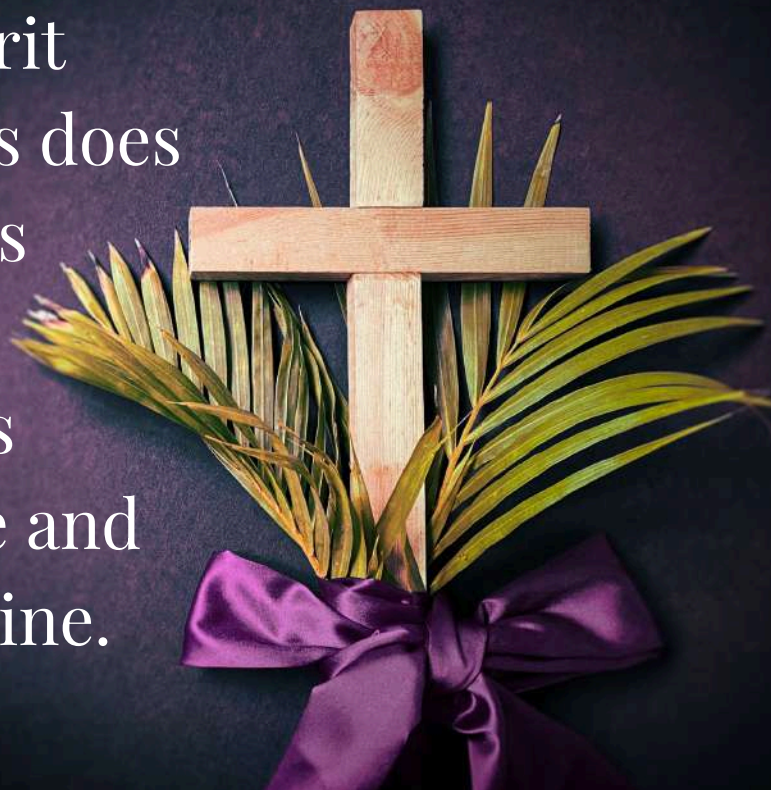


Wigan South Parish Magazine

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

St Thomas' and St Luke's edition

For the Spirit
God gave us does
not make us
timid,
but gives us
power, love and
self-discipline.



Wigan South Parish Contacts

Hub Leader	<p>Revd Sandra Jones sandra.jones@churchwigan.org 01942 728238 / 07598847391</p>
Associate Hub Leader	<p>Revd Sue Fulford sue.fulford@churchwigan.org / 01942 242369</p>
Self Supporting Ministers	<p>Revd Izzy Schafer izzy@schaferassociates.co.uk / 01942 717300</p> <p>Revd Sue Thomas sue.thomas@churchwigan.org / 07877704645</p>
Wardens	<p>Paula Gillepsie 07716667763</p> <p>Helen Weavers 07796334457</p>
Administrator	<p>Cheryl Knowles cheryl.knowles@churchwigan.org</p>
Treasurer	<p>Sarah Riley sarah.riley@churchwigan.org / 07712584954</p>
PCC Secretary	<p>Jess Buckley jessbradley27@yahoo.co.uk</p>
Magazine Editor	<p>Jess Buckley magazine@stthomasstluke.org.uk</p>



Parish Information

Baptisms

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

Funerals

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

Marriage

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

If you would like further information or to book a wedding or a baptism, please attend at one of our churches or see the contact details at the rear of the magazine. Funeral Directors will book any funerals.

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.

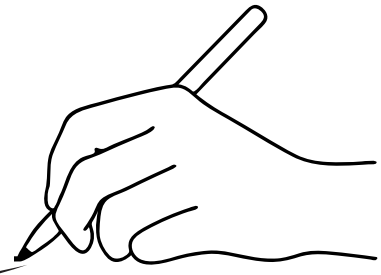
	April	May	June
Deadline for material	23rd March	17th April	15th May
Publication date	30th March	27th April	25th May

Contents

A Letter from	5
Parish News	6 - 12
Parish Weekly Events	6
Parish Events in March & Beyond!	7 - 8
Mothers' Union - March News	9 - 10
Parish Services in March	13 - 14
Crossword	15 - 16
Lady Day	17
Why go to Church	18
Warm Spaces	19
St Thomas' & St Luke's News & Events	23 - 28
The Cotton Mills	29 - 32
Donations & Registers	33 - 34



A Letter from



Somebody asked a Christian friend why he was eating doughnuts, when he had given them up for Lent! He answered, 'At the bakers I told God, that if He wanted me to buy doughnuts, He should provide a parking space in front. On the eighth time around, there it was!' Rather than seeing Lent simply as a time to give things up, let's use it intentionally for self-examination, reading Scripture, penitence, fasting and prayer.

At Jesus' baptism, God's voice says, 'You are My Son, whom I love; with You I am well pleased.' (Luke 3:22). The Holy Spirit then leads Jesus into the wilderness, where we find Him coming to terms with who He is. Satan's temptations challenge Jesus in key three areas of His identity: His divine sonship, political power and Messianic role (Luke 4: 1-13). It is as though Jesus was looking into the mirror at Himself to discern what kind of Saviour He should be.

For us, Lent is an opportunity to hold up a mirror to ourselves and ask the question, 'who am I? It's a season of honest encounter with who we are, what we've done, and how we should live. What will we see when we hold up the mirror to ourselves? Keeping Lent, the 40 days running up to Easter, could mean taking time to read Scripture, studying a Christian book or spending five minutes each day in silence. We might fast by missing one or two meals, refraining from TV, alcohol, social media, or scrolling on our phones. All of these can help us to give more attention to God in our lives.

Whatever we do, Lent is a season for self-reflection, as we put ourselves in a position to receive afresh the forgiveness and healing that God offers.



