

# Wigan South Parish Magazine



- Holy Trinity
- St Andrew's
- St Peter's
- St Aidan's
- St Luke's
- St Thomas'

**St Thomas' and St Luke's edition**



GLORY TO THE  
NEW BORN  
KING

A photograph of the Milky Way galaxy in a dark night sky, with a silhouette of a forest at the bottom. The text 'GLORY TO THE NEW BORN KING' is overlaid in white, serif font.

December 2022

60p

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# Contents



I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day	5
A Letter from Ros	6
Crossword	8
The cost of loving at Christmas from Bishop Bev	10
Parish News	12
Parish Diary for December	15
December Holy Days	18
December Services & Events	24
Mothers' Union	25
Advent Teas & Suppers	27
News from our churches	28
Donations and Remembrance	31
The Registers	33



# Parish Information

## Baptisms

Baptisms (also called Christenings) are held around the Parish throughout the month. Please come along to the morning service at the church of your choice, and you can talk about booking a date that works well for you and church. Godparents must have been baptised themselves and be prepared to attend a baptism preparation session with the parents.

## Funerals

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

## Marriage

You can marry in a CofE Church of your choice if certain criteria are shown to be met.

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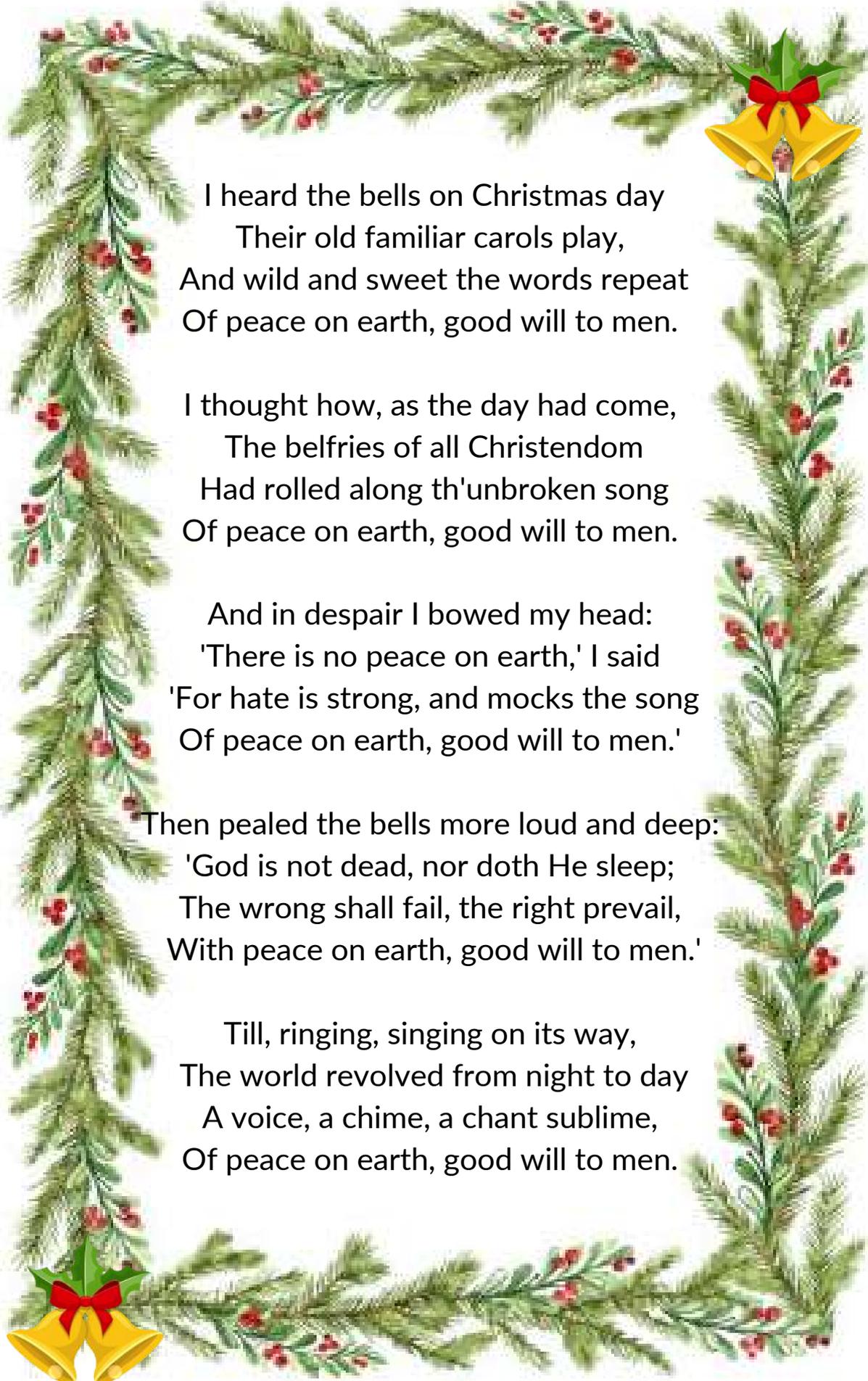
If you would like further information or to book a funeral, wedding or a baptism, please attend at one of our churches or see the contact details at the rear of the magazine

# Magazine Deadlines

Please send any material for the magazine to your local assistant editor (see contact details at the back) or [magazine@stthomasstluke.org.uk](mailto:magazine@stthomasstluke.org.uk).

