need to go into the places that make us uncomfortable so that we can say 'surely God is in this place.' I think that might start by loving and serving the people around us in Ashton.



That's where I need your help.

In the next few months I'd like to discern a new project in our community where we can be a sign of God's presence and love in our community. The problem is I don't have any more ideas than that. So I

have a question for you: have you seen somewhere in our community where people have slipped between the cracks and we can bring something of the hope and love of Jesus?

Maybe you've seen people in need as you walk around our neighbourhood — you've stopped, seen, and

wondered whether anyone is going to do anything about it. Maybe the answer to that question is that we are.

If you think you know of a place we could start come and find me after a service or email me on <a href="mailto:curate@stthomasstluke.org.uk">curate@stthomasstluke.org.uk</a>.

For advertising in the Church magazine, please contact Rachel Webster on 01942 273453.

For magazine delivery please contact Jack Stuart on 01942 276972

Or to be added to the mailing list and receive the magazine online please visit

www.stthomasstluke.org.uk to sign up!





### Daily / Weekly Events in our Church - December 2016

<u>Tuesday</u> Coffee Morning. (Church Hall) 10:00am-12:00pm

Church open for prayer. 7.30-8.30pm Morning Prayer. 9.00am

Wednesday<br/>ThursdayMorning Prayer.9.00amHoly Communion.9:45am

Princes Pantry Reunion

**Christmas Lunch (8th Dec)** 12:00-1:30pm Vestry hour. 6.30-7.30pm

These are the usual events in our church, please see the notices for details of other activities taking place. For details of organisations and who to contact see back page of magazine.

**Streets for Prayer:** This month we are praying for the people who live and work in **Cranbrook Avenue**, **Tenbury Drive and Girton Avenue** 

#### **ODNAT**

TANGO at St. Marks Church, Haydock support and resource families within the Haydock/Ashton area by providing food; clothing; furniture and household items.





If you have any items of furniture that you no longer want TANGO will collect Free Of Charge from your home.

If you want more information about TANGO or to arrange a collection please ring: 01744 607388





# Parish News





### Senior Citizens Christmas Party— Reminder



A reminder that the Senior Citizen's Christmas Party will be on Friday 13 January in the Church Hall and support is needed preparing and serving the food, providing transport or entertaining our guests after the meal. It is getting more difficult year on year to find volunteers to help with the entertainment. Singing, dancing making us laugh, whatever you feel able to do please let me know in plenty of time to put together a great programme.

#### Malcolm

### Ashton Churches Together Food Bank Celebrates 4 Year Anniversary

The Mayor and Mayoress Ron and Janet Conway came to help us celebrate our 4 years of existence. He praised the work of the churches and people in the community who are helping to meet the needs of those in crisis.



### **Church Magazine**

Well we have managed another year in the life of our Church Magazine and it is thanks to the many hands involved which make it light work. Many thanks must go to Rachel our Magazine editor and Jack and Helen Stuart who see to the administration as well as to all involved in the production and distribution.

#### Malcolm

# Mothers Union

#### **DIARY:**

**Wednesday 21st December** Christmas Carol Service in St Thomas Church at 7.30pm. This special Service is open to all ladies of our Church and also the ladies from other Churches in Ashton. Come and enjoy fellowship you will made welcome and encouraged to join us for Tea, Coffee and Mince Pies in Church after the Service.



**On Friday 20<sup>th</sup> January** as I mentioned in the November magazine our belated Christmas Meal is once again at Bryn Masonic Hall. The occasion is open to all ladies of the Parish and friends and we look forward to seeing our friends old and new at what is always a very enjoyable evening. If you wish to

come and haven't already let me know please sign the list at the back of Church. I will need the choice of menu at the latest by the  $8^{th}$  January 2017 along with the cost of the meal which is £19.00



**Coops Foyer** We are proud that in our branch and for many years we have at this time of year given thought to the young people at Coops and their Christmas celebrations. If you would like to donate a gift for this Christmas I will be delighted to deliver it. Please mark the parcel male or female.

