

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



**From the rising of the sun to its going down
The Lord's name is to be praised.**

July 2023

70p

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South Hub Church Wigan

Parish Information

Baptisms

Baptisms (also called Christenings) are held around the Parish throughout the month. Please come along to the morning service at the church of your choice, and you can talk about booking a date that works well for you and church. Godparents must have been baptised themselves 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 wedding or a baptism, please attend at one of our churches or see the contact details at the rear of the magazine. Funeral Directors will book any funerals.

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.

	August	September	October
Deadline for material	Summer break	17 August	14 September
Publication date	Summer break	27 August	24 September

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Storms of Life



The boat was tossed from side to side
Buffeted by the wind and rain,
Alarm and panic filled their hearts
Would they ever reach the shore again?

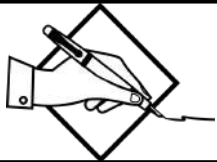
The sky was dark and looking out
They thought they saw a ghost appear,
Transfixed with horror, what could it be
Treading on water and drawing near?

Their hearts were stilled as hope arose
As they heard the voice of the One they knew,
'Do not be afraid, this storm will pass'
And the sea grew calm and the wind withdrew.

When storms of life assail our boat
And our hearts are filled with dread and fear,
Remember the One who treads the waves,
He sees our plight – He's drawing near.



By Megan Carter



A Letter from

Six Marys are mentioned in the New Testament, including Mary Magdalene, who is remembered this month in the church's calendar. What can we learn from Mary's story?

We don't have to be defined by our past:

When Jesus encountered Mary, He cast seven demons out of her (Luke 8:2). As a result, her life was transformed and she became a follower of Jesus. Her life as a disciple was no longer defined by the person she had been before. Like Mary, we don't have to let our past without Christ dictate how we see ourselves today.

Put Jesus at the centre of our world:

Along with some of the women who had been cured of evil spirits and diseases (Luke 8:1-3), Mary followed Jesus and His disciples and supported them in ministry. She was there at the cross (Matthew 27:55-56) and one of the first to the tomb on the Sunday (Matthew 28:1; Mark 16:1 and John 20:1-18). Like Mary, we are called to serve Jesus as dedicated disciples.

Jesus uses the weakest in the world:

Mary is a great example of Paul's words: 'But God chose the foolish things of the world to shame the wise; God chose the weak things of the world to shame the strong.' (1 Corinthians 1:27). At a time when women were regarded as second-class citizens with no real autonomy, Jesus had a special compassion and care for women. Alongside Mary, the women's witness to the resurrection was taken seriously.

We should be careful not to dismiss the things that don't follow our expectations, because Jesus doesn't always do what we expect! He delights in working out His plans through unlikely people and in surprising ways. He did this through Mary, and if we let Him, He can do it through us!

Parish News

Regular Events

Tuesdays

10am – 12pm: Coffee Morning in St Thomas' church hall



Wednesdays

1pm – 2.30pm: Wednesday Weenies in St Thomas' church hall (term time only)

1pm - 3pm: Knit and Chat group at St Peter's (term time only)

7.30pm: Women's Fellowship at St Peter's



Fridays

2pm – 3.15pm: Gentle dance class at St Luke's

2.10pm: Bible study in St Thomas' church hall



**ST THOMAS & ST LUKE'S MOTHERS' UNION
WELCOMES EVERYONE TO:**

SUMMER EVENING
Monday 17th July 2023
7.30pm
St Thomas' Church Hall

Enjoy entertainment from Banjo and Beyond
Refreshments and free raffle
Tickets £4.00



Happy Birthday to St Thomas' church building which was re-built using stones from the old structure and consecrated on 6th July 1893 - 130 years ago! To find out more about this historical moment in the parish, see St Thomas' website or pages 26 - 28 of the St Thomas' version of the magazine.



There will be a Picnic in the Park in Ashton's Jubilee flower park on 16th July from 12:30-3:30pm. There will be music, messy church, prayer tent... bring a chair or picnic blanket and a picnic. Cakes, drinks and ice cream sundaes will be available for free!



Overrun with mice in the abbey
The abbot introduced his pet tabby.
The problem was solved
But lo -and-behold,
Tabby grew rather flabby.

Losing his speed and agility,
Tabby lost the ability,
To hunt for his prey,
Being ten years and a day,
He conceded to advancing senility!

John Daniels.

