

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

**COME HOLY
SPIRIT,
IGNITE IN
US YOUR
HOLY FIRE**

June 2022

60p

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South Hub Church Wigan

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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.

	July	August	September
Deadline for material	16 June	Summer break	18 August
Publish date	26 June	Summer break	28 August

Come Holy Ghost

Come, Holy Ghost, our souls inspire
And lighten with celestial fire;
Thou the anointing Spirit art,
Who dost Thy sevenfold gifts impart.

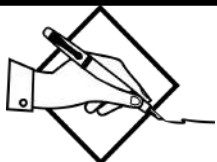
Thy blessed unction from above
Is comfort, life, and fire of love;
Enable with perpetual light
The dullness of our blinded sight.

Anoint and cheer our soiled face
With the abundance of Thy grace;
Keep far our foes; give peace at home:
Where thou art guide no ill can come.

Teach us to know the Father, Son,
And Thee of both, to be but One,
That through the ages all along
This may be our endless song,
Praise to Thine eternal merit,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit.



Anonymous
9th century
translated by John Cosin



A Letter from Helen

June is going to be such an exciting month in so many ways. An extra bank holiday on Friday the 3rd June, giving us a four day weekend to celebrate 70 years of the Queen's reign.

There are so many exciting events taking place across our Parish:

- 29th May there is a celebratory service at St Aidan's church
- On the 1st of June there is a Jubilee Messy Church at 10.30am at St Thomas' church, having seen some of the plans I know that's going to be an exciting morning for all the family
- There is a special 'OAP' event at Diamond Community Centre from 1.30pm on 2nd June
- And on 3rd June the Diamond Centre is hosting an event for all the family, from 1pm
- St Thomas' is also hosting a Jubilee themed Afternoon Tea, on the Saturday 4th June
- Holy Trinity church shall be represented at the community celebrations taking place in Billinge on 4th June
- On 5th June, St Aidan's shall be taking part in the event in Bankes Park
- The Brigades at St Peter's church shall be organising an event, with more information to follow, on 12th June

I'm sure that many of you will be joining in with street parties, and many of you may remember the parties for the coronation 70 years ago. Some things don't change; Union Jack bunting, sandwiches and jelly - all we need to celebrate is a bit of sunshine. These are the occasions that bring a community together.

Jesus was all about service and love or hate the monarchy, our Queen has served her country through thick and thin, and always stood as defender of the faith. At the age of 96 when most of us just want to relax, she continues to serve.


Sue Thomas is being ordained at St Thomas' on the 18th June which gives us another wonderful reason to celebrate.

Last month I enjoyed being part of a service in which we had a visit from Sian and Quintin Ball with their daughter. Sian brought us an update on the BIOJEMMSS project in Uganda - a project that provides so much support to children and families in difficult situations. It was lovely to be updated on their progress and I would encourage you to read Chris Woof's article on the Africa fund online.

Service takes many forms; we may not be the Queen of England or leading a project in Uganda, or being ordained, but our community needs people ready to serve, and service is very rewarding and great for our mental wellbeing.

I hope you all have the opportunity to celebrate this June.

Helen Weavers



A Parish Meal will take place on
SATURDAY 11TH JUNE
and is open to both ladies and gentlemen
from all the Wigan South churches.
It will be held in Masonic Hall, Bryn.

Menus are available from Christine Moorfield.
Tel 01942 204150.

Services across the Parish

St Andrew's

Sunday 5	9.30am Morning Worship
Sunday 12	9.30am Holy Communion
Sunday 19	9.30am Church Cafe
Sunday 26	9.30am Morning Worship

St Peter's

Sunday 5	10.30am Holy Communion
Sunday 12	10.30am Morning Prayer with Brigades
Sunday 19	10.30am Morning Prayer
Sunday 26	10.30am Cafe Church

St Thomas'

Sunday 5	9.00am Morning Worship 10.45am Worship Together 6.30pm Holy Communion
Thursday 9	9.45am BCP Communion
Sunday 12	9.00am Morning Worship 10.45am Worship Together
Thursday 16	9.45am BCP Communion
Sunday 19	9.00am Morning Worship 10.45am Holy Communion 6.30pm Evening Prayer
Thursday 23	9.45am BCP Holy Communion
Sunday 26	9.00am Holy Communion 10.45am Worship Together
Thursday 30	9.00am BCP Holy Communion

St Aidan's

Wednesday 1	10.00am Holy Communion
Sunday 5	9.30am Holy Communion
Sunday 12	10.30am Sta's4all 4.00pm Evening Prayer
Wednesday 15	10.00am Holy Communion
Sunday 19	10.00am Morning Worship
Sunday 26	10.00am Beacon Service 4.00pm Evening Prayer

Holy Trinity

Sunday 5	10.30am Morning Worship
Wednesday 8	10.00am Holy Communion
Sunday 12	10.30am Morning Worship
Sunday 19	10.30am Holy Communion
Wednesday 22	10.00am Holy Communion
Sunday 26	10.30am Morning Worship with Rectory School

St Luke's

Sunday 5	11.00am Family Worship
Sunday 12	11.00am Holy Communion
Sunday 19	11.00am Family Worship
Sunday 26	11.00am Family Worship

ALL ARE
WELCOME
HERE

JUBILEE EVENTS

IN ST THOMAS' CHURCH



Pop along to Messy Church

Wednesday 1 June

10.30am until 12.00pm



Join together to explore a range of crafts, challenges and activities to suit all children.

No need to book, just get stuck in!



Join us for Afternoon Tea

Saturday 4 June

served at 2pm

Find out about tales of coronation celebrations whilst enjoying a lovely afternoon tea with great company.

£12 per person. Please see Carole Pye, Helen Stuart or Jan Cornthwaite to book tickets.



