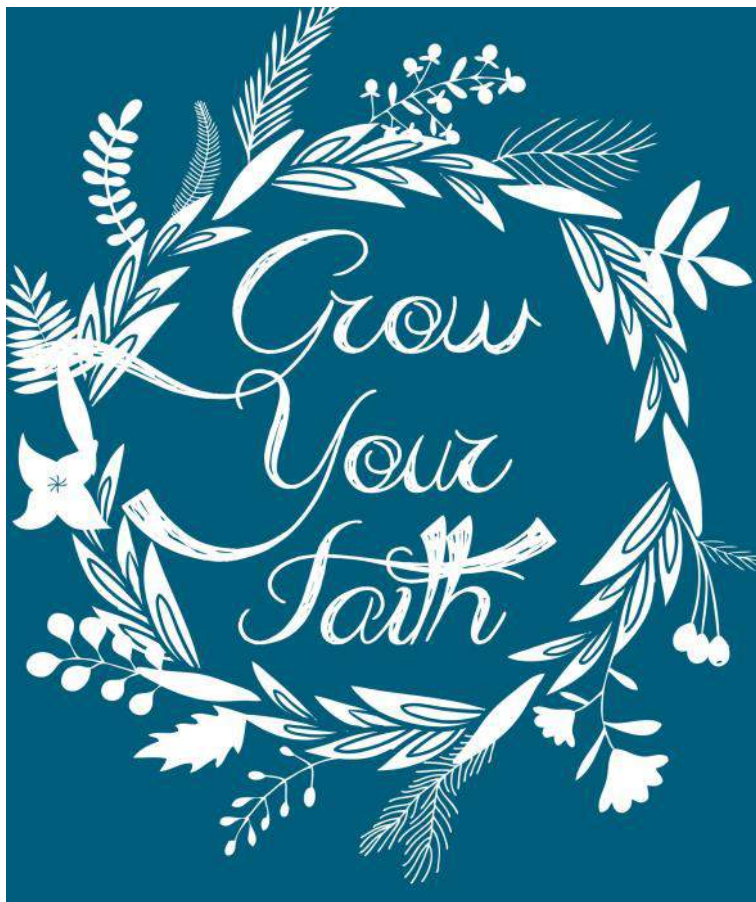


St Thomas' and St Luke's Ashton - in - Makerfield Magazine



February 2021 50p

www.stthomasstluke.org.uk

Church Services in St Thomas' and St Luke's

Sundays

St Thomas'

1st Sunday

9am Communion
10.45 All Age
Worship

2nd Sunday

9am Morning

**SUSPENDED AT
PRESENT**

in the hub
ones in the hub

at 11am

Communion

Family Worship

Family Worship

Weekdays

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

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

Deadlines: Handwritten material should be given to Malcolm Taylor and email material to magazine@stthomasstluke.org.uk

Deadline	March	April
Hand Written	12th February	19th March
Emailed	19th February	26th March
Magazine Release	28th February	4th March

<u>Deadlines</u>	2
<u>Letter from Sue</u>	4
<u>Mothers' Union</u>	6
<u>News from our churches</u>	8
<u>Food for Thought</u>	12
<u>Crossword</u>	14
<u>Wordsearch</u>	16
<u>Bible Belt</u>	17
<u>St Thomas' School</u>	18
<u>February Holy Days</u>	20
<u>Growing into the mind of Christ</u>	22
<u>Donations & Remembrance</u>	36
<u>The Registers</u>	39

Booking Baptisms and Weddings

If you would like to book a wedding or a baptism, please email office@stthomasstluke.org.uk or ring 01942 727275.

Important Information

Baptisms

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

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

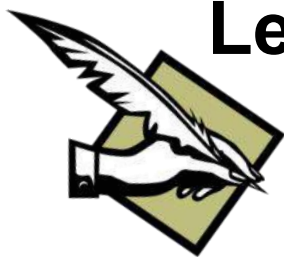
To qualify for baptism parents should live within the parish boundaries or be a regular worshipper at St Thomas's or St Luke's. Parents and godparents should have been baptised and be prepared to attend a baptism preparation session.