The end of another busy year in the life of our Branch. I must take this opportunity to again of thank our Secretary, Treasurer and the Committee and all the members of our Parish for their continued support throughout the year.

# Mothers Union

At Christmas time, dear God, we remember your birth as a baby; in a manger lying on straw, the cattle and donkey close by, and Mary and Joseph looking at you in amazement and love.

We thank you for coming to the earth and pray that the joy of Christmas Day may bring peace and hope to all the world.



#### Amen

Wishing you and your families a very peaceful and happy Christmas. Barbara

### Love and prayers Barbara



13



### St. Thomas' C of E Primary School

### Friends Together Club

As we are entering into our fourth year of our 'Friends Together Club'

run by Mrs Kelsall, Mrs Caldwell, myself and with some fantastic help from pupils on our ethos team (Thomas Oakes, Sophie Naylor and Sophie Hunt), I would like to update you on our activities.

We meet every Wednesday after the school day finishes. Starting off with refreshments, we take the time to reflect on the week so far. After this, the next activity changes each week. This could be a number of things from craft work, watching short video clips, dancing to music and outdoor activities. Most importantly, every week the pupils learn about

Jesus and enriching friendships. In 'Friends Together', the 'F' also stands for Faith and 'T' stands for Talks. Each one of our wonderful children talk freely about their faith. God bless each one of them.

Our future project will be sharing artistic ideas to create a large wall display of God's love for us all. This will also include a prayer area which all the pupils can use.



### Monthly Student Prayer

Dear God.

Thank you for my Wednesdays at my Friends Together Club. Let us learn more about you and bless everyone at St Thomas's school and church

Amen

Josie Jones Y3

Bible Verse: Matthew 18:20

For where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I among them.

May you all have a blessed Christmas and a wonderful new year. Elaine Mateus



#### **Opening Times**

Monday 9am-5pm
Tuesday 9am-5pm
Wednesday 9am-5pm
Thursday 9am-5pm
Friday 9am-5pm
Saturday 9am-4pm
Sunday Closed Except for Mothering Sunday

### Flowertime Florist

5 Bolton Road, Ashton in Makerfield, WN4 8AA
Email: flowertime.ashton@gmail.com
Tel: 01942 715716

'We use the best quality Dutch flowers for all special occasions such as Weddings, Anniversaries, Birthdays, Funeral Tributes and many more. Please call today for your free quotation'

### Special Offers

- 5% Discount on Orders Under £100 (Minimum Spend £25 to receive discount)
- \$ 10% Discount on Orders Over £100

Please present this voucher at Flowertime Florist to receive any of the above discounts. One voucher per customer.







- Quality Workmanship
- FREE No Obligation Quotes
- Trustworthy & Reliable Service
- Over 25 Years Experience
- All Aspects of Decorating Covered
- No Job Too Small

Tel: 01942 716389

Mob: 07765 078295

Email: pacreckec@sky.com





### SCRATCHFIX LIMITED

SAVE UP TO 50% ON BODYSHOP COSTS

<u>Don't be without your car for days.</u> Most repairs completed within the hour at your home or workplace

- Key and vandal scratches
- Textured bumper scuffs
- Wing mirror scrapes
- Alloy wheel repairs

- · Cracked bumper repairs
- Stone chips
- Colour coded bumper scuffs
- · Full body polish



#### ONEKAL DIKECIOKS LID

### Local Independent Family Business

Traditional and modern funeral services

Horse-drawn or limousine driven funeral processions

Memorial Monuments and Services

Pre-paid Funeral Plans

Professional funeral services in the Wigan areas.

To discuss any funeral plans please don't hesitate to contact us today.



