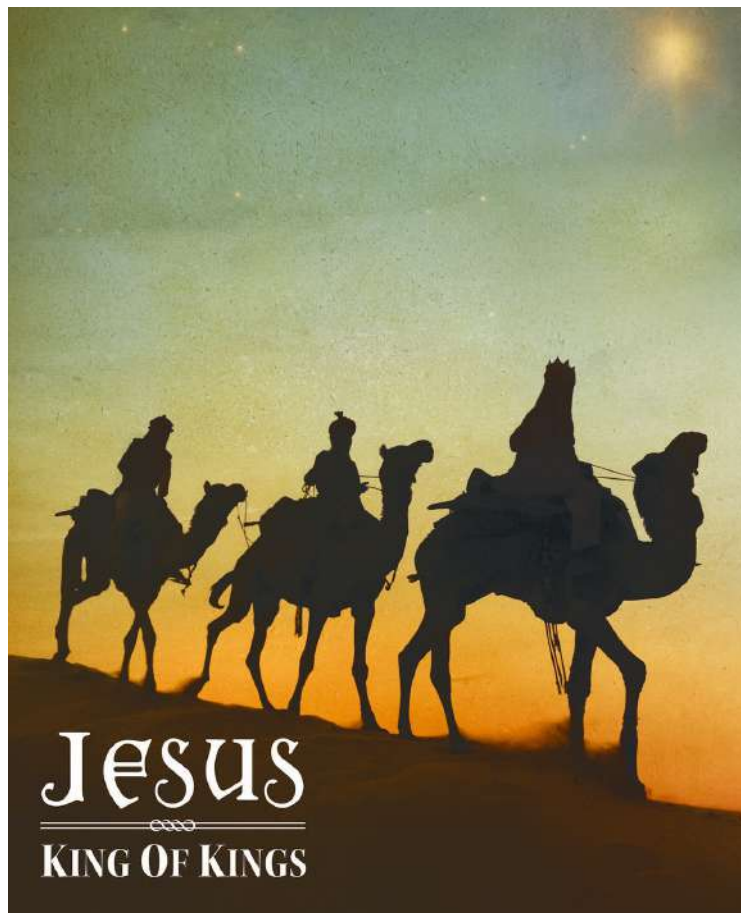


# Wigan South Parish Magazine

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

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



January 2022

60p

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# Parish Information

## Baptisms

Baptisms are held around the Parish throughout the month. To qualify for baptism, parents should live within the parish boundaries or be a regular worshipper at one of the worship communities within the Parish. Godparents should have been baptised and be prepared to attend a baptism preparation session with the parents.

## Funerals

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

## Marriage

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

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

# Magazine Deadlines

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

	February	March	April
Deadline for material	20 January	17 February	17 March
Publish date	30 January	27 February	27 March

# The New Year

A decorative border at the top of the page features several gold-colored garlands. These garlands consist of thin gold strings with various ornaments including large five-pointed stars, smaller four-pointed stars, and circular beads. The garlands are draped across the top of the page, framing the text below.

◆ If we put our hand in God's hand  
As we enter this New Year  
Not knowing what the future holds  
But that our Friend is near

We shall not fear what lies ahead  
If He is by our side,  
Nor wander from the pathway  
If He will be our guide.

The Sinless One from heaven came  
To dwell with us on earth,  
He sought and bought us with His blood  
And offered us new birth.

Now as we travel through this year  
He knows the things He's planned,  
So let us trust and know just this –  
Our times are in His hands.

***By Megan Carter***

# A Letter From Bishop Bev

Every time I reflect upon the Christmas story, I'm always astounded by the miracle that Mary and Jesus ever survived the pregnancy. The odds were stacked against them - Mary's young age, the significant stress she was placed under by the social moral norms, the judgement she was under and rejection by her community, the 'shame blame', the traumatic journey to Bethlehem in the final stages of her pregnancy, the squalid place for the birthing and with no midwife. Infant mortality was high even without this backdrop! And just when they might have thought it was all over, they were under the murderous threat of a paranoid despotic king.

Of course, it was a miracle!

Every step of Mary's journey reveals extraordinary fortitude, courage and belief in God. I never cease to be amazed by Mary's maturity of faith and trust at so young an age, and even when she must surely have questioned what it meant to be 'blessed'.

Mary, like so many of the faithful who kept the promises of God alive, believed God would one day raise up and anoint a leader, a descendant of King David who would gather the dispersed people together under his kingship and just rule. He would be both king and priest, even after the order of David.

God had given the people promise and hope, and with this the assurance that God was with them, God loved them and God would never leave them. However bad things might be, things would get better, because of the promise and because they believed and trusted.

On the Feast of Christ the King, which immediately precedes the advent of Christmas, we are presented with the King of Heaven and Earth, before the representative king of the known world, saying, 'My kingdom is not from this world. Standing before Pilate as one under judgement and condemnation, the King of Heaven and Earth says this: For this I was born, and for this I came into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone who belongs to the truth listens to my voice.' [Jn 18.37]



The miracle of the incarnation is in fact a miraculous journey that brings Jesus beyond the miracle of the birthing to the place of judgement, to the Cross and indeed to death and the second death. A journey that could only happen with the acquiescence of angels who with hushed breath passively looked on. For this, he came.

Life is full of unknowns. When we think the path is straight before us, it takes a curve or becomes bumpy. The light at the end of the tunnel becomes hidden, because we learn there's a bend in the tunnel. Even as I write this address, none of us know how Christmas 2021 is going to look. With fear of the NU variant escalating, will we be able to meet, hold nativity plays, have carol services and reach out to others with acts of loving kindnesses!

