

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

NOW THE LORD IS THE
SPIRIT, AND WHERE THE
SPIRIT OF THE LORD IS,
THERE IS FREEDOM.

2 CORINTHIANS 3:17

May 2024

70p

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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.

	June	July	August
Deadline for material	16 May	20 June	Summer break
Publication date	26 May	30 June	Summer break

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A poetic prayer for Pentecost

Happy Birthday to all Christians,
This is where it all began;
Out from here went the apostles,
Taking Christ to everyone.

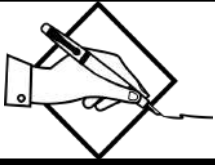
Able now to speak to nations,
With the good news to proclaim;
Crucified for our salvation,
Hear His message, learn His name.

Out they went to every corner,
Fearless as they spread the word;
Bringing light to those in darkness,
Giving hope to all that heard.

So must we with every blessing,
Follow in the steps they trod;
Showing love and help and kindness,
All come from the breath of God.

By Alan Millichip





May Letter

As we come into May, we enter a generally celebratory month. Along with (hopefully!) warmer weather and lighter evenings, both Pentecost Sunday and Trinity Sunday are celebrated. Both of which invoke images of bright colours and bright outlooks, a stark contrast to the more subtle period of Lent and the overcast scenes of Good Friday, which seem to have only just passed.

Here is a trick question: How many colours does your television set use?

Answer: Just three - red, green and blue. And in that order, just like a rainbow (where reds are at one side, blues at the opposite side, green in the middle). This is known as "RGB".

These are TV's three primary colours which, when their luminescence is fired at your eyes, give all the colours of the visible spectrum. These are all 'additive' colours. In fact, mix these three together in different proportions, and your screen can offer you 16 million colours!

You thought the sequence was red/yellow/blue? No, that's for painted or printed colours. A TV set positively gives out light in three different colours, whereas paint daubed on paper absorbs and removes some colours, to reflect back merely a small part of the light falling on it the colour that you see.

You'll soon call out the repair company (or consult Youtube if you're tech savvy!) if your television loses one of its three colours and all the presenters look as though they came from Mars. But change the intensity of any one colour (red, green or blue) even slightly and you change the overall colour.

Switch them all off, and you are left with black. Let all three of them shine at full brightness, at the same point - and then as if by magic you have a totally different colour: WHITE!

It's a parable which illustrates the Holy Trinity. Three completely distinct persons; Father, Son and Holy Spirit, just as your TV set has three quite separate colours: red, green, blue. Take away any one member of the Trinity, and you slip into theological error; take away any one of the three colours, and you call out the TV repair engineer!

So:-

It **DOES** matter that God is our Creator and Father - otherwise our whole life is merely a meaningless illusion.

It **DOES** matter that Jesus is God the Son, for otherwise His death is simply a human tragedy, with no promise of salvation or eternal life.

It **DOES** matter that the Holy Spirit is with us here and now, otherwise we are disconnected from God.

Yes it really does matter! Just as it is essential that a TV set can produce white by the equal intensity of all of its three colours. In fact, the more you think about it, the more it seems that the doctrine of the Trinity is far from being a complicated, but is a sort of theological test-card, to make sure that we've got the right picture of God, without distortion.

As we enter into this new period, refreshed and fired up from the miraculous events of Easter, may we take this time to reflect on our perspective of God and how we can further our understanding and reflection of this moving forwards. Is there any aspects of our lives where we feel we can refine this, improve our understanding or draw nearer to God? Indeed, as we come to our APCM, it is my prayer that we consider these things as a Parish and focus on how decisions we make in the coming year can continue to stoke the fire in Wigan South.

