

Wigan South Parish Magazine

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

St Thomas' and St Luke's edition



February 2022

60p

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Parish Information

Baptisms

Baptisms are held around the Parish throughout the month. To qualify for baptism, parents should live within the parish boundaries or be a regular worshipper at one of the worship communities within the Parish. Godparents should have been baptised and be prepared to attend a baptism preparation session with the parents.

Funerals

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

Marriage

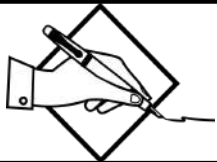
You can marry in a CofE Church of your choice if certain criteria are shown to be met.

If you would like further information or to book a funeral, wedding or a baptism, please attend at one of our churches or see the contact details at the rear of the magazine

Magazine Deadlines

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

	March	April	May
Deadline for material	17 February	17 March	14 April
Publish date	27 February	27 March	24 April



A Letter From Jan

I'm writing this article on a damp Saturday in mid January. Tony and I cleared the house of all traces of Christmas decorations on twelfth night. Boxes of tinsel and baubles were duly dispatched to the loft where they'll stay until next December.

I don't know about you, but I always seem to find one decoration each year which misses the clear up. Last year it was a fabric star, bright yellow and about 12" across with a crib scene embroidered at its centre. It hangs on a light switch so hardly hidden from view. This year it was a Mexican inspired Nativity scene which was hiding in plain sight on a window sill! Both years it was a Nativity scene which remained, not one of the snowmen, Father Christmas's, garlands or other ornaments.

As I look at the bright colours of the decoration, the Christ child in his crib flanked by Mary and Joseph, I'm somehow reminded of how easy it is to clear Jesus away with the decorations. In the run up to Christmas, it's so easy to get caught up in the trimmings of the season that we don't spend enough time focusing on Jesus and the enormity of the undertaking Mary, a young teenage girl and Joseph took in parenting the saviour of the world. In accepting the call on her life, Mary could have had little insight into what lay ahead, baring her first born in a stable in a town where she was a stranger, witnessing her son chatting with the elders and teachers of the law in the temple age twelve, watching her son die an agonising death on the cross and subsequently raise to life again for our sake.



Though our decorations are now safely stowed away for the year, keep the picture of the Nativity scene in your minds eye, a reminder of God's love for us depicted as a babe. It's also a reminder that in saying yes to God's call on our lives, as Mary did, we never know where that will lead.

All we do know is that our lives will never be the same but that with God, all things are possible.

Jan Cornthwaite
LML St Thomas'

Get to Know...

Hello, my name is Stuart Barton, I have been worshipping at Holy Trinity for quite a few years now, but my beginnings started at Rectory Primary School where I attended when I was a child. I have fond memories of school and of Holy Trinity, with the walking days, and all the fun we had whilst at school. I was baptised at Holy Trinity. When I left primary school, like with a lot of children at the time, I went to high school and didn't return to church for several years until my adulthood when I felt the call to return to church. I was invited to an Alpha course at church and was quite dubious at first, but this is where my life changed at that point.



Alpha brought me closer to God and since then, I have been an active member of the church through regular worship, being a member of the PCC, the Joint Council, a foundation Governor at Rectory School, a member of the church committee, and now a church leader, leading on worship services and helping with after school clubs such as Rock Solid.

My journey towards being a committed Christian has been fast paced, through the calling that I received to where I am now. I am passionate about mission, particularly working with children and young people, the community and have worked hard to develop lots of missional opportunities at Holy Trinity.

I also get involved with a great deal of events in the local community, such as helping local families who are struggling to feed themselves to access food from the food bank and working with a team of local volunteers who do lots of work at Holy Trinity and within the community.

My favourite worship song: 10,000 reasons

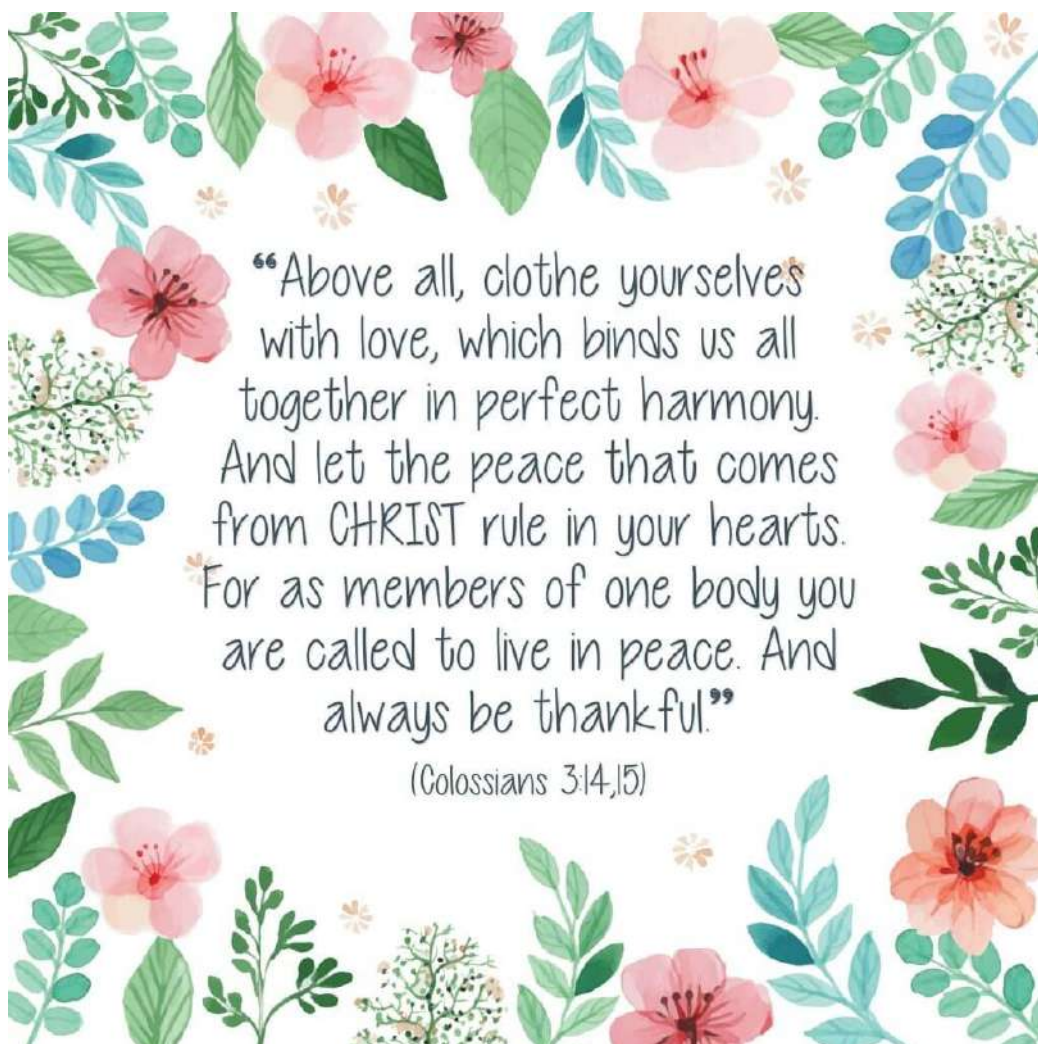
My favourite bible verse: 1 John 4:16, "And so we know and rely on the love God has for us. God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in them."