	January	February	March
Deadline for material	15 December	19 January	16 February
Publication date	25 Decmber	29 January	26 February

# I heard the Bells on Christmas Day



I heard the bells on Christmas day  
Their old familiar carols play,  
And wild and sweet the words repeat  
Of peace on earth, good will to men.

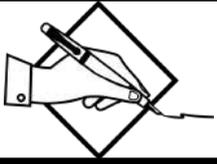
I thought how, as the day had come,  
The belfries of all Christendom  
Had rolled along th'unbroken song  
Of peace on earth, good will to men.

And in despair I bowed my head:  
'There is no peace on earth,' I said  
'For hate is strong, and mocks the song  
Of peace on earth, good will to men.'

Then pealed the bells more loud and deep:  
'God is not dead, nor doth He sleep;  
The wrong shall fail, the right prevail,  
With peace on earth, good will to men.'

Till, ringing, singing on its way,  
The world revolved from night to day  
A voice, a chime, a chant sublime,  
Of peace on earth, good will to men.

**By Henry Wadsworth Longfellow (1863)**



# A Letter from Ros



Dear Friends,

Mr. TOPSY TURVY was a funny sort of a fellow.

“Everything about him was either upside down, or inside out, or back to front – topsy turvy in fact, It was all very extraordinary!!!”



So begins the story of MR. TOPSY TURVY by Roger Hargreaves. One of the famous Mr. Men Books enjoyed by countless children over the years.

As I read this book alongside my Grandson it made me call to mind the topsy turvy events that we have experienced over the last 5 months or so. We are still very much aware of the prevalence of Covid and constantly on the news we witness just how climate change is affecting us in this country and the rest of the world.

In June we celebrated the Platinum Jubilee of Queen Elizabeth – a truly majestic time as we recognised her reign over the country and all of us enjoyed and celebrated together the total dedication of Her Majesty. Sadly in September we were told of her death, and the great celebrations were turned upside down as the country and the world went into a period of mourning. We recognised the total grief experienced by the members of the Royal family as together we mourned alongside them. We too as her subjects prepared for her state funeral with all the pomp and ceremony as she was respectfully laid to rest and so began a new era of a King – Charles 3rd the Carolean Era.

Suddenly everything had been turned topsy turvy and now just as we thought that the country was settling, we experienced a new Prime Minister on the 6th September to be replaced by another on the 24th October!!

Mr. Topsy Turvy would have felt right at home!

In St. John's Gospel chapter 15 we read these words:

*I am the Vine, you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit, apart from me you can do nothing. If anyone does not remain in me, he is like a branch that is thrown away and withers, such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned. If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish and it will be given to you. This is to my Father's glory that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples.*

The Lord compared us to the branches and compared Himself to the vine. Our relationship with the Lord is like the relationship between the vine branches and the vine. Cut from the vine, the branches will lose their sustenance and then wither and die. From this we can appreciate that the Lord is the source of our life and that it is highly important to maintain a loving relationship with God.

Amid all the chaos and the TOPSY-TURVY of recent events in the country and indeed the world, within our lives it is important that we too stay connected to one another and to God for stability.

As Christians our deep faith allows us to do just that.

In November St. Andrew's celebrated 90 years as a Mission Church in Garswood offering worshipful support and care at the heart of the community that grew up around it, and we pray that we can continue to be an example in the South Hub as a place for "God in Action".

Today we offer thanks and praise to those people all those years ago who had the vision to provide a stable and secure place for the inhabitants of the village. As we prepare to celebrate the birth of a baby born in a stable let us hold fast to that thought.

Blessings to all of you and your families at this most holy of seasons.

**Rosalyn xx**

# Crossword



1		2			3	4		5		6		7
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	17			18				19		20		
21												
22						23						
24									25			

Answers on page 11

## 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 Posh sin (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 hen (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 Onam and brother of Shammai (1 Chronicles 2:28) (4)

## The cost of loving at Christmas

We all know the uncertainties! Despite our best efforts the country is experiencing its worst crisis in decades. Political turmoil, the aftershocks of the pandemic, the devastation of war and communities, families and individuals deeply concerned about being able to survive - not to mention the ongoing effects of the climate crisis.

It doesn't feel like a recipe for a Happy Christmas does it?

Yet these realities of hardship, uncertainty and fear existed way back at the time of the first Christmas. God chose incarnation among the poorest of a turbulent country at a difficult and dangerous time. His birth set the tone for his life and ministry. Though fraught with risk, incredulity and profound uncertainty, Jesus reached to those living in poverty, to the sick, the hungry, the marginalised and dispossessed, bringing hope in what would have seemed like bleak and hopeless times. His birth wasn't, of course, good news to everyone! To the ruling elite, he would bring judgment for their actions and he brought fear.

Confident of the hope Jesus blesses his people with, we are called to be hope-givers, light-bearers and life-blessers. We have a song of hope to sing this Christmas and people need to hear the song more than ever. This means look beyond our walls and our peripheral vision to the people Jesus wants us to reach. So many of us are doing this and we are seeing the bigger difference that it makes in people's lives. One act of loving-kindness in the name of Jesus will transform somebody's life.

This Christmas, let's commit to doing at least one act of loving kindness a day. However much we are struggling, please remember there are people starved of hope - they have have less than nothing. Christmas is the time when the world connects most with the Christmas story. This season gives us a wonderful opportunity to invite people to the many and various events and acts of worship.



