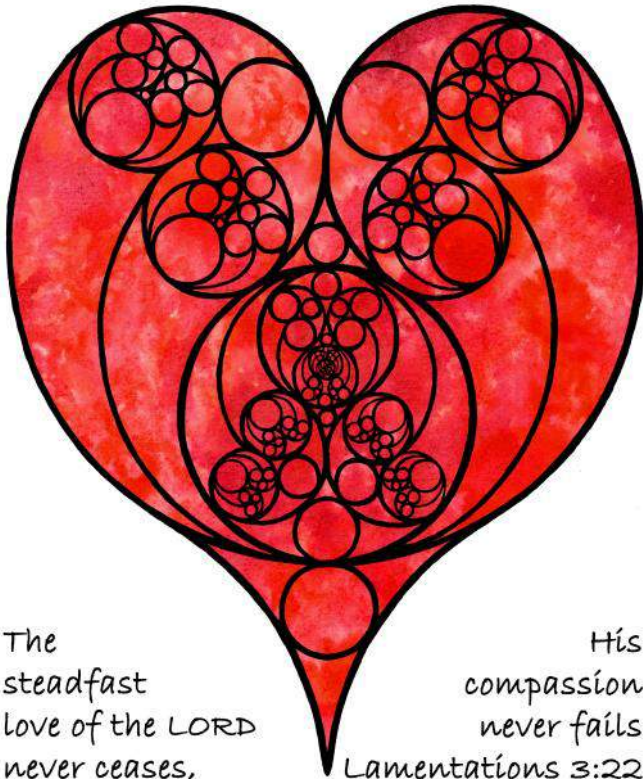


# **St.Thomas' and St. Luke's Ashton-In-Makerfield Church Magazine**

**Price : 50p**



The  
steadfast  
love of the LORD  
never ceases,

His  
compassion  
never fails  
Lamentations 3:22



February 2018

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

# Church Services in St Thomas' Parish, Ashton-in-Makerfield

## Sundays

### St Thomas'

1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday	2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday	3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday	4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday
09.00 Communion 10.45 All age service 18.30 Evening Prayer	09.00 Morning Worship 10.45 Family Worship 18.30 Communion	09.00 Communion 10.45 Family Worship 18.30 Evening Prayer	09.00 Morning Worship 10.45 Communion 18.30 Evening Prayer

For information about 5th Sunday see the notices for that week

### St Luke's

11.00 Family Worship	11.00 Communion	11.00 Family Worship	11.00 Family Worship
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## Weekdays

Thursday 9.45 am Holy Communion (BCP 1662) In St Thomas'	Please see weekly notice sheet or visit website for additional services details or exceptions, particularly around Christmas time.
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**Deadlines:** Handwritten material should be given to Malcolm Taylor, and email material to [magazine@stthomasstluke.org.uk](mailto:magazine@stthomasstluke.org.uk)

Deadline	March 2018	April
Hand Written	4th February	4th March
Computer	11th February	11th March
Magazine Release	25th February	25th March

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## Booking Baptisms and Weddings

We are now encouraging everyone who would like to book a baptism or wedding to come to the family service at either St Thomas (10.45am) or St Luke's (11am) and bookings will be taken afterwards.

## Important Parish Information

### Baptisms

Baptisms are held at St Thomas' church at 12.45 pm on the second and fourth Sundays of the month and also during the 10.45 am service on the second Sunday. Baptisms at St Luke's are at 11 am on the third 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.

### Funerals

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



## **Daily / Weekly Events in our Church - February 2018**

<b><u>Monday</u></b>	Morning prayer	9.00am
<b><u>Tuesday</u></b>	Coffee Morning (Church Hall)	10:00am-12:00pm
	Church open for prayer	7.30-8.30pm
<b><u>Wednesday</u></b>	Morning Prayer	9.00am
<b><u>Thursday</u></b>	Holy Communion	9:45am

*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 Bolton Road (Bryn Rd South to St Luke's) 207-271 (Odds), St Luke's House, Bolton Road (Bryn Rd South to St Luke's) 160-258 (Evens)

### **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**





# Parish News



## Senior Citizens

## CHRISTMAS PARTY



The 12 January and it was again the time for the Parish to come together to provide our Senior Citizens with the Christmas meal and post dinner entertainment. The preparation work had already been done by the time the first of our guests arrived and were suitably greeted and offered a glass of sherry or fruit juice.

The invitations had long since been delivered and were necessary transport arranged. The turkey ordered and delivered once again by our old friend Dave Hamlett to who we are extremely grateful. The morning of the 12th was a real hive of activity as the many volunteers turned up to set the tables and prepare the halls for the occasion. We were again delighted to welcome Don Hodgkinson armed with his electric carving knife who then set about his carving duties. Thanks as always to Don for his help.

A short break in activity before early afternoon saw the arrival of Jan Cornthwaite and Carol Pye as they set about the necessary preparations for the serving of some 60 meals at 6.30pm. Jan has for many years taken full responsibility for the organisation of the food and the volunteers who help provide the meal we thank her and Carol and their volunteers and a word of thanks for the three young people Erin, Mia and James who came along in the evening to help with the serving of the meal.

By the time all our guests are accounted for the whole evening is in full swing with happy chatter filling the hall. The number of our invited guests was a little down due to the amount of sickness around at this time of year. As the meal proceeds the parents start to arrive with the children from year 2 at St Thomas school ready to deliver the performance of the Christmas Nativity play a firm favorite with our guests as the first item of our evenings entertainment. A great thank you is due to the children, staff and



# Parish News



parents for taking the time and trouble to provide this entertainment outside school hours and so long after the original performance in church. I can say that it was brilliantly performed and very well received by all.

