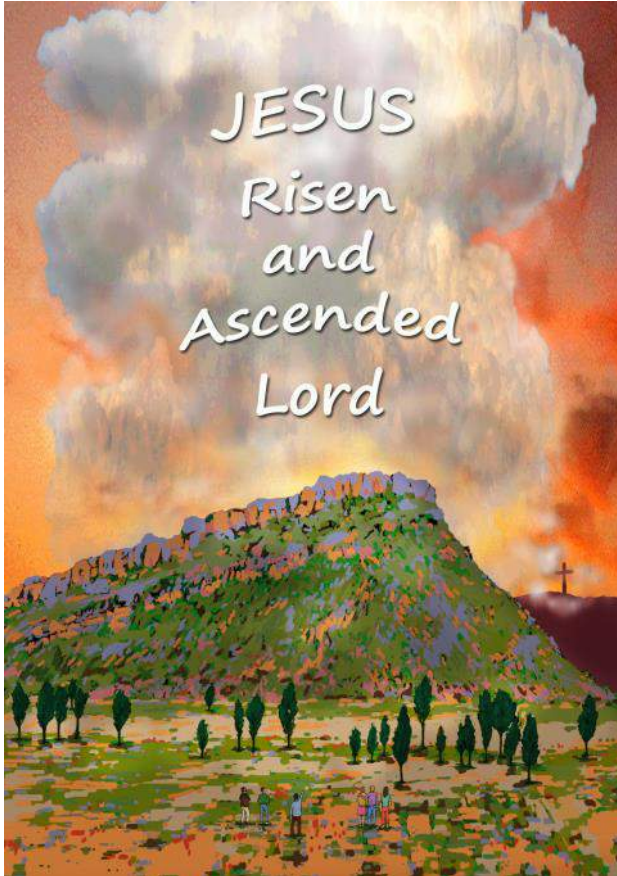


St Thomas' and St Luke's Ashton-in-Makerfield Magazine



May 2020

50p

www.stthomasstluke.org.uk

Church Services in St Thomas' and St Luke's

Sundays

St Thomas'

1st Sunday	2nd Sunday	3rd Sunday	4th Sunday
9am Communion 10.45 All Age Worship	9am Morning Worship 10.45 Worship Together 18.30 Communion	9am Com 10.45 W	9am Com 10.45 W
St Aidan's 18.30 Evening Prayer			
10.30 Hub 18.30 H			churches in the hub churches in the hub
		11am	
Far		Family Worship	Family Worship
		Weekdays	
	10.45am Communion (BCP) St Thomas'	Please see weekly notice sheet or visit website for additional services details or exceptions.	

Suspended

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

Deadline	June	July
Hand Written	15th May	16th June
Emailed	22nd May	23rd June
Magazine Release	1st June	1st July

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Booking Baptisms and Weddings

If you would like to book a wedding or a baptism, please email sue.thomas@churchwigan.org or ring 01942 727275. We can only take bookings for after 1st September .

Important Information

Baptisms

Baptisms normally held at St Thomas' Church at 12.45pm on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of the month.

Baptisms at St Luke's are at 11am on the 3rd Sunday.

To qualify for baptism parents should live within the parish boundaries or be a regular worshipper at St Thomas's or St Luke's. Parents and godparents should have been baptised and be prepared to attend a baptism preparation session.

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. For details please contact the church

office on:

01942 727275or

office@stthomasstluke.org.uk

From our Area Dean

A couple of years ago I spent a month in isolation. I was on retreat, in a hermitage belonging to some monks. At lunchtime I would leave the very simple chalet, on hearing a bell, walk up to the monastery kitchen door, and receive food the day ahead in a basket. It might sound idyllic, but being alone, even for someone who likes their own company, can be a challenge. The purpose of a retreat like mine is about drawing close to God, who is always closer to us than we can comprehend.

Jesus' time of isolation came after the intensity of his baptism, by his cousin, John. The forty days that shape our season of Lent. St Mark's gospel tells us that Jesus was driven into the wilderness, by the Spirit of God. Why? So that when he returned to Galilee, his home, he was prepared in body, mind, spirit, to give his all to the work of proclaiming that the kingdom of God has come near. He would be under no illusions. He had wrestled with Death. He understood temptation so as to be able to call us all to repent. Let's use these days as a time to turn away from sin, and towards Love.

Our season of social distancing has been imposed by the need to work together in fighting the threat of coronavirus. But it's so important that our hearts grow warmer not cold at this time. Let's be practising and training in mutual love. Our normal patterns of worship, work, and social life are being disrupted. But even now God is with us. As we seek to follow Jesus, and to live in him, the Spirit of God will be with us, sustaining us, praying within us, as St Paul wrote in Romans 8, even when words fail us. We have been baptised into his death, and into his resurrection. God looks at us as he looked at Jesus, as beloved children.