Favourite church memory: Walking Day when I was a child during the 150th anniversary celebrations of Holy Trinity when I was dressed as a Victorian child in my flat cap and waist coat!

Interesting fact: I was an Archery Coach!

My favourite quote: "Though our feelings come and go, God's love for us does not." CS Lewis

Bible Passage for 2022





Name: Lesley Hughes

Role & Responsibilities: I am Vice Chair of Wigan Deanery Trust, the charity that supports Church Wigan in its mission. We fundraise, for example, for the Food Ministry and manage Church Wigan Core Services. Please pray that God will provide the resources we need to support the work! I worship at St Aidan's, Billinge and am involved in the children's work with our school, doing Open the Book and STAs4All, which is our monthly fun, fellowship and worship time for children and families. Hopefully, these things will start up again soon after a break due to the pandemic. I lead the youth group, Hot Chocolate and also lead worship.

Favourite hymn / Bible verse: I have so many favourite hymns and worship songs. They change with the seasons of my life. At present, it is 'The Goodness of God' by Bethel Music. The words 'All my life you have been faithful, all my life you have been so, so good' really resonate with me because I can look back over the years and clearly see God's grace woven through. My favourite Bible verses are Romans chapter 8 verses 38 and 39 because of the promise that nothing can separate us from God.

Favourite church memory / occasion: My very best church memory is tied up with becoming a Christian. I was visiting St Michael le Belfry church in York in my early 20s, with a group from the church I went to at the time. I thought I had been a Christian all my life, however, whilst listening to some passionate preaching by Rev Graham Cray (who later became a bishop), I felt God was speaking directly to me through his words and I was completely overwhelmed. People from the church prayed with me. It was an amazing experience! The path hasn't always been straight or smooth from then on, by any means, but God has never let me go.

Favourite sports team: Saints without a doubt, until I die. I have supported them since I was about 5 years old, through the influence of my grandfather. I think as a St Helens 'girl', God has called me to serve Church Wigan as a challenge or maybe to show His sense of humour!

Interesting fact: I love researching my family history and have even travelled to a remote hill village in northern Italy to find information about my Italian great great grandfather.

Services across the Parish

Holy Trinity

Sunday 6	10.30am Morning Worship
Wednesday 9	10.00am Holy Communion
Sunday 13	10.30am Morning Worship
Sunday 20	10.30am Holy Communion
Wednesday 23	9.30am Holy Communion
Sunday 27	10.30am Morning Worship

St Andrew's

Sunday 6	9.30am Morning Worship
Sunday 13	9.30am Holy Communion
Sunday 20	9.30am Church Cafe
Sunday 27	9.30am Morning Worship

St Thomas'

Thursday 3	9.45am BCP Communion
Sunday 6	9.00am Morning Prayer 10.45am Worship Together 6.30pm Holy Communion
Thursday 10	9.45am BCP Communion
Sunday 13	9.00am Morning Prayer 10.45am Worship Together
Thursday 17	9.45am BCP Communion
Sunday 20	9.00am Morning Prayer 10.45am Worship Together 4.30pm Farsi Worship 6.30pm Evening Prayer
Thursday 24	9.45am BCP Communion
Sunday 27	9.00am Morning Prayer 10.45am Worship Together with Holy Communion

St Aidan's

Wednesday 2	10.00am Holy Communion
Sunday 6	9.30am Holy Communion
Sunday 13	10.30am Sta's4all 4.00pm Evening Prayer
Wednesday 16	10.00am Holy Communion
Sunday 20	10.00am Morning Worship
Sunday 27	10.00am Morning Worship

St Luke's

Sunday 6	11.00am Family Worship
Sunday 13	11.00am Holy Communion
Sunday 20	11.00am Family Worship
Sunday 27	11.00am Family Worship

St Peter's

Sunday 6	10.30am Holy Communion
Sunday 13	10.30am Morning Prayer
Sunday 20	10.30am Morning Prayer
Sunday 27	10.30am Morning Prayer

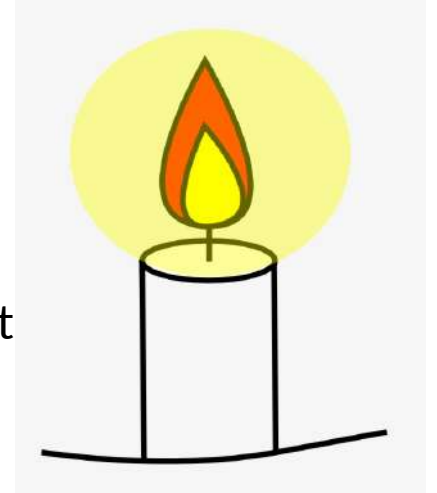
All are welcome to join
any of the regular
services across Wigan
South in February.

You are sure to receive
a warm welcome.

Candlemas

There are three reasons for this festival, which is held each year on the second of February.

