


St.Thomas' and St. Luke's Ashton-In-Makerfield Church Magazine

Price : 50p



God makes clouds rise from the
ends of the earth. He sends lightning with the rain and
brings out the wind from His storehouses. Psalm 135:7

By day the
LORD went ahead of them in a pillar of cloud to
guide them on their way. Exodus 13:21

God covers
the sky with clouds. He supplies
the earth with rain and makes the
grass grow. Psalm 147:8

"Can you count the
clouds or pour out their
rain?" Job 38:37

A bright
cloud covered them and a voice
from the cloud said, "This is My Son and
I love him. Listen to him!" Mark 4:7

And while they
were watching, Jesus was taken up into
a cloud, and was hidden from view. Acts 1:9



May
2018

www.stthomasstluke.org.uk

Church Services in St Thomas' Parish, Ashton-in-Makerfield

Sundays

St Thomas'

1 st Sunday	2 nd Sunday	3 rd Sunday	4 th Sunday
09.00 Communion 10.45 All age service 18.30 Evening Prayer	09.00 Morning Worship 10.45 Family Worship 18.30 Communion	09.00 Communion 10.45 Family Worship 18.30 Evening Prayer	09.00 Morning Worship 10.45 Communion 18.30 Evening Prayer

For information about 5th Sunday see the notices for that week

St Luke's

11.00 Family Worship	11.00 Communion	11.00 Family Worship	11.00 Family Worship
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Weekdays

Thursday 9.45 am Holy Communion (BCP 1662) In St Thomas'	Please see weekly notice sheet or visit website for additional services details or exceptions, particularly around Christmas time.
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Deadlines: Handwritten material should be given to Malcolm Taylor, and email material to magazine@stthomasstluke.org.uk

Deadline for any submissions to be included in the June magazine, including donations is 14th May. Any donations received after this date will be in the next edition.

Deadline	June	July
Hand Written	6th May	3rd June
Computer	13th May	10th June
Magazine Release	27th May	24th June

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Booking Baptisms and Weddings

We are now encouraging everyone who would like to book a baptism or wedding to come to the family service at either St Thomas (10.45am)

Important Parish Information

Baptisms

Baptisms are held at St Thomas' church at 12.45 pm on the second and fourth Sundays of the month and also during the 10.45 am service on the second Sunday. Baptisms at St Luke's are at 11 am on the third Sunday.

To qualify for baptism parents should live within the parish boundaries or be a regular worshipper at St Thomas's/St Luke's. Parents and Godparents should also be prepared to undertake baptism preparation classes.

Marriage

You can marry in a C of E church of your choice if certain criteria are shown to be met. For details please contact the vicar.

Funerals

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



Daily / Weekly Events in our Church - May 2018

<u>Monday</u>	Morning prayer	9.00am
<u>Tuesday</u>	Coffee Morning (Church Hall)	10:00am-12:00pm
	Church open for prayer	7.30-8.30pm
<u>Wednesday</u>	Morning Prayer	9.00am
<u>Thursday</u>	Holy Communion	9:45am

These are the usual events in our church, please see the notices for details of other activities taking place. For details of organisations and who to contact see back page of magazine.

Streets for Prayer: This month we are praying for the people who live and work in Rutland Drive, Dursley Drive, Thompson Street, Sibley Avenue, Kilburn Avenue, Mason Close and Thurlby Close.

TANGO

TANGO at St. Marks Church, Haydock support and resource families within the Haydock/Ashton area by providing food; clothing; furniture and household items.



If you have any items of furniture that you no longer want TANGO will collect Free Of Charge from your home.



If you want more information about TANGO or to arrange a collection please ring: 01744 607388





Parish News



Thanks

Another very enjoyable Easter celebration last month and some thanks are due to all those involved in the preparation and completion of the various events and services.



First of all thanks to everyone involved in the Easter Egg Hunt on the Saturday before Easter which culminated in many more adults and children arriving in church than last years event. Many volunteers were need for the messy church type activities and acres of cakes etc. A particular memory is of Kelvin Bolton sat all day surrounded by eager youngsters with a smile on his face and a mountain of glitter and other craft materials in front of him.

Thanks to all who took any part in the memorable Easter Services beginning with Palm Sunday and ending with the joyous celebration of Easter Day and the Easter Messy Church in the Church Hall.



Not to forget the efforts of Maureen and David Dalton who again volunteered for the unenviable task of ordering the fish and chips for Good Friday.

Malcolm



Letter from Jeremy

One of the books I revisited recently, is written by Bill Hybels, and is entitled 'Too Busy Not to Pray'. I took it off my shelf precisely because of the title, as prayer life had begun to become constricted, with the many other 'to do' things made a higher priority.

We do have a choice with those who we have a relationship with – a choice to the quality of communication that we have with them. The depth of a relationship is measured in the time that we spend together – not necessarily the amount of time, but definitely the quality of that time, when the focus is completely on the other person. Busyness is the killer of intimacy of relationship, whether that be with family, friends, colleagues or fellow disciples. Busyness curtails the amount of time offered and distracts when the time is given.

