St.Thomas' and St. Luke's Ashton-In-Makerfield Church Magazine Price: 50p





September 2014



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

S	U	n	d	a	ys
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St Th	nomas's	St Luke's		
9.00a.m.	Holy Communion	8.30 a.m.	Holy Communion (1st Sunday Only)	
10.45 am	Family Worship (1st Sunday Parade & 4th Sunday Family Communion)	11.00 a.m.	Family Worship (2nd Sunday Family Communion)	
6.30 p.m.	Evening Worship (3rd and 5th Sunday Holy Communion)	4.15 p.m.	Holy Communion (3rd Sunday Only)	

Weekdays

Thursday	
9.45 a.m.	
7.45 G.III.	

Holy Communion (BCP 1662) Other services and Saints' Days as announced. Please see weekly notice sheet or visit website for dates, details or exceptions.

<u>Parish Office:</u> St Thomas's Church Vestry, **Thursday 6.30 – 7.30 p.m:** For all enquiries regarding church matters and arranging baptisms and weddings. Contact - 01942 721484.

<u>Deadlines:</u> Handwritten material should be given to Malcolm Taylor, and email material to stthomasandstlukesmagazine@gmail.com

Deadline	October	November
Hand Written	7th September	12th October
Computer	14th September	19th October
Magazine Release	28th September	2nd November

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Important Parish Information

Baptisms

Baptisms are held at St Thomas You can marry in a C of E church Church at 12.45 on the 2nd & 4th Sundays. Baptisms at St Luke's are at 11 am on the 3rd Sunday.

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

Marriaae

of your choice if certain criteria are shown to be met. For details please contact the vicar or call in at Vestry Hour on a Thursday

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



Letter from the Curate



What's been your favourite invitation over the last few months? I'm sure that on your bookcase or your window ledge or your fridge, there have been some lovely invitation cards. Maybe for a wedding? A family get-together, a reunion or old friends or workmates? A baptism, a birthday party? A day at the races, a night out with friends?

It's great to receive an invitation isn't it? We put the card up somewhere visible, somewhere we'll see it often – it reminds us, and we look forward to the event as it gets closer. We start to anticipate the event, and start to think maybe of the fun we'll have spending time with others. We feel special because we've been invited, included – it reminds us that we matter to those who've invited us :0)

And it's great to send an invitation too. When we're choosing



who to invite to our birthday party or wedding or barbecue, we think about how they will feel when the invitation arrives – it makes us feel good because we know they're going to be excited when they open the envelope! Delighted to be included in the event. We anticipate how much fun they are going to have, how great it's going to be to spend time together! We want to share with people the things we have to celebrate, the things we enjoy, the occasions that matter to us.

So every one of us has loads of experience of inviting and being invited, and we're really good at it – agreed?

And knowing God's love and forgiveness and new life in Jesus surely counts as something that matters to us, something we want to celebrate. So when was the last time you invited someone to come to church with you?



Letter from the Curate

It's a challenge isn't it? All of a sudden invitation doesn't seem to be so easy, and we can think of lots of reasons not to do it — not least our own embarrassment! Silly isn't it — when we wouldn't feel the least bit embarrassed to invite them to a party?



Research shows that coming through the door of a church for the first time, or returning to church after time away is really hard; and that the greatest success comes when we invite people personally over several opportunities – several invitations. We've got a season of invitation ahead of us, with Back to Church Sunday at the end of

September, the next Alpha Course and our Harvest Festival in October, Remembrance Day in November, and all our Advent and Christmas celebrations in December.

We're really excited at St Thomas' and St Luke's to be producing invitation cards that we can all use to make inviting people to these different events easier. Make sure you pick some up from church, and why not start planning today who you can invite; who you'd like to see sharing in this wonderful journey of faith and fellowship and discipleship!

Helen Coffey







Daily / Weekly Events in our Church - September 2014

Monday Morning Prayer. 9.00am

Tuesday Morning Prayer. 9:00am

Coffee Morning. (Church Hall) 10:00am - 12:00pm

Church open for prayer. 7.30-8.30pm

Wednesday Morning Prayer. 9.00am

Thursday Holy Communion. 9:45am

Princes Pantry. (St Luke's) 11:30am - 1:00pm

Vestry hour. 6.30-7.30 pm

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 work and live in:

Moxon Way, Dodson Close, Fleming Drive

FUTURE OF YOUR PARISH MAGAZINE

The Sign

As part of a process of reviewing how we distribute the church magazine and what is included, we are reviewing the demand for "The Sign" (the insert which is included within each printed magazine).