Talking about entertainment, which falls on me to organize and does cause me a degree of anxiety, I must thank young Lucia, a regular entertainer at this event, who provided some jokes and entranced the audience with a lovely song. Lucia was followed by Antonia, another of our regular young entertainers who sang delightfully despite early but unnecessary nervousness. No sketch this time but Ashton's community choir 'Spectrum', sprinkled with a strong contingent of St Thomas people stepped in to provide a varied program of songs. They were well received and appreciated by our guests who joined in very enthusiastically. I do need to thank the choir members for their part in the evening with a particular thank you to Keith Whittle who both organized the choir and worried about the event.

The feedback which I have received leads me to believe that our efforts to entertain was indeed well appreciated.

9.30am Saturday morning and it was time to complete the restoration of the halls back to their former state. Much work had already been done after the conclusion of the party on Friday but thanks David and Tony for their help.

There are so many people involved with the event that it would be impossible to list them all by name without the fear of missing someone out. Please be assured that without your involvement big or small this party could not happen and so for whatever part you played give yourselves a big pat on the back and as always accept a genuine vote of thanks from Jan, Barbara and me and I am sure also from the senior members of our congregation who came along to party.

**Malcolm**



# Parish News



## **Freewill Offerings.**

The new envelopes will as usual be available at the beginning of April. We will shortly need to place the order for the new sets of envelopes and before doing so I would ask that if you have not already changed to the Parish Giving scheme that you give urgent consideration to doing so. There is a saving when we reduce the order for the number of envelope sets required for the coming year.

in addition the Parish Giving scheme is proving so helpful both in ensuring an instant receipt of gift aid and also helping the work of our Treasurer. I am happy to provide further information regarding the scheme as is Sarah Riley our Church Treasurer.

In the January edition of the magazine I asked for you to consider taking up either the ministry of bins or the ministry of church heating. I am sure that you will be surprised that both vacancies are still unfilled. This of course means



that the opportunity to serve is still open. Seriously I do ask you to pray and consider whether either of these tasks are something that you can fulfill as a service to your church. It is possible that a rota system may be more appropriate. If we have a number of volunteers then it would be much less onerous task to undertake. Please let me hear from you.

We do rely very much on the considerable efforts of a good number of people who willingly volunteer to carry out the many tasks necessary in both the running and maintenance of our church. I would like to thank Jim Marsden who stepped up to the plate when I asked him could he repair the latch to the Warrington Road main door to church. He immediately got out his tools and fixed the problem there and then.

## **Malcolm**



# Letter from Flic

Prayer can feel like a struggle. And as surprising as it sounds, ever since starting my journey to ministry, I've struggled more than ever. So when I heard about the Wigan Order of Prayer, a movement of over 80 people across Wigan, I knew it was for me. It's a commitment to a regular rhythm of prayer for Wigan for a year. We commit to pray for Wigan daily, as well as once a month for an hour as part of a 24-hour prayer vigil (you can pick an hour's slot and pray either from your home or with others). I'll admit, it's still not always the easiest, but this daily rhythm of praying for the local community is a true gift.

No great movement of God has ever happened, that did not begin with prayer. Just a few weeks ago, Colin Chambers, chaplain to Nelson Mandela on Robben Island visited 'The Well' in Wigan, and reminded us of the extraordinary power of prayer at the heart of overcoming apartheid in South Africa. God really can move mountains through our prayers.

The dominant story we so often hear for the Church is that it's in decline: attendance is decreasing, and the Church fails to connect with younger generations. But I am hopeful for a different story. While I'm sure that we can do nothing on our own, I believe that anything is possible with God. Once we have experienced connection





# Letter from Flic

with God through prayer, we are able to look out from a much fuller reality, that now has “eyes beyond and larger than our own” (to quote the American priest, Richard Rohr).

And once we dare to believe that the story can end differently, we might find that we also have the opportunity to become God’s agents for that change ourselves. In the process of listening or talking to God, we are changed and made more able to serve God.

My hope is that as Christians across Wigan set themselves aside to pray, and to really seek after God’s heart for our local communities (especially God’s heart for the most vulnerable among us), the dominant story we hear about God’s Church might be dramatically different.

**Felicity Cowling-Green**  
**Curate**

## Verses for the Year

**Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have summoned you by name; you are mine.**

**Isaiah 43:1b**

**I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.**

**Philippians 3:14**





# Mothers Union

## Branch dates:

### Saturday 17 February

Our Annual Brunch in the Church Hall 11.00am to 1.00pm. As always we warmly invite everyone to join us for soup, bacon barmcakes, sandwiches and cakes etc. There will be the usual



tombola, cake stall and raffle. As always this is our major fund raising event for the work of the Mothers Union and there is no better time to enjoy the fellowship of all your friends at St Thomas and St Luke's. We look forward to seeing you.

### Wednesday 21st February

Annual General Meeting takes place this evening in the Church Hall at 7.30pm. I cannot over stress the importance of this meeting to our Branch. There is no better opportunity of hearing all about what our Branch has done throughout 2017 and of course the work done by the Mothers Union in this country and throughout the world. I should make clear is open to all, not just our current members.