Services in July

Sunday 2nd	9.00am Morning Worship 9.30am Morning Worship 10.00am Holy Communion 10.30am Holy Communion 10.30am Morning Worship 10.45am Worship Together 11.00am Family Worship 6.30pm Holy Communionam	St Thomas' St Andrew's St Aidan's St Peter's Holy Trinity St Thomas' St Luke's St Thomas'
Wednesday 5th	10.00am: Holy Communion	St Aidan's
Thursday 6th	9.45am: BCP Holy Communion	St Thomas'
Sunday 9th	9.00am Holy Communion 9.30am Holy Communion 10.30am Sta's4all in school 10.30am All Age Worship 10.30am Holy Communion 10.45am Worship Together 11.00am Holy Communion 4.00pm Evening Prayer	St Thomas' St Andrew's St Aidan's St Peter's Holy Trinity St Thomas' St Luke's St Aidan's
Wednesday 12th	10.00am Holy Communion	Holy Trinity
Thursday 13th	9.45am BCP Holy Communion	St Thomas'

Sunday 16th	9.00am Morning Worship 9.30am Church café 10.00am Morning Worship 10.30am Morning Prayer 10.30am Morning Worship 10.45am Holy Communion 11.00am Family Worship 6.30pm Evening Prayer	St Thomas' St Andrew's St Aidan's St Peter's Holy Trinity St Thomas' St Luke's St Thomas'
Wednesday 19th	10.00am: Holy Communion	St Aidan's
Thursday 20th	9.45am: BCP Holy Communion	St Thomas'
Sunday 23rd	9.00am Holy Communion 9.30am Morning Worship 10.00am St Aidan's Beacon 10.30am Café Church 10.30am Holy Communion 10.45am Worship Together 11.00am Family Worship 4.00pm Holy Communion	St Thomas' St Andrew's St Aidan's St Peter's Holy Trinity St Thomas' St Luke's St Aidan's
Wednesday 26th	10.00am Holy Communion	Holy Trinity
Thursday 27th	9.45am BCP Holy Communion	St Thomas'

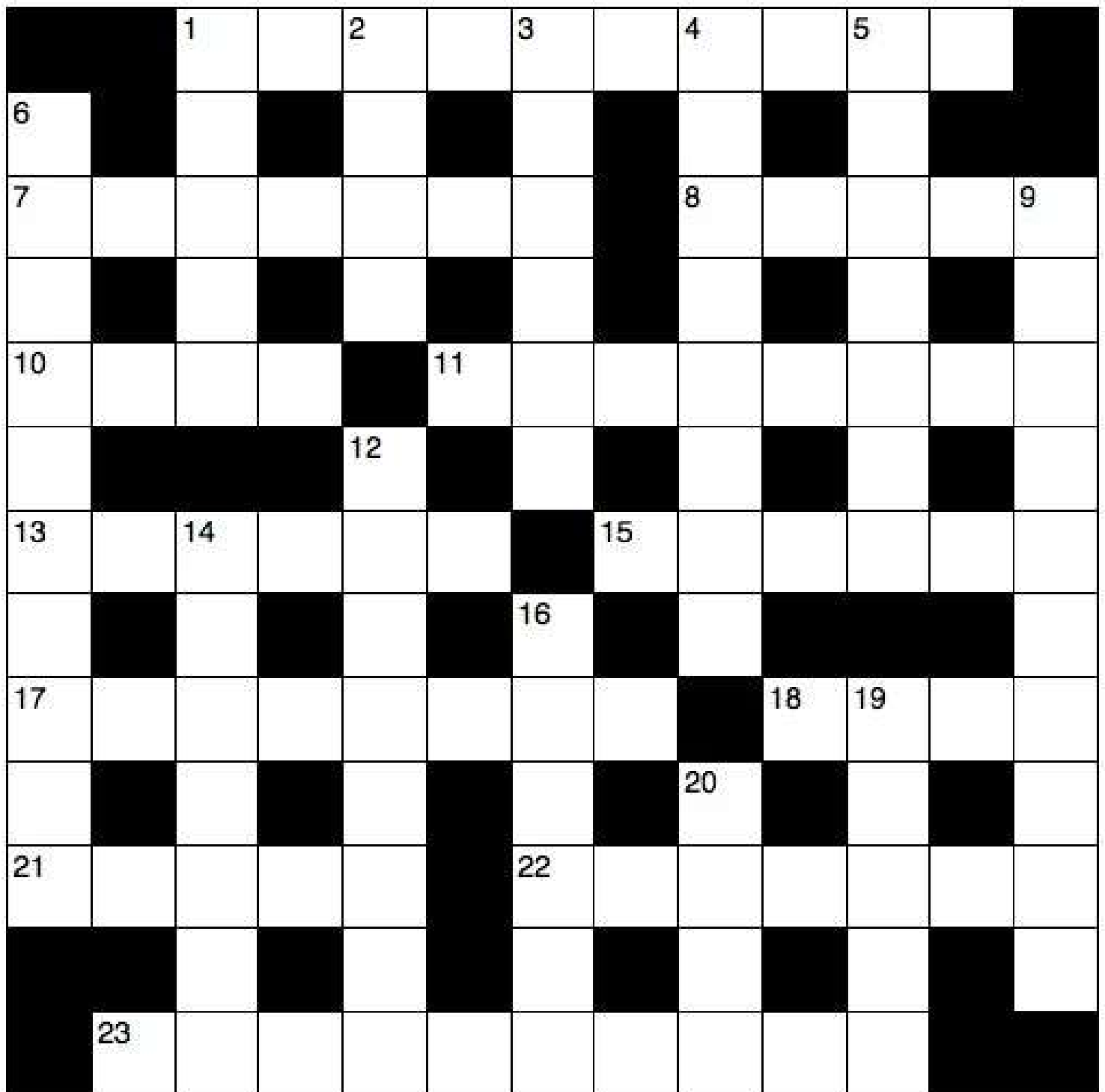
The services shall follow the same pattern in August as per the first four weeks of July.



