

# 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**



March 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.

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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](mailto:magazine@stthomasstluke.org.uk).

	April	May	June
Deadline for material	17 March	14 April	19 May
Publish date	27 March	24 April	29 May

# The Vernal Equinox



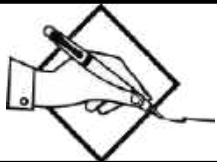
In the season of the Spring  
The day is equal to the night;  
Summer's song we soon shall sing!  
Evenings filled with summer light

Winter's cares seem long ago  
Mornings spiked by bitter frost  
But we shall bask in summer glow  
For the seasons have now crossed.

Thank you, Lord God, for the Spring  
And for all the seasons, too,  
Of life's rhythms we shall sing  
Giving all the praise to You.

***Nigel Beeton***





# A Letter From Ros

Greetings from Garswood!

Dear Friends,

As I write this to you, I am looking out on my garden at the Snowdrops, the Crocus and the miniature Daffodils as they are all starting to burst forth announcing that Spring time is on its way, signs of New Birth, God's Creation availed in Flowers.

I am also conscious of that beautiful reading in St. Luke's Gospel chapter 8 verses 22-25- you know the one where Jesus calms the Storm.

It brings to mind the events of the last two years that all of us have endured in this country and indeed the world, the like of which we have never known before. A time when each of us were affected by the storm in our own lives of coping with the situation before us and praying that God would calm this storm too. A time when we felt the greatest need for Jesus to be alongside us.

Almost like a silent Tsunami as it spread itself throughout nations, a period when families were separated, existed in bubbles, were isolated, lost loved ones and personally for me a time when I had to explain to families that their loved one could not be taken into Church for a service prior to Cremation or Burial.

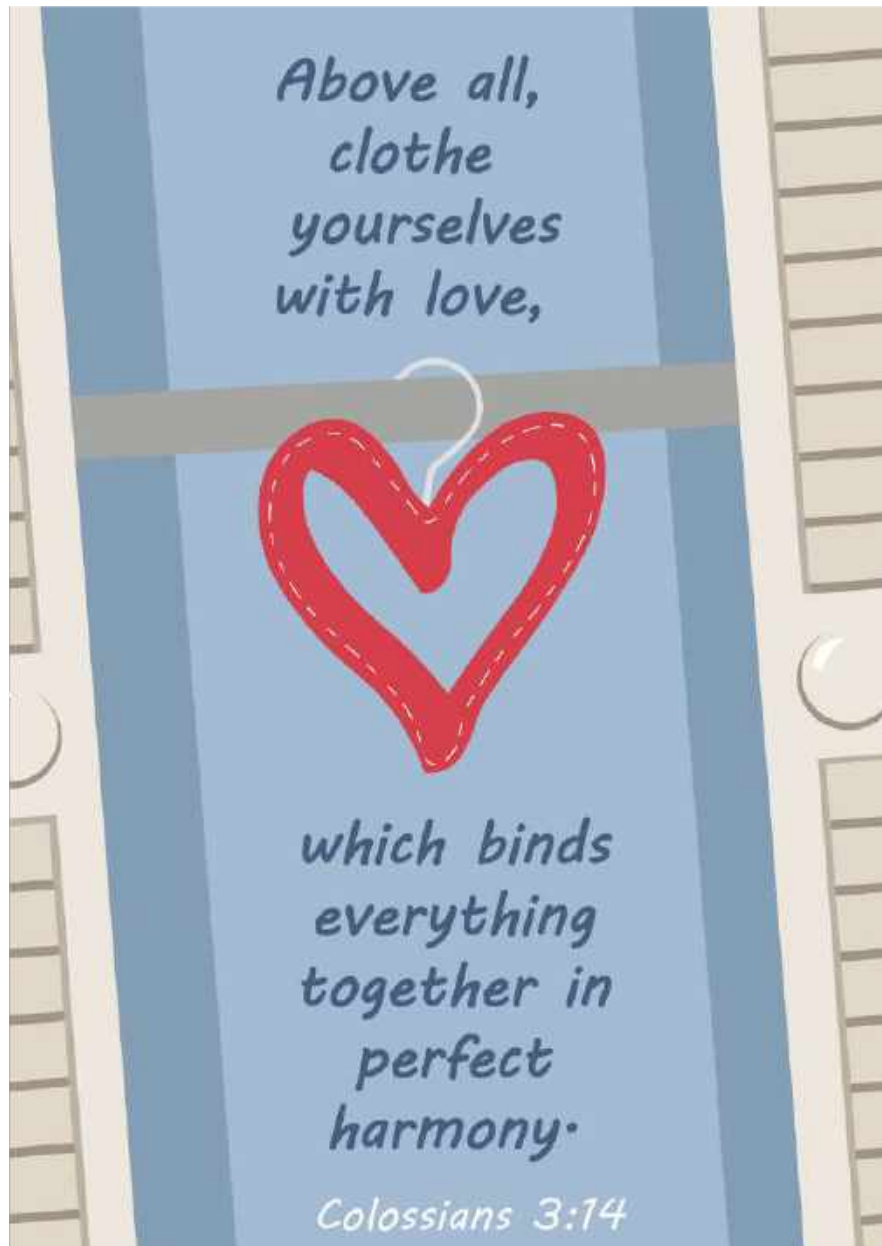
How devastating for those families and we heard lots of stories on TV and in our own communities of sealed coffins so that loved ones could not say their final good-byes, so many restrictions in place that we all had to abide by, reduced numbers at funerals, no visiting in care home and hospitals, schools closed.