Those of you familiar with LYCIG will be familiar with the mantra, ' It's going to be great – I'm going, why don't you come, too! ' There are so many people of all ages, families and single people, the lonely, isolated and bereaved – people like you and me whose Christmas may be transformed by your invitation.

Friends, the first worshippers around the crib were invited: the angels invited the shepherds; the star invited the magi. Who will you invite? The National Church's Follow the Star: The Great Invitation gives us fabulous resources and support to enable us to reach out gently yet confidently to the world around us, so very much in need of its saviour.

If you fear the cost, ponder for a moment the cost of love which came to us at Christmas – the love of God in the face of the Christ-Child, the one who lived for us and died for us in order to redeem death itself, that we might live with him in the place that knows no ending. That same love that is poured into the hearts of all who dare to invite Him in.



My hope for us all is that we will rise to the act of kindness challenge; that we shall dare to be invitation givers and hope bringers and that by blessing others, we will deepen our own understanding of what it means to be blessed by God.

I pray that you have a happy, blessed and warm Christmas.

***Bishop Bev***

## Crossword Answers

ACROSS: 1, Hide. 3, Disgrace. 9, Sonship. 10, Oaths. 11, Tutti. 12, Ignore. 14, Foreknowledge. 17, Ashram. 19, Men or. 22, Aroma. 23, Nineveh. 24, Amethyst. 25, Trod.

DOWN: 1, His staff. 2, Do not. 4, Imprisonments. 5, Groan. 6, Altered. 7, Easy. 8, Shrink. 13, Searched. 15, Restore. 16, Lament. 18, Reach. 20, Never. 21, Jada.

# Parish News



On Sunday 30th October, all of our worship communities joined together in praise and worship in a joint Wigan South Holy Communion Service at St Thomas' church, and online through the live streaming and recording of the service.

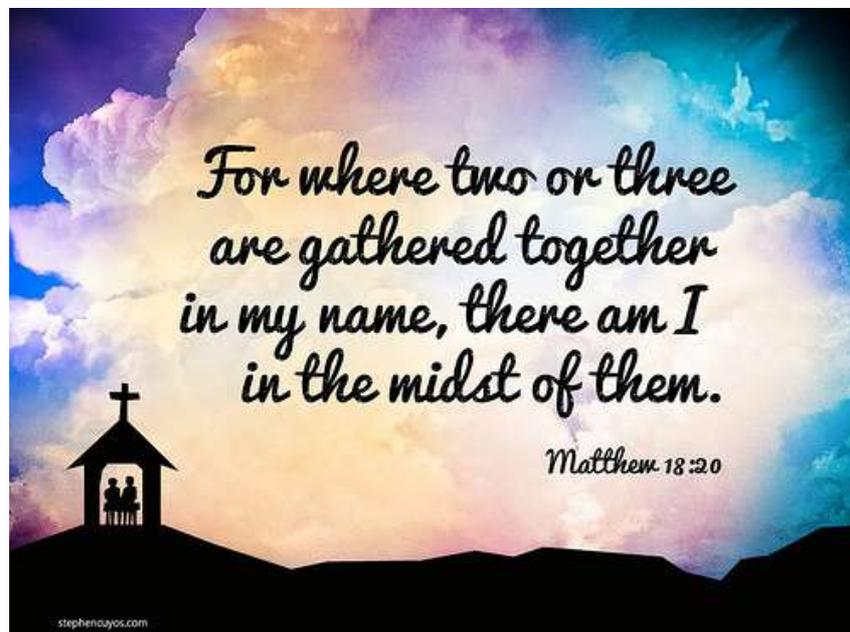


And what a blessing it was to all who were in attendance!

The service was so wonderfully organised and led by our Local Mission Leaders, with rousing music from St Thomas' music group, an enticing reflection from Kelvin, and a lovely communion presided over by Sue Thomas, with help from Jeremy too when we realised just how many people were to receive communion - what a great problem to have!

it was so uplifting to hear so many voices lifting the roof in song and praise, and for this to continue in chatting over tea and toast after the service.

I'm sure everyone is looking forward to the next opportunity for us to join together as Wigan South, and if you missed this service, keep your eyes peeled for the next 5th Sunday!





## CAN YOU HELP WRAP UP WIGAN?

As the weather turns colder, we are inviting supporters and businesses to help vulnerable families and individuals facing crisis this winter. With the cost-of-living crisis, rising energy and fuel bills, increasing food prices and rising inflation the winter months are looking bleak for many families and individuals in our borough. The harsh reality is many people will be cold, hungry, or destitute as they are plunged deeper into poverty.

We urgently need your help so families and individuals can stay warm and fed in Wigan. Can you donate any of the following to support the most vulnerable members of our community?

Electric blankets (new pls) / warm blankets  
 Hot water bottles / hand warmers  
 Thermal clothing (adults & children)

Padded coats / body warmers / fleeces  
 Hats / gloves / socks / slippers  
 Slow cookers

You can donate or collect warm winter items at any of our retail shops:

The Leigh Shop 13 Railway Road Leigh WN7 4AA Monday to Saturday 9.30 – 4.30pm  
 The Wigan Shop 160 Gidlow Lane Wigan WN6 7EA Monday to Friday 9.30 – 4.30pm, Saturday 10am – 3pm

The Brick Works 4 Hodson St Wigan WN3 4EN Monday-Friday 9.45am – 4.15pm, second Saturday of the month, 9am-1pm

To request an electric blanket or slow cooker please call us on 01942 236 953 or email [enquiries@thebrick.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@thebrick.org.uk) More here > <https://buff.ly/3cls76s>



**Christmas Tree Festival 2022 at St Aidan's**  
**Friday 9th, Saturday 10th, Sunday 11th December**



**Friday 9th December**

**1.30pm:** Opening Service with the local schools

**7.30pm:** Valley Brass Band Concert - tickets £5 (including refreshments)

**Saturday 10th December**

Church open from **10.30am to 4pm** - refreshments will be available during the day.