Ashland House 87 Old Road, Ashton in Makerfield



Tel: 01942 271824 24 Hours

Danesbrook House 21 Ladies Lane Hindley Dove Cottage 51 Johns Avenue Haydock Millbrook House 56 High Street Golborne

Tel: 01942 525504

Tel: 01942 724777

Tel: 01942 272027

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







### R. Banks & Son

### (FUNERALS) LTD

Members of National Association of Funeral Directors, Society of Independent Funeral Directors

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

- Pre-paid Funeral Plans
  - Daimler Limousines
    - 24 Hour Service

Email: rbanksfunerals@callnetuk.com Website: www.funeralserviceswigan.co.uk

HALLIWELL HOUSE 758/768 ORMSKIRK ROAD PEMBERTON, WIGAN Telephone:

(01942) 222156



Branch Offices
PARSONAGE HOUSE
100 RAILWAY ROAD
LEIGH

Telephone: (01942) 261415

HALLBANK HOUSE 407 WIGAN ROAD, BRYN ASHTON-IN-MAKERFIELD

Telephone: (01942) 271392

WINDSOR HOUSE 232 SCHOLES, WIGAN

Telephone: (01942) 820526

CLIFFORD HOUSE No. 1 GROVE LANE STANDISH WIGAN

Telephone: (01257) 422011

FUNERAL
DIRECTORS
AND
MONUMENTAL
MASONS



#### 5\* Cruiselink Service - Private Hire - Excursions

- Eavesway Cruiselink taking thousands of people to and from their cruise holiday each year in style and comfort
- Executive Coach Hire perfect for school trips, sporting events and days out
- Eavesway Exclusive the very best in luxury coach travel, ideal for corporate hospitality and special occasions

Eavesway Travel Ltd. Bryn Side, Bryn Road, Ashton-in-Makerfield, Wigan, WN4 8BT









# bowen leeming opticians



Mon 9:00 - 17:30 Tues 9:00 - 17:30 Weds 9:00 - 17:30 Thur 9:00 - 17:30 Fri 9:00 - 17:30 Sat 9:00 - 13:00 Sun - Closed

49 Gerard Street, Ashton-in-Makerfield, Wigan, WN4 9AG

01942 722386 info@bowenandleeming.com



### C & A Hornby Ltd

Plumbing and Heating Services 11 Rydal Close, Ashton in Makerfield, Wigan, WN4 8AU.



Gas Safe: 11641

www.cahornbyplumbing.co.uk

Telephone: Phil on 01942 727890 or 07867 576164

A local family run business, established for over 20 years and CRB 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



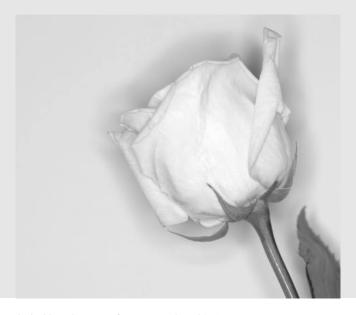
### The **co-operative** funeralcare

2B The Gerard Centre Ashton In Makerfield Wigan WN4 9AN

Tel: 01942 727159

### **Qualified Funeral Director Ron Conway (Dip FD, BIFD)**

- 24 Hour Personal, Friendly Service to provide care, help and support
- All Aspects of Memorial Work Undertaken



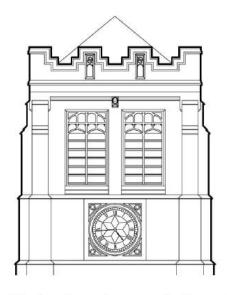


Grayway Coaches • 237 Manchester Road, Ince, Wigan WN2 2EA
Tel: 01942 243165 / 235586 • Fax: 01942 824807
Email: graywayone@aol.com

Web: www.grayway.co.uk

18 - 24 - 33 - 49 - 51 - 53 - 55 seater coaches all fitted with seat belts and air conditioning

HOLIDAYS • EXCURSIONS • EXECUTIVE TRAVEL
Private Parties • Contact Work • School Outings
Excursions • Executive Coaches • UK & Continental Tours



56 Belvedere Road, Ashton-in-Makerfield, Lancashire, WN4 8RU.



- t 01942 717300
- e info@schaferassociates.co.uk
- w www.schaferassociates.co.uk

