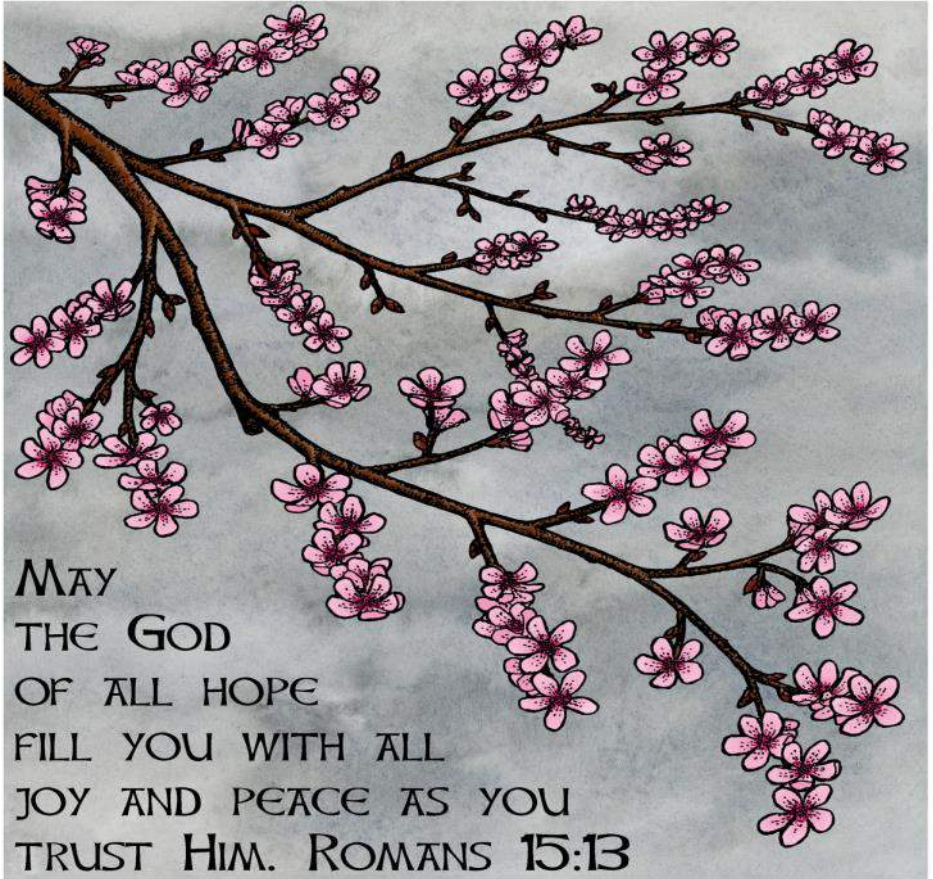


St.Thomas' and St. Luke's Ashton-In-Makerfield Church Magazine

Price : 50p



February 2019

www.stthomasstluke.org.uk

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

Sundays

St Thomas'

| 1st Sunday | 2nd Sunday | 3rd Sunday | 4th 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 |
|----------------------|-----------------|----------------------|----------------------|

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.

Deadlines: Handwritten material should be given to Malcolm Taylor, and email material to magazine@stthomasstluke.org.uk

Deadline for any submissions to be included in the March magazine, including donations is 13th February Any donations received after this date will be in the next edition.

| Deadline | March | April |
|------------------|---------------|------------|
| Hand Written | 10th February | 15th March |
| Computer | 13th February | 18th March |
| Magazine Release | 24th February | 31st March |

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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.



Daily / Weekly Events in our Churches

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



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

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



Bishops in Mission - "Tell Serve Give"



When?

7-10 March 2019

TELL • SERVE • GIVE

What?

John Sentamu (Archbishop of York)

has been sending bishops from across the north on weekend-long missions. Excitingly, this year they are coming to Liverpool Diocese. This gives us a golden opportunity to unite together in mission. This will be big! The diocese anticipates over 200 activities will take place.

Along with the other hubs in our deanery, South Hub will host some of the visiting team to support some leading events and activities. Among other events we are hosting a team at Saturday FM on Saturday 9th March, hoping to hold Prayer on the Streets around our hub from 11am-1pm on Saturday 9th March, and a children-led service at St Peter's School on Sunday 10th March, 10.30am.

Why?

To share the love and message of Christ with our friends and all in our community in telling, serving and giving.

What you can do?

- Pray for our community in Ashton-in-Makerfield, and for our hub, deanery and diocese - that others may come to know Jesus or know him better.
- We are looking for people willing to pray, chat or give out biscuits as part of the Prayer on the Streets teams. For anyone interested, please let a leader in your worshipping community or a member of clergy know. We'll be meeting for some training the week before.