Firstly, it's the halfway point between the shortest day and the Spring Equinox, so from that date on the daylight hours get longer.



In pre-Christian times, this day was known as the 'Feast of Lights' and celebrated the increase strength of the life-giving sun as Winter gave way to Spring.

Secondly, it's when we remember Mary and Joseph taking their baby Jesus, to the Temple forty days after His birth.

And the third reason? It's directly linked to the name of the feast – Candlemas. It was so named because on that day each year all the candles for the coming year were brought into the church to be blessed at a 'mass'. Remember that candles were important in those days, not only because there were no electric lights; people thought they gave protection against plague and illness and famine.

In many churches on this feast there will be a procession of the whole congregation with lighted candles – often inside the whole building, going into every 'dark' corner. Everyone carries their own lighted candle, which they are encouraged to take home and light there also.

One of the prayers that may be used is this:

*Blessed are you, Lord our God, King of the universe.
You make our darkness to be light.
For with You is the well of life
and in Your light shall we see light.*

Christ is often called the 'Light of the World' who came to bring light, hope, and peace into our darkness. Have a think about those places that are dark for you and perhaps you do not like going there or will not go there. Perhaps they are too painful or scary. Just pause for a short time with a lit candle and imagine Jesus going there for you or with you. Lighting your way. Making it safe. He came to give us life – and life to the full – even in those dark places.

Revd Dr Jo White



Are you or could you become a Co-op member and select Wigan Deanery Trust as your cause. This will really help the Trust in raising some much needed financial support which will then be used to fund the great work going on in Church Wigan. Firstly please use this link to become a Co-op member:

<https://www.coop.co.uk/membership>

And secondly select WDT as your preferred cause using this link:

<https://membership.coop.co.uk/causes/59913>. If you would find it easier to join by phone you can contact the Co-op membership team on 0800 023 4708.

Rob's February film review



Spider-Man: No Way Home (12)

Released: 15th December 2021

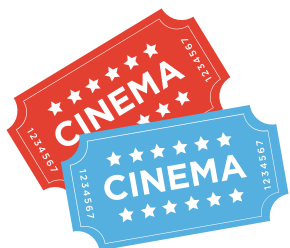
Director: Jon Watts

Starring: Tom Holland, Zendaya, Benedict Cumberbatch, Marisa Tomei, Jon Favreau, Willem Dafoe, Alfred Molina, Jamie Foxx, Ned Batolon, Benedict Wong, Tony Revolori, and Paula Newsome

The Verdict: How does one approach a film of this scale and magnificence in what it accomplishes and effectively review it without giving away the myriad plot spoilers and surprises that make up what makes this film tick? It is a tricky conundrum and hopefully the answer will make itself clear as we delve into this joy filled wonder of a movie that will make the Jokers smile look pretty understated compared to the grin that will plaster itself on your face for the entire running time of this movie. What you can know, as it is made known in the marketing for the film, is that a whole plethora of past villains show up to cause Peter Parker a massive headache. In the aftermath of being revealed to the world, he teams up with Doctor Strange to try and change this but it backfires and unleashes a whole multiverse of madness as Green Goblin, Lizard, Doc Ock, Sandman and more come through into the world to create chaos. And that's just for starters! There are many more nostalgic treats that head our way throughout the film but to say more would be mean and rob the surprise and delight of watching the story unfold. This is one is as pleasing for the life long Spiderman fans but can easily be enjoyed by anyone, anywhere, with great characters and big moments that will cause cheering and excitement. It's funny, thrilling, dramatic, scary and heart-warming. With a trilogy as good as the Tom Holland movies have been it's really hard to say which is best but this most certainly ends the trilogy in style with great performances by all involved. Holland really came into his own even more than he already has done; and it really does set up what Marvel is planning next in the biggest way possible. This film has already proved one of the biggest in years (not that that is hard) and its very easy to see why.

This is just pure joy on a massive screen, simply go and see it as soon as you can.

Rating: 9/10



Review of 2021!