Schafer Associates | Chartered Architects

#### LYNDA BUNTING

BSc (Hons) Podiatry, M.Ch.S HPC Registered CHIROPODY/PODIATRY HOME VISITING SERVICE IN YOUR AREA

> Prices from £18 Including Foot Massage

Treatment for all conditions causing foot discomfort Evening Appointments Available

For an appointment please telephone 01942 730857 / 07835 446505

WORKSHOP 115-117 BOLTON ROAD ASHTON-IN-MAKERFIELD MEMBER OF THE ASSOCIATION OF MASTER UPHOLSTERERS

#### **KEITH TATHAM**

Upholstery & Antique Renovations

Furniture Repair & Re-styling

CUSTOMER CAR PARKING

TEL: 01942 727605

- ♦ General Maintenance/ Handyman
- Tiling/Fencing/ Flagging
- Gardening
- Kitchen and Bathroom
   Fits

For a prompt and reliable service at affordable prices call Paul on 07954 408653



**Routine Foot Care** 



**Verrucae Treatments** 



**Nail Surgery** 



**Dr Comfort shoes** 



HOME VISITS for the elderly and infirm

Tel: 01942 215391

www.orrellchiropody.co.uk



### All Vehicle Repairs Carried Out

Includes: Servicing,
Diagnostics, Clutches, Timing
Belts and more.....

### Please phone 07845 180838 or call in for a FREE quote

McG Auto Repairs Ltd Cranberry Lodge Garage (behind Macwest Motors) Wigan Road Ashton in Makerfield WN4 0B7

www.mcgautorepairs.co.uk

### R & T Lewis Catering

70 Simpkin Street, Abram, Wigan, Lancashire WN2 5PT Home: 01942 861457 Mobile: 07889784512

> Web: www.R&TLewiscatering.co.uk Find us on Facebook—R&T Lewis Catering

R&T Lewis Catering is a family run catering business with an excellent reputation for delivering a first class service. Our experience in outside catering enables us to cater for any occasion.

We specialise in Hot & Cold Buffet Service (7 Days a Week)

Whatever the Occasion each function will receive our personal attention

An Example of one of our popular funeral buffet is detailed below

Assorted Fresh Cut Sandwiches (Ham/Turkey/Egg Mayo/ Cheese & Onion) Hot new Potatoes Assorted Quiche Whist Pie Sausage Rolls Open Finger Rolls Salmon &Cucumber Assorted Savouries Crisp Green Salad

Cheese Board Assortment of Small Cakes Scones with Jam & Fresh Cream

£4.00 per head

Tea & Coffee (for a small extra charge) All buffets ordered can be delivered to either the venue or the home.

We have varied hot & cold buffet menus as well as a varied choice of set meal menus, ensuring that all requirements can be met. All menus can be adapted to suit individual customer requirements. References and Testimonials are available on request.

# Bailey Landscapes Ltd



### FAMILY-RUN BUSINESS FOR OVER 20 YEARS

**\* \* \*** 

LANDSCAPING, FENCING, PATIOS

\* \* \*

GARDENS DESIGNED AND BUILT

**\* \* \*** 

PRIVATE AND COMMERCIAL GARDEN
MAINTENANCE

\* \* \*

HEADSTONES AND GRAVES LEVELLED AND TIDIED UP

PHONE: 01257 483561 MOBILE: 07813 643930

EMAIL: graham.bailey15@yahoo.co.uk

Directors: G Bailey, C Bailey and L Bailey VAT Number 768/1716/00 Company Reg No. 4172616



### St Thomas' Flowers



DATE	LADIES ON DUTY
3RD DEC	MRS LAITES, MRS MALLEY, MRS VELLA
10TH DEC	mrs edwardson, mrs cook, kayleigh speakman
17TH DEC	all ladies—christmas flowers
24TH DEC	all ladies—christmas flowers
31ST DEC	all ladies—christmas flowers