Bake! We're hoping to give away lots of biscuits on the streets as we pray. A special 'pray as you bake' recipe is available. Please be in touch with Carol Foster carol.fos@virginmedia.com or 01942 733263.

More details will be given out in notices over the coming weeks.

The Archbishop of York says: "The Tell Serve Give mission is going to be fantabulous! There'll be something for everyone which will help us to meet with God in Jesus Christ in the power of the Holy Spirit – whether you support Wigan, St Helen's, Southport, Warrington, Liverpool, Everton. See you there!"



Letter from Sian

Those of you who have got to know me over the last few years will probably be aware that one of my favourite Bible verses is John 10:10. In this verse, Jesus, the Good Shepherd, explains his purpose, the reason he came, and, in just a few words, he compares the damaging effect that the thief can have on his sheep with the abundance of life he can offer:

The thief's purpose is to steal and kill and destroy. My purpose is to give them a rich and satisfying life. (New Living Translation)

A thief comes to steal and kill and destroy, but I came to give life—life in all its fullness. (New Century Version)

A thief is only there to steal and kill and destroy. I came so they can have real and eternal life, more and better life than they ever dreamed of. (The Message).

Now, you might either smile or cringe when I tell you why this verse has been in my mind so much recently. Our Jack Russell terrier, Julie Andrews, is nearly eleven years old. We've had her since she was five. She came to us from an elderly couple who practically worshipped her but couldn't look after her any more. It was a bit of a shock as she moved from her privileged life into our chaotic house where there was another big dog (Rio), two cats, one of whom had just had kittens and numerous people. It took her a while to settle and for us all to enjoy each other's company. Julie is great fun, quite bossy at times and a real character, but it is only in the last few weeks that I've seen her in her element...

Just before Christmas, I looked out at the bird table to see a grey, furry creature climbing up it. Not a squirrel this time, but a rat - not my favourite one of God's creations! When we went out to investigate, Julie's terrier instinct kicked in: something took over as she chased the poor rodent across the garden, almost teasing him as he squealed across the grass. He escaped eventually but I don't fancy his chances for long, as every time the back door opens, Julie Andrews is on RatWatch!





Letter from Sian

Happy as she is, it's like she's discovered her purpose (Jack Russells are known as “ratters”) and, as well as reminding me of Jesus’ words in John 10, it has made me think of that great film, Chariots of Fire. Eric Liddell, the gifted athlete, who put his faith before his running, said this: “I believe God made me for a purpose, but he also made me fast. And when I run I feel his pleasure.”

Please forgive me for using the example of a terrier and a rat for getting to this point, but to know God's pleasure when we are in line with his purpose is the most fulfilling thing. It gives us a passion and a focus that makes life more exciting and meaningful.

Jesus says he has come to give us life in all its fullness, in abundance, rich and satisfying, better than we ever dreamed of. That is our fulfillment. That is his purpose. In defeating death, he has opened the gates to eternal life for us, which is amazing in itself but even more so in how it can change how we live now. We can live life in the light of eternity, with a renewed sense of purpose.

Along with most of Church Wigan, we'll be going through a preaching series from February into March, called “God’s Holy People in God's World”, based on the epistle of 1 Peter. Hopefully, this will give us a chance to explore the way we live in 21st Century Wigan as people called by God to share Good News. More people knowing Jesus, more justice in the world.

Meanwhile, I'll be keeping an eye on a terrier, who's keeping an eye on a rat.
The circle of life □

Sian





St. Thomas' C of E Primary School

This week at St Thomas' School we had a visitor called Rafat Mamood from Building Stronger Communities. She came in to talk about treating everyone the same even though they are all different in a unique way. In a whole school assembly she told us that her name means RESPECT and that was what her talk focussed on. She did some activities with Year four and five so we interviewed Abbie from Y4 and she told us "When the visitor came into our classroom she talked about different people and why they are different. We said it is because of skin colours, religions, where they live and amounts of money but that we should still treat them all the same." She told us about the activities that she did "We looked at pictures of people and we had to decide whether they are terrorists or not. This showed us that 'you can't judge a book by its cover' and to look at the person themselves not their skin colour or dress. We also asked Heidi from Y5 to tell us a bit more, she told us "When the visitor came into our classroom she showed us some optical illusions like a black and blue to black and gold dress and a curly line that was straight." She told us that the message she was trying to get across was that everyone was the same but different.

We all really enjoyed Rafat visiting our school- she made us think really carefully about how we treat each other.

Our prayer for this term linked to our values of Friendship and Respect is:

Dear Lord

Please teach me to speak the right words, at the right time, with the right voice, so I might be a good friend to those around me.