If you read any sections of "The Sign" and would like us to continue to provide it, then please email our editor

at: stthomasandstlukesmagazine@gmail.com or phone 01942 273453 to indicate your interest. If there is little or no interest then we are likely to discontinue including "The Sign" as part of our magazine.

Electronic Copies of the Church Magazine

We can now send you a copy of this magazine at no cost, as an email. Anyone who already receives copies of our weekly church notices will automatically receive this magazine. If you do not receive the magazine electronically and would like to sign up then please go to this web page: http://www.stthomasstluke.org.uk/subscribenoticessheet/ and enter your details. You can also get to this page from our home page: http://www.stthomasstluke.org.uk/ and then go to the link at the bottom right hand corner of the home page.

If you no longer require a printed version of the magazine then please email Jack Stuart: jack.stuart1@btinternet.com and we will cease to provide it, once your current "contract" ends.



Diary Branch dates

Wednesday 3rd September at St Luke's 7.30pm Bible Sale - look through your Bible to find passages that relate to something you could bring to sell such as grapes (wine) honey etc. There are a lot of examples for you to choose.



Wednesday 17th September Holy Communion Service in Church at 7.30pm

Advance Notice:

Wednesday 1st October St Luke's at 7.30pm when the speaker will be Paul Storey of Coops Foyer. Perhaps a nostalgic occasion as this will be the last MU meeting at St Luke's. It is very sad but it is becoming increasingly difficulty to find speakers when so few members attend these particular meetings. I must take this opportunity of thanking Bobbie Masnyk, Margaret Cook, Jean Burrows and Pat Roberts for all their help and support over the years. A special thank you to Michael Pye for all his help setting up the room.

I did mention in the August Magazine a reminder to those who take Families

First Magazine that the £10.50 annual subs are due by 15th September. Please let Pauline or myself have them. For those who don't subscribe can I say that this is a very interesting and informative magazine with issues coming out six times a year and I do believe that every member should be a subscriber. Please let

me know if you are interested or would like to look at an earlier edition, you won't regret it.

I would also like to extend a very big thank you to everyone who last month contributed in anyway to make our Light Lunch so successful whether it was in helping on the stalls and in the kitchen or making cakes. We raised the magnificent sum of $\pounds 431.85$ towards Mothers Union projects both in our Diocese and overseas. There was the usual terrific buzz in the hall and as always great support not only from the members but also from the parish as a whole.

Literature Sales

The Mothers Union Enterprise catalogue with all the Christmas Cards, calendars, books etc is now available for you to peruse. The Liverpool Diocese has received over £1142.70 as a grant related to turnover which in turn helps keeps subscriptions down. Much of this is achieved by the sale of cards etc right through the year but particularly with good Christmas Sales. Maureen Cook our branch rep will be delighted to hear from you.

Sad news

Muriel Hampson, who has been a member of the Mothers Union for 48 years joining as long age as 1966, died in August. She was a very active member of the branch in her younger years later becoming an Indoor Member. Before joining the MU she had been a member of St Thomas Young Wives Group. On behalf of our Members I would like to express our sympathy to Irene, Eric and all the family at this difficult time.

Lord, I am praying for today because the rest of eternity begins here. Yesterday is beyond recall, tomorrow is beyond comprehension, but today I want to serve you well. I will meet many people today — help me to turn their thoughts to you by my reactions, by my attitude to life, by my words, and by the expression on my face.



I will meet many situations today — help me to be patient, humble, calm and resourceful.

I will perform many tasks today — help me to be

diligent, cheerful and economical in my use of time. But above all, may my mind be constantly directed to you today so that I may look back tonight on a day which we have spent together.

