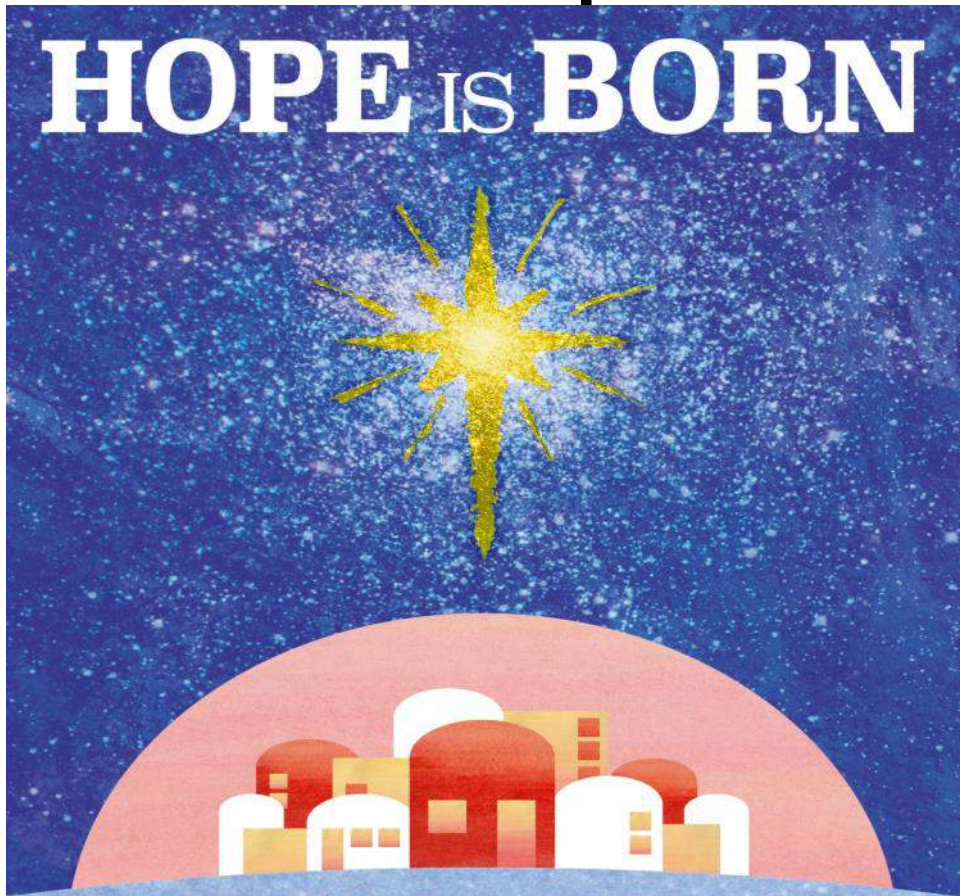


**St.Thomas' and St. Luke's  
Ashton-In-Makerfield  
Church Magazine  
Price : 50p**



December 2018

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

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

## Sundays

### St Thomas'

1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday	2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday	3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday	4 <sup>th</sup> 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 Youth service

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

Deadline for any submissions to be included in the December magazine, including donations is 12th November Any donations received after this date will be in the next edition.

Deadline	January	February
Hand Written	10th December	12th January
Computer	16th December	15th January
Magazine Release	29th December	26th January

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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) or St Luke's (11am) and bookings will be taken afterwards.

# 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 or St Luke's. Parents and Godparents should also be prepared to attend a baptism preparation session.

## **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 church office on 01942 721484

## **Funerals**

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



# Letter from Flic



## “Let Heaven and Nature Sing”

As Sam and I went on a wintry walk recently, a stunning flock of starlings flew over us. I was reminded that in the eastern churches’ telling of the Christmas story, the miracle of God becoming fully human in Jesus is only possible because all parts of creation offer something to make it happen. The angels offer a song, the heavens a star, the earth offers the cave in which Jesus is born, the desert, its grass for the manger, the ox and the ass offer their warming breath, and of course Mary offers her very self to bear the child.



In other words, God can’t become human without all of parts of nature joining in the miracle. I love this wonderful image reminding us of God’s intimate and earthy relationship with all that is created.

Given today’s climate crisis, this image is, perhaps, all the more precious. John 3:16 reminds us: “This is how much God loved the world: he gave his Son, his one and only Son”. The word for “world” that John uses is not just talking about us humans, but about the whole beautiful and created order. God has not only taken on flesh and blood, but has entered into all the joys, quakes and vast ecosystems of the amazing world we share. In other words, God’s saving work is way bigger than we often think! This is especially joyful news for the poorest people in our world who do the least to cause pollution, yet are the most affected by fatal famines, floods, hurricanes and heat-waves.



# Letter from Flic



It will take a miracle to halt climate change. But the eastern telling of the Christmas story reminds us that when each of us offers what we can to God, the miraculous really can happen.