Parish News

We have loved hearing tales from those who have caught glimpses of royalty when visiting our region (and beyond!) and those who recall the coronation celebrations all those years ago. So many have told us of the whole street gathering around one television to watch the occasion, all crammed into the front room; others' parent's bought a television set just for the event; and many recall their schools' showing the service, with some venturing to the local cinema or cathedral to watch it. We also heard how, over the years, many generations have caught a glimpse of members of the royal family when, for example, the Queen visited Wigan or the time she came to Bryn train station. There was a buzz about the place as schools closed and children lined the streets, all to catch a fleeting glance as the motorcade passed by. Here are some more stories of royal visits and coronation celebrations from members of our parish.

Agnes Yates travelled half way across the world to unexpectedly bump into the Queen. Here is a photo of this chance encounter, so many miles away from home. Agnes says 'I have attached a photo of the Queen taken during a walkabout in Christchurch, New Zealand, on 4th November 1995.



Her Majesty was literally 2 feet away from myself and my husband Ralph. It felt like a great honour to be there and so close to our Queen when we were literally at the other side of the world.

We were in New Zealand for a month long visit to see my late husband Ralph's sister and brother-in-law. They had emigrated to New Zealand around 1960 and this was our very first visit to New Zealand – a 40th wedding anniversary present to ourselves. We didn't know about the Queen's visit to New Zealand when we booked our trip, so it was very much by chance that we happened to be in Christchurch at the same time'.

I was living in Liverpool on Coronation Day, June 1953 and was member of Mossley Hill Parish Church.

My Dad shook me awake at just past 7 o'clock to tell me that Willy Molyneux, the vergier at Mossley Hill, was on the 'phone and in a right panic'. I was an ex chorister and also stood in to wind the clock and toll the bell when the regular clockwinder was either sick or on holiday (the clock was built by Messrs Potts of Leeds same as that at St Thomas, Ashton) and I got to know Willy fairly well. He was responsible for looking after the church grounds, the vicarage croquet lawn, the boilers and a hundred and one other things, one of which was to fly the flag on High Days and holidays from the flag pole situated at the top of Mossley Hill Church tower.

'Can you come up to church right away, please? I've lost the line...'

I jumped on my trusty Raleigh Lenton and cycled up the hill to the church where I found the panic stricken vergier. Bear in mind he had been to the top of the tower once, had run down and charged round trying to find a telephone box to contact me. What was a mobile in 1953? No way was he brave enough to disturb Rev Perkins!

I remember the day well, the weather was quite cold at that time of the morning, the sun was out but it was windy. The line which the vergier mentioned was passed through a pulley at the top of the flag pole and knotted in the middle, the idea being to part the line, put the flag in the middle, right way up of course (we were already distressed) and haul it to the top of the pole.

We were approximately 200 feet up at the top of the tower and the line we required was 25-30 feet above our heads. It was cold and windy. What did we do? Shin up the pole?

Discretion being the better part of valour, we decided to lower the pole which was held firm with a couple of clamps in a vertical cradle. With the clamps released we were then able to lower the pole which was still held in place by a swivel pin making sure that we were not catapulted into the church grounds some 200 feet below. The offending line was then retrieved. We then re-fixed the pole, flew the flag and went home.

Later that day I watched the Coronation on a friend's television where we had salmon sandwiches (probably fish paste) with tea and coffee, not forgetting the crooked little fingers!

I was fourteen at the time and can remember this as if it was yesterday.

Peter Smith



On Whit Saturday, 23 May 1953, John and June Davies married at St James' church, Haydock. After the reception at the Fleece Hotel in St Helens, they drove down to Holyhead where they took the train to London. They stopped at a hotel on the Strand which was decorated for the coronation. They stood on a wall to watch it go by and later watched it on a TV in a cafe.

Above are pictures of John and June on their wedding day and the decorations in Trafalgar Square.

Here is a picture of coronation celebrations held by the residents of Monica Terrace and Violet Street. Their street party had to be held at Cave Brown School room due to the rain. A young Margaret Lyon can be spotted seated at the table.



We were recently provided with a copy of St Thomas' magazine from 1953! Amongst the wonderful insight into the past, there was this article regarding the upcoming coronation. I'm sure few then thought this article - and the Queen - would still be as relevant today.

AFTER THE CORONATION

WITHIN a short time of the publication of this leaflet, the preparations for the Coronation will have reached their consummation and it will be over. Then starts all the work of dismantling the stands and restoring Westminster Abbey to its former state for its regular use; the visitors from overseas return home. The tendency will be to say, "It's all over," and then to settle down in the old way as it was before all the excitement pulled us out of a rut and gave a fresh impetus to life.

For Her Majesty the Queen the strain of the event will be over—and what an exacting ceremony it must be—but her reign has only just begun. Her dedication must be worked out in service to God and to her people. She will need to rely on the strength of God received in prayer and sacrament, she will expect also to count on the help of those who, in a solemn manner, will have paid their homage and pledged their loyalty. We must not let the effect of all this inspiration evaporate, while before us we have the promise of a new day, a new Elizabethan age in which the people of this land, following the example of a gracious and noble lady, fulfil God's purpose for them in their day. *To what then are we called?*

We are called to pray. As we have prayed for the Queen during the days of preparation so we must continue to pray for her throughout her reign. It is possible that Her Majesty's request for prayer has been the means of starting many a person on the highway of prayer, let us help them to continue on that way. Sustained habits of prayer need a time, a place, and a plan. A time set aside in the morning or evening, or both, must be looked on as a sacred appointment with God if the habit of regular prayer is to be maintained. *The place is important* in that when a place is assigned to prayer it helps to fix the attention on the task in hand. When I say a place for prayer, I mean a corner of a room, a particular chair, or the

side of the bed, but the place known and recognised as the place where prayer is wont to be made.