**4pm:** Christmas Family Movie Event - wear your pjs, snuggle down for a family fun movie. Tickets are £2 or £5 per family. Includes refreshments of hot chocolates and goodies.

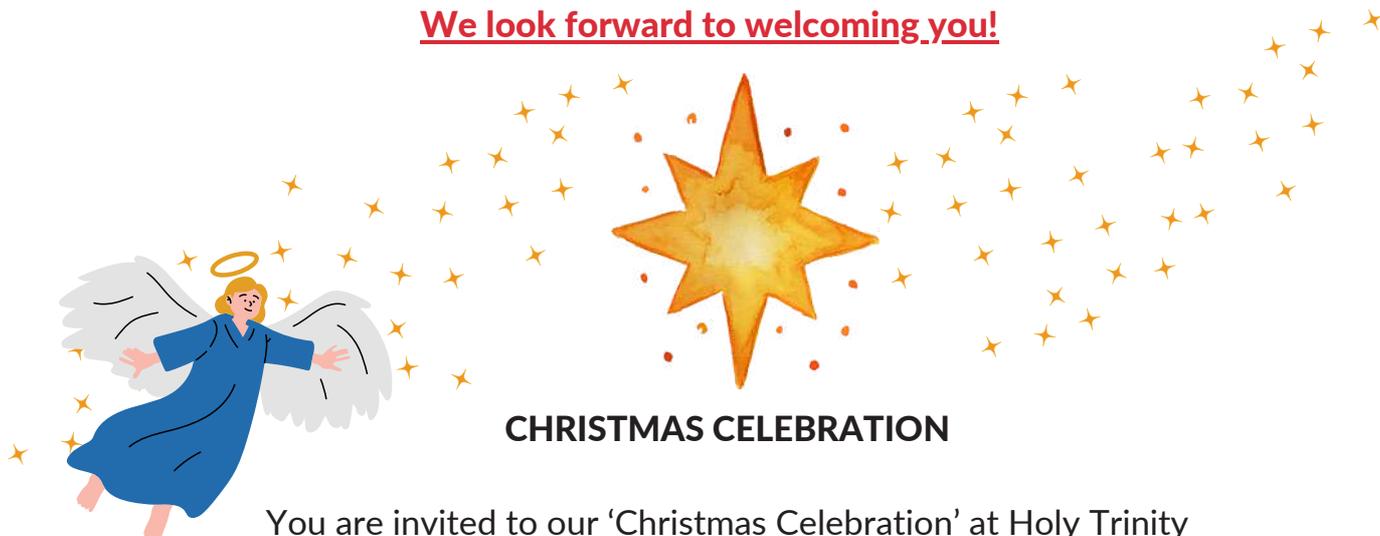
**Sunday 11th December**

**10.30am:** STA's4ALL Service

Church open from **12pm to 4pm** for people to come and see the wonderful spectacle of decorated trees!

**4pm:** Carol by Candlelight Service

**We look forward to welcoming you!**



**CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION**

You are invited to our 'Christmas Celebration' at Holy Trinity

**at 3pm on Sunday 18th December**

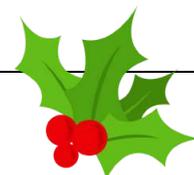
The Christmas story will be told through Bible readings, poems, video clips, Christmas music and carols.

Tea, coffee and mince pies will be served and the Grand Christmas Raffle drawn.

We look forward to welcoming you.



# Services & Events in December



## Parish Events

Wednesday 7th	1.00pm - 3.00pm: Knit & Chat 7.00pm: Snowman Drive 7.30pm: Women's Fellowship	St Peter's St Luke's St Peter's
Friday 9th	1.30pm Christmas Tree Festival opening service 7.30pm: Valley Brass Band Concert	St Aidan's
Saturday 10th	4.00pm: Christmas Family Movie Night 6.00pm: Boy's Brigade Christmas Bingo & Raffle 7.00pm: Christmas Celebration led by Beacon Church	St Aidan's St Peter's St Thomas'
Monday 12th	2.15pm Carols in Church with children from Rectory School	Holy Trinity
Tuesday 13th	1.30pm - 3.00pm: Peace of Mind Dementia Café	St Andrew's
Thursday 15th	2.00pm: Friendship Group 4.00pm Nativity Walk	St Aidan's Holy Trinity
Wednesday 21st	7.00pm: Mother's Union Carol Service	St Thomas'