“What can we offer? We can transform our world together by doing everyday things, like cutting down on single-use-plastic in our Christmas present shopping, taking our own water bottles/thermos mugs for our Christmas journeys, and even by reducing how much meat we feast on (the meat industry being one of the biggest contributors to carbon emissions). We can also pray for our world leaders this Advent as they meet in Poland to agree on how to tackle climate change together. Next year we’d love to gather those of you who are interested, to chat about what we can offer as a hub to help care for God’s creation (please be in touch if you are interested, we’d love to hear from you!)

Perhaps, as each of us joins in God’s saving work his Christmas, together we’ll catch that joyful glimpse of heaven here on earth: God-With-Us, Emmanuel.

*Joy to the earth! The Saviour reigns;  
Let earth receive her King!*

Wishing you joy and peace this  
Christmas and New Year!

*Flic*





## **Daily / Weekly Events in our Churches**

<b><u>Mon</u></b>	Prayer for world & community (St Luke's)	11.30-12.00
	Fur Clemt Café (St Luke's)	12.00-13.00
<b><u>TT</u></b>	Youth club for 11+ (Church Hall)	15.00-16.45
<b><u>TT</u></b>	Junior Youth Club (Church Hall)	18.00-19.00
<b><u>Tue</u></b>	Coffee Morning (Church Hall)	10:00-12:00
<b><u>TT</u></b>	Football (Byrchall Sports Hall)	17.00-18.00
	Church open for prayer	19.00-20.00
<b><u>Wed</u></b>	Messy Tots (St Luke's)	09:30-11:00
<b><u>TT</u></b>	Weenies (Church Hall)	13.00-14.30
<b><u>Thu</u></b>	Holy Communion	09:45-10.30

***Please see page 16 for details of our services  
throughout December  
TT—term time only***

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

### **TANGO**

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



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## **Bishop Paul's Christmas Message 2018**

In the dark, small hours of the night, the time when our sleep is most disturbed as sombre thoughts invade our minds, a child is born. No ordinary child. A child born to banish the darkness and shining a light of hope into all our hearts.



On that night, fearful shepherds gathered around the child to worship him in wonder before going out to tell others. Shortly afterwards the child would be visited by wise people from the East, again worshipping him before heading off to share the news. And throughout his life Jesus would be encountered by many who reflected in wonder and then shared what they had seen.

Was there a common thread?

Of course. Everyone who encountered Jesus was transformed. Transformed in different ways. The shepherds found strength. The Eastern sages had their intellectual curiosity satisfied. The blind were given sight. The outcasts received friendship. The hungry fed. The poor given hope.

They were transformed. How were they transformed? An encounter with Jesus transformed them. How do we know they were transformed? Because they stepped up and spoke about that transformation. In other words they had an inner journey of encounter and an outer journey of proclamation.

Over the last year in the Diocese we have been developing our Rule of Life. I have been talking about both the inner and outer journey. The inner journey where we Pray, Read and Learn as we try to deepen our faith, and widen our understanding of what it means to know Jesus and to act as he did. The outer journey where we put that action into practice - we Tell, Serve and Give. In these ways we show what it is to be a disciple of Christ, part of a transforming movement that longs to make a bigger difference so that more people know Jesus and there is more justice in the world.

Because the world is longing for that justice. From the massive political uncertainties and conflicts between nation states, to the fearful parent wondering how they will feed their child. We see darkness surrounding us, we have our own pressures, the fears and stresses of the world engulf us. In such a world we need hope.

Some seek for hope in luxury, in the excessive commercialism of Christmas. Expensive presents, lavish parties, over-indulgence. Attempts to find release from the day to day. But as people of faith, we find hope in Jesus. In the precious Christmas gift who transformed the lives of those he encountered. Who can, and is, and will, and wants to transform you, and me.

I pray for you, friends, that you seek hope in Jesus, I pray that you encounter that living and transforming Jesus - and I pray you tell others about that Jesus in word and action, this and every day.



# Parish News



**With Malcolm**

Yet another year in the life of our Church Magazine is almost over and again it is time to thank to the many people who ensure that the magazine comes to your door or online each month. Many thanks must go to our Magazine editors firstly to Jo and now Vicki who took over the role and of course Jack and Helen Stuart who see to the administration and that dedicated team of magazine distributors who year in and year out ensure that your magazine arrives at your door.

I am looking forward to the coming year and lots of articles from our church members to make sure we have a first class magazine with interest for all the family.

*Malcolm*

## **Africa Fund News**

### **Evening Meal**

On Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> November we held our annual evening meal at St Luke's which also provides much needed income for our Africa Fund. The evening went well and raised a total of £552.50. We are indebted to the wonderful team of cooks and servers who made the evening possible and to Spectrum choir who entertained us between courses.

### **More Information**

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

We would especially welcome new donors and if you are interested then please contact Chris Wooff (01942 724207).