Everyone is welcome to join all services.

If you would like to attend any services across the parish and need assistance with transport, please get in contact with your local leadership team.

Crossword



Answers on page 16

Across

- 1 Relating to the Jewish day of rest (10)
- 7 Point of view (Matthew 22:17) (7)
- 8 20th-century Brethren philanthropist whose construction company became one of the UK's biggest, Sir John — (5)
- 10 Girl's name (4)
- 11 Peter was accused of being one in the courtyard of the high priest's house (Luke 22:59) (8)
- 13 The fifth of the 'seven churches' (Revelation 3:1–6) (6)
- 15 'Now the famine was — in Samaria' (1 Kings 18:2) (6)
- 17 Banned by the seventh Commandment (Exodus 20:14) (8)
- 18 Insect most closely associated with itching (1 Samuel 24:14) (4)
- 21 Bantu tribe which gives its name to tiny landlocked country in southern Africa (5)
- 22 Familiar material in churches that use an overhead projector (7)
- 23 Last book of the Bible (10)

Down

- 1 The young David's favourite weapon (1 Samuel 17:40) (5)
- 2 'Your vats will — over with new wine' (Proverbs 3:10) (4)
- 3 Once yearly (Exodus 30:10) (6)
- 4 Milled it (anag.) (3-5)
- 5 Region north of Damascus of which Lysanias was tetrarch (Luke 3:1) (7)
- 6 Comes between Philippians and 1 Thessalonians (10)
- 9 Lake where the first disciples were called (Luke 5:1–11) (10)
- 12 Abusive outburst (8)
- 14 Are loud (anag.) (7)
- 16 Printing errors (6)
- 19 'Take my yoke upon you and — from me' (Matthew 11:29) (5)
- 20 Jacob's third son (Genesis 29:34) (4)

75 years of the National Health Service



It was 75 years ago, on 5th July 1948, that the National Health Service (NHS) began operating – formally opened at the Park Hospital in Manchester, now renamed Trafford General.

The National Health Service Act provided for the establishment of a comprehensive health service for England and Wales. (Separate legislation was produced for Scotland and Northern Ireland.)

The Minister of Health at the time was Labour firebrand Aneurin Bevan, but the NHS came into being through the efforts of many others as well – notably Conservative Sir Henry Willink, who was Minister of Health in the Coalition government in 1944. His White Paper laid down all the basic elements of an NHS – that no-one was excluded, and that healthcare was free and based on need, not the ability to pay.

But the origins of the NHS went back many years, starting perhaps in the early 1900s, with socialist Beatrice Webb's Minority Report of the Royal Commission on the Poor Law. It aimed to get away from the workhouse system, where those with no resources were expected to look after themselves. The report was dismissed by the Liberal government.

Strong ideas in the same vein had also come from biochemist Dr Benjamin Moore, from Liverpool, who is also credited with first use of the words "National Health Service". A novel called *The Citadel* by D J Cronin (also a doctor) drew attention to the inadequacies of health care at the time of its publication in 1937.