# Services in December



Thurs 1st	9.45am: BCP Holy Communion	St Thomas'
Sun 4th	9.00am: Morning Worship 9.30am: Morning Worship 10.30am: Morning Worship 10.30am: Holy Communion 10.45am: Toy Service 11.00am: Toy Service 6.30pm: Holy Communion	St Thomas' St Andrew's Holy Trinity St Peter's St Thomas' St Luke's St Thomas'
Wed 7th	10.00am: Holy Communion	St Aidan's
Thurs 8th	9.45am: BCP Holy Communion	St Thomas'
Sun 11th	9.00am: Holy Communion 9.30am: Morning Worship 10.30am: Morning Worship 10.30am: Morning Prayer 10.45am: Café Church with Nativity 11.00am Nativity & Christingle	St Thomas' St Andrew's Holy Trinity St Peter's St Thomas' St Luke's
Thurs 15th	9.45am: BCP Holy Communion	St Thomas'
Sun 18th	9.00am: Morning Worship 9.30am: Carol Service 10.30am: Holy Communion 10.30am: Carol Service 10.45am: Holy Communion 11.00am Family Worship 3.00pm: Christmas Celebration 6.30pm: 9 Lessons and Carols by Candlelight	St Thomas' St Andrew's Holy Trinity St Peter's St Thomas' St Luke's Holy Trinity St Thomas'

Continued....

Wed 21st	10.00am: Holy Communion	St Aidan's
Thurs 22nd	9.45am: BCP Holy Communion	St Thomas'
Sat 24th	3.00pm: Christmas Comunion 4.00pm: Christingle Service 8.00pm: Christmas Communion 11.00pm: Christmas Communion	Holy Trinity St Thomas' St Luke's St Thomas'
Sun 25th	9.30am: Holy Communion 10.30am: Holy Communion 10.30am: Holy Communion 11.00am: Morning Worship	St Andrew's St Peter's St Thomas' St Luke's

As we enter the time of anticipation throughout Advent, we invite everyone to join in the abundance of wonderful events and services available across the parish.

You are sure to receive a friendly welcome at all.



We are very grateful for all those who play a role in preparing the church buildings, putting together programmes of events over the festive period and leading us in worship - thank you!

# December Holy Days



## **6th December: St Nicholas, a much-loved saint**

One account of how Father Christmas began tells of a man named Nicholas who was born in the third century in the Greek village of Patara, on what is today the southern coast of Turkey. His family were both devout and wealthy, and when his parents died in an epidemic, Nicholas decided to use his inheritance to help people. He gave to the needy, the sick, the suffering. He dedicated his whole life to God's service and was made Bishop of Myra while still a young man. As a bishop in later life, he joined other bishops and priests in prison under the emperor Diocletian's fierce persecution of Christians across the Roman Empire.

Finally released, Nicholas was all the more determined to shed abroad the news of God's love. He did so by giving. One story of his generosity explains why we hang Christmas stockings over our mantelpieces today. There was a poor family with three daughters who needed dowries if they were to marry, and not be sold into slavery. Nicholas heard of their plight and tossed three bags of gold into their home through an open window – thus saving the girls from a life of misery.

The bags of gold landed in stockings or shoes left before the fire to dry. Hence the custom of children hanging out stockings – in the hope of attracting presents of their own from St Nicholas - on Christmas Eve. That is why three gold balls, sometimes represented as oranges, are one of the symbols of St Nicholas.

The example of St Nicholas has never been forgotten - in bygone years boys in Germany and Poland would dress up as bishops on 6th December, and beg alms for the poor. In the Netherlands and Belgium 'St Nicholas' would arrive on a steamship from Spain to ride a white horse on his gift-giving rounds. To this day, 6th December is still the main day for gift-giving and merry-making in much of Europe. Many people feel that simple gift-giving in early Advent helps preserve a Christmas Day focus on the Christ Child.

## 26th December: St Stephen – the first martyr

Have you ever stopped to consider that the very first martyr of the Christian Church was a deacon? (But no, he wasn't worked to death by his church.) It was Stephen, one of the first seven deacons of the Christian Church. He'd been appointed by the apostles to look after the distribution of alms to the faithful poor, and to help in the ministry of preaching.

Acts 6 and 7 tells us all that we know of his life, and the passages seem to suggest that he was an educated Hellenistic Jew. Certainly, Stephen's famous challenge to the Jews reveals him to have been learned in the Scriptures and the history of Judaism, besides being eloquent and forceful.

Stephen's proclamation on the day of his martyrdom pulled no punches. He told the Jews that God did not depend on the Temple. The Temple was but a temporary institution destined to be fulfilled and superseded by Christ, who was the prophet foreseen by Moses as the Messiah for whom the Jewish race had so long awaited.

Stephen then challenged his hearers for resisting the Spirit and for killing the Christ, as their fathers before them had killed the prophets. The Jews were so outraged by this that they stoned Stephen on the spot for blasphemy.

As he died, (c 35 AD) Stephen saw a vision of Christ on God's right hand. The men who were witness to the stoning placed their clothes at the feet of Saul (afterwards Paul), who (to his deep regret later) consented to Stephen's death.

By the fourth century Stephen had his own feast day in both East and West Churches. When his supposed tomb was discovered in 415, his popularity soared. His (supposed) relics were taken to Constantinople and then Rome, along with some stones (allegedly) used at his martyrdom.

Early on the Church made Stephen the patron saint of deacons. In the late Middle Ages he was also invoked to help against headaches (?!).

In England, 46 ancient churches are dedicated to him, most of them built after the Norman Conquest. In art Stephen is usually given a book of the Gospels and a stone, and sometimes the palm of martyrdom.



Together with local businesses, we are working to reduce the amount of food going to land fill. The pantry is regularly stocked with food that is near its sell by date but can still be used to feed bellies not bins.

