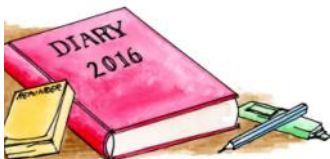
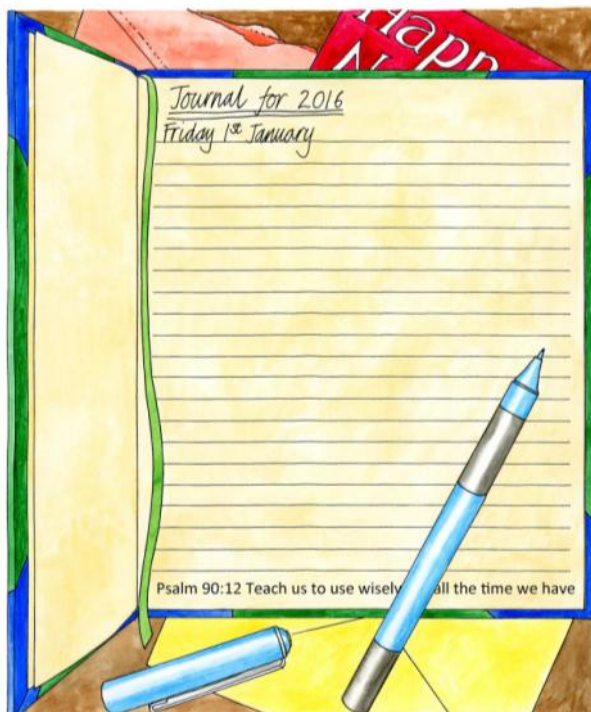


St.Thomas' and St. Luke's Ashton-In-Makerfield Church Magazine

Price : 50p



January
2016

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

Sundays

St Thomas's		St Luke's	
9.00a.m.	Holy Communion	8.30 a.m.	Holy Communion (1st Sunday Only)
10.45 am	Family Worship (1st Sunday Parade & 4th Sunday Family Communion)		11.00 a.m.
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.	Holy Communion (BCP 1662)	Other services and Saints' Days as announced. Please see weekly notice sheet or visit website for dates, details or exceptions.
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Parish Office: 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 721 484.

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

Deadline	February 2016	March 2016
Hand Written	10th January	7th February
Computer	17th January	14th February
Magazine Release	31st January	28th February

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Important Parish Information

Baptisms

Baptisms are held at St Thomas 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 live within the parish boundaries or be a regular worshipper at St Thomas's/St Luke's. Parents and Godparents should also be prepared to undertake baptism preparation classes.

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 vicar or call in at Vestry Hour on a Thursday evening.

Funerals

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



Letter from the Vicar

Our new year aims or hopes usually focus on some form of transformation – often relating to a failure or missed opportunity from the previous year – we *will* do much better in the coming year. Change and transformation are natural and worthy aims for people who want the best for themselves, their families, our communities, our world. I've had a go at many new year resolutions over the years, relating to fitness, health, relationships, wealth, time. I usually fail once more around the second week of January!



The only transformation that I have had real success with is when I have aligned my aims and hopes with my faith in Jesus. When my aims and hopes align with God's aims, purposes and my hope is in Him, then my new year transformation becomes part of my discipleship journey – one that doesn't start every January, but is an ongoing process.

Discipleship is about much more than just gaining knowledge. It is about apprenticeship, about following, about travelling with the one who we learn from and who we follow. Discipleship of Jesus is about transformation of our lives by allowing the one who we follow to critique, to challenge, to shape us - it is about doing and about being.



"Discipleship is a continuous, life-long, process of allowing God to shape every aspect of our lives, how we think, how we behave, how we relate to others and how we understand ourselves... signifying a total reorientation of our lives towards God." (Max Oxbrow, 2013)

Thinking about our new year hopes and aims as another step in our ongoing discipleship journey is helpful because we are no longer working alone, from our own understanding or motives. We are aligning ourselves with God's plan for our lives.



Letter from the Vicar



As we begin with the transformation of ourselves, then our worthy aims of the transformation of our families, our communities, our world will follow. The Apostle Paul describes us as unveiling the gospel and unveiling Jesus to others through our likeness of him as his disciples.

“And we all, with unveiled faces, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another. For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit.” 2 Corinthians 3:18 (ESV)

May you have a happy and fruitful year. May your aims, hopes and prayers be guided by the Spirit of God. May you this year go deeper in your discipleship journey and through this unveil Jesus to others ever more clearly.