# **Africa Fund News**

The Africa fund supports two amazing Christian-run projects in south west Uganda: a children's home at Rukungiri and the Kigezi Diocese Water and Sanitation Project which provides outlying communities with access to clean water and proper sanitation. Both projects play a massive part in saving and changing lives.

Each month generous donors support the Africa fund with standing orders. However, the monthly income does not match our donations from the fund to the projects we support. Events like our sponsored walk and evening meal therefore play an invaluable part in helping us to meet our commitments.

## **Sponsored Walk**

On Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> October, we held a sponsored walk to raise money for the Africa Fund. The walk took us from Ashurst Beacon to Cedar Farm, a distance of approximately 8 miles. The walk generated a total of £937. This is a great effort which was achieved thanks to: the commitment of the 11 people (not forgetting Jimi the dog) who turned out on the day, the kindness of those who came out to support us and the generosity of the many sponsors. The following picture was taken at the start of our walk. We were even wetter by the time we completed the walk!





## **St. Thomas' C of E Primary School**

**'Even the hairs on your head are all numbered.'** Matthew 10:30

**So God created man in his own image, in the image of god he created him; male and female he created them.'** Genesis 1:27

At St Thomas's we recognise that everyone is unique and everyone is special so we do lots of fun and different after-school clubs. There is a club that is fun for everyone. Some sporty clubs include, multi-sports, dance and football. We are busy practicing a dance to perform in the Christmas Carol Concert at church. There are also clubs for people who aren't into sports: these clubs include, card making club and art club. Ipad, Chess and Sign Language take place during lunchtime. What a lot of variety to choose from!



On Saturday there is a family church worship group called Saturday FM which is held at St Thomas's School. It is held every other Saturday. For Saturday FM all ages are welcome. The Facebook page is called Saturday FM, please visit to find out more information.



## St. Thomas' C of E Primary School

'I like learning about God at Saturday FM and I enjoyed making a lighthouse' Abbie Y4

'I like the games we play outside like racing to fill a bucket with water from a holey cup' Isaac Y4

Junior youth club is held at St Thomas' church hall every Monday from 5:45pm till 6:45pm but if you want to learn more about God you can stay for an extra 25 minutes. Years 3-6 only please. You can find youth clubs information on its Facebook page called Junior youth club. 50p cost, tuck money optional. Feel free to come along.

We appreciate that we have lots of opportunities at St Thomas!

By Eve J and Megan A from  
the Ethos Team



gg56357521 www.gograph.com

### The School Prayer

God's love is like a circle  
A circle big and round



# Mothers Union

## MOTHERS UNION

### Branch Diary:

**Wednesday 19th December** Christmas Carol Service in St Thomas Church at 7.30pm

This special Service is open to all ladies of our Church and also the ladies from other Churches in Ashton. Come along and enjoy the traditional carols and lessons and not forgetting the fellowship. You will be made welcome and encouraged to join us for Tea, Coffee and Mince Pies in Church after the Service.

**Bryn Meal on Friday 19th January** a reminder of Our belated Christmas Meal at Bryn Masonic Hall. We look forward to seeing our friends old and new at this very enjoyable evening. If you wish to come and haven't already let me know please let me know and I will let you have the menu for you to choose your meal.

**Coops Foyer** If you would like to donate a gift for this Christmas I will need to receive it soon so that I can deliver it. Please mark the parcel male or female.

A sad note was the death of Peggy Royle in October. Peggy was a member at St Luke's and attended the Mothers' Union meetings until ill health prevented this. She had been a member for many years, the last few as an Indoor member. We pass on our sympathy to John and all their family at this difficult time.

On a happier note some of you may already have heard the wonderful news that June Houghton has been invited to be the new President for the York Province in the next Triennial beginning in 2019. Congratulations have been sent to June from Wigan Team and Deanery. June will be replaced as President of the Liverpool Diocese by Caroline Collins who we wish well in this role.



# Mothers Union

It is all happening as we also now have a new Worldwide President, she is Sheran Harper from Guyana, part of the Province of the West Indies. She makes history as the first non British Worldwide President of the Mothers' Union. This will be effective from the beginning of 2019.

Once again it is that time of year that I must take the opportunity to thank our Secretary, Treasurer and the Committee and all the members of our Parish and indeed our congregations for their continued support for me and for the branch throughout the year.