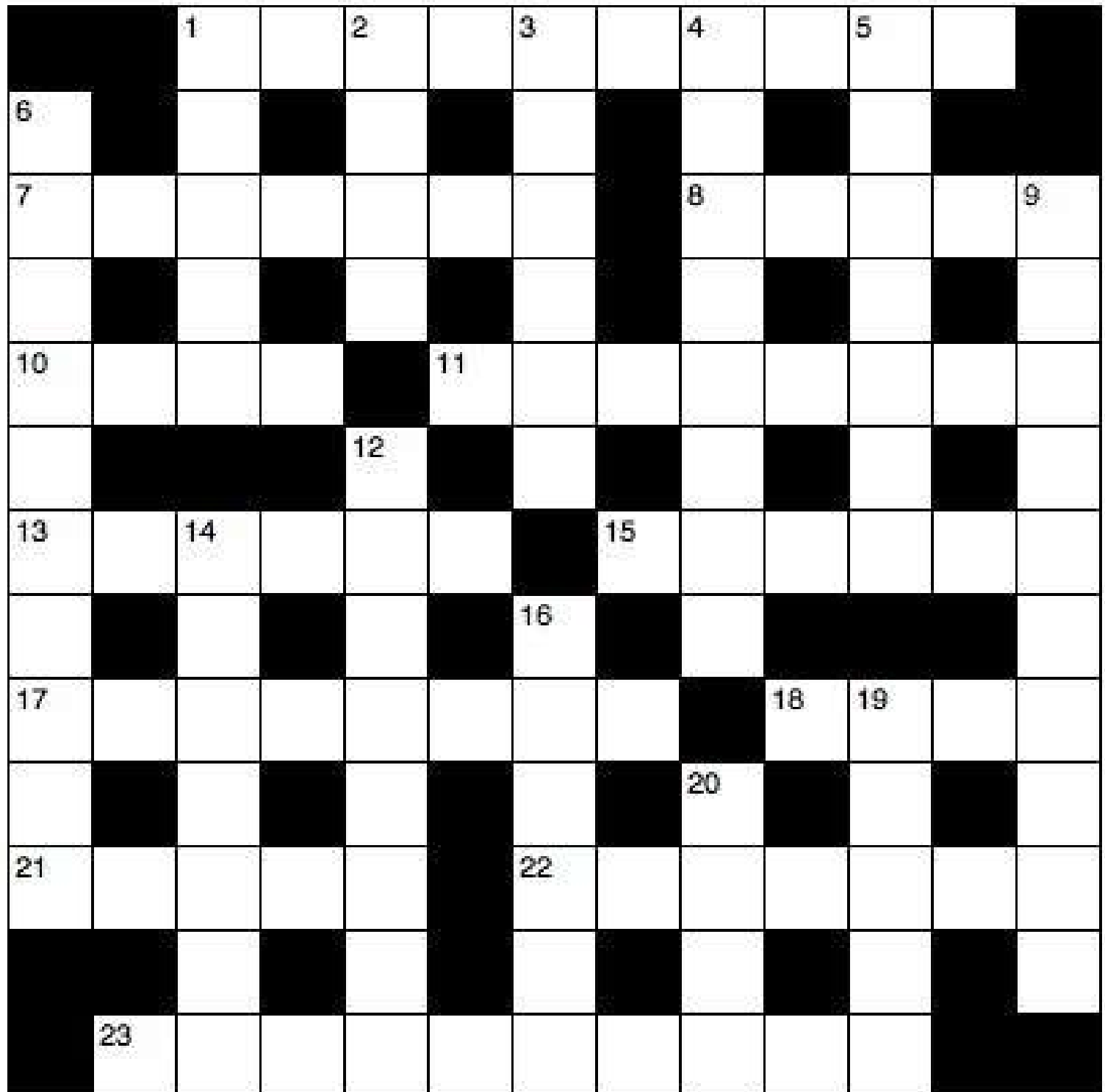
Then the plan. Plans for prayer are many and varied and it is wise not to get into a rut; a plan helps a lot. Many books on prayer, such as Dom Bernard Clements' "When ye Pray", give very useful suggestions for planning a prayer period.

We are called to follow a good example. The Queen will have come to Westminster Abbey for her Coronation, a very great and impressive event, but Her Majesty does not confine her attendance at Church to great and important events; she sets a good example by being present every Sunday. On Monday morning the daily press usually records that the Queen attended Divine Service on Sunday. With all the manifold calls on her time, she might well excuse herself from going to church on Sunday. On the contrary she sets a good example to the whole nation. Would that others in positions of responsibility and leadership were equally consistent in the regularity of their attendance at Church.

Christian people should accept it as a duty that they go Sunday by Sunday to worship God in His House of Prayer. By so doing they themselves will be fortified and in addition they will set a good example to others.

Yours sincerely,
CLIFFORD LIVERPOOL.

Crossword



Answers on page 19

Across

- 1 Evil (Genesis 6:5) (10)
- 7 Musician called for by Elisha when he met the kings of Israel, Judah and Edom (2 Kings 3:15) (7)
- 8 The request that led to the institution of the Lord's Prayer: 'Lord, — us to pray' (Luke 11:1) (5)
- 10 'We are hard pressed on every—'(2Corinthians4:8)(4)
- 11 Fraud (2Corinthians6:8)(8)
- 13 'His troops advance in force;they build a siege ramp against me and — around my tent' (Job 19:12) (6)
- 15 Where Rachel hid Laban's household gods when he searched his daughter's tent (Genesis 31:34) (6)
- 17 'Now about spiritual gifts,brothers,I do not want you to be—' (1 Corinthians 12:1) (8)
- 18 Nomadic dwelling(Genesis26:25)(4)
- 21 'As for man,his days are like—,he flourishes like a flower of the field' (Psalm 103:15) (5)
- 22 Or I live (anag.)(7)
- 23 Those guilty of 1 Across(Romans13:4)(10)

Down

- 1 'God so loved the — that he gave his one and only Son' (John 3:16) (5)
- 2 'Away in a manger, no — for a bed' (4)
- 3 Mob ten (anag.) (6)
- 4 'Each — group made its own gods in several towns where they settled' (2 Kings 17:29) (8)
- 5 Began (Luke 9:46) (7)
- 6 Speaking very softly (John 7:32) (10)
- 9 Workers Ruth joined when she arrived in Bethlehem with her mother-in-law Naomi (Ruth 2:3) (10) 12 Put in jail(Acts22:19)(8)
- 14 Aceturn(anag.)(7)
- 16 Discharge(Acts21:3)(6)
- 19 'All these—come from inside and make a man "unclean"' (Mark 7:23) (5)
- 20 'Let us rejoice and be glad and — him glory!'(Revelation19:7)(4)

June Holy Days

5th June: Pentecost in Jerusalem

On that long ago first morning of Pentecost, Jerusalem was crowded with thousands of visitors, for it was one of the most popular feast-days in the Jewish calendar – the Feast of First Fruits, looking forward to the wheat harvest.