Jeremy Thomas





Daily / Weekly Events in our Church - January 2016

<u>Monday</u>	Morning Prayer.	9.00am
<u>Tuesday</u>	Morning Prayer. Coffee Morning. (Church Hall) Church open for prayer.	9:00am 10:00am - 12:00pm 7.30-8.30pm
<u>Wednesday</u>	Morning Prayer.	9.00am
<u>Thursday</u>	Holy Communion. Princes Pantry. (St Luke's) Vestry hour.	9:45am 11:30am - 1:00pm 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 live and work in **Vicarage Road, Rookery Avenue, Ramsey Close, Townfield Avenue and St Oswald's Road**



Parish News



Parish Giving Scheme



My usual annual and respectful reminder included in the first edition of our Parish Magazine for the New Year comes with a more earnest plea that we review our personal giving in the light of the Church needs. Despite a healthy response to the request that our regular givers join the Parish Giving Scheme, which ensures that we receive the gift aid tax refund on the donations 10 days after each donation is made, our general fund finances accruing from regular giving are in steep decline. As an example up to the November figures quoted above our giving through the freewill offerings for 2015 is £5776.71 less that received by that time in 2014 this trend is repeated in our other giving. The expense of and up keep of our beloved Church does, on the other hand, keep on rising a factor to which we need to respond positively in prayer and then hopefully in practice.

Our Treasurer Sarah is doing a magnificent job but her life can be made easier if more members of our congregation convert to the Parish Giving Scheme. Forms are available in church, just ask me and I will also be pleased to answer any questions that you may have and of course in the strictest confidence.

Malcolm

Book of Remembrance



As a Church we love to remember our friends no longer with us and the names of those who are interred in our Garden of Rest are recorded in the Book of Remembrance. Keeping these treasured records up to date is in itself a work requiring a certain skill with the written word. There is a ministry waiting for a volunteer who enjoys writing and has that necessary skill. If you feel that this person is you please contact myself or the wardens who will explain what is required.

Sadly I have had no response to this note which I placed in the November Magazine. I should have mentioned then the distress felt by the families who come to look at the Book, at perhaps a particular anniversary of the passing of a loved one, to find that the name does not appear in the Book. Please think again whether you or someone that you know can take on this valued ministry in our Church. *Malcolm*



Mothers Union

DIARY:

There are no Branch Meetings as such in January but we can look forward to our belated Christmas meal for members and friends at Bryn Masonic Hall on Friday 15th January meeting at 7.00pm for 7.30pm. I look forward to seeing everyone there and if you haven't done so already please let me have the £19.00 cost of the meal and your menu choice no later than 4th January.



Advance Notice

Wednesday 17th February in St THOMAS CHURCH HALL is our Annual General Meeting starting at 7.30pm. There is no better opportunity for anyone interested in the possibility of joining our branch of the Mothers Union. At this meeting you can discover exactly what we do both here at St Thomas and St Luke's, in the Deanery, the Diocese and overseas.



Once again a great big thank you to everyone who provided Christmas Presents for the residents at Coops Foyer. They were very welcome and as always very much appreciated.

New Year blessing

May the Lord
forever be near
to guide and protect you
throughout the new year.
May your blessings be many,
your failures be few,
as you embrace the future
with hope born anew.



May you live day to day -
 with nothing to fear,
 God bless you and keep you
 throughout the new year.
 and courage.
 Happy New Year!



Wishing you a healthy and happy New Year
Love and God bless
Barbara

FREE WILL OFFERINGS— NOVEMBER 2015

DATE	AMOUNT	NO. OF ENVELOPES	AVERAGE PER ENVELOPE
2/11/15	254.00	65	3.91
9/11/15	199.09	55	3.62
16/11/15	246.36	54	4.56
23/1/15	267.60	62	4.32
30/11/15	244.50	57	4.29
TOTAL	1211.55	293	
AVERAGE	243.31	59	4.13

Battling the Winter Blues-how to keep the Christmas message alive in the New Year ahead.



So it's over again for another year. Time to pack away the multitude of ornaments, tinsel and yet another of those Santa figures that you couldn't resist in the January sales!

As a child I used to loathe taking down our Christmas tree. It was the sign that my favourite time of year had unfortunately reached its conclusion. It was back to school, work and the monotonous routines of daily life.

It's funny how we are so quick to prepare for Christmas, putting up our decorations as soon as possible and squirrelling away food and presents ready for the big day. I recently overheard a conversation where two women were stressing that they still had a couple more Christmas presents to buy.