Bill Hybels writes in the early part of the book, "God and I used to be rather casually acquainted with one another. We just didn't get together to shoot the breeze all that often." He recalls the self-sufficiency and self-reliance that had always been real to him, his independence and busyness, a badge of a hard-working disciple – though he knew well the theory of prayer even if the practice was a sadly lacking.

His prayer life was transformed however: "...now we engage in substantial, soul-searching conversations for a good chunk of time every morning, we 'replay the tapes' as the day come to a close and we talk on the run every hour in between."

The difference? Yes, he read twenty books on prayer! Yes, he studied almost every passage on prayer in the Bible! But what really made the difference



Letter from Jeremy

was that he just *prayed*. And he committed to it. In the end it is our decision to spent time with someone, and it is our decision how much we give to that time, and it is our decision the priority that takes.

Bill Hybels may have felt satisfied that he had begun to be faithful in ticking off another day's praying. He may have received miraculous answers to prayer. But the greatest thrill to a life of prayer, he says, "is the qualitative difference in one's relationship with God."

Are we so surprised to find that in order to know God better, in order for our relationship with Him to be better – we need to spend time with him?

I know that when the quality of my relationships with family, friends, colleagues etc. is high, I am energised in the busy parts of my life. I know also that when the quality of my relationship with God is high, how much more it empowers the tasks that make up that day.

We should never be 'Too Busy to Pray', rather in the busyness we should be 'Too Busy Not to Pray'.



Verses for the Year

**Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have summoned you by name; you are mine.
Isaiah 43:1b**

**I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.
Philippians 3:14**



Mothers Union

Diary:

Wednesday 16 May in the Church Hall at 7.30pm the speaker is Gordon McCloud (Tango)

Wednesday 20 June evening visit to St Wilfred's Church Standish. Meet at St Wilfred's Parish Hall 6.45pm for tea and cake followed by a tour of the Church. If you wish to join us on this visit please put your name on the list so that I can arrange transport.

Lord God, our Heavenly Father, as your Holy Spirit descended on Jesus at his baptism, we pray Lord for your Holy Spirit to descend on us all. May your love come down to each one of us, filling us to overflowing with love for you; may your Spirit be like a dripping tap into our lives.

As the tap fills and slowly overflows, so let your Spirit come and slowly fill our lives. Spirit of God, we give our lives over to you.
Come, Lord, come.

Change us Lord, make us more like you. In love for you we pray
Amen

Joyce Rees,

Mothers' Union Carmarthenshire, Province of Wales

Love and prayers

Barbara



The Leprosy
Mission

A big thank you to all those who have donated so generously to the World Leprosy Day in March. The grand total came to £245 and a cheque has been forwarded to Headquarters where it will go towards “Breaking the Chains of Leprosy” appeal.

Thank you also to Viv and Isobel who worked so hard serving refreshments after the family Service – we certainly couldn’t have done without you!

Grateful Thanks to everyone.

Barbara and Margaret

**For advertising in the Church magazine, please contact
Church Office on 01942 721484 or email
magazine@stthomasstluke.org**

**For magazine delivery please contact Jack Stuart on 01942
276972**

**Or to be added to the mailing list and receive the magazine
online please visit
www.stthomasstluke.org.uk
to sign up!**

Pause for thought

We are all aware that there are many concerns in our church which are causing much distress to some people. Particularly over the effect of the proposed alterations to the heating system necessitating the removal of pews and the changes which have been made to the service patterns. I was fascinated when Barbara pointed out to me an article in Word for Today which seemed to mirror our situation.

We are told that:-

" BEFORE YOU criticise your church, remember Christ loved the church and gave Himself for her.' He hasn't given up on His church, so don't you give up on it! And stop talking so much about what you don't like. If your church was perfect, you'd be out of place! Noah didn't sail on The Queen Mary; he sailed on a glorified cattle boat. Can you imagine the noise, the confusion, and the violent tossing of a ship in a storm big enough to destroy the world? But here's the thing - everybody inside the ark was saved while everybody outside of it was lost. You may smile, but there's only one craft that's guaranteed to make it safely into heaven's port, and that's the old ship of salvation. Do things sometimes stink in the church? Sure. Jesus issued one of His harshest rebukes to Peter, the disciple who was destined to become a leader in the church: 'Get thee behind me, Satan: thou art an offence unto me: for thou savourest (smell) not the things that be of God, but those that be of men' (Matthew 16:23 KJV). But the great thing is that when you mess up, the same grace that restored Peter will be there for you too. So, the word for you

today is: love your church!