We can be ambassadors of Jesus Christ in the coming days by joining

together in the one Spirit, if not in the one place. Please use the words given here to pray for Wigan, our nation, and the whole world. Read the Bible. Pray with the communion of the saints. Love one another, through careful attention to the sick and the lonely. Reach out using the phone, offer of help with shopping. Seek to be Christ's reassuring presence in your street. Use this rhythm of prayer to give shape and focus to each new day. May we be experienced as encouragers, like the angels that waited on Jesus. Let's pray, like him, 'Thy Kingdom Come'.

Canon Philip Anderson, Area Dean of Wigan



Letter from Maurice

In my previous working life, I was frequently asked what was the difference between a church school and a community school? I used to say, to headteachers and governors of Church of England schools, that all schools should instil values of social justice, fairness, compassion, equality etc....but church schools should – somewhere – articulate, teach and behave in a way that embodies the specific Christian values of the fruits of the spirit: faith, hope and love.

The ‘faith’ and the ‘love’ bits were quite easy to explain and explore in class, but the concept of hope – Christian hope – was the most difficult to tease out.

If you ask children to explore what ‘hope’ means for them, it usually ends up with a list of ‘wants’, especially at Christmas time: “I hope I get a”; in more thoughtful moments this can include: “I hope my grandma/pet/parent gets better.....” Some I have kept include: “I hope my sister behaves better....” Older children may express universal hopes for peace, an end to world hunger or saving the planet.

All are laudable, and we should be cautious about over-thinking that which children teach us. But surely there is something deeper to Christian hope founded in the resurrection and Pentecost.

Some might argue that Christian hope is the hope of eternal life, reinforced by the resurrection and Biblical promise. But I think Christian hope is greater than the promise of heaven. It is a living hope rooted in the love and faithfulness of God and that He can be relied upon. The Boys’ Brigade hymn: ‘We have an anchor...’ is founded on a verse from the letter-writer to the Hebrews (6:19) ‘We have

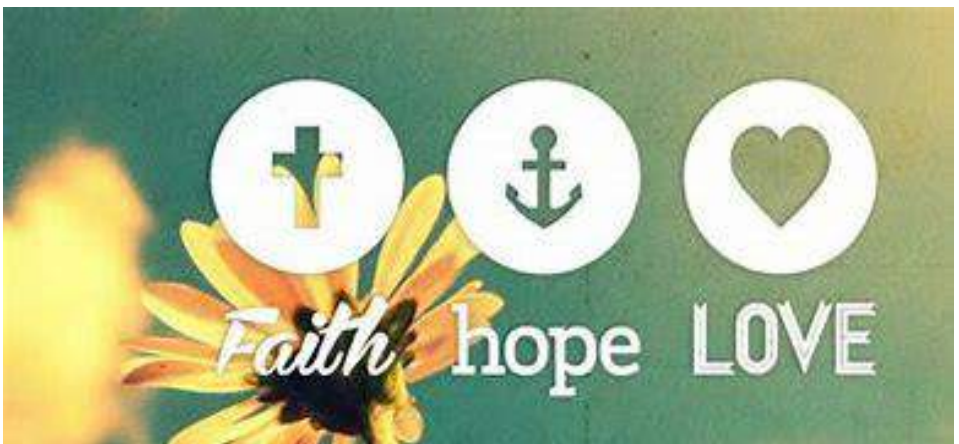


this hope as an anchor for the soul, firm and secure.” It is repeated in the hymn’s chorus: “We have an anchor that keeps the soul; steadfast and sure while the billows roll; fastened to the rock which cannot move; grounded firm and deep in the Saviour’s love.” It is, well-grounded, a hope that is optimistic, resilient and secure.

The Coronavirus pandemic over Eastertide has prompted me, on many long walks with Molly Collie, to consider most carefully the Christian value of hope. My faith often falls back on the ‘Run the Race’ (Hebrews 12:1-3) theme of Bishop Nigel McCulloch’s ministry in the Diocese of Manchester which underpinned his message of passing on the gospel baton of faith, hope and love to the next generation. In these greatest times of challenge, whether personal or national:

“...let us run, with perseverance, the race marked out for us. Let us fix our eyes on Jesus...Consider him who endured...so that you will not grow weary or lose heart.”