Lord of all, we give thanks for the far-reaching vision of our founder, Mary Sumner. We look back with praise and gratitude for her witness and the way she has inspired so many people. Our mem-



bers worldwide have been beacons of hope for their communities, both with prayer and practical help, bringing joy and reflecting the love of our Saviour Jesus Christ. We pray that we will be able to continue her vision, ensuring that the role of Mothers' Union will flourish and grow as we unite to be helping hands across the world. **Amen**

May this special time of Christmas bring you peace and joy!  
with love and best wishes from

**Barbara**



# Crossword

## Crossword Clues

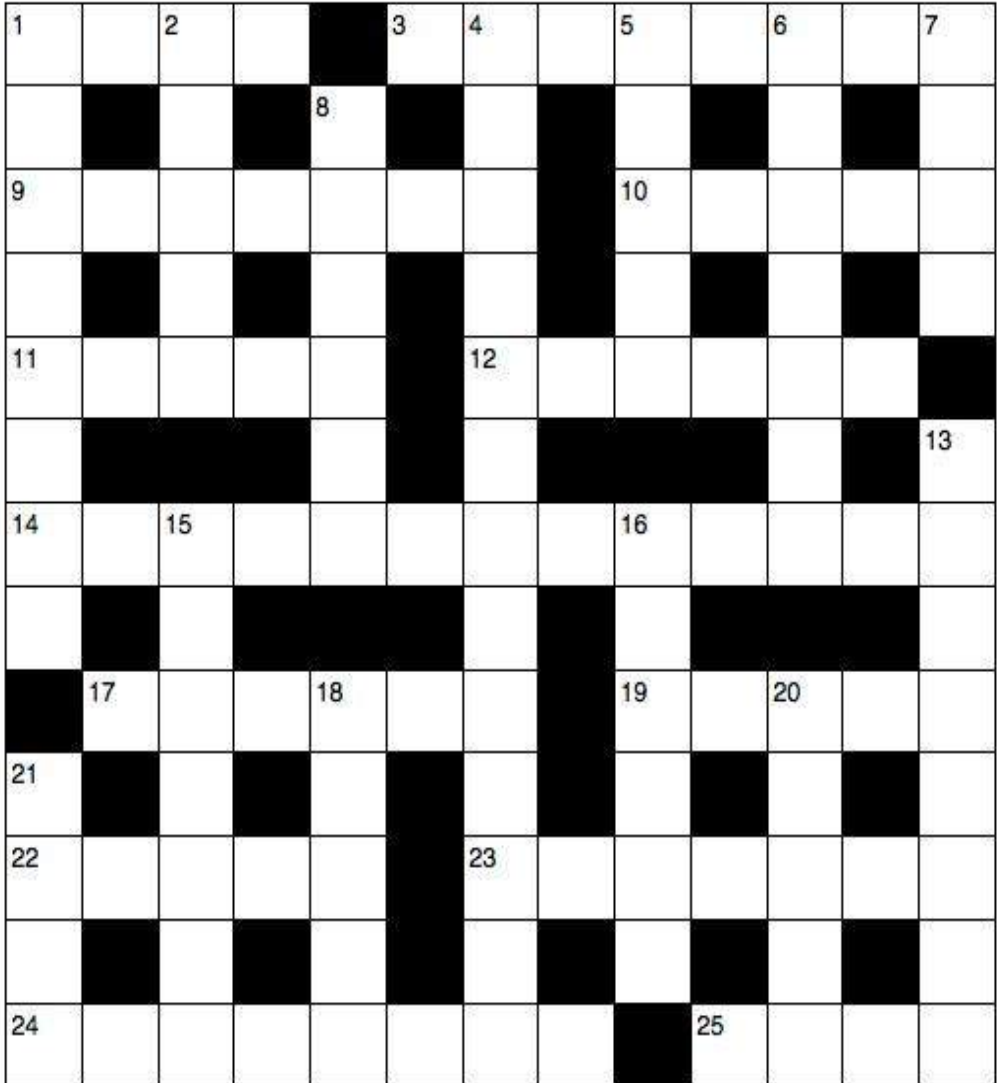
### Across

- 1 'How long will you — your face from me?' (Psalm 13:1) (4)
- 3 'Let us, then, go to him outside the camp, bearing the — he bore' (Hebrews 13:13) (8)
- 9 Shish (anag.) (Romans 8:15) (7)
- 10 Solemn pledges (Matthew 5:33) (5)
- 11 Italian term for full orchestra (5)
- 12 'For he who avenges blood remembers; he does not — the cry of the afflicted' (Psalm 9:12) (6)
- 14 Prescience (1 Peter 1:2) (13)
- 17 Where a Hindu holy man lives (6)
- 19 'If he found any... who belonged to the Way, whether — — women, he might take them as prisoners' (Acts 9:3) (3,2)
- 22 Fragrance (2 Corinthians 2:15) (5)
- 23 Vine (anag.) (Jonah 1:2) (7)
- 24 Precious stone decorating the twelfth foundation of the New Jerusalem (Revelation 21:20) (8)
- 25 'Will you keep to the old path that evil men have — ?' (Job 22:15) (4)

