

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



May 2021

50p

www.stthomasstluke.org.uk

Church Services in St Thomas' and St Luke's

Sundays

St Thomas'

1 st Sunday	2 nd Sunday
9am Communion 10.45 All Age Worship	9am Morning 11am
<p>Usual services are suspended. Please ring Jan (721626) to book for St Thomas' 9.30am Sunday service and Carole (517318) for St Luke's 11am Sunday service.</p> <p>Please note that places are limited.</p>	
<p>in the hub ones in the hub</p>	
<p>at 11am</p>	
Communion	Family Worship
<p>Family Worship</p>	

Weekdays

Thursday 9.45am
Holy Communion (BCP)
in St Thomas'

Please see weekly notice sheet or visit website for additional services details or exceptions.

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

Deadline	June	July
Hand Written	14th May	11th June
Emailed	21st May	18th June
Magazine Release	30th May	27th June

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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 (if church is open), followed by a committal.

Marriage

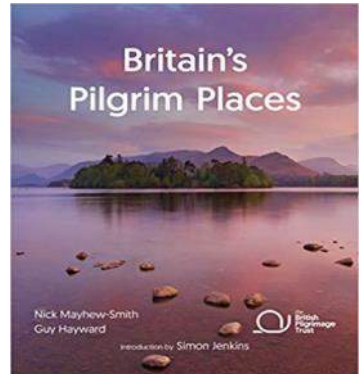
You can marry in a CofE Church of your choice if certain criteria are shown to be met.

If you would like further information or to book a funeral, wedding or a baptism, please ring 01942 727275 or email office@stthomasstluke.org.uk



Letter from Jeremy

As I set off on Study Leave – time away from parish responsibilities over the next four months, my list of what I want to achieve, learn and experience is growing. It needs some focus I think to make it realistic. One of the things on the list that will definitely stay has been aided significantly by a very thoughtful ‘anonymous random act’ of organising for the book Britain’s Pilgrim Places to be delivered to us.



With family in West Wales and also in Cornwall, one of the aims is to walk significant parts of the Celtic Way which runs through Wales and South West England, from Strumble Head in Pembrokeshire to St Michael’s Mount in Cornwall. We won’t be doing all of the 758 miles!

The British Pilgrim Trust charity has a goal ‘to advance British pilgrimage as a form of cultural heritage that promotes holistic well-being.’ Their view is that holistic wellbeing includes physical, mental, emotional, social, environmental and spiritual health. I think that is accurate and we hope that in exploring the Celtic Way, encountering both the beauty of the walk and in discovering the ‘pilgrim places’ we will achieve much of that.

With nearly 15 years in ordained ministry already served, much of that over the last few years particularly difficult in terms of responsibility and yes sometimes stress, the thought of walking in the footsteps of saints in the beauty of coastline and countryside is very encouraging.

The aim is not just to walk, but to read and to study - and Sue and I will benefit from retreats planned at Minsteracres in the North East and also time on the Holy Island of Lindisfarne. We pray that the stories of the missionary Celtic saints will be an inspiration and in the Northumbrian Community daily office, achieve both a prayerful routine and also a daily encounter with God which may encourage and inspire.

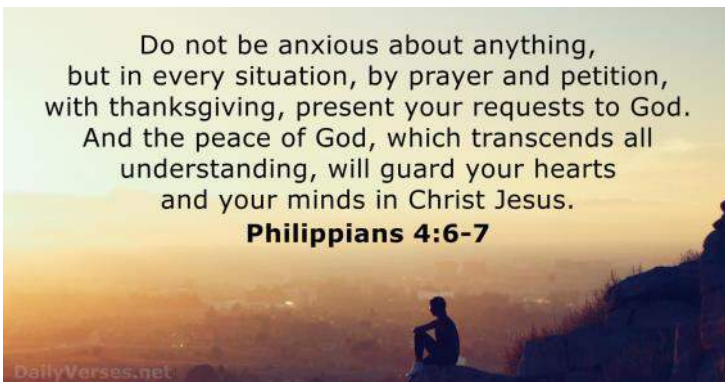
Invocation of the Holy Spirit (Northumbria Community – Celtic Daily Prayer)

