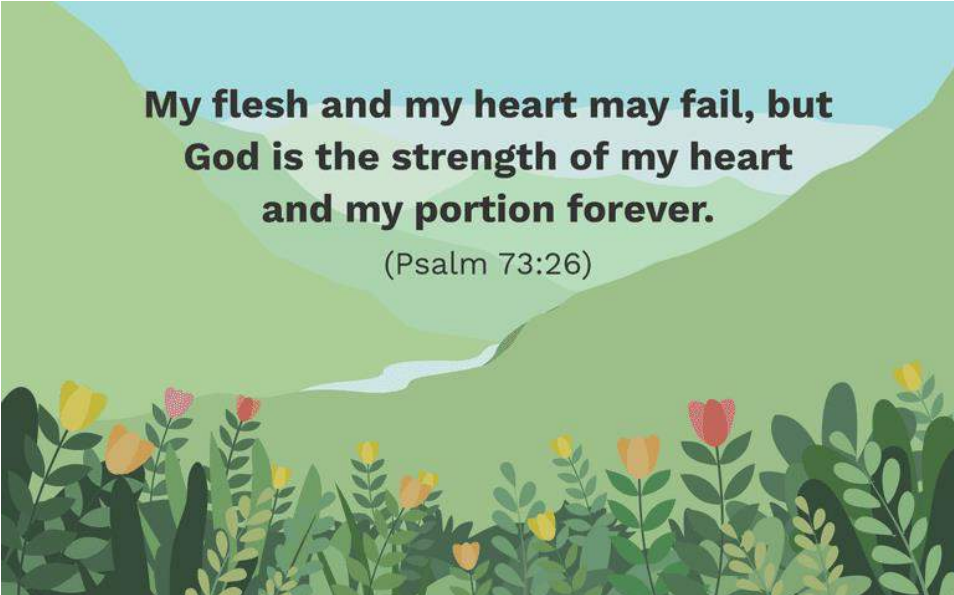


St Thomas' and St Luke's Ashton - in - Makerfield Magazine



**My flesh and my heart may fail, but
God is the strength of my heart
and my portion forever.**

(Psalm 73:26)

July 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

Usual services are suspended. Please ring Jan (721626) to book for St Thomas' 9.30am Sunday service and Carole (517318) for St Luke's 1pm Sunday service.

Please note that places are limited.

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	August	September
Hand Written	N/A	27 August
Emailed	N/A	3 September
Magazine Release	N/A	12 September

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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.

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



Letter from Sue

I have been isolating for the last six days which meant that I couldn't go on retreat with my friends who I have trained with for the last two years or be ordained with them on Saturday. I know that my disappointment was nothing compared to some of the disappointments many have experienced, particularly during this pandemic. But on Wednesday evening I found myself struggling as I watched my fellow ordinands take their oaths and canonical vows.

I listen to the Lectio365 app each morning on my phone and over the last few weeks, the focus has been on Elijah's crushing disappointment that, even after God's incredible display of his power against the prophets of Baal, Ahab and the people of Israel still didn't return to worship God as their only god. If you don't remember all of this story from the Old Testament, maybe you could reread 1 Kings 18-19?

Last Wednesday, I shed a few tears, I talked to my husband about how I felt and I got out my journal and poured out my heart to God. I know that mine was a minor issue but at that time, it was important to me. Author Richard Rohr tells us that if we don't transform our pain, then we will transmit it to others and they will usually be those closest to us and I know that I have done this in the past.

After Elijah has fled from Jezebel, he sat down under a broom bush and told God that he had had enough and that he wanted to die. Elijah's honesty invited God into his pain and he felt an angel touch him. God provided food and rest for him and began the slow process of healing and transformation. I felt that healing in praying blessings over my friends who were on retreat and then joy on the Friday when I found out that, rather than being ordained with

essential people only as I had imagined, I could be ordained in St Thomas' with people I love with me.

Are you carrying a pain or disappointment? You may also have had dreams or plans cancelled by these pandemic restrictions. Maybe you feel disconnected from those important to you, have lost your job or maybe even lost a person who you love?

Yes, God knows everything about us, but he wants us to tell him about our hurts and bring his presence into those issues. Maybe you could ask God to help you to face your worries, especially those you try to keep hidden, and share them with him?

Maybe you could pray our bible passage for this year:

Don't worry about anything; instead, pray about everything. Tell God what you need, and thank him for all he has done. Then you will experience God's peace, which exceeds anything we can understand. His peace will guard your hearts and minds as you live in Christ Jesus. (Philippians 4:6-7).

Sue Thomas



**** AUGUST MAGAZINE ****

Please note that we will not have an August edition of the magazine but shall be back with the September edition on the slightly later than usual date of **12th September.**



Mothers' Union

At the time of writing we are looking forward to our summer outing which this year is the postponed visit to St Oswald's church. Some 30 members and friends will be joining us on the 24th and I will be giving a full report in next month's magazine.