### Down

- 1 'Then Moses raised his arm and struck the rock twice with — — ' (Numbers 20:11) (3,5)
- 2 'You have heard that it was said to the people long ago, " — — murder"' (Matthew 5:21) (2,3)
- 4 One of Paul's many hardships endured as a servant of God (2 Corinthians 6:5) (13)
- 5 'We ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, — inwardly' (Romans 8:23) (5)
- 6 Changed (Daniel 6:8) (7)
- 7 'My yoke is — and my burden is light' (Matthew 11:30) (4)
- 8 Recoil (Revelation 12:11) (6)
- 13 'O Lord, you have — me and you know me' (Psalm 139:1) (8)
- 15 ' — to me the joy of your salvation' (Psalm 51:12) (7)
- 16 Express sorrow (Isaiah 16:7) (6)
- 18 'Then he said to Thomas, " — out your hand and put it into my side"' (John 20:27) (5)
- 20 'God has said, " — will I leave you; — will I forsake you"' (Hebrews 13:5) (5)
- 21 Son of Onan and brother of Shammah (1 Chronicles 2:28) (4)

# Crossword



Solution on page 37



# **The Story of the Christingle**

The word 'Christingle' actually means 'Christ Light', and celebrates the light of Jesus coming into the world. Stories of how the Christingle began originate from the Moravian Church, which is found in the Czech Republic. The Moravians have held Christingle services for more than 200 years, and according to them, this is how the first Christingle might have been made:



Many years ago the children in a village were asked to bring a Christmas gift to put beside the crib in the church. One family was very poor, and had no money for gifts, but the three children were still determined to take something. The only nice thing they had was an orange, so they decided to give the Christ-child that.

But then they discovered the top was going green, so the eldest cut it out, and put a candle in the hole. To add some colour, one of the girls took a red ribbon from her hair and tied it around the middle of the orange. It was hard to make the ribbon stay still, so they fastened it in place with toothpicks. The toothpicks looked a bit bare, so the youngest child added some raisins to them.



The children took their decorated orange lantern to the church for the Christmas Mass. The other children sneered at their meagre gift, but the priest seized upon it with joy. He held it up as an example of the true understanding of the meaning of Christmas, for the following reasons:

The orange is round, like the world; the candle gives us light in the dark, like the love of God; the red ribbon goes round the 'world', as a symbol of Christ's blood, given for everyone; the four sticks point in all directions, and symbolise that God is over all: North, South, East and West; and the fruit and nuts (and sweets!) remind us of God's blessings.

The Children's Society first introduced the Christingle Service to The Church of England in 1968. This candlelit celebration is an ideal way to share the key messages of the Christian faith, while helping to raise vital funds to help vulnerable children across the country.

### Christingle services

This year, there are a number of Christingle services across our hub. On December 2nd, St Luke's and Holy Trinity will be lighting their Christingles as part of their morning worship. St Peter's will be at 4pm at St Peter's school on December 23rd and St Thomas' Christingle service will be during the morning worship on January 6th.

There is something truly magical as we light the first Christingle candle, then share that light with each other, turn off the lights and sing "Away in a Manger" with faces shining.

*Sian*



# Our Christmas services

## St Thomas'

## St Luke's

### 2nd December

9am	Holy Communion	
10.45am	Toy Service	11.00am
6.30pm	Evening Prayer	

### 9th December

9am	Morning Worship	
10.45am	Crib Service	11.00am
6.30pm	Holy Communion	

### 16th December

9am	Holy Communion	
10.45am	Morning Worship	11.00am
6.30pm	Carol Service	

### 23rd December

9.00am	Holy Communion	
	Morning Worship	11.00am
6.30pm	Christmas Praise	

### 24th December

3.45pm	Posada Walk & Service	
11.00pm	Holy Communion	11.00pm

### 25th December

10.30am	Christmas Communion	11.00am
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### 30th December

9.00am	Morning Worship	
10.45am	Morning Worship	11.00am
6.30pm	Holy Communion	

# Christmas around our hub



## Advent Pilgrimage and Complines

As we prepare for Christmas, we will be sharing Compline, refreshments and a short pilgrimage across our hub each Thursday of Advent. As we travel, talk, and pray together we'll be reflecting on the ways in which we are invited to mirror the pilgrimage of the Holy Family in our communities and lives. Compline will begin at 7.30pm with the pilgrimage start depending on the distance (none will be long).

6th December: 6.30 pm Walking from St Aidan's to Holy Trinity. 7.30pm Compline and refreshments at Holy Trinity

13th December: 6.30 pm Walking from Holy Trinity to St Peter's. 7.30pm Compline and refreshments at St Peters

20th December: 6.30 pm Walking from St Peter's to St Thomas'. 7.30pm Compline and refreshments at St Thomas afterwards

## Peace of Mind

On Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> December at 1.30PM in St. Andrew's – a Christmas celebration with Ashton Community Choir – all welcome to come along to enjoy some Christmas Carols and Music.



## St. Aidan's CE Church Christmas Tree Festival

Come and see a spectacular array of beautifully decorated trees promoting businesses and groups in Billinge and the local areas.

Check out the events for the weekend overleaf!