Funerals

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

Marriage

You can marry in a CofE Church of your choice if certain criteria are shown to be met. For details please contact the church office on: 01942 727275 or office@stthomasstluke.org.uk



Letter from Sue

The 17th February is Ash Wednesday and the beginning of Lent, the season of penitence, self-examination and fasting running up to Easter. Although the discipline of fasting isn't popular

today, Lent is one of the few times when we might consider abstaining from something so that we might focus on God. Fasting should play an important part in the Christian life. Jesus began His earthly ministry by fasting in the wilderness for 40 days and He taught His disciples to fast. In Matthew's gospel he tells them *'when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, so that it will not be obvious to others that you are fasting, but only to your Father, who is unseen.'* (Matthew 6:17,18). Note he uses the word 'when' and not 'if'

So why should we fast? Well, firstly, giving up something in our lives shows that we want to put God first in our lives. Secondly, fasting shows us how much we depend on things other than God in our lives. How often when we've had a bad day do we reach for that bar of chocolate or our favourite tippie instead of reaching out to God? Thirdly, fasting encourages us to have a deeper hunger and dependency for God in our lives. Fasting gives space for us to humbly focus on God for His strength, provision, and wisdom and results in a more intimate relationship with Christ. It also enables the Holy Spirit to reveal our true spiritual condition, leading to brokenness, repentance, and a transformed life, with a heart more attentive to God.

Fasting traditionally involves missing one or two meals during the day. Not everyone can do this. For example, some people cannot abstain from regular meals for medical reasons. Fasting can also include abstaining or limiting the time we give to things like television, alcohol or social media. But this year some faith groups are suggesting on social media that we shouldn't be asking people to give up something. We have already given up so much over the past year. Instead, they are suggesting that we do something positive. This has been my practice for a number of years. I see Lent as a time to embrace new spiritual disciplines e.g. joining a study group, giving more time to prayer and Bible study, 'random acts of kindness', or keeping a gratitude journal. I particularly like the 'random acts of kindness'. They can make a huge difference to someone's day.

But whatever you do, let's make Lent count this year.

Sue Fulford
Associate Hub Leader





Mothers' Union

Branch dates: Wednesday 17th February

This is the planned date for our Annual General Meeting which normally takes place in the Church Hall. Circumstance prevent our meeting in person and I am looking to hold the meeting through the medium of zoom. If the necessary, arrangements can be made and I will let you all have details.

The Women World Day of Prayer is another casualty of the Covid 19 pandemic and will not be held as normal in March.

I was delighted to read that our Worldwide President Sheran Harper has been appointed a Member of the Order of Service of Guyana and also awarded the Golden Arrow of Achievement for long and exceptional service to the MU.



We received a very nice card from Coops Foyer saying that we deserve a merry Christmas and a happy New Year also including a thank you for everything that we as a branch have done throughout the year.

We also received a card from our linked MU at of St Mary's Wigton expressing their love and best wishes





Mothers' Union

It is prior to our AGM that annually 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

Creator God, in the beauty of Spring, we witness again and again your creative hand at work.

As the earth reawakens after the dark days of Winter, help us to be renewed in our passion for you.

As the first crocus breaks through the winter-hardened earth, so your Son broke through the darkness of this world to bring us light and hope.

As we bathe in the warmth of the early Spring sunshine, may we feel the warmth of your love and radiate it to others.

In your name we pray. Amen

Jacqui Armstrong, Province of All-Ireland

All my love and prayers
Barbara

News from our churches

Giving

I make no excuse for repeating an article from our weekly notice sheet as it so important to get the message over. We are sure that you are aware that churches across the country are struggling financially at this time and will continue to do so, due to the reduction in donations, services and fund raising from social events. Some will have to close. Neither St Thomas' nor St Luke's are in this category, but both are facing significant shortfalls in their income this year. There are a number of ways that you can give support to church whilst you can't attend:

- Ideally through Parish Giving which involves a regular payment, usually monthly, from you bank account. This manner of supporting church is brilliant as we receive the gift aid contribution from those who pay tax instantly (or more or less instantly). I am happy to explain further or help set up the payment. Please contact me on 205136 or you can find out more detail on the web page below.
- Donations via the churches' website stthomasstluke.org.uk/ourchurch/financialsupport/
- Donations direct to the church bank account (contact Sue Thomas for the bank details)
- Quite a number of the members of our church contribute regularly through our Freewill Offering Scheme it is important that if you donate in this way that your donations continue. You can put your envelopes through the vicarage door or ring Malcolm on 205136 and we will arrange for them to be collected.

If you would like donations to be in memory of a loved one, then please write their details on the envelope or let Sue T know if they are paid via the webpage or direct to the bank. These will then be included in the next magazine.

Progress Report

I am delighted to say that the work on the church building is proceeding according to schedule. The initial phase which comprised of basically demolition work is now virtually complete and the constructive phase has started. Hardcore has been laid and I saw a concrete wagon outside church the other day indicating that the new floor was going in. I am hoping that once the work is completed we can re-open with a period of celebration both of church services and other events, perhaps a concert or two. Anyone with ideas please let me know, better to think now than when the job is finished.

Malcolm

Thanks

Not everyone has access to modern technology and is able to keep abreast of what is happening in our church or take advantage of online services. Ever since the outset of the Covid 19 pandemic Barbara and Malcolm have ensured that we, along with others, have been in receipt of the weekly notice sheet and the short form church magazine. We want to thank them through the medium of this magazine for this service and to let them know how much it is appreciated.