For Christians, there is one thing we do know! We know that over 2,000 years ago, a baby was born in Bethlehem, and he is Christ the King. There's a carol that I love, with the words, 'Mary, did you know ... when you kiss your little baby, you kiss the face of God?'

NT Wright succinctly says, 'If the world didn't need a Messiah, he wouldn't have come!'

Dear friends, wherever and however you celebrate Christmas, whether with others or alone, may you do so in the spirit of Mary and all the saints, in the knowledge that God is with you, God loves and God will never leave you. This Christmas look through the tat and the tinsel into the crib and upon the face of the baby and see a glimpse of the face of God, who came and who has achieved far more than any of us can really comprehend ..... The salvation of the world. And with the angels and archangels and all the company of heaven, may we in a hushed breath, say 'thank you', and find our voice to sing, 'Glory to God in the highest heaven and peace to all people on earth.'

May you have a truly blessed, happy and hope-filled Christmas and with my thanks for your faith and your witness and our shared ministry in the Good News of Jesus Christ our Lord. After the busyness of the season, please do find time for your rest and refreshment. Amen

**+Bev**  
**Bishop of Warrington**

# Get to Know...

**Name:** Rosalyn Unsworth

**Roles & responsibilities:** I am a Licensed Reader and Local Missional Leader for St. Andrew's in Garswood. The two roles overlap in my ministry and I am well blessed with a very supportive team of people who all have St. Andrew's in their heart. St. Andrew's is very much a church family, meeting for worship each Sunday at 9.30am and additionally offering the service down the telephone for those parishioners who may not be able to get to church, or live too far away – one of our worshippers joins us from Co. Durham each Sunday!

In addition to this I am part of the team who run a dementia café called 'Peace of Mind' which offers love and support to dementia sufferers and their carers. We meet on a monthly basis in the Mission Hall, Garswood.

Another aspect of my ministry is Funeral Ministry, a role which I am privileged to do.

**Favourite church memory:** This was the day when I was licenced as a Reader in Liverpool Cathedral; as soon as the processional hymn began I knew that all those hours of study had been worth it to bring me to this stage in my Christian development. I was reminded of this as I sang "All my hope on God is founded, He doth still my trust renew, Me through change and chance He guideth, Only good and only true. God unknown, He alone, Calls my heart to be his own.

In addition when I was commissioned as an LML, one of the hymns identified all my feelings at the time: 'In Christ Alone my hope is found, He is my light, my strength, my song... Here in the love of Christ I stand'.

**Interesting fact:** I am now retired from a full time teaching post which I held at the Deanery High School in Wigan for many years. But, life is still very busy with church commitments and caring for my 6 year old twin grandsons!



**Favourite bible verse:** This undoubtedly is: Isaiah's Commission

In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord, high and exalted, seated on a throne; and the train of his robe filled the temple. 2 Above him were seraphim, each with six wings: With two wings they covered their faces, with two they covered their feet, and with two they were flying. 3 And they were calling to one another:

“Holy, holy, holy is the LORD Almighty;  
the whole earth is full of his glory.”

4 At the sound of their voices the doorposts and thresholds shook and the temple was filled with smoke.

5 “Woe to me!” I cried. “I am ruined! For I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips, and my eyes have seen the King, the LORD Almighty.”

6 Then one of the seraphim flew to me with a live coal in his hand, which he had taken with tongs from the altar. 7 With it he touched my mouth and said, “See, this has touched your lips; your guilt is taken away and your sin atoned for.”

8 Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, “Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?”

And I said, “Here am I. Send me!”

This particular passage comes to mind when, as a sixth former in school, I discovered that God was calling me to take my faith further and I enrolled on a “Badge of Recognition” course with Liverpool Diocese. This gave me a taster of how I could lead people. So, when my daughter became more independent as a child, I embarked upon the Reader course.

During this period of training, even though on occasions I would burn the midnight oil, I knew that this was the way that God was taking me and so progression into Local Missional Leader seemed the right pathway to follow. As a consequence I love to sing the hymns but in particular “I the Lord Of Sea and Sky”, and “Be still for the presence of the Lord”.

**Favourite hobby:** Gardening, I love spending time outside observing His creation.

# Get to Know...

**Name:** Catherine Cloake

**Role / Responsibilities:** PCC member, Girls' Brigade leader, church committee member as the safeguarding assistant, I also produce the power points for the Sunday morning services at St Peter's.

**Favourite hymn / bible verse:** I have a few favourite hymns as music is very important to me and my family. However 'I Will Enter His Gates' is my favourite closely followed by 'Will Your Anchor Hold'. My favourite bible verse is Luke 15: 11 - 32, The Lost Son. I have always enjoyed this parable and I love teaching it to children both at Brigade and in my day job.



**Favourite church memory / occasion:** I am very lucky to have worshipped at 3 very special churches in my life all which share very happy and special memories.

My first church was Hart Common in Westhoughton and my favourite memory here was the amazing ladies in woolly hats on the front row who used to feed me sweets to keep me quiet.

My second church was The Bethel in Westhoughton which is where I started my Brigade journey, here my memory would be carrying the Brigade colours for the first time.

My final church is St Peter's at Bryn where I started to worship as a teenager. Here I have many amazing memories - getting married, christening our children, and being commissioned as a Brigade Leader. However, I must say that my everlasting memory of St Peters will also be the love, support and guidance I have always been shown by the congregation especially at the lowest points of my life.

**How and when did you become a Christian:** I feel I have always been a Christian as from a very young age I have been taught about God's love and shown how to live a fun Christian life. However, I do remember on a Brigade training weekend being inspired to teach others about God and feeling God's encouragement to take a more active role in church.

**Favourite sports team or individual:** My favourite team of all time is Wigan Warriors. My favourite sports person/s are Zak Hardaker and Freddie Flintoff (as I also like cricket).