# **Programme of Events**



## **Opening Times**

**Friday 14<sup>th</sup> December -10.30am - 5pm**

**Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> December -10am - 5pm**

**Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> December - 12noon - 4pm**

## **Friday 14<sup>th</sup> December**

**10:30 - Opening Ceremony followed by St Aidan's School Choir**

**1:30pm - St Mary's RC School Choir/ Band**

**7:30pm Pemberton Brass Band Concert -**

**Tickets £5.00 (incl refreshments)**

## **Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> December**

**Enjoy an Afternoon Tea whilst listening to the entertainment**

**12:30pm – Grace Fisher & Maddie Teasdale singing Carols**

**1:00pm – School Choir singing Carols**

**From 12.30pm - Afternoon Teas served**

## **Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> December**

**4:00pm Closing Service – Come along and enjoy a short service to celebrate the closing of the Festival.**

**Please contact Alison Corkill (07837549722) if you would like to sponsor a tree or for further information.**

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Saturday	9am-4pm
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# Alan Jones

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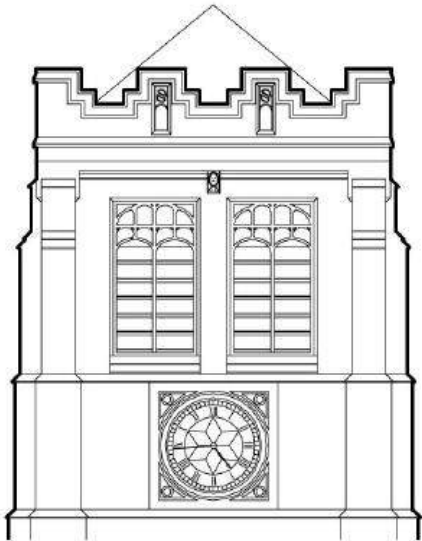
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# The Film Review

With Rob Carson



## **A Star is Born (15)**

**Directed by Bradley Cooper**

**Stars:** Lady Gaga, Bradley Cooper, Sam Elliott, Andrew Dice Clay, Dave Chapelle, Rafi Gavron, Anthony Ramos, Barry Shabaka Henley, Ron Rifkin, and Michael D. Roberts

**In a Nutshell:** There's a reason that certain stories are told time and time again, be it that they're just easy money or a easy sell, or that you can adapt them any which way you want for a new generation and they'll always work in so many ways and completely win over that generation too like so many others before... and in the case of A Star is Born it's been told countless times and for each generation, a new version of the story is told that works for it's respective generation and wins them over as well as the generation that enjoyed the previous versions, they fall for it anew like they never heard it before. Two things stand out boldly here that differ it from previous versions too, firstly the directorial debut of one Bradley Cooper, who here proves just how much of a talented human being he truly is, because not only is his performance absolutely jaw dropping but his direction is so raw, so beautiful and nuanced that you wouldn't believe this was his debut, you'd have him pegged as a classic director. Secondly though in a way not always too surprising, Lady Gaga goes from simply being an extraordinary musical talent to being a jaw dropping actress also with a performance that matches Coopers' at every turn, both of them are very much guaranteed to win or be nominated for awards glory very shortly. With such great talent, naturally comes a soundtrack bursting with beautiful raw original music, with some terrific new songs that are sure to stick emotionally in the memory long after the movie has finished. It rounds it all off with a lovely supporting cast of familiar faces who all give sterling support, with Sam Elliott the most nuanced of all as Bradleys' characters brother, some of the scenes he get will knock you out with the extremely subtle and beautiful moments he gets that are so simple yet so effective, a third performance that surely deserves all the accolades. The greatest strength of this terrific piece of cinema is that it tells a well-worn story in a fresh and emotional way, and never leaves you going 'well I saw that coming' and tells such a simple cliched plot in a natural and beautiful way that will leave you breathless and in emotional ruin... do yourself a favor and see it immediately.

**Rating: 9/10**





# The Film Review

With Rob Carson



## **Bohemian Rhapsody (15)**

**Directed by Bryan Singer and Dexter Fletcher**

**Stars:** Rami Malek, Gwilym Lee, Joseph Mazello, Lucy Boynton, Ben Hardy, Aidan Gillen, Tom Hollander, Allen Leech, Aaron McCusker, Ace Bhatti, Mike Myers, Meneka Das, Priya Blackburn, and Dermot Murphy