Now bear in mind this was the beginning of October! I'm equally as guilty though and had all my presents bought, wrapped and labelled by the beginning of December! I wanted time to enjoy the Season- the festivities and good cheer. I wanted Christ at the centre of my Christmas I'm certain but my problem was I didn't want it all to end.

One of my favourite all time Christmas hits is 'I wish It Could Be Christmas Everyday' by Wizzard. Yet I know in all truthfulness I couldn't stand the notion of Christmas 365 days of the year. The cheeriness would soon wear off and I think my waistline would end up the size of the Titanic! Yet there is still a part of me that wishes I could freeze that day. The buzz at the family service with children showing off their new gifts and kisses being planted on every available cheek. The chatter around the dinner table, the bang of the crackers and the sighs of contentment as we settle down on the sofa for another Christmas classic. Yet before long it's time to go, Boxing Day, New Year and it's done. Finite!



So how I hear you ask can we beat those January blues? How can we keep the Christmas message alive in our homes and communities when the streets seem so bare and the weather so cold and dark?

Maybe as we take down our Christmas decorations this year we should all prayerfully ponder the year ahead. What exciting things are in your diary for 2016? Pray over the different events that are due to happen. That friend's wedding, a weekend away, your child's football match. However big or small let's keep God in the driving seat and let him guide our journeys in new and exciting ways.

Why not take up a new hobby to boost your spirits? I know at my local gym come January the sales are at their peak and people are no longer jostling over Christmas bargains but for space on the cross trainers and treadmills! But fitness and dieting is not and need not be for everyone. Learning a new skill like cake decorating or playing an instrument can help form new friendships and can also be a great outreach opportunity as you share how your Christmas was spent.

Starting a new bible study series or maybe adding some new sermons or worship songs to your iPhone can also help keep you focused through the back to work rush.



As we celebrate Christmas quite comfortably for most of us let's not forget our brothers and sisters across the globe who will not experience such joy. Volunteering for a local homeless shelter, supporting asylum seekers, child sponsorship, the list of possibilities is endless. What ministries are available in your church already? Is God calling and challenging you to something new this year? Let's be open!

Know as well that it's okay to feel down come January and February. The media is very quick to remind us that suicide rates are at their highest come this time of year which of course really helps boost your morale when you're feeling low! We all experience times in the wilderness where we feel lost and far from God. Yet the bible reminds us on many occasions that he is never far away from us. Jesus' disciples must have been quaking in their boots (or should I say open toed sandals!) as they were commissioned in Matthew 28 but Jesus reminds them: 'and surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age' (Matthew 28: 20, NIV).

And yet it is sometimes at our lowest, darkest times that we can actually feel the closest to God. We realise that we have nothing to rely on but God.

For some of us the year ahead may be something we're not looking forward to for personal reasons like health problems, marital issues or maybe unemployment. Keep praying over those situations and enlist the help of your local church, bible group or a trusted friend or family member. Prayer is powerful and helps us keep faith when all around us things seem to be failing.



I wish I could close by wishing a year of happiness and joy ahead for all of you. However what I can promise you is God's hand of protection over whatever life may throw at you.

Embrace change, be inspired and keep praying. Kick those winter blues into submission—you won't do it alone but then you're never alone are you?

Joanna Wooff

Thank you and Goodbye!!



Dear Church Family -

My Nanny was a stickler for manners – especially ‘pleases and thank-yous’. She set great store by teaching us the importance of writing thank you letters after birthdays and Christmas. She said we’d feel better for writing, and that the person would feel better for receiving our letter. I remember moaning at her one year in particular because I didn’t want write a thank you letter to someone - I didn’t like them and didn’t think much of whatever it was they’d been kind enough to send me!

Well, this is an easy note to write in that sense, because Tony and I have grown to love you all! And saying thank you for having us for the last 3 and ½ years is both heartfelt and true. I have tried – completely unsuccessfully - to manage my emotions over these last few weeks, and for someone who you know to be normally laughing and smiling, I’ve spent more time crying than seems fair!

But that’s because it’s hard to leave you. So – sorry for the tears. I’ll be all smiles again by the time you read this in January. My heart will have caught up with my head.