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Sunday 3pm–4pm

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# December Services



	<b>St Thomas'</b>	<b>St Luke's</b>
<b>Thursday 1st</b>	9.45am: BCP Holy Communion	
<b>Sunday 4th</b>	9.00am: Morning Worship 10.45am: Toy Service 6.30pm: Holy Communion	11.00am: Toy Service
<b>Thursday 8th</b>	9.45am BCP Holy Communion	
<b>Sunday 11th</b>	9.00am: Holy Communion 10.45am: Cafe Church with Nativity	11.00am: Nativity & Christingle
<b>Thursday 15th</b>	9.45am: BCP Holy Communion	
<b>Sunday 18th</b>	9.00am: Morning Worship 10.45am: Holy Communion 6.30pm: 9 Lessons & Carols by Candlelight	11.00am: Morning Worship
<b>Thursday 22nd</b>	9.45am: BCP Holy Communion	
<b>Saturday 24th</b>	4.00pm: Christingle Service 11.00pm: Christmas Communion	8.00pm: Christmas Communion
<b>Sunday 25th</b>	10.30am: Holy Communion	11.00am: Morning Worship

All are welcome to bring their presents and toys on Christmas morning!

## Upcoming Christmas events



**2.30pm on Saturday 3rd December:** Christmas afternoon tea in St Thomas' church. £12.50 for afternoon tea and complementary prosecco.

**7.00pm on Wednesday 7th December:** Snowman Drive at St Luke's church

**7.00pm on Saturday 10th December:** Beacon led Christmas Celebration at St Thomas' Church

**Monday 12th - Thursday 15th December:** Advent Teas and Suppers (see notice with details on page 27)

**4.30pm on Tuesday 13th December:** Byrchall's Carol Service in St Thomas' church

**7.00pm on Wednesday 21st December:** Mothers' Union Carol Service

# News from our churches



Looking back on the edition of the magazine produced in December last year I note that we were still looking for someone with media skills to prepare a promotion brochure detailing the facilities offered. Sadly, we are still looking!

I feel particularly sad that we struggle with this as we had a wonderful demonstration of the facilities that we can now provide when the building played host to the Christmas Fayre. It was great to see the whole floor filled with stalls and tables in the refreshment area. There was a real babble of excitement from the many children and parents who came to make this a roaring success and a demonstration of what we are able to offer. A big thank you goes to Jan and team and to all those volunteers who manned the stalls, made the craft items and served in the café. All in all, a great effort and one which raised some £1,200 towards church and organisation funds.

For many years Sue Thomas has been the person in direct contact with the parish and beyond, taking on so many responsibilities that it is impossible to list. However, the recent loss of her son in law Andrew places greater responsibility on her family commitments. As a consequence, Sue is having to cut down on the parish responsibilities to be available for the family. On behalf of all our church communities I would like to thank Sue for all that she has done and assure her of our continued support and prayers. We need to pick up all those tasks to assist Sue.

I am pleased to say that a start has been made as Maurice Smith has stepped forward to take on the preparation of the weekly notice sheet for which we are most grateful. A new email address has been set up [notices@stthomasstlukes.org.uk](mailto:notices@stthomasstlukes.org.uk) to which items for the notices, birthdays and news etc should be sent. Maurice will pick them up from this address.

I did mention that Clare Hayton is stepping down next April as our Gift Aid Treasurer, we are still looking for someone to take on this role. I will be happy to supply details of what is entailed.

**Malcolm**

# ADVENT TEAS AND SUPPERS



We are hosting a mid-week-long programme of Advent afternoon teas and early evening suppers on Monday - Thursday of the week 12 -15 December at 39 Edward Drive, WN4 8QU.

These are social events with: a little prayer, a little food and drink, a little reading out-loud, and a table-top game: we would hope to raise some modest funds for the Children's Society appeal.

These events - two teas and two suppers - for 10-12 invitees will occur on Monday-Thursday of the third week in Advent as follows:

- Monday 12 December: Advent Supper 19.00 - 21.00
- Tuesday 13 December: Advent Tea 14.00 - 16.00
- Wednesday 14 December: Advent Supper 19.00 - 21.00
- Thursday 15 December: Advent Tea 14.00 - 16.00

A price of £3.00 we hope will make it as inclusive as possible. Invitees could pre-arrange to book with friends, although would be bound to meet and sit with others, thus sharing our table and community of Christian fellowship. All proceeds would be donated to the Children's Society. The provision of tea/supper and - of course - any stronger drinks, will be our gift.

Reservations are essential, on a first come first served (literally) basis, as we anticipate this may be booked-up quite quickly. We look forward to hosting members and friends of our church community with: the warmth of our burning stove; our Christmas trees; and, a glass of the Oxford Bishop.

To book a confirmed place (lifts can be arranged):  
Telephone/Voicemail: 01942 202848  
e-mail: [maurice.smith@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:maurice.smith@hotmail.co.uk)



***Maurice and Alison Smith and Molly the Collie***



As a church family, we recently learnt of the death of Hilda Edwardson on 14th November. Over the years, many of those who have walked through the doors of our two churches will have spoken to Hilda.

Whether this be in the capacity of one of the many roles and responsibilities she undertook over the years, or even just as a friendly and welcoming face.

It was not uncommon for many of us to spot Hilda out on her many excursions and social events, taking the bus from Haydock into Ashton.

And, until the recent pandemic and ill health restricted Hilda's adventures, she was very much still involved in many aspects of church life.

We are thankful for the gift that Hilda was to our church communities over many, many years and we hold Raymond and Sharon in our prayers at this time.