Maurice Smith



The time will come

*When all this will be over
When normality will return
In whatever shape that may be*

*The time will come
When streets will be alive with the chatter of friendly neighbours
And social calls will last through the night; catching up on recent
events- the good and the bad*

*The time will come
Where we no longer have to queue for hours on end to stock up on
daily essentials
When shopping can once again be a pleasure and not a chore*

*The time will come
When we can once again walk the streets and paths; soaking in the
British sunshine and marvelling at the beauty of creation and its
ability to overcome*

*The time will come where we can once again see our dear family
and friends;
hugging and kissing with no worry for social distancing and the
dreaded 6 feet*

*The time will come when schools and businesses will reopen
With lessons we've learned and new hopes for the future
And parents and carers thankful for the end of home schooling!*

*The time will come when soap and hand sanitiser stocks will return
to the norm
With toilet roll stashes receding once more
And the 'Happy Birthday' song no longer a washing chore!*

*The time will come when parks and playgrounds
Will once again come alive with the buzz of joyful children; play-
ing and racing around with no worry or fear*

*The time will come where we can enjoy the luxury of eating out
once again
Pleasuring in the joy of cafes and restaurants, ice cream vans
and milkshake bars*

*The time will come where holidays and long journeys
Can become part of our calendar
With beaches, cities and woodlands
What a wealth to explore!*

*The time will come where church bells will ring with the celebra-
tion of weddings, baptisms and more
And church services will resume; the flocks reunited and restored*

*The time will come where we can thank our key workers for
their service to humanity
Their care and commitment which has showed us no boundary*

*The time will come when our communities will return
And we are once again back on the treadmill of life
Juggling work commitments, social clubs and more*

*The time will come where we must take time to mourn
Remembering loved ones whose lives we have lost
Never forgetting the times we've shared and memories we cher-
ish*

*The time will come where we should take time to pause
Reflect and learn from this strangest of times
Celebrate the generosity and resilience of humanity
Yet learn from our mistakes and downfalls
The time has come*

*Where we need to trust God and his love for mankind
Through the highs and the lows our author and guide
His compassion shows no limit and this virus no fear
Just trust in your lord Jesus; salvation is here*

Joanna Wooff 30.03.20

News from our churches

With Malcolm

I puzzled as to what I might include in this edition of the magazine having regard to the lockdown in force at the time of writing.

With our churches closed and our various organisations, other than ACT Food Bank, currently not able to meet other means of keeping in touch have been devised.

Right at the outset of the lockdown Jan and Sue set about compiling a pastoral care list. The purpose was to ensure that, as a church, we could continue to be in touch and caring for our church members. This has been essential in ensuring that anyone self isolating, especially those living alone, know that they will receive a regular and friendly call. Linked with this is a team of volunteers prepared to assist with the collection of food and medication in these difficult times.

I want to take this opportunity of thanking Sue for continuing to produce the weekly notice sheet and circulate other information when necessary. My only regret is that we cannot deliver this information and indeed this magazine to those who are not connected to social media of any kind.

I would ask that if you are in touch with anyone like this please let them know what is happening, perhaps by reading the notice sheet and extracts of the magazine.

One matter which is challenging many people at this time is that of personal finance. It is also presenting a potentially serious problem to the Church of England in general but particularly in the Parish of Wigan South. Not wishing to appear insensitive to your personal situation I would urge you to continue your generous support of our church. Even though the building is closed we continue to incur many of the usual expenses. We are most grateful to those who joined the Parish Giving Scheme and those with standing orders through their banks. If however you have freewill envelopes or simply donate on the open plate when attending services could I ask that if it is at all possible could you put aside an amount equal to what you would have donated in normal times until we are open again. It also possible to join the Parish Giving Scheme which, not only helps our Treasurer Sarah with her budgeting

News from our churches

With Malcolm

but also ensures regular receipt of gift aid. Give me a ring if you want more information. You can set up a new Direct Debit with PGS by calling 0333 002 1271

I saw a cartoon recently depicting a smiling Satan complete with horns and God depicted as an equally smiling and benevolent bearded character. The punch line was a statement by Satan to the effect that he had brought corona virus to close churches and God responding to the effect that Satan had closed church buildings but God had established a church in every house. I did think that this was quite topical as there is so much encouragement on social media that is readily available.

Church Wigan have continued their daily services as have many other churches along with the Church of England and Diocese. Whilst missing our regular assemblies as we go through times not previously experienced in our lifetimes we have lots of opportunity to reaffirm our commitment to our church by becoming dynamic people for God. Lessons are continually being learned as to how we can keep in touch particularly with the use of Zoom. Each Sunday morning at 10.30 am the Parish of Wigan South are conducting a morning service on Zoom which is being well received. I would encourage those who have the technology to sign in and say hello to your friends. For those who do not have a computer, iPad or smart phone it is now possible to sign in by ordinary telephone by dialling 0131 460 1196.

You will need to enter the Meeting ID: 918 5145 2340 and press #
When asked for the Participant ID press #
and then you will need to give the Password: 774506 and press #

Also for those without internet access you can listen to a recorded service or daily reflection the number is 01942 929020. The Church of England have also launched Daily Hope a freephone line of hymns reflections and prayer this can be reached on 0800 804 8044

May the light of Christ shine in our darkness.