It is prior to this meeting that I take the opportunity of reminding 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*

# Mothers Union

I took all the Christmas presents generously provided for the young people at Coops Foyer. I must say that they were very much appreciated as can be seen from the letter reproduced below.

St Thomas & St Luke Mothers Union  
C/o Mrs B Taylor  
12 December 2017

Dear All,

I am writing to you on behalf of all the residents and staff at Coops Foyer, to thank you for your kind donation of Christmas Gifts for our Young People.

This donation means a great deal to our residents and we are always very grateful.

The continued support of people like yourself is considered an invaluable contribution and is very much appreciated by both staff and residents.

I would like to thank you all once again and emphasize how important these donations are.

Yours faithfully,  
Angela Matthewson  
Customer Service Officer

We only just seem to have got over Christmas and here I am talking



about Mothering Sunday, which is on the 11 March, and the alternative Mothering Sunday gift.

There are a range of 'Make a Mother's Day gifts' for Mums' and Grandmas' and in memory of a loved one priced from £6.00 to £100.

This years theme is 'Give a gift that helps Mothers bloom families flourish and communities thrive with a Make a Mother's Day Gift'. So please place your orders by Wednesday 26th 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.

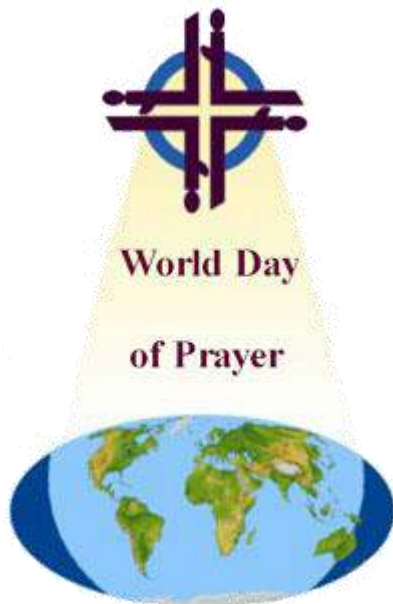
# Mothers Union

## **Advance Notice**

**Friday 2nd March Woman's World Day of Prayer** at the Independent Methodist Church, Victoria Road, Garswood at 1.30pm

*The following is a prayer dedicated to St Cuthbert in Durham Cathedral.*

*Open our eyes, Lord,  
to see your glory;  
Open our ears, Lord  
to hear your call;  
Open our lips, Lord,  
to sing your praises.  
Then guide us on our  
pilgrimage of faith,  
that with the memory  
of Cuthbert in our minds.  
and the spirit of Cuthbert  
in our hearts.  
we may walk with him who is  
the Way, the truth and the Life,  
and find our freedom in his service:  
even our Lord and Savior.  
JESUS CHRIST.*



All my love and prayers

**Barbara**

# JUNIOR YOUTH CLUB

On Monday evenings at the church hall Junior Youth Club meets for an hour of fun and games. We have fun activities like making slime and baking cakes also we do lots of crafts. We play games such as tag in the dark, football and dodge ball. Sometimes in the summer we barbecue, toast marshmallows and have water fights in the vicarage garden.



We have made lots of new friends. We share our highs and lows of the week with pows and wows and during our fellowship we talk to God and pray for people who are poorly or sad, we also say thank you for all the good around us.

I like Junior Youth Club because I meet my friends and do really fun stuff. The tuck shop has loads of choice.

Junior Youth Club is on every Monday (term time only) 6:00 -7:00pm, all Y3 to Y6 welcome, 50p admission.

**By Megan Artus**

**Year five St Thomas's CE Primary School**

# **THE LANCASHIRE HUSSARS YEOMANRY**

## **CAVALRY 1848**

### **ASHTON IN MAKERFIELD**

**This is the first part of another local history article by our friend David Fearnley**

The Lancashire Hussars Yeomanry Cavalry is the regiment of Ashton in Makerfield. The regiment was raised in 1848 by Sir John Gerard of Garswood New Hall, Ashton in Makerfield. The role of the regiment was to act as a police force to keep law and order at a time when Britain and Europe were beset with rising working class protests, strikes and demonstrations which on the Continent had led to revolutions. Sir John Gerard raised 2 Troops of Lancashire Hussars - Troop "A" from his tenant farmers in Ashton and Garswood and Troop "B" from his tenant farmers in Windle and Moss Bank, St. Helens. Each Troop consisted of 75 men. In 1859 Troop "C" was added when Mr. William John Legh, of Newton Hall, Newton in Makerfield, raised 75 troops from his tenant farmers in Newton and Golborne and Troop "D" when Lord Skelmersdale, later Earl Lathom, of Lathom House, Ormskirk, raised 75 men from his tenants in Lathom and the Southport area. Sir John Gerard lavished money on his regiment since he was the Honorary Colonel of the regiment. He equipped his officers with a spectacular uniform of a blue tunic with gold braid, red trousers, a tall cylindrical hat with plumes called a chako and for ceremonial occasions a sling jacket, draped over one shoulder, the cuffs and collar edged with ermine. The troops wore a blue uniform with a round, flat topped cap.