Amen

By Eve and Megan



THE CHILDREN'S SOCIETY

This is Amanda's story. At the age of 12 Amanda was placed in care because of problems at home. Lonely isolated and scared, Amanda felt she had no choice but to run away from everything. Amanda was in real danger as criminals sought to take advantage of her vulnerability and exploit her. Fortunately the police found Amanda and referred her to Gillian, a project worker from the Children's Society. Gillian worked with Amanda, providing expert care and support. Through the Children's society Amanda received help and is now trying to resolve her problems at home. This is only one example of the sort of work and difference that the Children's Society can and does made for young people.

Last year about 80 parishioners of St Thomas and St Luke's churches helped to fund this work, by either saving small change in a collection box or making a donation. In 2018 the total raised was £1675.00. I would like to thank everyone who helped to raise this amount.

On 9th December 2018 St Luke's held their Christingle service and on 6th January 2019 St Thomas also held their Christingle Service. This is a lovely service when we distribute the Christingle oranges and when everyone is arranged around the church the candles are lit and a carol is sung. This also raises money for The Children's Society. I would like to thank St Thomas's school who helped a great deal by distributing and collecting candles. The total raised by the churches and the school was £400.00. Thank you to everyone who helped to assemble the Christingle oranges and to everyone who contributed to raise this amazing amount.

If you do not already support the work of The Children's Society and you would like to do so please contact me on 712709 or at church and I will arrange to get a box to you

Valerie Hunter





Parish News



Senior Citizens Christmas Party

Friday the 11 January and again the Parish came together to provide our Senior Citizens with the Christmas meal and post dinner entertainment. I hesitate to repeat the great detail which I included in this edition of magazine last February however, I can't let the occasion pass without comment. After delivery of the invitations over 80 acceptances were received. A big increase in our numbers last year which were down due to the amount of sickness around. The team as always answered the call to service and a good number of thanks are due. The turkey was acquired by our old friend the Rev Dave Hamlett and relying on his old skills was carved by Don Hodgkinson. The halls were prepared for the occasion by many volunteers and in the afternoon Jan Cornthwaite and Carol Pye set about the necessary preparations for the meals and the delivery of the food items prepared again by her ever willing team. The 80 meals take some serving and again the volunteers young and not so young and including two of our asylum seeking young ladies set too to provide a first class service. Everyone involved at and up to this stage deserves a real vote of thanks.

Thanks also to the children and teachers from St Thomas school who in accordance to what has for a number of years become a tradition came along to deliver a performance of the Christmas Nativity play. This is a firm favorite with our guests. Thanks also to the parents for taking the time and trouble to bring along the cast outside school hours. I can say that it was brilliantly performed and very well received by all.

The entertainment in addition to the Nativity was provide two other regulars Lucia and Antonia. An addition to the star cast this year was Kelvin Bolton who entertained with stories and magic. 'Spectrum', choir again provided a varied program of songs and were well received and appreciated by our guests. I do thank the choir members for their part in the evening with a particular thank you to Keith Whittle who organized the choir.

It is impossible to list by name the many people involved in delivering this event I would surely miss someone out. There is no doubt that without your involvement big or small this party would not go ahead and so for whatever part you played give yourselves a big pat on the back and as always accept a genuine vote of thanks from Jan, Barbara and me and I am sure also from the senior members of our congregation who came along to party.



Parish News



With Malcolm

Freewill Offerings

I know that it is only the February edition of the magazine but I do feel that this timely reminder is not misplaced. Please note that the new envelopes will be available at the beginning of April. We will shortly need to place the order for the new sets of envelopes and before doing so I would ask that if you have not already changed to the Parish Giving scheme that you again give urgent consideration to switching to this very efficient means of making your regular donations. There is a saving when we reduce the order for the number of envelope sets required for the coming year. In addition the Parish Giving scheme is proving so helpful both in ensuring an instant receipt of gift aid and also helping the work of our Treasurer. I am happy to provide further information regarding the scheme as is Sarah Riley our Church Treasurer.



Transforming Wigan

I am sure that you are all well aware that 2019 is a very important year as we approach 2020 the year when, if all goes to plan, the transformation into seven hubs will be legally completed.

This current year sees the framework put into place in readiness in particular the shadow PCC to be appointed. We all have the opportunity of keeping up to date with progress at the meeting which take place in each hub at 7 week intervals. I would also like to encourage everyone who has not already done so to sign up for the fortnightly updates issued by Tim Montgomery. You can do this by going to the churchwigan.uk website and after scrolling down the page to the bottom right to the section headed updates registering to receive them. It is happening in our parish and we do have a responsibility to be fully up to date.

Malcolm



Mothers Union

Diary:

Branch dates:

Saturday 16 February Our Winter Brunch is in the Church Hall 11.00am to 1.00pm. We warmly invite everyone to join us for fellowship and friendship we will be having soup, bacon barmcakes, sandwiches and cakes etc. There will be the usual tombola, cake stall and raffle and of course contributions to these events will be gratefully received. We look forward to seeing you.