Malcolm



Mothers' Union

My magazine article usually commences with the details of what is happening in the Branch during the month and any advance notice of future events. However, in the light of the lockdown prevailing at the time of writing I am having to presume that the Branch events will continue to be cancelled throughout May. We will of course invite the speakers who would have appeared at the cancelled meetings sometime in the future.

As a consequence my article will of necessity be quite brief but I do earnestly pray will convey the Easter message of Hope.

At the outset of the lockdown, just as the church has created its pastoral care list of contacts, I created a similar contact list of our members. The intention being to ensure that there was someone able to make regular contact by phone with other members so that we could ensure everyone was coping with the restrictions placed on us. Also if anyone was in isolation and needed food or medication collecting, then this could be arranged. From the feedback which I am receiving this seems to be working and be appreciated.

In tune with you all I am looking forward to the world returning to normal and a time when we can meet and share a hug. I was uplifted by the following verses and trust that they will help you.





Mothers' Union

Pentecost

Spirit of truth,
we look to you to guide us
through an uncertain world.

Holy Spirit,
light up our lives with the truth of God.
Be the one who accompanies us
and guides us back to the way of truth
when our feet should stray from the path.

In a world which revels in uncertainty
write the clarity of God's word
on hearts and minds;
bring insight to the message
and conviction of faith.

Love

Barbara

Year Verse

**Be completely humble and gentle; be patient,
bearing with one another in love. Make every
effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the
bond of peace.**

Ephesians 4:2-3

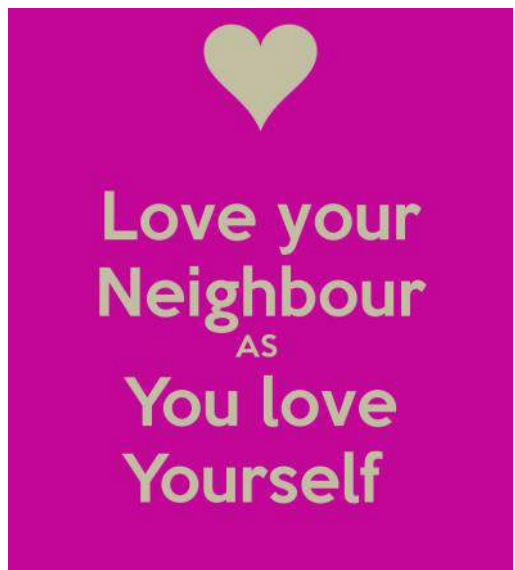
ACT Foodbank

There is a greater need than ever for non-perishable food items, such as tinned meat, tinned potatoes, UHT milk, tinned fruit and rice pudding for our foodbank. The foodbank operates out of St Thomas' car park on a Friday morning (9.30-11am) as well as providing emergency food at other times.

Normally we would be asking you to put food in the boxes in church, but obviously that's not possible. If you can drop off some items keeping within the government restrictions, we ask that you leave it in one of three places

- red wheelie bin outside the foodbank cabin
- large items in blue bin at the front of the vicarage (bagged please)
- food cabin on a Friday morning between 9.30 & 11 (food will be distributed from the church hall doorway)

Thank you very much for your support



CHOOSING A CHURCH

THE OPTIONS

LAST MONTH



THIS MONTH

 EXCELLENT CAMERAWORK	 UPLIFTING MESSAGE	 PARTICIPATORY SERVICE
 IS THIS THING WORKING?	 FAMILIAR FACES	 WITH THE ARCHBISHOP
 SLICK PRESENTATION	 MIC WASN'T ON, SADLY	 THE LITURGY WE KNOW
 STICKING TO THE TELEPHONE	 SOMETHING UNUSUAL	 DOING INCREDIBLY WELL, ALL THINGS CONSIDERED

Crossword

Answers

ACROSS

1, Stop. 3, Call upon. 9, Regular. 10, Octet. 11, Inner. 12, Hudson. 14, Holy Communion. 17, Myself. 19, See to. 22, About. 23, Iterate. 24, Monarchy. 25, Stet.

DOWN

1, Straight. 2, Organ. 4, Abraham's faith. 5, Lloyd. 6, Puteoli. 7, Note. 8, Cleric. 13, Innocent. 15, Lay down. 16, Ussher. 18, Enter. 20, Enact. 21, Balm.