Sir John engaged the band of Park Lane Chapel, Bryn, to become the regimental band. He provided a building in Ashton called the "Band House" for the band to practice and also to act as a storeroom for the Hussars. The "Band House" still exists, it is situated opposite the Queens nightclub and is the building on the right of Armoury Bank. Within the "Band House" the weapons - sabres and rifles - or arms were stored hence the name of the nearby road Armoury Bank. The Hussars also needed a large open area to drill and ride their horses and Sir John gave them the field at the top of Armoury Bank, now the George V playing fields, the original name of the field being Yeomanry Field. To announce the formation of the Lancashire Hussars Sir John Gerard held a County Ball in St. Helens Town Hall. The building was covered in lights and decorations with banners proclaiming "1848 Lancashire Hussars" and "Success Sir John & the Lancashire Hussars". Within the Town Hall the band of the Lancashire Hussars played and an orchestra played for dances such as the waltz and minuet. The carriages of

the landed gentry of Lancashire, Cheshire and further afield arrived for the celebrations.

Each year the full regiment, 150 men in the 1850's and 300 men after 1859, would assemble to practice military maneuvers. The Yeomanry Field was too small for this occasion and for one week every year from 1850 - 1908 the regiment rode to Southport where they practiced maneuvers on the large sandy beach. The troops were billeted with people in Southport or in pubs and inns, the officers stayed at the Victoria Hotel (originally next to the Victoria Baths which still exist) which became the headquarters during the weeks stay in the town. In the early years not every trooper would have a horse to ride and would travel to Southport by cart. Other troopers borrowed any horse they could for the week in Southport. Horses were provided by local collieries, Bryn Hall, Garswood Hall, and by local farmers such as Mr. Rigby, Town Green Farm, Bolton Road, and Mr. Jonathan Simpkin, landlord of the "Golden Lion", Gerard Street, and owner of Cookson's Farm, Ashton Heath. These would most often be large carthorses which for the rest of the year would be pulling carts of wheat, potatoes, pit-props or coal.

On the final day of their stay in Southport the Hussars performed a program of about 30 tactics and maneuvers in front of a visiting general who would review the troops. The final days events attracted a large audience from all over England. Over 60,000 spectators assembled on the promenade or the sands, the Birkdale side of the pier, to view the Lancashire Hussars. To conclude the weeks stay a circular course, over 1 mile long, was marked out on the sands and the Hussars held horse races against each other. In the 1880's rather than being billeted amongst the people of Southport the Hussars were given a camping ground. This was the field of Southport Football Club, on Scarisbrick Road, and for one week the football pitch became a tented village for the Lancashire Hussars. The horse races were moved to Aintree Racecourse where professional jockeys rode the Lancashire Hussars Sweepstakes during the stay of the Hussars in Southport.

(To be continued)



# St. Thomas' C of E Primary School

*(Due to the early publication date for the January issue of the Church Magazine apologies if the following article seems belated).*

## **A King is Born**

Once again St. Thomas' School carol service and nativity play, performed by Year 2 class, was an outstanding success. The play was held on Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> December in a completely full church. Parents, family members and friends all contributed to create a wonderful atmosphere in celebration of Jesus' birthday. The evening started with a welcome from our Head Teacher, Mrs Jones, and our Curate, Reverend Sam Green. The production included several bible readings, prayers and poems, all meaningful, expressive and significant.

A big "Thank You" goes to all the children and staff for the performance of "A King is Born". You were all outstanding.

## **Experience Christmas**

On Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> December a team from church came into school to help our pupils experience the true meaning of Christmas. Five different activity areas were set up around school covering Mary and Joseph's journey to Bethlehem, Angel Gabriel special message, a quiet reflection area, Mary's home and the stable at Bethlehem. The students were split into 5 groups per class with an adult per group.

Each and everyone who had the privilege to attend this exceptional event had a wonderful time learning and experiencing new things about Christmas. The feedback from our pupils was extremely positive. They all enjoyed the activities and discussions and felt closer to Jesus. All the children, Mrs Jones and staff are very thankful to all the special people who organised and took part in this event: The True Meaning of Christmas.





# St. Thomas' C of E Primary School

## **Matilda**

Congratulations to our Year 5 class for your production of *Matilda*. The acting and singing was, without exception, of a great standard and greatly appreciated by all who attended. A huge Thank You goes to Mrs Knowles and her team for an amazing entertainment. You are all *Super Stars*.

## **Student Prayer of the Month**

Dear Jesus,  
please bless all my school friends and teachers. Help us all to learn new things in 2018. Let us all be kind to each other all over the world.  
Thank you for loving me.  
Amen.



**Eva Rose Barron**  
Reception, aged 5.

## **Bible Verse**

2 Corinthians 5:17

Anyone who is joined to Christ is a new being; the old is gone, the new has come.

Have a loving and peaceful New Year.

**Elaine Mateus**



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# Alan Jones

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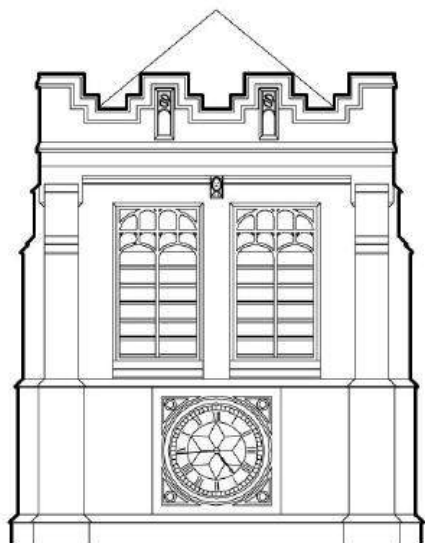
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**Directors: G Bailey, C Bailey and L Bailey  
VAT Number 768/1716/00 Company Reg No. 4172616**