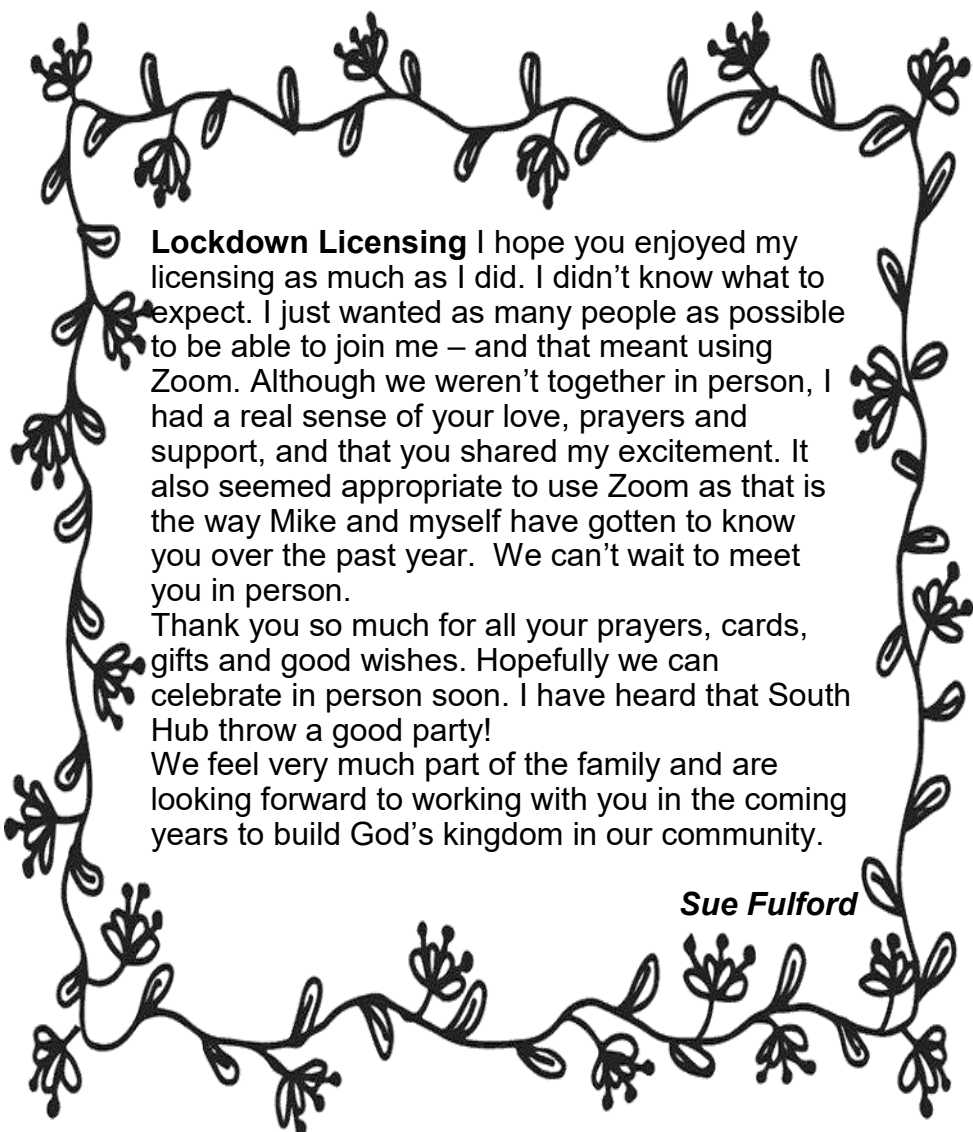
Most powerful Spirit
 come down
 upon us
and subdue us.

From heaven,
 where the ordinary
 is made glorious
 and glory seems
but ordinary,

bathe us
 with the brilliance
 of Your light
like dew.

Jeremy





Lockdown Licensing I hope you enjoyed my licensing as much as I did. I didn't know what to expect. I just wanted as many people as possible to be able to join me – and that meant using Zoom. Although we weren't together in person, I had a real sense of your love, prayers and support, and that you shared my excitement. It also seemed appropriate to use Zoom as that is the way Mike and myself have gotten to know you over the past year. We can't wait to meet you in person.

Thank you so much for all your prayers, cards, gifts and good wishes. Hopefully we can celebrate in person soon. I have heard that South Hub throw a good party!

We feel very much part of the family and are looking forward to working with you in the coming years to build God's kingdom in our community.

Sue Fulford



Mothers' Union

Diary: Wednesday 19th May we have a talk by John Lewtas of Beacon Church and I optimistically look forward to being able to hold this meeting in the church hall. We will of course still need to observe social distancing.

The technology provided by Zoom has enabled us to meet online with a reasonable amount of success. I have no idea how zoom works and I would like to thank Jan and particularly Juliette for their combined assistance in putting on the meetings.

We are still having to do things differently, for example we still have our contact list of members. This has been a real boon ensuring that there was someone able to make regular contact by phone with other members. I pray that one day soon we will be able to meet up in person and no doubt share our stories of coping with lockdown.

As our members know, we, as part of the Wigan Deanery MU, have long supported Coops Foyer with food, hygiene items and Christmas gifts. I came across a article about a teenager who had done nothing at school and for some reason or other could no longer live at home. Fortunately she found her way to Coops Foyer and they have changed her life. She was given accommodation and food but she had to finish her education and now she has a job. She couldn't thank the staff at Coops enough for their help and guidance and how they have helped her change her life around.

*Holy Spirit give us faith,
Holy Spirit give us hope,
Holy Spirit give us love,
Revive your work in our country
and throughout the our world.
Beginning with each of us*

Keep well and God bless you all.
Love, **Barbara**₇

News from our churches

The Leprosy Mission

We have received an official receipt for our St. Thomas' and St. Luke's donation from Paul Moores, Regional Manager for N.W. England. It reads as follows:-

"Thank you for your wonderful gift for World Leprosy Day. Your donation of **£280.00** will help the incredible team of Leprosy Changemakers in rural Mozambique build Hubs of Hope. And, thanks to the U.K. government, your donation has been doubled and will go twice as far for people affected by leprosy."

Barbara, Margaret and Sue

I looked back at what I said in this month's edition one year ago and puzzled as to what I might include in that edition of the magazine having regard to uncertainty of the future facing us at that time. Who then could have believed that some 12 months later we would only be cautiously approaching a relaxation of restrictions which have affected all that time.