Robert Carson's Film Report



Movie Reviews

Onward (PG)

Directed by Dan Scanlon

Stars the Voices of: Tom Holland, Chris Pratt, Julia Louis-Dreyfuss, Octavia Spencer, Mel Rodriguez, Kyle Bornheimer, Tracey Ullmann, and Lena Waithe

In a Nutshell: There are only so many certain things in the world these days, and one of them most certainly is Pixar. You know that you're going to get something special (apart from Cars sequels) and something unique, something that will stir you emotionally and will be unlike much else you see. Whilst Onward isn't up there with the absolute prime Pixar like Inside Out, Wall-E, The Incredibles films and the Toy Story films... it's an absolute belter of a ride and by the end it'll do that old trick of leaving you emotionally stunned and utterly thrilled. Telling a story that even though it feels a bit like the Netflix movie Bright from 2017, still feels fairly unique and original in its concept.... A story about a world where fantasy legends and creatures live amongst us like they always were supposed to and basically one specific family and the adventure they undertake when two elf brothers get the chance to spend one last day with their long deceased father and have to seek out the means to make this happen.... It's a film rife with invention and adventure, with emotion and mischievous wonder. A film that dabbles in all sorts of quirky ideas and the utilization of so many fantasy tropes and creatures is really fun and wildly enjoyable. Octavia Spencer is having a blast as a manticore who helps the brothers on their quest and owns a family restaurant or the biker gang of pixie sprites is very funny. The two leads are naturally wonderful with Holland shining as a very nervous young teen who comes into his own and Pratt is terrific as the brash older brother who isn't as confident as you'd think on the surface. Naturally this builds up to a super emotional finale and not in the way you think and I love how Pixar play with expectations and emotions... it's the result you expect but not in the way you thought and it's simply wonderful. In these troubled times, it's that perfect bit of fantastical and emotional adventure that we all need and it's a quest well worth seeking out.

Rating: 8/10

Le Mans '66 (12A)

Directed by James Mangold

Stars: Matt Damon, Christian Bale, Jon Bernthal, Caitriona Balfe, Josh Lucas,

Tracey Letts, Noah Jupe, JJ Feild, Remo Girone, and Ray McKinnon
In a Nutshell: What is in a title? You get your film and it's called what it's called.... But then they want to call it something else based on where its released. So, it just becomes confusing. And so, the excellent Ford vs Ferrari becomes the very average sounding Le Mans 66. Does that affect the film? Not at all, but it's interesting to think about as you head into this movie because one title does sum this up way better than the other. It is an exciting and breakneck look at a chapter in the history of racing and car manufacturing and even if you couldn't care less about either car brand or racing, you're likely going to dig this wildly entertaining and deeply charismatic drama with its two terrific lead performances. In many ways this is very reminiscent of 2011's The Fighter in that you have the very brash and fun Christian Bale performance and the much less showy but deeply excellent performance.... In that case it was Mark Wahlberg, here it's a rarely better Matt Damon. Both are on their absolute finest form here, as expected Christian Bale romps away with this movie and steals every scene. Josh Lucas does his usual boo hiss role as not so much a villain role, more just someone you love to hate. The racing sequences are just dynamite, exciting and thrilling and kinda jaw dropping. For a film that is as long as it is, this never drags and is just a terrifically compelling and riveting ride throughout. Take a seat in the driver's seat and take this one for a spin, you'll be glad you did.

Rating: 9/10

Also Seen:

Dora and the Lost City of Gold (PG) 8/10

Horrible Histories: Rotten Romans (PG) 7/10

The Sisters Brothers (15) 8/10

The Aeronauts (PG) 8/10

Hustlers (15) 8/10

Colette (15) 9/10

—
Due to the Current Situation with the Virus, most films are delayed or cancelled. So here is what's out on DVD and Bluray this Month