# St Thomas' Flowers

## LADIES ON DUTY

3rd Feb	MRS LYON, MRS PILLING, MRS DAVIES
10th Feb	MRS EDWARDSON, MRS COOK
	<b>17th Feb - 30th March - No flowers for Lent</b>

## FLOWERS IN CHURCH DURING FEBRUARY

DATE	ALTAR	LADY CHAPEL
4th Feb	VACANT	VACANT
11th Feb - Onwards	<b>No flowers for Lent</b>	<b>No flowers for Lent</b>

Birthday remembrance of a very dear  
Mum and Grandma, Margaret Hilton  
(7th February)  
From Alison, Adrian, Becky and Chris

# St Luke's Flowers



## FLOWERS IN CHURCH FOR FEBRUARY

7th Jan	VACANT
14th Jan	VACANT
21st Jan	VACANT
28th Jan	VACANT

## February Birth Month Flower: The Violet.

Give a **violet** to someone to let them know you'll always be there for them.





# St Thomas' Donations & Remembrance February 2018



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 to those who have donated to**  
**Africa Fund**  
**General Fund**  
**Building & Maintenance**  
**Grave Maintenance**  
**Heating fund**

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

**Unless otherwise stated donations will go into the General Fund.**

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



**In remembrance of John Makinson**

From Margaret & Tony Herd