Wednesday 20th February Annual General Meeting takes place this evening in the Church Hall at 7.30pm. This meeting is open to anyone who would like to know more about the work of the Mothers' Union both here in our own country and overseas. To our members I cannot over stress the importance of this meeting to our Branch.

It is prior to this meeting that I take the opportunity of reminding 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

It is with great sadness that I have to inform you that Gladys Jolley died on the 30th December. Gladys was a regular our Thursday morning Communion Service and regularly attended our meetings. She very much enjoyed the visits of our Home Communion team. In later years she was an Indoor Member. I am sure that you would all wish to join me in passing on our sympathy to her son David and her grandchildren at this difficult time.



Mothers Union

Advance Notice

Friday 2nd March Woman's World Day of Prayer at St Oswald's Church 10.30am (please note change of time)

A simple life is all ask
that God will grant this day.
Just enough to meet my need
and some to give away.
Just enough and some to share
with those whose bowl is empty.
Compared to many in this world
I know that I have plenty.
I'm grateful for the things I have,
I have no need for more.
I pray my heart will always be an ever open door
to welcome friends and strangers
that I meet along life's way.
And as I do, I'm sure that I will meet with Christ each day.
For I am certain beyond doubt
that I am rich indeed.
For Jesus gives me joy and peace
and everything I need.

Margaret Shoemark, Stafford St Paul's Mothers' Union, UK

All my love and prayers

Barbara



This is another local history article by our friend David Fearnley for which we are extremely grateful.

JOHN ASHTON (1711 - 1759), ASHTON IN MAKERFIELD

16/9/1711 John Ashton, son of Nicholas and Margaret Ashton, of Ashton in Makerfield, was baptised at St. Thomas' church. Forty four years later, in 1755, John financed the building of the first canal in Britain - the Sankey Brook Canal which connected St. Helens to the River Mersey. John probably attended the Free Grammar School in Seneley Green because in 1748 he gave a large financial donation to the school. The Free Grammar School was founded in 1588 by Robert Birchall/Byrchall, yeoman, of Ashton in Makerfield who recognised the "great abundance of poor persons and of youth and young children living in Ashton in Makerfield, altogether destitute of good discipline or school of learning for their good education" and that he was placing £74 (£29,000 today) in trust "to provide a sufficient person to teach all such youth and young children in Ashton". The school was erected at Seneley Green on land 44 feet long and 30 feet wide donated by Sir Thomas Gerard in 1589. In 1727 the original school was replaced by a stone building on School Lane, Garswood. This building is now Garswood library. John was the only son of Nicholas and Margaret Ashton. Nicholas Ashton was of a farming or yeoman family in Ashton but by 1718 he also owned lands at Parr and by 1728 he also owned lands at Eccleston. Margaret Ashton, maiden name Orrell, was the daughter of James Orrell of Parr, Blackbrook, where the Orrells owned lands and coal mines.

During the 1730's John Ashton moved to Liverpool and married Elizabeth Brooks daughter of John Brooks of Liverpool. In 1746 John bought the large "Dungeon" salt refinery on the River Mersey at Hale, near Liverpool. John refined rock salt brought from Cheshire and he made a fortune. In 1748 John Ashton of Liverpool gave the Free Grammar School at Seneley Green £100 to be invested in stocks and shares and the dividend to be used by the school on condition that the schoolmaster was "to employ the whole time of school - hours of the first day of teaching in every week in the best manner they could, to instruct all the children sent there, in the principles of religion, virtue and morality". This donation and instruction was, along with other donations, engraved on 2 stone tablets which were mounted on the walls inside the Free Grammar School at Seneley Green. .

In 1890 when the Ashton Grammar School moved to Old Road the 2 stone tablets were displayed in the Old Road premises. Old Ashtonians may recall the 2 tablets which also included a donation of £100 by John Lowe of Westminster in 1707 whereby "all pupils were to be given 5 shillings worth of cakes and ale every 4th July". In 1965 when the Ashton Grammar School moved to Warrington Road the 2 stone tablets moved again. Today the tablets can be seen on the stairway inside Byrchall High School.

In 1749 John Ashton held the position of Town Bailiff of Liverpool. When he made his will in 1753 he described himself as a cheesemonger and merchant. In fact he was one of the most important merchants in Liverpool and was a member of the Company of African Merchants involved in the slave trade. His ships sailed from Liverpool to West Africa carrying goods, weapons and rum which were exchanged for slaves, transported the slaves to the West Indies(Jamaica) and North America to work on the large farms or plantations and returned to Liverpool carrying cotton, tobacco and sugarcane. Ashton Street, in Liverpool, is named after John Ashton.