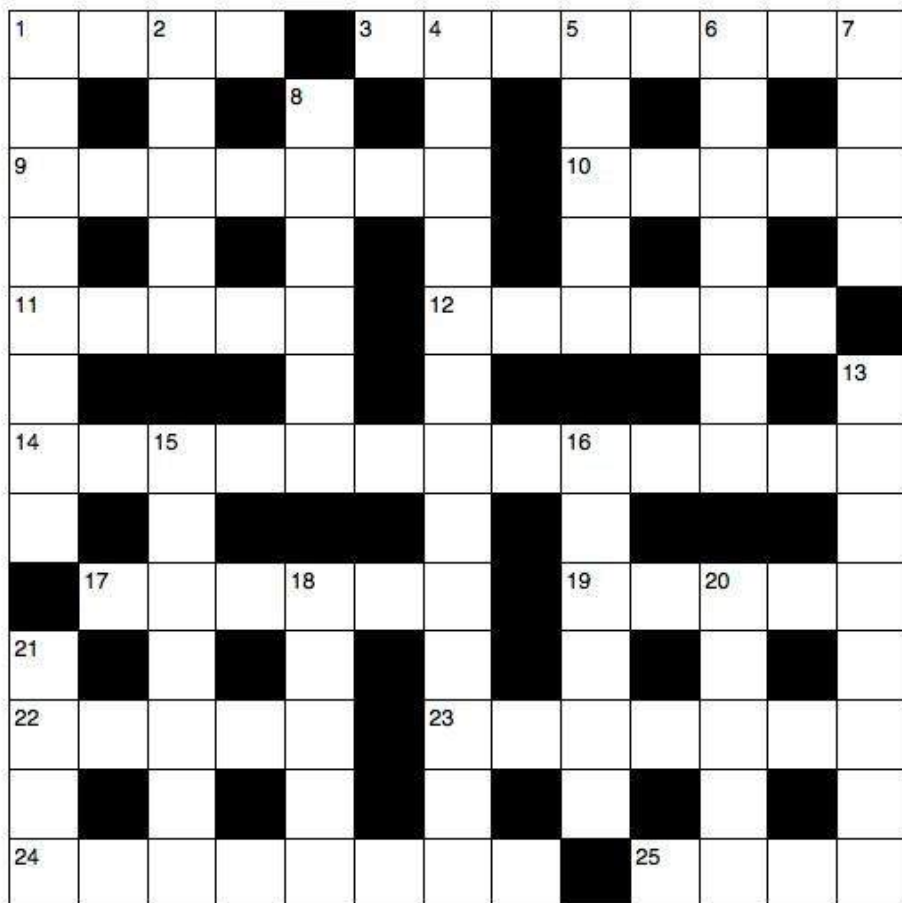
May

1917 (15) (May 18th) Little Women (U) (May 25th) Bad Boys for Life (15) (May 25th)

Jojo Rabbit (12) (May 11th) Bombshell (15) (May 18th) Just Mercy (12) (May 25th)

Playing with Fire (PG) (May 4th)

Crossword



Across

- 1 'Therefore let us -passing judgment on one another' (Romans 14:13) (4)
 3 'I — — these persons here present' (Marriage service) (4,4)
 9 According to a prearranged timetable (Numbers 28:3) (7)
 10 Group of eight (5)

- 11 The cell into which the Philippian jailer put Paul and Silas (Acts 16:24) (5)
- 12 — Taylor, pioneer missionary to China (6)
- 14 Otherwise known as the Eucharist, Breaking of Bread, the Lord's Table (4,9)
- 17 'So that after I have preached to others, I — will not be disqualified for the prize' (1 Corinthians 9:27) (6)
- 19 Attend to (3,2)
- 22 Approximately (Acts 4:4) (5)
- 23 Tea rite (anag.) (7)
- 24 Rule of sovereign (8)
- 25 Test (anag.) (4)

Down

- 1 The name of the street where Judas lived in Damascus and where Saul of Tarsus stayed (Acts 9:11) (8)
- 2 'The playing of the merry — , sweet singing in the choir' (5)
- 4 'We have been saying that — — was credited to him as righteous' (Romans 4:9) (8,5)
- 5 Dr Martyn — Jones, famous for his ministry at Westminster Chapel (5)
- 6 Port at which Paul landed on his way to Rome (Acts 28:13) (7)
- 7 Observe (Ruth 3:4) (4)
- 8 Minister of religion (6)
- 13 'I am — of this man's blood. It is your responsibility' (Matthew 27:24) (8)
- 15 'Greater love has no one than this, that he — — his life for his friends' (John 15:13) (3,4)
- 16 Archbishop who calculated that the world began in 4004BC (6)
- 18 'No one can — the kingdom of God unless he is born of water and the Spirit' (John 3:5) (5)
- 20 Establish by law (5)
- 21 Product of Gilead noted for its healing properties (Jeremiah 46:11) (4)

VE Day



This month marks the 75th anniversary of the formal end of World War II on Victory in Europe (VE) Day Friday May 8th.

As we look back to the formal end of the war, we thank one of our readers, Elaine Knowles for sending this poem in written by her son, who is a member of a writing group which meets in The Jubilee in Ashton. He wrote it at the end of last year to coincide with Armistice Day, in memory of his grandfathers, who both fought in WW2. His paternal grandfather was also a former parishioner of St Luke's.

Brothers

My brother and I share a name,
Neither of which came from fame.
Not the letters, but the meaning,
The reason, the sentiment.

His is John. Mine is James.
Both are our grandfathers' names.

We are brothers,
Though not in arms.
They lived through war,
We live in peace.

A black and white photo stands
Proudly in our parents' house.
Of John in his prime,
White vest, muddy boots.

When I see it in my mind he moves,
His smile slowly curves his moustache.
Black in the photo but grey in my mind,
Holding his pipe as I sit at his feet.

James saw me grow to be a man,
As I saw him grow old.
I never asked him about the war,
Thought it might still be raw.

If he was still with us,
I'd put his favourite, Chopin on.
Ask him about his experiences,
So they could shape mine.