**Interesting fact:** I can fit my fist in my mouth!!

## Rob's January must see movies



### **The Electrical Life of Louis Wain (12A)**

**Released:** 1st January

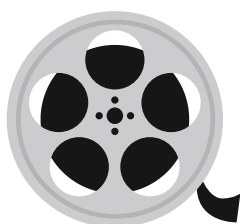
Benedict Cumberbatch stars as the titular Louis Wain, a marvellously eccentric individual who rose to fame for his surreal painting of cats. The film will be every bit as surreal as the paintings and features a cast that also features Claire Foy, Toby Jones and Andrea Riseborough



### **Scream (TBA)**

**Released:** 14th January

Yep, that ol' ghost-face is back once more as the horror franchise returns for a new generation. The old cast all return as we all wonder, who dunnit?



### **Nightmare Alley (TBA)**

**Released:** 21st January

Guillermo del Toro returns with this psychological chiller that stars Bradley Cooper, Cate Blanchett, Rooney Mara and more in this tale of a mysterious carnival fortune teller .

# Looking to the New Year

The month of January is named after the Roman god Janus, who is depicted as having two faces. As we look back on a difficult year dominated by the pandemic, how should we look forward to 2022 with fresh hope? The apostle Paul writes: 'But one thing I do: forgetting what is behind and straining towards what is ahead, I press on towards the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenwards in Christ Jesus.' (Philippians 3:13,14).

Firstly, to make a new start, you need to forget the things which are behind. Paul saw himself as an athlete running for Christ and purposely not looking back. He refused to allow his past sins and difficulties to define who he was. By God's grace, he no longer saw himself that way. The same can be true of ourselves, as we confess our sins and failures to receive God's forgiveness and new life.

Secondly, we need to focus on the things that lie ahead. The athlete is entirely focused on winning the race and gaining the prize. Like Paul, we have to be single-minded in making Jesus the focus of everything we do. How can we go deeper in our prayer life and Bible reading this year? What will it mean to better serve Christ in our workplace and neighbourhood, or family and children?

Paul looked forward to the day when he would stand before God, who would say 'well done, good and faithful servant'. In light of all that Jesus had done for him, Paul wanted to give his very best to Jesus. As we stand at the beginning of this New Year, let's ask ourselves, 'What can I do this year that will help me bring glory and honour to God?'

***Canon Paul Hardingham***

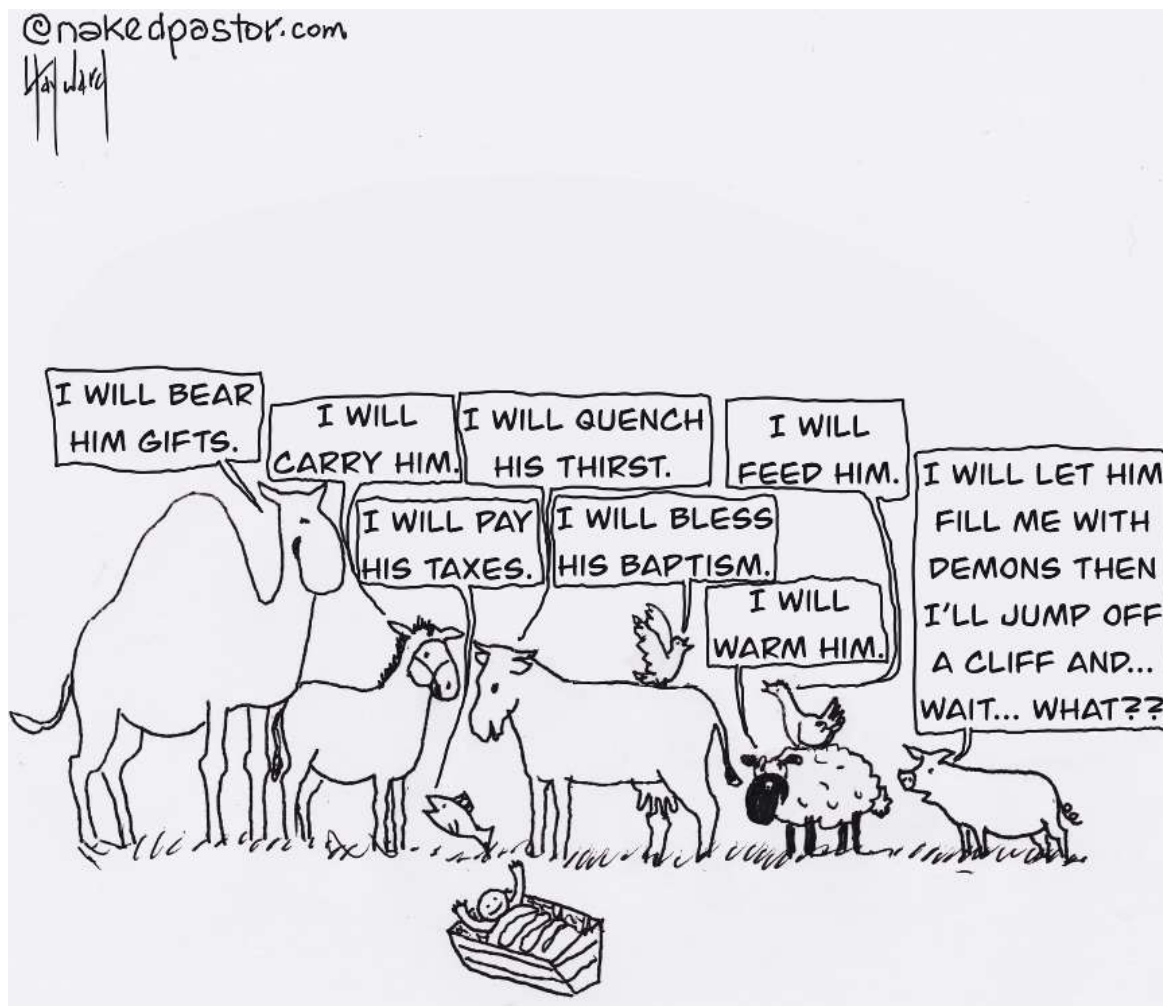
## God's fragrance – do people catch a whiff of it on you?