Best Movie: Dune

Best Actor: Anthony Hopkins in The Father

Best Actress: Kristen Stewart in Spencer

Best Supporting Actor: Benicio del Toro in The French Dispatch

Best Supporting Actress: Ariana DeBose in West Side Story

Best Director: Denis Villeneuve in Dune

Best SFX: Dune

Biggest Surprise: Freaky

Biggest Disappointment: Eternals

Most Enjoyable: Nobody

Funniest Movie: Free Guy

Best Scene: Bus Fight- Nobody

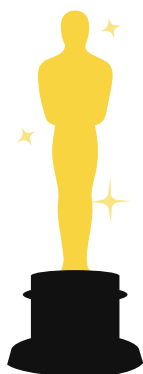
Best Song: No Time to Die

Best Soundtrack: Cruella

Best Poster: Last Night in Soho

Best Trailer: Spider-Man: No Way Home

'Why the Hate?': The Matrix Resurrections



Also Seen

West Side Story (12A) 10/10

The Matrix Resurrections (15) 8/10

The Kings Man (15) 7/10

Scream (18) 8/10

Licorice Pizza (15) 9/10

The Father (12) 8/10

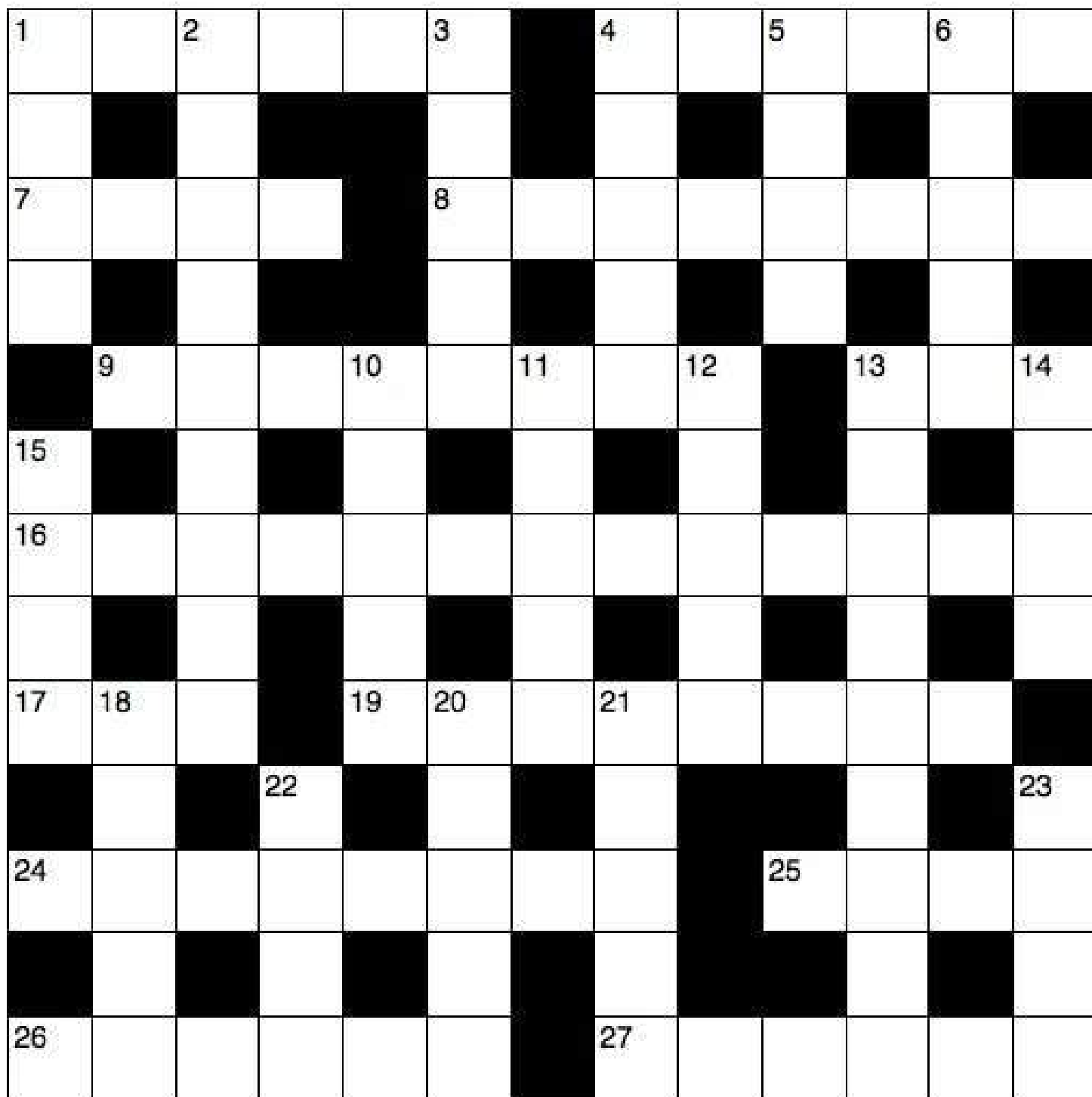
Joe Versus the Volcano (PG) 8/10

Don't Look Up (15) 8/10

Coming in March

Reviews of Nightmare Alley and Death on the Nile

Crossword



Answers on page 20

Across

- 1 'If you love those who love you, what — is that to you?' (Luke 6:32) (6)
- 4 'They threw the ship's — overboard' (Acts 27:19) (6)
- 7 The first murderer (Genesis 4:8) (4)
- 8 He was the head Levite in charge of the singing when the ark of God was brought back to Jerusalem (1 Chronicles 15:22) (8)
- 9 Samson was noted for this (Judges 16:6) (8)
- 13 Solicit money or food from passers by (Acts 3:2) (3)
- 16 What William Booth's Christian Mission became in 1878 (9,4)
- 17 Alliance of Religions and Conservation (1,1,1)
- 19 'I will praise your name for ever and ever. I will praise you' (Psalm 145:1–2) (5,3)
- 24 Simon had (anag.) (8)
- 25 Desperate (Deuteronomy 28:48) (4)
- 26 Elisha witnessed the boy he was seeking to resuscitate do this seven times before opening his eyes (2 Kings 4:35) (6)
- 27 The belly and thighs of the statue in Nebuchadnezzar's dream were made of this (Daniel 2:32) (6)

Down

- 1 'Before the — crows, you will disown me three times' (Matthew 26:75) (4)
- 2 Relating to the books of the Bible between Acts and Revelation (9)
- 3 'They have — the Lord out of the tomb, and we don't know where they have put him!' (John 20:2) (5)
- 4 Belief (5)
- 5 'Take the following fine spices: ... 250 shekels of fragrant — ' (Exodus 30:23) (4)
- 6 'Do not — Jerusalem, but wait for the gift' (Acts 1:4) (5)
- 10 A seer (anag.) (5)
- 11 'Even there your hand will — me' (Psalm 139:10) (5)
- 12 The wild variety was part of John the Baptist's diet (Mark 1:6) (5)
- 13 A non-Greek speaker who was looked down on by civilized people (Colossians 3:11) (9)
- 14 Famous 1950s musical whose characters included members of
- 16 Across, — and Dolls (4)
- 15 The province from which Paul wrote to the Corinthians (1 Corinthians 16:19) (4)
- 18 'He was standing in the gateway with a linen cord and a measuring — — his hand' (Ezekiel 40:3) (3,2)
- 20 'Today, if you hear his — , do not harden your hearts as you did in the rebellion' (Hebrews 3:15) (5)
- 21 The Jericho prostitute who hid two Israelite spies on the roof of her house (Hebrews 11:31) (5)
- 22 'And now these three remain: faith, — and love. But the greatest of these is love' (1 Corinthians 13:13) (4)
- 23 'God has numbered the days of your reign and brought it to an end' (Daniel 5:26) (4)

February Holy Days

27th Feb: George Herbert, priest and poet

Herbert was born into a wealthy family in Mid-Wales on 3rd April 1593. His father was a Member of Parliament who died when Herbert was three years old. His mother moved her large family to London. In 1609, Herbert left home to be a student at Trinity College, Cambridge.

By the age of 23, Herbert had graduated with two degrees. He was fluent in Latin and Greek and in 1620 was elected as the University's Public Orator. He held this position for seven years, and for a short time was MP in his hometown in Wales.