# Mothers' Union



## **Branch Diary:**

We will be holding our Christmas Carol Service on Wednesday 21st December a week later than usual. I look forward to being able to welcome our members, all the ladies of our Church and also the ladies from other Churches in Ashton. It is an open invitation to come along and enjoy the traditional carols, lessons and fellowship with mince pies and coffee or tea.

It is not too late to book in for our post-Christmas Meal at Bryn Masonic Hall for all our friends on Friday 28th January 2023. I know that this event is always enjoyed and if you haven't yet got your menu then let me know.

## **Coops Foyer**

We still hope to support the young people at Coops Foyer if you would like to donate a gift for the young people this Christmas I will need to receive it soon so that I can deliver it. Please mark the parcel male or female.

## **Thanks**

Another year passes by, and we have resumed our normal meeting pattern as a branch continuing to actually meeting in person. On this subject I must admit to some concern at the numbers of members who are now attending our meetings. At our October and November meeting the attendance was 20 and 10 respectively. It is difficult and embarrassing to invite speakers to such small audiences. I do hope and pray that the new year will show an upturn in these numbers.

I would once again like to thank our Secretary, Treasurer and the Committee for their work during the past year.

It is with sadness that I report the death of Hilda Edwardson on the 14 November at the age of 88. Hilda joined the MU in 1966 and will be sadly missed.

*Glory of God,  
Awaken our souls, open our hearts,  
as we make ready to celebrate anew  
the coming of Love incarnate,  
our promised Messiah.  
Lead us to the new-born Christ  
That we may gaze in worship  
And give our lives to him.*

Especially this year may this special time of Christmas bring you peace and joy!

*with love and best wishes from*  
**Barbara**

David Fearnley has produced another look into the history of our town for which we are grateful.

### **“THE ROOKERIES”, LIVERPOOL ROAD, ASHTON IN MAKERFIELD**

1894 - 1900 construction began of a row of late Victorian houses on Liverpool Road between Naylor Street (now Townfields) and St. Oswald's RC Infant school. The large semi-detached house, number 76 & 74 Liverpool Road, next to Townfields, was built 1899 - 1900 for Charles Rose and was known as "Seaton Villas" named after his second wife Mary Jane Seaton who came from Scotland. Charles was a retired publican having been the landlord of the "Railway Hotel", Strange Road, Garswood and the publican of the "Gerard Arms" in Gerard Street, Ashton. A staircase of stone steps facing onto Gerard Street gave access to the "Gerard Arms" which, until several years ago, was occupied by the "Greensway" supermarket. The Gerard crest can be seen at the top of the building.

In 1894 Peter Pennington, an Ashton builder, purchased land from the Gerard family to build, near the RC school, two large houses, each with 7 rooms, to be called "The Rookeries".

Peter Pennington was born in Bolton Road, near Hilton Street, Ashton in 1856. 1/5/1878 St. Thomas', Ashton, Peter Pennington, bricklayer, of Bryn Street, married Ann Alker and they lived at Edge Green Lane, Ashton. Peter owned a builders yard in Heath Road which was later the premises of builders "Kearsley & Gee". He also owned a sandstone quarry at the Ashton end of Skitters wood. The smooth quarry face shows where sandstone blocks have been sawn, possibly used in the construction of the "banking"/embankment in Old Road and Wigan Road. He built the mock Tudor houses, with black & white facias, between Townfields and St. Oswald's RC school; the mock Tudor houses on the corner of Osborne Road and Wigan Road; the mock Tudor housing on the raised embankment or "banking" in Wigan Road opposite the library; possibly Church Terrace in Heath Road; in 1902 the Conservative Club in Princess Road and in 1903 St. Thomas' new infant school in Heath Road. Peter Pennington, of 141 Wigan Road, died 10/3/1935, aged 79, and was buried at St. Thomas', Ashton.

Between "The Rookeries" Nos. 82 & 80 Liverpool Road and Nos. 78 & 76 "Seaton Villas" a gap was left for 3 later houses. c1901 - 1908 three more houses had been built in the gap and the house numbers now ran - St. Oswald's RC school, No. 88 "The Rookeries"; No. 86 "The Rookeries"; No.84; No.82; No.80; No.78 "Seaton Villas"; No.76 "Seaton Villas"; Townfields. In 1901 when only 4 houses had been completed Richard Henry Bridge, a solicitor, lived at No. 76; Charles Rose, retired publican, at No, 78; Peter Pennington, builder, at "The Rookeries" 80 Liverpool Road and the family of the late James Watson, builder, at "The Rookeries", 82 Liverpool Road. Peter Pennington and James Watson had formed "Pennington & Watson" joiners, builders and contractors.

James Watson died in 1898, aged, 45, and has a window of remembrance in St. Thomas' church, the 4th from the vestry - "To the Memory of God and in Memory of James Watson, many years a sidesman of this church, who died 9/4/1898, aged 45. This window is erected by his children".

In 1911 other occupants of this row of houses included Frank Oswald Rose, a relative of Charles Rose, architect & surveyor; Oswald Wynn Jones, medical practitioner at "Rock House", Gerard Street; Peter Parkington, headmaster of St. Luke's infant school, Stubshaw Cross; and James Valiant, lock & hinge-maker, Ashton. In 1921 the family of the late Nathan Hannah, the chief medical officer for Ashton; William Hodgkins, meat & ale seller with a shop at 15 Wigan Road; and Thomas Crompton, 88 "The Rookeries", Liverpool Road, works manager "Thomas Crompton & Sons", Gerard Street, hinge & lock manufacturers. Richard Kay, master butcher, (Kay's butchers, Gerard Street), and 80 Liverpool Road was St. Joseph's convent the residence of the nuns of St. Oswald's RC church. In the 1970's at 88 "The Rookeries", Liverpool Road, lived Horace Whittle owner of Horace's shoe-shop at the corner of Wigan Road and Bryn Street.