You are an amazing bunch of God’s people – Tony and I have been privileged to spend these years with you. Between you and Jeremy, you’ve trained me well – I have had the most wonderful curacy – thank you SO much. You have allowed me the most wonderful privileges too – to walk alongside you and your families in tragedy and in celebration; to share God’s love with each other; and to learn and grow in our worship and discipleship together. You have been God’s gift to me in shaping my ministry, and helping to form me into the vicar I’m about to become. Heaven help Downall Green and Garswood!

When each of us says 'yes' to God with our life, we really have no idea where he'll take us and what he'll ask us to do. But we may be very sure that he places around us exactly the people and the opportunities he has prepared for us to serve him and bring glory to his name.

My prayer for you at the beginning of this New Year is that you would say 'yes' to the next step God has for you – whatever that may be. Trusting in his loving plans and purposes for you; drawing on his very presence beside and within you; may his strength and loving guidance take you forward to live out his word - *'I came so they can have real and eternal life, more and better life than they ever dreamed of.'* John 10:10.

Helen and Tony xxx





Jesus brings light into the world!

December's Messy Church was held in the church hall and it was our pleasure to welcome nine new children and their families from RL Hughes and Nicol Mere. They all said that they enjoyed themselves and would be coming again!

When we were planning Messy Church, we were very aware at how this build up to Christmas can so easily be a time when we get dragged into the rush and busyness of doing and buying. Many of us are worried that Jesus has been reduced to a baby picture on a card, and many find that image difficult to relate to. Yet John opens his Gospel by bringing us face to face with the Christ who moved into our neighbourhood—not baby Jesus in a manger 2000 years ago, but the Son of God, up close and personal for us, and for everyone in Ashton.



We tried to help the children and families who came on 3rd December to focus on Jesus and to think about fitting everything that they do around him. One great way we could chat about this was using a scrabble board to spell out Jesus name and then connect the names of their families and Christmas related words to his name.

The world didn't recognise Jesus and so we made masks so that people found it hard to recognise us. Who would have expected the son of God to be born in a stable?



How can Jesus make a difference in Ashton, or in our street? This was an activity just for the children (or those with a very sweet tooth) - they made maps of their street on large crackers using different coloured icing, chocolate spread, strawberry laces and other sweets. They then placed Jesus (a gummy bear) in their road.



Another map related activity was to take a piece of black card and using a template and a pin, prick holes in the card to show the outline of the world. The world can be a dark place but holding our cards to the light, lots of spots of light appeared around the world. We can be that light for others when we hold ourselves up to Jesus.

We reminded ourselves that we can bring people closer to Jesus by transferring gummy bears from a bowl at the end of the table to the bowl next to the nativity stable. It's often not easy to do and so we used chopsticks to make the task a little harder. But we are called to persevere, as the wise men did. Biscuit bobbing was a helpful way to think about the importance of keeping on going as people tried to eat a biscuit dangling from a string without being able to see!



One of the challenges was to write the Christmas story in 140 characters or less in a *Tweet* speech bubble! We also made a collage of the Nativity scene. Please look in the right hand side of the church hall to see the results from these two activities.

The stable (or cave) will have been a dreary place we imagine; quite a contrast to the glory of God. Rolling marbles that had been dipped in paint around paper at the bottom of a tin was a fun (and messy) way to remind ourselves of the contrast.

The favourite activity had to be dressing up as different nativity characters using the big bag of dressing up clothes we keep in church for Christmas. Unfortunately there were no adult sizes! Some kept their costumes on for the celebration time when we thought more about the light that Jesus brings into our lives and each family wrote a prayer - we hope that they will say their prayer each time they switch on their Christmas tree lights.



Everyone made their own 'pizzas' for tea on muffins and enjoyed a 'Christmas pudding cake' afterwards.

Do you know that Messy Church has been going in St Thomas & St Luke's for five years? This could not have happened without a large team of volunteers who plan, prepare and then help on the day. I'm sure you would like to join with me in thanking each one of them for all their hard work and commitment and those people who are willing to step in when we are short.



We are also grateful for all the Messy Church resources that we buy in which provide us with many of the ideas that we use in our sessions and to everyone who collects items when we put out an SOS!

Our next Messy Church is on January 28th in St Thomas' school. If you would like to help in any way then please contact Messy Sue on 01942 727275/07877 704645 or email sue@stthomasstluke.org.uk.