In the end, the NHS was based to a large extent on the Beveridge Report, published in 1942. William Beveridge was a Liberal politician, economist and social reformer who also had a strong interest in eugenics – the aim of improving the human race by controlling reproduction

July Holy Days

3rd July St Thomas the Apostle, confused and doubting

Thomas, one of Jesus' 12 apostles, was an impulsive, confused, honest sceptic. Jesus could understand and work with such a man. Thomas' impulsiveness was evident when Jesus prepared to visit Lazarus in Bethany. It was a dangerous trip to make, because of the Jews, but Thomas urged his fellow disciples: "Let us also go, that we may die with Him." (John 11:16) Instead, Jesus brought Lazarus back to life.

Thomas' confusion is shown in later talks with Jesus. He was not really sure where Jesus was going long-term (John 14:5). But Jesus accepted this confused commitment, and began to untangle it, patiently explaining: "I am going to my Father", and "No one comes unto the Father but by me."

Finally, Thomas' honest scepticism is revealed after the Resurrection, which he flatly refused to believe - unless he could touch the wounds of the risen Jesus. Sure enough, Jesus appears - but instead of scolding him, shows him the wounds. Thomas responds: "My Lord and my God" (John 20.26ff).

Thus, Doubting Thomas' honest doubts, turned to honest faith, have become a reassurance for thousands of men and women across the centuries who also want to follow Jesus, but who require some proof of this amazing event - the Resurrection. In Doubting Thomas' complete affirmation of faith, after meeting the risen, crucified Christ, they can find support for their own faith.

Ancient legends tell how Thomas went on to India as a missionary. There are rumours that Thomas even built a palace for a king's daughter in India, and thus he is the patron saint of architects. It is believed that he was martyred by a spear on 3rd July, 72AD in Mylapore, near Madras. 46 ancient churches in England were dedicated to him.

31st July St Ignatius Loyola – founder of the Society of Jesus

Ignatius came from a noble Basque family in north-east Spain. Born in 1491 in his family's castle near Loyala, he was sent to serve as a page at the court of King Ferdinand V of Castile. Ignatius entered military service, but was wounded in 1521, at the French siege of Pamplona. While convalescing, he read the life of Christ, as well as the biographies of various saints.

Like those saints, Ignatius felt the call of Christ on his life, and responded. He made a pilgrimage to Montserrat (near Barcelona) where he firmly hung up his sword over the altar. He exchanged his clothes with a beggar, and settled in nearby Manresa, where he helped care for the sick in the hospital there. Then he spent some time as a hermit in a local cave, praying and studying Thomas a Kempis's book 'The Imitation of Christ'. It was probably during this time that Ignatius wrote his famous 'Spiritual Exercises' on Christian prayer and meditation. It has been valued by Christians of many traditions for centuries.

Ignatius then went on pilgrimage to Rome and Jerusalem, studied at the universities of Barcelona, Alcala and Salamanca, and ended up in Paris to continue studies. It was there, in 1534 that Ignatius and a group of six students (including Francis Xavier) vowed to go as missionaries to Islamic Palestine.

They were prevented from travel by a war in Europe, and so, in 1537, the group, now ten in number, offered their services to the Pope. By 1540 they had been ordained, and with papal approval, formed the Society of Jesus, with a vow of personal obedience to the Pope, in addition to the traditional three monastic vows.

Ignatius became the first general of the order, and in the following 15 years the order grew hundred-fold, to become the vanguard of both the Counter Reformation and the missionary work of the Roman Catholic Church.

Ignatius died on 31st July 1556, but even today his famous prayer is treasured by Christians of all traditions:

Teach us, good Lord, to serve You as You deserve.
To give and not to count the cost.
To fight and not to heed the wounds;
To toil and not to seek for rest;
To labour and not to ask for any reward;
Save that of knowing that we do Your will;
Through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Life-changing Audio Bibles for people with sight loss

At the end of 2021, Torch took “a leap of faith” and ordered 1,000 Pathway audio Bible players containing the New Testament and Psalms read by the actor David Suchet.

Knowing the power of Scripture to change lives, they planned to “give these Bibles for free to anyone in the UK losing their sight. 16 months later, all of these Bible players have been sent out and the stories coming back are so amazing that Torch has ordered 1,000 more.”

Gayle-Ann told us “It is my friend...with me wherever, it is just so convenient. I have read the New Testament, but the way this is read is just easily understood”.

Kenneth wouldn't have called himself a Christian, and hasn't enjoyed audio books, but 'I like listening to the Pathway. I'm really listening to the New Testament now, not just odd verses. I'm realising what it all means.'

Losing sight can be a time of real questioning and searching, so what better gift can a newly blind person receive than the Word of God?

Torch is encouraging anyone who is living with sight loss to contact them for a free audio Bible at www.torchtrust.org/pathway , or by calling 01858 438260.