I am sure that I don't need to remind members that 2021 is special year for the MU. It is the 145th anniversary of our founding and a century since the passing of Mary Sumner our founder.

As a movement started and sustained by the strength of Mary Sumner's vision of women supporting one another, we continue to thrive all these many years later.

Mary Sumner led a true breakthrough for women, who in her time were mainly seen as playing a supporting role in the church, work and society. She made sure that women's voices were heard and their own rights and needs recognised. Truly an amazing woman and a stirring example to us all.

Mary Sumner's personal prayer

All this day, O Lord,
let me touch as many lives
as possible for thee;
and every life I touch,
do thou by thy spirit quicken,
whether through the word I speak,
the prayer I breathe,
and the life I live.

Amen

Love and Prayers
Barbara

News from our churches

Church Re-order

The pandemic has created supply problems and as a result the laying of the floor tiles will not be completed in time for a service on the 11th July. We are however optimistic that everything will be ready for **25th July** which is after the scheduled date for the lifting of the Covid restrictions. Keep this date in mind and in your prayers so that we can look forward to a great celebration.

Tuesday Coffee

I am sure like everyone I was disappointed when the release from the restrictive rules created by the Covid pandemic were delayed from the 21st June for a further four weeks. I know that many are missing our regular get together for coffee and a chat on Tuesday mornings. Provided that we comply with the social distancing rules it is intended that we soon be meeting again. Keep your eyes on the Notice Sheet for details.

Freewill Offering envelopes

The envelopes issued at the beginning of the year run out at the end of June. It has been difficult to assess whether to reorder as the use of the envelopes since June have been somewhat irregular with more than a half not in use, caused no doubt by the absence of regular attendance at our church buildings. We do still depend on your support and your donations as church expenses still occur. I would like to thank those members of the Freewill Offering scheme who have continued, by hook or by crook, to get the envelopes to us for banking. If you have been filling in your envelopes but are not sure what to do with them either put them through the vicarage door or give me a ring (205136) and I will arrange for them to be collected. Before we go to the expense of reordering sets for the second half of the year please let me know that you wish to continue. As an alternative to envelopes or money donations you might like to consider making your donation through your bank account to Parish Giving. If you want to know more about this scheme please ring me or call 0333 002 1271 to set up a direct debit through Parish Giving.

Heath Road Graveyard

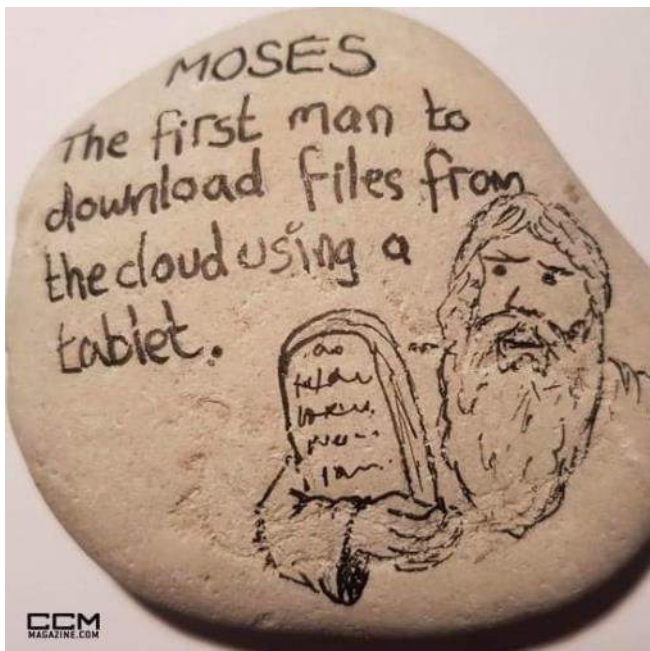
This time last year I wrote about the problems in this graveyard both with regard to the grass which needs cutting and holes which need filling. We are entirely dependant on the work of volunteers to try to keep the conditions as reasonable as possible. I would like to thank the small number of volunteers currently working hard to achieve a result. Sadly my request for an army of volunteers seems, in the main, to have fallen on deaf ears, as I have said previously 'your church needs you.'

Chair Donations

Thank you to the following for the generous donations to our chair appeal:

Mansell and Linda High
Chris & Anne Wooff
James & Barbara Cotton
Henry & Valerie Hunter

Malcolm





Duke of Edinburgh - Call for Leaders

Here at St Thomas and St Luke's we have been a local award centre for the Duke of Edinburgh (DofE) award scheme since 2002 and have delivered bronze, silver and gold level awards. To see young people, learn key life skills, work as part of a team and grow in confidence is very rewarding.

We have experienced challenges at St Thomas' and St Luke's in a year that has seen so much change in the way that DofE is delivered as a result of adapting to the pandemic and the sad passing of the schemes founder, Prince Phillip.

The leaders have been predominantly members of St Thomas and St Luke's Church, and the participants meet in St Thomas' Church Hall weekly during school term times. Whilst supported by the Church there is no requirement for participants to attend Church. Programmes usually align to the school academic year, commencing in September.