Mary Hardman and Margaret Lyon

The Leprosy Mission

As we mentioned in the January magazine, Leprosy Mission Sunday will be on 14th February. The theme this year was inspired by Darcey Bussell, who made a short film about her visit to Mozambique in 2019. She was deeply moved by how patients suffered from the stigma of leprosy, rejection, injustice and prejudice, and vowed to help rid leprosy from Mozambique.

The appeal for the Leprosy Mission will be mentioned in the Zoom Service on 14th February. If you would like to donate, please give your donations to Barbara Burton, Margaret Raymond, or put it through the vicarage door in the following two weeks. They will be gratefully received, and sent as our Parish donation, to be doubled by the government.

With many thanks,
Barbara and Margaret

Fairtrade Fortnight

It has been a terrible year for farmers and workers in the global south.



In 2020, on top of the pandemic, they had to deal with the growing impact of climate change: more droughts and crop disease, locusts, floods, fires, and heatwaves. No wonder their harvests were shrinking.

Yet with the help of Fairtrade, many of these producers of food, drinks and cottons can be equipped to meet more everyday needs, and to deal with the challenges facing them.

So this month, why not visit www.fairtrade.org.uk and see how you can send some support.

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

NELSON MANDELA



ACT Foodbank

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

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

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

Larger items can be left at the vicarage by arrangement.

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

Thank you very much for your support

Litter Pick

Due to the current lockdown restrictions January's church and community litter pick was organised differently. Households worked independently and separately. At least five households were out in different parts of the town and hopefully more will be working in the next few weeks. Thanks to everyone involved.



Food for Thought

Each Sunday, between 12.30pm and 1.00pm St Thomas' Church Hall is open for anyone to come and help themselves to food that has been donated by various stores that is on or past its sell by date on a *pay as you feel* basis. Here we offer some tried and tested recipes to help

make use of these foods:

Apple Crumble

For the filling: 575g Bramley apple (3 medium apples), peeled, cored and liced to 1cm thick

2 tbsp golden caster sugar

For the crumble: 175g plain flour

110g golden caster sugar

110g cold butter

For the crumble (optional): 1 tbsp rolled oats

1 tbsp demerara sugar

Top tips:

- The apples can be swapped for other fruits. Damsons, pears (or a mixture of both apples and pears) or mixed berries are just to name a few favourites
- Don't forget your custard or cream for serving.
- A few chopped nuts in the topping mixture or sprinkled on top also add to great crunchy crumble.
- The completed crumble can be frozen for up to approximately 3 months in an air tight container and cling film Allow to fully de—frost before heating in a low oven for about 30 minutes or the microwave if you just can't wait that long!