Most of the first 1,000 players were sponsored by individuals, churches or trusts. Torch is also seeking people to donate £20 to cover the cost of sending out one of the new audio Bibles.

Crossword Answers

ACROSS: 1, Sabbatical. 7, Opinion. 8, Laing. 10, Olga. 11, Galilean. 13, Sardis. 15, Severe. 17, Adultery. 18, Flea. 21, Swazi. 22, Acetate. 23, Revelation.

DOWN: 1, Sling. 2, Brim. 3, Annual. 4, Ill-timed. 5, Abilene. 6, Colossians. 9, Gennesaret. 12, Diatribe. 14, Roulade. 16, Errata. 19, Learn. 20, Levi.



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

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



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July Services

	St Thomas'	St Luke's
Sunday 2nd	9.00am Morning Worship 10.45am Worship Together 6.30pm: Holy Communion	11.00am Family Worship
Thursday 6th	9.45am BCP Holy Communion	
Sunday 9th	9.00am Holy Communion 10.45am Worship Together	11.00am Holy Communion
Thursday 13th	9.45am BCP Holy Communion	
Sunday 16th	9.00am Morning Worship 10.45am Holy Communion 6.30pm Evening Prayer	11.00am: Family Worship
Thursday 20th	9.45am BCP Holy Communion	
Sunday 23rd	9.00am Holy Communion 10.45am Worship Together	11.00am Family Worship
Thursday 27th	9.45am BCP Holy Communion	
Sunday 30th	10.30am Wign South Holy Communion at Holy Trinity	

News from our churches

There is quite a lot going on during the summer which will need your support. Keep an eye on the notice sheet for more events and information over the coming weeks.

Juliette's Mission in Brazil

Our Juliette will be leaving in August to live in Brazil on mission for six months. By explanation she writes, 'I've seen the impact of poverty, crime and injustice happening in Brazil over and over again. Even many of my family members still struggle to fulfil basic needs such as being able to afford food and accessing health care. But my heart has never been more touched or stirred than by the story of millions and millions of children suffering in Brazil, "For who cares for the homeless and the hopeless? The motherless and the fatherless? Shouldn't it be you and me?"'

In Brazil Juliette will be working in a residential home in a town called Olinda. The home is for children from difficult or abusive homes. To fund the mission Juliette needs to raise £3,000. As well as her recent fundraising activities, Juliette would love to tell us all more about her calling to this project. On Friday 14th July from 7-8pm she will be in church delivering a talk on this work and is looking forward to seeing as many of her friends from St Thomas and St Luke's who I am sure will come along to listen.

Advanced Notices

There will be no edition of the magazine in August so I am taking this opportunity of mentioning the excursion to the outdoor theatre at Arley Hall to watch Romeo and Juliet on Thursday 17 August at 7.30pm. Maurice and Alison and others are sharing fellowship, picnic, a glass of something, and a love of outdoor, traditional Shakespearian theatre. Lifts are available from Maurice and Alison Smith on 01942 202848. You can book direct with the venue – approx £19.50. Maurice says that if you were scared- off Shakespeare at school, this is the perfect re-introduction and (probably) his best 'story'.

Pantry helpers needed

We have a fantastic team of helpers in the Pantry but we have a number of gaps at the moment. There are many different roles - helping to get ready (an hour before opening), assisting during opening hours, collecting food (various times and locations), and being available to chat and pray with people. As we are open on four days in the week (Tuesday and Saturday 11 00 -12 00, Thursday and Sunday 15 00 – 16 00) and with the holiday season in full swing, we are short of people in all of these areas. If you feel you would like to help or would like to know more, please see Sue T or Helen Stuart for more information.

Picnic in the Park

Join us in Jubilee flower park on 16th July from 12:30-3:30pm. Music, messy church, prayer tent and much more. Bring a chair or picnic blanket and a picnic. Cakes, drinks and ice cream sundaes will be available and free!

End of the year at St Thomas' school

As we come to the end of the school year, as well as saying goodbye to the current Year 6 pupils, we are also saying goodbye (for now!) to our headteacher, Mrs Jones. Judith has served as headteacher for many years now, seeing generations of families through the doors of the school. We thank Mrs Jones for her devotion to the thousands of children and families she has supported over her time and wish her well in her early retirement. We also pray for Miss Crompton as she prepares to take on the role in the new school year.

Archbishop of York's Award

Congratulations to the young people from Byrchall who are working towards the Archbishop of York's Award and hosted a cake sale in church after the 10:45 service on the 25th June. Their aim is to raise money for the charity Water Aid. They are also taking part in a 10k sponsored walk in aid of the charity Shelter. It will be great if you are able to support these young people in their endeavours even with belated sponsorship.

