

St.Thomas' and St. Luke's Ashton-In-Makerfield Church Magazine

Price : 50p



Deuteronomy
8:3

Matthew 4:4

Bread is not enough to keep us alive;
we need to feed on every word of God



February
2016

www.stthomasstluke.org.uk

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

Sundays

St Thomas'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)
6.30 p.m.	Evening Worship (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.
-----------------------	------------------------------	--

Parish Office: 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 721484.

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

Deadline	March 2016	April 2016
Hand Written	7th February	13th March
Computer	14th February	20th March
Magazine Release	28th February	3rd April

Contents

Deadlines	2
Letter from the Vicar	4
Diary	6
Parish News	7
Mothers Union	8
Free Will Offerings/ Senior Citizens Christmas Party	10
Dear St Thomas' and St Luke's...	11
St Thomas's CE Primary School	12
The Children's Society	14
Flower Guild	28
Oswald—the saint for Leap Year	29
The Film Review with Rob Carson	30
St Thomas' Donations	32
St Luke's Donations	34
UK daters vote Christian Connection their favourite	35
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 live within the parish boundaries or be a regular worshipper at St Thomas's/St Luke's. Parents and Godparents should also be 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 evening.

Funerals

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



Letter from the Vicar

"If we've read the Bible but haven't encountered the living Word (God Himself), then we haven't really read the Bible" AW Tozer.



Lent arrives on us quickly this year – Ash Wednesday is on 10th February. We may be still wrestling with our new year resolutions, when we are called as Christians once more to our Lenten walk. For some this is a time of denial and of sacrifice. An alternative, or addition, to Lent for many is to take the opportunity of these weeks to draw close to Jesus with structured Lent reading and reflection. Even better is to do this together with others – those to who we can be accountable and share our thoughts and conversation.



This year at St Thomas and St Luke's churches we will be using the Transforming Wigan Lent course 'What have you got?' As part of the Lent course we are encouraging 'CORE-groups'. A core group is made up of four disciples who commit to journeying together for a period of time as they all seek to follow Jesus. The aim is to strengthen, encourage and challenge each other as disciples of Jesus living out our faith every day

The time together starts with one of the group reading the set passage and then someone else praying for God to speak to the group. Then a minute to read the passage individually to see which word or phrase stands out most. Then each person has a minute to say why they think this word or phrase has caught their attention.





Letter from the Vicar

Then we consider the questions:

“What is Jesus saying to me?” There will be something specific that speaks to each individual. Take some time here to listen carefully to God and one another.

“What am I going to do about it?” Each member shares anything they need to commit to doing in the coming week in the light of what they have heard.

“How are you getting on?” This is where you take responsibility together for the commitments made.

“What is God doing through me?” This is a concluding time to recognise what God is doing through each of you each day.

I’m sure that this Lent journey will be valuable to many people. These groups aim to bring the above AW Tozer quote alive for each person. If you are interested in finding out more or joining others in a CORE group, then do get in touch with Jeremy or Izzy.

Jeremy Thomas





Daily / Weekly Events in our Church - February 2016

<u>Monday</u>	Morning Prayer.	9.00am
<u>Tuesday</u>	Morning Prayer.	9:00am
	Coffee Morning. (Church Hall)	10:00am - 12:00pm
	Church open for prayer.	7.30-8.30pm
<u>Wednesday</u>	Morning Prayer.	9.00am
<u>Thursday</u>	Holy Communion.	9:45am
	Princes Pantry. (St Luke's)	11:30am - 1:00pm
	Vestry hour.	6.30-7.30 pm

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 **Oakwood Avenue, Smallshaw Close, Pinewood, Townfields and Winchester Avenue**



Parish News



Toy Service

At Christmas we received a card from the staff at Tiernan Lodge. This is the place to which we take the presents which you kindly donate at this Service. The card contained the following words of thanks: -

'Sending a huge thank you for the donation of toys.

We distribute them to Holly House (Wigan's women's aid) Leigh House and Tiernan house where they will be much appreciated by the children.

Thank you for your continuing support.

Best Wishes

Staff (Tiernan House)'

Nice to know that the effort is appreciated.

members of our congregation who came along to party.

Malcolm

THANK YOU

A huge thank you to everyone for all your cards and gifts, good wishes and prayers as we left the parish at Christmas.

Life with God is a series of adventures - we've so enjoyed this one with you all at St Thomas' and St Luke's, and we're ready to start the next one with him and his people at Holy Trinity and St Andrews!