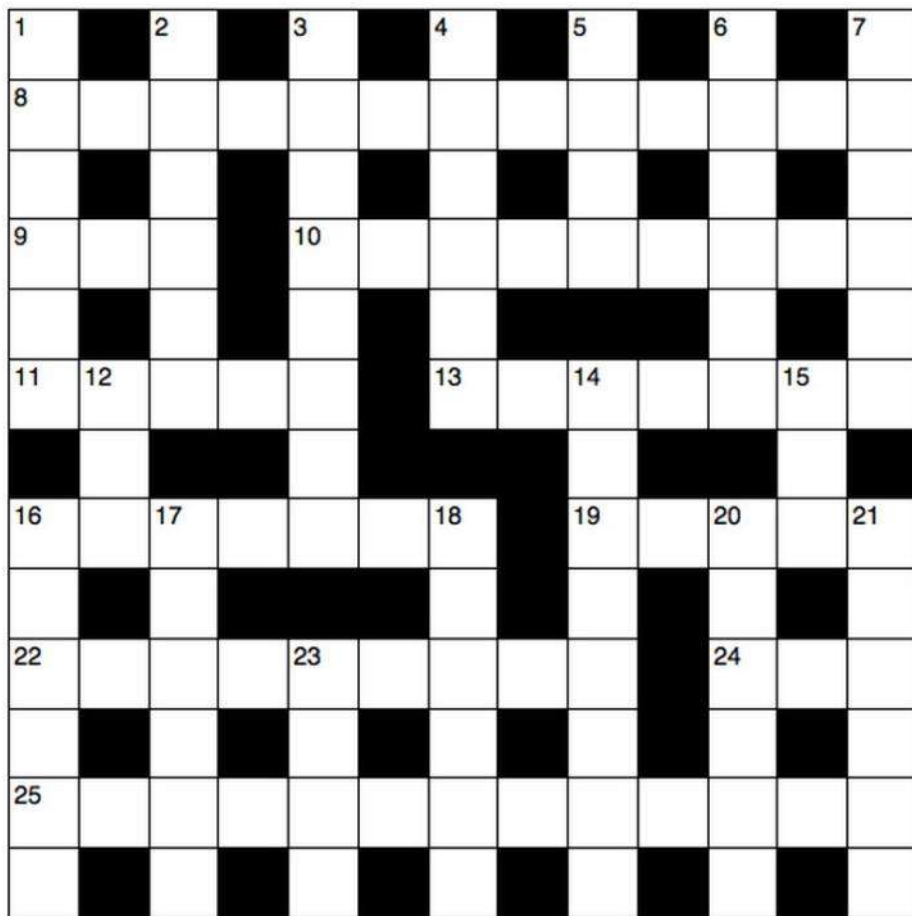
Recipe

1. Heat the oven to 190c / 170 fan / gas mark 5
2. Toss the apples with 2tbsp of golden caster sugar and place into a 23cm round baking dish at least 5cm deep. Flatten down with your hand to prevent any crumble falling through
3. Put 175g plain flour and 110g golden caster sugar into a bowl with a good pinch of salt.
4. Slice in cubes of 110g cold butter and rub it in with your fingertips until the mixture looks like moist breadcrumbs. Shake the bowl and any big bits will come to the surface—rub them in. alternatively, pulse in a processor until sandy.
5. Pour the crumb mix over the apples to form a pile in the centre, then use fork to even out.
6. Gently press the surface with the back of the fork so the crumble holds together and goes crisp, then lightly drag the fork over the top for a decorative finish.
7. Sprinkle 1tbsp rolled oats and 1tbsp demerara sugar over evenly if you wish.
8. Set on a baking tray and put in the pre—heated oven for 35—40 minutes, until the top is golden and the apples feel very soft when you insert a small, sharp knife.
9. Leave to cool slightly before serving.



* I couldn't get a photograph before someone swiftly dug into it and drowned in custard!

Crossword



Answers on page 27

Across

- 8 Interrogated (Acts 12:19) (5-8)
9 'Burn it in a wood fire on the — heap' (Leviticus 4:12) (3)
10 Tobit, Judith, Baruch and the books of Esdras and the Maccabees are part of it (9)
11 Science fiction (abbrev.) (3-2)
13 Clay pit (anag.) (7)
16 Went to (John 4:46) (7)
19 'Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to — your bodies as living sacrifices' (Romans 12:1) (5)
22 David's plea to God concerning those referred to in 14 Down: 'On — let them escape' (Psalm 56:7) (2,7)
24 Royal Automobile Club (1,1,1) 25 How the book of Ezekiel refers to God more than 200 times (Ezekiel 2:4) (9,4)

Down

- 1 Seas (Proverbs 8:24) (6)
2 One of the sons of Eli the priest, killed in battle by the Philistines (1 Samuel 4:11) (6)
3 Specialist in the study of the Muslim religion (8)
4 'Do not rebuke an older man harshly, but — him as if he were your father' (1 Timothy 5:1) (6)
5 One of Esau's grandsons (Genesis 36:11) (4)
6 Taking a chance (colloq.) (2,4)
7 God's instructions to the Israelites concerning grain offerings: ' — salt to — your offerings' (Leviticus 2:13) (3,3)
12 Confederation of British Industry (1,1,1)
14 'All day long they twist my words; they are always — to harm me' (Psalm 56:5) (8)
15 The crowd's reaction to Jesus bringing back to life a widow's son in Nain (Luke 7:16) (3)
16 Disappear (Psalm 104:35) (6)
17 How Jeremiah was likely to die if he wasn't rescued from the cistern where he was imprisoned (Jeremiah 38:9) (6)
18 What the prophets do to a wall, with whitewash (Ezekiel 13:10, RSV) (4,2)
20 Made by a plough (Job 39:10) (6)
21 Noah was relieved when the flood waters continued to — (Genesis 8:5) (6)
23 Jesus gave the Twelve the power and authority to do this to diseases (Luke 9:1) (4)

Wordsearch

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

fighting
David
Abner
king
land
tribes

brother
Philistines
meeting
Ishbosheth
sneaked
Israel

commander
Saul
secret
angry
promised
reward

northern
tricked
armies
Joab
southern
enemies

Bible Bite

A short story from the Bible

It can be read in the Bible in Josh 13:8-20:48
1 Sam 31:1-5, 2 Sam 2:4-24, 3:12, 17-27, 4, 5:1-5

When the Jews reached the place that God had promised them, each tribe was given land to live in. But they were surrounded by enemies..



King Saul and two of his sons died fighting the Philistines.



David was made king of the southern tribe of Judah.



But Saul's army commander, Abner, took Saul's last son, Ishbosheth, north and made him king of the rest of Israel.