One piece of news that we can celebrate was the confirmation that our own Rev Sue Fulford was to be licensed as a team vicar. The licensing by Rev Jennifer McKenzie the Arch Deacon of Wigan and West Lancashire took place in the unusual settings of our own lounges and by means of the now all too familiar zoom service. It was a moving occasion; we congratulate Sue and look forward to really getting to know her in person and not just on screen sometime soon.

What then is the situation at St Thomas and St Luke's ? With our churches opening again at the end of April, again with social distancing rules still in place, we are at least able to meet in worship if not socially. The unfortunate delays in the re-order work at St Thomas' mean that we are still meeting in the church hall, but we are meeting!

The pastoral care list compiled at the outset of the first lockdown has served us well in ensuring that, as a church, we could continue to be in touch and caring for our church members. The Sunday 10.30am Zoom service for the South Parish has been a real boon and has brought service into the homes of people who normally cannot get to church buildings. On behalf of everyone I would like to express our thanks and gratitude to all those who have organised and taken part in those services. The continued production of the weekly notice sheet and of course this monthly magazine has also been a great help.

Finances

I did mention last year the problem of church finance. This problem has grown in size not only to the Church of England in general but particularly in the Parish of Wigan South. I am aware that this is a sensitive subject with so many people being affected at a personal level. I want to thank those members of our church who have continued their generous support whether through the bank or freewill offering envelopes. If you haven't yet joined the Parish Giving Scheme and feel able to do so this not only helps our Treasurer, Sarah, with her budgeting 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 .

Magazine Administration

For many years we have been able to rely on Jack Stuart to look after the administration side of our magazine production line. Jack has intimated his desire to retire from this task and through the medium of the magazine I would like to express my own personal thanks, as well as on behalf of the members of our church, for all his work and the assistance given by Helen. Thanks Jack and Helen for a job well done.

Of course Jack leaving leads to a vacancy for the administrator and I would be pleased to hear from anyone who feels that this is a ministry post which they could fill. I will be glad to explain what is involved in this important job in the life of our church.

Historical Item

St Thomas Church, currently undergoing a re-order, was consecrated in 1893 I am obliged to Margaret Cook who has this original book of the Sacrifice of Praise presented by the Rector of Ashton to Benjamin Ashton

THE SACRIFICE OF PRAISE:
BEING THE ORDER FOR THE CELEBRATION OF THE Holy Eucharist,
ACCORDING TO THE USE OF THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND, WITH THE Litany, AND THE PROPER Collects, Epistles AND Gospels:

TO WHICH ARE ADDED INSTRUCTIONS AND DEVOTIONS FOR THE USE OF COMMUNICANTS.

The Sacrifice of Praise
A Manual
for Communicants



*Benjamin Ashton
from his friend & partner
Wm. D. Dymally
Rector of Ashton
Widnesfield
"Offer unto God thanksgiving
if ye pay they increase unto thee
most highly"*
Ashton 1893.

New Chairs

The following donations are acknowledged with thanks:

- Jenny and Andrew Bullen
- Pat Grimshaw Paul Mark and Peter in memory of Ted & Betsy Grimshaw
- Margaret Raymond
- Ron & Jean Boon in memory of Jack and Elizabeth Boon and Leslie and Nellie Littler
- Dave and Barbara Gratton
- Kelvin and Margaret Bolton in memory of Gordon McGrail
- Kelvin and Margaret Bolton in memory of Ellen Ceridwen Pilling
- Jeremy and Sue Thomas in memory of David Taylor
- Nicola Burgess
- Margaret Makinson
- Anonymous
- Mike Allender and Joanna Wooff
- Joan Graham
- Peggy Tarleton
- Vera Parkinson
- Malcolm and Barbara Taylor

Once again we are indebted to David Fearnley for another glimpse in the history of Ashton, below and overleaf.

Malcolm

A TRAGIC ACCIDENT AT PEWFALL COLLIERY 1857

As you enter the Warrington Road graveyard through the gate in Heath Road a small broken gravestone laid flat to the left of the path is a reminder of the tragic loss of life in Ashton collieries in the 19th century. The gravestone was probably removed from its original position when the Garden of Rest was created. The top half of the gravestone, including the name, is missing. The lower part of the gravestone with its partial inscription reads:

“Who in the To the regret of his and comrades accidentally met his death in consequence of being struck on his Head with part of the Pit Machinery at Pewfall Colliery on the 19th April 1857”.

As you leave Ashton the Pewfall Colliery was situated in the fields on the right side of Liverpool Road opposite a children's playground in Pewfall which existed until several years ago. The playground is now a small carpark at the start of the public footpath, along the side of the "Amazon" warehouse, from Liverpool Road – Haydock Lane. Pewfall Colliery closed in 1911.

A report in the "Wigan Observer" 24/4/1857 gives a report of the accident :

Fatal Colliery Accident At Ashton

"On Saturday last an accident fatal in its effects occurred at the colliery of Mr. Samuel Clough, at Ashton, near Wigan. The pit is known by the name of Pewfall Colliery and was under the management or superintendence of Mr. Frost the person to whom the accident occurred. At the pit mouth, there are two stages erected, and at the time of the accident Mr. Frost was standing on the lower one, looking or leaning over an iron bar or barrier, the cage being suspended above him. Whilst he was in this position, the cage was inadvertently set in motion, and in the descent struck the deceased on the head, which appeared to had been partly twisted round the iron bar and the chin, with the whole of the lower jaw and portions of each side of the face, were torn away, and fell down the shaft. The mangled body was at once removed and medical assistance procured, but the deceased sufferings were terminated by death on Sunday. He has left a wife and two children".