We're missing you already - but send our love and prayers to you all.

Helen and Tony



Mothers Union

DIARY:

Wednesday 17 February Annual General Meeting takes place this evening in the Church Hall at 7.30pm. As I have said previously there is no better opportunity of learning more about the Mothers' Union and the work done here and throughout the world than attending this meeting which, I should make clear is open to all, not just our current members.



This meeting also gives an opportunity to remind everyone of the **Mothers' Union's mission and values:**

Wherever Mothers' Union is we will express our Christian faith in the transformation of families and communities worldwide.

We will achieve this by promoting the importance of marriage, supporting families and nurturing faith; with members sensitively spreading the news of a God who loves and cares for us all.

Mothers' Union is a Christian mission organization working with people of all faiths and none. We are firmly rooted in a voluntary ethos centered on mutual respect and collaboration.

Our governance, leadership and activities are driven by and undertaken through members within their own communities worldwide



Saturday 20 February

Our Annual Brunch in the Church Hall 11.00am to 1.00pm. We invite everyone to join us for soup bacon barmcakes sandwiches and cakes etc. There will be the usual tombola, cake stall and raffle.

This is our major fund raising event for the work of the Mothers Union and a great time to enjoy the fellowship of all your friends at St Thomas and St Luke's.



Years seem to fly by and it is already the time of year to think about an alternative Mothering Sunday gift, using the MU 'Make a Mother's Day' initiative, for Mums' and Grandmas' and in memory of a loved one. Remember this year Mothering Sunday is on the 6 March so please place your orders by Wednesday 24th February so the card will arrive in time. The booklet with details and form enclosed will be at the back of Church. This ethical gift is a very commendable way of supporting the amazing work which the MU is doing to change the lives of countless families throughout the world.

Friday 4th March Women's World day of Prayer at St Thomas 1.30pm

Church throughout the World

Heavenly Father, We come to you with thankful hearts
for all your goodness to us.

We pray for our brothers and sisters in your church
throughout the world.

We ask that you will be close to each one of us in times
of joy and sorrow, sickness and health, plenty and need.

May your hand guide and lead; your love support and
encourage and your grace enable us to work together
for the furtherance of your kingdom.

We ask this in Jesus' name.

Amen



***All my love and prayers
Barbara***

FREE WILL OFFERINGS— DECEMBER 2015

DATE	AMOUNT	NO. OF ENVELOPES	AVERAGE PER ENVELOPE
06/12/15	367.92	75	4.91
13/12/15	197.20	49	4.02
20/12/15	318.50	50	4.25
29/12/15	234.30	43	5.45
TOTAL	1117.92	242	
AVERAGE	277.48	60	4.61



Senior Citizens Christmas Party

Once again the Parish came together on the 8 January to provide our Senior Citizens with the usual Christmas meal and post dinner entertainment.

This event has been taking place for longer than I can remember certainly well before I became involved when it was organized by the then Church Youth Fellowship.

It is an occasion which really shows the strengths of our parish with virtually every age group involved in some form or other, coupled with the performance of the Christmas Nativity play by year two at St Thomas school.



I would like to take this opportunity of thanking everyone who willing gave up their time either in cooking, serving, delivering invitations and providing transport, or just joining in to provide the entertainment, which this year, was especially good, even if I say so myself.

Give yourselves a big pat on the back and accept a genuine vote of thanks, I am sure not only from me, but also the more senior members of our congregation who came along to party.

Malcolm

Dear St Thomas' and St Luke's

Within the first few months of Helen and I being welcomed into Ashton I was already dreading the sadness that our inevitable leaving would bring. I have always hated change and am a person committed to the 'long haul' - we lived at our home in Orrell for 27 years, and the first company I worked for I was there for 35 years! So thinking of leaving in 3-4 years was always uncomfortable for me.



It was so sad to leave you all, I would rather not show emotions and Helen showed hers for both of us! I will miss you all, I wish I had attended both churches more but I had to draw a line of limited commitment both to help me with precious time off work and to keep grounded in order to better help and support Helen in her calling.

I have always stayed in the background purposefully while we were based with you; my duty is to support Helen, not to do her work. In our next parish I will take a slightly more active role but always with her consent.

Thinking back to the churches we have been part of through our life, with and without our children running round, I have never been more sad to leave such a lovely, loving and kind body of people. I know you will all only be a couple of miles away but leaving you is like leaving family, you have all been so kind and caring to me, I have had a few health problems and your care and prayers have been so appreciated, thank you.