St Thomas Worship - The Noisy Lot In The Corner!

Whatever you want to call us we are in dire need of assistance.



About ten years ago I made a list of everyone who had been involved, even if only for a short while, in the group and it numbered over 50 people at that time. I recall when I was worried who I might upset by suggesting they had a week off as we had so many in the days we had 4 clarinets and individuals who played several instruments (although not at the same time!). Sadly, I lost the list or I might be knocking on some doors as we are now in desperate need of musicians.

As we cannot continue to provide live worship on every Sunday with the few members we currently have, we have already dropped one Sunday a month. With holidays and other commitments people have, as well as occasions when someone is unwell, it is very difficult to maintain a band.

It is a very frustrating situation as unlike many other roles in the church it is not something one can suddenly decide to do as it does take years to learn to play an instrument and constant practise and adaption to play with other musicians.

However, if anyone is hiding their light under a bushel, please come and chat to me.

Mary Owen



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Dear St Thomas' and St Luke's Church

As you may be aware I am starting a new chapter of my life in September and will no longer be Headteacher at St Thomas School. I am retiring (early) to explore pastures new outside of education; most of which involves walking up mountains, running around a netball court and hopefully having the time to take up new hobbies.

I have been a teacher for 33 years; at St Thomas for 19 of them, and can still remember Rev Greenwood - Mike as I came to know him - offering me the job in April 2004! The nerves I had starting in September quickly subsided when I received such a warm, supportive welcome from the staff, parents and children at school. This was echoed in our wider community including the congregations at St Thomas' and St Luke's and it has been wonderful to feel part of such a lovely family!

Needless to say, over my years here I have shared in joyful times, sad times and have many, many happy memories to take with me. I always say to the Y6 children as they leave that they are like a stick of rock with St Thomas' running through the middle - no matter what they go on to do after their time here, no matter what colour blazer they wear, inside they are a 'St Thomaser' through and through. That is exactly how I feel as I move on - the St Thomas family has been such a significant part of my life and has supported me as much as I have supported it.

I would like to thank you all for your kindness and support. Miss Crompton is very fortunate to be taking on the headship of such an amazing school and being part of a lovely church family. Goodbye for now.

Prayerfully yours
Judith Jones xx

On 6th July 2023, the current St Thomas' church building is 130 years old. In his book, *Come Let Us Worship* (1993) Syd Hibbert detailed this significant time in the church. His book is well worth a read and is paraphrased to produce a brief history of this process below.

At a Vestry meeting on Monday 30th March 1891, the Rev. H. Sidall had informed those present that he intended to rebuild St. Thomas's Church. It was proposed to rebuild the Church of stone, and it was supposed that a good deal of the stone on the present building would be available, but it would cost something to dress it and trim off the bad parts.

With regards to funds, the Vicar informed the meeting that they had a little over £1,000 in the Court Chancery. There was a further legacy from Mr Samuel Stock of Blackley Hurst of £9,000, which was in certain colliery shares in the neighbourhood, but these had depreciated so much that the amount that could be obtained from them was little over £1,000. The Vicar agreed a cost of £5,000 with the architect of which they would need to raise £3,000. An appeal for funds was made in April 1891, and in the event, within two months subscriptions were promised to cover the whole cost.

The last services were held in the old Church on Sunday 26th July 1891 and the following day demolition of the building was commenced. It took about four months to take down the old Church and to clear away the rubbish, and it was not until 5th December 1891 that the foundation stone of the new Church could be laid. This was done by Colonel W.T. Leigh of Lyme Park, Cheshire (afterwards Lord Newton). Beneath this stone there was placed by Lady Gerard a sealed jar containing a copy of the Liverpool courier of the day, copies of the Parish Magazine with a list of subscribers to the Church building fund, a copy of the service used on the occasion, Silver and Copper Coins of the year 1891, and a document stating that the jar had been placed by the Right Hon. The Lady Gerard of Garswood. The stone was thought to be on the South side of the Chancel Arch near to the lectern, but there was no inscription and there is nothing now to tell which it is.

Whilst the work of rebuilding was going on, the services were at first held in the large classroom, but this was found so very inconvenient that the building committee decided to buy an Iron Church at a cost of £400 and to seat about 400 people was accepted. This was erected on a plot of land just outside the Churchyard and answered its purpose fairly well, although it was not nearly large enough to hold the congregation from the old Church, which would accommodate 800 and was generally well filled. This Iron Church, when its purpose was served was afterwards removed to Stubshaw Cross where it was known as the mission of St. Luke.