We currently have a small team of 6 leaders, who are approaching retirement age and are stepping back, but would support a new team for a smooth transition.

We really need new leaders to come forward to support this very valuable programme if we are to offer a new intake in September 2021. Anyone interested, we would be happy to meet and discuss what being a leader means.

The Award consists of a programme of activities in four sections:

Volunteering: helping someone, your community or the environment

Physical: a physical activity that is extracurricular

Skills: through the skills section you can choose to improve on an existing skill or learn something new. It's all about giving something a go, learning and getting better at it

Expedition: planning, training for and completing an adventurous journey with an overnight camp (approximately 10hours training, a practice weekend and an assessment weekend)

All four sections must be complete to achieve the award.

For further information please contact Ceri Mansell 01942 727417.

ROADS : ASHTON IN MAKERFIELD

In the 16th and 17th centuries the roads in England were in a very poor condition. The roads in Ashton were not as good as the old Roman Road, constructed in the 1st century AD with a stone surface and drainage ditches, that passed through Ashton and which was exposed in 2018 at Landgate. The roads were simply a dirt track about 2 or 3 metres wide used by horses, carts and carriages. After heavy rain travel on the roads was difficult due to mud and deep ruts. In winter the roads were often unusable and consequently most road transport was during the summer months. During the reign of Mary 1 the Highways Statute 1555 made each parish responsible for maintaining the roads or highways within their boundaries. Each parishioner had to provide every year 4 days, later 6 days, labour on the roads for each plough land or pasture land that he owned. A Surveyor of the Highways was appointed to monitor, arrange and supervise the work parties. In the 1670's John Ashton, of Ashton Cross, was the Surveyor of the Highways. The Statute of 1555 was seldom enforced and in most parishes it made little difference to the roads.

Improvements began with the Turnpike Act 1706 which created Turnpike Trusts whereby local businessmen could build and run permanent turnpike roads and charge travellers a toll for using them. The toll was collected at a toll gate where there was a gate or barrier across the road. Part of the toll was to be used to maintain the road. From 1706 – 1776 the mileage of turnpike roads in England increased from 300 miles to 15,000 miles. By 1753 a turnpike road ran from Liverpool – St. Helens. In 1753 gentlemen, merchants, landowner and other inhabitants of Ashton petitioned the Turnpike Trustees to extend the turnpike road from St. Helens to Ashton so that coal could be transported to Liverpool. A Turnpike Trust set up to oversee the building of the road included Sir Thomas Gerard, Baronet, lord of the manor, of Garswood Hall, Garswood/Pewfall, and Legh Master Esq., of New Hall, Ashton in Makerfield.

In the 1750's as you entered Ashton from Ashton Cross the fields on either side of Dock Lane (Liverpool Road) were called the Townfields. The Ashton toll gate - the Townfield Gate - was set up near the present Old School Place on Liverpool Road. A toll house was built for the gate keeper, John Leech, of Dock Lane/ Liverpool Road, who would collect the tolls then open the gate for horses, wagons, carriages etc. to proceed. One of the tolls stated "all carts with 1 or 2 horses going for or with coal to or from Sir Thomas Gerard's pits were to pay 1d (less than 1/2 of 1 pence) a day per wagon". The road was covered with gravel and there was a cart causeway (highway) 9 yards wide and a horse causeway 1 yard wide. After the Townfield Gate the next gate was beyond Pewfall at Judgefield Gate, Haydock, on the far side of the present East Lancashire Road.

Despite these improvements the Ashton road was by 1768 in need of repair. In 1771 the traveller Arthur Young on his Tour of North England described the turnpike near Wigan "I know not, in the whole range of language, terms sufficiently expressive to propose to travel this infernal road. Avoid it like the devil for it will break your neck or limbs by overthrows or breakings down". In 1772 John Wesley, the co-founder of Methodism wrote "before we came to Ashton I was glad to use my own feet, and leave the poor horses to drag the carriage as best they could". It was only in the early 19th century with road builders Thomas Telford and John McAdam that roads improved. They based their road construction on Roman principles, the road being higher in the middle than at the edges so water would drain away into roadside ditches and with stone embedded surfaces.

David A. Fearnley

David thanks again for another glimpse into the distant past of our town. Perhaps we might think again before we moan about potholes!

Malcolm



St Thomas' Church Hall, Ashton in Makerfield

Tuesday 11am—12pm

Thursday 3pm—4pm

Saturday 11am—12pm

Sunday 3pm—4pm

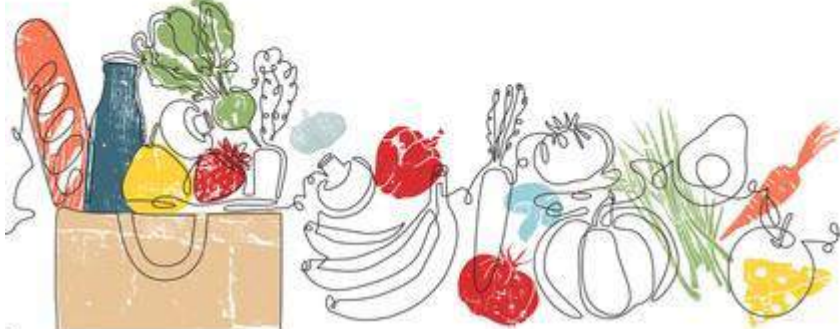
£5 annual membership

£3 per visit with a wide range of foods available

Max 2 visits per week

Additional donations welcome

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.