Parish News

Weekly Events

Mondays

- 9.30am - 10.30am: Mini Street Pop Up Play (St Andrew's)
- 6.30pm: Girls Brigade (St Peter's)

Tuesdays

- 10am - 12pm: Coffee Morning (St Thomas' church hall)
- 6pm: Boys Brigade (St Peter's)
- 1st & 3rd weeks, 7pm: Student Group (St Aidan's)

Wednesdays

- 1pm - 2.30pm: Wednesday Weenies (St Thomas' church hall)
- 1pm - 3pm: Knit and Chat group (St Peter's)
- 3pm - 4pm: Hot Spot for Y7 - 11 (St Thomas' church hall)
- 4pm - 5pm: Discipleship Group for Y7 - 11 (St Thomas' church hall)
- 7.30pm - 9pm: Women's Fellowship (St Peter's)

Thursdays

- 9.30am - 11.30am: Warm Space (St Andrew's)
- 3pm - 4pm: English Classes (St Thomas' church hall)
- 2pm - 3pm: Gentle dance class (St Luke's)
- 7.30pm: Craft group (St Thomas' church hall)

Fridays

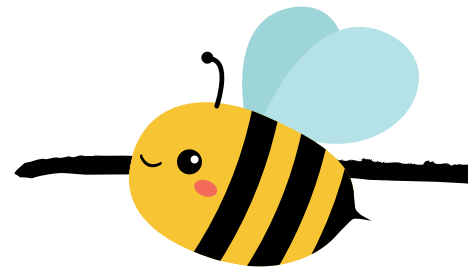
- 2pm: Bible Study (St Thomas' church hall)
- 11.30am - 12.30pm: Mini Street Pop Up Play (St Andrew's)

Sundays

- 1pm - 2.30pm: Asylum seeker support (St Thomas' church hall)



March Events



Monday 3rd March

11am: Communion Service at Garswood House (arranged by St Peter's)

Tuesday 4th March

10am - 11.30am: Bereavement Support Group (St Luke's)
1.15pm - 2.45pm: Bereavement Support Group (St Andrew's)

Thursday 6th March

10.45am - 12.30pm: Bereavement Support Group (St Thomas')

Friday 7th, 14th, 21st & 28th March

10.30am: Hot Cross Fridays Lent series (St Aidan's)

Friday 7th March

11am: Women's World Day of Prayer (Our Lady's, Bryn)

Wednesday 19th March

7.30pm: MU 'Knicker night' & Beetle Drive (St Thomas' church hall)

Friday 21st March

7pm: The Really Awful Orchestra (St Thomas')

Tuesday 25th February

Peace of Mind Dementia Cafe (St Andrew's)

Thursday 28th March

2pm: Friendship Group (St Aidan's)



the Music Continuum

The Really Awful Orchestra

AT ST THOMAS' CHURCH
FRIDAY 21ST MARCH 2025

7:30PM START

Tickets £10

Purchase Tickets from: jancornthwaite@hotmail.com
OR TEXT TO 07764357403



Advanced Notices

Saturday 24th May

2- 4pm: Vintage Afternoon Tea, tickets £10 (Holy Trinity)

Friday 16th May

St. Helens Ladies Choir evening of song, tickets £8 (Holy Trinity)

Tuesday 17th June

7pm: Wigan South Confirmation Service (St Thomas')

Mothers' Union presents

KNICKER NIGHT

Bring in a pack of new knickers
(size 8-12) to be in with a chance
to win on our Beetle Drive!

WEDNESDAY 19TH MARCH 2025
ST THOMAS' CHURCH HALL
7.30PM

What is this all about?

The workers from domestic abuse services in Wigan tell us that often women arrive in Womens' Aid wearing just the clothes they arrive in. Womens' Aid desperately need underwear for these women so if you would like to support this very worthy cause and have a fun night as well just come along to St Thomas's Church hall on Wednesday the 18th March at 7-30pm. Tea, coffee and biscuits will be served but feel free to bring your own wine! Domestic abuse services are also grateful for old mobile phones.

Our motto for the next 3 years is Join us and Join in so please consider joining our Mothers Union.

A reflection from our Mothers Union Prayer Diary

March is in many ways a month for women as we mark International Women's Day and Mothering Sunday. Women once were deemed the weaker sex; yet so often they have an abundance of power and strength inherent in their very beings. Simply because of love! Women are also tender, gentle, nurturing, but in one of the world's great dichotomies, they are also strong, tenacious and courageous. Whenever the moment arises, women are at the forefront of calling to protect the innocent, defend the helpless and to stand resolute against injustice.

A March prayer

Lord as you stilled the storm to a whisper and quietened the waves of the seas, bring order, peace and harmony to our lands and nations. Help us to see your love through the power of gentleness and peace. Amen

Dear Lord we pray for our indoor members keep them safe Lord. Be with them in times of trouble and let them be assured of your peace Lord. Amen

**With love and blessings
Patricia Hamilton-Whittaker
Secretary of St Thomas and St Luke's
Mothers Union.
Tel 07895774720**

We invite you to
come to a
Safe Space

Don't walk your
journey of grief
alone

Bereavement Support Group



First Tuesday
of the Month

10am - 11.30am

St Luke's Church
Bolton Road
Stubshaw Cross

First Tuesday
of the Month

1.15pm - 2.45pm

St Andrew's Church
Garswood Road
Garswood

First Thursday
of the Month

10.45am - 12pm

St Thomas' Church
Warrington Road
Ashton-in-Makerfield



Warm Spaces

Each Thursday
between 9.30am
& 11.30am
St Andrew's
Mission Hall will
be open as a
'Warm Space'.

Anyone is welcome to pop in for a cup of tea,
coffee, toast and a warm welcome.

Together with local businesses, we are working to reduce the amount of food going to land fill.

The pantries are regularly stocked with food that is near its sell by date but can still be used to feed bellies not bins.



**St Thomas' Church Hall,
Ashton in Makerfield**

Tuesday 11am - 12pm
Thursday 2pm - 3pm
Sunday 3pm - 4pm

Max 2 visits per week

Additional donations welcome to be used to build a pantry and kitchen behind the church hall.