But today we seem to be edging our way out of this situation, we are starting to join together in worship, communities are opening up their meetings and getting together and life seems to be more positive.

For each one of us we will all have personal stories to tell and I am sure that when we were at our lowest, suddenly, we were propelled back by the Love of God, and that there is a definite reason for us to be here with a purpose that drives us on. I call it the Power of Prayer the Disciples in the boat were frightened of drowning but Jesus questioned their faith and they were amazed at his actions.

We too must put our faith in God and be guided by his actions "Who is this" they said "He commands even the winds and the water and they obey him" We too must continue to place our Faith in God and watch what he will do for you and me.

***Blessings to you all***  
***Rosalyn xx***



# Services across the Parish

## Holy Trinity

<b>Sunday 6</b>	10.30am Morning Worship
<b>Wednesday 9</b>	10.00am Holy Communion
<b>Sunday 13</b>	10.30am Morning Worship
<b>Sunday 20</b>	10.30am Holy Communion
<b>Wednesday 23</b>	10.00am Holy Communion
<b>Sunday 27</b>	10.30am Morning Worship

## St Andrew's

<b>Sunday 6</b>	9.30am Morning Worship
<b>Sunday 13</b>	9.30am Holy Communion
<b>Sunday 20</b>	9.30am Church Cafe
<b>Sunday 27</b>	9.30am Morning Worship

## St Thomas'

<b>Thursday 3</b>	9.45am BCP Communion
<b>Sunday 6</b>	9.00am Morning Worship 10.45am Worship Together 6.30pm Holy Communion
<b>Thursday 10</b>	9.45am BCP Communion
<b>Sunday 13</b>	9.00am Morning Worship 10.45am Worship Together
<b>Thursday 17</b>	9.45am BCP Communion
<b>Sunday 20</b>	9.00am Holy Communion 10.45am Worship Together 4.30pm Farsi Worship 6.30pm Evening Prayer
<b>Thursday 24</b>	9.45am BCP Communion
<b>Sunday 27</b>	9.00am Morning Worship 10.45am Worship Together with Holy Communion
<b>Thursday 31</b>	9.45am Morning Prayer

## St Aidan's

<b>Wednesday 2</b>	10.00am Holy Communion
<b>Sunday 6</b>	9.30am Holy Communion
<b>Sunday 13</b>	10.30am Sta's4all 4.00pm Evening Prayer
<b>Wednesday 16</b>	10.00am Holy Communion
<b>Sunday 20</b>	10.00am Morning Worship
<b>Sunday 27</b>	10.00am Beacon Service

## St Luke's

<b>Sunday 6</b>	11.00am Family Worship
<b>Sunday 13</b>	11.00am Holy Communion
<b>Sunday 20</b>	11.00am Family Worship
<b>Sunday 27</b>	11.00am Family Worship

## St Peter's

<b>Sunday 6</b>	10.30am Holy Communion
<b>Sunday 13</b>	10.30am Parade & Family Service
<b>Sunday 20</b>	10.30am Morning Prayer
<b>Sunday 27</b>	10.30am Morning Prayer

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

You are sure to receive  
a warm welcome.



# Parish News



## **Ash Wednesday**

There shall be a joint Hub Ash service on Wednesday 2nd March starting at 7pm at Holy Trinity.

There will also be the usual Holy Communion Service at 10am at St. Aidan's on that day. If anyone would like to join this service, they would be most welcome.

## **Maundy Thursday - Advanced Notice**

Similarly, next month there is a joint Hub service on Thursday 14th April starting at 7pm at St. Luke's.



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

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

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

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

# We want to hear from you



Did you see the Queen when she visited our town?

Have you met Her Majesty elsewhere?

Do you remember watching the coronation?

As part of our recognition and celebrations of the Queen's Jubilee, we would love to collate the accounts, photos and memorabilia of these events. If you have stories you would like to share about meeting the Queen or the coronation, please email them to [magazine@stthomasstluke.org.uk](mailto:magazine@stthomasstluke.org.uk) or to a worship community team member. Any items we can photograph or scan shall be returned as quickly as possible.

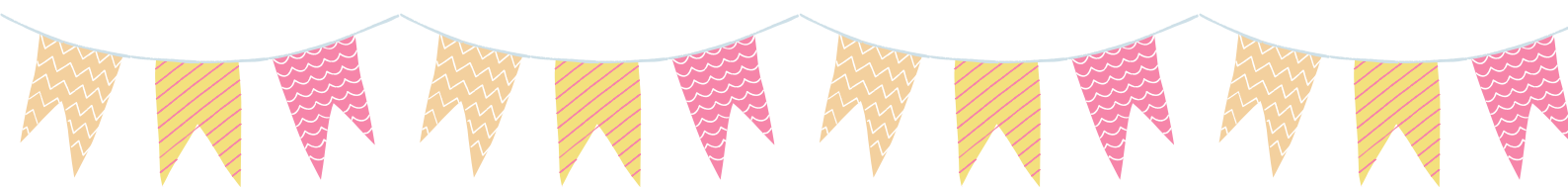


**Friday 4th March 11.00am**

A Service for Everyone for World Day of Prayer  
2022

**Downall Green Independent Methodist Church**  
**Victoria Road**  
**Garswood**

All are welcome.  
Refreshments after the service.