Daily reflection: Mark 6

Over recent weeks Church Wigan has been sharing the daily reflections of the Bible Society's bible in one year. See here the reflection from day 34. To see more of the Bible Society's programme, visit

<https://www.biblesociety.org.uk/explore-the-bible/>

Jesus was attracting large crowds who came to hear his teaching and receive his ministry. When he went to his own town, Nazareth, it was a different story: the people there saw only the carpenter who had grown up among them. Calling him the 'son of Mary' (verse 3) may indicate that there were continuing doubts about the legitimacy of Jesus' birth and that 'son of Mary' was a veiled insult; Joseph believed that she conceived 'by the Holy Spirit' (Matthew 1.20, GNB), but perhaps the townspeople weren't so sure. In any case, they seem to have felt that Jesus was getting above himself. So he was 'not able to perform any miracles there' apart from a few healings. This is quite a shocking statement. We are used to thinking of Jesus being able to do anything. But Mark is quite clear: he was limited in what he could do by the people's lack of faith in him.

There's no automatic connection between the amount of faith we have and what God does for us. That sort of equation can be very cruel, for instance if someone is blamed for not having enough faith if they or a loved one is not healed from an illness. But this story speaks clearly about the need for us to co-operate with God in what we undertake. If we aren't receptive to his leading and open to his possibilities, we will limit what he can do with us and through us.

Pray

God, help me to be a faithful disciple in my family and among those I love, even when it's hard. And please let me be someone who says 'yes' to your possibilities, and doesn't close them down by my lack of faith.



Sunday School Groups

Sunday club didn't meet during lockdown however WhatsApp messages were sent out to all our infants and juniors each week. They included a video from one of the leaders outlining a bible story plus a craft, a you tube clip and a song.

This, whilst far from ideal, has kept our children and families linked to church whilst physically kept apart by the pandemic.

Over the last couple of months many of our children and parents have met each Sunday morning in the vicarage garden. It has been so wonderful to see them in person once again. Story time takes place under the two events shelters which Sue and Jer have kindly allowed to stay up.

The children enjoy crafts and adventures across the garden each week where creation, Noah and, currently the parables of Jesus, have been taught.

What great fun for all in a safe environment!





St Thomas' School

Reporters

Compassion

In compassion we raised money for Joseph and Princess, two children who St Thomas's sponsor to help them with their education. In each class we have a compassion box which is filled with a good amount of money.

Christian Aid

In Christian aid week year 6 did a photo booth, Get Funky with Monkey, with the monkey that Mrs. Crawley kindly donated. Year 5 did spot the bear, another teddy donated by Mrs. Crawley because she starred on Ant and Dec's Saturday Night Takeaway! In year 4 and year 3 they did a raffle. Year 4 had an inflatable unicorn and year 3 had a giraffe teddy.

Collectively from the class fundraising, the sponsored walk and the Y6 car wash we raised £2,079 - what a phenomenal amount! Well done to all the children, staff and parents at St Thomas'. This will be divided equally between our two charities.

Fun day

On the fun day we did a lot of fun activities like going under the cargo net and beating the goalie. We also got tattoos and had to knock down the cans to win a prize. We paid for a chocolate tombola and we got a free toy or sweeties. This was an event that the PFA sorted and all of KS1 and KS2 are grateful for what they have done!

Goodbyes

It is always sad to say goodbye and this year particularly so as we say goodbye and good luck to Y6 class, Mrs Crawley, Mrs Kerr and Mrs Anders. It has been wonderful that they have been part of the St Thomas family and we all wish them every happiness in the future.

Wednesday Weenies

The Wednesday Weenies Toddler Group has been going for about 30 years. Never once in that time would anyone have imagined that anything as dramatic as a pandemic would prevent it from operating. However, hooray it is back once again although at present a limited numbers of adults and children are able to attend and booking for a place is required.

We are meeting for about an hour in the vicarage garden and thankfully never once has it rained in the two months or so we have been open again!

Rather than write this report myself the following is the work of the children, parents, grandparents and helpers who regularly attend. I wonder if you can identify which comments are from the children and which are from the adults!?

Thank you Sue and Jeremy for lending us

I love the chickens
(said by many)

How lovely it is to see the children and young mums back at Weenies.

It's a lovely atmosphere at Weenies in the garden with lots of fresh air and wonderful company.

It's our first time at Weenies today. It's a lovely garden for the children to play in.

Thank You Weenie helpers.

The musical instruments don't sound so loud outside!!

It is great for the children to build friendships and for parents and carers to be encouraged by meeting each other .