**St Aidan's Church,
Billinge**

Friday 11am - 1.30pm



**Holy Trinity Church
Downall Green**

Friday 9am - 10am

**Each Pantry has a £5 annual membership
and minimum £3 donation per visit**

Services in March

Sunday 2nd	<p>9am: Morning Worship 9.30am: Holy Communion 10am: Holy Communion 10.30am: Morning Worship 10.30am: Morning Prayer 10.45am: Worship Together 11am: Morning Worship</p>	<p>St Thomas' St Andrew's St Aidan's Holy Trinity St Peter's St Thomas' St Luke's</p>
Wednesday 5th	<p>10am: Holy Communion 7pm: Wigan South Ash Wednesday Service</p>	<p>St Aidan's Holy Trinity</p>
Thursday 6th	<p>9.45am: BCP Holy Communion</p>	<p>St Thomas'</p>
Sunday 9th	<p>9am: Holy Communion 9.30am: Morning Worship 10.30am: Sta's4all 10.30am: Holy Communion 10.30am: Morning Service & Brigades 10.45am: Worship Together 11am: Holy Communion 4pm: Evening Prayer</p>	<p>St Thomas' St Andrew's St Aidan's Holy Trinity St Peter's St Thomas' St Luke's St Aidan's</p>
Wednesday 12th	<p>10am: Holy Communion</p>	<p>Holy Trinity</p>
Thursday 13th	<p>9.45am: BCP Holy Communion</p>	<p>St Thomas'</p>
Sunday 16th	<p>9am: Morning Worship 9.30am: Morning Worship 10am: Morning Worship 10.30am: Morning Worship 10.30am: Holy Communion 10.45am: Holy Communion 11am: Family Worship 6.30pm: Evensong</p>	<p>St Thomas' St Andrew's St Aidan's Holy Trinity St Peter's St Thomas' St Luke's St Thomas'</p>

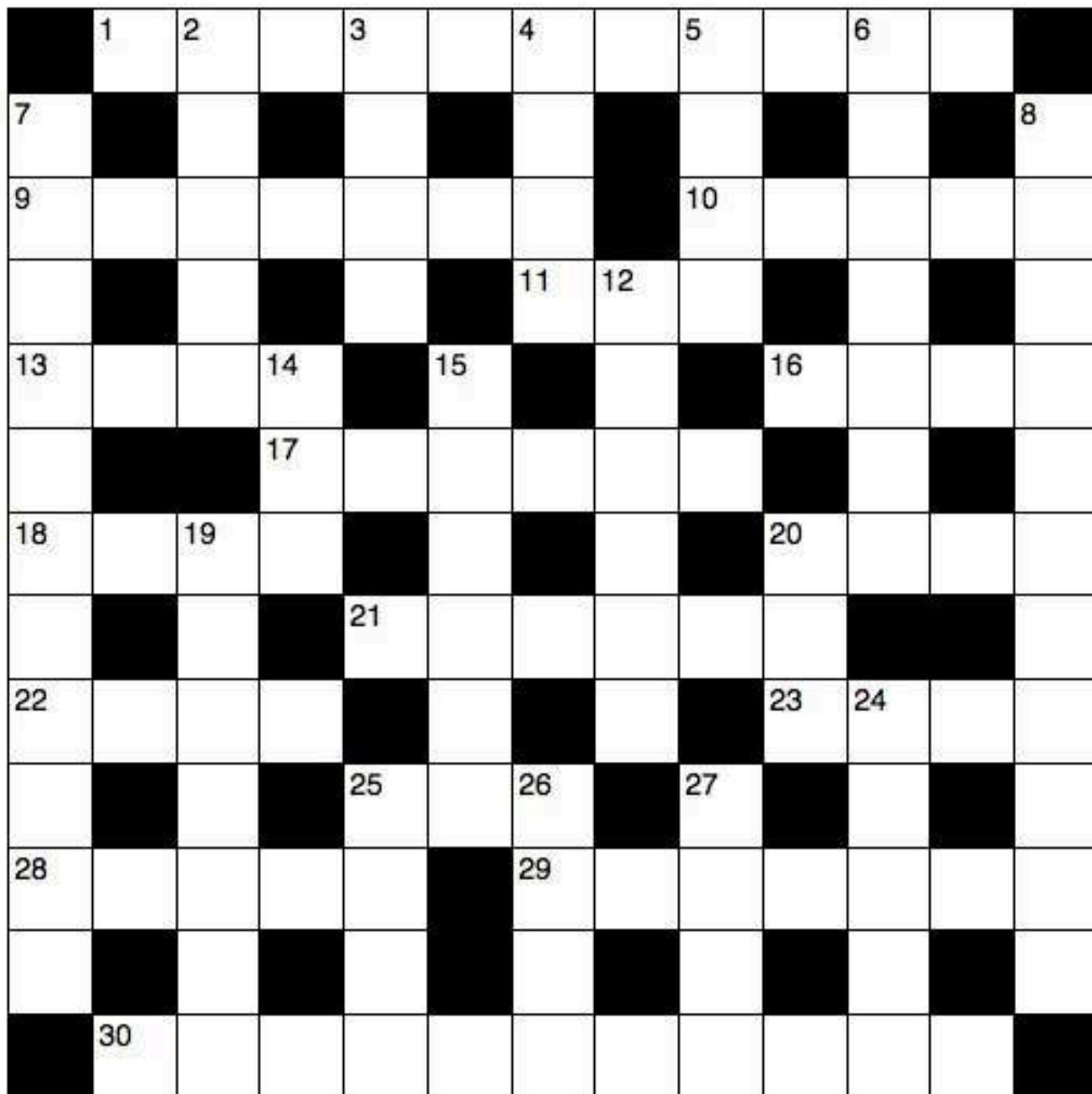
Wednesday 19th	10am: Holy Communion	St Aidan's
Thursday 20th	9.45am: BCP Holy Communion	St Thomas'
Sunday 23rd	9am: Holy Communion 9.30am: Morning Worship 10am: St Aidan's Beacon 10.30am: Holy Communion 10.30am: Morning Prayer 10.45am: Worship Together 11am: Morning Worship 4pm: Holy Communion	St Thomas' St Andrew's St Aidan's Holy Trinity St Peter's St Thomas' St Luke's St Aidan's
Wednesday 26th	10am: Holy Communion	Holy Trinity
Thursday 27th	9.45am: BCP Holy Communion	St Thomas'
Sunday 30th Mothering Sunday 	9.00am: Morning Worship 9.30am: Morning Worship 10am: Morning Worship 10.30am: Morning Worship 10.30am: Morning Prayer 10.45am: Worship Together 11am: Morning Worship	St Thomas' St Andrew's St Aidan's Holy Trinity St Peter's St Thomas' St Luke's