'...and the house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume.' John 12:3

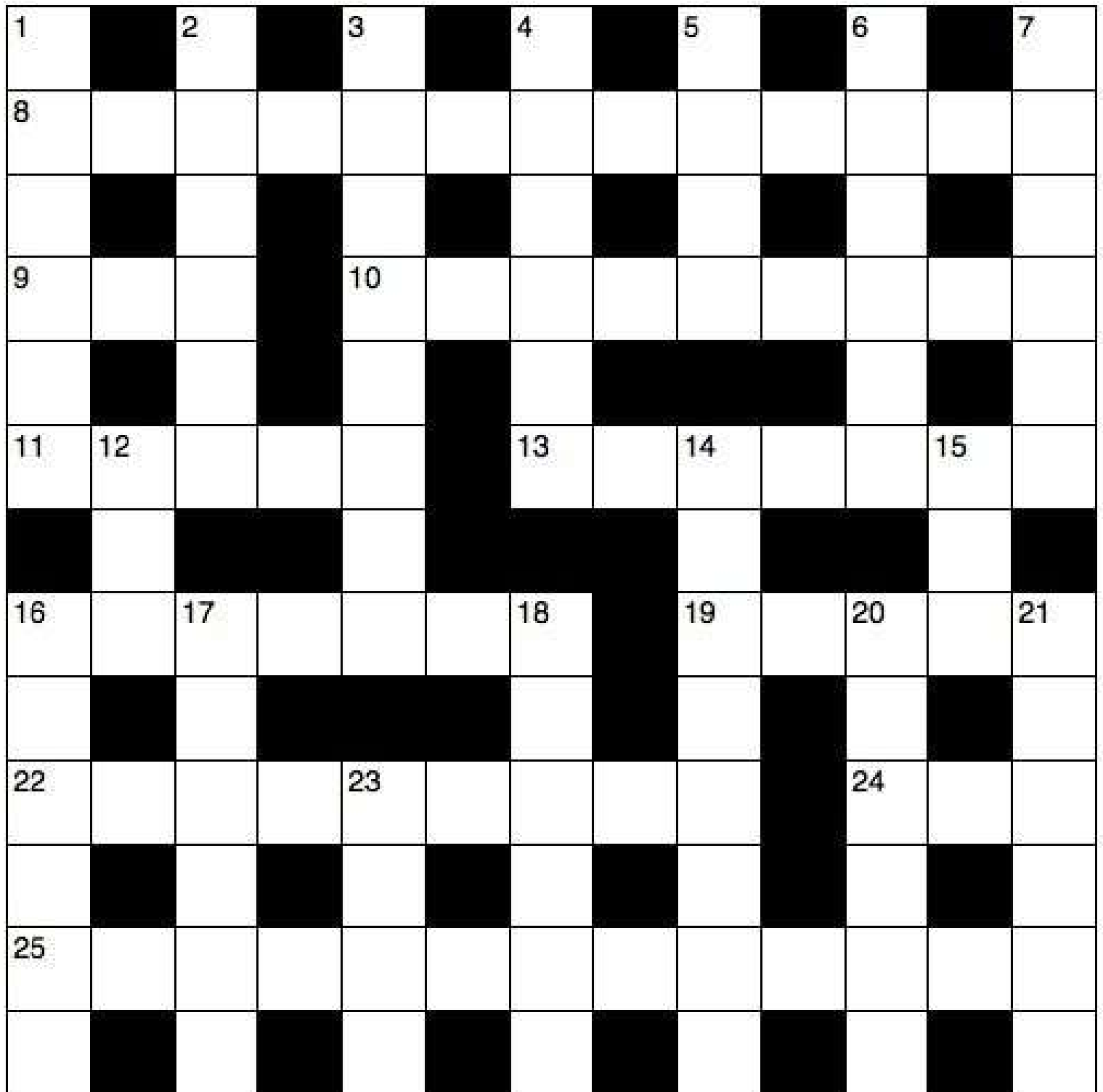
A story runs of how a lady was having tea outside a tea shop late one afternoon, when she became aware of a pleasant scent filling the air. She asked the waiter the source of the scent and was told that it came from the people passing by.

He explained that they worked in a perfume factory down the street and were on their way home. When they left the factory, they always carried with them the fragrance that had permeated their clothes during their day's work.

As the perfume workers leave the factory full of the fragrance of where they have been, so we, as we leave our churches and chapels and wherever we spend time with God, are meant to carry the perfume of His presence with us. We are called to spread everywhere the fragrance of the knowledge of Him (2 Corinthians 2:4). If we allow ourselves in worship to be permeated with Christ's love and the sweetness of His presence, then we will be able to take the Jesus in us out into the world.