Ruby likes to come and meet other children. It's great meeting other adults.

Weenies is a friendly place to play and sing



It is vital for us to come and enjoy the Weenies community after a long period of lockdown.

Weenies is friendly and welcoming

Do you remember a few weeks ago the children were playing alone? Now they are playing together.

It is great to be in the garden playing together and singing, "We are Weenies". We have missed it.

I love coming to Granny's Garden Church and I love the chickens and the swings but my favourite part is singing and dancing.

We all got wet on the water play day.

I love Weenies outdoors and hope it will continue

I love Weenies in the garden where I can see the other children who are my friends.

There's nothing like a good chat.

It is so nice to see the children interact with one another and for parents to meet up

When we get to the garden door Florence excitedly claps and cheers. She loves her afternoon at Weenies with her weenie friends.

So there you go, I think everyone is enjoying Weenies. Sadly, it's nearly time for a summer break but we will reconvene in September for more fun!





Here is love



A new mother cradling her tiny bundle of joy
Exhausted from the labour but overflowing with affection for the new life
before her...
Here is love

A young couple committing their lives to one another in the presence of
friends and family
For richer for poorer, in good times and in bad...
Here is love

A family sharing precious moments around the dinner table
With laughter and joy overflowing like a river...
Here is love

A caring neighbour braving the busy supermarkets to shop for those
more vulnerable
Thinking little of the service and support they are providing...
Here is love

A fun and playful pair of grandparents racing around the house and
playing 'Hide and Seek'
Spending valuable time in teaching and nurturing the next generation...
Here is love

A group of friends catching up over the phone
Though physical separation may be a challenge, the ties remain just as
strong...
Here is love

A community group picking up litter in their local area
Taking time to care for the planet in a greener and more sustainable
way...
Here is love

A committed carer holding hands with a dying resident but more
importantly a friend
Comforting, reassuring and just simply being there...
Here is love

A group of school children holding a sponsored walk in aid of charity
Raising money and awareness; seeking to bring justice into a world that
appears lost...
Here is love

An elderly husband and wife holding hands quietly on a seaside bench
The years and wisdom of a successful marriage evident for all to see...
Here is love

A National Health Service tackling a global pandemic
Working extended hours, losing holidays and colleagues yet remaining
true to their calling at every step...
Here is love

A mother giving up eating this week to ensure that her children are fed
Caring not for her own needs but worried for the kids in her care and
their future ahead...
Here is love

A local church passionate in its mission and evangelism
Equipping and sending out disciples to share God's love in all its
forms...
Here is love

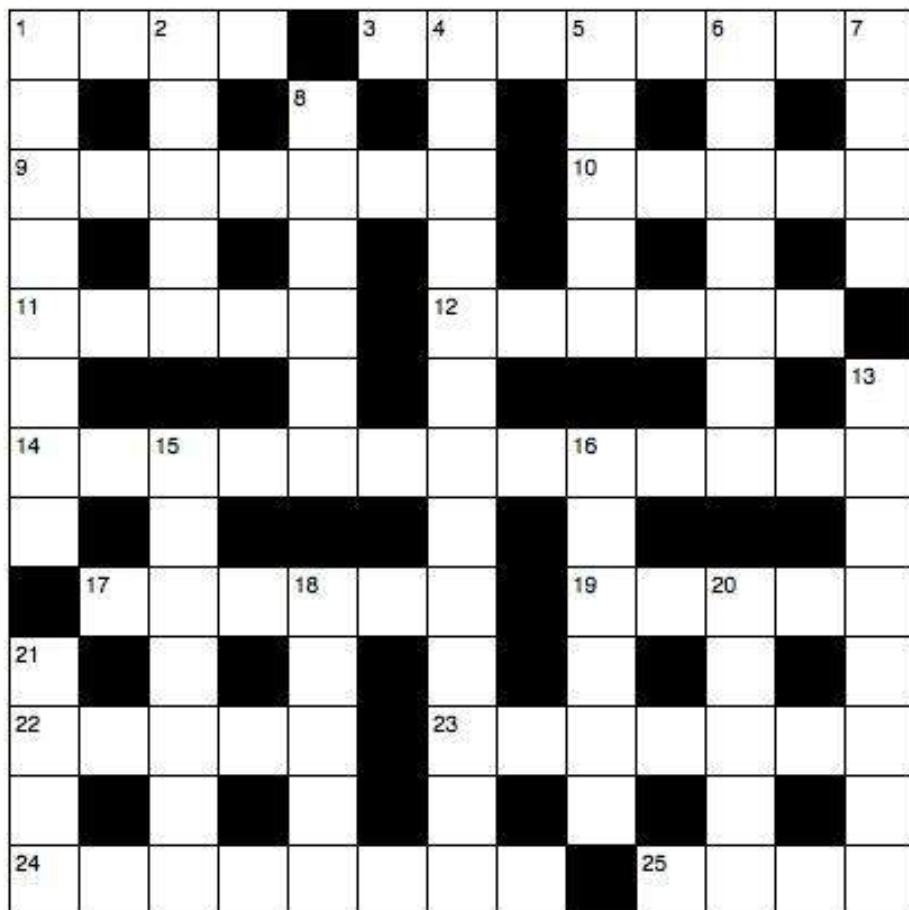
A world facing an uncertain future with climate change, wars and
pandemics
Yet united it can make a difference one step at a time...
Here is love