**In remembrance of John Makinson**

From Mr and Mrs Turner

**In memory of John Makinson**

From Hilda Bramwell

**In Memory of John Makinson and  
Margaret Anderton (Peggy)**

From Hilda Edwardson





**St Luke's  
Donations & Remembrance  
February 2018**



**In memory of loved ones**  
M Rigby



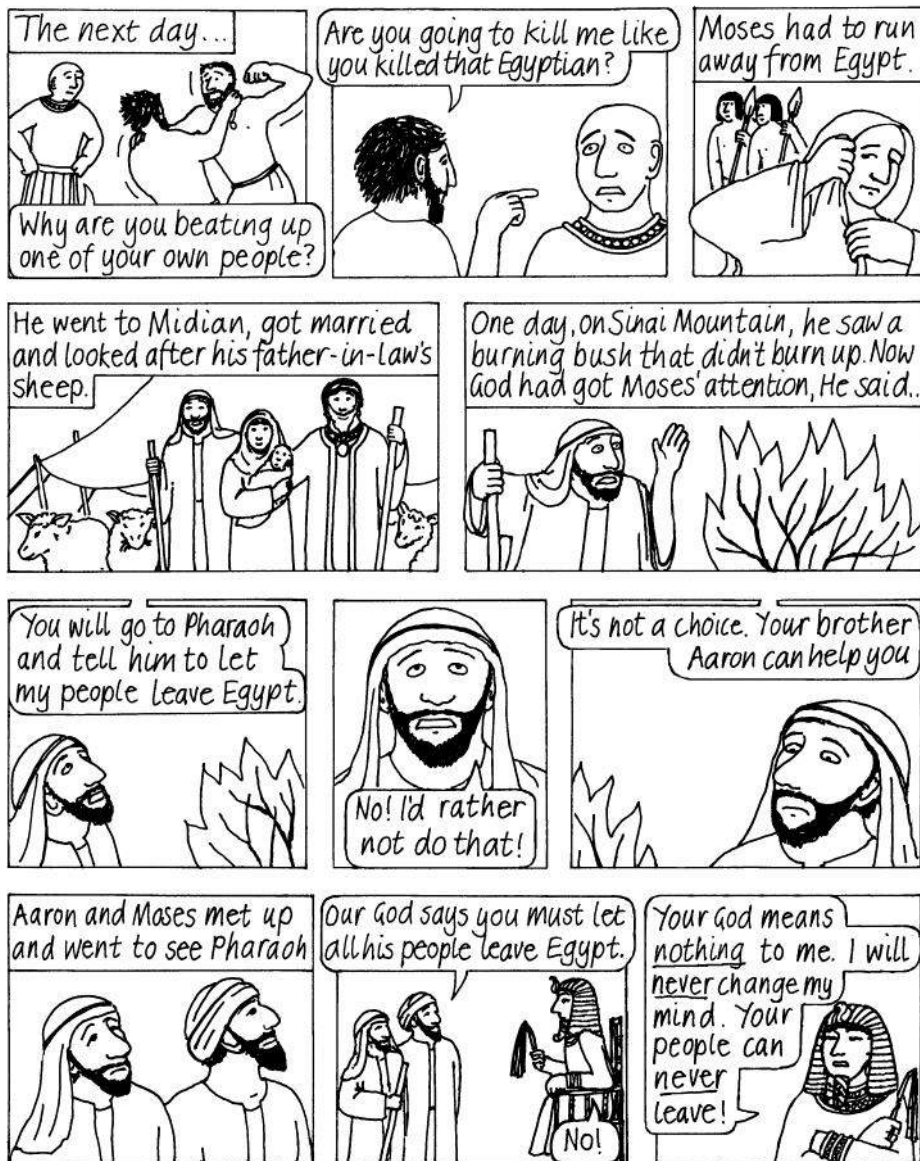


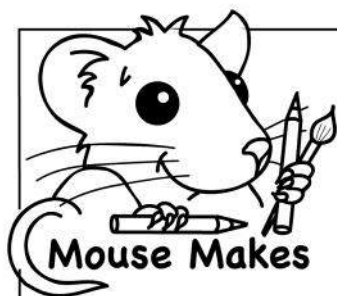
# Bible Bite

A short story from the Bible

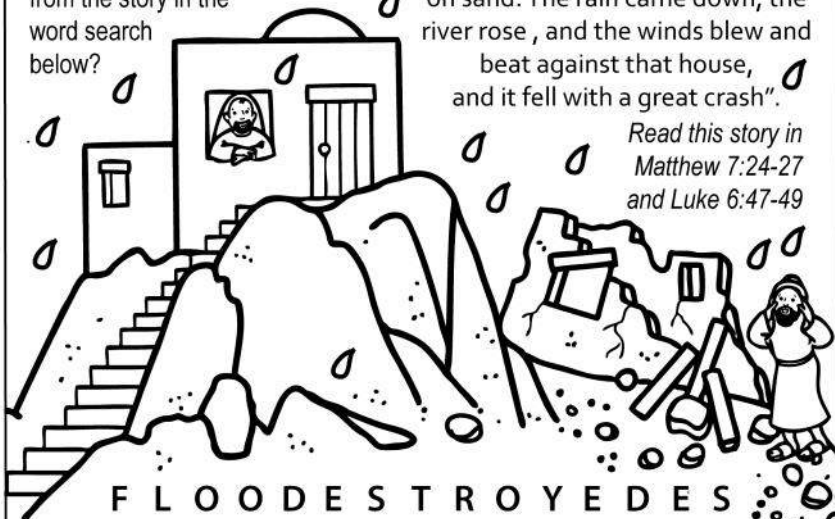
It can be read in the Bible in  
Exodus 2:13-4:23, 4:27-5:2

Moses: a Hebrew adopted by an Egyptian princess. He killed an Egyptian who was beating a Hebrew slave, and hid the body.





Can you find the words from the story in the word search below?

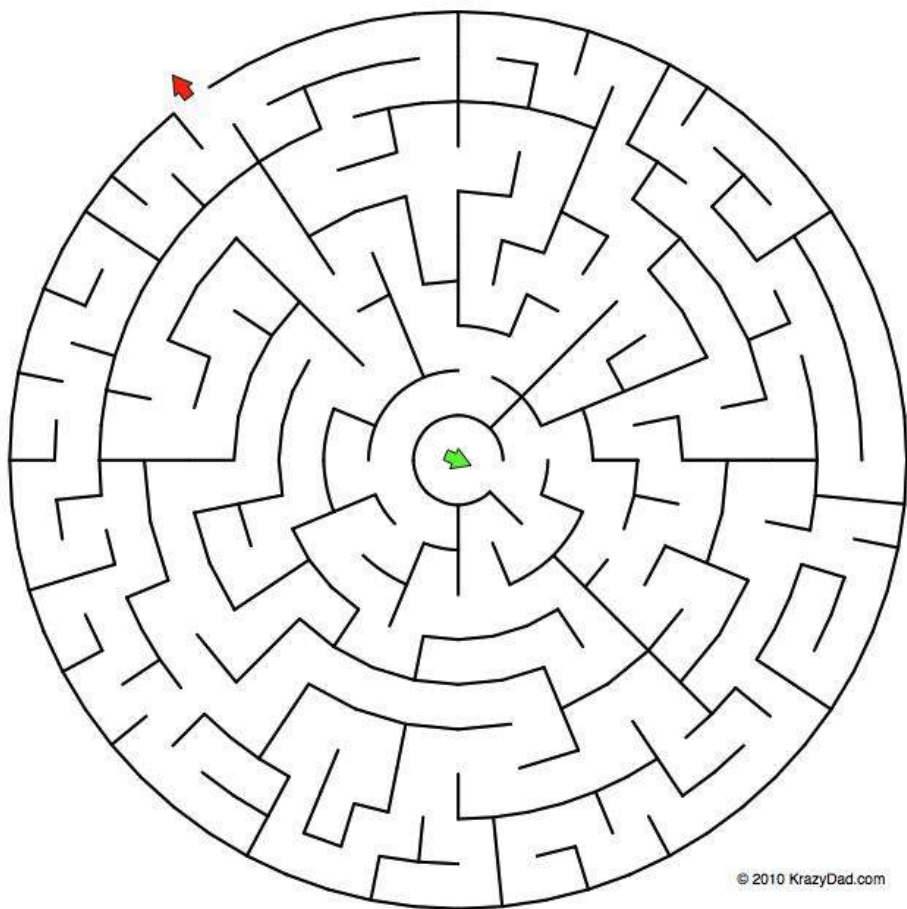


Jesus taught his disciples...  
 "Anyone who listens to my teaching and follows it is wise, like a person who builds his house on solid rock. Though the rain came down, the river rose and the winds blew and beat against the house it did not fall. But everyone who hears these words of mine and does not put them into practice is like a foolish man who built his house on sand. The rain came down, the river rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell with a great crash".