**In a Nutshell:** It is so incredibly hard to condense most extraordinary lives into big bold blockbuster biopics; how can you tell such explosive and bombastic stories in a decent running time without losing everyone... yet it's been done time and time again? Witness the terrific Joaquin Phoenix and Reese Witherspoon tearing up the screen as the Cashes' or just how explosive a pre-Panther Chadwick Boseman was as James Brown? Yet both arguably still probably skipped through stuff and told a linear tale of highlights... and so we come to the most extraordinary musician of all time and the most dynamic tale ever told. So how do we even begin to tackle this one? After a huge bout of production history, the answer is complicated I guess but it's been solved by simply telling what you can of the huge history in that same whirlwind bite size way but with perfect performances and great love and respect for the artists and their music. After much casting changes, Rami Malek was cast as Freddie and he's simply perfect (yes, there's part of me that thinks Sacha would have been perfect too but oh well), nailing the vulnerability and the voice and the mannerisms and also nailing the arrogance and pomp that made him such the perfect wannabe star and then the perfect superstar... it's simply a perfect and beautiful portrayal. The other three members of the band too are perfectly portrayed, you'd think you were watching a documentary with how much they act and look like them, especially Lee as Brian May who is simply note perfect. Rounding out the cast is a bunch of reliable faces in key roles and a beautiful turn by Lucy Boynton as Mary, who was a key role in Freddie's life and stuck with him through everything. The music is as amazing as ever, it's not re-done or reworked, the simple original tunes are worked into the story and the performances are simply perfect, you wouldn't realize it was mimed or lip synced. The great thing about this film in the end, is even though it skips over some bold and important events in their fullness, it stills recognizes and addresses them and makes them an important part of the narrative... it tells what it needs to tell in a beautiful, enjoyable and crowd-pleasing way... if you've had your doubts about this film doing what you need it to do... then give it a chance because it will surprise you, it will move you.... It will, it will rock you!

**Rating: 9/10**

Also Seen:

**First Man (12A) 8/10**

**Bad Times at the El Royale (15) 8/10**

**Halloween (18) 9/10**

**The Nutcracker and the Four Realms (PG) 8/10**

**Venom (15) 7/10**

**Johnny English Strikes Again (PG) 6/10**

**Juliet, Naked (15) 8/10**



# The Film Review

With Rob Carson



## Also Out in December

Sorry to Bother You (15) (Dec 7<sup>th</sup>) The Old Man and the Gun (12A) (Dec 7<sup>th</sup>) White Boy Rick (15) (Dec 7<sup>th</sup>)

Spider-Man: Into the Spider Verse (PG) (Dec 12<sup>th</sup>) Aquaman (12A) (Dec 14<sup>th</sup>)

Mortal Engines (12A) (Dec 14<sup>th</sup>) Mary Poppins Returns (PG) (Dec 21<sup>st</sup>) Bumblebee (12A) (Dec 26<sup>th</sup>)

Holmes and Watson (15) (Dec 26<sup>th</sup>)

## In January's Issue:

- Review of Fantastic Beasts: The Crimes of Grindewald
- The Top 19 Must-See Movies for 2019!

## Sudoku puzzle

		9	6			2		
8				1	2	7		5
	2	5	7	9		4	3	
			4		9	8	5	
		2				9		
	5	3	1		7			
	1	4		7	6	3	8	
2		7	8	4				9
		8			1	5		

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# St Thomas' Donations & Remembrance



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

## GIFT AID

If you are a UK tax payer and would like church to be able to claim back 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 the donation to be Gift Aided and include your full name and address.

## **With thanks to those who have donated this month to**

General , Heating, Building & Maintenance, Asylum Seeker Ministry & Africa Fund

Funds currently in use are: Africa Fund, Asylum Seeker, Audio Visual, Church Hall, Building & Maintenance, Garden of Rest, General, Grave Maintenance, Heath Road Graveyard Heating and Youthwork  
**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 11th December to be printed in the January Magazine.**

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



**In loving memory of Dorothy Taylor Simpkin** Birthday wishes for 25th December. A dear wife, mother, Grandma & great Grandma from husband Derek, Philip & Wendy, Geoffrey & Steph, Andrew & Tanya, Margaret & Colin, Janet & Tony, Jim & Sandra and all your grandchildren. Sadly missed.

**In loving memory of Tom and Pat Mcilwee** from Karen, Linda and families

**Keith and Andrea Livesley** Special Christmas memories of my husband Keith & daughter Andrea. Love & missing you both this Christmas Rita & all the family.

**Anniversary remembrance of Ted & Betty Grimshaw** Loving and much loved parents in law and grandparents 4th Dec and 28th November from Pat & the boys

**Loving Christmas memories of Gordon Lyon** Sadly missed from Marie, Barbara, John, Madolyn & Rob, David, Sharon, Ruby & Geena

**Anniversary remembrance of Arthur Shaw 30th December** A loving dad and grandad from Barbara, Malcolm & family

**In loving memory of Peter Raymond (8th November)**

**In loving memory of Fred Conroy** My wonderful husband from loving wife Rene & family

**In loving memory of Ena Jones** my dear mum from loving daughter Rene and family

**Anniversary remembrance of Gladys Burchall** a dear mother and Gran (28th October) from Doreen Rimmer & family

**Anniversary remembrance of Kenneth Rimmer** a dear husband, dad & grandad (6th Nov) from Doreen Rimmer & family





**Birthday memories of Ken Parkinson** 6th December a dear husband from his loving wife Vera, children and grandchildren

**Anniversary remembrance of Margaret Hilton** 3rd December a much loved aunt from Karen and Alec

**Special Christmas memories of Austin Bullen** A loving husband, dad, grandad & father in law from wife Jean, Karen & Keith, Jaki & Simon, Toni & Ben. Sadly missed.