John Ashton's salt refinery at Hale was a large consumer of coal. Transport of coal, from the coal mines of South Lancashire, by cart and packhorse was difficult and expensive due to the poor conditions of the roads. John realised that if there was a waterway link between the coal mines to the River Mersey then transport costs would be less and vast profits could be made. In 1755 John Ashton was the main promoter and investor in the construction of the Sankey Brook Canal built to bring coal to Liverpool from Haydock, Ashton and Parr. From his wealth due to the salt and slave trade John invested £9,000 (£2 million today's value) in the canal and was the largest shareholder holding 51 of the 120 shares issued in the canal company. From 1755 - 1835 the average yearly dividend or profit of each share was 33%.

John's son, Nicholas Ashton(1742 - 1833), took over his father's business in 1759. In 1772 he bought Woolton Hall between Liverpool and Hale. He employed the architect Robert Adam to enlarge and remodel the Hall. Nicholas was High Sheriff of Lancashire, trustee of the Bluecoat Hospital and founder of Liverpool Athenaeum (a club and library for the merchants of Liverpool). Nicholas' obituary 1833 includes the following "son of John Ashton the first who carried into execution the project of a navigable canal in the Kingdom".

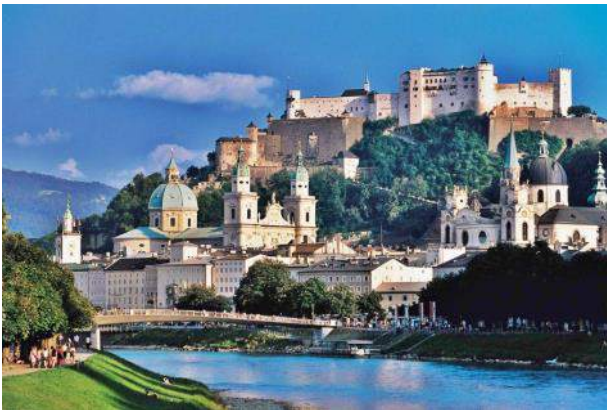
David A. Fearnley.

Oberammergau Passion Play and Visit to Austria 13th - 20th May 2020

Fr Alec Parkinson, Curate at St John's Pemberton, is planning to lead a group to attend the Passion Play at Oberammergau for the 2020 performance. This is combined with time among the sparkling lakes and majestic mountains of Austria - giving the opportunity of fellowship together with the common purpose of attending the Passion Play.



We will travel together as a group, with an itinerary of included coach excursions and walks. We begin with five nights in Austria



at the four star Gutshof Hotel, which is in Strobl, near Salzburg. Then we travel to Oberammergau for a two night stay at the end of our holiday, with top grade tickets for a performance of the Passion Play.

Oberammergau Passion Play and Visit to Austria 13th - 20th May 2020



The play is an intense emotional experience and this tour is an opportunity to share this unique event with like-minded people. Our aim is to encourage a real feeling of sharing as we participate together in this landmark Christian event.

The cost will be £1,715 per person, including flights from Manchester, luggage, breakfast and dinner each day, and all gratuities. (supplement for single rooms £235). The tour operator for this trip is the ATOL registered McCabe Pilgrimages.

Whilst in Austria, the programme includes excursions with local guides. There'll be a day in Salzburg and also a trip around the nearby Lake Wolfgang. Also there is a steamer which plies Wolfgangsee and there's a mountain railway.

There are still some places left for this Austrian Holiday and visit to the famous Oberammergau Passion Play. If you are interested in participating, please contact the group leader Fr Alec Parkinson for full details and booking forms. Telephone: 01942 272838
Email: <alecp28@hotmail.co.uk>

Advent Journeys with Compline 2018

Many across the hub prepared for Advent through walking and praying together. We asked Maurice Smith, whose idea it was, to share his experiences:

Three words you may not have expected to find in the same sentence, but here we were, at pop-up Theology and Compline in St Aidan's Billinge on the first Thursday in Advent, exploring the story of the Nativity. Of course, the journeys from Billinge to Downall Green to Bryn to Ashton over the next few weeks could not hope to replicate the 70+ mile journey made by Joseph and Mary from Nazareth to Bethlehem (although it is the month that many of us are contemplating our tax returns). But the journeys did have some symbolism of making a physical journey, during Advent, to meet with Christ (finding any wise men amongst us might have been more tricky).



The reception that we pilgrims received in our four churches in the South Hub was warm, welcoming and hospitable; thank you – our sermon series this month reflects this message. A surprise was the strength and communal feel of the singing – not a normal feature of Compline, a service of night-prayer. And it was refreshing that Compline was led, in each service, by someone whose traditions lay in a different worshipping community.