22/4/1857 James Frost, aged 39, of Ashton Cross, was buried at St. Thomas' church. Cause of death, accidentally killed.

David A. Fearnley.

Litter Pick



Our brilliant litter picking team have been doing more great work this last month. Households once again worked independently collecting litter across a number of sites in Ashton.

Please do let us know if you'd like to join any future litter picks.



ACT Foodbank

Thank you to everyone who has been donating food to the foodbank in these difficult times and to Andrew and his team for all their work putting hampers together and delivering them as well as distributing food on a Friday morning.

If you would like to donate any non perishable items, the please bring them to the:

- red wheelie bin outside the foodbank cabin ; or
- The food cabin on a Friday morning between 9.30am & 11.00am (food will be distributed from the church hall doorway)

Larger items can be left at the vicarage by arrangement.

If you want to leave food items for our asylum seeker friends, these can also be left at the vicarage but please make sure your bags or boxes are clearly labelled so we know who they are meant for.

Thank you very much for your support

**SOMETIMES IT FALLS
UPON A GENERATION
TO BE GREAT,
YOU CAN BE
THAT GENERATION.**

NELSON MANDELA





God's Power: Hezekiah's illness

2 Kings 20.1-11 (The Message)

Some time later Hezekiah became deathly sick. The prophet Isaiah son of Amoz paid him a visit and said, "Put your affairs in order; you're about to die—you haven't long to live."

Hezekiah turned from Isaiah and faced God, praying:

Remember, O God, who I am, what I've done!
I've lived an honest life before you,
My heart's been true and steady,
I've lived to please you; lived for your approval.

And then the tears flowed. Hezekiah wept.

Isaiah, leaving, was not halfway across the courtyard when the word of God stopped him: "Go back and tell Hezekiah, prince of my people, 'God's word, Hezekiah! From the God of your ancestor David: I've listened to your prayer and I've observed your tears. I'm going to heal you. In three days, you will walk on your own legs into The Temple of God. I've just added fifteen years to your life; I'm saving you from the king of Assyria, and I'm covering this city with my shield—for my sake and my servant David's sake.'"

Isaiah then said, "Prepare a plaster of figs."

They prepared the plaster, applied it to the boil, and Hezekiah was on his way to recovery.

Hezekiah said to Isaiah, "How do I know whether this is of God and not just the fig plaster? What confirming sign is there that God is healing me and that in three days I'll walk into The Temple of God on my own legs?"

“This will be your sign from God,” said Isaiah, “that God is doing what he said he’d do: Do you want the shadow to advance ten degrees on the sundial or go back ten degrees? You choose.”

Hezekiah said, “It would be easy to make the sun’s shadow advance ten degrees. Make it go back ten degrees.”

So, Isaiah called out in prayer to God, and the shadow went back ten degrees on Ahaz’s sundial.

Reflection:

Hezekiah was a good king; he was faithful to God, turned his people from sin and restored worship in the temple. When we meet him in this passage from 2 Kings, he is close to the end of his reign and has become very sick.

We’re not told exactly what was wrong with him, but the boils he has sound very unpleasant! Enter the prophet Isaiah, to compound his misery, with the shocking message from God. He is going to die, and he must ‘put his house in order’.

We see two amazing miracles in this passage, which demonstrate the power and might of God. Firstly, God hears Hezekiah’s prayer and not only promises to heal him but tells him he will add 15 years to his life!

At the end of the passage, Hezekiah seeks a sign. He wants to know that the message is really from God! God agrees a sign with Hezekiah and enables the sun’s shadow on the sundial to move backwards.

Many theologians and scientists have attempted to explain how this event could happen. There are suggestions that it was a complicated optical illusion, a mirage or even that it was related to the type of sundial involved.

But when we go deeper, this passage speaks to us not only of To my mind, it is clear that God, who created the universe, is sovereign over the laws of physics. The Bible has many examples of God's power breaking through, into the lives of his people.

God's great power, but also of his great love and compassion for his children.

When Hezekiah receives the news of his impending death, the bottom falls out of his world! He turns to God, pouring out his heart, crying out in his agony. God replies, 'I've listened to your prayer and I've observed your tears'. Hezekiah needs reassurance. God, who knows him intimately, gives him this in a way that he will recognise, and which will help him to trust.

God's reply to Hezekiah speaks reassurance into our lives today. God listens to us – he hears our prayers! How amazing is it, that we have a Father in heaven who hears us when we cry out to him and who knows us intimately? A powerful miracle in itself!

Like Hezekiah, we all experience difficult, painful situations in our lives. His story encourages us, in the midst of all our brokenness and despair, to bring our suffering to God. It encourages us to be honest about our emotions and invite him into our pain. We can be sure that God understands our suffering – after all, he suffered so much for us!

We may not receive an instant answer to our prayers, or a sign in the way Hezekiah did. But we can be confident that our Father in heaven is faithful, he keeps his promises and will go through our suffering with us.

I want to finish with this message of hope for us to take into the day, from Isaiah chapter 43 verses 2 and 5:

When you pass through the waters,
I will be with you;
and when you pass through the rivers,

they will not sweep over you.
When you walk through the fire,
You will not be burned...
Do not be afraid, for I am with you.