Our verse for the year is:

Romans 15:13 NIV

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Crossword



Answers on page 19

Across

- 1 These letters come between Romans and Galatians (11)
9 'You will not – me to the grave' (Psalm 16:10) (7)
10 King of Moab whom the Israelites were under for 18 years (Judges 3:14) (5)
11 Town possessing mineral spring (3)
13 Mede (anag.) (4)
16 High-fidelity (abbrev.) (4)
17 He succeeded his father Rehoboam as king of Judah (1 Kings 14:31) (6)
18 A son of Simeon (Genesis 46:10) (4)
20 Controversial religious book of the 1970s, The – of God Incarnate (4)
21 'He has received from the Father the promised Holy Spirit and has poured out what you – – and hear' (Acts 2:33) (3,3)
22 'You – me together in my mother's womb' (Psalm 139:13) (4)
23 Edit (anag.) (4)
25 'Who has believed our message and to whom has the – of the Lord been revealed?' (Isaiah 53:1) (3)
28 Abraham's brother (Genesis 22:23) (5)
29 'When Mordecai learned of – that had been –, he tore his clothes' (Esther 4:1) (3,4)
30 Sympathetic (Proverbs 11:16) (4-7)

Down

- 2 'That was why his parents said, "He is – –; ask him"' (John 9:23) (2,3)
3 Integrated Services Digital Network (1,1,1,1) 4
4 'Saul has slain his thousands, and David his – of thousands' (1 Samuel 18:7) (4)
5 Concept (John 8:14) (4)
6 'Do we, then, – the law by this faith? Not at all! Rather, we uphold the law' (Romans 3:31) (7)
7 Industrious (2 Timothy 2:6) (11)
8 'I pray also that the eyes of your heart may be – in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you (Ephesians 1:18) (11)
12 'Out of the same mouth come – and cursing' (James 3:10) (6)
14 This was how many of the Jewish leaders described Jesus (John 10:20) (3)
15 Vitality (Job 20:11) (6)
19 He urged David to kill Saul at Hakilah (1 Samuel 26:8) (7)
20 'So for a whole year Barnabas and Saul – with the church and taught great numbers of people' (Acts 11:26) (3)
24 'Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord – – ' (Deuteronomy 6:4) (2,3)
25 Parched (Matthew 12:43) (4)
26 'In the image of God he created him; – and female he created them' (Genesis 1:27) (4)
27 Disparagement (Psalm 15:3) (4)

25th March - Lady Day or The Annunciation

This beautiful event (Luke 1:26-38) took place in Nazareth, when Mary is already betrothed to Joseph. The Archangel Gabriel comes to Mary, greets her as highly favoured, tells her not to be afraid, that she will bear a son Jesus, and that her elderly cousin Elizabeth is already pregnant (with John the Baptist).

The church calendar is never quite as neat as some would like it. To celebrate the Annunciation on 25th March does indeed place the conception of Jesus exactly nine months from His birth on 25th December, but the latter part of March almost inevitably falls during Lent. But the birth and death of Jesus are intrinsically linked - He was born to die, and thus fulfil God's purposes.

The Annunciation is a significant date in the Christian calendar - it is one of the most frequent depicted in Christian art. Gabriel's gracious strength and Mary's humble dignity have inspired many artists. Certainly, Mary's response to the angel has for centuries been an example of good faith in practice - humility, enquiry of God, and trusting acceptance in His will for her life.

Desert Difficulties

Luke 4:1-12, John 16:33

Life is difficult, sometimes.
No matter how faithful,
no matter how trusting,
no matter how hard we try,
life is difficult, sometimes.

Jesus understands.

He walked in the desert,
day after day after day.

Faithful and trusting, yes,
but hungry and weakened and vulnerable
and tempted.

Even for Jesus
life was difficult,
especially for Jesus,
knowing the end from the beginning.
But He overcame the desert.
He overcame death.

The world is full of trouble,
but He overcame the world.

Take heart!
Jesus can help.

By Daphne Kitching

Why go to Church?

A Church goer wrote a letter to the editor of a newspaper and complained that it made no sense to go to church every Sunday.

He wrote: *"I've gone for 30 years now, and in that time I have heard something like 3,000 sermons, but for the life of me, I can't remember a single one of them. So, I think I'm wasting my time, the preachers and priests are wasting theirs by giving sermons at all".*

This started a real controversy in the "Letters to the Editor" column.

Much to the delight of the editor, it went on for weeks until someone wrote this clincher: *"I've been married for 30 years now. In that time my wife has cooked some 32,000 meals. But, for the life of me, I cannot recall the entire menu for a single one of those meals.*

But I do know this: They all nourished me and gave me the strength I needed to do my work. If my wife had not given me these meals, I would be physically dead today.

Likewise, if I had not gone to church for nourishment, I would be spiritually dead today!"

B I. B L. E. simply means:
Basic Instructions
Before Leaving Earth!



Warm Spaces



Hundreds of churches are part of networks offering 'warm spaces' to people. This past winter the Church of England has provided warm spaces for people struggling to pay energy bills. The C of E has been offering not just a refuge from the cold, but in many cases, food, activities and a chance to make friends and be part of a community.

A total of 485 Church of England churches so far have signed up to a Warm Welcome Spaces campaign – a UK wide network of more than 5,000 venues across the country including libraries and churches – offering a warm place for anybody in the community.

Nearly 400 Church of England churches are also part of the Places of Welcome network, coordinated by Church Urban Fund, which encourages community groups to provide their neighbourhoods with venues to meet every week all year round.

As one volunteer in the scheme explained: “The cold is less of an issue for many of the people who attend – they are more concerned about isolation and the need for company and conversation. We also have some limited emergency funding to buy food parcels for people who are in need.”