An individual just like you and like me
With the power to make positive changes; showing peace and kindness
to all those we greet...
Here is love

A cross lying empty the body long gone
Yet a legacy that lasts for eternity through the greatest love story ever
told
With blood poured out and souls set free...
This is love

Joanna Wooff

Crossword



Answers on page 27

ACROSS

- 1 Sent out three times on a reconnaissance mission from Noah's ark (Genesis 8:8–12) (4)
- 3 'The vilest — who truly believes, that moment from Jesus a pardon receives' (8)
- 9 Described by the 19th-century MP Sir Wilfred Lawson as 'the Devil in solution' (7)
- 10 'Whoever — his life for my sake will find it' (Matthew 10:39) (5)
- 11 King of Gezer (Joshua 10:33) (5)
- 12 Gideon's home town (Judges 6:11) (6)
- 14 The area under the jurisdiction of a primate, for example, Canterbury, York (13)
- 17 To him God promised that David would be king (1 Chronicles 11:3) (6)
- 19 A descendant of Aaron who was not allowed to offer food to God (Leviticus 21:20) (5)
- 22 'If any of you — wisdom, he should ask God' (James 1:5) (5)
- 23 I gain me (anag.) (7)
- 24 Relating to the armed forces (1 Chronicles 5:18) (8)
- 25 Title given to 2 Down (abbrev.) (4)

DOWN

- 1 Greek coins (Acts 19:19) (8)
- 2 Church of England incumbent (5)
- 4 What Epaphroditus was to Paul (Philippians 2:25) (6-7)
- 5 Mother of David's sixth son (2 Samuel 3:5) (5)
- 6 'We are hard pressed on every side, but not crushed; perplexed, but not in — ' (2 Corinthians 4:8) (7)
- 7 It destroys treasures on earth (Matthew 6:19) (4)
- 8 It threatened Paul in Jerusalem (Acts 21:35) (3,3)
- 13 Well-known Reference Bible that espoused dispensationalism (8)
- 15 Where the choir sits in a parish church (7)
- 16 Real do (anag.) (6)
- 18 'Martha, Martha... you are worried and — about many things' (Luke 10:41) (5)
- 20 'One man considers one day more sacred than another; another man considers every day — ' (Romans 14:5) (5)
- 21 A place with twelve springs and 70 palm trees where the Israelites camped (Exodus 15:27) (4)

July Holy Days

15th July: St Swithun (or Swithin), saint for a rainy day

St Swithun is apparently the saint you can blame for rainy summers. It is said that if it rains on his special day, 15th July, it will then rain for 40 days after that. It all began when Swithun was made Bishop of Winchester in 852 by King Ethelwulf of Wessex. It was an important posting: Winchester was the capital of Wessex, and during the 10 years Swithun was there, Wessex became the most important kingdom of England.

During his life, instead of washing out people's summer holidays, and damping down their spirits, Swithun seems to have done a lot of good. He was famous for his charitable gifts and for his energy in getting churches built. When he was dying in 862, he asked that he be buried in the cemetery of the Old Minster, just outside the west door.

If he had been left there in peace, who knows how many rainy summers the English may have been spared over the last 1000 years. But, no, it was decided to move Swithun. By now, the 960s, Winchester had become the first monastic cathedral chapter in England, and the newly installed monks wanted Swithun in the cathedral with them. So finally, on 15 July 971, his bones were dug up and Swithun was translated into the cathedral.

That same day many people claimed to have had miraculous cures. Certainly everyone got wet, for the heavens opened. The unusually heavy rain that day, and on the days following, was attributed to the power of St Swithun. Swithun was moved again in 1093, into the new Winchester cathedral. His shrine was a popular place of pilgrimage throughout the middle ages. The shrine was destroyed during the Reformation and restored in 1962. There are 58 ancient dedications to Swithun in England.

16th July: St Helier, losing a loved one to violence

Take the book of Samuel in the Bible, add a bit of Luke Skywalker father/son conflict from Star Wars, stir in a dash of Pirates of the Caribbean, and you sort of have the story of St Helier – the first saint and martyr of Jersey.

According to the legend, it all began in 6th century Tongeren (now in Belgium). A pagan couple badly wanted a child, but the wife was barren. In desperation they sought the help of a local Christian, Cunibert. He advised them to pray to the Christian God, and to promise that any child born would be 'given back' to God. So, they did, and then the wife fell pregnant and gave birth to a son, Helier.