Both churches have always looked so beautiful, and I am so aware of the work that goes on in the background, the cleaning, administration and wonderful music. The voluntary work done at the churches is humbling. One thing very important and personal to me is the flowers, I have always noticed and appreciated them. A church should be colourful and happy, and the flowers in both churches and the roses outside St Thomas' have always brought me peace and put a smile on my face. I looked forward to smelling all the roses outside, my favourites being the yellow ones - my favorite colour and so sweet.



This thank you is a small thing in comparison to all you have done for me, please take it and know I will always be grateful for allowing me into your life and the many things you have taught me by your actions and words. Thank you. **Tony Coffey.**



St. Thomas' C of E Primary School

A Midwife Crisis!

Having already presented a school carol service in church, our Year 2 class performed in a brilliantly amusing play entitled "A Midwife Crisis!". Once again it was a great success with wonderful carols sung, beautiful poems read and very meaningful prayers read. The school choir was amazing with some outstanding soloists. Everyone enjoyed this Christmas occasion immensely.



Our Year 2 class later performed this play at the Senior Citizen Christmas Party on the 8th of January. A very excited 30 children arrived to this church hall to entertain our cherished senior citizens who had just finished their Christmas meal. The audience thoroughly enjoyed the performance finding some scenes very funny indeed!

Lots of laughter was shared, what a fantastic night!

A big thank you to Mrs Blackledge (Year 2 teacher), Mrs Muir, Mrs Davies and everyone who has worked so hard in the preparation of this evening. Well done to all our wonderful, talented Year 2 class for an amazing

performance.

Pupil Prayer of the Month

Dear God,
Please help people who are very poorly in hospital and please give their families and doctors support.



Help the ones who have not got a home to live in and do not have clean water to drink.

Let us pray for the families who have lost someone special this year and hope they can support each other with wisdom and care.

Amen.

Jacob Green, Year 3

Bible Passage: Mathew 18v20

For where two or three come together in my name, I am there with them.

**God's blessings be with you,
Elaine Mateus**

THE CHILDREN'S SOCIETY



I know many of you already know about the Children's Society, but there may be some people who do not know about their work.



The society runs children's centres throughout the country to support children and their parents and carers. In the year 2014/2015 the society worked with nearly 35,000 children and young people and gave intensive support to nearly 16,000. They safeguard, defend and protect the childhood of children and young people throughout a network of programmes and services. They run an advocacy service for children in care so that they can have a say about their lives. They are leading the way in developing programmes to identify and support children living in families where parents are affected by drug and alcohol abuse. They support children who are at risk on the streets after running away from home or care.

This work requires a lot of money to support and because there is an increase in the number of families requiring this assistance, the Children's Society are always looking at ways to fund their work. About 90 parishioners of St Thomas's and St Luke's churches and people in this area know about and support the work of the Children's Society. During 2015 these faithful supporters raised the total of £1900.00. This donation will help to maintain and support all the work the society does, and I would like to say thank you all very much.



We also held our Christingle service along with the Toy Service December 2015. This is a lovely service and if you missed it last year please do try and attend this year. Several of our loyal band of volunteers were not available last year to help to assemble the oranges, so the completion of the Christingles had to be done in a different way. I am sure that everyone who attended the Christingle service enjoyed it and I am sorry to have missed it. This event raised a further £195.00. Thank you very much on behalf of the society.

I am always looking for new supporters so if you think that this is something that you would like to support then please contact me on 712709, or at church and I will let you have a box or arrange to collect a donation. On behalf of the society I would like to say thank you all for your continued support.

Valerie Hunter

Ashton Scouts

Come and Join Us for
BRUNCH



**Bacon/Sausage Barm Cakes
Sandwiches**



**Apple Pie and Cream
Jam and Cream Scones**



**Cake Stall
Raffle
Tombola**

**Chocolate Tombola
Book Stall**



Please come and Join Us—Everyone welcome

**Saturday 19th March 11am-1pm
St Thomas Church Hall**



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.