<u>Opening Times</u>	
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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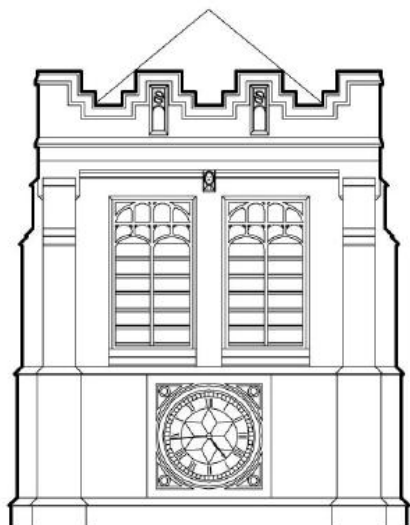
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VAT Number 768/1716/00 Company Reg No. 4172616**



St Thomas' Flowers



DATE	LADIES ON DUTY
2ND JAN	ALL LADIES—TIDY UP
9TH JAN	Mrs Hibbert, Mrs Lyon, Mrs Davies (DISMANTLE)
16TH JAN	Mrs Laites, Mrs Malley, Mrs Vella, Kayleigh Speakman
23RD JAN	Mrs Edwardson, Mrs Cook
30TH JAN	Mrs Hibbert, Mrs Lyon, Mrs Davies

FLOWERS IN CHURCH DURING JANUARY

DATE	ALTAR	LADY CHAPEL
3RD JAN	CHRISTMAS FLOWERS	CHRISTMAS FLOWERS
10TH JAN	VACANT	VACANT
17TH JAN	VACANT	Anniversary remembrance of John Bailey (22nd Jan) a dear husband, dad, grandad and great-grandad from Annie and family
24TH JAN	VACANT	Birthday memories of Muriel Hampson a dear Auntie from Marjorie
31ST JAN	VACANT	VACANT

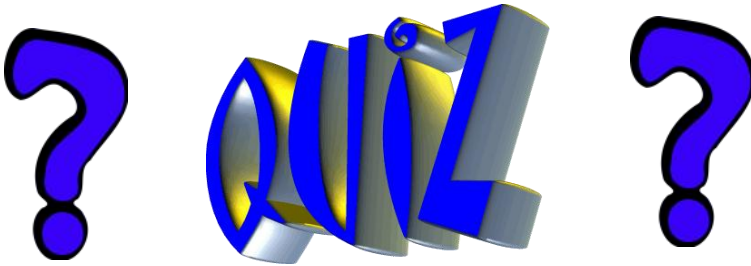


St Thomas' Flowers



FLOWER GUILD DONATIONS

In loving memory of Thomas Stone, a loving husband and father from Elsie and Keith.



In January the Church celebrates the naming of Jesus, the Epiphany, and the baptism of Jesus. And so our quiz this month is based on Matthew 2 and Luke 2 & 3.

Questions

- 1 Who said that Jesus should be called Jesus?
- 2 Which two people welcomed the infant Jesus at the Temple?
- 3 What would Jesus be to the Jews?
- 4 What would Jesus be to the Gentiles?
- 5 Whom did the wise men upset when they arrived in Jerusalem?
- 6 What three gifts did the wise men bring to Jesus?
- 7 How did the angel warn Joseph?
- 8 Where did Joseph take Mary and Jesus, to keep them safe?
- 9 In which body of water was Jesus baptised?
- 10 Who baptised him?
- 11 What happened when the heavens opened?
- 12 What did the voice say?

Answers on Page 35



The Film Review

With Rob Carson



The Hunger Games- Mockingjay- Part II (12A)

Directed by Francis Lawrence

Stars: Jennifer Lawrence, Josh Hutcherson, Liam Hemsworth, Donald Sutherland, Elizabeth Banks, Sam Claflin, Julianne Moore, Phillip Seymour Hoffman, Woody Harrelson, Jeffrey Wright, Jena Malone, and Natalie Dormer

In a Nutshell: Well this is it, it's the end... like a lot of big franchises, this final part of the massive series has been split into two... so the necessary question to start with, was it worth it? Yes and no, I guess. I do still think it could have been one part... but the spacing out of the drama and events does serve to expand the drama and make more of an impact as events unfold. Win some, lose some I guess... though I don't think there's a loss necessarily even if it was unnecessary. I won't make the Potter comparison because I thought both were equally action-packed... but this is definitely the pay off to the slow build up of the first part. As usual, Jen is amazing... needs no more saying, but this time particularly Josh Hutcherson is absolutely terrific as Peeta, very tortured and frail and fighting for control, and all the support is as fine as usual, particularly the deliciously malevolent Sutherland. A maybe comparison would be the last Twilight, though this is so much better... but in the sense that's it's a lot of action and tragic moments to end the series to a degree... though there's also a lot more going that I can't dig into, except to say it carries on this series tradition of being very dark, gritty and hard hitting when it needs to be and has troubling parallels to current events too which hits the point home harder too. Basically if you like these movies then this will be a very satisfying climax... both in what it does with the story and where the characters wind up, whether good or bad... it's a great journey, even if pretty tough at points. The things that maybe weren't 100% clear on the page of the third book, now make more sense and satisfy wonderfully when put up on screen... the odds are certainly in your favour to the end. **Rating: 9/10**

