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





February 2015

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) Family Worship (2nd Sunday Family Communion)	
10.45 am	Family Worship (1st Sunday Parade & 4th Sunday Family Communion)	11.00 a.m.		
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.	
9.45 a.m.	

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	March 2015	April 2015
Hand Written	8th Feb	8th March
Computer	15th Feb	15th March
Magazine Release	1st March	29th March

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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

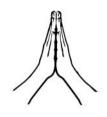
of your choice if certain criteria are shown to be met. For details please contact the vicar or call in at Vestry Hour on a Thursday

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



Letter from the Vicar

Many of us wonder how we can pray more eloquently or at least more effectively. How can God hear our requests and petitions better? I hear fairly often from people who assume that they can't pray at all. The words simply don't come.



In contrast, most of us would profess that we are good at worrying. These thoughts come very easily. We worry about our families, friends, our community, our country, our world, ourselves.

It has been said that if you can worry then you can pray. If you think about it converting a worry to a prayer is easy if we address the worry to God.

In the most well known of prayers, the Lord's Prayer, learnt by most people as very young children, used daily by many people, Jesus taught us how to pray. He gave a structure and a framework for all of the worries that we may turn in to prayers.



In the Lord's Prayer we hear that we can address God as our Father, a loving image of one who will listen and will care and will provide. He is to be honoured for he is holy. We tune our



Letter from the Vicar

requests into his purposes and pray for His heavenly Kingdom to be seen in the answers we seek. We ask for His provision, His help in resisting temptation and His protection from danger.

During Lent this year, beginning with our services on Sunday 15th February, we will be learning once more about how every one of us is gifted in prayer. We are all prayers, and all eloquent and effective in God's eyes, it's just that very often we don't do enough of it.

Over the six weeks of Lent we will explore different aspects of prayer and praying, journeying together as we learn how to pray and how prayer works.

If you are a prayer or a worrier, or like most people a little of both then join us for our series on prayer that will draw you closer to God, will deepen your knowledge of Him and your relationship with Him. Details of the series and accompanying small groups will be on our website www.stthomasstluke.org.uk.

Jeremy Thomas





Daily / Weekly Events in our Church - February 2015

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

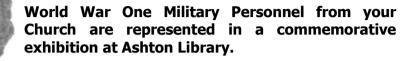
This month we are praying for the people who work and live in: **Conway Road, Severn Road, Avon Road**



Parish News







This exhibition has proved so popular that it has been further extended until at least May this year. There have been visits from local school children who have been very interested to learn about the local stories of the Great War. Please show your support and enthusiasm for this commemorative exhibition.

Senior Citizens Christmas Party

As always the Senior Citizens party was a well received by our guests who had a great time. It is a wonderful, event involving people from every aspect of our congregation from the youngsters who serve the meals and the school children who entertain with their Nativity Concert right through to the guests representing the other end of the age spectrum.



As the organisers of the event we would just like to take this opportunity of thanking everyone who assisted in any way. Those providing the transport, the ladies helping dish up the meals and of course cooking potatoes, vegetables and making trifles etc... Not forgetting the gentlemen who cooked and carved the turkey. Those setting up the halls

and those providing entertainment, a truly great effort.

Malcolm, Barbara and Jan



Diary Branch dates



Wednesday 18 February Annual General Meeting takes place this evening in the Church Hall at 7.30pm. As I have said previously there is no better opportunity of learning more about the Mothers' Union and the work done here and throughout the world than attending this meeting which, I should make clear is open to all, not just our current members.

This meeting also gives an opportunity to remind everyone of the **Mothers' Union's mission and values:**

Wherever Mothers' Union is we will express our Christian faith in the transformation of families and communities worldwide.

We will achieve this by promoting the importance of marriage, supporting families and nurturing faith; with members sensitively spreading the news of a God who loves and cares for us all.

Mothers' Union is a Christian mission organization working with people of all faiths and none. We are firmly rooted in a voluntary ethos centered on mutual respect and collaboration.

Our governance, leadership and activities are driven by and undertaken through members within their own communities worldwide



Saturday 21 February Our Annual Brunch in the Church Hall 11.00am to 1.00pm. We invite everyone to join us for soup, bacon barmcakes, sandwiches and cakes etc. There will be the usual tombola, cake stall and raffle. This is our major

fund raising event for the work of the Mothers Union and a great time to enjoy the fellowship of all your friends at St Thomas and St Luke's.