FLOWERS IN CHURCH DURINGDECEMBER			
DATE	ALTAR	LADY CHAPEL	
4TH DEC	In memory of all loved ones from Janet and Doug Wildman	In memory of all loved ones from Mrs Wood and Mr & Mrs Lawton and their families	
11TH DEC	Anniversary remembrance of Derek Roberts (8th Dec) from Pat, Susan and Ryan	In memory of all loved ones from the Bailey family	
18TH DEC	CONGREGATION—CHRISTMAS FLOWERS	CONGREGATION—CHRISTMAS FLOWERS	
25TH DEC	CONGREGATION—CHRISTMAS FLOWERS	CONGREGATION—CHRISTMAS FLOWERS	

#### FLOWER GUILD DONATIONS

With Love and Christmas memories of Elaine Hibbert from Joan and Ashley

### Christmas is coming...



As the clocks go back and the dark nights draw in, Christmas is coming.

When the heating is turned high and our homes a welcome refuge,

Christmas
is coming.

In the crowded shopping centres and frantic purchasing of presents, Christmas is coming.

Through the jam packed TV schedule and favourite Winter flicks, Christmas is coming.

With that well loved suited figure and his whiskered cheery grin, Christmas is coming.

During the overindulgence on turkey and that extra glass of wine, Christmas is coming.



In the buzz of the office party and our infectious merriment and cheer, Christmas is coming.

Through the sobs of proud parents and the timeless school nativity, Christmas is coming.



With the colour coordinated decorations and houses decked to bursting,

Christmas is coming.

In the carols sung with gusto and the age old festive hits,
Christmas is coming.

During the countdown to the season and those tasty chocolate treats, Christmas is coming.

When the presents are all wrapped and the children sound asleep, Christmas is coming.

As we crash out on the sofa and thank goodness we're all ready, Christmas is coming.

In the busyness of our lives and yet the stillness of our hearts, Christ must come!

### St Thomas' & St Luke's Giving Information

Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver

2 Corinthians 9:7

As Christians, we believe that everything we have is from God, and we offer back to him our time, our skills and money.

#### Regular Planned Giving

Regular, planned giving into the General Fund allows St Thomas and St Luke's to cover our greatest expense: our parish share and the ongoing costs to run and maintain our church buildings.

Did you know Direct Debit is the most efficient way to give? Pay by Direct Debit through the Parish Giving Scheme...

This is a scheme run by the Church of England, and allows giving to be done by Direct Debit instead of on the collection plate. This uses very little admin resource here at St Thomas' and St Luke's and avoids any bank charges. If you pay tax, with the PGS, the gift aid is received shortly afterwards, compared to waiting up to a year when we make our normal annual claim. Forms are available at the back of church or please speak to Sarah Riley (Treasurer) or Clare Hayton (Gift Aid Secretary).

#### One Off/ Regular Donations to other Funds

An additional way to support our churches is to give one-off donations to our church funds. You can make donations to the following funds:-

- Africa Fund
- Fit for the Future—Audio and Visual System
- General
- Fit for the Future—Heating
- Building and Maintenance
- Church Hall
- Garden of Rest
- Grave Yard Maintenance
- Heath Road Graveyard
- Asylum Seeker Fund
- Church Flowers

Please put your donations in a sealed envelope with your full name and amount and pass to a church warden or drop off at the vicarage. Please state on the envelope if you would like your donation going towards a specific fund, otherwise it will go to General funds. Please make cheques payable to St Thomas' PCC and ask Sarah Riley (07712 584 954) about giving regularly to any of these funds. Your donation will be reported in the church magazine, so if you would like, you can add a dedication or in memory of. If you don't wish your name to be included in the magazine, please state "anonymous" on the envelope. All donations are treated in confidence.

### Gift Aid

giftaid it

If you are a UK tax payer (tax paid on Income earned, Pension received or Dividends received) and would like church to claim an additional 25% on all your donations e.g. extra £25 for every £100 donated, at no extra cost to yourself. Please pick a Gift Aid form up from the back of church and pass to Clare Hayton, Gift Aid Secretary (01942 273183).