Paul Clift

Painting & Decorating

- **Quality Workmanship**
- **FREE No Obligation Quotes**
- **Trustworthy & Reliable Service**
- **Over 25 years experience**
- **All aspects of Decorating Covered**
- **No Job too Small**
- **Interior & Exterior**



Tel: 01942 716389
Mob: 07765 078295

Leaflets by Copycats 01942 714944 • www.copycats-nw.co.uk



MOBILE SCRATCH & SCUFF REPAIR



ScratchFix Limited

IAN BOARDMAN- SMART REPAIR TECHNICIAN

Tel: 01942 274586 Mobile: 07769 717836



SCRATCHFIX LIMITED

SAVE UP TO 50% ON BODYSHOP COSTS

*Don't be without your car for days.. 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

ALAN JONES

FUNERAL DIRECTORS – MEMORIALS
LOCAL INDEPENDENT FAMILY BUSINESS

PERSONAL AND PROFESSIONAL SERVICE
24 - HOURS

FUNERAL HOMES & CHAPELS OF REST

Ashland House

87 Old Road
Ashton in Makerfield
Wigan
01942 271824

Danesbrook House

21 Ladies Lane
Hindley
Wigan
01942 525504

Millbrook House

56 High Street
Golborne
Warrington
01942 272027

Dove Cottage

51 Johns Avenue
Haydock
St Helens
01942 724777

New Memorial Headstones & Vases

Inscriptions & Renovations

Free Estimates

We Also Offer Our Own

“Eternal Peace”

Pre Paid Funeral Plans

Custodian Trustee

Capita Trust Limited

All Enquiries Confidential

Members of

National Association of Funeral Directors (NAFD)

Society of Allied & Independent Funeral Directors (SAIF)

British Institute of Embalmers (BIE)

British Institute of Funeral Directors (BIFD)

All funerals under the Personal Direction of

Alan Jones

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 SCHOLLS, WIGAN

Telephone: (01942) 820526

CLIFFORD HOUSE
No. 1 GROVE LANE
STANDISH
WIGAN

Telephone: (01257) 422011

FUNERAL
DIRECTORS
AND
MONUMENTAL
MASONS





Eavesway Coach Travel,

Bryn Side,

Bryn Road,

Ashton-in-Makerfield,

WN4 8BT

Tel: 01942 727985

Fax: 01942 271234

Email: sales@eaveswaytravel.com



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE



- ♦ 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**

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

BOWEN & LEEMING

FOR A COMPLETE SERVICE & FREE PROFESSIONAL ADVICE

LARGE STOCK
OF FRAMES &
LENSES FROM
DESIGNER TO
BUDGET



CONTACT LENS
SPECIALISTS

ON SITE
LABORATORY
HOME VISITS
AVAILABLE

ZEISS LENS CENTRE
OPEN 6 DAYS 9:00 - 5:30
SAT 1:00 CLOSE



01942 722386

61 Gerard Street, Ashton-in-Makerfield



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**
- £ Pre-Paid Funeral Plans**
- £ All Aspects of Memorial Work Undertaken**



GRAYWAY



Walls of Wigan Ltd. t/a

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

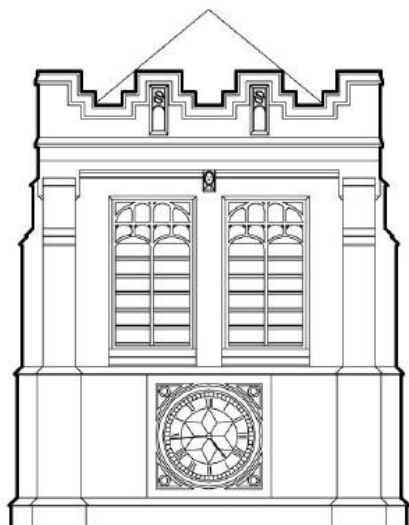
18 - 24 - 33 - 49 - 51 - 53 - 55 seater coaches

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.

RIBA 

Chartered Practice

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

CARPET CLEAN DIRECT

***Carpets Supplied/Fitted/
Cleaned***

Upholstery & Suites

Fabric/Leather

Pet Odours Removed

10% OAP Discount

Call David on
07805 413702
01942 703842



ORRELL CHIROPODY PRACTICE

❖
General Foot care FROM £18

❖
Verrucae Treatments inc Surgery
In growing toenails

❖
Nail Surgery under local anaesthetic

❖
HOME VISITS for the elderly and infirm

❖
Dr Comfort shoes 1/2 sizes and 4 width fittings

❖
TEL 01942 215391 ring for an appointment



R & T Lewis Catering

70 Simpkin Street, Abram, Wigan, Lancashire WN2 5PT

Home Telephone: 01942 861457

Mobile Telephone: 07889784512

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 the following
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

Unlimited Tea & Coffee (for a small extra charge)

At all functions staff provide a full service throughout:

from the delivery, serving and the clearing away after the function.