My brother and I share grandfathers,
Whose names live on through us.
One was John. One was James.
Both are now their grandsons' names.

Ian J Knowles

A prayer for VE Day

From the Act of Commitment for Peace

Lord God our Father,
we pledge ourselves to serve you and all humankind, in
the cause of peace,
for the relief of want and suffering,
and for the praise of your name.
Guide us by your Spirit;
give us wisdom;



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Alan Jones

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

Local Offices: 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, 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

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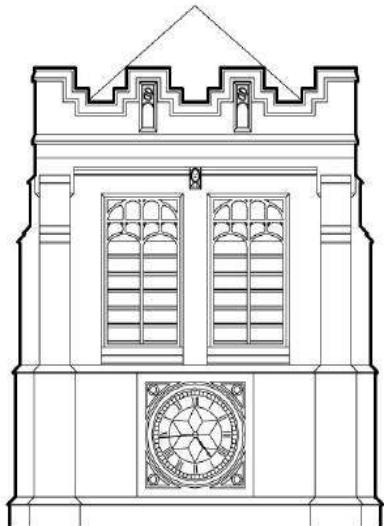
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Wordsearch

This month the Church celebrates the Ascension of Jesus, the sending of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost, and the fact that our God is a Trinity: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. After the Resurrection, Jesus was seen on the road to Emmaus, by the Sea of Galilee, in houses, etc. He encouraged his disciples, and said that He was sending them to all corners of the earth, as his witnesses. 40 days after Easter, Jesus ascended into heaven; his work on earth was done. The disciples returned to Jerusalem, and on the fateful morning of Pentecost, there was suddenly the sound as of a mighty rushing wind. Tongues of flame flickered on their heads, and they began to praise God in many tongues – to the astonishment of those who heard them. That morning the Holy Spirit came to indwell all those who believed in Jesus: the Church was born. And so we have a triune God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

PENTECOST

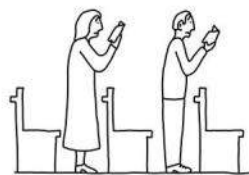
VARIOUS HAZARDS



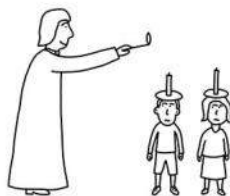
BEING DAZZLED BY BRIGHT CLOTHING



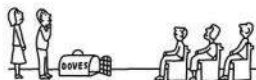
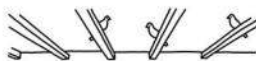
OVERENTHUSIASTIC HALLELUJAHS



CONSTERNATION AT SONGS CONTAINING THE WORDS 'JOY' OR 'DANCE'



ILL-ADVISED REENACTMENTS



ERRANT DOVES

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

Ascension

Blessed

Taken

Jerusalem

Wait

Prayer

Power

One

Room

Disciples

Tongues

Flame

Joy

Praise

Confusion

Languages

Earth

Peter

Holy

Spirit

Trinity

Father

Son

Triune



St Thomas' Donations & Remembrance

Please place your donation in an envelope with your full name and amount written on it.

Please post through the vicarage door while church is closed.

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.

Regular giving

Many people are asking us how they can give their usual weekly offerings. We do appreciate your concern for the finances of the church as the plate offerings help towards the payment that has to go to the diocese each month. We need to continue these payments as the outgoings of the diocese will remain the same while church is closed. It would be very helpful if anyone who normally gives via envelopes or money on the plate, could switch to the Parish Giving Scheme please by phoning 0333 002 1271 . .

If you want to continue giving by envelope, please save your envelopes at home and bring them to the next church service you come to.

Funds currently in use are: Africa Fund, Asylum Seeker, Audio Visual, Church Hall, Building & Maintenance, Garden of Rest, General, Grave Maintenance, Heath Road Graveyard, Heating and Fit for the Future. **Unless otherwise stated donations will go into the General Fund.**

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



In loving remembrance of my dear parents
Doug & Jessie Evans
Always in my thoughts
from Hazel



Prayers for these times

Keep us, good Lord,
under the shadow of your mercy
in this time of uncertainty and distress.
Sustain and support the anxious and fearful,
and lift up all who are brought low;
that we may rejoice in your comfort
knowing that nothing can separate us from your love
in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Amen.

O God,
help me to trust you,
help me to know that you are with me,
help me to believe that nothing can separate me
from your love
revealed in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

The Registers



Funerals - "May they rest in peace"

01 April	Edna Crye	Alexandra Drive	86
08 April	Emily Topping	Liverpool Road	98
14 April	Edith Grimshaw	Alexandra Road	95
29 April	Norman Cunliffe	Skelton Street	77
30 April	Rita Jones	Garswood House	74

**Gracious God,
surround us and all who mourn this day
with your continuing compassion.
Do not let grief overwhelm your children,
or turn them against you.
When grief seems never-ending,
take them one step at a time
along your road of death and resurrection
in Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.**

This prayer and those from the previous page were taken from churchofengland.org where you can find many other prayers for different times in your life, including a prayer for each [day](#).