Salisbury diocese, England

Love and prayers Barbara

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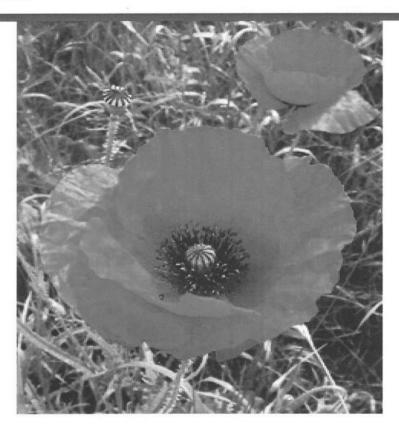
DATE	AMOUNT	NO. OF ENVELOPES	AVERAGE PER ENVELOPE
07/07/14	354.25	64	5.54
14/07/14	427.45	96	4.45
21/07/14	245.75	56	4.39
28/07/14	384.75	56	6.87
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Looking at Our Church

The decline in church attendance is delayed – by immigration

As is well known, the numbers of people going to church have been declining for many years. Two events in the last decade, however, have caused the rate of decline to slow down. This is because both events have caused growth where they have occurred.



One of these is the growth in Fresh Expressions, which increasingly is becoming a generic name for all kinds of usually fairly informal gatherings. These include Messy Church, Pub groups or Café Churches, mission-minded churches, Churches Without Walls (especially in Scotland) as well as those specifically named as Fresh Expressions.

The other is the recent growth of the many immigrant and Black Majority Churches [BMCs]. Both of these naturally offset the general membership decline across the UK church as a whole. Other groups are also growing – some small, like the Cathedrals and Lutheran churches



(the latter mostly because of immigrants), and more significant ones like the Orthodox Church and the Roman Catholic churches in London, which have started at least 35 different language congregations for immigrants from different countries.

The BMCs "explosion" has been significant, especially in Greater London where of the 700 new churches which began between 2005 and 2012, at least 400 were BMCs. The Redeemed Christian Church of God alone has started 296 new churches in the UK in the last five years, the largest number for any single denomination.

As a consequence of these two movements, the rate of church decline has lessened significantly and the membership level previously anticipated for 2020 will now most likely not be evident till 2025. The continuing decline is not turning into a U-turn, because, even if one puts all the growth together, it is still only a small fraction of the whole.

But, as Tesco's slogan says, "every little helps." It remains the case that for every one person who joins the church, about four people in the church die.



In 2011, English people were 80% white-British, which means that 20% came from other backgrounds. In 2001, English people were 88% white-British, which means that the number of white-British people in England has actually decreased by 3.3 million people in the inter-censal decade, while the population as a

whole has increased by 1.0 million, giving an extra 4.3 million people in England in 2011 who were not white-British, in addition to the 6.5 million already living here, and giving a grand total of 10.8 million people, or 20%, of the entire population. In other words the non-white-British contingent in our population increased by two-thirds, 65%, in the 10 years 2001 to 2011.

That gives something of the scale of the immigration which has occurred and, because a number of these immigrants are "Christian" people, or come from countries notionally Christian, an indication of

the impact they have had on our church life. Church membership has been significantly impacted by immigration for much longer than this past decade, but the data to measure it doesn't exist. It is obvious that the UK churches are not fossilising and in many instances are still vigorously active!



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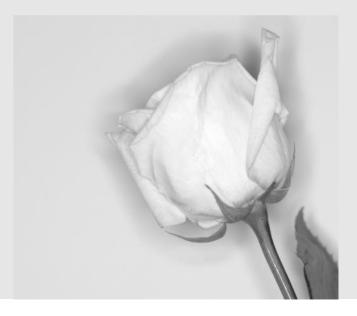
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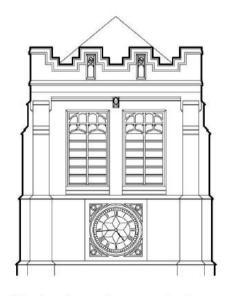
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27TH SEPT	Mrs Edwardson, Mrs Cook, Mrs Jones

FLOWERS IN CHURCH DURING SEPTEMBER				
DATE	ALTAR	LADY CHAPEL		
7TH SEPT	VACANT	Anniversary remembrance of Mum and Dad, Elsie and Hugh Jervis. From David, Elsie, Ann and families		
14TH SEPT	Thanks to God for the marriage of Joe Owen to Anne-Marie Loveridge. From Mary and Bill Owen and family	Birthday remembrance of Leslie Hampson (15th Sept) and the baptism of Brooke Faith. From Muriel, Irene, Eric and family		
21ST SEPT	VACANT	Anniversary remembrance of Debra Davies (20th Sept). A dear Mum, daughter, sister and Auntie.		
28TH SEPT	VACANT	VACANT		



St Thomas' Flowers



FLOWER GUILD DONATIONS

Birthday remembrance of a dear husband James Marsh (7th Sept) from Kathleen.