Years seem to fly by and it is already the time of year to think about an

alternative Mothering Sunday gift, using the MU 'Make a Mother's Day' initiative, for Mums' and Grandmas' and in memory of a loved one. Remember this year Mothering Sunday is on the 15 March so please place your orders by Wednesday 6th March so the card will arrive in time. The booklet with details and form enclosed will be at the back of Church. This ethical gift is a very commendable way of supporting the amazing work which the MU is doing to change the lives of countless families throughout the world.

Lord God, whose we are and whom we serve: we place the work of the Mothers' Union (in this parish) afresh in your hands.

Take us as we are and make us what you would have us be; that we may be drawn closer together, made strong for your service, and used wholly for your glory, through Jesus Christ our Lord

J.S. McDonald

All my love and prayers Barbara

FREE WILL OFFERINGS - DECEMBER 2014

DATE	AMOUNT	NO. OF ENVELOPES	AVERAGE PER ENVELOPE
1/12/14	410.40	60	6.84
8/12/14	421.10	90	4.68
15/12/14	301.31	58	5.19
22/12/14	366.20	80	4.58
29/12/14	301.00	41	7.34
TOTALS	1800.01	329	
AVERAGE	360.02	66	5.55



1st Ashton in Makerfield Boys Brigade

This is our first newsletter. Our Boys Brigade Company caters for boys from Year 1 right up to Sixth form. Our three sections meet on a Tuesday night, during term time, in St Thomas' School Hall.

Anchor Boys	Years 1 – 3	5.45pm to 7.00 pm
Junior Section	Years 4 – 6	6.45 pm to 8.00 pm
Company Section	Years 7 – 10	7.30 pm to 9.00 pm
Seniors	Years 11 +	7.30 pm to 9.30 pm

Sadly, Anchor Boys cannot accept boys from Reception because our badge work runs on a 3 year cycle, but we welcome them to come and join us for the second half of the summer session, prior to joining in September.

The emphasis is on the 3 F's – Fellowship, Friendship and Fun.

Each Section follows their own programme, but we get together for Church Parade, held on the 1st Sunday each month (certain months excluded), our annual Awards night, Christmas Fayre and other events e.g. Bonfire Night, Pantomime visit.

Last session, among other activities, Anchors decorated a bauble for their Christmas tree: Juniors made items for sale at the fayre and Company decorated mugs and made bird boxes.

We all filled boxes for the Samaritan's Purse appeal.

We have a dedicated team of Officers and Helpers, but we also rely on support from parents and the Church and congregation. We are always open to recruiting new boys, especially in the older sections.

If you are interested in any way, please speak to one of the Officers, Helpers, Jeremy, Sue or Helen.

The Officers and Helpers.

The Children's Society

THE CHILDREN'S SOCIETY

For anyone who doesn't know about the work of the Children's Society here is a little bit of information.

The society runs children's centres throughout the country to support children under 5 and their parents and carers. Last year it reached 23,000 children through their centres and programmes. They safeguard, defend and protect the childhood of children and young people throughout a network of programmes and services. They run an advocacy service for children in care so that they can have a say about their lives. They are leading the way in developing programmes to identify and support children living in families where parents are affected by drug and alcohol abuse. They support children who are at risk on the streets after running away from home or care.

Obviously this all costs money to maintain, which the supporters in our parish assist by making a donation or by having a collecting box in their home and putting any loose change or whatever they can afford. This is collected annually and sent off to the Society.

About 90 parishioners of St Thomas's and St Luke's churches and people in this area know about and support the work of the Children's Society. During 2014 these faithful supporters raised the total of £1700.00. This donation will help to maintain and support all the work the society does, and I would like to say thank you all very much.



We also held our Christingle service along with the Toy Service December 2014. This is a lovely service and if you missed it last year please do try and attend this year. We have a loyal band of volunteers who help to assemble the oranges, which are distributed during the service and it is a lovely sight when the candles are lit and the children sing a carol. This event raised a further £125.00.

I an always looking for new supporters so if you think that this is something that you would like to support then please contact me on 712709, or at church and I will let you have a box or arrange to collect a donation. On behalf of the society I would like to say thank you all for your continued support.