The new Church took eighteen months to build. It was completed in 1893 and had seating accommodation for about 500 persons, 300 less than could be accommodated in the old Church with its galleries.

In the rebuilding, as much as possible of the old Church was made use of, and the new stone was selected of the same kind- Runcorn red sandstone. In erection, care was taken to mix the old weather beaten stones with the new, so as to emphasise the fact that it was not an entirely new Church but a restoration. The Tower was built to hold a peal of bells, but at first only the bell which came out of the small bell turret on the old Church was installed. This bell was inscribed "PACK AND CHAPMAN of LONDON, facet 1773" Other fittings taken from the old Church were the clock, dated 15th May 1812 and Organ installed in 1826.

There was a small side chapel on the north side of the chancel, in which all the mural tablets from the old church were placed. In the vestry was placed the old Parish chest of 1669, a fine carved bookcase in very dark oak and the old communion table with its marble top.

The Church had many requirements for the future, but as the vicar pointed out St Thomas's was entirely a working class parish and trade was in a very depressed state, so patience had to be exercised.

On Thursday 6th July 1893 the new church was consecrated by the Lord Bishop of Liverpool, Dr. J. C. Ryle. The ceremony of consecration was fixed for 3.o'clock. To mark the event, the scholars of the Parish schools walked in procession through the main streets of the township, led by the St Thomas' brass band. They were joined by the scholars of St Luke's and the combined procession then returned to the church in time for the ceremony. We learn from eye witnesses that "several banners and bannerettes were conspicuous in the procession, whilst in the vicinity of the church, garlands of varied-coloured streamers stretched across the road."

Walking in procession from the Altar to the West end of the church and backwards the Bishop went through prescribed consecration. The Chancellor of the Diocese read the deed of consecration, after which followed the usual service at evening prayer.

The lessons read were from 1 Kings Ch.8, v22-30, and Hebrews 10v19-25,. The old Hundredth Psalm-"All people that on Earth do dwell" and the "Churches one Foundation" were the hymns sung, and at the conclusion of the Consecration service the Bishop preached a sermon based on the text "o come let us worship" from psalm 95, verse 6. During the service the choir sang an Anthem, and an offertory was taken on behalf of the building fund.



Mothers' Union



17th July Summer Evening: this event will take place in our church commencing at 7.30pm. We are to be entertained by Banjo and Beyond. Refreshments will be served and the ticket price of £4.00 includes a free raffle.

We are welcoming our friends from other churches and the tickets can be obtained from any member. To help with the catering numbers will you please obtain your ticket before 8th July.

I have lost count of the number of these articles which I have produced each month, a touch of sentiment with this one as it will be my last as Branch Leader as I retire in July. I hope and pray that a volunteer will come forward to take over the leadership of the branch.

Creative Prayer

If you knit or crochet, pray for relationships

You know as you weave the strands of wool together into an item. Or if you remember the cat's cradle game play this either alone or with a partner. As the string interlaces to make a pattern, pray for relationships which need unity, support, or a measure of fun.

Heavenly Father
Give us grace in all relationships.
May hope be stronger than struggle,
Celebrations more frequent than trials,
May kindness prevail over judgement,
Equality dissolve oppression,
May love break walls of hate.
Amen

***Love and Prayers
Barbara***

Our friend David Fearnley has been busy again with our history:

TURNER LATHAM (1755 – 1842) GRAVESTONE, WARRINGTON ROAD

As you enter the Warrington Road graveyard through the gate in Heath Road immediately to your left is the burial vault of John Whitley (see previous articles). To the rear of the vault, laid flat, is a gravestone from which most of the surface has broken away to leave the following inscription “Turner L April 18th Thoma..... Joh..... Lath..m.. ..wo breadths”. This is the gravestone of Turner Latham, of Nichol Lane, son of Thomas & Mary Latham (Reddish), who was born in 1755 and died April 18th 1842 aged 86. Thomas and John also named on the stone are possibly two of his sons. The gravestone has been moved from its original location when the oldest part of the Warrington Road graveyard was cleared to create the Garden of Rest in the 1960’s.

Turner was a farmer at Brook House Farm, Ashton, opposite Strange Road at the Camp Lane end of the footpath leading from “Triangle Garage”, near the timber yard, Liverpool Road. In 1781 at Winwick he married Jane Ashton and they had 2 children, Thomas, born 1781 and William, born 1784. Jane died in 1786 and was buried at St. Thomas’, Ashton. In 1788 at Winwick, Turner married Rachel Wilson and they had 10 children.