### St Thomas' Donations December 2016



#### With Thanks for Home Communion:

Marion Bullen, Harry Winstanley, Jean Rose Brown, Georgina Jones, Alice Ashley, Brenda Percival

#### Other Donations:

Andrew Bullen (Asylum Fund), Anon, Keith Whittle (Asylum Fund), Anon

### TOTAL DONATIONS RECEIVED BY ST THOMAS' DECEMBER 2016 £610

### In Loving Memory of

James and Stuart Brown from Jean Rose Brown

Elizabeth Alice Winstanley and William Winstanley and All Our Loved Ones from Nancy and George

Allan Walker (12.1.08) from Barbara Walker

**Ted and Betsy Grimshaw**, loving and much loved parents-in-law and grandparents from Pat and the boys

Annie Bailey from Family and Friends

Annie Bailey from Hilda Edwardson

**Annie Bailey** from Martha Blinston

Annie Bailey from Avis Bullough and Family

Mrs Forster from Joan and Ashley

Elaine Hibbert from Ken

Our much loved parents and grandparents

Tom and Pat McIlwee from Linda, Karen and Families

**Alan Deluce** (Nov 22nd) from Joan and Ashley

### Birthday Remembrance of

Hilda Kilshaw (29th Dec) from Loving Husband Tom

A dear friend **Peggy Knocker** (20th Nov) from Doreen Lee

A dear husband, **Ken Parkinson** (6th Dec) from his loving wife Vera and Family

### **Anniversary Remembrance of**

**Arthur Shaw** (30th Dec) a dear Dad and Grandad, from Barbara, Malcolm and Family



Special Christmas Memories of my late husband and daughter
William Keith and Andrea Livesley from
Loving Wife and Mum Rita

Loving Christmas Remembrance of **Raymond Bullough**, a dear husband, dad and grandad. Also remembering **all our loved ones** at this special time. From Avis, Alison and Philip, Steven Michelle, Rachel, Kate, Luke and Amy

Loving Christmas memories of **Gordon Lyon**. Also treasured memories of **Mother and Dad Lyon**, **Ernie Murphy**, and Family Friends **Pat Taylor** and **Albert Clarke**. From Marie, Barbara John Madolyn and Robert, David Sharon Ruby and Geena

Christmas memories of a dear husband **Kenneth Rimmer** and a dear mum and grandma **Gladys Byrchall**. From Doreen Rimmer and Family

### St Lukes' Donations



#### In memory of Annie Bailey

Lynn Naylor Carole and Michael Pye A dear Auntie from niece Joan

Anniversary Remembrance (Dec 5th) of Nellie Thomas
A dear Mum and Nanna from her family

In loving memory of Connie Lockett
A loving wife from Ken

Christmas Remembrance of Angela Baxter
A dear friend from Debra



### The Film Review With Rob Carson

Stars: Benedict Cumberbatch, Rachel McAdams, Chiwetel Ejiofor, Tilda Swinton, Mads



Doctor Strange (12A) Directed by Scott Derrickson

Mikkelsen, Michael Stuhlbarg, Benedict Wong, Benjamin Bratt, and Scott Adkins In a Nutshell: Well it's another Marvel movie, what more can you say than that to start with? It's got huge shoes to fill and big steps to follow in so surely no pressure then? All good again to report then that this is basically another winner... doing so much right in every single category. True, I'll place it low maybe in the ranking but that's only because there's so many good movies in the MCU timeline... that's no slight on this character or movie at all. For the first thing it beautifully aces, it's the casting... Cumberbatch is his usual fantastic self in the lead, that mix of arrogance but a true goodness that will come through in the end and makes for a terrific lead, whilst both Chiwetel and Tilda are solid as ever and Mads makes a really enjoyable villain and Benedict Wong makes a fantastic foil and sidekick for Strange.... even if McAdams is sadly underused. Secondly the effects are probably some of the best in any film ever, if Inception was awesome this takes it to whole new heights and can't even be described.... SFX Oscars abound as well