In one small room of that great city, a small group of people who had followed Jesus were praying. There was nothing else for them to do: Jesus had died, He had risen, and He had ascended, promising to send them 'a Comforter'. They were left alone, to wait at Jerusalem. And so they waited – on Him, and for Him.

They were not disappointed, for that morning the Holy Spirit fell upon that small room, and transformed those believers into the Church, Christ's body here on earth. Pentecost was not the first time that the Holy Spirit came to the world – throughout the Old Testament there are stories telling of how God had guided people and given them strength. But now His Spirit would use a new instrument: not just isolated prophets, but the Church, His body on earth.

Acts opens with the preaching of the gospel in Jerusalem, the centre of the Jewish nation. Within 30 years the Gospel had spread throughout the northern Mediterranean: Syria, Turkey, Greece, Malta... to the very heart of the Roman Empire: Rome. The Church was on the move – God was on the move! He was calling people from every nation to repent, turn to Jesus for forgiveness of their sins, and to follow Him.



22nd June St Alban, Britain's first Christian martyr

Alban was the very first Christian martyr in Britain - or at least the first we know of. A 'martyr' is someone who has died for the faith - the word literally means 'witness'. He was probably killed during the persecution under the emperor Diocletian in the early years of the fourth century, in the late stages of the Roman occupation of Britain. His martyrdom took place in the amphitheatre outside the Roman city of Verulamium, which is now St Albans, in Hertfordshire.

The church historian Bede, writing 600 years after Alban's death, records that Alban was a Roman citizen (possibly a soldier) who gave shelter to a priest who was being hunted by the Romans. During the priest's stay in his home, Alban was converted to the Christian faith. When the soldiers eventually tracked the priest down, they arrived at Alban's house and insisted on searching it. What they found was Alban dressed in the priest's clothes, while their real prey escaped. They arrested Alban and demanded that he make a sacrifice to the Emperor - a common test of loyalty. He refused. He was then condemned to death and taken into the amphitheatre, which still stands in the fields below St Alban's Abbey, to be put to death. One of his executioners was converted, Bede claims, but the other one took a sword and beheaded him.

He was buried nearby, on a site where a shrine was later erected. In the early fifth century two Continental bishops, Germanus of Auxerre and Lupus of Troyes, were sent to Britain and record that they visited the shrine of Alban at Verulamium. The date of their visit was given as 429.

The martyrdom of Alban is a reminder that Christianity was planted first in these islands during the Roman occupation, though it was all but extinguished in England in the dark centuries that followed, until people like David, Cuthbert and the other Celtic missionaries restored the faith in many parts of the land - especially in the north. The fact that his shrine existed and was venerated right through to the time of Bede also demonstrates that the faith did not die out completely, even in the south of England.

Wordsearch

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

animals

giraffe

man

snake

leaves

sorts

name

fault

tree

eat

hide

God

world

partner

clothes

anything

garden

ant

woman

fruit

mistake

human

touch

clever

The Queen's Platinum Jubilee

This month we celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. She is the longest reigning monarch in British history. Up until recently she attended church every week and still did a full week's work at the age of 96!

It is her commitment to serving God and the nation which stands out in her life. Even before she became Queen, she made a promise, which she has kept for over 75 years: 'I declare before you all that my whole life, whether it be long or short, shall be devoted to your service' (21st birthday broadcast, 21 April 1947).

What is the secret of the Queen's consistency of character and service? In 2002 she said this: "I know just how much I rely on my faith to guide me through the good times and the bad. Each day is a new beginning. I know that the only way to live my life is to try to do what is right, to take the long view, to give of my best in all that the day brings, and to put my trust in God." These are wise words from somebody who draws her strength from the Christian Faith and can inspire all of us who want to make our lives count!

The Queen has been an example of joyful, wise, and generous service on behalf of others all her life. Six months before her coronation she asked the nation and Commonwealth to "pray that God may give me wisdom and strength to carry out the solemn promises I shall be making, and that I may faithfully serve Him and you, all the days of my life." Paul urges us to pray for all in authority, "that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness." (1 Timothy 2:2).

Canon Paul Hardingham

Crossword Answers

ACROSS: 1, Wickedness. 7, Harpist. 8, Teach. 10, Side. 11, Impostor. 13, Encamp. 15, Saddle. 17, Ignorant. 18, Tent. 21, Grass. 22, Olivier. 23, Wrongdoers.

DOWN: 1, World. 2, Crib. 3, Entomb. 4, National. 5, Started. 6, Whispering. 9, Harvesters. 12, Imprison. 14, Centaur. 16, Unload. 19, Evils. 20, Give.

Father's Day

Many times, Jesus surprised His hearers with parables that had unexpected twists and turns. No doubt He astonished the disciples when He first called God 'Father' and went on to instruct them to pray saying "Our Father in heaven...". No one had called God 'Father' before!

Shortly before His arrest, trial and crucifixion, Jesus talked to His disciples about God the Father. He said: "In my Father's house are many rooms." This prompted Philip to ask: "Show us the Father, that is all we need." Jesus replied: "Whoever has seen Me has seen the Father."