Holy Trinity Church will be holding a 'Coffee Morning with stalls' on  
Saturday 12th March 10.30am -1.30pm.

Please come along and bring your friends.  
Children will be made most welcome.





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AFTER THE SERVICE



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## 'Your Kingdom come, your will be done'

Peter Whittington, Discipleship Lead, explores the Church Wigan focus for 2022 and the forthcoming Lent series



Jesus offers us 'living water' that gives 'eternal life' (John 4:10-14) and flows with the power of the Holy Spirit in and through our lives (John 7:37-39). Over the last few years we have spent time as Church Wigan considering the 'wells', the places in our communities, where people can come to receive this 'living water' from Jesus. We have thought about the old wells that need unstopping and the new wells that need digging. In 2022 our focus will be on the water that is found in those wells, the 'living water' that Jesus offers us. This 'living water' is the power

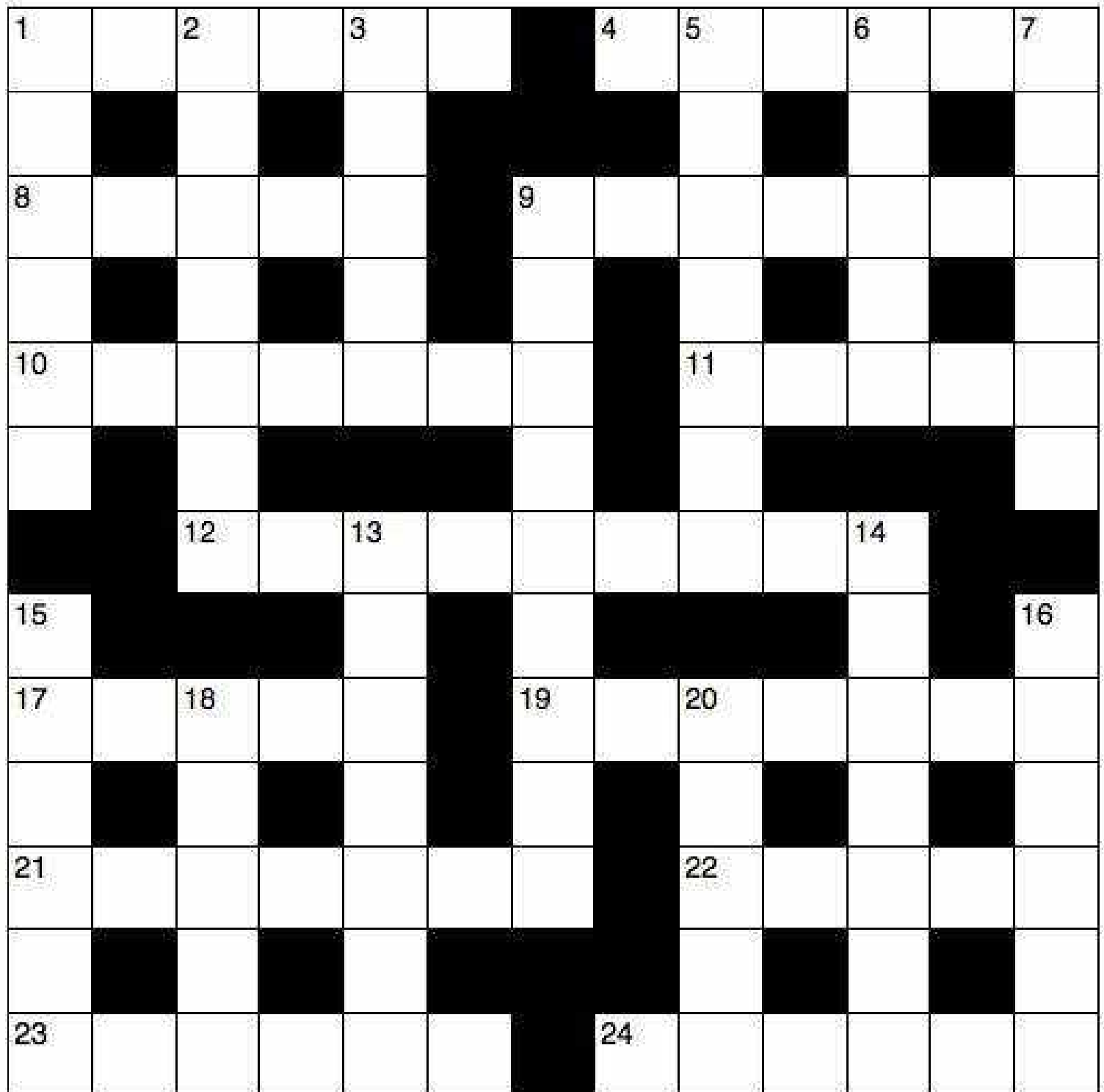
of God sustaining our lives and our faith, water that becomes a spring of the Holy Spirit that not only nourishes us but then overflows in our lives to the lives of those around us. They might be very familiar passages, but it is worth reading again the two key passages of John 4:1-42 and 7:37-39. Take a moment to receive again that 'living water' from Jesus and allow the Holy Spirit to refresh you and bubble up within you.