For me, this was the most significant ‘message’; the message of being one community. We are, and we witnessed as, one community of Christian folk. We will all have our preferences of church building or styles of worship but whatever those preferences are, we are bound together by our Christian faith, travelling on a pathway, whether smooth or rugged, to meet Jesus – in the manger or on the cross – from the darkness, to the light.

As the night watch looks for the morning, so do we look for you, O Christ.

Bible Bites

Bible Bite

A short story from the Bible

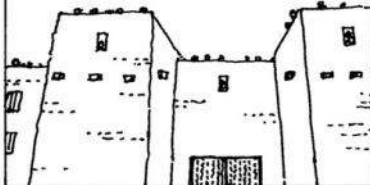
It can be read in the Bible in
Joshua chapter 6 verses 1-27

Joshua led the Israelites across the river Jordan. They camped near the town of Jericho and prepared to fight.

The people in Jericho
locked the town gates.



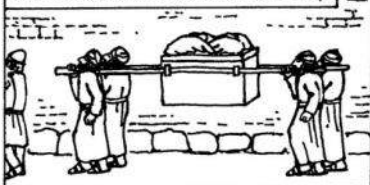
They thought they were safe.



God told Joshua
what to do.



On the first day, the priests
carried the sacred chest,



they blew trumpets,
and walked round
Jericho once.



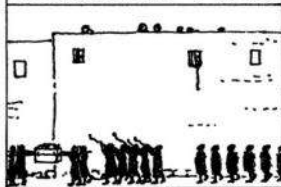
The army followed
not saying a word.



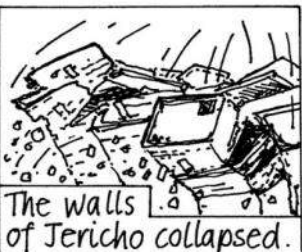
They did this
for 6 days.



On the 7th day they
walked round 7 times.



The army gave a victory shout!



The walls
of Jericho collapsed.

The army rushed into
the town and
captured it.



Jericho was destroyed.



Ashton in Makerfield Groups

St. Thomas Church Hall: Warrington Road.

TUESDAYS 3.30pm & 5pm & 7pm

Liz 07714775241

THURSDAYS 9.30am

Jenna 07974301019

Captains Lane Comm. Centre: Off Bolton Rd.

WEDNESDAYS 5.30pm & 7pm

Helen 07837337814

Stubshaw Cross Independent Methodist Church
Bolton Road.

SATURDAYS 8am & 9.30am

Helen 07837337814

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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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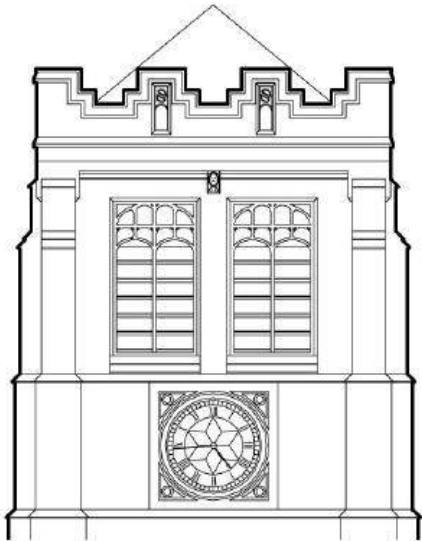
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The Film Review

With Rob Carson



Mary Poppins Returns (U)

Directed by Rob Marshall

Stars: Emily Blunt, Ben Whishaw, Lin Manuel Miranda, Emily Mortimer, Meryl Streep, Colin Firth, Dick Van Dyke, Angela Lansbury, Julie Walters, Pixie Davies, Nathanael Saleh, Joel Dawson, and David Warner

In a Nutshell: Gosh it must be hard coming back after all those years to revisit an old favorite, just ask Walter Murch, who had the unenviable task of Returning to Oz in 1985, some 46 years after the Wizard first was of Oz. It's regarded as a creepy cult classic, I personally love it even if it is flawsville USA. So, imagine how trepidacious it must be now some 54 years after Mary first Poppins'd into our lives, that Disney have put their whole arsenal and armada behind a sequel to that bonafide gem. Frankly I'd assume it looks nicer than Oz. Well, without diminishing the efforts of Fairuza Balk and that Moose head... this is certainly leagues ahead in more ways than one. Evoking the spirit, the life, the characters, the magic, and everything else in some many ways.... This is a film that for me, stands toe to toe with the original and never ever feels like it's rehashing it. It drops beats and familiar ideas but in new and exciting ways, and it also feeds into the original in plot lines and moments that are picked up and expanded and woven into the beautiful fabric of the plot. Helping this along are pitch perfect performances that fully embrace the spirit of the Poppins universe with Blunt leading the charge as Poppins herself, bringing that same mix of whimsy and a tougher edge just like Julie Andrews did whilst being totally different too. This is complimented by Lin Manuel Miranda who is terrific as the light lamper who is the Bert of the piece so to speak, charming and lovely and thrusting the movie forward throughout, he's a delight as are Mortimer and Whishaw as the grown up Banks, Whishaw especially is heart-breaking, whilst there are great scene stealing turns from Firth and Walters as ever and some nice vintage cameos. The old school animation sequences and their seamless blend with the live-action, the wonderfully charming songs, the way it evokes the spirit of the original in every frame and motion. This is a delight from start to finish, easily the loveliest film I've seen in years, practically perfect in every way. Don't stand there like a codfish, go see it immediately and fall in love with the magic of Poppins all over again....