William Latham, born 1784, second son of Turner Latham’s first marriage, became a husbandman/farmer and in 1815 at Winwick, married Elizabeth Hewitt. Their first child born 1817 was named Turner Latham, after his grandfather. By 1841 William was now a grocer and living in Nichol Lane, Ashton and his son Turner was a shoemaker. On 18th April 1842 Turner Latham snr, William’s father, aged 86, died at William’s house in Nichol Lane.

William Latham, grocer, of Nichol Lane died 1848, aged 64, and his widow Elizabeth continued the grocery business. In 1853 Elizabeth Latham, grocer, of Nichol Lane, died and her son Turner continued the grocery business. In 1854, at Wigan, Turner Latham married Ellen Leyland and in 1854 their first child was born – William Latham.

In 1867 Turner Latham, grocer, of Nichol Lane died aged 49 and his widow Ellen Turner (Leyland) continued the grocery business. In 1871 the family still lived in Nichol Lane where William Latham, born 1854, son of the late Turner & Ellen Latham (Leyland) was a medical student. In 1879 the family moved to "Holly House", 32 Bolton Road, one of the large houses after the "Rockleigh Hotel". Ellen Latham was a retired grocer and son William was a physician & surgeon. In 1885 at the Congregational church, Ashton, William Latham married Adah Lyon, of Poolstock. In 1887 Ellen Latham died, aged 69, and was buried at St. Thomas', Ashton.

In 1893 William Latham, now a successful physician & surgeon built a large mansion house for himself – "Elmfield" 90 Wigan Road Ashton. "Elmfield" is situated on Wigan Road at the junction with Greenway and is almost opposite the former "Eavesway" garage site. On 3rd April 1893 Dr. William Latham laid the first stone of the Primitive Methodist chapel on Warrington Road opposite "The Fleece". 1909 William became a JP. He was the Chairman of Governors of the British School, Ashton; a trustee of the Ashton Linen & Woollen charity; a honorary senior deacon at the Congregational church and a Member of the Ashton Local Board (council). Two of his sons, William Ewart and Frank Gerald Latham became doctors with a surgery at "The Poplars" 60 Bolton Road, Ashton. Dr. William Latham, of "Elmfield" died 1913, aged 58. The Latham family lived at "Elmfield" until c1930 when they moved to Hoylake, Liverpool, and "Elmfield" became the residence of another Ashton doctor – Dr. James Hunter.

Dr. Hunter was the son of James Hunter, a granite merchant, of Aberdeen. His wife Margaret was the daughter of W.C. McBean, accountant, of Aberdeen. Dr. Hunter arrived in Ashton c1902 after graduating from Aberdeen university, and worked in partnership with Dr. Alexander Lee Cobban, of "Burn Brae" 161 Wigan Road, at the corner of Wigan Road and Cansfield Grove. "Burn Brae" can still be seen on the gateposts of 161 Wigan Road. Dr. Cobban was from Scotland and the word Burn = stream and Brae = hillside. c1906 Dr. Hunter moved into his own surgery at 141 Wigan Road, Ashton. Dr. Hunter died in 1944.

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



Towards the Africa Fund from Jane Andrew

With thanks for home communion
from Elsie Deluce

Birthday Remembrance of **Norah Brown** (20th July),
a much loved sister, auntie & great auntie
from Ethel & family

Birthday Remembrance of **Stanley Brown** (24th July),
a much loved dad, grandad, great grandad and brother
from Geoff, Denise, Julie & family

With thanks for home communion
from Isobel Bowen



Please note that there is no magazine for August due
to the summer break.

Any information, donations and registers shall be
included in the September magazine.

The Registers



Funerals or Burials of Ashes 'May they rest in peace'

8 June	Karen Lisa King	2
14 June	Jean Darbyshire	84
22 June	Karen Rutter	62
23 June	Joyce Lloyd	84
26 June	Rosalyn June Sudworth	84

Holy Baptism 'We welcome them into the Lord's family'

11 June	Edith Lillian Cornthwaite
11 June	Evelyn Anna Catherine Webster
18 June	Jenson Harley Brumler



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

Litter Pick

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

Flower Guild

Meta Laites
723679

Asylum Seeker Support

English Class
Thurs 2pm - 3pm
Social Drop in
Sun 1pm - 3pm

Anne & Chris Wooff
724207

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

Ashton Pantry Sue Thomas 07877704645

Tuesday & Saturday 11am – 12pm

Thursday & Sunday 3pm – 4pm

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

Cheryl Knowles
cheryl.knowles@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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Magazine Distribution

Vacant

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St Thomas' and St Luke's
Church, Ashton in Makerfield