Prayer

Father God,
you know each one of us and you love us,
more than we can ever know.
Thank you that you hear us when we cry out to you.
Be with us by your Spirit and walk with us each day,
helping us to trust you and be strong
whatever we may face.
In Jesus name,
Amen

Lesley Hughes
Wigan Deanery Trust Vice Chair



St Thomas' School Reporters

Red Nose Day

On Red Nose Day we celebrated how fortunate we are and how celebrities raised money by bike riding, hiking, swimming and much more. David Walliams swam the river Thames and Gary Barlow hiked miles upon miles! We are so fortunate to have a wonderful life.

World Book Day

On World Book Day we celebrated how books can change lives. We studied authors, our teachers read books to us and we made masks. We had The Faraway Tree, Fantastic Mr. Fox and even Hagrid from Harry Potter!

I-sing Pop Worship

Recently in our worships we have been watching videos from I-sing pop. They do assemblies like Easter, Forgiveness and Hope. We always have two prayers, a dance, an activity, a story and then they explain everything.

Easter Egg Competition

Easter is the time when we see flowers blooming, rabbits bounding and eggs hatching. In St Thomas's we celebrate Easter with an egg competition. We have two or three weeks to prepare and then the MYSTERY JUDGE picks two winners from each class. The photographs of the winning entries are on the school website if you want to have a look!



R.E. for Easter

In R.E at Easter we have been focusing on the resurrection and the crucifixion. That is where Jesus is crucified and betrayed by Judas. Then the resurrection is where Jesus comes back to life again!

Back to School

Coming back to St Thomas's was a pleasure for all of us staff and students. Everyone at St Thomas's was buzzing to get back and see their friends and teachers. We were also ready to do some hard work!

By Abbie and Katie

TRIBUTE TO HRH DUKE OF EDINBURGH: My strength and stay – sure and steadfast

My real friends were made in primary school. We were the first year of comprehensive schooling in Liverpool which saw us all split-up between a range of secondary schools.



What cemented this friendship group together was the BB at St Philip's Church in Sheil Road, Liverpool 6. Monday, First Aid; Wednesday, Gym; Friday, parade; Saturday, football and Club; and Sunday, church; and all the in-between times in the park and on the street corners.

The lapel badge was an anchor with the BB motto inscription, Sure and Steadfast, and the BB hymn was always sung rousingly: *We have an anchor that keeps the soul steadfast and sure while the billows roll, fastened to a rock which cannot move, grounded firm and deep in the Saviour's love.*

The 50th Liverpool, led by brothers Bill and Norman Lyons, was a massive success story in gym displays, swimming galas, table tennis and badminton and, above all in the city, football. The inspired Lyons brothers led that group of teenage boys into the world of the Duke of Edinburgh's Award scheme. The four elements: physical activity; interests; service; and expedition survive to this day – although service, for which the Duke has been widely praised, is now labelled as 'volunteering'. But for a gang of 14 year-old scallies from Kensington, Liverpool 6, the expedition was the highlight. I reckon, with a fair head of wind, I could still outline all six routes – three practice and three tests – on today's OS map (50 years-on; that's how memorable they were.

In those days there were much stricter rules. As groups you had to buy your food in advance and split the costs: David Williamson, you still owe me 1/6 for that bacon. You had to travel to and from your expedition start/finish point by public transport with the pain of the weight of those rucksacks. Not modern versions; those heavy canvas ones with the triangular metal frame. And all with less than 10% of the hike on roads; Bronze and Silver in the Clwydians and Gold in Snowdonia and Cader Idris. And never-ending rain, causing bacon and eggs to be cooked in the shelter of a phone box.

I received my Award personally from the Duke at Buckingham Palace in 1975. I actually spoke to him, because my residential' (an element of the Gold award) had been completed at Salvation Army summer camp in the Adirondacks, upstate New York.

In those days, only 3% of those who started their Bronze Award completed their Gold Award. I am often asked what are the main things that the Award offers and I repeat the virtue that the DofE instilled in me – 'stickability', nowadays translated, in part, as 'resilience'. But it's resilience for the long game. To stick at something for all one's teenage years, from aspirations aged 13 to fulfilment at 19, requires resilience combined with long-term commitment..

We remain as long-distance walkers to this day, but nowadays I am more often asked to give talks in schools about the DofE than participate. I say to parents that, in addition to 'stickability', another virtue that the Award grows in you is 'leadership in a team context'.



Expeditions are filled with small decisions within a team context – usually which way to go – and the skills of persuasion, even coercion, the use of instruction and the art of the compromise to move forward, can all be learned on a wet and windy mountain-top. And it is at the top that the wrong decisions are usually made and have greater consequences. Throughout my life and career, I have learned that the most significant leadership decisions you will make are usually the ones that go ‘against the grain’, or against the popular or democratic view. The courageous, sometimes risky, decisions. You don’t have to do that very frequently, perhaps two or three times a year, but those are the decisions which are the key ones – and the ones you should try and get right. I learned this through DofE, both right and wrong, on wet and windy mountain tops.

DofE stayed with me throughout my life when another of its values bounced back time and again. At church, I joined with other volunteers to lead a DofE programme for a decade which I know had a life-changing impact on the lives of those young people, including some who faced considerable personal challenges. I was fortunate to meet the Duke once again as a guest of one of those young people at Holyrood, and to meet Prince Edward recently in my role as a DofE ambassador in this area. Observing and sharing the experience of the DofE with today’s young people has been very fulfilling; the lifetime value-base of putting back-in more than you take out.