Also Seen:

Bridge of Spies (12A) 9/10

Steve Jobs (15) 9/10

Black Mass (15) 7/10

Victor Frankenstein (12A) 8/10



The Top 16 of 2016!

Alice Through the Looking Glass (PG) (Released: May 27th) Johnny Depp etc return as the classic characters in this new tale based on the classic books

The Danish Girl (15) (Released: January 1st) Eddie Redmayne and Alicia Vikander start in a inspiring true story about an extraordinary individual

Kung Fu Panda III (PG) (Released: March 11th) Jack Black is back as Po in another action packed comedy adventure, this time discovering his family

Suicide Squad (tba) (Released: August 5th) A motley crew of villains and rogues (including



The Film Review

With Rob Carson



Joker and Harley Quinn) must assemble to save the day in this comic book caper featuring Will Smith and Jared Leto.

Hail Caesar! (tba) (Released: February 26th) George Clooney and Josh Brolin lead a stellar cast in the Coen Brothers latest set in vintage Hollywood

Batman vs Superman: Dawn of Justice (tba) (Released: March 25th) The two iconic superheroes go to battle with one another in this epic comic book tale, which will also be the feature film debut for Wonder Woman

Finding Dory (U) (Released: July 29th) The fishy pals return in Pixar's sequel as this time it's the loveable Dory that must be found

Deadpool (15) (Released: February 4th) Ryan Reynolds dons the red and black suit as the ultraviolent and ultra cheeky superhero makes his big screen lead debut after making a infamous cameo in Wolverine

X-Men: Apocalypse (tba) (Released: May 19th) The 'First Class' cast including Fassbender and McAvoy again as Magneto and Xavier, return in this 80s set adventure when they come up against the mighty Apocalypse, the most powerful mutant ever



The Jungle Book (PG) (Released: April 15th) Jon Favreau directs this blend of live-action and motion capture, as the story of Mowgli and his journey through the jungle is brought to vivid life with the aid of voices like Bill Murray and Christopher Walken

Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them (tba) (Released: November 18th) This prequel to the Harry Potter series sees Eddie Redmayne star as young Newt Scamander, who embarks on an incredible journey to discover a wild world of magical creatures

The Next Bourne Movie (tba) (Released: July 29th) Matt Damon returns again as Jason Bourne and is reunited with director Paul Greengrass for this next spy thriller which is bound to be as explosive as ever

Doctor Strange (tba) (Released: October 28th) Benedict Cumberbatch stars as Marvels' next unlikely hero... a gifted surgeon who after a terrible accident, becomes a powerful sorcerer and becomes involved with all sorts of mysterious universes

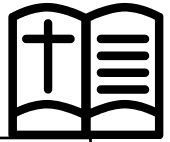
Zoolander II (tba) (Released: February 12th) In this long awaited sequel to the comedy favourite, Ben Stiller returns as the gloriously dense male model, this time attempting to foil a plot to assassinate the world's most beautiful people

Captain America: Civil War (tba) (Released: April 29th) Steve Rogers and Tony Stark end up on the opposite sides of the fight when a new law is passed... which leads to all the superheroes forming opposing sides in this epic Marvel tale.

The BFG (PG) (Released: July 22nd) Mark Rylance becomes quite big to play Roald Dahl's big and friendly giant in this live-action adaptation of the children's classic, directed by none other than Steven Spielberg.



St Thomas' January Donations



Please place your donation in an envelope with your full name and amount written on it. Please hand in at church or post to the vicarage.

Please make any cheques payable to **St Thomas' PCC**. If you want the donation to be for something specific, please write clearly on the envelope.

Thank you.

GIFT AID

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

We now only show the total of all donations made in the month, not the breakdown across the different funds. A record of the amounts for each fund will still be kept for accounting purposes.

Funds currently in use are: Africa Fund, Audio Visual, Building & Maintenance, Church Hall , Garden of Rest, General, Grave Maintenance, Heath Road Graveyard, Heating and Youthworker

Unless otherwise stated donations will go into the General Fund.