In effect it said that EVERY CHURCH has problems — and the people who cause them, It has always been so. we are asked to consider the Corinthian church. Some members got drunk during communion, and others wouldn't attend unless their favorite preacher was speaking. One man was even having an affair with his stepmother (see 1 Corinthians 5:1). Sitting beside you on Sunday mornings there maybe some very confused and upset people but God keeps working with us, because He sees our potential value to His kingdom. Noah didn't jump ship for the same reason you shouldn't leave your church — there's no better alternative. Paul and 276 others were in a storm from which it looked like no one would survive. Nevertheless he told them, 'Unless (you) stay on board the ship, you cannot be saved.' Does that mean it's always wrong to leave a church? No, but make sure your reasons are scriptural and not self-centered. You say, 'But the pastor's sermons are too long.' Paul once preached so long that a man sitting in a third-storey window fell asleep, plummeted to the ground, and died. And what did Paul do? He laid hands on him, revived him, set him back in the window and made him listen to the rest of the sermon! (see Acts 20:9-11). Seriously, if your church has problems, don't leave; stay and pray. That's how things get changed to how God wants them changed. "

The article ends with a plea that I would earnestly repeat that is that we pray for a strong commitment to our church, even when problems arise.

Malcolm

LANCASHIRE HUSSARS, BOER WAR 1899 - 1902

An interesting incident concerning the Lancashire Hussars occurred during the fight at Hamelfontein 1900. A patrol of c25 men including 15 Lancashire Hussars under the command of Captain Fletcher arrived at the isolated farm at Hamelfontein near the Orange River. Fletcher placed sentries on nearby hills to give warning of any attack. Early next morning shots rang out. A group of c400 Boers had arrived. Lancashire Hussar Sam Swann, of Earlestown, whose name is on the St. Thomas memorial window, on sentry duty was killed and four captured. The troops ran into the farmhouse and began to fire at the Boers through doors, windows and holes cut into the walls. Heavily outnumbered by the Boers they were asked four times by the Boers to surrender but each time they refused. The situation becoming desperate Fletcher asked for a volunteer to ride 50 miles to the nearest town of Petersville where there was a British garrison. Joseph Stevenson, of Mill Street, Ashton, aged 19 and a bricklayer volunteered to go. Fletcher wrote a note containing valuable information for Stevenson to carry to Petersville. On his horse and holding the reins of another horse belonging to trooper Clarke, of Wigan, Stevenson galloped out of the stables into a hail of bullets. His horse was hit but did not fall and the last they saw of Joe Stevenson was him galloping away pursued by about 8 Boers.

Several miles down the road Joe Stevenson rode into several hundred more Boers. He could not outride them but he still carried the important note from captain Fletcher. So Joe ate and swallowed the note. The Boers, always on the move, their families in small carts pulled by oxen, could not afford food or guards for prisoners of war. They deprived the prisoner of his horse and equipment and then released him to make his way back to the British lines. This they did with Joe Stevenson and he made his way back to safety. Meanwhile back at Hamelfontein morning arrived and the Boers, afraid of British forces coming to relieve the farm, had disappeared leaving several dead. Again the newspapers praised the Lancashire Hussars and the patrol for its action against overwhelming odds. Joe Stevenson was mentioned in dispatches for his action and promoted sergeant.

June 1901 the 1st wave of Lancashire Hussars returned home having served one year. Sergeants Joe Stevenson and Robert Millar, of Landgate,

stayed on to fight with the 2nd wave of soldiers. Arriving in Ashton the Hussars assembled in the open space between the "Robin Hood," today's Barclays Bank and Princess Road and were thanked on behalf of the people of Ashton for their war service. Several days later Hussar George Plunkett, of the "Eagle & Child" Inn, who on arrival in England, had remained in Southampton hospital to be treated for leg wounds arrived back in Ashton. The following evening the Lancashire Hussars band played on Ashton Heath outside the "Eagle & Child" pub and there was dancing. The Hussars assembled again a week later for a large public ceremony of thanks and each Hussar was presented with an inscribed gold medal paid for by public subscription from the township of Ashton. Then followed a meal provided by the "Robin Hood" served in the Town Hall. On Christmas Eve 1901 at 10 pm Joe Stevenson walked into the "Angel" Inn, Warrington Road, he had returned home. After rowdy celebrations he was carried on the shoulders of the crowd to his home in Mill Street.

The Boer War ended in 1902. More Lancashire Hussars died in the 2nd wave of Hussars sent to S. Africa between 1901 - 1902 but none from Ashton. The Boer War is remembered in Ashton with several streets named after S. African townships - Pretoria Road, Ladysmith Avenue, Mafeking Place, Kimberley Place and Spion Kop, off Old Road, named after a mountain in S. Africa.

In 1902 William Cansfield Lord Gerard, Honorary Colonel of the Lancashire Hussars died at his Eastwell Manor residence in Kent. Eastwell Road, off Old Road, is named after the Kent estate. His coffin arrived at Ashton in Makerfield railway station, Warrington Road, opposite the entrance to Haydock Park racecourse. The funeral procession, with the coffin placed on a gun carriage, exited Garswood Hall through the gates in Warrington Road (near the entrance of today's Byrchall High School) and made its way to St. Oswald's RC church where the coffin was placed in the Gerard vault, between the church and St. Oswald's Road, with a wreath from Lady Gerard and King Edward VII. Four Lancashire Hussars lined up in the churchyard either side of the vault and fired three rifle volleys into the air the sign of a military funeral.

David A. Fearnley.