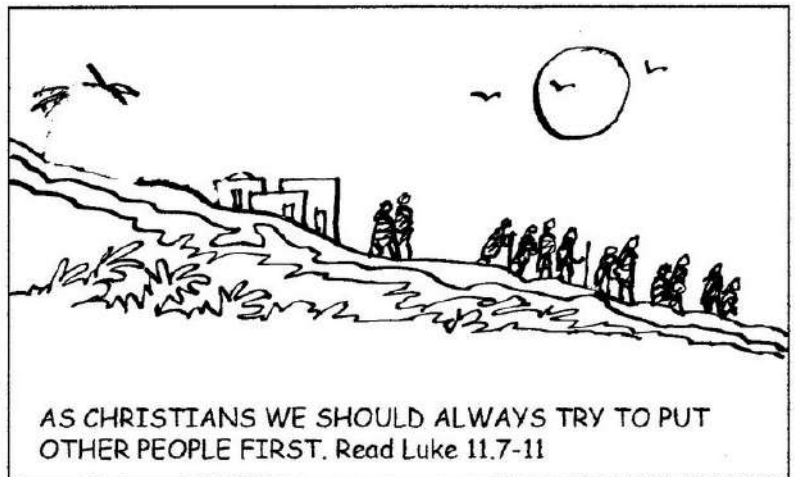
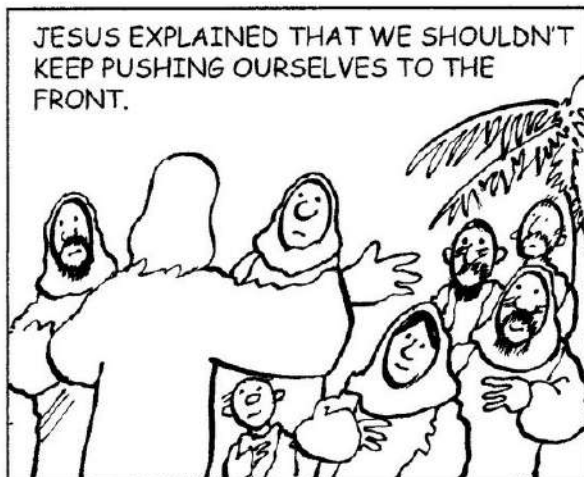
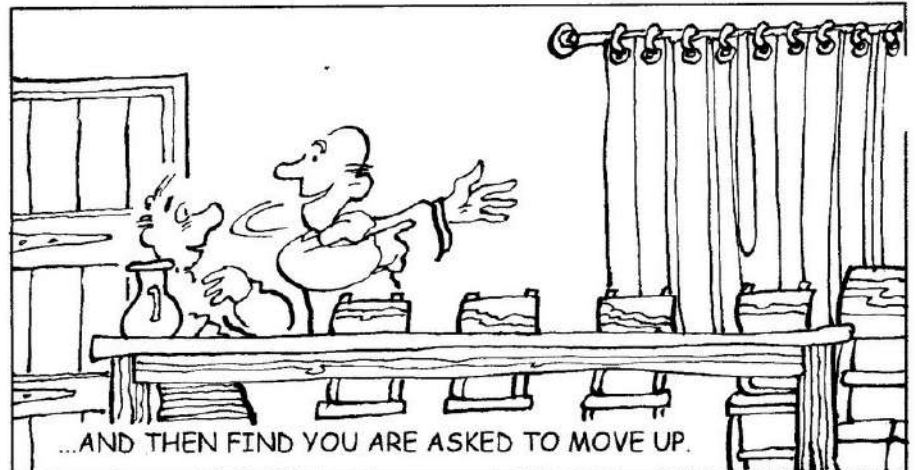
Jesus knew this concept would be hard to grasp and so had to frequently speak about God as His Father. For three years the disciples had listened to profound teaching and witnessed miracles. They knew Jesus was different, but as His ministry drew to a close they were learning more about the special relationship that God had with Jesus.

On 19th June it will be Father's Day. This is an occasion to remember the role our dads are playing now or have played in our lives. Hopefully, we have good memories and recall times of loving care they showed to us.

Unfortunately, some people do not know their fathers, or they have been absent for long periods or may be neglectful, deceitful, or abusive. Sadly, some children and adults would rather not remember their fathers, having suffered some trauma or family breakdown.

It is good to know that God is not like this. Jesus came to reveal God as our Heavenly Father, who is loving, compassionate, merciful, forgiving, and caring. God is the model father who knows what is good for us and wants the best for us.

So, Father's Day can be a reminder that we are God's children, and that we can possess the blessings He has kept for us. In the story of our lives God has revealed Himself in a surprising way. He says to each one of us 'I am your Father'. Now that is something to celebrate!





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

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



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Branches: Clifford House, 1 Grove Lane, Standish T: 01257 422011 • Hallbank House, 407 Wigan Road, Bryn T: 01942 271392
Parsonage House, 100 Railway Road, Leigh T: 01942 261415 • Windsor House, 232 Scholes, Wigan T: 01942 820526
Whitley House, 438 Gidlow Lane, Beech Hill T: 01942 829200 • Bentham House, 220 Spendmore Lane, Coppull T: 01257 793880
Stretton House, 23 Hall Green, Upholland T: 01695 622099 • Templeton Lodge, Templeton Road, Platt Bridge T: 01942 863936
26 Carina Lodge, 178 Tyldesley Rd, Atherton T: 01942 318025 • Century House, 6-8 Wigan Road, Hindley T: 01942 318081

June Services



St Thomas'

5th June

9.00am Morning Worship
10.45am Worship Together
6.30pm Holy Communion

12th June

9.00am Morning Worship
10.45am Worship Together

19th June

9.00am Morning Worship
10.45am Holy Communion
6.30pm Evening Prayer

26th June

9.00am Holy Communion
10.45am Worship Together

St Luke's

11.00am Family Worship

11.00am Holy Communion

11.00am Family Worship

11.00am Family Worship

Every Thursday, 9.45am BCP Holy Communion



Take a look at the front of the magazine where all the June services, at each of the churches within our parish, are listed in full.