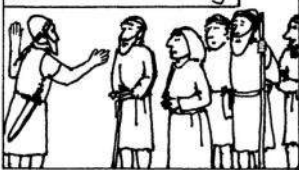
Joab was David's commander. The two armies fought and Abner killed Joab's brother.



Ishbosheth was a poor king and Abner decided to join David.



Abner persuaded all of the northern tribes to have David as king.



Abner came for a secret meeting with David.



So Joab tricked Abner into another meeting and killed him.



Then two men sneaked into Ishbosheth's house and killed him as he had a nap.



They expected a reward from David but he was very angry because they had murdered Ishbosheth.



So David became king over all of Israel.





St Thomas' School

Recently Year 6 have been writing prayers to help us through this difficult time. Here are a few that the pupil's have written:

Dear God

Thank you for keeping us all safe especially in these rough times. The NHS are doing all they can to provide us with the specialist equipment. We are all trying to keep us and our family and friends safe. I pray that the vaccine gets out quicker and that nobody else catches anything.

Amen

Thank you for keeping us all safe. It's really tough right now. I really pray for the people who are sick or ill, please help the NHS; they're keeping us all safe, if they get sick or ill please help them. Keep all our friends and families safe. It's tough for us right now because the virus is spreading all around the world. Please help us to stay strong until the vaccine works and we can go back to real life

Amen

Dear God

This severe Covid19 is really taking over our world. I'm so sorry that we haven't been looking after our amazing earth. We have been in many, many lockdowns over the past year or so and I just wanted to say thankyou so much for keeping all of my family safe and other families too. Everybody has now been alerted about the Covid 19 vaccine being rolled out and now people are going to be safe

Amen

Dear God

Because of the Covid 19 crisis we have all had to go into lockdown. I pray that the vaccine rolls out quickly so less people die. Until then please protect our families and friends and keep them safe
Amen



Dear God

I hope everyone is feeling ok in this Covid 19 crisis. Thank you for keeping us safe and helping us through hard times. I am sorry about families that have had their relatives pass away. Thank you to the NHS for helping the world by saving people. Thank you, Lord!
Amen

Dear God

Please help everyone through this pandemic. We pray for everyone to be safe. We thank all the keyworkers for helping each other out.
Please help us all to be safe
Amen

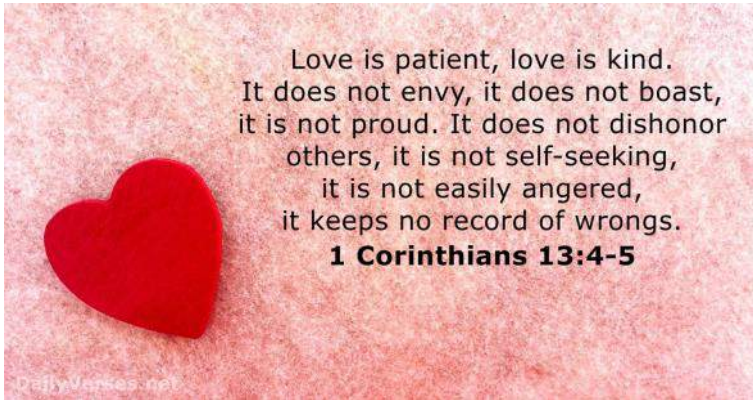


St Thomas's CE Primary School

Forgiveness • Respect • Service • Truthfulness

February Holy Days

14th Feb: The very first Valentine card, a legend



The Roman Emperor Claudius II needed soldiers. He suspected that marriage made men want to stay at home with their wives, instead of fighting wars, so he outlawed marriage.

A kind-hearted young priest named Valentine felt sorry for all the couples who wanted to marry, but who couldn't. So secretly he married as many couples as he could - until the Emperor found out and condemned him to death. While he was in prison awaiting execution, Valentine showed love and compassion to everyone around him, including his jailer. The jailer had a young daughter who was blind, but through Valentine's prayers, she was healed. Just before his death in Rome on 14th February, he wrote her a farewell message signed 'From your Valentine.'

So, the very first Valentine card was not between lovers, but between a priest about to die, and a little girl, healed through his prayers.

Shrove Tuesday: Who's for pancakes?

by David Winter

Why do we have pancakes on Shrove Tuesday, or Pancake Day, as we call it today? And what is Shrove Tuesday? And why do thousands of people feel it rewarding to race along a street somewhere tossing pancakes from their frying pans as they go?

Well, the answer to the first question is that it is the day before Lent begins and for well over a thousand years that has meant it was the last chance to enjoy meat, fat and other tasty dishes until Easter Day. The 'Lent Fast' was widely and strictly observed. The food in the larder wouldn't keep for six weeks so it had to be eaten. With all these rich foods no wonder the French call it 'Fatty Tuesday' – Mardi Gras.