Psalms of Thanks and Praise

Last month at one of St Thomas' Sunday Clubs we spent some time walking around the vicarage garden looking for things that we could thank God for and then came back inside to write psalms of praise and thanksgiving..

Benjamin Quayle wrote:

Praise the Lord for the soil and the seeds we plant so
that we can grow crops.

Praise the Lord for the sun and rain, to help the plants
grow, so we have food to eat and water to drink.

Praise the Lord for the animals and wildlife in the world.

Praise the Lord for the trees and flowers that give us
oxygen to breathe.

Thank you Lord for our lives, so that we can explore all
the wonders of the earth.



We bless you in Jesus name

How do you teach a young group of children about prayer and blessings? You plant a seed and then allow the tree (ideas) to grow. And that's just what we did, literally, at St Luke's. Over a period of 5 weeks we spoke about praying and blessing others in Jesus name,

and we were blown away with the results. We learned first that you had to have God at the 'centre', in our heart. And then, to keep focused, we had to be 'rooted' in Jesus. And then, as we became secure, we produced 'fruits' of the Spirit. Look at the result for yourselves by coming to St Luke's and have a look at our Blessing Tree..... and as you do, "we bless you in Jesus name"



involved : Jason, Sophie, Ellie, Megan, Seresa, Zahra, Florence, Tom, Stanley and Lucy.

In Memory of Jim Archer

On May 12th at 7.30 in church there will be a concert in memory of Jim Archer to raise money for church and the hospice.

Jim passed away in September last year following a massive heart attack in June.

The concert will be by Jim's choirs Cantique and Spectrum and will also include some items for everyone to join in. Tickets are available at £5 and £4 concessions.

It will not be a high brow concert, but full of a wide variety of entertaining items to suit all tastes.

Please come along and support this concert and help to make it a good night to remember Jim and raise some money for the causes that were close to his heart.



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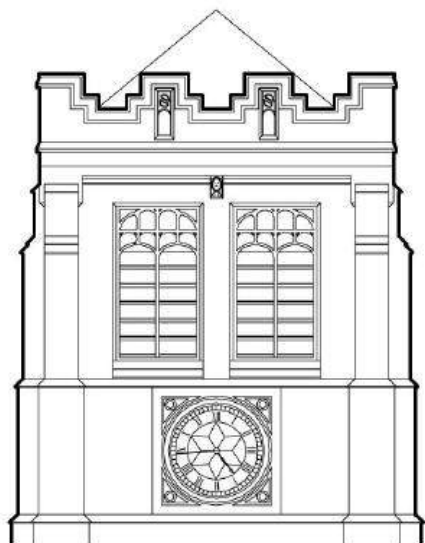
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St Thomas' Flowers

LADIES ON DUTY

LADIES ON DUTY	
5th May	Mrs Laites, Mrs Lyon, Mrs Vella
12th May	Mrs Edwardson, Mrs Cook
19th May	Mrs Lyon, Mrs Pilling, Mrs Davies
26th May	Mrs Laites, Mrs Lyon, Mrs Vella

FLOWERS IN CHURCH DURING MAY

DATE	ALTAR	LADY CHAPEL
6th May	Vacant	In memory of all loved ones From Mrs Woods & Family Mr & Mrs Lawton & Family
13th May	For Charlotte's & Kyle's Wedding From Mum & Nana	For Charlotte's & Kyle's Wedding From Mum & Nana
20th May	Birthday memories of Joe Middlehurst (22nd May) A dear Husband, Dad, Grandad & Great Grandad	Birthday remembrance of Susan Cherrington (16th May) From Mum Freda & Family
27th May	Vacant	Birthday remembrance of Debra Davies (31st May) A dear Mum, Daughter, Sister & Auntie

St Luke's Flowers



FLOWERS IN CHURCH FOR May

6th May	Vacant
13th May	In loving memory of Mum & Dad on their Wedding Anniversary, From J Whittle
20th May	With happy memories of wonderful parents & much loved Brother, From Kath Cox
27th May	Birthday wishes Michael

Easter Flower Donations

The Flower guild would like to thank everyone who gave so generously towards the cost of the Easter flowers and lilies, enabling us once again to decorate our church to celebrate the resurrection of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

Meta

May Birthday Flowers; Lily of the Valley and Hawthorn

The fragrant **lily of the valley** signifies sweetness, humility, and a return to happiness. If you want to show your loved one that your life is complete with them, give them a few lilies of the valley. The other May flower is the **hawthorn** plant, which represents hope and supreme happiness. Hawthorn signifies that you want only the best for the recipient.



St Thomas' Donations & Remembrance May 2018



Please place your donation in an envelope with your full name and amount written on it. Please hand in at church or post to the vicarage. Please make any cheques payable to **St Thomas' PCC**. If you want the donation to be for something specific, please write clearly on the envelope.

Thank you.