# Crossword



Answers on page 19

## Across

- 8 How the Abyss (NIV) is described in the Authorized Version (Revelation 9:1) (10,3)
- 9 Frozen water (Ezekiel 1:22) (3)
- 10 The Ten Commandments (9)
- 11 In Roman Catholic theology, neither heaven nor hell (5)
- 13 Des cons (anag.) (7)
- 16 'Though [your sins] are red as — , they shall be like wool' (Isaiah 1:18) (7)
- 19 Keen (Romans 1:15) (5)
- 22 Repugnant, loathsome (Jeremiah 24:9) (9)
- 24 Drink like an animal (Judges 7:5) (3)
- 25 First and last (Revelation 22:13) (5,3,5)

## Down

- 1 Father of Ahi, a Gadite (1 Chronicles 5:15) (6)
- 2 Where David found the stone with which he killed Goliath (1 Samuel 17:40) (6)
- 3 'Hour by hour fresh lips are making thy — doings heard on high' (8)
- 4 'And there were shepherds living out in the fields near by, keeping watch over their — at night' (Luke 2:8) (6)
- 5 United Society for Christian Literature (1,1,1,1)
- 6 'If he refuses to listen even to the church, treat him as you would — — or a tax collector' (Matthew 18:17) (1,5)
- 7 Where Paul was taken when things became difficult for him in Berea (Acts 17:15) (6)
- 12 Istituto per le Opere di Religione (Vatican Bank) (1,1,1)
- 14 'Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new — ; the old has gone, the new has come!' (2 Corinthians 5:17) (8)
- 15 Used to colour ram skins red for use in the tabernacle (Exodus 25:5) (3)
- 16 Vat car (anag.) (6)
- 17 'Be joyful — — , patient in affliction, faithful in prayer' (Romans 12:12) (6)
- 18 'The parts that are unpresentable are treated with special modesty, while our presentable parts — — special treatment' (1 Corinthians 12:23) (4,2)
- 20 Ancient rowing boat (Isaiah 33:21) (6)
- 21 Say again (2 Corinthians 11:16) (6)
- 23 What Jesus did in the synagogue in Nazareth after he stood up (Luke 4:16) (4)

# January Holy Days

## **6th January: What about the gifts of Gold, Frankincense and Myrrh?**

The story of the coming of the Magi grew in the telling. By the 6th century they had acquired names: Caspar, Melchior, and Balthasar. By medieval times they were considered to be kings. Whoever they were, we do know from Matthew that they brought three gifts to Jesus.

What about their gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh? While we cannot know for sure what was in the minds of first century Magi, one Victorian scholar has offered a possible explanation as to the significance of their gifts. He was the Rev John Henry Hopkins, an American Episcopalian minister, who in 1857 wrote his much-loved Christmas carol, 'We Three Kings of Orient Are'.

Gold, said John Henry Hopkins, was a gift that would have been given to a king. Frankincense had traditionally been brought by priests as they worshipped God in the Temple. Myrrh was a spice that the ancients used in preparing bodies for burial.

If that is true, then you could say that the Wise Men, in choosing their gifts for this infant, honoured Jesus with gold because He was King of the Jews, with frankincense because He was to be worshipped as divine, and with myrrh, because He would also become a sacrifice and die for His people.

The Wise Men were the very first gentiles ever to worship Jesus. What faith they had! They travelled for months over difficult terrain, they never saw any evidence of Jesus' kingship, His divinity or His sacrificial death. They worshipped Him through faith in God's promises about Him. Isaiah foresaw this response to Jesus: 'Nations will come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn.' The Magi's eyes of faith saw clearly and far into the future.

Compare that with the High Priest and religious leaders whom the Wise Men saw in Jerusalem when they first arrived. These head priests knew all about the prophecies of their own coming Messiah, but NOT ONE Jewish religious leader travelled to look for Him in Bethlehem. And it is only six miles down the road!



## **19th January - Wulfstan, Bishop of Worcester 1095**

He was the last surviving pre-Conquest bishop, the first bishop to pay homage to William the Conqueror after the battle of Hastings, and one of the few Saxons to keep high office to the end of William's reign. On top of that, he seems to have been a truly good and holy man.

Wulfstan was born about 1008 at Long Itchington, Warwickshire. His uncle was Archbishop of York, and through his help, Wulfstan studied at the monasteries of Evesham and in Peterborough. Because of his Christian dedication, his superiors recommended him for the priesthood. Wulfstan was ordained in 1038 and joined a Benedictine monastery at Worcester.

Wulfstan was appointed prior of the monastery and from 1034 also served as the parish priest of Hawkesbury, Gloucestershire. He was made bishop of Worcester in 1062.

As a bishop, Wulfstan made some significant contributions to the English church. He had a passion for pastoral care and was the first English bishop to be known to have made a complete visitation of his diocese. He was a gifted administrator, increasing the effectiveness of his archdeacons.

He was a powerful preacher – with a great gift for explaining the teaching of Christianity. He encouraged a wider understanding of public penitence and taught against the many pagan customs throughout the land.

He had a strong social conscience, and soon became a bitter opponent of the slave trade. Together with Lanfranc, Wulfstan was mainly responsible for ending the slave trade in Bristol, and also for abolishing the slave trade between Worcester diocese and Ireland.

He had a passion for buildings, and founded Great Malvern Priory, as well as overseeing the large-scale rebuilding of Worcester Cathedral, Hereford Cathedral, and Tewkesbury Abbey.

Wulfstan died in January 1095, apparently during his daily ritual of washing the feet of 12 of his parishioners.

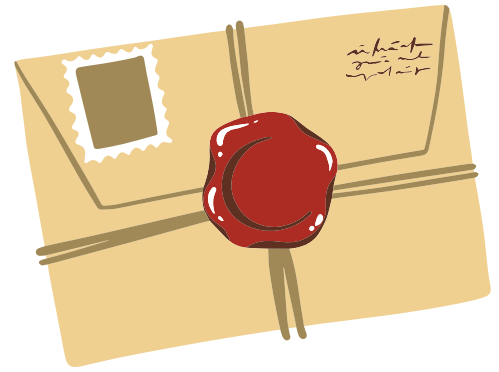
# St James the Least of All

*The Revd Dr Gary Bowness continues his tongue-in-cheek letters from 'Uncle Eustace'...*

The Rectory

St James the Least of All

My dear Nephew Darren



Your annual accounts – all 146 pages, bound in their plastic covers and laid out in faultless detail – really are most impressive. I was rather envious to note you have a clergy ‘discretionary fund’; if I were to be given such a thing, my cellar of claret would improve immeasurably – although that is perhaps the reason why I am not given one.