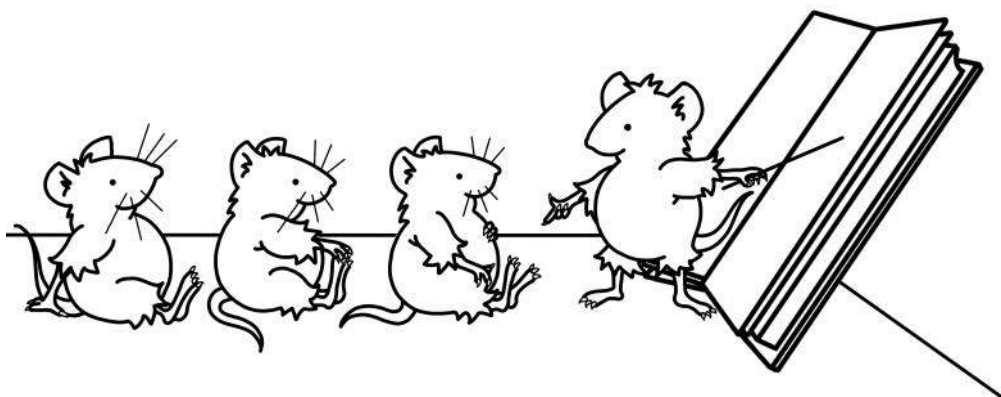
Read this story in  
 Matthew 7:24-27  
 and Luke 6:47-49

F L O O D E S T R O Y E D E S  
 O W J H W A R B I F E L L F A  
 B O P O I F O U N D A T I O N  
 G R O U N D C I J E S U S O D  
 E D U S D O K L B U R S T L M  
 A S H E A R T T E W I S E I A  
 S O L I D R I V E R A I N S N  
 C O L L A P S E D R U I N H T

L I S T E N • H E A R • J E S U S • W O R D S • W I S E • M A N • B U I L T • H O U S E • S O L I D  
 F O U N D A T I O N • R O C K • R A I N • W I N D • F L O O D • R I V E R • B U R S T • F O O L I S H  
 S A N D • G R O U N D • C O L L A P S E D • F E L L • D E S T R O Y E D • R U I N



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# The Film Review

With Rob Carson



## **Star Wars: The Last Jedi (12A)**

**Directed by Rhian Johnson**

**Stars:** Daisy Ridley, Adam Driver, Jon Boyega, Mark Hamill, Oscar Isaac, Carrie Fisher, Kelly Marie Tran, Domhnall Gleeson, Laura Dern, Andy Serkis, Billie Lourd, Gwendoline Christie, Benicio del Toro, and Anthony Daniels

**In a Nutshell:** As much as the task of following on such a massive success with a worthy follow on is, plus navigating that age old route of the great sequel when previously your franchise had the greatest sequel ever amongst it ranks.... even more difficult now it seems is the task of analyzing and reviewing said newest installment. A film that has divided nations it seems.... there are those who wish it to never have existed, those who think it's fab and those who think yeah it's divisive but it has its merits and it's a solid piece or even a great if flawed piece. Where do I stand? A little of those last two.... I admire massively where this is heading, it is upending expectations and providing twist after twist so what you think is going to happen ain't gonna be quite that and it's adding fun and humour in there that wasn't always so apparent too... it's going off in new directions and doing some bold things even if they don't always work 100%. I guess I can see why people might not always take to it, but I do find the reaction a bit too strong... it doesn't always work and I can't go into what does and doesn't work really without spoilers so I won't. But what it does work in, is by throwing us some of our favorite fantastic new characters once again fantastically performed and totally charming (even if Gleeson is approaching Jupiter Redmayn's levels of hammy) with Isaac, Hamill, Fisher, Ridley and Driver really standing out with special mention to Carrie Fisher who basically steals the whole movie and has the most fitting swansong of a movie you could want so bravo to her, she will be missed. While Hamill is a delight back in his most iconic role and relishing every minute with a mixture of torture, grace and sly humour all beautifully rolled into one. The effects are ace naturally and the story goes to some interesting areas.... overall you'll either love it, hate it, admire it or think that bit with SPOILER was great. May the force go with whatever you choose to think, but go see it because it rocks!

**Rating: 8/10**

Also Seen:

**The Greatest Showman (PG) 8/10**

**Jumanji: Welcome to the Jungle (12A) 8/10**

**Pitch Perfect III (12A) 7/10**

**Better Watch Out (15) 6/10**



# The Film Review

With Rob Carson



## Review of 2017

- Best Movie:** Detroit (15)
- Worst Movie:** Transformers: The Last Knight (12A)
- Best Actor:** James McAvoy- Split (15)
- Best Actress:** Emma Stone- Battle of the Sexes (12A)
- Best Supporting Actor:** Will Poulter- Detroit (15)
- Best Supporting Actress:** Sophia Lillis- It (15)
- Worst Performance:** Sir Anthony Hopkins- Transformers: The Last Knight (12A)
- Scene Stealing Performance:** Jason Isaacs- The Death of Stalin (15)
- Best Director:** Christopher Nolan- Dunkirk (12A)
- Worst Director:** Michael Bay- Transformers: The Last Knight (12A)
- Best Special Effects:** War for the Planet of the Apes (12A)
- Worst Special Effects:** Justice League (12A)
- Best Soundtrack:** Guardians of the Galaxy Vol. II (12A)
- Best Trailer:** Thor: Ragnarok (12A)
- Best Poster:** Thor: Ragnarok (12A)
- Best Scene:** Groot Dances Opening- Guardians of the Galaxy Vol II (12A)
- Funniest Movie:** Captain Underpants (U)
- Most Enjoyable Movie:** Atomic Blonde (15)
- Biggest Surprise:** Colossal (15)**Biggest Disappointment:** Kingsman: The Golden Circle (15)
- Best Song:** This is Me- The Greatest Showman
- Why the Hate?** xXx: Return of Xander Cage (12A)