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With Thanks for Home Communion:

Margaret Herd, Gladys Jolley, Margaret Rogers, Harry Winstanley
St Thomas Bowling Club

With Thanks to those who have donated to

General , Building & Maintenance, Grave Maintenance
Heating & Africa Fund's

Funds currently in use are: Africa Fund, Audio Visual, Church Hall, Building & Maintenance, Garden of Rest, General, Grave Maintenance, Heath Road Graveyard, Heating and Youth worker

Unless otherwise stated donations will go into the General Fund.

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

**All donations must be received by 14th May to be printed in
June Magazine.**

Any donations received after this will be printed in the next edition.



**Birthday and Anniversary remembrance of Ian David McLaren
(3rd May & 10th May)**

A dearly loved Brother

From Pauline, Kevin, Susan, Nick, Jack & Scarlett

Anniversary remembrance of Ina McLaren (23rd May)

A dearly loved Mum and Grandma

From Pauline, Kevin, Susan, Nick, Jack & Scarlett

Birthday remembrance of Graham McLaren (20th April)

A dearly loved Dad and Grandad

From Pauline, Kevin, Susan, Nick, Jack & Scarlett

Anniversary remembrance of Gordon Owen (30th May)

Sadly missed. A dearly loved Husband, Dad, Grandad &
Great Grandad

From Wife Mollie, Son Steven, Daughter Joyce,
Grandchildren Martin, Victoria & David,
Great Grandchildren Isobella and Sophia

Anniversary remembrance of Gordon Lyon (13th May)

A dearly loved Husband, Dad, Father in Law and Grandad

From Marie, Barbara, John, Madolyn, Rob, David, Sharon, Ruby &
Geena

In memory of my Sister Elsie Heaton

From Madge Twist

Anniversary remembrance

In loving memory of my dear parents Jessie and Douglas Evans
From Hazel





Birthday remembrance of Anne Forshaw (6th May)

A lovely dear Mum, Nan & Great Nan
From Marjorie, Sarah, Paul, Sam, Ben & Zoe

Birthday remembrance for Debra Davies (31st May)

A dear Mum, Daughter, Sister & Auntie
From Craig, Nicola & Nicola,
Mum
Karen, Jimmy, Laura, Gary and Family
Wendy, Adrian, Michael, Georgia & Bethany
Tracy, Ian, Ethan & Jessica

Birthday remembrance of Susan Cherrington (16th May)

A dear Wife, Mum, Daughter, Sister & Auntie
Brian
Samuel, Becky & Matthew
Karen, Jimmy, Laura, Gary and Family
Wendy, Adrian, Michael, Georgia & Bethany
Tracy, Ian, Ethan & Jessica

Birthday remembrance (22nd May) and Anniversary (3rd June) for Joseph Middlehurst

A dear Husband , Dad, Grandad & Great Grandad From
Freda
Karen, Jimmy, Laura, Andrew, Amelia, Gary, Leah, Mason,
Alyssia & Layla
Wendy, Adrian, Michael, Georgia & Bethany
Tracy, Ian, Ethan & Jessica





In memory of Elsie Heaton

From Betty Shaw

In memory of Elsie Heaton

From Jean and Les

In Memory of Elsie Heaton

From Margaret Lyon

In loving memory of Dorothy Taylor Simpkin (April)

A dear Wife, Mother, Grandma & Great Grandma

From Derek

Phillip & Wendy, Geoffrey & Steph

Andrew & Tanya, Margaret & Colin

Janet & Tony, Jim & Sandra

And all Grandchildren.

Sadly missed

Anniversary remembrance (29th May) of Stan Shaw

From Irene and Richard

Anniversary remembrance of Stan Shaw (29th May)

From his loving family

Betty, Karen, Gill and families

Thanks giving for our Great Grand Daughter Maddison

on her Baptism

From Carole & Michael Pye





Apology

In Memory of John Makinson

Mary & Carol
Freda & Family
Joyce & Family
Francis & Family
Joan & Cyril
Joan Owen
Mary & David
Verina
Jim & Enid Sutton
Harold & Barbara Rigby
Bowling Team
Betty Shaw
Nora
Eileen & Ron
Margaret & John Shaw
Bobbie
Mr & Mrs Anderton
Joan, Roy & Family
Jimmy Makinson & Family
Janet & Alan Makinson
Edna & Bob
Joyce, Alan & Keith Richardson
Anne Abbott
Pauline & Family
Jean, Colin & Sylvia
Frank & Linda Brindle
Mr & Mrs Ladyman
Isobel Bowen



St Luke's Donations & Remembrance May 2018



Treasures memories of Sam and May Cook
beloved Parents and Grandparents
from Margery, Bert, Mike and Gill