With Thanks for Home Communion

Alice Ashley, Marion Bullen, Georgina Jones, Brenda Percival, Margaret Rogers, Mary Shaw, Elsie & Keith Stone, H Winstanley

Other Donations

Jean & Jack Fairclough and
anonymous donation to Africa Fund

Christmas Remembrance

Peter Raymond - a dear husband, father and grandfather

Christmas Wishes

To **our loved ones** from Doreen Rimmer & family

Anniversary Remembrance of

Eric Hurst (4th Dec) - much loved and missed father from David Hurst

Ken Rimmer (15th Jan) - a dear husband, dad, granddad from Doreen Rimmer & family

Marg & Billy Cooper (20th & 21st Jan)- love Annie Bailey

Ellen Pennington (21st Jan)- a much loved mother and grandmother from David

John Bailey (22nd Jan) - a dearly loved husband, dad, granddad, love wife Annie and family

Birthday Memories of

Richard Glover (17th January) - a dear husband & dad from Mary & Carol

Birthday & Anniversary Remembrance of

Arthur Edwardson—from Hilda, Raymond and Sharon

In Loving Memory of

Mr Piers Unsworth & Mrs Mary Alice Unsworth

In Memory of

Ronnie Wood - on what would have been our Golden Wedding Anniversary (15th Jan) and birthday (24th Jan) from his everloving wife and family



**TOTAL DONATIONS RECEIVED BY ST THOMAS'
FOR JANUARY 2015 £560**

If you want to discuss any issues around wills and legacies please ring the Parish Treasurer Sarah Riley on 01942 722747

St Lukes' Donations



Birthday remembrance of

A dear friend Angela Baxter from Debra

In memory of

Mary Roberts a much loved Auntie from Rose



TANGO

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

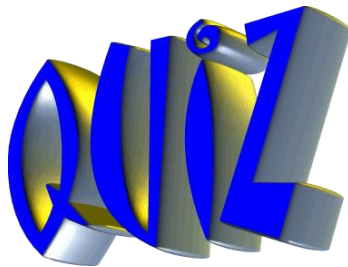


If you have any items of furniture that you no
longer want TANGO will collect Free Of Charge
from your home.



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





Answers

- 1 *The angel*
- 2 *Simeon & Anna*
- 3 *Many would fall, and many would rise because of him.*
- 4 *A light for revelation.*
- 5 *Herod*
- 6 *Gold, frankincense & myrrh*
- 7 *In a dream*
- 8 *Egypt*
- 9 *Jordan*
- 10 *John*
- 11 *A dove descended*
- 12 *You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased.*



THREE KINGS

Does Christmas seem long gone? Well, Christmas doesn't really end until Twelfth Night, 6th January. In the past all the 12 days of Christmas used to be celebrated with feasting and parties. January 6th is also the Feast of the Epiphany, which is the day on which the wise men, led by the star, arrived at Bethlehem. At Christmas we sang about Three Kings but we don't really know who they were, kings or wise men or where they came from – you can check the details in St Matthew's Gospel, chapter 2.



We do know that they brought very expensive symbolic gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh for Jesus, not the usual things that you would give to a small baby. Traditionally the gifts have a special meaning: gold is for a king; frankincense (sweet smelling incense) is for God and myrrh (a spice used to prepare bodies for burial) for mortal man.

GOLDEN ANSWERS

All the answers to this quiz begin with the letters GOLD (well, can you find any words that began with frankincense or myrrh?). Answers at the bottom of the page.

Can you say which GOLD is ...

1. a small bird?
2. kept in an aquarium?
3. made from sugar and used in cooking?
4. a source of wealth? 
5. a tall yellow flower?
6. ate the three bears' porridge?
7. won by a winner at the Olympics?
8. a 50th wedding anniversary?

What do you call a camel that's got three humps?

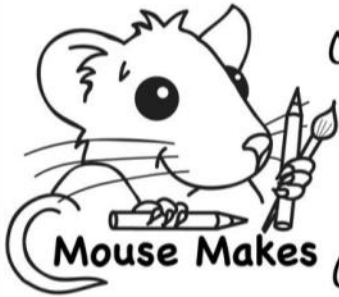
Humphrey.

Who rides a camel and carries a lamp?

Florence of Arabia.