Although Herbert was securing an illustrious future and his speeches had gained the attention of King James 1, he was restless. He felt God was calling him to the priesthood and much of Herbert's poetry expressed his inner spiritual conflicts.

When the King died in 1625, and two influential patrons also died at about the same time, Herbert responded to God's call on his life and gave up his secular ambitions. He married in 1629 and became a priest in a small Anglican church in Bemerton in Wiltshire.

Here he found inner peace at last, serving God in the local community. His poetic talent continued to flourish along with his musicianship as a skilled lutenist. After only three years as a priest, he died of tuberculosis on 1st March 1633. He was 39.

Some ninety of Herbert's poems have been set to music by such composers as Ralph Vaughan Williams and Benjamin Britten. His most well-known hymns are Teach me my God and King, Let all the world in every corner sing and King of glory, king of peace.

A number of artistic commemorations of Herbert exists in several churches and cathedrals including a stained-glass window in Westminster Abbey and a statue at the front of Salisbury Cathedral.

23rd Feb: Polycarp, faithful servant who would not deny his Lord

Polycarp (c. 69 – c. 155) was one of the most important Christians in Roman Asia in the mid-2nd century, because of his link between the time of the Apostles and the earliest Christian Fathers. This disciple of John the Apostle became bishop of Smyrna and defended orthodox Christian belief against the heresies of Marcion and Valentinus, the most influential of the Gnostics. Irenaeus of Lyons, who as a boy had known Polycarp, praised his gravity, holiness and majesty of countenance.

Near the end of his long life, Polycarp paid a visit to Rome to discuss with the bishop there the possibility of agreeing a uniform date of celebrating Easter. When they found they could not agree, they amicably agreed to differ, and parted in good faith.

Polycarp returned to Smyrna, where a riot broke out at a pagan festival. The crowd suddenly turned on the Christians, whom they called 'atheists'. Polycarp was on a farm nearby, neither provoking nor fleeing martyrdom. When his captors arrived, he invited them to eat a meal, while he prayed alone for an hour. Then calmly, he agreed to go with them to his interrogation.

All the pagans' threats and promises did nothing to shake Polycarp. When ordered to execrate Christ, Polycarp gave this dignified reply: "For 86 years I have been his servant and He has never done me wrong; how can I blaspheme my king who saved me?... I am a Christian: if you wish to study the Christian doctrine, choose a day and you will hear it."

The crowd were outraged and cried first for the lions and then for Polycarp to be burnt at the stake. He was bound, but an official killed him with his sword before his body was burnt. Later, grieving Christians collected his bones and buried them. They also wrote an account of his trial and martyrdom, which is the earliest authentic example of its kind.

In England there are no ancient and only a few modern churches dedicated to this deeply courageous saint of the Christian Church.

God's Valentine

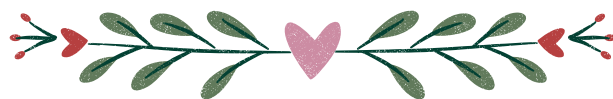


For God so loved the world He sent His Son
There was no other way to let us know,
So Jesus came to us from heaven's realm
To bring God's love to all of us below.

He took on flesh, became like one of us,
Taught and healed and loved wherever He went
Showing the Father's love for all to see
He truly was a gift from heaven sent.

The Bible is God's precious Word of Life
A living breathing word like no other,
It is a heavenly letter of love to us
Sent 'From your God the Everlasting Father'.

By Megan Carter



God So Loved the World

For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life.' (John 3:16)

This month, as we mark St Valentines' Day, we focus on the importance of love. In understanding the way God loves us, this verse shows us how we should love others. God's love is unconditional: God demonstrated His unconditional love for us by sending His Son into this world, to show us how we should love others, especially when it is undeserved! 'There is nothing we can do to make God love us more. There is nothing we can do to make God love us less.' (Philip Yancey).

God's love is sacrificial: God's love is not selfish or self-seeking, but selfless and self-sacrificial, putting the needs of others first. This is demonstrated by the cross, which is the supreme demonstration of God's love. He died for our sins to give us access to God's love, which is made real in our lives by the Holy Spirit.