**Thanks giving for baptism of our Great Grand Daughter
Maddison**
from Michael and Carole Pye

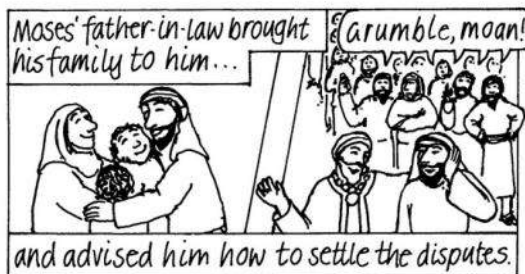
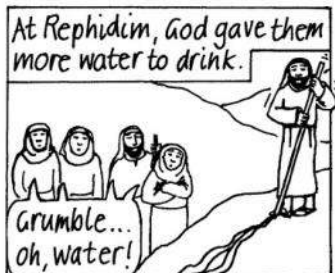
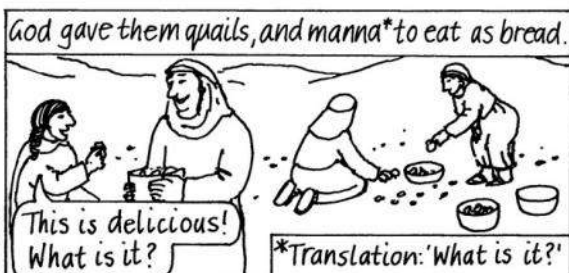
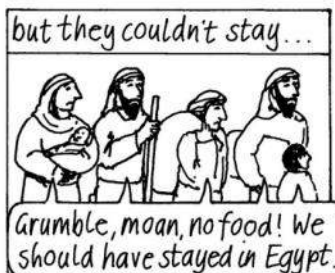


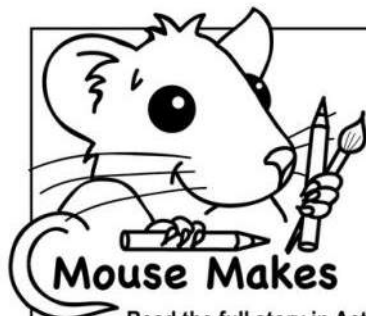
Bible Bite

A short story from the Bible

It can be read in the Bible in
Exodus chapters 15: 22 to 19: 2

God had rescued the Hebrews from
Egypt, and was leading them to their
new land. But after 3 days ...





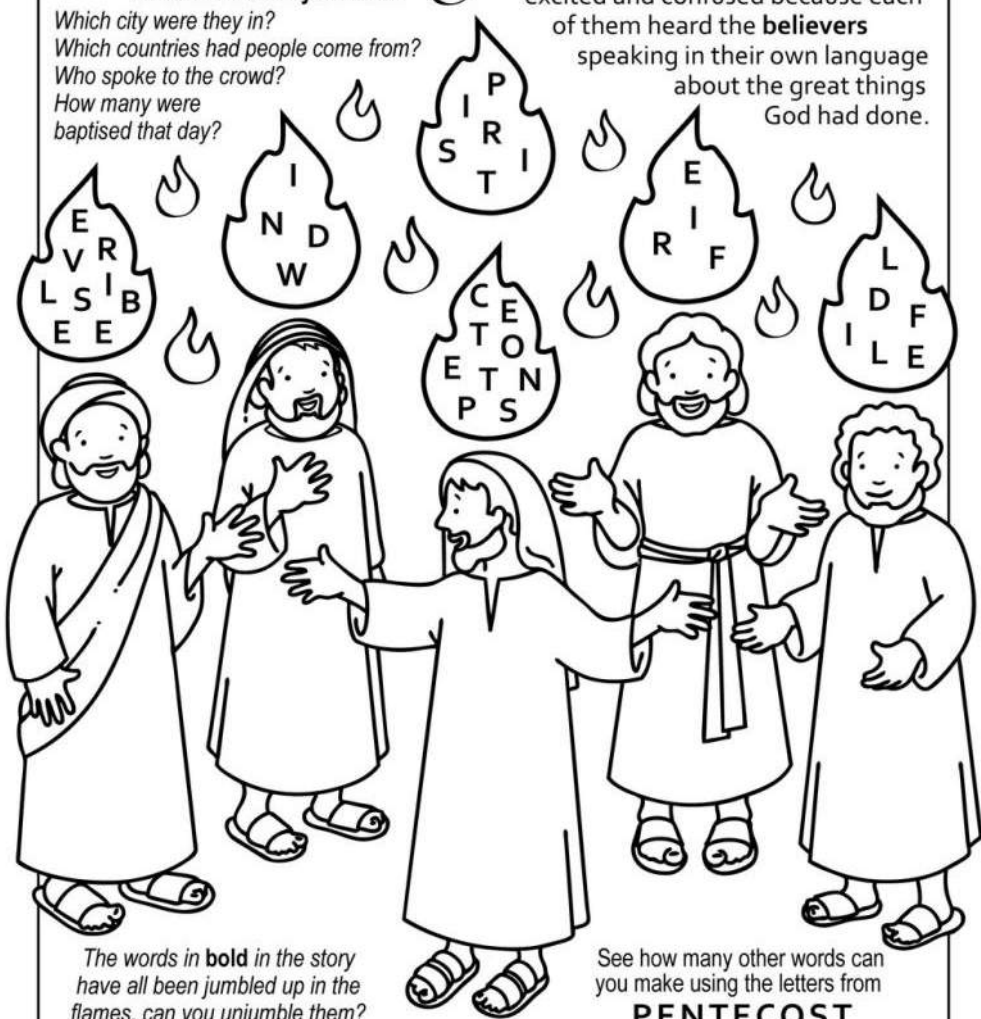
Mouse Makes

Read the full story in Acts 2

Which city were they in?
Which countries had people come from?
Who spoke to the crowd?
How many were
baptised that day?