As the Duke himself passes-on, I reflect on his legacy on my life and those of others that has lasted fifty years and onwards. It instilled ‘stickability’ in me; it grew me into leadership roles; and it drove me to give back more than I take out of any aspect of life. It led me to career heights in church and state that a kid from a rented terrace in Liverpool 6 could never have imagined. It anchored my Christian faith in a sure and steadfast mould, it was my strength and stay in teenage years and beyond. I owe him.

Maurice Smith

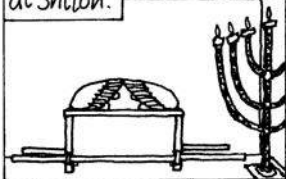
Bible Bite

A short story from the Bible

It can be read in the Bible in
1 Samuel 4:1-10, 5:1-7:1

God gave Moses two stone slabs with His laws for the Jews on them. They were kept in a special chest, the Ark, and carried with them

When the Jews got to Israel, the Ark was kept at Shiloh.



The Jews did not keep God's laws so He let the Philistines attack and defeat them.



The Jews took the Ark into battle with them to make God help them win.



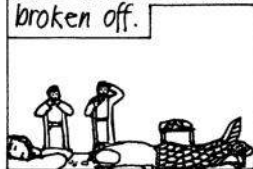
But the Philistines won. They took the Ark to their city of Ashdod and put it in the temple of their god Dagon.



The next day they found Dagon's statue face down.



The next day it was over again and its head and hands had broken off.



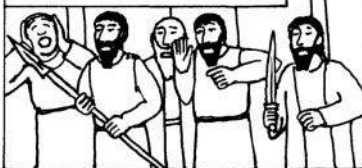
Then the people became covered in sores.



They moved the Ark to the city of Gath.



They were going to move the Ark to Ekron, but the people there wouldn't let them.



So they put the Ark on a new cart with a gift of gold.



At Bethshemesh, people harvesting saw the Ark.

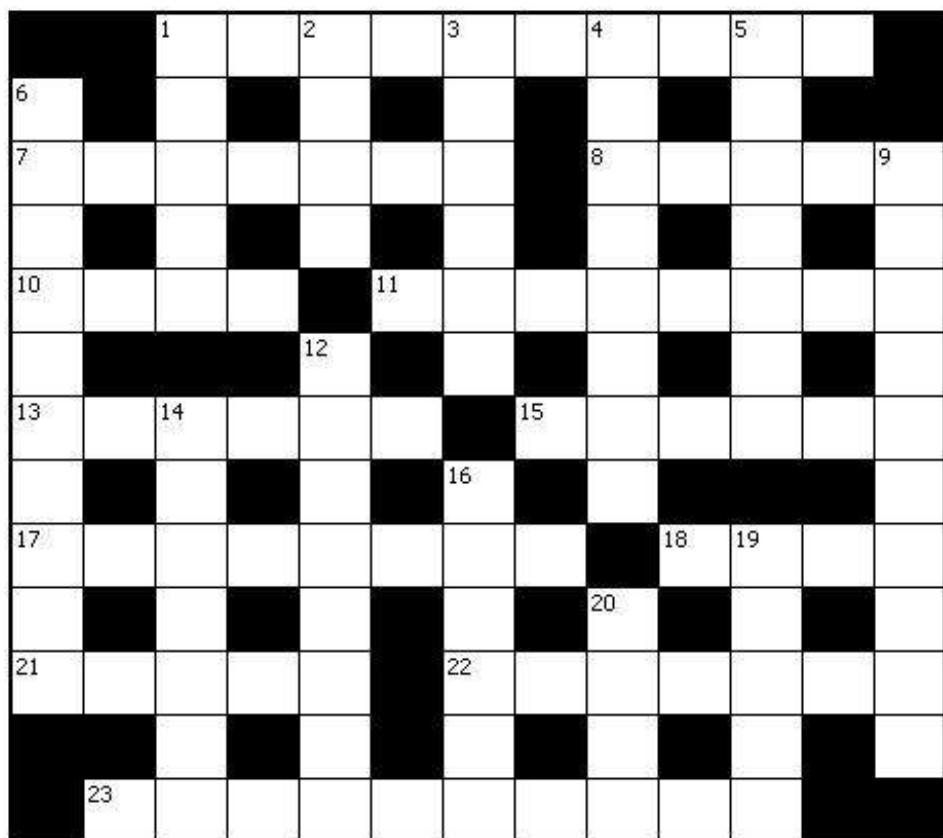


But some treated it without respect and died.



So it was moved to Keriath Jearim for safe-keeping.