Church Organisations in St Thomas' and St Luke's

<p><u>Boys Brigade</u> Captain Company Section (Tues 7.30-9pm) Gareth Hamlett 07903866501 Anchor Boys (Tues 5:45-7pm) Olwen Wright 389595 Junior Section (Tues 6:45-8pm) Kat Cornthwaite 07517486188</p>	<p><u>Girl Guides</u> Rainbows (Tues 5:30pm) Danielle Wood 07841 649475 3rd & 4th Ashton Brownies (Thu) 3rd Ashton Guides/Rangers (Tues 7:15pm) Rachel Starkie 718350</p>
<p><u>Children's Sunday Clubs St Thomas'</u> Bubbles (Pre-School) Splash (R-Y2), Xstream (Y3-Y6) Bell Tower (Y7-Y11) Jan Cornthwaite 721626</p>	<p><u>Coffee Mornings at St Thomas'</u> Tues 10am-12pm Barbara Taylor 205136</p> <p><u>Flower Guild</u> Meta Laites 723679</p>
<p><u>Children, Young People and Families</u> Sue Thomas 07877 704645</p>	<p><u>Asylum Seeker Support</u> Anne & Chris Wooff 724207</p>
<p><u>Church Architect</u> Bill Schafer 717300</p>	<p><u>F.W.O. Secretary</u> Jackie Wilson 712368</p>
<p><u>Wednesday Weenies</u> Wed 1pm-2:30pm - Church Hall Jan Cornthwaite 721626</p>	<p><u>Messy Tots</u> Wed 1pm-2:30pm - Church Hall Sue Thomas 07877 704645</p>
<p><u>Duke of Edinburgh's Award (14-18+)</u> Sun evenings Church Hall Ceri Mansell 727417</p>	<p><u>St Thomas' Mothers' Union</u> 3rd Wed: 7:30pm Barbara Taylor 205136</p>
<p><u>Fairtrade Stall</u> 3rd Sun 11.45am Anne Wooff 724207</p>	<p><u>Fur Clemt Stubshaw</u> Mon 12-1pm at St Luke's Jennifer Harrison 718618</p>
<p><u>Litter Pick 3rd Sat 10am - noon</u> Chris Wooff 724207</p>	<p><u>Bowling Club</u> Henry Hunter 712709</p>

Church Officials in St Thomas, St Luke's and Wigan South Parish

<p><u>Hub Leader</u> Rev Jeremy Thomas 727275</p> <p><u>Assistant Hub Leader</u> Sue Fulford</p>	<p><u>Sunday Morning Worship</u> <u>Local Missional Leaders (LML)</u> <u>St Thomas</u> Jan Cornthwaite 721626 <u>St Luke's</u> Carole Pye 517318</p>
<p><u>Ordained Local Minister</u> Rev Izzy Schafer 717300</p>	<p><u>Saturday FM</u> 4pm-5pm - St Thomas' School LML Nicola Burgess 706841</p>
<p><u>Readers</u></p> <p>Tricia Hancox 201540 Alan Harrison 718618 Carole Pye 517318 Helen Weavers 07796 334457</p>	<p><u>Parish Church Wardens</u> Anita Archer 07863 298336 Paula Gillespie 07716 667763</p>
<p><u>St Thomas' Assistant Wardens</u> Tony Cornthwaite 721626 Paula Gillespie 711270</p> <p><u>Deputies</u> Barbara Taylor 205136 Mansell High 727052</p>	<p><u>St Luke's Assistant Wardens</u> Carole Pye 517318 John Boon 728900</p> <p><u>Parish Treasurer</u> Sarah Riley 07712 584954</p>
<p><u>Assistant Treasurer St Thomas'</u> Phil Hayton 273183</p>	<p><u>Assistant Treasurer St Luke's</u> John Boon 728900</p>
<p><u>Prayer</u> Carol Foster 733263</p>	<p><u>Parish Electoral Roll Secretary</u> Sue Thomas 07877 704645</p>
<p><u>Church Office, Church Hall</u> <u>Bookings / Magazine Advertising</u> Sue Thomas 721484 office@stthomasstluke.org.uk</p>	<p><u>PCC Secretary</u> Tricia Hancox 201540</p>
<p><u>Magazine Editor</u> Sue Thomas magazine@stthomasstluke.org.uk</p>	<p><u>Magazine Distribution Coordinator</u> Jack Stuart 726972</p>
<p><u>St Thomas' Organist</u> Paul Tushingam 711085</p>	<p><u>Worship Group</u> Mary Owen 203277</p>