It was the festival of **Pentecost** and the Apostles and other believers were all together in one place, when they heard a sound like a strong **wind** and saw what looked like flames of **fire** which spread out and touched each person. They were all **filled** with the Holy **Spirit** and began to talk in other languages as the Spirit enabled them.

A crowd gathered outside, they were excited and confused because each of them heard the **believers** speaking in their own language about the great things God had done.



The words in **bold** in the story have all been jumbled up in the flames, can you unjumble them?

See how many other words can you make using the letters from

PENTECOST



The Film Review

With Rob Carson



Movie Reviews

Ready Player One (12A)

Directed by Steven Spielberg

Starring: Tye Sheridan, Olivia Cooke, Lena Waithe, Ben Mendelsohn, T.J. Miller, Mark Rylance, Simon Pegg, Phillip Zhao, Win Morisaki, Hannah John-Kamen, Susan Lynch, and Ralph Ineson

In a Nutshell: When you have a book as supremely nostalgic and retro as the original book of Ready Player One by Ernest Cline, a tome and story full of references and cameos to all sort of 80s and 90s classics (a lot of which are Spielberg joints) and you decide you want to adapt this into a big screen spectacle, naturally why not think big and ask the big guy himself.... which naturally they did and their wish was granted. Does this idea pay off though? It's great to have such a great director in charge of a project perfect for him, but the idea that he decides not to include the overt references to his stuff (Delorean being an exception), does this hurt the movie? Maybe it's a mild shame at times but overall, not at all because if you're a top director who is everyone's favorite, there is a reason... you can adapt and improve at will, and whilst the book is still a joy also... this version takes certain elements and ideas and vastly adapts them in great ways for the big screen in a way that works better than certain things might have done... the result is something that whilst never perfect, is just simply a lot of fun and full of great ideas, great characters and a fantastic frenetic pace that has fun and takes you on this adventure but never forgets to invest you in the character and the story, by including characters as fantastically enjoyable and engaging as Artemis, portrayed by the star of the moment (for me anyway) Olivia Cooke, who is as ever just terrific and throws hidden depths into what could simply be another great heroine role for these times whilst Mark Rylance proves again why he's being used in everything at the moment... because when you have an actor this great, always use him and he projects a great mix of savvy and shyness to the great creator role, a really unique and lovely performance. Mendelsohn, John-Kamen and Miller all provide great fun as the villains of the piece, with Miller bringing the laughs and the other two providing terrific menace, John-Kamen is another star on the rise. The effects naturally are incredible, really whizzing you away into this new world and making these characters real and believable when in that world... there's a terrific central set piece that pays great homage to a classic and proves just how great this film is when it's homaging so well and providing brilliant thrills... this is a director really just sitting back and enjoying himself and providing what he does best.... this is what cinema is about, and what better way to enjoy this medium than this latest offering from the master of the blockbuster.... are you ready?

Rating: 9/10



The Film Review

With Rob Carson



Isle of Dogs (PG)

Directed by Wes Anderson

Stars the Voices of: Bryan Cranston, Edward Norton, Bill Murray, Jeff Goldblum, Scarlett Johansson, Bob Balaban, Liev Schreiber, Greta Gerwig, F Murray Abraham, Tilda Swinton, Frances McDormand, and Harvey Keitel

In a Nutshell: Wes Anderson has always had a flair for dysfunctional comedy dramas with a bunch of odd very dysfunctional characters, and he also had a huge success with his adaptation of *Fantastic Mr Fox* which was this style he does but thrown onto the canvas of a stop-motion animation for the whole family... so if you guessed his next step was a stop-motion animation about a clan of dysfunctional dogs on an adventure, you'd be a very lucky guesser, but no one would blame you for somehow managing to jump to that conclusion. Assembling an absolutely terrific but not surprisingly so cast of familiar Anderson regulars and a few new faces, utilising that bizarre yet brilliant stop-motion style that worked so well for *Mr Fox* and upping the ante slightly so it's not quite a family tale, but still sits in that window of PG fare even if not always family friendly. Of course, it works brilliantly... subversive, daring, funny, cute and brilliant throughout with terrific vocal work from all especially Cranston, Norton, Schreiber and Gerwig but to be honest, everyone shines because they're all given great little things to do, even in small roles like McDormand, she manages to shine through. The animation is that next level up from what Fox did a whole 9 years ago, and is sumptuous, quirky and wonderful... there's a lovely use of music as always and it's never afraid to be dark and dangerous at times too with it's story and events.... so in essence, this may not wind up being something that is going to 100% sell to everyone, but even then, they can't deny the loveliness of animated dogs having witty banter... so even if they're not taken with it all the time, they'll probably still manage to fall deeply in love with the characters and the adventure. Wes Anderson has once again created a world of wonder and loveliness with great characters and great dialogue and moments... get yourself immersed in this world and you'll want to spend all your time on these adventures with these lovely doggies.