Crossword



Answers on page 31

Across

- 1 Sense of right and wrong (*1 Corinthians 8:7*) (10)
- 7 Coming (*John 11:17*) (7)
- 8 'All I have is — , and all you have is mine' (*John 17:10*) (5)
- 10 Smarten (*Acts 9:34*) (4)
- 11 Hold back (*Job 9:13*) (8)
- 13 Member of the Society of Friends (6)
- 15 At ague (anag.) (6)
- 17 Citizen of the Greek capital (8)
- 18 So be it (*Galatians 6:18*) (4)
- 21 Twentieth-century poet and dramatist who wrote *Murder in the Cathedral*, T.S. — (5)
- 22 Empowers (*Philippians 3:21*) (7)
- 23 Imposing (*1 Samuel 9:2*) (10)

Down

- 1 Healed (*Luke 7:21*) (5)
- 2 Central space in a church (4)
- 3 Co-founder of Spring Harvest and General Secretary of the Evangelical Alliance 1983–97, Clive — (6)
- 4 Moses killed one when he saw him beating a Hebrew labourer (*Exodus 2:12*) (8)
- 5 Bravery (*Acts 4:13*) (7)
- 6 It interrupted Paul and Silas singing hymns in a Philippian jail (*Acts 16:26*) (10)
- 9 Transgression (*Psalms 36:1*) (10)
- 12 Irish province in which Dublin is situated (8)
- 14 Same hit (anag.) (7)
- 16 'The Spirit of God was hovering over the — ' (*Genesis 1:2*) (6)
- 19 Author of the immortal stories of Winnie the Pooh, A.A. — (5)
- 20 Cab (4)

May Holy Days

8th May: Julian of Norwich, a voice from a distant cell

Julian of Norwich was born in 1342 and wrote at the end of the 14th century, when our modern English language was slowly emerging from its origins in Anglo-Saxon and Middle English.

We know little about Julian's early life, but when she was 30, she fell ill and was near death when suddenly her pain left her, and she received 16 visitations. Julian wrote these down, in what became known as the 'short text'. 20 years later she extended this to become her 'long text'.

She was an anchoress – someone who had committed herself to a life of solitude, giving herself to prayer and fasting. St Julian's, Norwich was the church where she had her little 'cell'.

Julian taught that all things depend upon the love of God for their being. Her spirituality was focussed on the cross, and she wanted to share the sufferings of Christ. She believed that humanity is separated from God by sin, but redeemed through Christ, who reunites us with God. Julian also emphasised Christ as mother, but within a clear Trinitarian understanding of the godhead.

Her masterpiece, *Revelations of Divine Love*, reveals a mystic of such depth and insight that it is still read by many thousands of Christians today. One of the notable features is that her theology determined her experience, rather than the other way round.

She is honoured this month in the Lutheran and Anglican Churches, but although she is held in high regard by many Roman

Catholics, her own Church has never felt able to recognise her as a 'saint'. This is probably because she spoke of God as embracing both male and female qualities. *Revelations* is an account of the visions she received in her tiny room, which thousands of pilgrims visit every year.

Her most famous saying, quoted by T S Eliot in one of his poems, is 'All shall be well, and all shall be well, and all manner of thing shall be well.' These words have brought comfort and strength to many a soul in distress.

15th May: Matthias the Apostle, called by lots

Have you ever happened to be in the right place at the right time, with certain qualifications, and suddenly realise that God is singling you out for a special task? If so, Matthias is a good patron saint for you!

In Acts 1 (15 – 26) the apostles had a task to do: Judas had betrayed Jesus and died, and so a new apostle needed to be chosen. He had to have been a follower of Christ from the Baptism to the Ascension, and also a witness of the Resurrection in order to qualify. In the event, the choice fell to one of two: Joseph Barsabas and Matthias.

Lots were drawn, and Matthias was chosen. How confident he must have felt in his calling: what encouragement that would be when the going got rough in later years! Matthias is thought to have ministered in Cappadocia and even Ethiopia. His emblem is usually an axe or halberd, regarded as the instrument of his martyrdom. His supposed relics were translated from Jerusalem to Rome by the empress Helena.

Robert Carson's Film Report



Cinemas are opening very, very soon but for now... enjoy some more classic reviews!

The Perks of Being a Wallflower (12A)

Directed by Stephen Chbosky

Stars: Logan Lerman, Ezra Miller, Emma Watson, Paul Rudd, Mae Whitman, Kate Walsh, Dylan McDermott, Nina Dobrev, Tom Savini, Joan Cusack, and Johnny Simmons

In a Nutshell: Every now and then it's nice to be surprised by a movie, you have your Dark Knight Rises and your Looper and you make your assumptions and are either let down or satisfied. It's those movies that at the start of the year you didn't know about or have heard of, and even when I'd seen the trailer I thought that looks ok, but nothing more, only on the backing of some solid reviews and a intrigue I wandered along to see easily one of the warmest and most excellent movies I've seen that year. Why is it so good? I think it really taps into the trappings of youth, and either for someone like me who youth is still almost yesterday, even someone older who looks back fondly, or even someone living through it, it really captures the awkwardness of fitting in and finding people to connect with, and how deadly it can be at times. This is all bolstered by a triumph of references, music and movies that help it all feel all the more familiar, from Rocky Horror via Bowie and The Smiths through to To Kill a Mockingbird, maybe to some these aren't favourite things, but if like me Bowie and Rocky Horror are the top of the world then it makes it all the more fantastic. Lastly but not least, the cast are terrific, Emma Watson really shines and has a great future ahead, whilst Ezra Miller is terrific and Paul Rudd and others shine in the support, but the real gold is the lead role by Logan Lerman, who really shines as a guy struggling to find friends and fit in and with a tragic past that really threatens everything. It's a really fabulous performance and all from the guy previously best known for Percy Jackson, it's funny, it's sweet, it's tragic, it's simply one of the best movies you'll see all year.