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
6TH FEB	Mrs Laites, Mrs Malley, Mrs Vella, Kayleigh Speakman
NO FLOWERS—LENT	

NO FLOWERS IN CHURCH DURING FEBRUARY—LENT

FLOWER GUILD DONATIONS

Loving memories of James Marsh (26th February) and sister Norah Bradshaw (21st February)

St Lukes' Flowers



FLOWERS IN CHURCH FOR FEBRUARY	
DATE	
7TH FEB	From Carole Pye
NO FLOWERS IN CHURCH—LENT	

29 February—Oswald - the saint for Leap Year

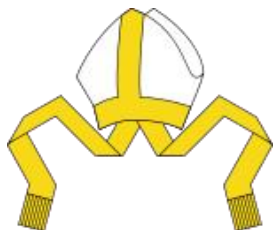


There is a saint for Leap Year: St Oswald of Worcester, who died on 29th February 992. His family story was extraordinary, and full of some surprising 'leaps', all by itself. It provides a tantalising glimpse of what happened to at least one of those pagan Viking warriors who settled in Anglo-Saxon Britain.

For Oswald's great-uncle had come to England c 865, as part of the 'Great Heathen Army' of Viking invaders. But his son, Oswald's uncle, Oda, forsook paganism, and not only converted to Christianity, but actually ended up as Archbishop of Canterbury. From there, Oda was in a position to help his nephew, Oswald, which he did.

Oda sent young Oswald to be educated at the abbey of Fleury, then a great centre of learning. There Oswald absorbed the Benedictine ideals which would guide his later life and work. Back in England, he became bishop of Worcester in 961, and with the support of King Edgar, eagerly joined in major reforms of the Anglo-Saxon church. In 972 Oswald was made Archbishop of

York, and seems to have taken a great interest in renewing the church in the Danelaw. He founded Ramsey Abbey, which became one of the great Fenland monasteries.



Oswald was a popular Archbishop, who was in the habit of washing the feet of the poor every day in Lent. On the 29th February 992 he had just completed this service at Worcester, when he collapsed and died. Later Oswald and his successor at Worcester, Wulfstan came to be the two chief saints of Worcester. You can see them together, for instance, flanking the tomb of King John before the high altar of the cathedral.





The Film Review

With Rob Carson



Star Wars: Episode VII- The Force Awakens (12A) Directed by J.J Abrams

Stars: Jon Boyega, Harrison Ford, Daisy Ridley, Adam Driver, Oscar Isaac, Carrie Fisher, Domhnall Gleeson, Lupita Nyong'o, Andy Serkis, Max Von Sydow, Mark Hamill, Peter Mayhew, and Gwendoline Christie

In a Nutshell: So it's finally here, the most hyped up movie ever... and you know what? Finally something really lives up to the hype (though saying that, Avengers the first one did that fairly well too at the time) in its own right being a bonafide brilliant movie before you even get to what it counts as to the fans and the franchise, which is basically blowing away everything that came before it really. Yeah, Empire Strikes Back is fairly iconic and a pretty darn great movie, but this definitely matches it pretty much, but then adds in even more drama, a dollop more emotion, terrific comedy and some more real tension and tense stakes as well as some absolutely amazing acting chops and then some great dialogue too for a change. Especially in the case of Adam Driver, who brings a ton of weight and intrigue to his villain role... it's a very complex and interesting role and he bats it out of the park and is just stunning, and so is Harrison Ford returning as Han Solo... the role he was born to play and he feels right at home, lending extra gravitas and the perfect amount of wit and heart. The rest of the cast too are pretty great from new leads Boyega and Ridley, both fantastic through to the scene stealing Oscar Isaac charming the whole audience into ecstatic excitement. The effects are naturally wonderful, from the classy old school practical effects through to the newer stuff, blending to make a perfect mix that feels retro yet new simultaneously to great effect. I don't want to go all spoilery but suffice to say this is terrific from top to bottom... the emotion is genuine, the chuckles are well handled, everyone is giving great performances and the story works beautifully.... welcome back Star Wars, it really is now time to shine! Rating: 10/10



Also Seen:

Krampus (15) 8/10

The Night Before (15) 9/10



The Film Review

With Rob Carson



Sisters (15) 10/10
The Good Dinosaur (PG) 9/10
Daddy's Home (12) 7/10
Victor Frankenstein (12A) 7/10
Joy (12A) 8/10