Across the year we will consider in more detail what the 'living water' is and how we receive it. We will spend time thinking about how we drink the living water that we might be sustained in our daily lives as a disciple of Jesus. We will reflect on how we share the living water, recognising that as worshipping communities and as Church Wigan we help one another to drink from the well and also invite others to receive the 'living water' from Jesus. We will examine how we continue to replenish ourselves with the living water, both individually and as worshipping communities. Drinking is not a one-off event, to sustain life we need to constantly drink (think about how many drinks you have during a day and so every week, month, year). For our lives to thrive spiritually and for our faith to remain vibrant we need to consistently drink of the 'living water', regularly receiving the eternal life and the Holy Spirit that will enable our lives to flourish as the people God has created us to be and be fruitful in the purposes he has for us.

**What happens next:** During Lent there will be a series for all worshipping communities to participate in Drink from the well: 'Your kingdom come, your will be done.'

*From Church Wigan News*

# Crossword



## Across

- 1 Arouse (Song of Songs 2:7) (6)
- 4 Extinguish (Isaiah 1:31) (6)
- 8 “They — — ,” you will say, “but I’m not hurt!” (Proverbs 23:35) (3,2)
- 9 Unhappiness (Nehemiah 2:2) (7)
- 10 Jewish (7)
- 11 Dirge (anag.) (5)
- 12 ‘A truthful witness gives honest — , but a false witness tells lies’ (Proverbs 12:17) (9)
- 17 Paul quoted from the second one in his address in the synagogue at Pisidian Antioch (Acts 13:33) (5)
- 19 ‘Do not use your freedom to — the sinful nature’ (Galatians 5:13) (7)
- 21 ‘As you can see, he has done nothing to — death’ (Luke 23:15) (7)
- 22 Name applied by Isaiah to Jerusalem (Isaiah 29:1) (5)
- 23 ‘All the people — — one man, saying, “None of us will go home”’ (Judges 20:8) (4,2)
- 24 Lazarus, who was carried by angels to Abraham’s side when he died, was one (Luke 16:20) (6)

## Down

- 1 Appalled (Job 26:11) (6)
- 2 ‘In an — to escape from the ship, the sailors let the lifeboat down into the sea’ (Acts 27:30) (7)
- 3 Expel (Acts 18:16) (5)
- 5 ‘But I have a baptism to — , and how distressed I am until it is completed!’ (Luke 12:50) (7)
- 6 ‘Of the increase of his government and peace there will be — — ’ (Isaiah 9:7) (2,3)
- 7 Hurry (Psalm 119:60) (6)
- 9 ‘For I desire mercy, not — , and acknowledgement of God rather than burnt offerings’ (Hosea 6:6) (9)
- 13 One of its towns was Sychar, where Jesus met a woman at Jacob’s well (John 4:5) (7)
- 14 Shouting (Acts 7:57) (7)
- 15 Arachnid (Isaiah 59:5) (6)
- 16 One of Paul’s first converts in Philippi was Lydia, a — in purple cloth (Acts 16:14) (6)
- 18 Donkeys (5)
- 20 Raked (anag.) (5)

# March Holy Days

## **1st March - Shrove Tuesday**

Ever wonder why we eat pancakes just before Lent? The tradition dates back to Anglo-Saxon times, when Christians spent Lent in repentance and severe fasting.

So on the Tuesday before Ash Wednesday, the church bell would summon them to confession, where they would be 'shriven', or absolved from their sins, which gives us Shrove Tuesday. At home, they would then eat up their last eggs and fat, and making a pancake was the easiest way to do this. For the next 47 days, they pretty well starved themselves.

Pancakes feature in cookery books as far back as 1439, and today's pancake races are in remembrance of a panicked woman back in 1445 in Olney, Buckinghamshire. She was making pancakes when she heard the shriving bell calling her to confession. Afraid she'd be late, she ran to the church in a panic, still in her apron, and still holding the pan.

Flipping pancakes is also centuries old. A poem from Pasquil's Palin in 1619 runs: "And every man and maide doe take their turne, And tosse their Pancakes up for feare they burne."

Some people have noted that the ingredients of pancakes can be used to highlight four significant things about this time of year: eggs stand for creation, flour is the staff of life, while salt keeps things wholesome, and milk stands for purity.

## **25th March: Lady Day or The Annunciation**

This beautiful event (Luke 1:26-38) took place in Nazareth, when Mary is already betrothed to Joseph. The Archangel Gabriel comes to Mary, greets her as highly favoured, tells her not to be afraid, that she will bear a son Jesus, and that her elderly cousin Elizabeth is already pregnant (with John the Baptist).



The church calendar is never quite as neat as some would like it. To celebrate the Annunciation on 25th March does indeed place the conception of Jesus exactly nine months from His birth on 25th December, but the latter part of March almost inevitably falls during Lent. But the birth and death of Jesus are intrinsically linked - He was born to die, and thus fulfil God's purposes.

The Annunciation is a significant date in the Christian calendar - it is one of the most frequent depicted in Christian art. Gabriel's gracious strength and Mary's humble dignity have inspired many artists. Certainly, Mary's response to the angel has for centuries been an example of good faith in practice - humility, enquiry of God, and trusting acceptance in His will for her life.

### **27th March: Mothering Sunday, 4th Sunday in Lent**

There is an old Jewish saying: God could not be everywhere, and therefore He made mothers.