News from our churches

APCM

The Annual Parish meeting was held on 24th May at Holy Trinity Church. As we are now one parish it is important that we are aware of those who represent us. I am therefore setting out full details of the members and officers of the PCC.

Hub Leader: Jeremy Thomas

Associate Hub Leader: Sue Fulford

Secretary: Tricia Hancox

Treasurer: Sarah Riley

Team Rector: Neil Cook

Church Wardens: Paula Gillespie & Helen Weavers

PCC Members: Stuart Barton, Jessica Bradley, Tony Card, Catherine Cloake, Jan Cornthwaite, Alex Finney, Lesley Hughes, Carole Pye, Joan Roberts, Rosalyn Unsworth, Lorraine Webb and Eth Yates

Deanery Synod representatives: Kath Hobson, Mansell High, Sharon Liptrot, Sue Neil, Philip Stott, Christine Wakefield.

Donation

I would like to acknowledge the donation received from Park Motors towards the maintenance of the church hall and carpark. The hall and car park are facilities enjoyed by many people and such donations are always appreciated and applied accordingly.

Tuesday Coffee

Do you know about Tuesday coffee in the church hall?



This event has been happening on a weekly basis for probably for more than 30 years and provides a homely welcoming venue where friends and visitors alike share fellowship and company.

It is run between 10am and 12pm in the left-hand church hall with coffee, tea, toast and teacakes served by our brilliant team of volunteers. Over the years many of our church members both past and present have enjoyed the fellowship of friends and a good old chinwag.

I became involved when I retired from office work and found myself volunteering to put out the tables and chairs. It was a team effort and for many years I was joined promptly at 9.30am by my old pal Ken Laites, lately I have been grateful for the help provided by Les Johnson.

I am writing this article now as since the pandemic we are seeing fewer numbers attending. Until the pandemic we saw attendance grow week by week, this was evident because extra tables were needed to accommodate the people attending. Sadly, since the pandemic, when we couldn't open, our numbers have declined. It is particularly noticeable to me as I now put out less tables than before.

I thought that perhaps there are some newly retired members or indeed some who now find that they have a little more time on their hands who might not be aware of this weekly event. Please give us a try, you will be warmly welcomed.

I might add that it is not just a pleasurable occasion but a valuable fund raiser towards church hall expenses. Recently the water boiler required quite expensive repairs, these have been carried out funded by a donation from the Tuesday coffee fund.

Garden of Rest

I must include an apology for an error in my article last month regarding the floral tributes allowed in the Garden of Rest. I mention that only wrapped fresh flowers were permit this should have read **unwrapped** fresh flowers. The wrappings must be removed and deposited in the bins and, of course, the dead flowers removed.

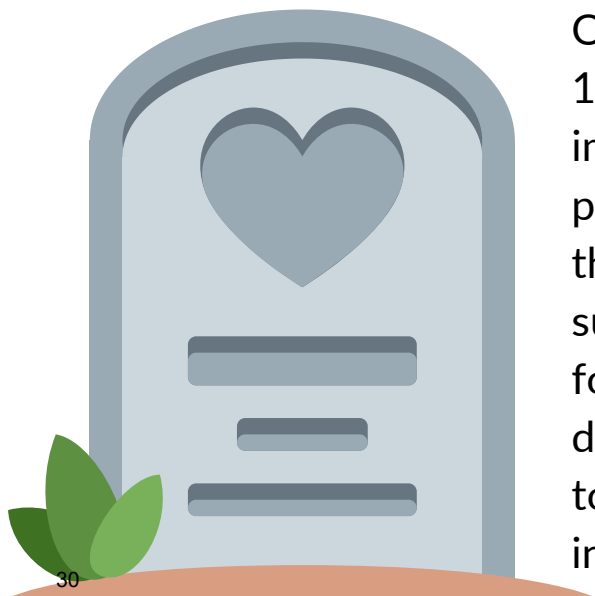
Audio Visual (AV) Support

Many of you who worship at St Thomas' will have experienced the benefits of the fantastic new Audio Visual (AV) facilities which we use and be aware that we now live stream our Family Service each week. This enables those who, for whatever reason, cannot attend in person to join with us. Our small dedicated AV team work hard to make this possible. However, we desperately need a few more members of the team. If you are interested and can help, then please contact Chris Wooff on 01942 724207 or email chriswooff@outlook.com. Full training will be provided.

Heath Road Graveyard

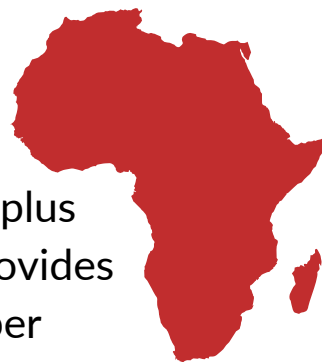
Another 20 tons of topsoil was delivered on the 16th May and under the supervision of Graham Bailey, a team of volunteers, in the main comprising of our asylum seeking friends, used the soil to fill some of the many sunken graves. Our thanks to Graham and all who helped.

Over the years we have probably had delivered 10 such loads, although there has been a vast improvement in the state of the graveyard we probably need as much topsoil again to complete the work of filling in all of the graves which have sunk to dangerous levels. It presently costs £360 for a 20 ton load and I don't need to say that donations to assist with the cost and volunteers to spread the soil would be more than welcome, indeed vital.



Africa Fund News

St Thomas and St Luke's Africa fund supports two amazing Christian-run projects in Uganda: Biojemss (who operate children's homes in Rukungiri and Kampala) plus the Kigezi Diocese Water and Sanitation Project which provides outlying communities with access to clean water and proper sanitation. Both projects play a massive part in saving and changing lives.



Each month, generous donors support the Africa fund with standing orders. Unfortunately, we have lost donors in recent years because people have died, moved from St Thomas' or are unable to continue to give.