**In March's Issue:** Reviews of Coco and Three Billboards outside Ebbing Missouri



# The Registers



## Funerals - "May they rest in peace"

27th Dec	Vivien Walton	Blenheim Road	71
10th Jan	Margaret Foster	Alexandra road	77
15th Jan	John Makinson	Alexandra Road	87
16th Jan	Margaret Anderton	Conway Road	87
16th Jan	Joan Hardman	Ashwood C/H	77
17th Jan	Frank Hesketh	Westfield Avenue	86
25th Jan	John Eckersley	Lekh Street	72

## Holy Baptism -

"We welcome them into the Lord's family"



14th Jan	Archie Kettle	Wotton Drive
14th Jan	Oliver James Morris	Old Road

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

<p><b><u>Boys Brigade</u></b>            Captain Gareth Hamlett 07903866501            Anchor Boys (Tues 5:45pm)            Olwen Wright 389595            Junior Section (Tues 6:45pm)            Kat Duckworth 07517486188            Company Section (Tues 7:30pm)            Contact Gareth Hamlett</p>	<p><b><u>Girl Guides</u></b>            Rainbows (Tues 5:30pm)            Anne Wooff 724207            3rd &amp; 4th Ashton Brownies (Wed/            Thu 6:30pm)            St Luke's Brownies (Tues 6:15pm)            3rd Ashton Guides/Rangers            (Tues 7:15pm)            Rachel Starkie 718350</p>
<p><b><u>Children's Sunday Clubs – 10:45am</u></b>            Bubbles (Pre-School)            Splash (R-Y2), Xstream (Y3-Y6)            Bell Tower (Y7-Y11)            Sue Thomas 727275            sue@stthomasandstluke.co.uk</p>	<p><b><u>Coffee Mornings at St Thomas'</u></b>            Tues 10:00am-12:00pm            Barbara Taylor 205136</p>
	<p><b><u>Flower Guild</u></b>            Meta Laites 723679</p>
<p><b><u>Children, Young People and Families</u></b>            Sue Thomas 727275</p>	<p><b><u>Music Group Sunday 10:45am</u></b>            Mary Owen 203277</p>
<p><b><u>Wednesday Weenies</u></b>            Wed 1:00-2:30pm - Church Hall            Lynn Anderton 07725 324447</p>	<p><b><u>Saturday FM</u></b>            4:00-5:00pm - St Thomas' School            Nicola Burgess 706841</p>
<p><b><u>Duke of Edinburgh's Award (14-18+)</u></b>            (Sun 6:30pm Church Hall)            Ceri Mansell 727417</p>	<p><b><u>St Thomas' Mothers' Union</u></b>            3rd Wed: 7:30pm            Barbara Taylor 205136</p>
<p><b><u>Fairtrade Stall</u></b>            3rd Sun 12:00pm            Anne &amp; Chris Wooff 724207</p>	<p><b><u>Fur Clemt Stubshaw</u></b>            Mon 12:00-1:00pm at St Luke's            Jennifer Harrison 718618</p>
<p><b><u>Litter Pick 1st Sat 10:00-12:00</u></b>            Anne &amp; Chris Wooff 724207</p>	<p><b><u>Bowling Club</u></b>            Henry Hunter 712709</p>
<p><b><u>Asylum Seeker Support</u></b>            Anne &amp; Chris Wooff 724207</p>	<p><b><u>Messy Tots</u></b>            Wed 10:00 - 11:30 at St Luke's            Sue 07877 704645</p>

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

<p><b><u>Vicar</u></b> Rev Jeremy Thomas 727275</p>	<p><b><u>Church Office, Church Hall Bookings &amp; Magazine Editor / Advertising</u></b> Jo Pollitt 721484 office@stthomasstluke.org.uk magazine@stthomasstluke.org.uk</p>
<p><b><u>Curate</u></b> Rev Sam Green 389940 Rev Flic Green 389940</p>	<p><b><u>Ordained Local Minister</u></b> Rev Izzy Schafer 717300</p>
<p><b><u>Sunday Morning Worship St Thomas'</u></b> Jan Cornthwaite 721626</p>	<p><b><u>Sunday Morning Worship St Luke's</u></b> Carole Pye 517318</p>
<p><b><u>Readers</u></b> Malcolm Bold 276379 Alan Harrison 718618 Tricia Hancox 201540 Carole Pye 517318</p>	<p><b><u>St Thomas' Church Wardens</u></b> Tony Cornthwaite 721626 Paula Gillespie 711270 <b><u>Deputy Wardens</u></b> Barbara Taylor 205136 Marcus Roby 207131</p>
<p><b><u>Prayer</u></b> Carol Foster 733263</p>	<p><b><u>St Luke's Church Warden</u></b> Carole Pye 517318</p>
<p><b><u>PCC Secretary</u></b> Dorothy Burgess 701542 dottib1@yahoo.co.uk</p>	<p><b><u>Church Architect</u></b> Bill Schafer 717300</p>
<p><b><u>Electoral Roll Secretary</u></b> Paul Weston 202649</p>	<p><b><u>St Thomas' Organist</u></b> Paul Tushingham 711085</p>
<p><b><u>Gift Aid Secretary</u></b> Clare Hayton 273183</p>	<p><b><u>F.W.O. Secretary</u></b> Jackie Wilson 712368</p>
<p><b><u>St. Luke's Donation Secretary</u></b> Mike Pye 517318</p>	<p><b><u>Treasurer</u></b> Sarah Riley 07712 584954</p>
<p><b><u>Magazine Distribution Co-ordinator</u></b> Jack Stuart 726972</p>	<p><b><u>St. Luke's Treasurer</u></b> John Boon 728900</p>