Mother Church, Mother Earth, Mother of the Gods - our human mothers - all of them have been part of the celebration of 'Mothering Sunday' - as the fourth Sunday in Lent is affectionately known. It has been celebrated in the UK since at least the 16th century.

In Roman times, great festivals were held every Spring to honour Cybele, Mother of all the Gods. Other pagan festivals in honour of Mother Earth were also celebrated. With the arrival of Christianity, the festival became one honouring Mother Church.

Thus, Mothering Sunday is about the freedom that we gain through the promise of Jesus Christ delivered through our Mother the Church. People were encouraged to go to their 'Mother Church' (their home church or their home Cathedral) to worship and give thanks. This special day became a day of family rejoicing, and the Lenten fast was broken. In some places the day was called Simnel Day, because of the sweet cakes called simnel cakes traditionally eaten on that day.

# Observing Lent

This month sees the start of Lent, the 40-day season of penitence, self-examination and fasting running up to Easter. Jesus began His earthly ministry by fasting in the wilderness for 40 days and taught His disciples to fast: 'when you fast.' (Matthew 6:17).

The spiritual discipline of fasting involves missing one or two meals during the day, refraining from TV, alcohol or social media, and identifying the things that get in the way of our focus on God. What are the benefits of fasting?

The act of giving something up expresses my desire to put God first in my life. It shows me the things that I depend on rather than God, so that I can surrender 'my idols' to Him. It encourages me to have a deeper hunger and dependency for God. It gives me space to focus on God for His strength, provision, and wisdom resulting in a more intimate relationship with Christ: 'Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.' (Matthew 5:6).

Fasting enables the Holy Spirit to reveal my true spiritual condition, leading to brokenness and repentance, and a transformed life along with heart that is more attentive and dependent on God.

Lent can also be a time to embrace new spiritual disciplines, eg: joining a study group, 'random acts of kindness', giving more time to prayer and Bible study or solitude, and reading a Lent book. Whatever you do, make Lent count this year!

'Jesus takes it for granted that His disciples will observe the pious custom of fasting. Strict exercise of self-control is an essential feature of the Christian's life. Such customs have only one purpose - to make the disciples more ready and cheerful to accomplish those things which God would have done.' (Dietrich Bonhoeffer).

***Canon Paul Hardingham***

## Christian Basics No 3: Why the Cross?

*The cross is a picture of violence, yet the key to peace;  
a picture of suffering, yet the key to healing;  
a picture of death, yet the key to life;  
a picture of utter weakness, yet the key to power;  
a picture of capital punishment, yet the key to mercy and forgiveness;  
a picture of vicious hatred, yet the key to love;  
a picture of supreme shame, yet the Christian's supreme boast.*

The cross really is the key to everything! Although a horrifying instrument of torture and death, it is also a symbol of love and peace. On the cross Jesus died to deal with the problem of our sin and defeat the powers of death and evil. He identified with our sufferings and set us an example of self-sacrificial love.

As Peter writes, 'He Himself bore our sins in His body on the tree, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; by His wounds you have been healed ... Christ died for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God' (1 Peter 2:24, 3:18). Jesus died in our place on the cross and took away our guilt, to pay the full penalty for our sin. Access to God's presence is now open to all, symbolised by the Temple curtain being torn in two from top to bottom. The barrier between us and God was torn down in order 'to bring us to God'.

Jesus is the bridge providing access between us and God. 'If Jesus Christ is to be our Saviour then He must be able to place a hand upon a pardoning God and another hand on a penitent sinner and draw them together in an act of reconciliation' (Bishop Handley Moule).

## Crossword Answers

ACROSS: 1, Awaken. 4, Quench. 8, Hit me. 9, Sadness. 10, Semitic. 11, Ridge. 12, Testimony. 17, Psalm. 19, Indulge. 21, Deserve. 22, Ariel. 23, Rose as. 24, Beggar.

DOWN: 1, Aghast. 2, Attempt. 3, Eject. 5, Undergo. 6, No end. 7, Hasten. 9, Sacrifice. 13, Samaria. 14, Yelling. 15, Spider. 16, Dealer. 18, Asses. 20, Drake.

# Wordsearch

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

inherit

feeding

sorry

celebrate

hungry

workman

property

son

clothes

money

younger

found

senses

angry

country

older

hugged

feast

house

nothing

father

slaved

pigs

lost



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Carina Lodge, 178 Tyldesley Rd, Atherton T: 01942 318025 • Century House, 6-8 Wigan Road, Hindley T: 01942 318081

# News from our churches

I was immensely saddened by the death of my dear friend and co-church worker Ken Laites. I was however privileged to attend, with some 234 other people, the funeral and celebration of Ken's life. It was a celebration conducted by Rev Mike Greenwood and assisted by another old friend, Rev David Hamlett who gave a eulogy which touched all aspects of Ken's busy and full life from his love of his family, through his working career, his dedicated church life and his involvement for many years in Freemasonry. The church was packed with mourners wishing to pay their respects to the quiet man whose influence was felt by all.

The lovely flowers in church were provided in loving memory of Ken by friends from St Thomas' Flower Guild.

With government restrictions, being removed we are trying to regain something of a pre-pandemic normality. Taking care is, of course, still of the upmost importance. We do hope to see some of our friends who have been avoiding meetings back amongst us and enjoying full fellowship and the teachings of our Saviour Jesus Christ. It has been quite encouraging to hear the chatter of happy fellowship after our services particularly after the Sunday 10.45am service.