Review of the Year 2015

Best Movie: Inside Out
Worst Movie: Taken III
Best Actor: Matt Damon- The Martian
Best Actress: Britt Robertson- Tomorrowland
Worst Performance: Eddie Redmayne- Jupiter
Ascending
Best Supporting Actor: Adam Driver- Star Wars: The Force Awakens
Best Supporting Actress: Raffey Cassidy- Tomorrowland
Best Director: George Miller- Mad Max: Fury Road
Worst Director: Taken III
Best Special Effects: Mad Max: Fury Road
Best Soundtrack: It Follows
Best Trailer: Jurassic World
Best Poster: Crimson Peak
Best Scene: The Wire Walk from The Walk
Funniest Movie: Sisters
Most Enjoyable Movie: Ant Man
Most Boring Movie: Fantastic Four
Biggest Surprise: Bridge of Spies
Biggest Disappointment: Fantastic Four
Best Song: Immortals- Fall Out Boy (Big Hero 6)
Worst Song: Writings on the Wall- Sam Smith
(Spectre)
The 'Why the Hate?' Award: The Good Dinosaur





St Thomas' February Donations



Please place your donation in an envelope with your full name and amount written on it. Please hand in at church or post to the vicarage. Please make any cheques payable to **St Thomas' PCC**. If you want the donation to be for something specific, please write clearly on the envelope.

Thank you.

GIFT AID

If you are a UK tax payer and would like church to be able to claim back 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 the donation to be Gift Aided and include your full name and address.

With Thanks for Home Communion:

Brenda Percival, David Bowen, Alice Ashley, Jean Rose Brown, Mary Shaw

Other Donations:

Olive van der Boon, Marion Bullen, CAF, Byrchall High School, Pat Hamilton, Bill Schafer, Georgina Jones

With effect from the **May 2015** magazine we will only be showing the total of all donations made in the month, not the breakdown across the different funds. A record of the amounts for each fund will still be kept for accounting purposes.

Funds currently in use are: Africa Fund, Audio Visual, Building & Maintenance, Church Hall, Garden of Rest, General, Grave Maintenance, Heath Road Graveyard, Heating and Youth worker

Unless otherwise stated donations will go into the General Fund.

**TOTAL DONATIONS RECEIVED BY ST THOMAS'
FOR FEBRUARY 2016 £620**

If you want to discuss any issues around wills and legacies please ring the Parish Treasurer Sarah Riley on 01942 722747

Birthday and Anniversary Remembrance of

Harry Atherton, from Margaret, Dawn, Bethany and Hamish

In Loving Memory of

All Our Loved Ones and Friends from Dorothy and Derek

My Dear Husband **Albert Topping** from Emily Topping

Elsie and Hugh Jervis from their children David Elsie and Ann

Tom and Pat McIlwee from Linda Heggarty

Loved Ones from Gwyneth and Peter

Raymond Parry from Christine and John Kelly,
Roy and Janet Parry, Hazel and Ian Casson

Anniversary Remembrance of

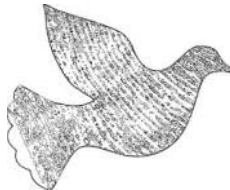
John Fearnley (21 Feb 2011) . Much loved Husband, Dad and Grandad
From Madge and Family

A Dear Husband, Dad and Grandad, **Ken Rimmer** (15th Jan)
From Doreen Rimmer and Family

Birthday Remembrance of

Gordon Lyon, a Loving Husband Dad and Grandad. Sadly Missed
Marie, Barbara, John, Madolyn and Rob
David, Sharon, Ruby and Geena

Christmas Wishes to our **Loved Ones**
From Doreen Rimmer and Family



St Lukes' Donations



In memory of

Loved Ones from Joe and Doris Mather



TANGO

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





UK daters vote Christian Connection their favourite dating site

Beating off strong competition from secular agencies like eHarmony, Plenty of Fish and Guardian Soulmates, Christian Connection recently won the highly-coveted Daters' Favourite Dating Site at the recent 2015 UK Dating Awards.

According to award organiser Charly Lester, Christian Connection's 'army of followers' flooded social media with support for the website, in one of the few categories voted for by the public.

Christian Connection also won Best Niche Dating Site 2015 in a crowded category, with entrants including Uniform Dating, The Inner Circle, Faith Dating, Muddy Matches and Toyboy Warehouse. Best Niche Dating Site was awarded by a panel of judges, who looked at a variety of criteria, including site design, ease of use, security, safety and support.