Valerie Hunter



Opening Times

Monday 9am-5pm
Tuesday 9am-5pm
Wednesday 9am-5pm
Thursday 9am-5pm
Friday 9am-5pm
Saturday 9am-4pm
Sunday Closed Except for Mothering Sunday

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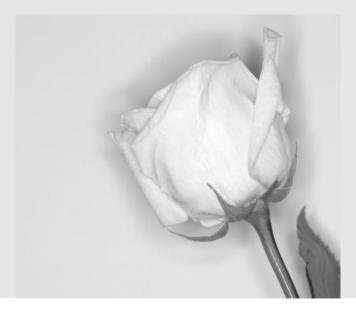
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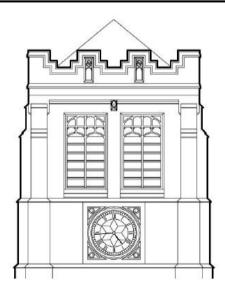


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1.4TH FEB	Mrs Edwardson, Mrs Cook
	LENT—NO FLOWERS

FLOWERS IN CHURCH FOR FEBRUARY							
DATE	ALTAR	LADY CHAPEL					
1ST FEB	VACANT	VACANT					
8TH FEB	Wedding Anniversary remembrance of Lily and Doug Wildman (12th February) and a dear brother Harold from Janet, Doug and family	VACANT					
	LENT—NO FLOWERS						

FLOWER GUILD DONATIONS

In memory of all loved ones from Marion Bullen.

In loving memory of a dear husband James Marsh (26th Feb) also a dear sister Norah Bradshaw (21st Feb) from Kath.

In memory of Derek Roberts from John and Margaret Makinson.

TOTAL £60

St Lukes' Flowers



	FLOWERS IN FOR FEBRUARY				
DATE					
1ST FEB	VACANT				
8TH FEB	Memories of loved ones from Carole Pye.				
	LENT—NO FLOWERS				





The Film Review With Rob Carson



The Hobbit: The Battle of the Five Armies (12A) Directed by Peter Jackson

Stars: Martin Freeman, Richard Armitage, Sir Ian McKellen, Evangeline Lilly, Orlando Bloom, Lee Pace, Aiden Turner, Hugo Weaving, Christopher Lee, Cate Blanchett, Sylvester McCoy, Billy Connolly, James Nesbitt, and Luke **Evans**

In a Nutshell: Hindsight is an interesting thing. The first time I saw this final installment in both the Hobbit trilogy as well as the whole Middle Earth saga, I could have written a straight review that would have whooped and hollered and given it a whole 9 or 10 out of 10... but after seeing it twice more, I can analyse it further and make a solid verdict on the movie, because how else do you judge something other than how it holds up over time? What I can say is this final movie is still absolutely extraordinary in scale, in style, the characters (bar one big exception, the super annoying Alfrid) are superb, the effects jaw dropping, and the story super emotional and great. Sure, there probably didn't need to be three movies and all that, but what they have done is still a great and fitting finale. From the absolutely fantastic opening of Smaug attacking Laketown... via the amazing turns from Freeman as Bilbo, Evans as Bard, and Armitage as Thorin... not to mention the amazing action sequences and that epic battle which is every bit as awesome as you'd expect. There are moments where the action begins to become just that bit too much CGI action fighting but it still remains fantastic throughout, and it doesn't really matter in the end because you'll see it anyway.... it's a treat you deserve for

yourself! Rating: 8/10

Birdman (15) Directed by Alejandro Gonzalez Inarritu

Stars: Michael Keaton, Edward Norton, Emma Stone, Zach Galifianakis, Andrea Riseborough, and Naomi Watts In a Nutshell: Some movies are just so terrific, so mesmerising and so wonderful that it hardly seems fair to try and sum them up in a bunch of paragraphs and text like I'm about to try and do here. I mean from the swooping camera directions and great tracking shots that make this feel like one long performance, via the terrific standout performances from literally the entire cast, the stunning visuals and cinematography, the great balance of fantasy and reality and the blurring of the lines between the two so you're not quite sure just how mad our lead protagonist is.... just a few of the terrific things to focus in on right here. We can go with something fairly obvious, Michael Keaton is on mighty form here... a comeback and a half (though with things like Other Guys and Toy Story 3s Ken, he's hardly been properly gone) he's just tremendous throughout, dramatic biting and terrific!



The Film Review With Rob Carson



But it don't stop there, you have revelatory turns from Edward Norton who is wonderfully annoying and the always sublime Emma Stone, a real fractured character with a massive charm all of her own, and Zach Galifianakis who is wonderfully low key for a change as Keaton's characters manager. Without needing to go too much into plot, the way the drama unfolds around Riggan (Keaton) and his endless



struggles is wonderfully handled.... a grand mix of proper drama with biting humour and sharp drama. At once, very funny and then pretty dramatic and surreal, it really isn't like much you've seen before or at least in a long time. Set to be a shoo in for awards season... it's a real mind blower of a movie and something that needs to be seen to be believed, rather than any real effort to do a summary here... though I think I didn't do half bad. **Rating: 10/10**

Also Seen:

The Penguins of Madagascar (U) 8/10 Dumb and Dumber To (15) 7/10

Night at the Museum: Secret of the Tomb (PG) 7/10

Big Eyes (12A) 9/10

Review of the Year: 2014!