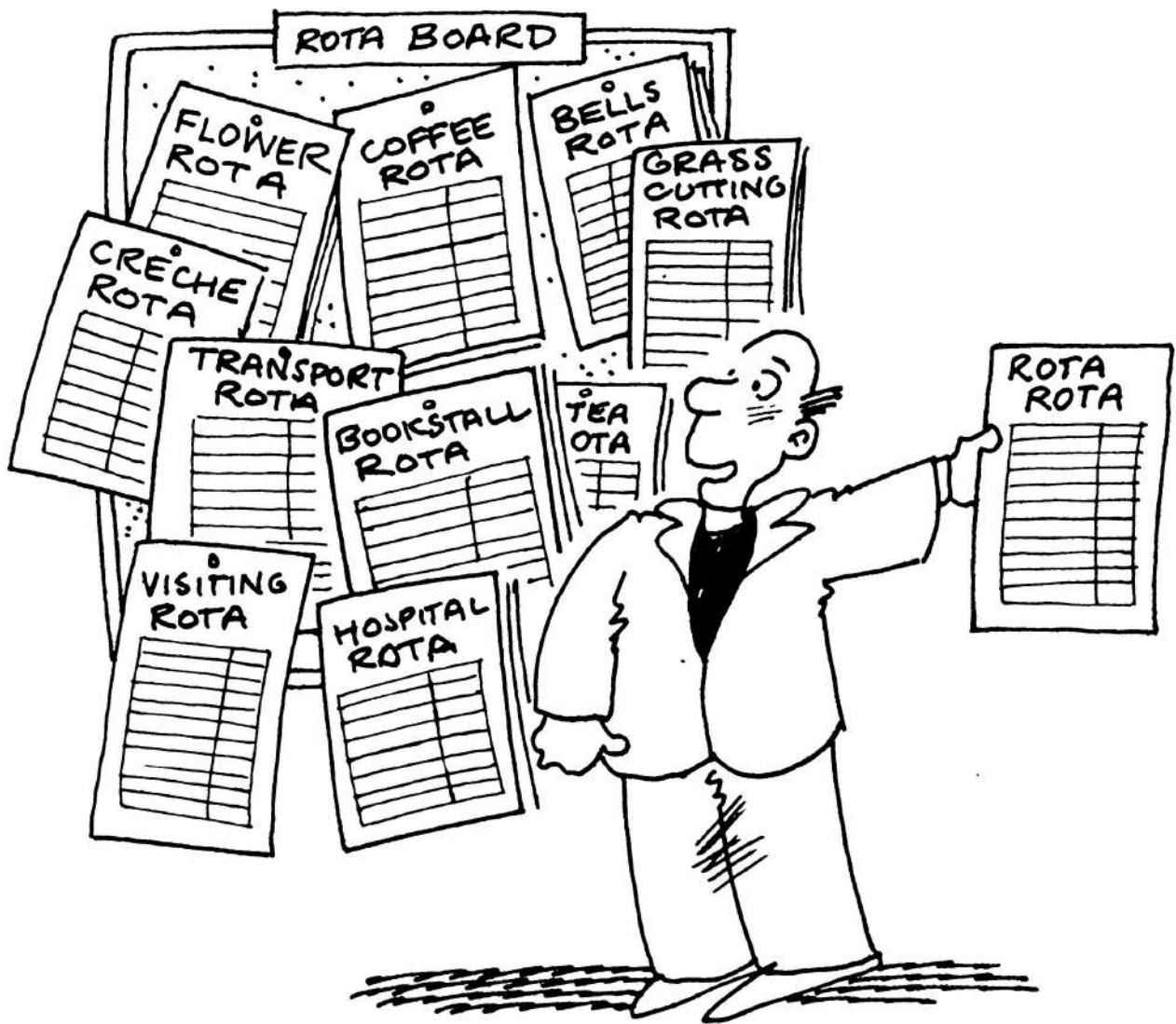
God's love is forgiving: According to the film Love Story, 'Love means never having to say you're sorry.' Yet Jesus' love for us enables us to forgive others, as we find His forgiveness through the gift of eternal life, available to all who put their trust in Him.

In this World Cup Year, we remember Bobby Moore describing the terror of receiving the World Cup from the Queen in 1966: "I noticed that the Queen was wearing some beautiful white gloves. I looked down at my hands and they were completely covered with mud!"



Although we approach God with dirty and spoilt lives, because of His love, we can shake hands with a holy God and share that love with others.

Canon Paul Hardingham



"I'm updating the 'rota notice-board' rota, rota... do I see a hand...?"

Crossword Answers

ACROSS: 1, Credit. 4, Tackle. 7, Cain. 8, Kenaniah. 9, Strength. 13, Beg. 16, Salvation Army. 17, ARC. 19, Every day. 24, Admonish. 25, Dire. 26, Sneeze. 27, Bronze.

DOWN: 1, Cock. 2, Epistolic. 3, Taken. 4, Tenet. 5, Cane. 6, Leave. 10, Erase. 11, Guide. 12, Honey. 13, Barbarian. 14, Guys. 15, Asia. 18, Rod in. 20, Voice. 21, Rahab. 22, Hope. 23, Mene.

Difficult times

We are living in difficult times, Covid-19 and the new variant seems to be rampant, many people are isolating, many frightened to go to the supermarket, many not able to meet with family and friends. Below are two prayers that may help to remember during these times.

In your struggles

May the Lord walk at your side in your struggles;

May He share His comfort in your pain;

May He hold your hand in your tears;

May He speak to your heart through the strain;

May He never leave you, now or in eternity;

May He show you His love again and again.

Amen.

A prayer about the anxious times in which we live

God of eternity, hold in your hands our fragile nation.

In these days of anxiety, be our peace;

In these days of ill-health, be our protection,

In these days of shortage, be our security;

In these days of division, be our harmony.

Lift us out of our present difficulties, we pray,

And make of us a nation that will do justice, love mercy

And walk humbly with you, our God.

In the name of your Son Jesus, born among us, our hope and glory.

Amen.



Wordsearch

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

stories

lost

Pharisees

coins

Jesus

special

friends

angels

teaching

teachers

small

sheep

watched

sweep

woman

person

listen

light

repent

heaven

everyone

celebration

found

rejoice



Together with local businesses, we are working to reduce the amount of food going to land fill. The pantry is regularly stocked with food that is near its sell by date but can still be used to feed bellies not bins.

St Thomas' Church Hall, Ashton in Makerfield

Tuesday 11am—12pm

Thursday 3pm—4pm

Saturday 11am—12pm

Sunday 3pm—4pm

£5 annual membership

Minimum £3 donation per visit with a wide range of foods available

Max 2 visits per week

Additional donations welcome.

Any additional monies shall be used to build a pantry and kitchen behind the church hall.



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News from our churches



It has been our practice for many years to recognise Leprosy Sunday which this year is on 30 January. We have been unable to find volunteers to take over from Barbara Burton and Margaret Raymond who retired after many years devoted service to this cause. I am sure that there must be someone in our congregation willing to continue helping to raise funds for the mission. It's not too late, please let me hear from you.

What news do we have as we move towards the second month of this new year? Well, still being in the grip of the pandemic, it is difficult to assess just how the past two years and current situation have affected the return of our church members to our services and, equally important, to the daily life of our church community. It is clear that the numbers are still well down, but whether this is a result of caution on the part of some people unwilling to risk the possibility of infection, or is it that some have simply got out of the habit of regular attendance, is unknown. It may be a combination of the two but it is certainly giving cause for concern.

I don't know if I am simply becoming a grumpy old man (some may think I always have been!) or whether I am imagining a degree of apathy which perhaps doesn't exist. I have, through the pages of this magazine, endeavoured to recruit volunteers for the various offices essential in the running of an active and a effective church preaching God's word. We do have a situation at the moment with more people retiring from the valuable work that they have done, sometimes for many years. We are, of course, very grateful for this service and in no way critical of their decisions.

I should perhaps continue with a question which has been puzzling me for sometime, what has happened to that spirit of volunteering which has always been a strength in our church? Please don't hesitate to let us know your views so that we can get a grip of the situation.