So, what have pancake races got to do with all this solemnity? 'Shrove' is an old word for 'forgiven' and in those days to prepare for the rigours of Lent people would want to confess and seek forgiveness – not quite what you want at a party. The answer is quite simply enjoying yourself while you can! So, on Shrove Tuesday this year let's have some fun and make it last as long as possible.

The most convincing (and amusing) of the explanations of pancake races is of outwitting the Sexton who rang the curfew bell that marked the start of Lent. He was reluctant to do it while the race was unfinished. So, the revelry caused by dropped pancakes, postponed the inevitable.

Since the Reformation it has not been so rigorously observed in Britain, but still people will resolve to 'give up something for Lent'. Six weeks is about right as a duration and Sunday has always been exempt but make the most of those pancakes. They may well not reappear until April 12th!

Growing into the mind of Christ

1 Corinthians 2 (New Revised Standard Version)



Church Wigan has recently been exploring a series entitled 'Journeying out... pushing through'. See here as Peter explores growing into the mind of Christ.

When I came to you, brothers and sisters, I did not come proclaiming the mystery of God to you in lofty words or wisdom. For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ, and him crucified. And I came to you in weakness and in fear and in much trembling. My speech and my proclamation were not with plausible words of wisdom, but with a demonstration of the Spirit and of power, so that your faith might rest not on human wisdom but on the power of God.

Yet among the mature we do speak wisdom, though it is not a wisdom of this age or of the rulers of this age, who are doomed to perish. But we speak God's wisdom, secret and hidden, which God decreed before the ages for our glory. None of the rulers of this age understood this; for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. But, as it is written,
'What no eye has seen, nor ear heard,
nor the human heart conceived,
what God has prepared for those who love him'—

These things God has revealed to us through the Spirit; for the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God. For what human being knows what is truly human except the human spirit that is within? So also no one comprehends what is truly God's except the Spirit of God.

Now we have received not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit that is from God, so that we may understand the gifts bestowed on us by God. And we speak of these things in words not taught by human wisdom but taught by the Spirit, interpreting spiritual things to those who are spiritual.

Those who are unspiritual do not receive the gifts of God's Spirit, for they are foolishness to them, and they are unable to understand them because they are discerned spiritually. Those who are spiritual discern all things, and they are themselves subject to no one else's scrutiny.

'For who has known the mind of the Lord
so as to instruct him?'

But we have the mind of Christ.

Reflection

The sub-title of today's reflection is "Growing into the mind of Christ" but what does this mean, what does it mean to be spiritual?

Who do we follow, who do we try to imitate, who do we model our lives on?

That handsome rock star, that pinup movie star, the bad boy in East Enders or Corrie, the hunk who scored the winning goal that earned your team the cup.

What draws us to these celebrities, is it their good looks, their skill with a ball, their persuasive charm, their mesmerising rhetoric.

How often do our worldly super-heroes fall off the pedestal we place them on, their flaws and failings exposed and yet we still admire them. We queue for hours in the rain to get tickets to watch them perform, we vote for them, we protest and attack their critics, despite their weaknesses, their failures, their doubtful morals and questionable behaviour.

We are not unlike the people of Corinth. Paul was not a man of fine speech or movie-star looks. He didn't make great speeches to win the votes of the crowd, who admired fine speech and debate regardless of content. Paul demonstrated the wisdom of God through the death on a cross of Jesus Christ. A criminal's death. To many this was nonsense. What is more he claimed to know the mind of Christ and that we too, Christians, followers of Jesus Christ, can also grow into the mind of Christ.

Which would we chose to follow – the person of fine speech, good looks, skilled athlete or the person who would die for us?

Growing into the mind of Christ means growing into the mind of God. Jesus said,

“I and the Father are one”, John 10.30

“As you, Father, are in me and I am in you, may they also be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me.” John 17.21b

Jesus knew the mind of God, therefore growing into the mind of Christ means knowing the mind of God.

*His [God's] delight is not in the strength of the horse,
nor his pleasure in the speed of a runner;
but the Lord takes pleasure in those who fear him,
in those who hope in his steadfast love. Psalm 147.10-11*

Jesus showed us the mind of God in his life, death and resurrection and if we truly want to know His mind then we will do likewise, even unto death. This means going against the trend, against the norms of the world. Seeing through the glitz and glamour of stardom and celebrity and pushing through the cultural barriers that separate us from those who are different to us.

Seeking the lost, befriending those who are different, isolated, on the margins of society. Going out of our comfort zone, welcoming the asylum seeker, the refugee, the BLMEQ neighbour, the person with mental illness or disability as if they were our own brother or sister or mother.