Answers: 1. gold finch 2. goldfish
3. golden syrup 4. goldmine 5. golden rod
6. Goldilocks 7. gold medal 8. golden wedding



THE BAPTISM OF JESUS

John appeared in the desert baptising and preaching and many people confessed their sins and were baptised. Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee and was baptised by John in the river Jordan. As soon as Jesus came up out of the water, He saw heaven opening and the Spirit coming down on Him like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, "You are my own dear Son. I am pleased with you".

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

Can you find these words from the story in the grid above?

BAPTISE • WILDERNESS • WATER
 FORTY DAYS • NAZARETH
 FORGIVENESS • GALILEE • SINS
 JOHN • JESUS • RIVER
 JORDAN • REPENT • TURN
 BELIEVE • HEAVEN • OPEN
 HOLY SPIRIT • GOD • DOVE • VOICE
 SON • LOVE • PLEASSED • LORD



READ Mark 1: 1-13



The Registers



Funerals - "May they rest in peace"

25th Nov.	Stefan Witkiewicz	Frederick Street	65yrs
27th Nov.	Derek Case	Alexandra Road	76yrs
4th Dec.	Doris Williams	Bowland Avenue	70yrs
10th Dec.	Margaret Fairhurst	Crescent Avenue	81yrs
16th Dec	Elizabeth Helen Barlow	Greenfields Crescent	74yrs

Holy Baptism -

"We welcome them into the Lord's family"



22nd Nov.	Sony Ivan Wallace	Highwoods Close
13th Dec.	Coby Rae David Velloza	Old Road

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

Boys Brigade

Captain: Gareth Hamlett (07903866501)

Anchor Boys (Tuesday: 5.45 p.m.)

Olwen Wright (389595)

Junior Section (Tuesday 6.45 p.m.)

Kat Duckworth (07517486188)

Company Section (Tuesday: 7.30 p.m.)

Contact Gareth Hamlett

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: 6.15 p.m.)

Susan Hughes (725291)

3rd Ashton Guides & Ranger Guides

(Tuesday: 7.15 p.m.)

Rachel Starkie (718350)

Music Group Mary Owen (203277)

Sunday – 10.45 a.m.

St Thomas' Choir

Sunday - 10.45 a.m. & 6.30 p.m.

Practice – Thursday: 7.00 p.m.

Paul Tushingam (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

Mike Pye (517318)

Youth Work

Sue Thomas (727275)

St. Luke's Treasurer

John Boon

Duke of Edinburgh's Award (14-18+)

Sunday 6.30pm Church Hall

Ceri Mansell (727417)

The PCC Secretary

Dorothy Burgess (701542)

dotfib1@yahoo.co.uk

St Thomas' Mothers' Union

3rd Wed: 7.30 p.m.: Barbara Taylor (205136)

Flower Guild

Meta Laites (723679)

Bowling Club

Henry Hunter (712709)

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

<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Vicar</u></p> <p>Rev Jeremy Thomas (727275)</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Administrator</u></p> <p>Rachael Campbell 721 484 Parish office</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Curate</u></p> <p>Rev Helen Coffey (721962)</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Ordained Local Minister</u></p> <p>Rev Izzy Schafer (717300)</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Readers</u></p> <p>Malcolm Bold Carole Pye (276379) (517318)</p> <p>Alan Harrison (718618)</p> <p>Tricia Hancox (201540)</p> <p>Scott Campbell (711086)</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>St Thomas' Church Wardens</u></p> <p>Ken Laites (723679)</p> <p>Paula Gillespie (711270)</p> <p><u>Deputy Wardens -</u></p> <p>Barbara Taylor (205136)</p> <p>Nigel Robinson (726597)</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Electoral Roll Secretary</u></p> <p>Paul Weston (202649)</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>St Luke's Church Warden</u></p> <p>Carole Pye (517318)</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Treasurer (St Thomas)</u></p> <p>Sarah Riley (07712 584954)</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Church Architect</u></p> <p>Mr B. Schafer (717300)</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Church Hall Secretary</u></p> <p>Rachael Campbell 721 484 (Parish Office)</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>St Thomas' Organist & Choirmaster</u></p> <p>Paul Tushingham (711085)</p>
	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>F.W.O. Secretary</u></p> <p>Jackie Wilson (712368)</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Gift Aid Secretary</u></p> <p>Clare Hayton (273183)</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>St Thomas' Donations Secretary</u></p> <p>Anita Archer (760082)</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Magazine Co-ordinator</u></p> <p>Jack Stuart (726972)</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Magazine Editor</u></p> <p>Rachel Webster (273453 - contact for advertising)</p>