I mentioned earlier the death of Ken Laites. Much work by our volunteers goes on quietly behind the scenes week in and week out. As one of our very active volunteers Ken leaves a big hole in the backroom of our church. Until his recent bad health Ken was always available with screw driver and pliers or other necessary tools ready to attend whatever emergency or problem we faced either in church or the church hall. This usually ended up with me at the bottom of the ladder with Ken in action at the top. He will be sorely missed but does need to be replaced along with the many other volunteer jobs needing to be filled. In no order of priority we need the following:-



- I know that looking back to what was is not helpful and we do need to look forward with optimism however I do have concerns regarding our general pastoral care. The burdens places on our clergy by the creation of much larger parishes and reduction in clergy numbers places a much greater burden on the lay members of our congregation. We need volunteers to assume the pastoral roles which as a church we should be providing. In the past there has been a wide range of visiting including hospital visiting and home communion and a general visit just to see how people are coping. This would include the several residential homes in and around our parish. A telephone system was employed when we were in lockdown but now needs personal attention;
- A management team for the Church Magazine, this involves the recruitment of distributors, seeking advertisers and receiving and accounting for the money received from the distributors and supervising the production of the print copies;
- We need volunteers to join the rotas for the provision of refreshments at all our services particularly following the 10.45am service
- To recruit a team of sides people to carry out the duties at the services, such as taking the collection and, when used, handing out the books. Also, with our newly reordered building, taking responsibility for setting out the chairs and tables and, of course, putting them away when not in use. This is a particular blessing when there is a baptism after the 10.45am service and chairs need to be set up around the font. A very important aspect of this work is the welcoming of visitors. We would like to have in place a team with this sole purpose, I saw an example of how important this aspect of our church life is at one of our 10.45am service when a young lady was visiting for the first time but had asked two friends to accompany her because she was new and hadn't been in the building before.
- When it was agreed to reorder the church one of the objectives was to provide an asset available for use by the community. So far there has been little take up, of course in part, due to Covid restrictions. However there has been little publicity and promotion of the benefits offered by the church and its advanced AV system. We need a team to do the publicity, promotion and management of bookings. We also need a team of volunteers to be prepared

to assist in caretaking roles when bookings are taken and perhaps helping provide refreshments. Once established as a community asset, volunteer roles could well be replaced with paid roles.

- One of the more pressing issues is the current state of the Heath Road Graveyard, especially as we approach spring and the growing season. The problems are manifold and require urgent and serious attention. Our appeals for volunteers have seemed, in the main, fallen on deaf ears. We are very grateful for the few hard working volunteers who have bent their backs and got stuck but it needs a larger number if we are to make any real difference. There are avenues to be explored but we need a 'Driver' that is someone to get a grip of the task and look at such ideas as forming a 'Friends of Heath Road Graveyard' which would enable us to look beyond just church members for volunteers. There may well be grants available to help with the upgrade. It is an opportunity to make a real input into the ecology of a green space in our town and make it an area to be proud of.

I implore you to consider whether our Heavenly Father is directing you to offer your help and to seek his guidance in prayer. Please take the time to speak to me or any of our church leaders. I did have received some encouraging good news when Linda and Mansell High confirmed that after praying about it they are happy to take over responsibility for the Leprosy Mission in church.

**Malcolm**

## **1883 AN UNUSUAL DEATH AT BRYN**

Anyone who has researched a family tree will be aware of the surprising events that are discovered. Here is such an unusual event concerning the death of my great, great, great grandfather in 1883 as told in "The Wigan Examiner" 4/8/1883 – Death From Hydrophobia (rabies) At Bryn.

"A sad case of death from hydrophobia has occurred in Bryn, the victim being John Fearnley, of The Monk, Landgate Lane, Bryn, coachman to Mr. W. Smethurst, of Landgate House. Some 6 or 7 weeks ago Fearnley, who had daily been in the habit of feeding the animal, was attacked by a large mastiff dog belonging to his master and badly bitten in the lips. Previously the dog had been considered quite harmless and until this occasion had given no evidence of ferociousness. It was shot the following day. Fearnley had his wounds dressed at the time by a medical gentleman in Wigan but has been ill more or less ever since. The affair seemed to prey upon his mind and he has been in consequence much depressed in spirits. Symptoms of hydrophobia appeared on Monday and on Tuesday they distinctly asserted themselves. He rapidly grew worse and died on Thursday afternoon. Towards the last his sufferings were most intense and death to him must have been a happy relief. He was attended by Mr. W. Mitchell Roocroft, surgeon, who did all in his power to assuage the poor fellows agony. Fearnley was about 30 years of age and leaves a widow and young family, for whom much sympathy is felt in the district".

W. Smethurst was the colliery manager for Bryn Hall collieries. Landgate House was a large farmhouse on the right of Landgate Lane just before the railway bridge (now demolished) from Park Lane colliery to the Bryn - Wigan railway line.

About 10 years ago, through family research, I made contact with the descendants of John's brother, Peter Fearnley, in Canada who told me that the story passed down in the family was that John's family suffocated him with a mattress. Even today, with modern medicines, rabies is an agonising death. What must it have been like in 1883 with no pain relief and few medicines available? Given the account in the newspaper article, if the family story is correct, then I think it is understandable.