The parents were delighted – at first. But as the baby grew into a boy, it became clear that Helier was different from other children – he was precociously intelligent and could perform miracles. Helier's father found this unsettling and grew jealous of Cunibert's influence over his son. Finally, he plotted to have Cunibert murdered. In horror at such treachery, Helier fled. He wandered far, eventually reaching a monastic community in Normandy, run by Saint Marculf. Here he settled, seeking a life of contemplation, but it was not to be. Marculf had received pleas for help from the very few residents of an island called Gersut, or Agna (now called Jersey). They, too, had had bitter experience of violent men who killed their loved ones without warning: the Vikings and Saxons and Vandals had each visited the island in turn. Now they sought some comfort from the Christians: would someone bring them the Gospel? They had no one to shepherd them.

Marculf could not ignore such a plea, and so he sent Helier and a companion, Romard, to Jersey. The two monks found a small community of fishermen on the sand dunes where the modern town of St Helier would later grow. Helier chose to settle on a tidal islet, nowadays known as the Hermitage Rock. Romard, it was agreed, would act as the 'go between' between Helier in his hermitage and the fishing village.

Helier had chosen a remote spot for the peace and quiet it would give him as he approached God. But one day he discovered that his tidal islet had another great advantage as well. While looking out to sea and praying, he suddenly saw the sails of attacking pirates, stealthily approaching the island in boats.

Frantically, Helier signalled the shore of danger coming, and the fishermen and their families scattered into the surrounding marshes, beyond the reach of the bloodthirsty, lustful pirates. This happened time and again and became so well known in island history that even today, small dark clouds on the horizon are still known as *les voiles de St. Hélyi* (the sails of St Helier). As if that were not enough, Helier's prayers and the sign of the cross on another occasion stirred up such a storm that a raiding party was driven clear off the island.

One day the pirates finally caught up with Helier on his tidal islet. They beheaded him. Helier was deeply mourned and has always been revered in Jersey for having brought Christianity to the island.

When his head and body were sent back to France, a healing spring is reputed to have sprung up on the place where the boat came ashore, and so Helier is better known there as a healing saint. The traditional year of his martyrdom is 555AD. His feast day is still marked in Jersey by an annual municipal and ecumenical pilgrimage to the Hermitage, on 16th July.

Robert Carson's Film Report

Nobody (15)

Directed by Ilya Naishuller

Released: June 6th 2021



The Verdict: Every genre has its merits and its downsides, you go to see a really good comedy and you're guaranteed to leave smiling and having enjoyed yourself immensely, but see a bad one and you're pulling all sorts of faces at the disastrous attempts at humour. A great horror movie leaves you shaken for weeks and a bad one leaves you laughing out loud. You can bet your bottom dollar that the same thing applies to an action movie, you can either have a Transformers: The Last Knight or a 2 Fast 2 Furious or you can get a Con Air or a John Wick: Parabellum or one of the best of the last decade: The Raid. The director of this very movie definitely has this idea in mind because it is easily one of the most purely enjoyable spectacles you're likely to see this year or many others, it just breezes along and leaves you grinning like the Cheshire Cats whimsical uncle. Taking the simple premise of the one-man army, this is a film that with every scene is a plot and scenes you've seen before but when they're done with such brio and panache and such a pace and such humour then it really doesn't matter. It's the simple everyday man who turns out to be an absolute lethal weapon and then proceeds to basically take out everyone he can in mad and insane ways. Bob Odenkirk is just sublime in this role, always has been a great mix of comedic and dramatic in his roles and he nails it here whilst Christopher Lloyd as his veteran dad? Oh, it's great to see him on shining form once more. Whilst a cast of faces you'll easily recognise and some just insane action sequences straight from John Wick or Kick Ass this is just quite simply 90 minutes of a chefs kiss of a movie. Just go see it and thank me later!

Rating: 10/10

A Quiet Place: Part II

Directed by: John Krasinski

Released: June 1st 2021

The Verdict: Movies like A Quiet Place come along once in a while and just blow most other things out of the water... sure the premise isn't the most original thing in the entire universe but to be fair it's still something that's not been done often. That first movie was my runaway favourite movie of the year it came out (a year that also brought us Mary Poppins Returns, Into the Spider-Verse, Widows, Avengers: Infinity War, Tully, Phantom Thread and A Star is Born to name a few) and was a masterclass in sound design, tension and atmosphere. So naturally, being a smash hit runaway success meant a sequel was inevitable. Great news is, it's pretty darn good. Essentially carrying on straight from where the first one left off and following the surviving family members journey to survive and defeat the threat... it also flashes back to show us how it all started in the single standout sequence of the year so far, a fantastic set piece and tracking shot that is terrifying and exhausting in equal measure. Plus; it gives Krasinski some much needed screen-time which is never a bad thing. New cast member Cillian Murphy takes on the mantle of what Johns' role in the first film was in a way and is reliably great as he always is, whilst Millicent Simmonds just runs away with the whole film in the important role she plays in the narrative as essentially the focus and heroine of the piece. Emily Blunt is never anything other than terrific and as always, she shines throughout whilst Djimon Hounsou is always watchable in a late on support role. There's plenty of twists and turns as the plot moves on; and the tension never ever wains... plenty of jumps and tension and now, after wondering whether a sequel was needed... well, I'm just very eager for the inevitable next one now!