Crossword Answers

ACROSS: 1, Corinthians. 9, Abandon. 10, Eglon. 11, Spa. 13, Deem. 16, Hi-fi. 17, Abijah. 18, Ohad. 20, Myth. 21, Now see. 22, Knit. 23, Tide. 25, Arm. 28, Nahor. 29, All done. 30, Kind-hearted.

DOWN: 2, Of age. 3, ISDN. 4, Tens. 5, Idea. 6, Nullify. 7, Hardworking. 8, Enlightened. 12, Praise. 14, Mad. 15, Vigour. 19, Abishai. 20, Met. 24, Is one. 25, Arid. 26, Male. 27, Slur.

ALAN JONES

FUNERAL DIRECTORS LTD

Funeral Directors - Memorials
Local Independent Family Business
Personal & Professional Service - 24 Hours
Funeral Homes & Chapels Of Rest

info.alanjonesfunerals@gmail.com
www.alanjonesfuneraldirectors.com

Ashland House,
87 Old Road,
Ashton in Makerfield,
Wigan WN4 9BG
Tel: 01942 271824

Millbrook House,
56 High Street, Golborne,
Warrington WN3 3BG
Tel: 01942 272027

Danesbrook House,
21 Ladies Lane,
Hindley, Wigan WN2 2QA
Tel: 01942 525504

Dove Cottage,
51 Johns Avenue, Haydock,
St Helens WA11 0QA
Tel: 01942 724777



New Memorial Headstones & Vase's
Inscription & Renovations
Free Estimates
'Eternal Peace' Pre-paid Funeral Plans
For Peace Of Mind
All Enquires Confidential



C & A Hornby Ltd
 Plumbing and Heating Services
 11 Rydal Close, Ashton in Makerfield,
 Wigan, WN4 8AU.



Gas Safe: 11641

GTS0286

www.cahornbyplumbing.co.uk

Telephone: Phil on 01942 727890 or 07867 576164

A local family run business, established for over 25 years and DBS checked.

Contact us for:

All your plumbing needs including emergencies, repairs and replacements.



Boiler replacements and repairs including full systems and upgrades.



Gas Fire replacements and repairs.



All domestic gas work including emergencies.
 Boiler and Gas Fire Service, Landlords Gas Safety Certificates,
 House Move Gas Safety Certificates.



All bathroom work undertaken - complete bathroom refurbishment with design service.



All kitchen work undertaken - complete kitchen refurbishment with design service.



Rental Property Maintenance.



Insurance work undertaken



Find us on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram

RB | R BANKS & SON FUNERALS LTD

Brian Halliwell Dip F.D M.B.I.E.

ESTABLISHED 1921

Independent Funeral Directors • Monumental Masons

A local family run business, R. Banks & Son are one of the largest independent funeral directors in the Wigan area

Founded in 1921 and now with eleven funeral homes across the Wigan area the company has established itself by gaining a reputation for excellence, professionalism and sympathetic attitude.

Golden Charter 
Smart Planning for Later Life

'Golden Charter' Pre Arrangement Funeral Scheme

- Inflation proof
- Peace of mind that painful decisions will be made rationally
- Tailored to your individual needs
- All necessary disbursements included i.e. Church fees, Crematorium/Burial fees[‡].
- One up front payment or monthly installments

[‡] dependent on plan chosen

24 hour service • Caring family firm

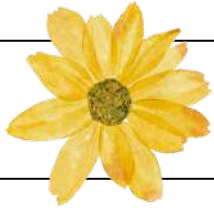
www.rbanksandson.co.uk



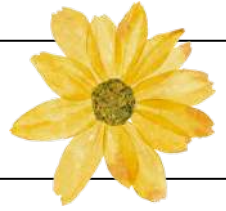
**Head Office: Halliwell House, 758/768 Ormskirk Rd, Pemberton, Wigan WN5 8BB
T: 01942 222156**

Branches: Clifford House, 1 Grove Lane, **Standish T: 01257 422011** • 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, 438 Gidlow Lane, **Beech Hill T: 01942 829200** • 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**
Carina Lodge, 178 Tyldesley Rd, **Atherton T: 01942 318025** • Century House, 6-8 Wigan Road, **Hindley T: 01942 318081**

News from our churches



March Services



	St Thomas'	St Luke's
Sunday 2nd	9am: Morning Worship 10.45am: Worship Together	11am: Morning Worship
Thursday 6th	9.45am: BCP Holy Communion	
Sunday 9th	9am: Holy Communion 10.45am: Worship Together	11am: Holy Communion
Thursday 13th	9.45am: Holy Communion	
Sunday 16th	9am: Morning Worship 10.45am: Holy Communion 6.30pm: Evensong	11am: Family Worship
Thursday 20th	9.45am: BCP Holy Communion	
Sunday 23rd	9am: Holy Communion 10.45am: Worship Together	11am: Morning Worship
Thursday 27th	9.45am: BCP Holy Communion	
Sunday 30th	9am: Morning Worship 10.45am: Worship Together	11am: Family Worship

Mothering Sunday

This year, Mothering Sunday falls on the 5th Sunday of the month. Whilst this would usually be our Wigan South Sunday, we have kept our usual services so all can worship at their Mother Church - we look forward to seeing you there!

St Thomas & St Luke's News



February saw an unusual event in the life of St Thomas Church when Andrew and Alex were baptised by full emersion. The service was well supported as were Sandra and Dan who braved the chilly water to perform the actual baptism. It was a really joyful event, and I would like to thank Sandra for borrowing the large font and Dan's work in erecting and filling it.

The time has come to make a new electoral roll for the South Parish. Forms are available for completion and many have already been returned to church duly completed. The Roll is an important document in the life of a church as it not only records the members but more importantly enables those who are registered to vote at the Annual Parish Meeting. This is a meeting at which the year is reviewed, the parish accounts are approved and members of the PCC are elected.

Its ready steady go across at the church hall with the target for the funds needed to carry out the work proposed to hall extension almost complete. The generous offer from Aviva charity to match fund up to £15,000.00 added impetus to the fund raising and we are indebted to Sue Thomas for the hours that she has devoted to making applications for financial assistance.