Thank you for Wedding Flowers from Jan and Tony Cornthwaite.

St Lukes' Flowers



FLOWERS IN CHURCH DURING SEPTEMBER			
DATE			
7TH SEPT	Anniversary memories of Connie Lockett and Angela Baxter from Sheila, Billy and famiy		
14TH SEPT	VACANT		
21ST SEPT	In loving memory of Grandad Rodney Williams from Linda and Michael Ladyman		
	In memory of husband Colin (5th Sept) and son Stuart (24th Sept) from Joan Graham		
28TH SEPT	In memory of Connie from Ken Lockett and Diane		



The Film Review With Rob Carson



How to Train Your Dragon II (PG) Directed by Dean DeBlois

Voices of: Jay Baruchel, Cate Blanchett, Gerard Butler, America Ferrera, Djimon Honsou, Kit Harrington, Jonah Hill, Kristen Wiig, TJ Miller, Christopher Mintz Plasse, and Craig Ferguson

In a Nutshell: It can be safely said for a while that Pixar held the crown for kings of computer animation and Dreamworks, with one or two exceptions, could only look on and think one day maybe that they would be a contender for that crown, and one such exception was 2010's How to Train Your Dragon, a sensational emotional and wonderful piece of cinema. So it can come as not much of a surprise that the seguel could be the one that makes Dreamworks a contender for the crown. Really investing it's time and energy into adapting the characters and story into a brand new tale and making every frame count, every word, every nuance... and really stretching these characters in depth and passion. It's one of the first animations I recall that aged it's characters for the seguel also.... and the voice cast remain the same and are all very strong, special mention to Gerard Butler better than ever as Stoick and newcomer Cate Blanchett who is beautiful as new arrival Valka. The animation is needless to say, just jaw dropping, the detail, passion and depth just breathtaking. The real strength here though is the story and the paces the characters are put through, this is a film that the whole family can really dig, but there is a heartbreaking darkness at it's centre that might be too much for the younger kids but proves drama and adventure that matches beat for beat any adult blockbuster.... suffice to say, you will need tissues. In a year where the LEGO movie proved to be the best animation in years, it's nice that another can emerge to battle for that title.... it's that breathtaking. Easily one of the best animated movies since Disney's heyday.

and the best animated sequel ever without a doubt this needs to be seen, it truly is a masterpiece!

Rating: 10/10

Dawn of the Planet of the Apes (12A) Directed by Matt Reeves

Stars: Andy Serkis, Jason Clarke, Keri Russell, Gary Oldman, Judy Greer, Toby Kebbell, Kirk Acevado, Kodi Schmitt-McPhee, Terry Notary, and Enrique Murciano

In a Nutshell: Back in 2011, expectations were fairly low.... did we really need another Planet of the Apes? And it turns out we really did, one of the nicest surprises of the last decade, Rise of the Planet of the Apes was a emotionally engaging and exciting blockbuster with brains and brawn both given good screentime.... so now it is, we come to the follow up and the expectations are in a different place this time. Great to report once more, that this follow up to the 2011 cracker is also a supremly strong and sturdy cracker. Whereas the previous dealt with how it all happens, this follows what is happening.... with Andy Serkis once more just uttterly wonderful as Ceaser. He's supported very well this time by Toby Kebbell as the evil Koba, who is another revelation. The humans though shouldn't be sidelined by Clarke making a really gripping male lead, whilst both Gary Oldman and Keri Russell are also fairly terrific, whilst the



The Film Review With Rob Carson



effects are every bit as jaw dropping as they were back in 2011, extraordinary! The way the drama balance splits between the apes and the humans is great and ensures this is a movie where your sympathies never go to one side... and can be easily shared. Terrific action, strong emotion and drama.... if you loved the Rise, make sure you're around for the Dawn!



Rating: 9/10

Also Seen:

Hercules (12A) 8/10



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Unless otherwise stated donations will go into the General Fund

🖁 I have now moved house.

Unfortunately during the move I have misplaced some of the donation envelopes that were given to me during the period when I was packing the house up.

The money has been safely received and banked, but I do not have the full details of the donations made. I apologise for this.

I have entered the names of the people who gave a donation and the actual donation message will be entered in the October magazine, as I hope to have located them by then.

Once again I apologise to anyone whose donation has been affected by this.