The size of your office expenses makes me wonder if you have a staff rivalling that of the European Community. I suppose that at least you are doing your bit for job creation. Our dear Miss Marigold, who spends two hours a week randomly filing pieces of paper, mistyping rotas and failing to re-order stationery, is only rewarded by being the first to find out who are booking marriages and having their babies baptised – and if they do not happen in that order, that will be another piece of information remembered for future use. All this is information beyond the price of jewels in village communities.

Our accounts have more by way of charm than they do of accuracy, generally consisting of one sheet of handwritten paper. There are only ever three copies for circulation, as that is the limit of Colonel Denster’s carbon paper. It seems to be an unalterable tradition that they never balance, until we find the following year that the missing £20 was found months later under the teapot on the mantelpiece. One footnote to this was the occasion when the Colonel suspected an unaccountable £5 had been eaten by his Labrador. Our greatest expenses by far are categorised as ‘miscellaneous’, which is a catch-all for everything that our treasurer is unable to recall where it really went.

The thousands paid on church maintenance and diocesan fees are nodded through without comment – but if the money spent on Easter lilies or packets of tea for the Summer Fete increases by anything more than 50 pence, there will be much agonised debate and speculation about whether this is an indication of money laundering.

I see that your accounts were professionally audited. Fortunately, it does not matter too much about the accuracy of our own, as I have an arrangement with our auditor who lives in the village: if he refuses to sign them off, then I refuse to baptise his grandchildren.

Your loving uncle,  
***Eustace***

### **Franklin Graham tour coming to the UK**

Franklin Graham, the son of the late US evangelist Billy Graham, is to come to the UK this year for his God Loves You mission. It was due to be held last year, but got postponed by the pandemic. The God Loves You Tour UK will visit Liverpool Exhibition Centre on 14th May, the ICC Wales on 21st May, the Sheffield Arena on 25th May, and end at the London ExCel Centre on 16th July.

## Crossword Answers

**ACROSS:** 8, Bottomless pit. 9, Ice. 10, Decalogue. 11, Limbo. 13, Seconds. 16, Crimson. 19, Eager. 22, Abhorrent. 24, Lap. 25, Alpha and Omega.

**DOWN:** 1, Abdiel. 2, Stream. 3, Wondrous. 4, Flocks. 5, USCL. 6, A pagan. 7, Athens. 12, IOR. 14, Creation. 15, Dye. 16, Cravat. 17, In hope. 18, Need no. 20, Galley. 21, Repeat. 23, Read.

# Wordsearch

j	x	m	y	u	f	o	w	h	a	g	u
j	e	s	u	s	c	r	e	a	m	e	d
z	g	b	t	r	o	w	i	n	g	e	t
e	h	l	o	r	d	m	h	g	p	f	t
j	o	j	w	a	o	y	e	p	h	a	t
l	s	x	a	j	a	n	i	o	o	t	r
n	t	o	r	w	a	h	g	b	n	h	u
w	i	n	d	i	s	c	i	p	l	e	s
r	o	a	s	r	i	w	a	t	e	r	t
s	e	m	o	u	n	t	a	i	n	m	i
h	m	w	a	l	k	i	n	g	o	d	n
p	e	t	e	r	m	o	r	n	i	n	g

headway

mountain

Lord

Jesus

someone

water

trusting

rowing

boat

morning

screamed

worshipped

strong

towards

disciples

father

ghost

fright

Son

walking

Peter

wind

sink

God



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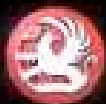
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Hallbank House, 407 Wigan Road, Bryn T: 01942 271392 • Parsonage House, 100 Railway Road, Leigh T: 01942 261415

Windsor House, 232 Scholes, Wigan T: 01942 820526 • Whitley House, 439 Gidlow Lane, Beech Hill T: 01942 829200

Elliot House, 20 Shuttle Street, Tyldesley T: 01942 887312 • Bentham House, 220 Spendmore Lane, Coppull T: 01257 793880

Stretton House, 23 Hall Green, Upholland T: 01695 622099 • Templeton Lodge, Templeton Road, Platt Bridge T: 01942 863936

# News from our churches

## **Toys and gifts**

A big thank you to everyone who donated or helped in any way to provide toys and gifts for the children this year.

This year the need has been unprecedented with 91 children requiring gifts. Some of these children are residents in the 2 homeless units in the borough; there are those under the care of Women's Aids where domestic abuse has been an issue in their homes; and those where Start Well are involved. These are the most needy children in the borough. We also have 12 children of asylum seekers residing in Ashton and supported by our asylum seeker team. All of these children are unlikely to receive other gifts apart from the 3 we provided per child. Thank you to everyone who helped in any way enabling me to give these children a better Christmas.

***Pat Hamilton***

A big thank you to you Pat for yet again organising the distribution of the gifts following our annual Toy Service.

## **Finance**

The beginning of a new year and some uncertainty as to what we face in respect of the Covid pandemic. What is certain is that we depend on our church members for our finances and the beginning of a year is a very appropriate time to reconsider our personal responses. If you use our envelope scheme, we are very grateful for your regular offerings, and new sets for 2022 are being distributed for use in January. If you haven't got your set please contact Malcolm (205136). You will have a new number as the issue of envelopes has been reduced.