Womens' World Day of Prayer

I have been asked to provide details of this years Womens' World Day of prayer which will be held at 11.00am on the 7th March at Our Lady's Church Bryn.

Margaret Raymond is to be thanked for this article:

'Threads through the Bible' Art Project at Liverpool Cathedral.

At the end of January I had the privilege to go with my brother and sister-in-law to see the exhibition. It comprises of 44 huge panels that were created by Jacqui Parkinson over ten years. In essence, it makes three exhibitions in three different spaces of the cathedral, depicting the Story of Creation, the Gospels and Revelations. The workmanship, the designs and the colours are truly amazing.

I write this to encourage anyone who feels inclined to go, to take the opportunity. It's at the cathedral till 2nd March.



Lynne Mills, who runs St Thomas and St Luke's Craft Group, has given me the following information regarding the meetings:

The group meets on a Thursday evening 7:30-9:00 in St Thomas' church hall.

We gather over tea/coffee to create and learn new craft techniques together. We trial out new crafts and materials but mainly gather to learn from one another. No one professes to be perfect, for some of us it's the start of a new learning experience.



There are some very creative and clever crafters within the group who are more than willing to share their knowledge and help us all learn together, which we are all very grateful for. Once a month we have a set craft which overflows to the rest of the month or if people are in the middle of creating an item, they bring it along to carry on their work.

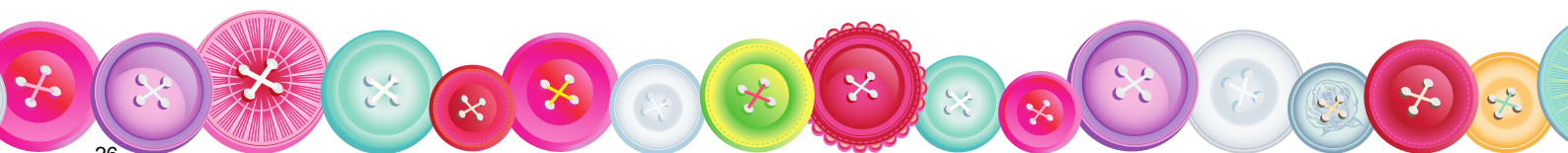
In February we are creating Button pictures- all unique and beautiful.

From the 6th March we start on spring wreaths

From the 27th March we are dabbling with water colours to create bookmarks

There is always plenty to chat about and even if you are not in the mood to create you can just turn up to have that bit of 'me time' where you can chill out. If you are curious and fancy popping along, please do... everyone is very welcome.

***Look forward to seeing you
Lynne***

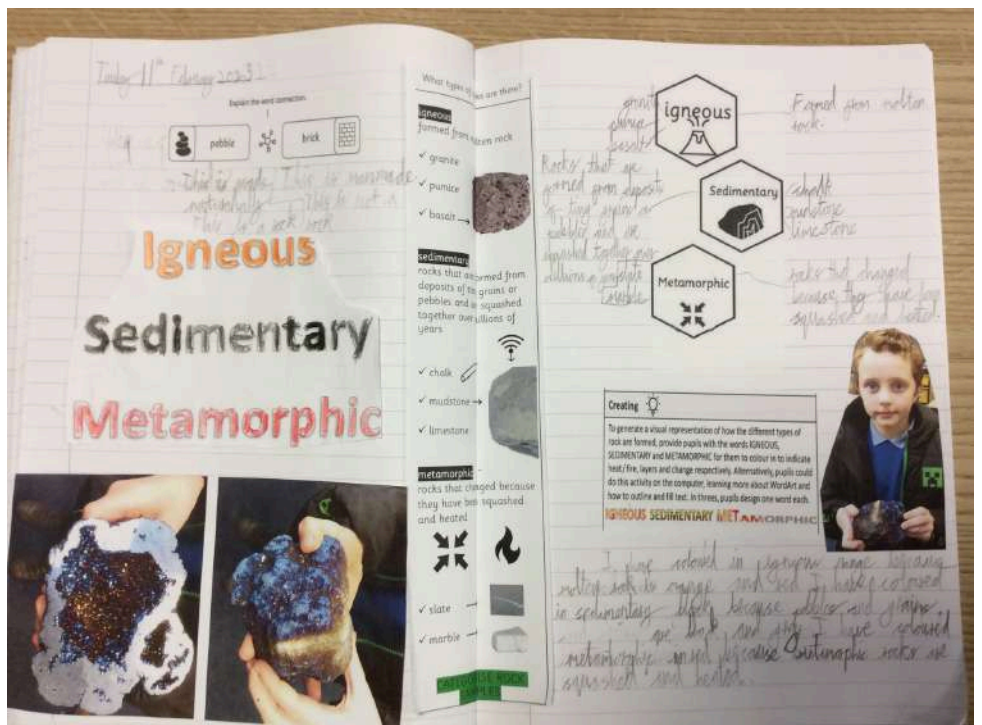


Please note that The Registers for February will be included, along with the March information, in the next edition.

Yes, my soul, find rest in God; my hope comes from him. Truly he is my rock and my salvation; he is my fortress, I will not be shaken. My salvation and my honor depend on God; he is my mighty rock, my refuge (Psalm 62:5-7).

Loving Father, I pray today that those who are grieving may find rest in you alone. Be their rock, salvation, and fortress so that they will not be shaken by any assaults from evil. Empower them each day to trust in you, for you are our refuge. Help them recognise any anger and give them courage to express all the complicated emotions that come with grief and loss. In the strong name of your Son, our Savior, and by the power of the Holy Spirit, Amen.

St Thomas' School



We are learning about Rocks and Soils in Y3. This is Jacob's fantastic Science work. He has learned key pieces of vocabulary and has been able to talk about what he has learned, making links between this vocabulary.

Elaine and family would like to thank everyone for their cards, flowers and donations, and the support of our church family.

Adventure with me

'Where do you want to go with me? I will take you anywhere. Think about the magic within the pages of my Word. Think on the Ezekiel's and the Daniel's and the Elisha's and the Elijah's. I took men and women on the greatest adventures written in ink. I bring smiles and sweat as men and women rush to the adventure of journeying with me. I am life! Life is abundant. Life is full. Nothing is impossible with me. Life is an eternal smorgasbord of adventure. I am the author and protector of every good and beautiful journey. All you have to do is say yes.