Best Movie: Guardians of the Galaxy

Best Actor: Chadwick Boseman- Get on Up Best Actress: Essie Davis- The Babadook

Best Supporting Actor: Jared Leto- Dallas Buyers Club

Best Supporting Actress: Jennifer Lawrence- American Hustle

Best Director: David Fincher- Gone Girl

Best Special Effects: Interstellar

Best Soundtrack: Guardians of the Galaxy

Best Trailer: Guardians of the Galaxy

Best Poster: The Babadook

Best Scene: Prison Break Out-Guardians of the Galaxy

Funniest Movie: The LEGO Movie

Most Enjoyable Movie: The LEGO Movie

Biggest Surprise: The Guest Biggest Disappointment: Noah Best Song: Everything is Awesome!



St Thomas' February Donations



GIFT AID

If you gift aid your monies to church please write your gift aid number on your donation (this is the same as your Free Will Offering number). If you do not know your number or wish to gift aid a one off donation please state that you want this donation to be gift-aided, confirm that you are a UK taxpayer and give your name and address for our records. Thank you

Donations should be handed in at church.

Please write the amount of your donation and include your surname. This is for audit purposes. Please make cheques payable to St Thomas' PCC. Thank you. Please make sure that dates are CLEARLY written.

Unless otherwise stated donations will go into the General Fund

In loving memory of

All our loved ones at Christmas from Mrs Emily Topping

Loved ones from Jean and Jack Fairclough

Loved ones from Gwyneth and Peter

Mrs Patricia Carson (Anon)

Enid from Jean and Les Johnson and family

Enid Hodgkinson from Doreen Lee

My parents Reginald and Phyllis Barnett (a donation for the work of the church)

Anniversary remembrance of John Fearnley (21 Feb 2011) much loved husband, dad & grandad from Madge & family

Birthday Remembrance of Harry Atherton (28 Feb) from Margaret, Dawn, Bethany & Hamish



St Thomas' February Donations



With thanks for home communion: Margaret Rogers, Bill Sutton, Lynne Sutton, Alice Ashley, David Bowen, Mary Shaw, Brenda Percival, Marion Bullen, Anon, Stan and Betty Shaw and Annie Santus

Other donations: From Gore and Hepworths, Boys Brigade, Anon,

TOTAL DONATIONS RECEIVED BY ST THOMAS' FOR FEBRUARY 2015 £585

General £335
Grave Maintenance nil
Building & Maintenance Fund nil
Audio Visual & Heating Fund nil
Other £100

Garden of Rest nil Heath Road Graveyard nil Church Hall Fund £150 Fit for the Future nil

St Lukes' Donations



Fondest memories of a much loved Auntie Mary Roberts

Rose and George

Treasured memories of Sam and May Cook—much loved parents and grandparents

Bert, Margery, Michael and Gillian



Happy New Year from the Ethos Group

Christmas was an ideal time to show how we serve God trough supporting local and national charities. The school raised over £350 as a result of our Christmas performances and the amount was split between Marie Curie Cancer Care and Manchester Hospital Burns Unit.

We would also like to thank all the staff and parents who made generous donations of food items for our local food bank.

It's a Party

Our Year 2 class performed their Christmas nativity play, entitled 'its a party' on Friday 9th January, in the Church Hall.



The children really enjoyed wearing the drama costumes and performed the Christmas story in a fun and meaningful way. We do hope that everyone who attended enjoyed the production and the beautiful songs.

Our pupils were simply amazing. Also, equally, we hope everybody enjoyed the delicious Christmas dinner served on the evening.

Student Prayer of the Month

Dear Jesus



We have all returned to school after celebrating your birthday.

All our after school clubs have started again, so please, bless our 'Friends Together' club.

Help us to be kind and have warm hearts.

Let us encourage each other to learn new things and to do our best each day.

Let all my friends and teachers have a happy and healthy New Year.

Thank You God for loving us.

Amen

Rowan Smith Year 4.

All the children and staff at St. Thomas' would like to wish you all a very Happy New Year.