***David A. Fearnley***

# Mothers' Union



## Diary Dates

**4th March:** Womens' World day of Prayer at Victoria Road Independent Methodist church at 11.00am

**16th March:** We are delighted to welcome Jennifer Harrison to our meeting this evening at 7.30pm in the church hall. Jennifer will talk about her visit to Uganda and a journey in faith.

**27th March:** is Mothering Sunday I look forward to seeing the members of our branch at the services

## Brunch

It seemed something like back to normal in February. First of all, on the Saturday 12th we were able to hold our Brunch. This proved a very enjoyable occasion with much shared fellowship. A great amount of effort went into the arrangements and the day and I want to thank everyone for this. There were those working in the kitchen and those waiting on or working on the stalls and of course those who attended to support us. A very satisfying outcome with £520 being raised for MU work.

## AGM meeting

Secondly on a very inhospitable night on Wednesday 16th we were able to hold our AGM meeting in person in the church hall. I want to thank the members who braved the conditions to attended the meeting and hear reports from the Secretary and Treasurer whose annual accounts were approved. I gave my report as Branch Leader and would like to thank Clare Hayton for agreeing to audit the accounts and the Rev Sue Thomas for chairing the meeting.

Two members of the committee have decided to retire Hilda Bramwell and Maureen Cook who have both served on the committee for many years. I wish to record my thanks and the thanks of the members for their dedicated service.

In addition to the committee Maureen was also the Branch Literature representative an important office which we need to fill. Literature sales not only provide cards, diaries and gifts for our members, but the Liverpool Diocese receives a percentage of the sales revenue which helps keep down the annual subscriptions. I would urge you to think and pray about taking on this role and let me know if you are interested and would like more information.

## **Mothering Sunday**

As always the MU are endeavouring to raise funds at this Festival I am setting out below the message received from our Worldwide President Sheran Harper. If anyone is interested in making a donation please let me know as I have the details.

*Dear friends,*

*For the past two years, we've been especially aware how important community, resilience and prayer are in our lives and in those of the people we are most connected with.*

*Our ethical Mothering Sunday gifts both give you the chance to celebrate those who are most special in your life, and to make a difference by supporting the people who need us most. Our Gifts of Resilience are gifts you can give that will empower women around the world – often women who are themselves responsible for their own families and children.*

*From those in our own communities, such as a mother and daughter trying to practise their Christian faith without persecution, to families far away in Sudan or Burundi, who need our support to access literacy, education and financial advice – your gifts will give much needed strength and hope.*

*If you'd like to give a gift in memory or dedicate a gift, you can do this on the order form enclosed. Simply choose your gifts, fill in the form and send it back in the enclosed reply envelope. Whatever you can give will make a difference.*

*Thank you and God's blessings for Mothering Sunday 2022.*

**Sheran Harper**

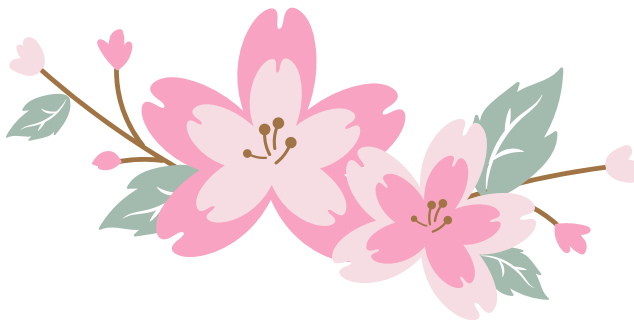


## **A reflective prayer for Mothering Sunday**

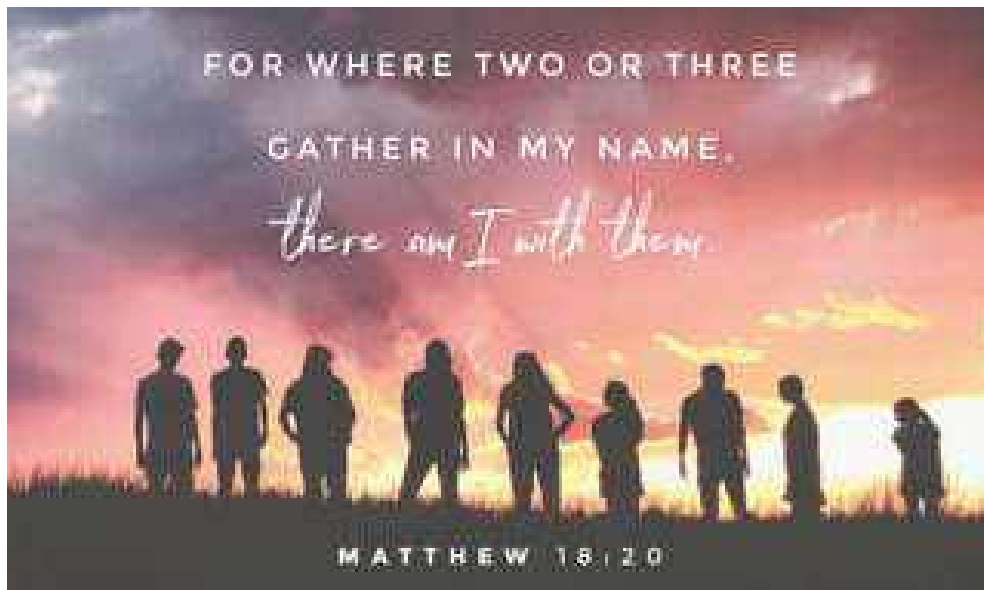
As you join with others across the country in this prayer, take a moment after every section to bring your own response to God and to remember those you know for whom it is particularly relevant.