### The Film Review With Rob Carson



as jaws left on cinema floors the world over. The plot is fun and different too, adding new depths and layers to the Marvel universe which will open new doors as that big story unfolds and continues.... in the end overall, this is exactly what it needs to be... very well cast with astonishing effects and the perfect mix of fun and mystery and coolness to continue the Marvel story and leave everyone impressed and as always, wanting to come for



#### Trolls (PG) Directed by Mike Mitchell

the next chapter.... Rating: 8/10

Stars the Voices of: Anna Kendrick, Justin Timberlake, Jeffrey Tambor, Christine Baranski, Russell Brand, James Corden, John Cleese, Christopher Mintz Plasse, and Zooey Deschanel In a Nutshell: Animated family movies are everywhere all the time, so to create a new one that is truly special is a pretty big achievement... to manage to stand out in such a big marketplace is something else entirely. Now, I'll say straight away that's not what I'm saying that Trolls is... sure it's fantastic and wonderful but truly special in the way Toy Story or How to Train Your Dragon or LEGO Movie is? Maybe not that far, but it is utterly fantastic the same. For one thing, it's visual style is unlike anything else.... hysterically colorful and bonkers fun to look at, it's truly something for your eyes to behold! Everything looks fantastic and scrumptious and colorful and that just sets the tone for the rest of what's to follow... from the fabulously offbeat tone and characters and music and plot and one liners... it's a treat for all ages, funny and irreverent and sweet and twisted and so much fun! I truly dug this movie on every level and it's just so much fun.... the cast on all fronts are just fabulous whether its Anna Kendrick on manic fun form as Poppy or Justin as the wonderfully downbeat lead and then the lovely support from Brand or Corden or a really lovely turn from Zooey and a wickedly scary turn from Baranski as the baddy... the easiest way to review this movie is just to say it's an utter utter delight, a twisted and fun and colourful treat for everyone! Just go see it and then be so surprised you almost shed a tear at one of the musical moments which is one of the best judged and moving musical moments in a movie in some time... it's just perfect! This film is just so much fun, just give yourself over to the colorful fun and be happy! Rating: 9/10

#### Also Seen:

Jack Reacher: Never Go Back (12A) 7/10 The Girl on the Train (15) 9/10 The Accountant (15) 7/10



#### NATIVITY PLAY

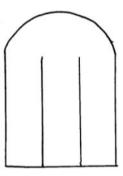
To see the story of the first Christmas through the eyes of little children makes it fresh and new. I like the story of the little boy who so wanted to be Joseph but was picked as the inn keeper instead. All went well until the nativity play started and Mary and Joseph arrived at the inn. The boy playing the innkeeper greeted them with 'Come in Mary love, there's plenty of room for you, but Joseph can get lost!'

Mary may insist that her teddy is the Baby Jesus, the angels may trip over their robes made from sheets, but every nativity play shows the wonder of the story of the first Christmas when the son of God was born a baby, like us. Tea towels used as shepherd's headdresses and angels' haloes made from wire coat hangers only serve to underline the humanity of it all. A baby born in a stable — a simple story that changes the world.



#### LOTS OF LOVE

Time to make some Christmas decorations? Cut out two shapes like the pattern below, one in red card, one in green card. Don't forget to cut the slits.



Interlock the 2 shapes by weaving the strips under and over their opposite



colour. This will give you a heart shape. Use a little glue to hold them together if needed. Punch a hole in the top at the centre and thread with cord to hang your decoration. You can make lots in different colours and decorate them with sequins or stickers too. Nice symbols of love to decorate your Christmas.