Christian Connection were also finalists for Online Dating Brand of the Year and Best Customer Service. The website's members swamped the award's Facebook account with comments and stories; many declaring that they had met their partner on the site.

'We owe our success to a very committed, hard working and effective team and a fantastic membership base,' said Christian Connection founder Jackie Elton. When she set up the site in 2000, Jackie's vision was to create something that could compete with and even better the best in the industry.



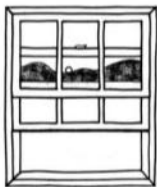


HYMNS

When you come to church you hear hymns. Hymns are songs of praise to God. Some are very old and some, like the ones you may sing at school, are new.

Have you ever wondered who wrote the hymns we sing? For example, one hymn writer was Mrs Cecil Frances Alexander, the wife of the Bishop of Londonderry. She wrote a book called 'Hymns for Little Children' which was dedicated to her godchildren. The book was published in 1848 and contained hymns that we know well today; 'All Things Bright and Beautiful', 'Once in Royal David's City' and 'There is a Green Hill Far Away'.

It is said that she wrote the last hymn because of the view from the Bishop's palace. The house looked out over the city walls to the green hills in the distance. So the words we sing today come from the view that Mrs Alexander had from her window.



HYMN TITLES

All the following hymn titles have some words missing – can you fill in the blanks. All the hymns are from Mission Praise and the answers are below.

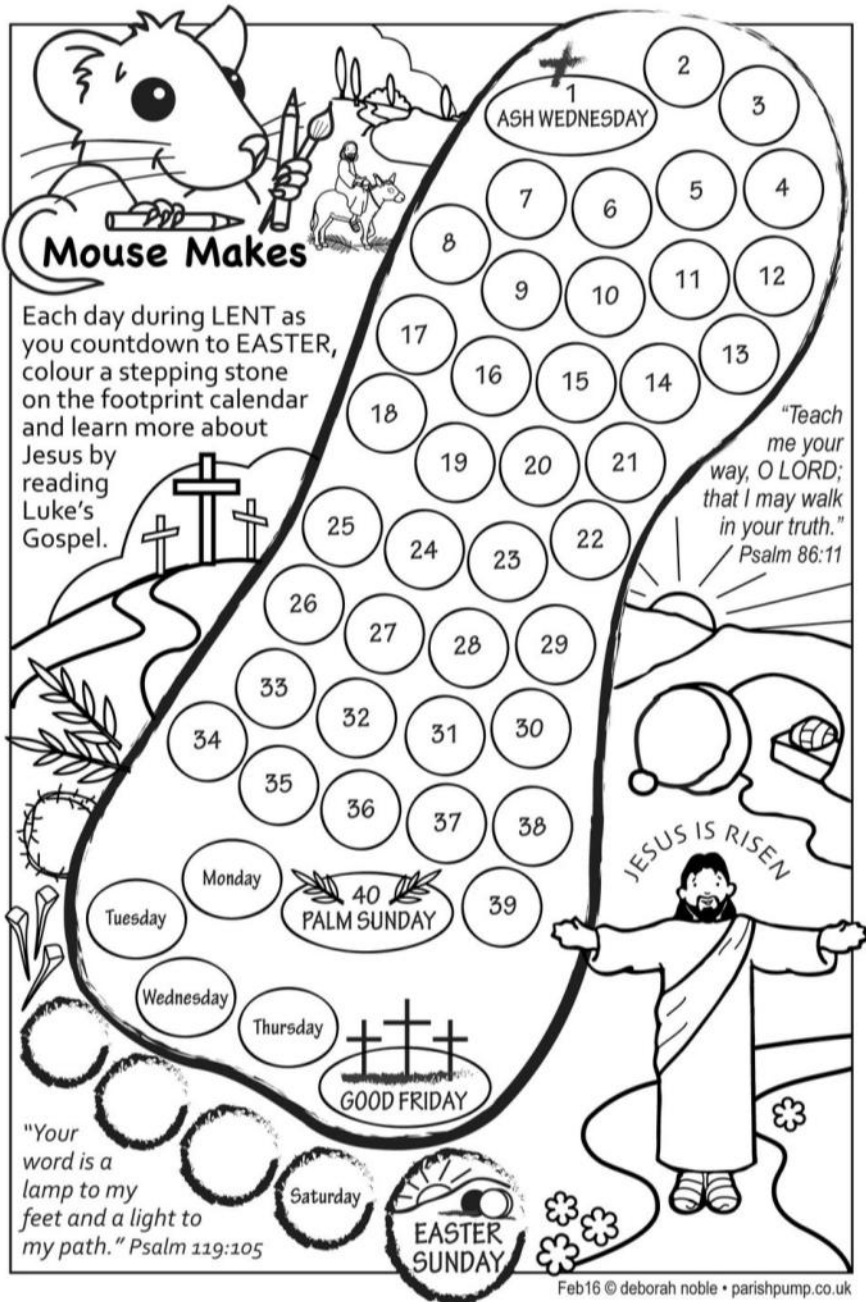
1. While ____ watched
2. Lead us, ____ ____, lead us.
3. Away in a ____
4. Forty days and ____ ____
5. Hark! The ____ ____ sing
6. ____ has broken
7. ____ night, ____ night
8. There is a ____ ____ far away
9. We plough the ____ and scatter
10. Amazing ____