Even though our financial situation has been somewhat grave during the past two years, those members of our church who became members of the Parish Giving Scheme have helped to lessen the burden. I would like to take advantage of the opportunity of commending this scheme and its benefits to the church.

This scheme involves a payment direct from your bank in the sum that you decide. However, if you are a tax payer, we receive the gift aid tax refund within ten days of your monthly donation being received rather than having to wait for the completion of the annual claim. It also assists the Treasurer knowing what funds will be available. I will be delighted to give you any additional information that you require as will Sarah and Phil, our Treasurers.

The magazine is going to print before many of our Christmas services and activities will have taken place but I would just like to thank all who arranged, attended or took any part whatsoever. Where would we be without you!

And finally, to wish you all a happy and healthy New Year and a thanks for taking and reading our magazine.

**Malcolm**

Our resident historian David Fearnley has penned another article reflecting on the past of our town and its people.

## **COUNTRY ESTATES OWNED BY THE MASTER AND GERARD FAMILIES**

During past centuries the Master and Gerard families, owners of the New Hall/Garswood New Hall, a large mansion house formerly situated on the present Ashton in Makerfield golf course, also owned additional properties elsewhere in England. It is interesting to reflect on the past and more recent histories of three of these properties.

In a previous article I mentioned Legh Master, the elder (1694 -1750) of New Hall who was buried in a vault beneath the floor of Ashton Chapel. In 1753 Legh's son, Legh Master, the younger (1717-1796) (also mentioned in a previous article, he sailed to Maryland, America, 1770) married Katharine Hoskins of Barrow Green House, Oxted, Surrey. Barrow Green House was the residence of the Hoskins family from c1622. In 1809 Jeremy Bentham philosopher and reformer rented Barrow Green House from the Hoskin's family. c1812 James Mill and his children, including the future philosopher, economist and social reformer John

Stuart Mill, lived with Bentham at Barrow Green House. Today the house renamed Barrow Green Court is the residence of Mohamed Al-Fayed, the former owner of Harrods store, London. His late son, Dodi Fayed, who was killed in the Paris car crash with Diana, Princess of Wales, is buried in the grounds of Barrow Green Court. Eastwell Road, off Old Road, provides a clue to the second property since the road is named after Eastwell Manor, Ashford, Kent. Eastwell Manor was built 1540 – 1550 and rebuilt 1793 - 1799. From 1870 – 1893 the manor was occupied by Prince Alfred, Duke of Edinburgh, 2nd son of Queen Victoria. In 1894 Eastwell Manor set in a 4,000 acre estate was bought by Lord William Cansfield Gerard of Ashton in Makerfield for £240,000 (today £32,000,000). Guests invited to Eastwell Manor included Lord and Lady Randolph Churchill, the parents of Winston Churchill, King Edward VII and Queen Alexandra. In 1902 Lord Gerard died at Eastwell Manor and his body was brought by train from Ashford station, Kent, to Ashton in Makerfield station situated opposite the entrance to Haydock Park Racecourse and adjacent to Garswood New Hall. Lord Gerard was buried at St. Oswald's, Ashton in Makerfield. Lord Gerard's son, Frederick John Gerard inherited Eastwell Manor in 1902 and sold it in 1920. In the 1920's the main house was destroyed by fire and rebuilt 1926-1928. Eastwell Manor is now an hotel with the "Lord Gerard" room a reminder of its past.

The third property also owned by Lord William Cansfield Gerard was Moulton Paddocks, Newmarket, Suffolk. Lord Gerard bought Moulton Paddocks in 1885 and owned the property until 1892. Moulton Paddocks was used for the breeding and training of his racehorses. Lord Gerard entertained guests at Moulton Paddocks during the Newmarket Race Meeting. In 1887 Lord Randolph Churchill stayed at Moulton Paddocks. In 1899 Sir Ernest Cassel an Anglo/German banker and racehorse breeder bought Moulton Paddocks. He was the grandfather of Edwina, Lady Louis Mountbatten. Lord Mountbatten was killed by the IRA in 1979. The mansion house was destroyed by fire and demolished 1945. In 1994 Moulton Paddocks was leased to and in 2004 bought by Sheik Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum the ruler of Dubai. The wealth of the Sheik transformed Moulton Paddocks into a horse-breeding stud farm with a state of the art training centre the best in Europe. Moulton Paddocks is now part of the Sheik's "Godolphin" racing operation. The Sheik has been in the news in

recent months with his acrimonious divorce and alleged phone hacking of his ex-wife Princess Haya and in recent years due to his daughters Princess Shamsa and Princess Latifa's unsuccessful attempts to escape a repressive Dubai for greater freedom in Europe.

**David A. Fearnley.**

## Africa Fund

The Africa fund was created many years ago by St Thomas and St Luke's churches to enable us to connect with, and support, two projects in Uganda. Over the years, members of our churches have visited the projects and staff from the projects themselves have come to the UK to meet with us. These visits have been an amazing experience.



At this time, we are supporting two amazing Christian-run projects in south-west Uganda: a children's home at Rukungiri (known as Biojemms) and the Kigezi Diocese Water and Sanitation Project which provides outlying communities with access to clean water and proper sanitation. Both projects play a massive part in saving and changing lives.

Each month generous donors from St Thomas and St Luke's support the Africa fund with standing orders. However, over the years we have lost several donors and our monthly income does not match our donations to the projects we support. Additional fund-raising events play an invaluable part in helping us to meet our commitments but Covid has made it much more difficult to fundraise and we are therefore in urgent need of more regular, monthly donations. If you can help or want to find out more then please contact Chris Wooff (01942 724207).