We therefore need additional income to maintain our existing levels of giving. In order to give thanks for the generosity of our churches but also to highlight this need for additional donors we held a special service in St Thomas on 8th May. Siân Ball who leads Biojemss spoke at the service and we also highlighted the importance of the Kigezi Diocese Water and Sanitation Project. If you missed it, you can watch a recording here: <http://shorturl.at/bT269>.

We hope to be able run a similar service at St Luke's in June. More information will be available nearer the time.

Please consider setting up a regular monthly donation so we can continue to support this incredible work. We would especially welcome new donors and if you are able to help or have any questions then please contact Chris Wooff (01942 724207) or by email to chriswooff@outlook.com.



You can find out more about the Africa fund on our web site: <http://www.stthomasstluke.org.uk/ourworld/africafund/>

Mothers' Union



Diary:

15th June a meeting of the Mothers Union will be held in the church hall 7.30pm. The speaker is Holly Cornall from Hope Church and the meeting will be followed with refreshments.

Deanery Festival: 14th June

This years Festival will take place at St Luke's Orrell at 7.30pm. I hope that our members will be able to attend along with the coloured butterflies. This is an important meeting in Deanery life.

Afternoon Tea: 21st July 2022

Please note that this proposed trip has been cancelled due to the difficulties and cost of transport.

Scargill Weekend: 5th - 7th May 2023

Next year's weekend takes place between the 5th and 7th May 2023. The cost is £150 per person with most rooms being twin. If you are interested in attending a deposit of £50 per person is required with a final payment by 28th February. I have the appropriate booking forms.

For our May meeting we had a very interesting talk by Jean Walsh from the IM's Downall Green. She very interestingly related the normal contents of a lady's handbag to bible passages. Sadly, only 12 of our members were in attendance which is disappointing for our guest speaker.

Creative Prayer

Take a fruit which is made up of segments. As you unpeel it and separate the segments, pray for the different fruit of the Spirit to increase in yourself and in your church. Thank God for the nourishment the fruit gives and ask for refreshment and power of the Spirit for yourself and others.

*Love and Prayers
Barbara*

Another glimpse into our past courtesy of David Fearnley

JOHN MOULDING, ASHTON CROSS, ASHTON IN MAKERFIELD

PART 1

Older Ashtonians may remember, in the 1960's, a small, ruined house that used to stand on the Tithebarn Road corner of Ashton Cross where the rehabilitation centre is today. This was 2 Tithebarn Road and in 1901 was the residence of Thomas Kinder Moulding, his son John and daughter Ethel. Ethel was a mental health nurse at Haydock Lodge Asylum on Warrington Road, after the present Haydock Park Gardens. Haydock Lodge was formerly the residence of the Legh family of Newton. After its demolition the site was used for the Post House Hotel, now the Holiday Inn. John Moulding was born in Wigan in 1879 and by 1901 was working as a groom and coachman in Garswood Hall stables which were next to the Hall owned by Lord William Cansfield Gerard. John was also a trooper/private in the Lancashire Hussars regiment, a volunteer force set up in 1848 by Sir John Gerard in Ashton in Makerfield. At the outbreak of the Boer War in South Africa in 1899 Lord William Cansfield Gerard was the honorary colonel of the regiment. Volunteer regiments, such as the Lancashire Hussars, were not given permission to fight overseas until 1900 when allowed to do so under the name Imperial Yeomanry. However, Lord William Cansfield Gerard was also a serving officer in the Dragoon Guards and was allowed to serve overseas.

In October 1899, Lord Gerard departed for Natal, South Africa, to serve at the staff headquarters of General Sir Redvers Buller who was in charge of all the Empire forces in South Africa. Accompanying Lord Gerard, as his servants, were John Moulding, No. 9056, private, Lancashire Hussars, and Fred Farmer, No. 9057, private, Lancashire Hussars. John, as a groom, was responsible for Lord Gerard's charger/cavalry horse, and riding equipment. Fred was a footman at Garswood Hall and was responsible for Lord Gerard's everyday needs. Fred was originally from Ashford, Kent, and probably worked at Lord Gerard's Eastwell Manor residence at Ashford before being brought up to Garswood Hall. John Moulding served with Lord Gerard in the Orange Free State and Cape Colony and was present at some of the major battles of the Boer War – Belfast, Tugela Heights, Relief of Ladysmith and Laing's Nek. In October 1900 all three returned home.

Lord William Cansfield Gerard died in 1902 and was buried at St. Oswald's, Ashton. As the funeral procession passed through Garswood Hall gates onto Warrington Road the coffin was carried on a Royal Artillery gun carriage attached to a gun which was drawn by four horses of the Royal Artillery Regiment. Behind the gun carriage was Lord Gerard's charger/cavalry horse led by the two men who had served with Lord Gerard in South Africa – John Moulding and Fred Farmer. Both men were wearing long dust coats and wide brimmed sun hats as they had in the Boer War but they were now in black instead of khaki. Lord Gerard was buried in the Gerard vault in the graveyard on the St. Oswald Roadside of the church. Since it was a military funeral three volleys were fired by a firing party at the vault. Today a large stone cross marks the location of the vault.

(To be continued)

David A. Fearnley



Our church and community litter picking team split into two on 21 May. One group tidied around Ashton market whilst the other worked around St Oswald's school. Between them they collected quite a lot of rubbish.

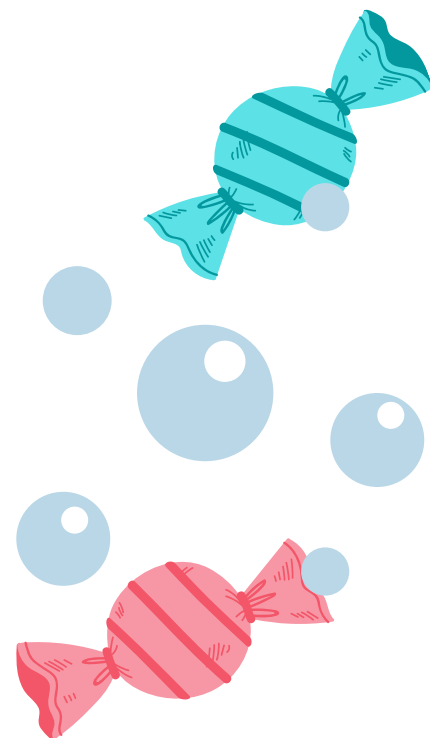
The next litter pick is on 18 June meeting at 10am on St Thomas church hall car park.