Think of the millions on millions of names that aren't even mentioned in the Bible. The ordinary men and women who have obediently lived their lives for my glory and not for their own. Think of the Mums and Dads, the little children and babies. Think of all the precious eternal souls that I have smiles upon and breathed upon. Think of the stories they will tell. Think of the smiles they will evoke.'

Ezekiel 1:28 – Like the appearance of a rainbow in the clouds on a rainy day, so was the radiance around him. This was the appearance of the likeness of the glory of the Lord. When I saw it, I fell facedown.

“Abba, today we want to see the wonder of you!”

Until we meet again Alan, when we all get to heaven what a day of rejoicing that will be!

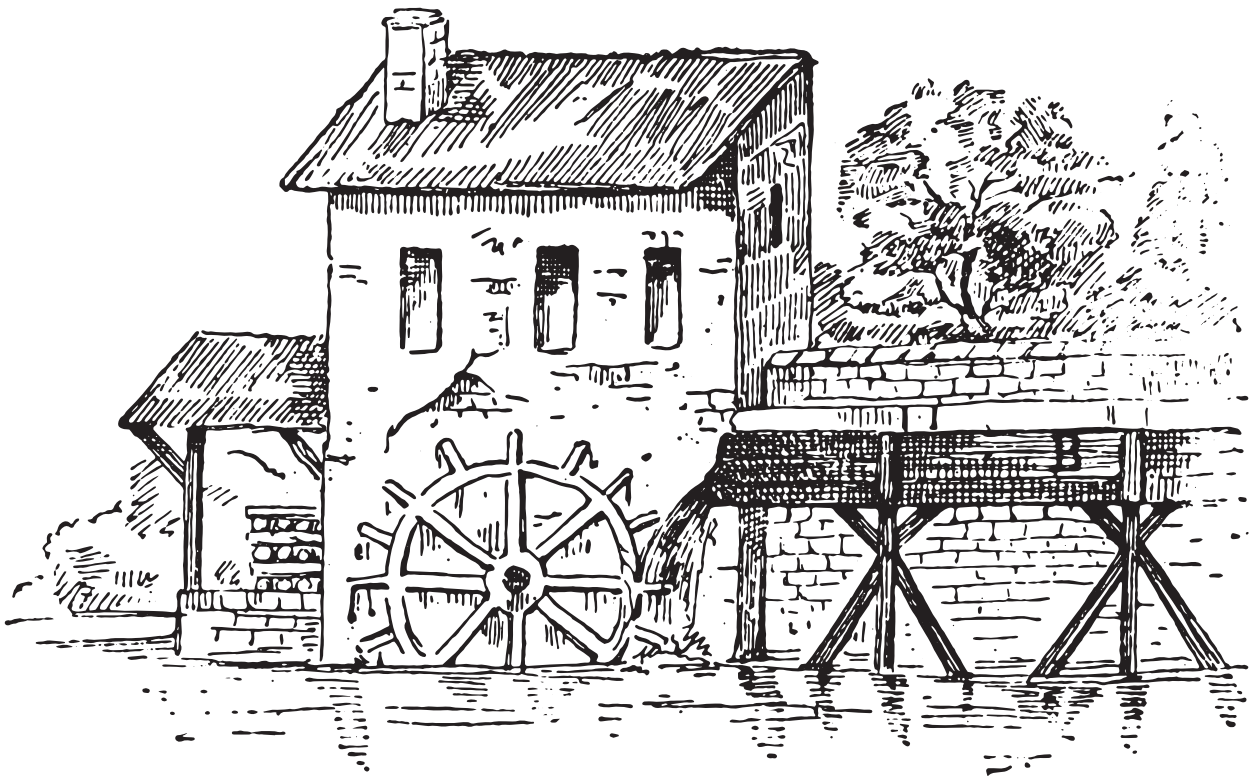
Thank you for the lovely worlds in remembrance of Alan.

COTTON MILLS, ASHTON IN MAKERFIELD

In Ashton up to c1780's the spinning and weaving of cotton would have been done by people working in their cottages on a handloom. These handloom weavers were rapidly replaced by power looms in large factories or mills which produced the cloth faster. The power looms were operated first by waterwheels such as at Quarry Bank Mill, Styal, near Manchester airport, or increasingly by steam engines burning coal.

The earliest cotton mill in the township of Ashton in Makerfield was the Downall Green cotton spinning factory c1785 which was situated near the crossroads at Downall Green. Approaching the crossroads from Low Bank Road turn right into Downall Green Road towards Bryn and the factory was situated on the right side of the road at the sharp bend 100 yards from the crossroads. The mill was situated between the road and Mill Farm, which still exists, and was to the rear of the mill. In 1791 William Lythgoe a yeoman farmer turned cotton manufacturer, sold his Downall Green cotton mill, machinery, steam engine and cylinders to Randalf/Randolph Penswick, of Seneley Green for £450. Randolph Penswick, (1770 – 1845) was born at the Manor House, Seneley Green. The Manor House is the large listed property opposite the petrol station near “The Stag” on Garswood Road. By 1891 the mill had been demolished and a cluster of houses called Factory Houses/The Barracks had been built.





c1823 - 1827 the Steam Engine Cotton Spinning Factory was built off Old Road. The mill occupied a site to the rear of the later police station down to the Millingford Brook and extended in the direction of Skitters Wood. Ashtonians will know that the Steam Engine area is the path from Old Road, at the side of the former Old Road police station, crossing the bridge over Millingford Brook and turning left along Millingford Grove to join Bryn Street at the former Post Office. The area takes its name from the steam engine that powered the mill. James Watt developed his steam engine in 1776 and continually improved it up to the 1790's. This was probably the first steam engine to arrive in the centre of Ashton and would have been quite a novelty. c1824 - c1870 the mill was owned by Joseph Ashton, of the Steam Engine, cotton manufacturer, employing 28 men & 95 women in 1861. Joseph's son, William Ashton, was manager of the cotton mill.