Jacky Jolley—Donations secretary

With thanks for home communion:

Alice Ashley x 2, David Bowen, James Brown & Jean Rose Brown, Marion Bullen x 2, Doreen Byers, Vera Parkinson, Brenda Percival, M Shaw x 2, Elsie & Keith Stone,

H Winstanley

Other donations:

Houghton, Pigot & Co, Anne & Chris Woof From Baptism families Davies & Stanley

Donations with misplaced envelopes - see apology aside From

R Livesey
Alicia Brooks & Anita Hodgin
Mrs Griffiths x 2
Ellen Karnela
The family of Iris Bradshaw
Mildred Cassidy
William Farrimond
E Middlehurst

I apologise for any distress or upset caused by my being unable to enter the sentiment attached to these donations. Jacky Jolley

TOTAL DONATIONS RECEIVED BY ST THOMAS' FOR SEPTEMBER 2014 £13763.71

General £616
Grave Maintenance £165
Building & Maintenance Fund nil
Heating Fund £50

Garden of Rest £12927.71 Heath Road Graveyard nil Church Hall Fund nil Audio Visual Fund £ 5

St Lukes' Donations



ľ	In loving memory of	▼i
	A loving wife and mother Connie Lockett (16th September)	Ken and daughter Dianne
L		<u> </u>
į	Anniversary remembrance of	
l	A dear friend Angela Baxter	Debra



HILDEGARD of BINGEN

Hildegard was born in Germany in 1098 and at a very early age she dedicated her life to God by becoming a nun. She lived to be 80, a great age for that time and is best known today for her songs and poems. It seems quite amazing that an elderly nun who lived nearly a thousand years ago could write words that are on a CD that you can buy today — not quite Top of the Pops but in all the bigger record shops!



Hildegard wrote that she wanted to be 'a feather on the breath of God', to move as He wanted rather than as she wanted. When we say the Lord's Prayer we say 'Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done' we follow Hildegard in asking to be shown what to do, which way to go. Not like a feather blown about by the wind, but one blown on the breath of God.

BIRD WORDS

Can you find all these words about birds and feathers? The words go up, down, backwards, forwards and diagonally and some letters are used more than once.

B L A C K B I R D C
P K R A L Y K S A O
E T E R N A L N O C
A K R E H T A E F K
C R P A R R O T R A
O N A L Y W R E N T
C W B V U E V O D O
K L L R E M D A B O
N O R E H N E J A Y
R O B I N L L I U O

- * blackbird * canary * cockatoo *
 * dove * feather * heron * jay *
- * owl * parrot * peacock * plume

My cat took first prize in the local bird show.

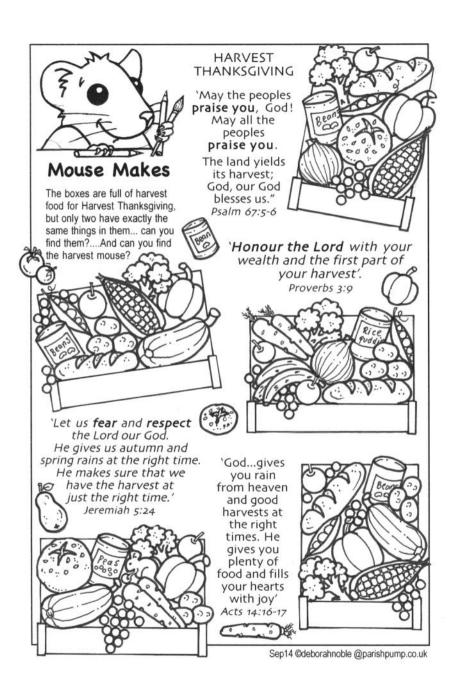
How could your cat get a prize in a bird show?

He ate the prize canary.



What bird is always out of breath?

A puffin.