#### The Cat's Christmas Hymns:

Oh, Come All Ye Fishful Silent Mice Joy to the Curled The First Meow





Dec16 © deborah noble • parishpump.co.uk



### The Registers



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

10th Nov	Gloria Postle	Westwood Lodge	71
23rd Nov	Joyce Gibson	Rookery Avenue	89
25th Nov	Fred Griffiths	Eskdale Road	85
28th Nov	Nora Hart	Violet Street	81

### Holy Baptism -

"We welcome them into the Lord's family"



20th Nov	Katie Jane Palmer	Lichfield Grove
27th Nov	Joseph William Jones	Wigan Road
27th Nov	Emily Catherine Freya Bentham	Wigan Road

### Church Organisations in the Parish of St Thomas, Ashton-in Makerfield

Boys Brigade Captain: Gareth Hamlett (07903866501) Anchor Boys (Tuesday: 5.45 p.m.) Olwen Wright (389595) Junior Section (Tuesday 6.45 p.m.) Kat Duckworth (07517486188) Company Section (Tuesday: 7.30 p.m.) Contact Gareth Hamlett  Music Group Mary Owen (203277) Sunday – 10.45 a.m.	Girl Guides Rainbows (Tuesday: 5.30 p.m.) Anne Wooff (724207) 3rd & 4th Ashton Brownies (Wednesday and Thursday: 6.30 pm) Irene Taylor (Wednesday) (703410) Susan Hughes (Thursday) (725291) St Luke's Brownies (Thurs: 6.15 p.m.) Susan Hughes (725291) 3rd Ashton Guides & Ranger Guides (Tuesday: 7.15 p.m.) Rachel Starkie (718350)
St Thomas' Choir Sunday - 10.45 a.m. & 6.30 p.m. Practice - Thursday: 7.00 p.m. Paul Tushingham (711085)	Coffee Mornings at St Thomas' Tues - 10 a.m. Thurs - (after 9.45 a.m. communion) Barbara Taylor (205136)
Children's Sunday Clubs – 10.45 a.m. Bubbles (Pre-School) Splash (R-Y2), Xstream (Y3-Y6) Bell Tower (Y7-Y11) Sue Thomas (727275) sue@stthomasandstluke.co.uk	St Luke's Over Sixties Monday – 2.00 p.m. Meet at Stubshaw Cross Labour Club  St. Luke's Donation Secretary Mike Pye (517318)
Wednesday Weenies Wed – 1.00 p.m.: Jan Cornthwaite (721626)	St. Luke's Treasurer John Boon
<u>Youth Work</u> Sue Thomas (727275)	The PCC Secretary Dorothy Burgess (701542) dottibl @yahoo.co.uk
<u>Duke of Edinburgh's Award (14-18+)</u> <b>Sunday 6.30pm Church Hall</b> Ceri Mansell (727417)	Flower Guild Meta Laites (723679)
St Thomas' Mothers' Union 3rd Wed: 7.30 p.m.: Barbara Taylor (2051 36)	Bowling Club Henry Hunter (712709)

### Church Officials in the Parish of St Thomas, Ashton-in Makerfield

· ·		
<u>Vicar</u> Rev Jeremy Thomas	Church Office	
727275	721 484	
Curate	Ordained Local Minister	
Rev Sam Green	Rev Izzy Schafer	
389940	717300	
<u>Readers</u>	St Thomas' Church Wardens	
Malcolm Bold	Ken Laites	
276379	723679	
Alan Harrison	Paula Gillespie	
718618	711270	
Tricia Hancox	<u>Deputy Wardens</u>	
201540	Barbara Taylor	
Carole Pye	205136	
517318	Tony Cornthwaite (721626)	
Floring Bull Consults	, ,	
Electoral Roll Secretary Paul Weston	St Luke's Church Warden	
202649	<b>Carole Pye</b> 517318	
<u>Treasurer (St Thomas)</u>	Church Architect	
<b>Sarah Riley</b> 07712 584954	Bill Schafer	
0//12 584954	717300	
Church Hall Bookings	St Thomas' Organist & Choirmaster	
Church Office	Paul Tushingham	
721 484	711085	
Gift Aid Secretary	F.W.O. Secretary	
Clare Hayton	Jackie Wilson	
273183	712368	
St Thomas' Donations Secretary	Magazine Co-ordinator	
Anita Archer	Jack Stuart	
760082	<b>(</b> 726972)	
Magazine Editor		

Magazine Editor
Rachel Webster

(273453 - contact for advertising)