We once had a strong social element with regular events bringing us together in fellowship. We need to recruit an enthusiastic social group to renew this vital aspect of our church life. We also had a grip on the pastoral care of our members with hospital visiting, home visiting, along with home communion for those unable to attend church. The pandemic has called a halt to much of this work but we need to be prepared to pick it up again once we are out of the pandemic.

The answer to many of our problems lies with our members, please ask yourselves what can I do in God's service here in Ashton? Don't be reticent and indeed decrying of you own abilities. God will give you strength just let us hear from you.

Malcolm

Once again we are indebted to David Fearnley for another glimpse into the history of our town.

HINGEMAKING : ASHTON IN MAKERFIELD

In 1700 Ashton in Makerfield was the centre of the metal working industry in SW Lancashire especially for hinge and lock manufacturing. There was one main concentration on Heath Road where today the “Hingemakers Arms” reflects the importance of the trade in this area. Hinge-making was a cottage industry taking place in an outhouse in the back yard of the property containing a blacksmiths forge and an anvil. Usually both parents and children would work making the hinges. Large areas of Ashton would have echoed to the sounds of hammering, drilling and filing.

The individual hinge-makers would have sold the hinges they produced to local ironmonger shops. Eventually some of the hinge-makers became more successful than others and became hinge-masters. The hinge-master now employed groups of hinge-makers, he supplied them with sheets of metal to make the hinges and at the end of the week they delivered the finished hinges to the hinge-master who paid them minus the cost of the sheets of metal. In 1816 the weekly wage of a hinge-maker was c8 shillings (40 pence). In the 18th century hinge manufacturers in Ashton in Makerfield included “Chorley & Leech”, “Chorley & Peet,” “John Peet & Sons”, “Jameson & Clowes”, “John Whitley”, “Robert Clough” (Brocstedes Lane), “William Harris” (Soughers Lane),

“John Chadbont”, in the 19th century “James Billing” (Brocstedes Lane), “David Shaw” (Park Lane), “Thomas Crompton” (Downall Green), and in the 20th century “Thomas Crompton & Sons” (Downall Green & Ashton).

On Gerard Street, the area formerly occupied by Crompton’s and now the Gerard Centre in the early 19th century was called “Whitley’s Square”. This was the hinge-making factory of John Whitley. The Square was a central courtyard with warehouses, workshops and smithies on each side producing hinges, locks, nails, screws, bolts, latches etc. On Heath Road John Whitley owned houses near the “Commercial Inn” and the “A” Court known as “Whitley’s Houses” which he rented to his workers at low rents. In 1921 John Whitley & Sons sold the factory to Thomas Crompton & Sons.

In 1864 a Royal Commission was set up to enquire on the employment of children in factories. The Commissioner visited Ashton to collect evidence. Mr. Valiant stated “there are 50 – 60 boys employed directly or indirectly by us, for we give out nearly all the hinge-making to be done by the workpeople at their own homes. You see a row of cottages, and behind them a row of smithies, there will be a man or two and a lad or two who clean the hinges and do light work. In our own yard we have 12 lads with only one or two under the age of 13. They help the men making locks and bolts. The usual hours of work are 6am – 8pm with 2 hours for meals”.

The Commissioner collected evidence from Joseph Adamson, aged 18, who worked for John Whitley. Interviewed in the back yard of his home in Heath Road Joseph stated “this is my father’s smithy, he lives in one of Mr. Whitley’s houses in front there. We work for him. What the young lads do is cleaning and hammering the rivets and filing the hinges. They often don’t get any schooling and few can read or write. They begin the work at age 11 or younger. Regular hours in the trade are 6am – 8pm with 2 hours for meals. Sometime the work goes on till after 9pm for boys and all. They never begin till breakfast on Monday, 8am that is, and leave off again at 5pm. They mostly give over at 3pm on Saturday, so that they only work for four days a week from 6am – 8pm. The boys are paid 2s 6d (13 pence) to 4s 6d (23 pence) per week. Where the women work, they are always members of the family, they clean the hinges or drill holes now and again, as those two are doing, one is my sister and the other my step-sister”. ³⁰

David A. Fearnley.

THE CHILDREN'S SOCIETY

Last year The Children's Society worked with many vulnerable children.



In Britain today there are children and young people who feel scared, unloved and unable to cope. These are the children and young people that the Children's Society work with. The Society listens, supports and acts to make small changes that can make big differences to their lives.

On the Society website there are stories of how the Society makes a difference, and this can only continue with your help, and your continued financial support.

Last year because of Covid restrictions, I was only able to collect boxes from about 60 parishioners at St Thomas' and St Luke's churches. We have also lost a number of our regular contributors. In 2021 the total raised was £1,500. I would like to thank everyone who helped to raise this amount.

St Luke's church held their Christingle service on the 12th December and St Thomas' held their on 24th December. This was a lovely service where we distributed the Christingle oranges. When everyone was seated we lit the candles and a carol was sung. This also raised money for the Society. St Thomas' School helped a great deal by distributing collecting candles. The total raised by the churches and the school was £432.11. Thank you to everyone who helped to assemble the Christingle oranges and to everyone who contributed to raise this amazing amount.

If you do not already support the Children's Society and you would like to do so please contact me on 712709 or at church and I will arrange to get a box to you.

Valerie Hunter

Mothers' Union



Branch Diary:

The planned date for our Annual General Meeting is **Wednesday 16th February** in the Church Hall at 7.30pm. As always, this is an important meeting in the life of our Branch, please do your best to attend.

The Women World Day of Prayer this year is on **Friday 4th March** at the Independent Methodist Church Victoria Road Garswood.

Covid restriction permitting, our Winter Brunch shall be on **Saturday 12th February** in the Church Hall from 11.00am to 1.00pm. We warmly invite everyone to join us for fellowship and friendship we will be having soup, bacon barmcakes, sandwiches and cakes etc. There will be the usual tombola, cake stall and raffle and of course contributions to these events will be gratefully received. We look forward to seeing you.