Rating: 10/10

X-Men: First Class (12A)

Stars: James McAvoy, Michael Fassbender, Kevin Bacon, January Jones, Jason Flemying, Oliver Platt, Jennifer Lawrence, Rose Byrne, Nicholas Hoult, Caleb Landry Jones, Edi Gathegi, and Lucas Till

The Verdict: It's a well-trodden path, the prequel and back-story, you can either do a Wolverine and be pretty average or you go the more popular route of Star Trek, Batman Begins, and Casino Royale and just be an amazing masterpiece of mega wonder! Thankfully the combined efforts of Matthew Vaughn and Bryan Singer have produced much more a Casino Royale than a Wolverine. Easily the top decision here that makes the whole thing work so well is the double whammy of superb casting for the leads; McAvoy is simply brilliant as a young Charles, reckless at first but always caring and intellectual if not quite as Zen as the older Xavier of the X-Movies. Whilst Fassbender is a knockout, full of swagger and inner rage, very Bond-like too, his is the stand-out turn amongst many other decent turns including Hoult as Hank McCoy aka Beast. And newcomer Lawrence as Mystique who is terrific as the shape shifter at odds with her lot in life. The setting works brilliantly, adding some true-life drama as well as a quiriness due to the 60's setting that works in the comic book styles favour, there's terrific special effects as expected and a cast of newbie mutants who all get a moment or two to shine thankfully as well as some terrific baddies including a seriously sinister Bacon, a dazzling January Jones and a delightfully malicious Flemying as Azazel, with the same teleport skills as Nightcrawler but without the heart. A great cast of characters, some brilliant backbone, great acting, great effects all adds up to another superb prequel which brings the X-Franchise back into our good side with style

Rating: 9/10

Also Seen

The Edge of Seventeen (15) 8/10

Moxie (12) 9/10

I Care a Lot (15) 8/10

Oscar (PG) 7/10

Enola Holmes (12) 9/10

Dreamscape (12) 7/10

Coming in June

Reviews of Godzilla vs. Kong and Cruella

Wordsearch

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

Israel

God

sores

Gath

safe

hands

Ashdod

Moses

Philistines

temple

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head

Dagon

cart

chest

Ekron

pulling

Ark

cows

statue

celebrated

respect

people

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Down 1 cured 2. nave 3. calver 4. Egyptian 5. courage 6. earthquake 9. sinfulness 12. Leinster 14. atheism 16. waters 19. Milne 20. taxi



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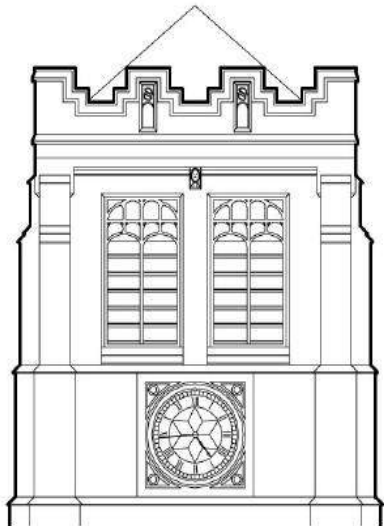
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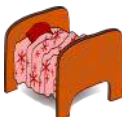
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Many people are asking us how they can give their usual weekly offerings. We do appreciate your concern for the finances of the church as the plate offerings help towards the payment that has to go to the diocese each month. We need to continue these payments as the outgoings of the diocese will remain the same while church is closed. Please consider switching to the Parish Giving Scheme by phoning 0333 002 1271 as we can get the tax back much quicker this way.

If you want to continue giving by envelope, please take them to the vicarage, or to Malcolm and Barbara's (32 Townfields), clearly marking the envelopes if it is for more than one week.

Funds currently in use are: Africa Fund, Asylum Seeker, Audio Visual, Church Hall, Building & Maintenance, Food Ministry, Garden of Rest, General, Grave Maintenance, Heath Road Graveyard, Heating and Fit for the Future.

Unless otherwise stated donations will go into the General

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

St Thomas' Donations & Remembrance



In loving memory of my dear husband, **Keith Fox**.

Anniversary Remembrance of **Gordon Lyon** (13th May). From Marie, Barbara, John, Madolyn & Rob, David, Sharon, Ruby & Geena. Sadly missed.

In memory of Lynne Walton from the Hollingsworth family.

In loving memory of my dear parents, Jessie & Doug Evans, on their anniversary. With love & cherished memories from Hazel.

In memory of Ronald Stephen Anders who died on 18th August 2020.

In memory of Arthur Edwardson from Hilda Edwardson, Raymond and Sharon

In memory of all our loved ones from Hilda Edwardson, Raymond and Sharon

Towards the cost of the maintenance of the church hall in particular the car park from Park Motors.

Please accept our apologies as the following details were omitted from the March edition of the magazine:

In loving memory of **Allan Woodward**, a dearly loved husband and father. Rest in peace, Neina, John, Rebecca, Lesley and families.




The Registers



Funerals - "May they rest in peace"

7 April 2021	Lynne Walton	Windsor Road	74
12 April 2021	Stanley Doran	Epsom Drive	85
14 April 2021	Doris Knowles	Bolton Road	74



You hold time within your hands, and see it all,
from beginning to end.

Please keep and carry the families and friends
of these precious people in their sadness and
loss.

Cover them with your great wings of love, give
their weary hearts rest and their minds sound
sleep.

Lord, lift their eyes so that they may catch a
glimpse of eternity, and be comforted by the
promise of heaven.

We ask all this in the precious name of Jesus.

Amen



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<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> Vacant</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>
<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) Karen Cunliffe</p>

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