***David A. Fearnley***

# Donations Information

**Regular Giving:** We have traditionally taken envelope donations in our plate offerings and these monies help towards the payment that has to go to the diocese each month. If you are unable to get to a service and wish to still use your envelopes, please deliver them, to Malcolm and Barbara's (32 Townfields). In the alternative, please consider switching to the Parish Giving Scheme by phoning 0333 002 1271 as we can get the tax back much quicker this way.

**Donations:** Please place any donations in an envelope with your full name and amount written on it. Please post this through the Vicarage door. Please make cheques payable to St Thomas' PCC. If you want the donation to be for something specific, please write clearly on the envelope.

**Gift Aid:** If you pay tax in the UK and would like church to be able to claim 25p for every £1 you donate, please complete a Gift Aid form or state on your envelope that you are a UK tax payer, would like church to claim Gift Aid and include your full name and address.

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

Funds currently in use are:

- Africa Fund
- Asylum Seek
- Audio Visual
- Church Hall
- Buildings and Maintenance
- Food Ministry
- Garden of Rest
- General
- Grave Maintenance
- Heath Road Graveyard
- Heating
- Fit for the Future

Unless otherwise stated, donations will go into the General fund

# Donations & Remembrance



Birthday Remembrance of a dear friend **Peggy Knocker**  
from Doreen Lee

Donations in loving memory of **Avis Bullough**  
from her family and friends                      Barbara & Malcolm

In loving memory of **Peter Raymond**  
from Margaret and family                      Jean

In Anniversary Remembrance (30th December) of **Arthur Shaw**  
a loving Dad and Grandad  
from Barbara, Malcolm and family

Donations in loving memory of **Ron Boon**  
from family

Anne Abbot      Mary Hardman      Barbara & Malcolm      other friends

In memory of **Martha Blinston**  
from Barbara Myler

Donation from the family of **Gladys Ball**

In memory of my dear mum **Verena Langford**  
from Ann and family

Donations with thanks for Home Communion from  
Isabel Bowen                      Pauline & Sid Barker                      Elsie Deluce

Donations in November to  
the Asylum Seeker Fund, General, Heating, Flowers, Graveyard and Pantry



# The Registers



## Funerals or Burials of Ashes 'May they rest in peace'

1 November	William Telford	89
1 November	Gladys Ball	92
8 November	Thomas Rose	89
9 November	Ronald Boon	82
9 November	Margaret Jones	85
22 November	Ian Riley	68
25 November	Bruce Allan Lightfoot	86
28 November	Noel Coe	86
28 November	May Davies	96
29 November	Hilda Edwardson	89

Lord,

We pray for all of those who walk through the doors of  
our church, at different stages of their lives.

We pray that in each new chapter they come to know  
more of your love, light and glory to carry them through  
all of their days.

**Amen**

# St Thomas' and St Luke's Organisations

## Coffee Mornings

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

## Wednesday Weenies

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

## Mothers' Union

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

## Fairtrade Stall

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

## Litter Pick

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

## Flower Guild

Meta Laites  
723679

## Asylum Seeker Support

English Class  
Thurs 2pm - 3pm  
Social Drop in  
Sun 1pm - 3pm

## Bowling Club

Henry Hunter  
712709

Anne & Chris Wooff  
724207

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

## Ashton Pantry Sue Thomas 07877704645

Tuesday & Saturday 11am - 12pm

Thursday & Sunday 3pm - 4pm

## Youth Clubs

JYC: (for Y3–Y6) Mon 6pm - 7pm

JYC Extra: Mon 5.30pm - 6pm

Friday Youth Club: 7pm–8pm fortnightly

11–18 year olds : Sun 6pm–7pm

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

Sunday 10.45am

## Girl Guiding Rachel Starkie 718350

Brownies: Thursday 6.30pm

Guides: Tuesday 7.00pm

# St Thomas' and St Luke's Church Officials

## Sunday Morning Worship Local Mission

### Leaders

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

### Readers

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

### Assistant Wardens

St Thomas': Tony Cornthwaite 721626  
Paula Gillespie 711270  
  
St Luke's: Carol Pye 517318  
John Boon 204082

### St Thomas' Deputy Wardens

Barbara Taylor 205136

### Assistant Treasurers

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

### Administration, Bookings and Advertising

Cheryl Knowles  
cheryl.knowles@churchwigan.org

### Magazine Editor

Jess Bradley 07498323469  
magazine@stthomasstluke.org.uk

### Freewill Offerings Secretary

Malcolm Taylor 205136

### Electoral Roll Secretary

Ruth Laemmel see below

### Asylum Seeker Support

Anne & Chris Wooff 724207

### Children, Young People & Families

Jan Corthwaite 721626

### Flowers

Meta Laites 723679

### Church Architect

Bill Schafer 717300

### St Thomas' Worship Group

Mary Owen 203277

### St Thomas' Organist

Paul Tushingham 711085

### Magazine Distribution

Vacant

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



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