It is prior to our AGM that I annually 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 organisation 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

May we look at the seasons and know that God, in all his splendour, has provided seasons within our lives so that we appreciate our good fortunes, learn from our mistakes, and look forward to the future. May we look at our seasons with gratitude for all that we experience and learn in our daily lives.

In Jesus' name.

Amen

Patricia C Smith, Mothers' Union Trinidad & Tobago

All my love and prayers

Barbara

February Services



St Thomas'

St Luke's

6th February

9.00am Morning Prayer
10.45am Worship Together
6.30pm Communion

11.00am Family Worship

13th February

9.00am Morning Prayer
10.45am Worship Together

11.00am Family Communion

20th February

9.00am Morning Prayer
10.45am Worship Together
4.30pm Farsi Worship
6.30pm Evening Prayer

11.00am Family Worship

27th February

9.00am Communion
10.45am Worship Together with Communion

11.00am Family Worship

Happy New Year Everyone!

We hope you have had a lovely Christmas- just as you deserved!



Before Christmas we were very busy...

The Juniors enjoyed a trip to the cinema to watch the new Disney movie, Encanto. We really enjoyed it and we also enjoyed lots of goodies! The infants took a trip to the theatre to watch Cinderella, they loved it too.

Reception put on a fabulous performance of their play, A Wiggly Nativity with Year 3. They also performed it at St Thomas' church for all of their grownups. One of the best parts of Christmas at St Thomas' is our Carol Service. We all gathered together to sing our favorite Christmas carols. Our talented sign language club performed 'Away in a Manger', it was amazing!

We also enjoyed a music day where we learned all about the song 'Jingle Bells'. Did you know that its name wasn't actually Jingle Bells, it was called A One Horse Open Sleigh. How crazy is that? It was a very fun day!

In the New Year, we have been learning lots of new things.

This week, Reception have been busy learning all about Hanukah - how interesting.

Year 1 have been really enjoying their new book 'Handa's Surprise', they even had a DT day where they tried lots of new fruits!

Year 2 have been studying New Year. They have learned lots about New Year, they have really enjoyed it.

Up in Year 3, they have been focusing on The Romans and have been learning about how they used to live, they were fascinated!

Year 4 are looking forward to Hrothgar the Viking coming to pay a visit, a real Viking, how exciting!

Up in Year 5, they have been learning all about Materials in Science, studying them and talking about all the different types.

And finally, in Year 6 we have been practicing and revising for our SATS - it has been difficult but it will be worth it!

We would like to say a huge thank you to our PFA, they have provided us with many things over the Christmas period such as coaches for our trips and our food at our Christmas parties.

We wish you the best, now and in the future. Stay safe everyone!

Amelia, Jamie and Archie x



Donations Information

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

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

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

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

Funds currently in use are:

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

Unless otherwise stated, donations will go into the General fund

Donations & Remembrance



Birthday memories of **Gordon Lyon** (9th February)

Sadly missed

From Marie & family

In memory of our dear friend **Ken Laites**

From Malcolm & Barbara

St Luke's Donation

From Joan Graham

Flower Guild Donation

In Memory of **Arthur Edwardson**

From Hilda, Raymond & Sharon



The Registers



Funerals 'May they rest in peace'		
5 January 2022	John Evans	88
11 January 2022	Terence Hopkins	87
12 January 2022	Sandra Cross	77
14 January 2022	Hilda Marsh	93
21 January 2022	Margaret Williams	92
27 January 2022	Emlyn Jones	85

Holy Baptism 'We welcome them into the Lord's family'	
9 January 2022	Charlie Stephen Shaw
9 January 2022	Darren Mark Shaw
9 January 2022	Jamie Duckworth
23 January 2022	Liam Arthur Hockey

St Thomas' and St Luke's Organisations

Coffee Mornings

Tues 10am—12pm at St Thomas'
Barbara Taylor
205136

Wednesday Weenies

Wed 1pm—2.30pm in Church Hall
Jan Cornthwaite
721626

Mothers' Union

3rd Wed 7.30pm at St Thomas'
Barbara Taylor
205136

Fairtrade Stall

3rd Sun 11.45am at St Thomas'
Anne Wooff
724207

Asylum Seeker Support

3rd Sun 11.45am at St Thomas'
Anne & Chris Wooff
724207

Fur Clemt Stubshaw

Mon 12pm—1pm at St Luke's
Jennifer Harrison
718618

Litter Pick

3rd Sat 10am—12pm from Church Hall car park
Chris Wooff
724207

Flower Guild

Meta Laites
723679

Bowling Club

Henry Hunter
712709

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

Ashton Pantry Sue Thomas 07877704645

Tuesday & Saturday 11am - 12pm

Thursday & Sunday 3pm - 4pm

Youth Clubs

JYC: (for Y3—Y6) Mon 6pm - 7pm

Friday Youth Club: 7pm—8pm fortnightly

JYC Extra: Mon 5.30pm - 6pm

11—18 year olds : Sun 6pm—7pm

Children's Sunday Clubs at St Thomas' Karen Cunliffe 07721770305

Sunday 10.45am

Girl Guiding Rachel Starkie 718350

Brownies: Thursday 6.30pm

Guides: Tuesday 7.00pm

St Thomas' and St Luke's Church Officials

Sunday Morning Worship Local Mission

Leaders

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

Readers

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

Assistant Wardens

St Thomas': Tony Cornthwaite	721626
Paula Gillespie	711270

St Luke's: Carol Pye	517318
John Boon	204082

St Thomas' Deputy Wardens

Barbara Taylor	205136
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Assistant Treasurers

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

Administration, Bookings and Advertising

Ruth Laemmel
ruth.laemmel@churchwigan.org

Magazine Editor

Jess Bradley 07498323469
magazine@stthomasstluke.org.uk

Freewill Offerings Secretary

Malcolm Taylor	205136
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Electoral Roll Secretary

Ruth Laemmel	see below
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Asylum Seeker Support

Anne & Chris Wooff	724207
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Children, Young People & Families

Jan Corthwaite	721626
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Flowers

Meta Laites	723679
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Church Architect

Bill Schafer	717300
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St Thomas' Worship Group

Mary Owen	203277
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St Thomas' Organist

Paul Tushingham	711085
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