Rating: 9/10

Also Seen

Cruella (12A) 9/10

In the Heights (PG) 9/10

The Purge: Election Year (15) 8/10

London Has Fallen (15) 7/10

The Purge: Anarchy (15) 8/10

Judas and the Black Messiah (15) 9/10

Nomadland (12A) 10/10

The Lost City of Z (15) 7/10

Godzilla vs. Kong (12A) 7/10

The Midnight Sky (12A) 7/10

Allied (15) 7/10

Wordsearch

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David

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dinner

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Uriah

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Joab

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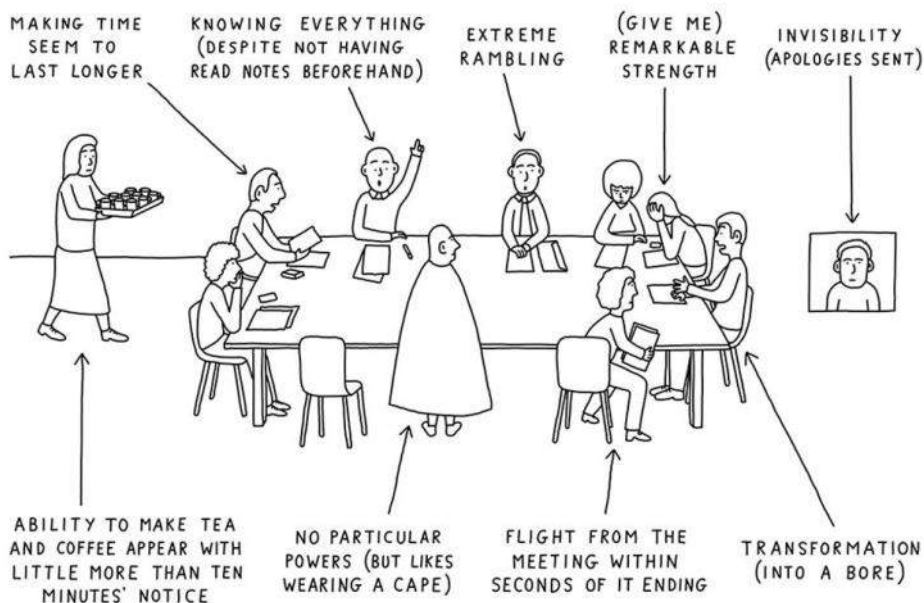
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Crossword answers

ACROSS: 1, Dove. 3, Offender. 9, Alcohol. 10, Loses. 11, Horam. 12, Ophrah. 14, Archbishopric. 17, Samuel. 19, Dwarf. 22, Lacks. 23, Imagine. 24, Military. 25, Revd.

DOWN: 1, Drachmas. 2, Vicar. 4, Fellow-soldier. 5, Eglah. 6, Despair. 7, Rust. 8, The mob. 13, Scofield. 15, Chancel. 16, Ordeal. 18, Upset. 20, Alike. 21, Elim.



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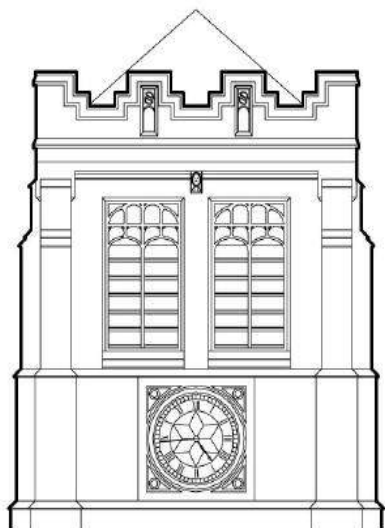
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Many people are asking us how they can give their usual weekly offerings. We do appreciate your concern for the finances of the church as the plate offerings help towards the payment that has to go to the diocese each month. We need to continue these 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.

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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



Birthday remembrance of **Arthur Shaw** (23rd July), a loving Dad
and Grandad
from Barbara, Malcolm and family

Thank you to all those who have made donations to purchase
chairs

**Apologies as the following donation was omitted from the
June magazine:**

Birthday and Anniversary Remembrance of **Ian David McLaren**
(3/5 and 10/5)
a dearly loved brother and uncle
From Pauline, Kevin, Susan, Nick, Jack and Stuart



The Registers



Funerals - "May they rest in peace"

17 June 2021	Ethel Ashton	Old Road	86
28 June 2021	Freda Middlehurst	Wentworth Road	83



Father,
you know our hearts and share our sorrows.
We are hurt by our parting from those whom we loved:
when we are angry at the loss we have sustained,
when we long for words of comfort,
yet find them hard to hear,
turn our grief to truer living,
our affliction to firmer hope
in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen



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<u>Church Architect</u> Bill Schafer 717300	<u>F.W.O. Secretary</u> Vacant
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<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 07721770305

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<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>
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