Joseph and William were unemployed cotton spinners in 1871 so presumably the mill had closed. The mill may have been affected by the Cotton Famine of 1861 - 1865 and the embargo of supplies of raw cotton from the southern states to Britain during the American Civil War. This resulted in high unemployment and mill closures in Lancashire. 1871 up to his death in 1877 Joseph Ashton was a farmer at Old Road Farm (Sutton's Farm in the 1950's).

In 1877, on the death of Joseph Ashton, the mill was offered for sale along with the gas works in Heath Road also owned by Joseph. The mill was demolished c1880's and by 1891 a row of terraced houses from Old Road to the Millingford Brook called Stonecroft Terrace had been built to the rear of the Steam Engine row of terraced housing. The police station was built c1904 between Stonecroft Terrace and Old Road.



By the 1840's a third cotton mill appeared – the Town Green cotton spinning factory, which was set back off Bolton Road opposite the junction of Bolton Road and Bryn Road South. The mill had a reservoir. In the 1840's & 1850's the mill was probably owned by William Latham, of Town Green, who employed 15 men, 43 women & 18 children. The mill was owned by Gray & Co. when destroyed by fire in 1866. By the 1890's the mill had been demolished and houses built. Reservoir Street, now demolished, off Orchard Street, Bolton Road, gave the location of the former mill reservoir.

c1840's there was a cotton mill on Heath Lane/Road near the former gasworks. The mill was owned by the Whitley family owners of the hinge making factory on Gerard Street (later Crompton's) and houses on Heath Road. The mill was destroyed by fire c1860's.

In 1897 the Record cotton mill was built in York Road, Ashton. The Record Mill occupied the site of the present "Travis Perkins" yard. At a ceremony in July 1897 Lady Gerard laid the foundation stone for the mill. Lord Gerard had provided the land and was a large shareholder in the mill. The mill was to employ 200 – 300 girls as well as men and boys. The mill which cost £60,000 (today £6,410,000) opened in 1899 with 30,000 spindles. The

ceremony was also used for the handover of two Jubilee parks in Wigan Road from Lord and Lady Gerard to the township of Ashton. 1897 was Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee, celebrating 60 years of her reign. Alderman Josiah Gaskell, (see Josiah Gaskell article) Chairman of Ashton Council thanked the Gerard's for their generosity. The mill closed in 1935, when it employed 600, and was sold to Thomas Crompton & Sons for £4,500.

In 1907 Lord Gerard cut the first sod for the building of the weaving shed of the Makerfield Mill Company Limited in Windsor Road. He used a silver spade supplied by Mr. T. H. Rigby, jeweller, of Ashton, with the inscription "The Makerfield Mill Company Limited of Ashton in Makerfield. Presented by the architects to the Right Honorable Frederick John, Baron Gerard of Garswood, on the occasion of his cutting the first sod of the new weaving shed Tuesday, December 31, 1907". It was expected that no weaver would have a wage of less than 30 shillings (£1 50p) a week. Lord Gerard was the largest shareholder in the mill. After the ceremony light refreshments were taken in the "Fleece Hotel".

David A. Fearnley

Our resident historian and friend David Fearnley was telling me that he is putting together a book of the many articles that he has provided for the magazine over the years. There are well over 50 of these articles and they are still coming.

Thank you David!



Donations & Remembrance



Sorry if some of these donations should have appeared in earlier magazines but it occasionally takes longer for them to be processed.

General Fund

Thanks for home communion
from Sid Barker

Thanks for home communion
from Elsie Deluce

In memory of Alan Chadwick
from Mary Hardman

From Mrs M Atherton

Pantry Building fund

Thanks for home communion
from Sid and Pauline Barker (from January)

Grave Yard Maintenance Fund

Birthday remembrance of Edna Brown (31st January)
and

Anniversary remembrance of Stan Brown (17th February)
Much loved parent, grandparents and great grandparents
who are sadly missed and always in our thoughts
from Geoff, Denise, Julie and families



Donations Information

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

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

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

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

Funds currently in use are:

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

Unless otherwise stated, donations will go into the General fund

St Thomas' and St Luke's Organisations

Coffee Mornings

Tues 10am - 12pm
St Thomas' church
Barbara Taylor
01942 205136

Wednesday Weenies

Wed 1pm - 2.30pm
St Thomas' church hall
Jan Cornthwaite
01942 721626

Mothers' Union

3rd Wed 7.30pm
St Thomas' church
Michelle Rawsthorn

Fairtrade Stall

3rd Sun 11.45am
St Thomas' church
Anne Wooff
01942 724207

Litter Pick

3rd Sat 10am - 12pm
Meet at St Thomas' car park
Chris Wooff
01942 724207

Flower Guild

Meta Laites
01942 723679

Asylum Seeker Support

SWAP support drop in
Thurs 1.30pm - 2.30pm

English Class

Thurs 3pm - 4pm

Social drop in

Sun 1pm - 3pm

Anne & Chris Wooff

01942 724207

Ashton Pantry

Tues 11am - 12pm
Thurs 2pm - 3pm
Sun 3pm - 4pm

Sue Thomas

07877704645

Girl Guiding

Brownies
Thurs 6.30pm

Guides

Tues 7pm

Rachel Starkie

01942 718350

Children's Sunday Clubs

Sun 10.45am

Karen Cunliffe

07721770305

For more information, please visit our website at stthomasstluke.org.uk



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



St Thomas

St Thomas' and St Luke's Church Officials

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:
Carole Pye 517318
John Boon 204082

St Thomas' Deputy Wardens

Barbara Taylor 205136

Assistant Treasurers

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

Administration, Bookings and Advertising

Cheryl Knowles
cheryl.knowles@churchwigan.org

Magazine Editor

Jess Bradley 07498323469
magazine@stthomasstluke.org.uk

Freewill Offerings Secretary

Malcolm Taylor 205136

Electoral Roll Secretary

Vacant

Asylum Seeker Support

Anne & Chris Wooff 724207

Children, Young People & Families

Jan Cornthwaite
721626

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