Rating: 9/10

Also Seen:

Pacific Rim: Uprising (12A) 7/10

A Wrinkle in Time (PG) 7/10

Tomb Raider (12A) 8/10

Mary Magdalene (12A) 8/10

Love, Simon (12A) 8/10

Gringo (15) 7/10

Blockers (15) 8/10



The Registers



Funerals - "May they rest in peace"

3rd April	Henry Hurst	Bolton Road	89
9th April	Lois Bradley	Tithebarn Road	81
17th April	Betty Carter	Rookery Avenue	84

Holy Baptism -

"We welcome them into the Lord's family"



8th April	Maddison Jane Hall	Rectory Road
8th April	Samuel Bold	Dunsdale Drive
22nd April	Lochlan Francis Cunliffe	Mill Street
22nd April	Lily Marie Donovan	Kilburn Avenue

Church Organisations in the Parish of St Thomas, Ashton-in Makerfield

<p><u>Boys Brigade</u> Captain Gareth Hamlett 07903866501 Anchor Boys (Tues 5:45pm) Olwen Wright 389595 Junior Section (Tues 6:45pm) Kat Duckworth 07517486188 Company Section (Tues 7:30pm) Contact Gareth Hamlett</p>	<p><u>Girl Guides</u> Rainbows (Tues 5:30pm) Anne Wooff 724207 3rd & 4th Ashton Brownies (Wed/ Thu 6:30pm) St Luke's Brownies (Tues 6:15pm) 3rd Ashton Guides/Rangers (Tues 7:15pm) Rachel Starkie 718350</p>
<p><u>Children's Sunday Clubs – 10:45am</u> Bubbles (Pre-School) Splash (R-Y2), Xstream (Y3-Y6) Bell Tower (Y7-Y11) Sue Thomas 727275 sue@stthomasandstluke.co.uk</p>	<p><u>Coffee Mornings at St Thomas'</u> Tues 10:00am-12:00pm Barbara Taylor 205136</p>
	<p><u>Flower Guild</u> Meta Laites 723679</p>
<p><u>Children, Young People and Families</u> Sue Thomas 727275</p>	<p><u>Music Group Sunday 10:45am</u> Mary Owen 203277</p>
<p><u>Wednesday Weenies</u> Wed 1:00-2:30pm - Church Hall Lynn Anderton 07725 324447</p>	<p><u>Saturday FM</u> 4:00-5:00pm - St Thomas' School Nicola Burgess 706841</p>
<p><u>Duke of Edinburgh's Award (14-18+)</u> (Sun 6:30pm Church Hall) Ceri Mansell 727417</p>	<p><u>St Thomas' Mothers' Union</u> 3rd Wed: 7:30pm Barbara Taylor 205136</p>
<p><u>Fairtrade Stall</u> 3rd Sun 12:00pm Anne & Chris Wooff 724207</p>	<p><u>Fur Clemt Stubshaw</u> Mon 12:00-1:00pm at St Luke's Jennifer Harrison 718618</p>
<p><u>Litter Pick 1st Sat 10:00-12:00</u> Anne & Chris Wooff 724207</p>	<p><u>Bowling Club</u> Henry Hunter 712709</p>
<p><u>Asylum Seeker Support</u> Anne & Chris Wooff 724207</p>	<p><u>Messy Tots</u> Wed 10:00 - 11:30 at St Luke's Sue 07877 704645</p>

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<p><u>Vicar</u> Rev Jeremy Thomas 727275</p>	<p><u>Church Office, Church Hall Bookings & Magazine Editor / Advertising</u> Jo Pollitt 721484 office@stthomasstluke.org.uk magazine@stthomasstluke.org.uk</p>
<p><u>Curate</u> Rev Sam Cowling - Green 389940 Rev Flic Cowling - Green 389940</p>	<p><u>Ordained Local Minister</u> Rev Izzy Schafer 717300</p>
<p><u>Sunday Morning Worship St Thomas'</u> Jan Cornthwaite 721626</p>	<p><u>Sunday Morning Worship St Luke's</u> Carole Pye 517318</p>
<p><u>Readers</u> Malcolm Bold 276379 Alan Harrison 718618 Tricia Hancox 201540 Carole Pye 517318</p>	<p><u>St Thomas' Church Wardens</u> Tony Cornthwaite 721626 Paula Gillespie 711270 <u>Deputy Wardens</u> Barbara Taylor 205136 Marcus Roby 207131</p>
<p><u>Prayer</u> Carol Foster 733263</p>	<p><u>St Luke's Church Warden</u> Carole Pye 517318</p>
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<p><u>Electoral Roll Secretary</u> Paul Weston 202649</p>	<p><u>St Thomas' Organist</u> Paul Tushingham 711085</p>
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<p><u>Magazine Distribution Co-ordinator</u> Jack Stuart 726972</p>	<p><u>St. Luke's Treasurer</u> John Boon 728900</p>