While he was still speaking to the crowds, his mother and his brothers were standing outside, wanting to speak to him. Someone told him, ‘Look, your mother and your brothers are standing outside, wanting to speak to you.’ But to the one who had told him this, Jesus replied, ‘Who is my mother, and who are my brothers?’ And pointing to his disciples, he said, ‘Here are my mother and my brothers! For whoever does the will of my Father in heaven is my brother and sister and mother.’” Matthew 12.46-50

Growing into the mind of Jesus is not just about feeding the hungry, giving clothes to the naked, shelter to the refugee, having a socially distanced cup of tea with an isolated neighbour or attending Church on a Sunday. Knowing the mind of Jesus means knowing him as intimately as we know our own brother or sister, our own kin. So that we think like him, act like him, we know how to respond with his mind in any situation.

To know the mind of a person means really getting to know them, to truly understand their lives, their culture, for when we really know the mind of another person they are no longer a stranger but our sister or brother. Then there is nothing we would not do for them -even lay down our lives for them.

This can mean “Journeying out” of our culture, our comfort zone, “pushing through” the cultural barriers, the border walls that we erect around us to keep THEM out.

The challenge faced by Paul in Corinth, the challenge we face as Christians today, is that the message of the cross still seems foolishness to those who are led by the spirit of this world.

Growing into the mind of Christ challenges us to push through the barriers of our own culture, our prejudices, our fear, our suspicion, our stereotypical thinking, our history, anything that makes us see people as being different from us. Growing into the mind of Christ means ignoring the spirit or wisdom of the world and listening to the wisdom of God offered to us through His Holy Spirit.

Prayer

Creator God,
you made us all in your image:
may we discern you in all that we see,
and serve you in all that we do;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

***Peter Walker
Reader
(North East Hub)***

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bridgewaterdaycare.golborne



Bridgewater
Day Care
A home away from home

**ACCEPTING
NEW CLIENTS
NOW!**

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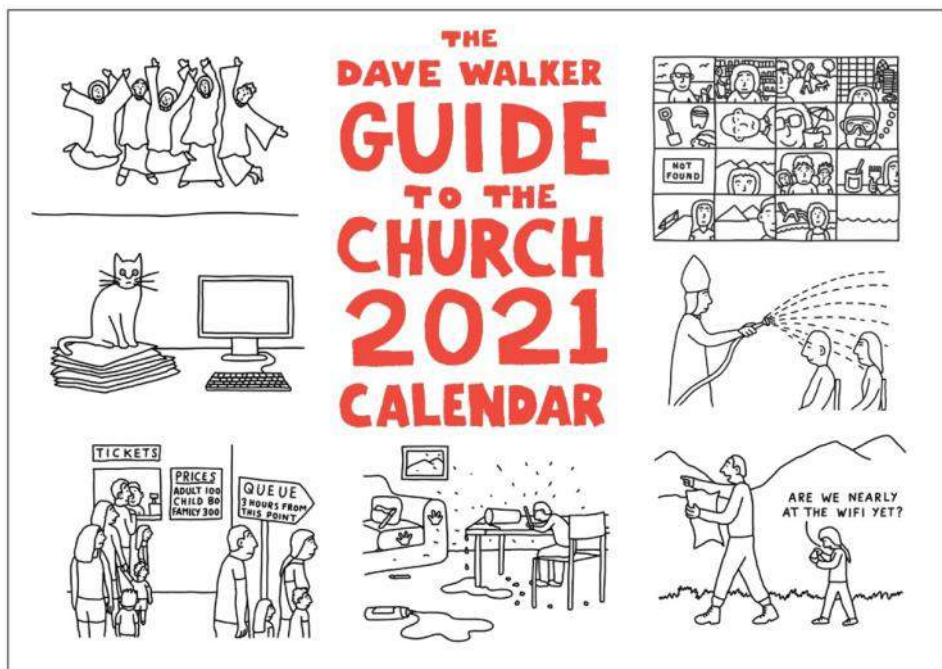
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Crossword answers

ACROSS:

8, Cross-examined. 9, Ash. 10, Apocrypha. 11, Sci-fi. 13, Typical. 16, Visited. 19, Offer. 22, No account. 24, RAC. 25, Sovereign Lord.

DOWN:

1, Oceans. 2, Hophni. 3, Islamist. 4, Exhort. 5, Omar. 6, On spec. 7, Add all. 12, CBI. 14, Plotting. 15, Awe. 16, Vanish. 17, Starve. 18, Daub it. 20, Furrow. 21, Recede. 23, Cure.