God Blessings be with you all, Elaine Mateus



SEEING AND UNDERSTANDING

Many people had seen the steam lift the lid of a kettle, but it took a James Watt to see it and go on to think of that power becoming a steam engine. It is all a matter of how we see things. We could see something a thousand times and not make the connection.

Jesus explained why he taught parables. stories with explain some-thing in simple ways to do with everyday life that people of the time would recognise. He explained that it was because people look without seeina. and listen without understanding (Matthew chapter 13, verses 13-14).

We all do this, and that is why we need other people to help us learn more about what the stories in the Bible mean. People who can explain and help us to see with 'new eyes'.



SEEING THE WORDS

All the words hidden in this word-search are things you see with or look at:

s	P	E	C	T	A	C	L	E	S	
L	E	C	T	E	v	I	D	Y	C	
G	E	A	G	L	E	0	P	E	E	
s	W	N	A	E	P	В	S	s	N	
E	A	K	S	v	I	D	Е	0	E	
s	T	C	L	I	С	Е	L	F	0	
s	C	0	0	s	т	G	G	R	W	
Α	Н	L	0	I	U	0	G	E	E	
L	C	C	R	s	R	T	0	L	I	
G	A	M	E	N	E	U	G	0	V	

* clock * eyes * game * glasses * goggles * lens * picture * scene * spectacles * television * video * view * watch

What gadget do we use to see through a wall? A window.



Optician: What can you see out

of the window?

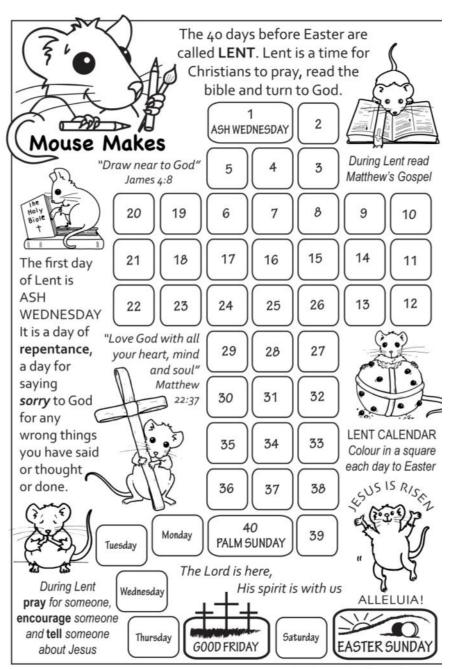
Patient: Only the sun.
Optician: How far do you want

to see, then?

Optician: You need glasses. Patient: But I'm wearing

glasses.

Optician: Then I need glasses.



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The Registers



Funerals - "May they rest in peace"

15th Dec.	Derek William Roberts	Bolton Road	76yrs
17th Dec.	Hodnet Drive	Hodnet Drive	78yrs
13th Jan.	Catherine Margaret Kilshaw	Guardian Court	
16th Jan.	Gordon Albert Hamilton	Dursley Drive	80yrs
7th Jan.	Patricia Carson	Princess Road	85yrs
14th Jan.	Mildred Appleton	Liverpool Road	92yrs

Holy Matrimony - "All the days of their lives"



10th Jan	Mark James Cunliffe & Nicola Louise Strettle

Holy Baptism -

"We welcome them into the Lord's family"



21st Dec.	Nyall Peter Rowbotham	Thompson Street
28th Dec.	Lucy Louise Tomlinson	Broadlands
11th Jan.	Deacon Oliver Smith	Derwent Road

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

Boys Brigade Captain: Gareth Hamlett (07903866501) Anchor Boys (Tuesday: 6.00 p.m.) Olwen Wright (389595) Junior Section (Wednesday: 6.30 p.m.) Company Section (Tuesday: 7.15 p.m.) & (Friday: 7.00 pm) Jonty Cornthwaite (721626) Music Group Mary Owen (203277) Sunday – 10.45 a.m. Practice – Monday: 7.30 p.m.	Girl Guides Rainbows (Tuesday: 5.30 p.m.) Anne Wooff (724207) 3rd & 4th Ashton Brownies (Wednesday and Thursday: 6.30 pm) Irene Taylor (Wednesday) (703410) Susan Hughes (Thursday) (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)
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 3rd Wed: 7.30 p.m.: Barbara Taylor (205136)	Flower Guild Meta Laites (723679)
Bowling Club Henry Hunter (712709)	Monthly Dance Club John Makinson (725870)

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

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