**Christmas memories of Stan Shaw** from Betty, Karen, Gill & families

**Special Christmas memories of Elizabeth Holden** Much loved mum, nan and great gran from Brian & Sue, Vicki, Neil, Beth, Josh, Phoebe, Aidan & Mia

**In loving memory of Tom and Pat McIlwee** from Linda, Karen and families

**Anniversary remembrance of Arthur Shaw 30th Dec)**  
A loving dad and grandad from Barbara, Malcolm & family

**Anniversary remembrance of John Makinson**  
(31st Dec) From Margaret and family

**In loving memory of Chris Ashcroft** from Susan, Darren, Nicola and Lily-Mae



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# Bible Bites

## Bible Bite

It can be read in the Bible in  
Luke chapter 2 verses 1-7

A short story from the Bible

The Roman Empire charged the countries it had invaded taxes, based on the number of people and what they earned.

Emperor Augustus gave orders that all people in the Empire were to be registered so they could be taxed.



This census was before Quirinius became Governor of Syria\* (\*whose own census started riots - Acts 5:37)



When the order came, Mary and Joseph were living in Nazareth.

But Joseph was descended from King David, who had been born in Bethlehem...



so Joseph took Mary to Bethlehem to stay with his family.

Come and meet everyone!



A normal home in Bethlehem.



Stable with mangers

Doorway of home

Animals were kept inside at night

Everyone lived and slept in the living room.

Room added for guests and visitors.

While they were staying there, Mary's baby was born.



There was no space in the guest room to put a new baby!

So they made a snug bed for Jesus in one of the mangers.





# St Thomas' Flowers

## Ladies on duty

1st Dec	Margaret Lyon, Kath Pilling, Barbara Davies
8th Dec	Meta Laites, Kath Vella, Linda Malley
15th Dec	All ladies-Christmas flowers
22nd Dec	All ladies-Christmas flowers
29th Dec	All ladies-Christmas flowers

## Flowers in church Nativity Window

In loving memory of a very dear mum Margaret Hilton (3rd December) from Alison, Adrian, Beccy & Chris

## Flower Guild donations

Special Christmas memories of a loving husband, dad, grandad and father in law Austin Bullen from wife Jean, Karen, Keith, Jaki, Simon, Toni & Ben

Thinking of all loved ones at Christmas time from Elsie Deluce

## Flowers in church this month

Date	Altar	Lady Chapel
1st Dec	In memory of all loved ones from Janet & Doug Wildman & family	In memory of all loved ones from Mrs M Wood & family & Mr & Mrs Lawton & family
8th Dec	Vacant	In memory of all loved ones from the Bailey family
15th Dec	Christmas flowers	Congregation
22nd Dec	Christmas flowers	Congregation
29th Dec	Christmas flowers	Congregation



### December birth flower

The December birth flowers are **holly** and **narcissus** (specifically, the paperwhite).

The holly symbolizes your wish for domestic happiness. Although some animals and birds enjoy holly berries, they are semi-toxic to humans. The good news is that deer tend to avoid eating holly.

The narcissus conveys that you want your beloved to stay just the way they are. While there are many types of narcissus, the paperwhite is the winter-growing variety and the birth flower for December.





# St Luke's Flowers

## Flowers in church for December

2nd Dec	Vacant
9th Dec	In loving memory of a dear wife Valerie Ann Boon (12th Dec) with love from John & family
16th Dec	Birthday memories (20th) of Peggy Royle from John, Karen, Ken & Katie
23rd Dec	In loving memory of Husband Colin and son Stuart from Joan Graham
30th Dec	Vacant



Christmas and birthday remembrance of a dear friend Angela Baxter  
from Debra.

## 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**

## Sudoku Solution

3	7	9	6	5	4	2	1	8
8	4	6	3	1	2	7	9	5
1	2	5	7	9	8	4	3	6
7	6	1	4	2	9	8	5	3
4	8	2	5	6	3	9	7	1
9	5	3	1	8	7	6	2	4
5	1	4	9	7	6	3	8	2
2	3	7	8	4	5	1	6	9
6	9	8	2	3	1	5	4	7

## Crossword Solution

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



# The Registers



## Funerals - "May they rest in peace"

2nd Nov	Stephen Pennington	Wentworth Road	58
5th Nov	Jack Adamson	Chimes Road	90
13th Nov	Mary Hesketh	Ellesmere Road	85
14th Nov	Raymond Bradshaw	Glendale Avenue	82
19th Nov	John Dutton	Naylor Farm Ave	73
23rd Nov	Vera Stanley	Ashton View	91
27th Nov	Margaret Welding	Malvern Close	89

## Holy Baptism -

"We welcome them into the Lord's family"



11th Nov	Murphy Rohan Black	Hazelhurst Grove
25th Nov	Harry David Morgan	Coldstone Drive

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

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



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