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

# Mothers' Union



In accordance with our usual tradition there will be no meetings in January. However, looking forward is our belated Christmas meal for members and friends at Bryn Masonic Hall on Friday 21st January. I do hope that we can get together in friendship and fellowship. The time for the event is 7.00pm, ready to dine at 7.30pm. I look forward to seeing everyone there and if you haven't done so already, please let me have the £20.00 cost of the meal and your menu choice no later than 9th January.

## **Advanced Notice**

**Saturday 12th February:** Our Brunch in the Church Hall from 11.00am to 1.00pm. We will be having our usual raffle, cake stall and tombola. As always we do rely on contributions from our members and of course your attendance at the event. Both are greatly appreciated.

**Wednesday 16th February:** In St Thomas' Church Hall shall be our Annual General Meeting starting at 7.30pm. This meeting, which is open to everyone, gives a real opportunity for anyone interested in the possibility of joining the Mothers Union of finding out more about the organisation and in particular the work of our branch. You can discover that the MU is active not only here at St Thomas' but also more widely in the deanery, the diocese and overseas.

There was a very generous response once again from our members to the provision of Christmas Presents for the residents at Coops Foyer. They were very welcome and as always very much appreciated. A big thank you from me and from the recipients.

This year there has been an increase in the annual subscription necessitated by the money required by Mary Sumner House. Both the deanery and diocese have not made a charge this year. I am aware that not all our members have had the opportunity of letting me or Pauline, our treasurer, have their subs and it would be of considerable help if they could be paid as soon as possible. In turn, a big thank you to all those who have already let me have their subs.

## **New Year**

Grant, O Lord, that as the years change, we may find rest in your eternal changelessness. May we meet this new year bravely, sure in the faith that, while people may come and go, and life changes around us, you are always the same, guiding us with your wisdom, and protecting us with your love; through our Saviour Jesus Christ.

Adapted from William Temple

Wishing you a healthy and happy New Year

Love and God bless

**Barbara**

### **With Epiphany in mind...**

I was telling my three boys the story of the Nativity and how the Wise Men brought gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh for the infant Jesus. Clearly giving it a lot of thought, my six-year-old observed, "Mum, a Wise Woman would have brought nappies."



# Donations Information

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

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

**Gift Aid:** If you 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.

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

Funds currently in use are:

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

Unless otherwise stated, donations will go into the General fund



# Donations & Remembrance



In memory of **Eric Hurst**, a much missed and loved dad (2/12/92)

From David Hurst

In memory of **John & Gertrude Boffey** and **Jim Boffey**

From Mary Glover & Carol

Donation in memory of **Derek Simpkin**

## Flower Guild Donations

Christmas Flowers donation from Elsie Jervis

Mrs J Bullen and family



# The Registers



<b>Funerals 'May they rest in peace'</b>		
03 Dec 2021	Leslie Twist	93
17 Dec 2021	Joseph O'Connell	79



Bless those who mourn, eternal God,  
with the comfort of your love  
that they may face each new day with hope  
and the certainty that nothing can destroy  
the good that has been given.  
May their memories become joyful,  
their days enriched with friendship,  
and their lives encircled by your love.

**Amen**



<b>Holy Baptism 'We welcome them into the Lord's family'</b>	
12 December	Alannah Jane Gough
12 December	Finley Malley
19 December	Eloise Grace Wareing

# St Thomas' and St Luke's Organisations

## Coffee Mornings

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

## Wednesday Weenies

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

## Mothers' Union

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

## Fairtrade Stall

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

## Asylum Seeker Support

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

## Fur Clemt Stubshaw

Mon 12pm–1pm at St Luke's  
Jennifer Harrison  
718618

## Litter Pick

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

## Flower Guild

Meta Laites  
723679

## Bowling Club

Henry Hunter  
712709

## Duke of Edinburgh Scheme

Sun evenings in Church Hall  
Ceri Mansell  
727417

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

## Ashton Pantry Sue Thomas 07877704645

Tuesday & Saturday 11am – 12pm

Thursday & Sunday 3pm – 4pm

## Youth Clubs

GYM (ages 11+): Mon 3.45pm–5pm

Friday Nights: 7pm–8pm

JYC: (for Y3–Y6) Mon 5.45pm–6.45pm

11–18 year olds : Sun 7pm–8pm

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

Bubbles: Pre school

Splash: Reception–Y2

Xstream: Y3–Y6

Bell Tower: Y7–Y11

## Girl Guiding Rachel Starkie 718350

Rainbows: Tues 5.30pm

Brownies: Thurs 6.30pm

Guides: Tues 7.15pm

# St Thomas' and St Luke's Church Officials

## Sunday Morning Worship Local Mission

### Leaders

St Thomas': Jan Cornthwaite 721626

St Luke's: Carole Pye 517318

### Readers

Tricia Hancox 201540

Alan Harrison 718618

Carole Pye 517318

Helen Weavers 07796334457

### Assistant Wardens

St Thomas': Tony Cornthwaite 721626

Paula Gillespie 711270

St Luke's: Carol Pye 517318

John Boon 204082

### St Thomas' Deputy Wardens

Barbara Taylor 205136

Mansell High 727052

### Assistant Treasurers

St Thomas': Phil Hayton  
phaytonuk@yahoo.co.uk

St Luke's: John Boon 204082

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Sue Thomas 727275

sue.thomas@churchwigan.org

### Magazine Editor

Jess Bradley 07498323469

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### Freewill Offerings Secretary

Malcolm Taylor 205136

### Electoral Roll Secretary

Sue Thomas 07877704645

### Asylum Seeker Support

Anne & Chris Wooff 724207

### Children, Young People & Families

Sue Thomas 727275

### Flowers

Meta Laites 723679

### Church Architect

Bill Schafer 717300

### St Thomas' Worship Group

Mary Owen 203277

### St Thomas' Organist

Paul Tushingam 711085

### Magazine Distribution

Vacant

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