Please consider coming to help.

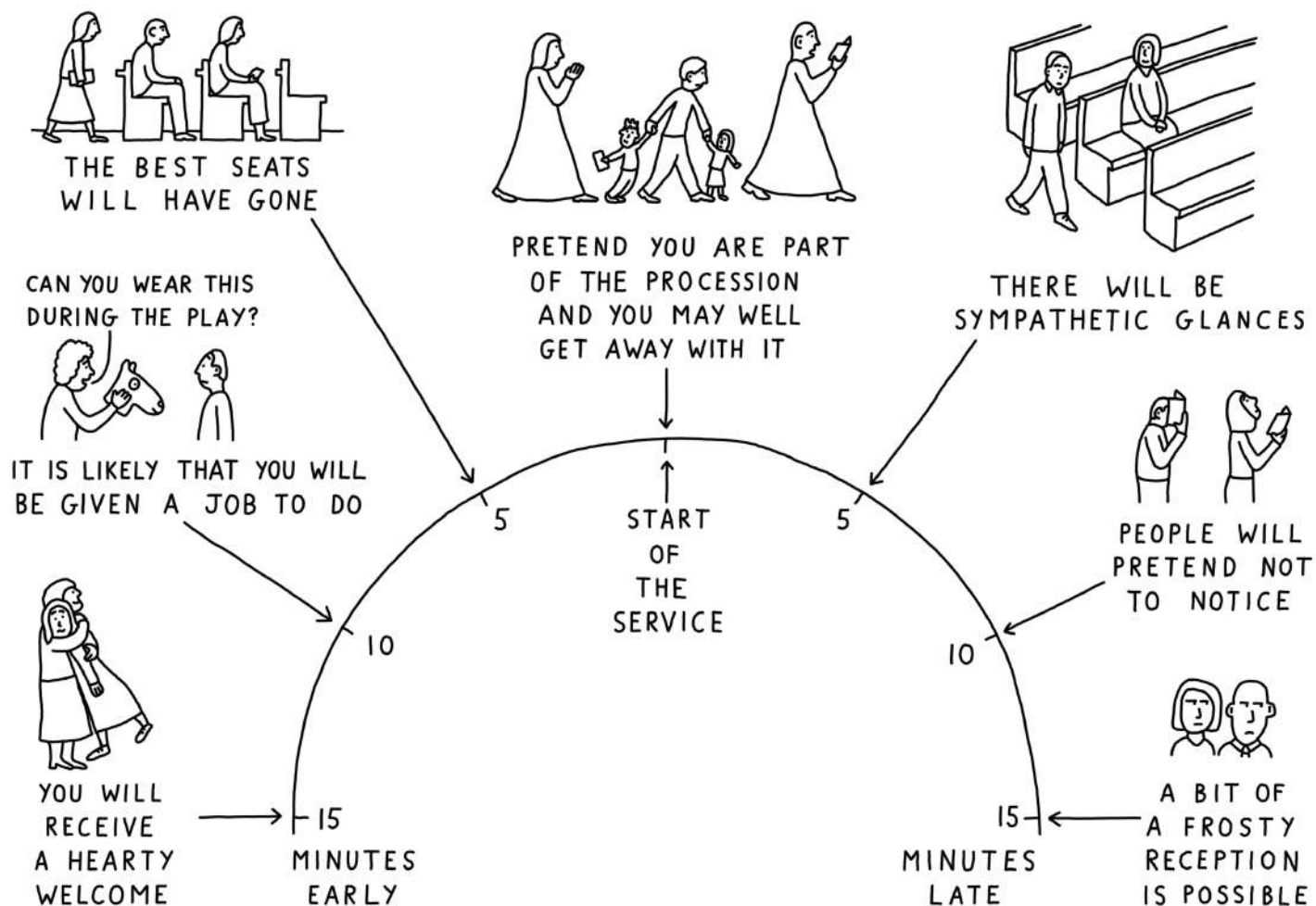


On Sunday 22 May, St Thomas' enjoyed an all age service, where children and families were invited from school to join in the service.

It was a thoroughly enjoyable service, and so lovely to see and hear from our young people whilst learning valuable lessons of Jesus' promise to not abandon us.



ARRIVING AT CHURCH



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



In memory of **Ken Laites**

From Pauline McLaren


In loving memory of **Austin Bullen**

a dear husband, dad and grandad
from Jean, Karen, Jaki & family

In memory of dearly loved parents, **John** and **Freda Melling**
from Susan and Andy

A legacy has been gratefully received from the estate of
Olive Van der Boon

There have also been donations to Churchyard, Africa Fund
and General funds



The Registers



Holy Baptism 'We welcome them into the Lord's family'	
7 May	Jamie Littler
8 May	Evelyn Dottie Rae Davies
22 May	Bodhi Nathaniel Banks - Coward
22 May	Millie Rose Ada Sykes
27 May	Shineece Helen Anne Wilkes
27 May	Thomas Jack Luis Rampling

Funerals 'May they rest in peace'		
20 May	Jeanette Lynn Oxbury	62
20 May	Brian Green	56
30 May	Kevin Parkinson	64

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

Bowling Club

Henry Hunter
712709

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

Youth Clubs

JYC: (for Y3—Y6) Mon 6pm - 7pm

JYC Extra: Mon 5.30pm - 6pm

Friday Youth Club: 7pm—8pm fortnightly

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

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hubadmin.south@churchwigan.org

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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

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