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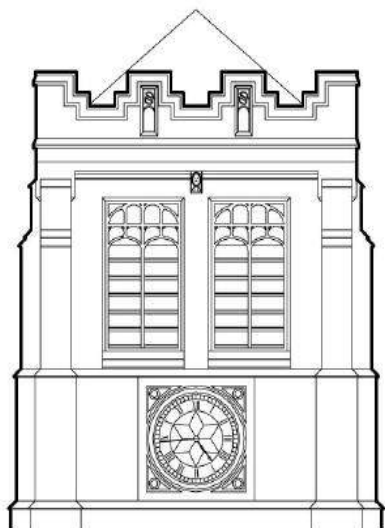
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If you are a UK tax payer and would like church to be able to claim back 25p for every £1 you donate, please complete a Gift Aid form or state on your envelope that you are a UK tax payer, would like the donation to be Gift Aided and include your full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

REGULAR GIVING

Many people are asking us how they can give their usual weekly offerings. We do appreciate your concern for the finances of the church as the plate offerings help towards the payment that has to go to the diocese each month. We need to continue these payments as the outgoings of the diocese will remain the same while church is closed. Please consider switching to the Parish Giving Scheme by phoning 0333 002 1271 as we can get the tax back much quicker this way.

If you want to continue giving by envelope, please take them to the vicarage, or to Malcolm and Barbara's (32 Townfields), clearly marking the envelopes if it is for more than one week.

Funds currently in use are: Africa Fund, Asylum Seeker, Audio Visual, Church Hall, Building & Maintenance, Food Ministry, Garden of Rest, General, Grave Maintenance, Heath Road Graveyard, Heating and Fit for the Future.

Unless otherwise stated donations will go into the General

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

St Thomas' Donations & Remembrance



In memory of **Jean Wood** (2nd January 2019)
From all the family

In memory of **Joan & Raymond Parry**
From Christine Kelly

In loving memory of my dear parents **Doug & Jessie Evans**
From Hazel

Donation in memory of **Margaret Eccleston**
From her daughter Jean

Donations for the Food Pantry in memory of **Roy Greenall**
From Barbara Jeffries

Donations for the Food Pantry in memory of **Roy Greenall**
From Bobbie Masnyk

St Luke's Donations & Remembrance

In memory of **Valerie Woodward**
from Andrew, Julie, Shauna, James and Caitlyn.



The Registers



Funerals - "May they rest in peace"

5 January 2021	Marjorie Chamberlain	Princess Avenue	75
7 January 2021	Mary Turner	North Street	95
12 January 2021	William Fairhurst	Bolton Road	89
15 January 2021	John Oxbuy	Chelmarsh Avenue	82

The Lord watches over you.
The Lord is your shade at your right hand;
The sun will not harm you by day,
Nor the moon by night.

The Lord will keep you from all harm.
He will watch over your life;
The Lord will watch over your coming and going
Both now and forever more.

Psalms 121:5-8

Church Organisations in St Thomas' and St Luke's

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

Church Officials in St Thomas, St Luke's and Wigan South Parish

<p><u>Hub Leader</u> Rev Jeremy Thomas 727275</p> <p><u>Assistant Hub Leader</u> Sue Fulford</p>	<p><u>Sunday Morning Worship</u> <u>Local Missional Leaders (LML)</u> <u>St Thomas'</u> Jan Cornthwaite 721626</p> <p><u>St Luke's</u> Carole Pye 517318</p>
<p><u>Ordained Local Minister</u> Rev Izzy Schafer 717300</p>	<p><u>Saturday FM</u> 4pm-5pm - St Thomas' School LML Nicola Burgess 706841</p>
<p><u>Readers</u></p> <p>Tricia Hancox 201540 Alan Harrison 718618 Carole Pye 517318 Helen Weavers 07796 334457</p>	<p><u>Parish Church Wardens</u> Anita Archer 07863 298336 Paula Gillespie 07716 667763</p>
<p><u>Parish Treasurer</u> Sarah Riley 07712 584954</p> <p><u>St Thomas' Assistant Treasurer</u> Phil Hayton 273183</p> <p><u>St Luke's Assistant Treasurer</u> John Boon 728900</p>	<p><u>St Thomas' Assistant Wardens</u> Tony Cornthwaite 721626 Paula Gillespie 711270</p> <p><u>Deputies</u> Barbara Taylor 205136 Mansell High 727052</p>
<p><u>Prayer</u> Carol Foster 733263</p>	<p><u>St Luke's Assistant Wardens</u> Carole Pye 517318 John Boon 728900</p>
<p><u>PCC Secretary</u> Tricia Hancox 201540</p>	<p><u>Parish Electoral Roll Secretary</u> Sue Thomas 07877 704645</p>
<p><u>St Thomas' Organist</u> Paul Tushingham 711085</p>	<p><u>Worship Group</u> Mary Owen 203277</p>
<p><u>Church Office, Church Hall</u> <u>Bookings / Magazine Advertising</u> Sue Thomas 721484 office@stthomasstluke.org.uk</p>	<p><u>Magazine Editor</u> Jess Bradley magazine@stthomasstluke.org.uk</p> <p><u>Magazine Distribution Coordinator</u> Jack Stuart 726972</p>