*In every family there are seasons  
of joys and challenges:  
Seasons of laughter  
and seasons of sadness.  
Times of unexpected joy  
and times of unwanted trauma.  
Circumstances to cherish  
and circumstances to overcome.  
Seasons of harmony  
and seasons of discord.  
Times of resilience  
and times of weakness.  
Moments to look forward with hope  
and moments to look back with thanksgiving.  
God in every circumstance and season  
we bring you our worship and praise.  
Amen*



Love and Prayers  
**Barbara x**



## March Sunday Services



### St Thomas'

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#### 6th March

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

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#### 13th March

9.00am Morning Worship  
10.45am Worship Together

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#### 20th March

9.00am Holy Communion  
10.45am Worship Together  
4.30pm Farsi Worship  
6.30pm Evening Prayer

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#### 27th March

9.00am Morning Worship  
10.45am Worship Together with Communion

### St Luke's

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11.00am Family Worship

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11.00am Holy Communion

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11.00am Family Worship

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11.00am Family Worship

# 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 loving memory of **Clara Shaw** (5th March)  
a loving mum and Grandma  
from Barbara, Malcolm and family

Anniversary Remembrance  
In loving memory of my dear parents **Doug & Jessie Evans**  
always in my thoughts  
from Hazel

60th Wedding Anniversary Remembrance of **Roy Hardman** (3rd March)  
a missed and loved husband  
from Mary

In memory of **Ken Laites** who always enjoyed attending Tuesday Coffee  
Mornings  
from Jean and Les Johnson



# Litter Pick

Despite the awful weather our church and community litter picking group were out again this month. We tidied a lot of rubbish from St Thomas graveyard on Windsor Road and from around the Congregational Church.



Please consider joining our group as the more help we have the more impact we have.

We meet next at 10am on St Thomas church hall car park at 10am on 19th March.

## The Registers



Holy Baptism 'We welcome them into the Lord's family'	
13 February	Ethan James Francis Roe
13 February	Sofia Charlotte Gerrard
19 February	Olivia Jane Debra Davies
27 February	Carter Adam Knowles
27 February	Ivy - Mae Bonney

# The Registers



Funerals or burial of ashes 'May they rest in peace'		
31 January	Kenneth Laites	82
1 February	Shelia Smith	81
3 February	Cyril Sherman	84
5 February	Thomas Kilshaw	90
5 February	Hilda Kilshaw	83
9 February	Margaret Philips	84
10 February	Terence Hopkins	87
10 February	Roy Parry	65
10 February	Harry Dent	51
11 February	Barbara Hodgkinson	87
14 February	Rita Telford	77
17 February	Sandra Cross	77
17 February	Stanley Cross	76
21 February	Raymond Ingram	85
24 February	Iris Wilcock	96

# St Thomas' and St Luke's Organisations

## Coffee Mornings

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

## Wednesday Weenies

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

## Mothers' Union

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

## Fairtrade Stall

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

## Asylum Seeker Support

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

## Fur Clemt Stubshaw

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

## Litter Pick

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

## Flower Guild

Meta Laites  
723679

## Bowling Club

Henry Hunter  
712709

For more information, please visit our website at  
[stthomasstluke.org.uk](http://stthomasstluke.org.uk)

**Ashton Pantry** Sue Thomas 07877704645

Tuesday & Saturday 11am - 12pm

Thursday & Sunday 3pm - 4pm

## Youth Clubs

JYC: (for Y3—Y6) Mon 6pm - 7pm

Friday Youth Club: 7pm—8pm fortnightly

JYC Extra: Mon 5.30pm - 6pm

11—18 year olds : Sun 6pm—7pm

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

Sunday 10.45am

**Girl Guiding** Rachel Starkie 718350

Brownies: Thursday 6.30pm

Guides: Tuesday 7.00pm

# St Thomas' and St Luke's Church Officials

## Sunday Morning Worship Local Mission

### Leaders

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

### Readers

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

### Assistant Wardens

St Thomas': Tony Cornthwaite	721626
Paula Gillespie	711270

St Luke's: Carol Pye	517318
John Boon	204082

### St Thomas' Deputy Wardens

Barbara Taylor	205136
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### Assistant Treasurers

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

### Administration, Bookings and Advertising

Ruth Laemmel  
ruth.laemmel@churchwigan.org

### Magazine Editor

Jess Bradley 07498323469  
magazine@stthomasstluke.org.uk

### Freewill Offerings Secretary

Malcolm Taylor	205136
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### Electoral Roll Secretary

Ruth Laemmel	see below
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### Asylum Seeker Support

Anne & Chris Wooff	724207
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### Children, Young People & Families

Jan Corthwaite	721626
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### Flowers

Meta Laites	723679
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### Church Architect

Bill Schafer	717300
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### St Thomas' Worship Group

Mary Owen	203277
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### St Thomas' Organist

Paul Tushingham	711085
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### Magazine Distribution

Vacant

[stthomasstluke.org.uk](http://stthomasstluke.org.uk)



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