Didn't your teacher say your singing was heavenly?

Well, she did say it was like nothing on earth.



- Answers:** 1. While shepherds watched
2. Lead us, heavenly Father, lead us
3. Away in a manger 4. Forty days and forty nights 5. Hark, the herald angels sing 6. Morning has broken 7. Silent night, holy night 8. There is a green hill far away
9. We plough the fields and scatter
10. Amazing Grace.





The Registers



Funerals - "May they rest in peace"

18th Dec.	Valerie Bullen	Recreation Drive	59 yrs
23rd Dec.	Kathleen Else	Tenbury Drive	71 yrs
30th Dec.	Joseph Wedge	Ennerdale Avenue	74 yrs
7th Jan.	John Gough	York Road	81 yrs
15th Jan.	Stuart Brown	Newlyn Drive	63 yrs

Holy Baptism -

"We welcome them into the Lord's family"



17th Jan.	Noah John Middlehurst	Belverdere 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

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)

Music Group Mary Owen (203277)

Sunday – 10.45 a.m.

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

Wednesday Weenies

Wed – 1.00 p.m.: Jan Cornthwaite

(721626)

St. Luke's Donation Secretary

Mike Pye (517318)

Youth Work

Sue Thomas (727275)

St. Luke's Treasurer

John Boon

Duke of Edinburgh's Award (14-18+)

Sunday 6.30pm Church Hall

Ceri Mansell (727417)

The PCC Secretary

Dorothy Burgess (701542)

dottib1@yahoo.co.uk

St Thomas' Mothers' Union

3rd Wed: 7.30 p.m.: Barbara Taylor (205136)

Flower Guild

Meta Laites (723679)

Bowling Club

Henry Hunter (712709)

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

<p><u>Vicar</u> Rev Jeremy Thomas (727275)</p>	<p><u>Administrator</u> Rachael Campbell 721 484 Parish office</p>
<p><u>Curate</u></p>	<p><u>Ordained Local Minister</u> Rev Izzy Schafer (717300)</p>
<p><u>Readers</u> Malcolm Bold Carole Pye (276379) (517318) Alan Harrison (718618) Tricia Hancox (201540) Scott Campbell (711086)</p>	<p><u>St Thomas' Church Wardens</u> Ken Laites (723679) Paula Gillespie (711270) <u>Deputy Wardens -</u> Barbara Taylor (205136) Nigel Robinson (726597)</p>
<p><u>Electoral Roll Secretary</u> Paul Weston (202649)</p>	<p><u>St Luke's Church Warden</u> Carole Pye (517318)</p>
<p><u>Treasurer (St Thomas)</u> Sarah Riley (07712 584954)</p>	<p><u>Church Architect</u> Mr B. Schafer (717300)</p>
<p><u>Church Hall Secretary</u> Rachael Campbell 721 484 (Parish Office)</p>	<p><u>St Thomas' Organist & Choirmaster</u> Paul Tushingham (711085)</p>
	<p><u>F.W.O. Secretary</u> Jackie Wilson (712368)</p>
<p><u>Gift Aid Secretary</u> Clare Hayton (273183)</p>	<p><u>St Thomas' Donations Secretary</u> Anita Archer (760082)</p>
<p><u>Magazine Co-ordinator</u> Jack Stuart (726972)</p>	<p><u>Magazine Editor</u> Rachel Webster (273453 - contact for advertising)</p>