Rating: 10/10



The Film Review

With Rob Carson



Mortal Engines (12A)

Directed by Christian Rivers

Stars: Hera Hilmar, Hugo Weaving, Robert Sheehan, Jihae, Ronan Rafferty, Leila George, Colin Salmon, Patrick Malahide, Stephen Lang, Mark Mitchinson, and Leifur Sigurdarson

In a Nutshell: One of the biggest and trickiest things you can do in modern event cinema is to try and create bold new worlds and characters on a big scale. It's so easy to do yet another sequel or remake or reboot or adapt a very well-known property and have a sure-fire success, but it's bolder and more dynamic to do something kinda new and unknown and sit back and hope it hits. Peter Jackson in his producers' hat has done just that, giving the reins over to unknown Christian Rivers to adapt some fairly well-known books for the big screen. So, whilst not overtly original, it still comes across as something bold and fairly original in scope and scale even if it not always hitting every single note to truly make it sing. You have decent performers making the characters work, as Hugo Weaving is a terrific villain for the piece whilst also managing the right levels of sympathy and pathos amongst simply being a nasty piece of work whilst Sheehan and Hilmar do decent enough work as our young leads whilst Jihae steals every scene and Lang provides the one truly great performance and thread of the movie as a vicious robot assassin with a plot twisty secret that really soars when it hits. If this review feels a jumble, it's because the film can too; its bold and beautiful and really soars with its world building and the effects truly make our jaw drop as the central conceit of the future being cities on wheels consuming each other really grabs your imagination and takes you with it, even as sometimes the human aspect fails always to truly engage and ends up a bit of a mish mash. Kudos though for a truly bold attempt to do something new, all in all this is well worth seeking out because it is always engaging and exciting and it's just a marvel to see something this daring and exciting trying it's best to really do something different. Give it a whirl and you may yet find yourself swept along....

Rating: 8/10

Also Seen:

Aquaman (12A) 7/10

Bumblebee (PG) 9/10

Holmes and Watson (12A) 6/10

Welcome to Marwen (12A) 8/10

The Favourite (15) 8/10



The Film Review

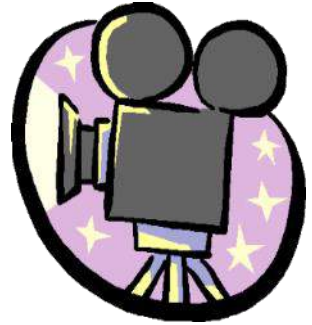
With Rob Carson



The Best and Worst of 2018!

- Best Movie:** Mary Poppins Returns
Best Actor: Bradley Cooper- A Star is Born
Best Actress: Charlize Theron- Tully
Best Supporting Actor: Sam Elliott- A Star is Born
Best Supporting Actress: Olivia Cooke- Thoroughbreds
Best Director: John Krasinski- A Quiet Place
Best SFX: Mortal Engines
Worst SFX: The Predator
Biggest Surprise: Overlord
Biggest Disappointment: The Meg
Most Enjoyable: Mission Impossible- Fallout
Funniest Movie: Game Night
Scene Stealer: Jack-Jack: Incredibles 2
Best Scene: Helicopter Finale- MI: Fallout
Best Song: Upbeat from Teen Titans
Best Soundtrack: Mamma Mia! Here We Go Again
Best Poster: Bad Times at the El Royale
Best Trailer: Mary Poppins Returns
In March's Issue:

Reviews of Glass and Stan and Ollie



After Service Prayer Ministry

The ministry, which as you, know takes place after each of the morning services at St Thomas is greatly valued by our church members. However we are really short of people who carry out this particular ministry.

If you feel that you could help either at 9.00am or 10.45am please let us know by speaking to me Jan Alan Chadwick or Malcolm Childs. You will not be dropped straight into action but give training and advice before you need commit yourself.