The Registers



Funerals - "May they rest in peace"

6th Aug	Allan Edward Whitfield	Dunsdale Drive	62yrs
13th Aug	Joyce Pilling	North Street	84yrs

Holy Matrimony - "All the days of their lives"



12th Jul	Allan Carl Smith & Stephanie Justine Barker	
19th Jul	Scott Ian Watson & Emily Jane Mooney	
26th Jul	Mark Tither & Jilly Cornthwaite	
9th Aug	Adam James Littler & Nicola Heaton	

Holy Baptism -

"We welcome them into the Lord's family"



20th Jul	Hughie James Stirrup	Avon Road
27th Jul	Erin Alice Brooks	Wotton Drive
	Emily Louise Hodgin	Vancouver Quay
	Grace Kilshaw	Bryn Road South
10th Aug	Thomas Peter Andrew Williams	Ashton Heath
	George James Davies	Heather Grove
	William Sonny Stanley	Bryn Road
	Oliver John Bullen	Bryn Road

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

Boys Brigade Captain: Gareth Hamlett (01744 752505) Anchor Boys (Tuesday: 6.00 p.m.) Olwen Wright (389595) Junior Section (Wednesday: 6.30 p.m.) Kevin Pennington (07894048476) Company Section (Tuesday: 7.15 p.m.) & (Friday: 7.00 pm) Jonty Cornthwaite (721626)	Girl Guides Rainbows (Tuesday: 5.30 p.m.) Anne Wooff (724207) 3rd & 4th Ashton Brownies (Wednesday and Thursday: 6.30 pm) Irene Taylor (703410) Susan Hughes (725291) St Luke's Brownies (Thurs: 6.00 p.m.) Helen Hughes (748863) 3rd Ashton Guides & Ranger Guides (Tuesday: 7.15 p.m.) Rachel Starkie (718350)
Music Group Mary Owen (203277) Sunday – 10.45 a.m. Practice – Monday : 7.30 p.m.	
St Thomas' Choir Sunday - 10.45 a.m. & 6.30 p.m. Practice – Thursday: 7.00 p.m. Paul Tushingham (711085)	Coffee Mornings at St Thomas' Tues - 10 a.m. Thurs - (after 9.45 a.m. communion) Barbara Taylor (205136)
Children's Sunday Clubs – 10.45 a.m. Bubbles (Pre-School) Splash (R-Y2), Xstream (Y3-Y6) Bell Tower (Y7-Y11) Sue Thomas (727275)	
sue@stthomasandstluke.co.uk	St Luke's Over Sixties Monday – 2.00 p.m. Meet at Stubshaw Cross Labour Club
Wednesday Weenies Wed – 1.00 p.m.: Jan Cornthwaite (721626)	St. Luke's Donation Secretary Dorothy Hesketh (738713)
Friday Drop In Friday - 8-9.30pm (Y7-Y11) Sue Thomas (727275)	<u>St. Luke's Treasurer</u> John Boon
Duke of Edinburgh's Award (14-18+) Sunday 6.30pm Church Hall Ceri Mansell (727417)	St Luke's Mothers' Union 1st Wed: 7.30 p.m.: Bobbie Masnyk (718473)
St Thomas' Mothers' Union	Flawer Cuild
3rd Wed: 7.30 p.m.: Barbara Taylor (205136)	Flower Guild Meta Laites (723679)

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

VI. c		Administrator
Vicar Poy levery Thomas		Administrator Rachael Campbell
Rev Jeremy Thomas		721484 Parish office
<u>(727275)</u>		Ordained Local Minister
<u>Curate</u>		Izzy Schafer
Rev Helen Coffey		(717300)
(721962)		(717300)
Readers		St Thomas' Church Wardens
Malcolm Bold		Ken Laites
(276379)		(723679)
Alan Harrison	Kevin Dolan	Paula Gillespie
(718618)	(747151)	(711270)
Tricia Hancox	,	Deputy Wardens -
(201540)	(517318)	Barbara Taylor
Scott Campbell	Tim Griffiths	(205136)
(711086)	(715116)	Nigel Robinson
,	,	(726597)
Flectoral	Roll Secretary	St Luke's Church Warden
Paul Weston		Carole Pye
(202649)		(517318)
,	(CLTL)	,
<u>Treasurer (St Thomas)</u>		Church Architect
Sarah Riley		Mr B. Schafer
(722747)		(717300)
	<u>Iall Secretary</u>	St Thomas' Organist & Choirmaster
Rachael Campb	pell	Paul Tushingham
721484 (Parish Office)		(711085)
		F.W.O. Secretary
		Jackie Wilson
		(712368)
		,
<u>Covenants Secretary</u>		St Thomas' Donations Secretary
Jacky Jolley		Jacky Jolley
Magazine Co-ordinator		<u>Magazine Editor</u>
Jack Stuart		Rachel Webster
(726972)		(273453 - contact for advertising)
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