Malcolm



St Luke's Flowers

Flowers in church this month

| | |
|----------|--------|
| 3rd Feb | Vacant |
| 10th Feb | Vacant |
| 17th Feb | Vacant |
| 24th Feb | Vacant |



Anniversary remembrance of Betty Parkinson 12th February a dear wife, mum and gran from Harold and family

Verse for the Year

All the believers were united in heart and mind. And they felt that what they owned was not their own, so they shared everything they had. The apostles testified powerfully to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and God' great grace was upon them all.

Acts 4:32-33

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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.

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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 13th February to be printed in the March Magazine.

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

In memory of all loved ones from Gwyneth & Peter Hamilton

Thank you for all your prayers. They have such a difference from Jean Piper.

For Home Communion Harry Winstanley



In memory of John Makinson who died 31st December from Margaret and family

In loving memory of Chris Ashcroft from Susan, Darren, Nicola & Lilly-Mae

Anniversary remembrance (12 Feb) of a much loved mum Betty Parkinson from Alec and Karen.

Anniversary remembrance (12 Feb) of a much loved dad Bill Bullen from Karen & Alec

Anniversary remembrance of Stanley Brown (17th Feb) A much loved husband, dad, grandad, great grandad and brother from Edna and family. Sadly missed.

Birthday and anniversary remembrance of Harry Atherton from his wife Margaret, daughter Dawn & grandchildren

Loving birthday memories (9th Feb) of a very dear husband, dad & grandad Gordon Lyon from Marie, Barbara, John, Madolyn, & Rob

Anniversary remembrance of John Fearley (21st Feb) Much loved husband, dad & grandad from Madge & family

In Christmas remembrance of Joan & Raymond Parry from Christine, Alan, Hazel & Roy

Birthday remembrance (11th Jan) & anniversary remembrance (19th Jan) of a very dear aunt Marian Bullen from Alison, Adrian, Becky & Chris

In memory of a dear friend Beryl from Doreen Rimmer & family

In memory of Eric Hurst who passed 2nd Dec 1992 from David Hurst



St Thomas' Flowers

Ladies on duty

| | |
|----------|--|
| 3rd Feb | Margaret Lyon, Kath Pilling, Barbara Davies |
| 10th Feb | Meta Laites, Linda Malley, Kath Vella |
| 17th Feb | Hilda Edwardson, Maureen Cook, Margaret Carrington |
| 24th Feb | Margaret Lyon, Kath Pilling, Barbara Davies |

Flowers in the Nativity window

Treasured birthday memories (7th February) of a dearly loved Mum and Gran Margaret Hilton from Alison, Adrian, Becky & Chris

Christmas Flowers

The Flower Guild would like to thank everyone who gave so generously towards the cost of Christmas flowers to decorate our Church and celebrate the birth of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

Flowers in church this month

| Date | Altar | Lady Chapel |
|----------|---|---|
| 3rd Feb | In memory of Doug & Lily Wildman & Harold from Janet, Doug & Family | Vacant |
| 10th Feb | Vacant | Vacant |
| 17th Feb | In remembrance of Roy Hardman, a loving husband from wife Mary | In remembrance of Roy Hardman a dear dad & grandad from Jeanette, Donald, Jessica & Ethan |
| 24th Feb | Vacant | Vacant |

February birth flower



With Valentine's Day on people's minds, February is a big month for flowers. But, oddly enough, the red rose is *not* February's birth month flower!

February's birth flower is the [iris](#), a flower with a name which originates from the Greek word for 'rainbow.' Irises are thought to represent valour, wisdom, friendship and hope. A bouquet of irises is therefore the perfect birthday gift for a dear friend or sagacious relative.



The Registers



Funerals - "May they rest in peace"

| | | | |
|----------|----------------|-----------------------|----|
| 27th Dec | Derek Blatcher | Wotton Drive | 65 |
| 27th Dec | Sydney Keen | Myrtle Avenue | 81 |
| 28th Dec | Eric Houltram | Ellesmere Road | 84 |
| 3rd Jan | Linda Latham | Myrtle Avenue | 79 |
| 8th Jan | Jack Matthews | Ashton View CH | |
| 9th Jan | Gladys Jolley | Osborne Road | 89 |
| 10th Jan | Edna Shaw | Portugal | 88 |
| 18th Jan | Jean Wood | Princess Road | 89 |
| 25th Jan | Emily Stott | Thistlecroft, Preston | 94 |
| 25th Jan | Elaine Howarth | Heather Grove | 65 |

Holy Baptism -

"We welcome them into the Lord's family"



| | | |
|----------|---------------------------|-----------------|
| 13th Jan | Mia Isabelle Rene Linnett | Bryn Road |
| 27th Jan | Harriet May Myers | Weavermill Park |

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

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

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