*14 May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ,
and the love of God, and the fellowship of
the Holy Spirit be with you all.*

2 Corinthians 13:14

Parish News

Weekly Events

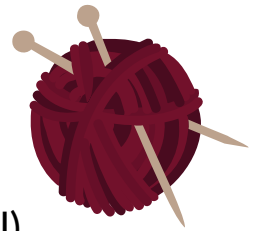
Mondays

- 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)



Wednesdays

- 1pm - 2.30pm: Wednesday Weenies (St Thomas' church hall)
- 1pm - 2.30pm: Walk the Walls (St Thomas')
- 1pm - 3pm: Knit and Chat group (St Peter's)
- 3pm - 4pm: Hot Spot for Y11 (St Thomas' church hall)
- 4pm - 5pm: Discipleship Group for Y7 - 11 (St Thomas' church hall)
- 7.30pm: Women's Fellowship (St Peter's)

Thursdays

- 2pm - 3pm: English Classes (St Thomas' church hall)
- 2pm - 3.15pm: Gentle dance class (St Luke's)



Fridays

- 2pm: Bible Study (St Thomas' church hall)
- 9.30am - 10.30am: Mini Street Pop Up Play (St Andrew's)



Sundays

- 1pm - 3pm: Asylum seeker and refugee drop in (St Thomas' church hall)

Please check locally for dates around term times

May Diary



Tuesday 7th May

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

Saturday 11th May

9am - 10.30am: Prayer & Pastries (St Thomas' Vicarage)

11am - 1pm: Africa Fund Brunch (St Thomas')

Sunday 12th May

6.30pm - 7.30pm: GAP worship, chat and chill for older teenagers and young adults (St Thomas')

Tuesday 14th May

10am - 11.30am: Bereavement Support Group (St Luke's)

1.30pm - 3pm: Bereavement Support Group (St Andrew's)

Tuesday 21st May

1.30pm - 3pm: Peace of Mind Dementia Cafe

Saturday 18th May

10am: Litter Pick (meeting at St Thomas' church car park)

Tuesday 22nd May

7.30pm: Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) at St Thomas' church - EVERYONE welcome

Wednesday 23rd May

2pm: Friendship Group with Brenda Bridge as guest speaker, talking about her recent travels in Australia (St Aidan's)

Thursday 9th - Sunday 19th May

Thy Kingdom Come - encouraging everyone to pray for 5 people who do not yet know the love of God

Prayer and pastries!

Do you have a heart for prayer, Jesus, and others? You are welcome to join us as we seek to hear God's voice and bring our requests to Him

Refreshments will be served! All welcome

*Saturday 11th May
9.00-10.30am
St Thomas Vicarage*

**Pray
more
worry less**



Saturday 27th April

11am - 2pm

St Andrew's Mission Hall



Admission only 20p!

With stalls including cakes, knitted goods, name the doll, surprise bags and appearances from our friends at Holy Trinity and the Meningitis Charity

Refreshments available - Pie, peas and gravy, picnic plates, tea, coffee and juice

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 1.30pm - 3pm

Thursday new time for a trial period

Saturday 11am - 12pm

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 May

Wednesday 1st	10.00am: Holy Communion	St Aidan's
Thursday 2nd	9.45am: BCP Holy Communion	St Thomas'
Sunday 5th	9.00am: Morning Worship 9.30am: Morning Worship 10.00am: Holy Communion 10.30am: Holy Communion 10.30am: Morning Worship 10.45am: Worship Together 11.00am: Morning Worship 6.30pm: Holy Communion	St Thomas' St Andrew's St Aidan's St Peter's Holy Trinity St Thomas' St Luke's St Thomas'
Wednesday 8th	10.00am: Holy Communion	Holy Trinity
Thursday 9th	9.45am: BCP Holy Communion 7.00pm: Hub Ascension Day Service	St Thomas' St Aidan's
Sunday 12th	9.00am: Holy Communion 9.30am: Holy Communion 10.30am: Sta's4all in school 10.30am: Morning Service 10.30am: Holy Communion 10.45am: Worship Together 11.00am: Holy Communion 4.00pm: Evening Prayer	St Thomas' St Andrew's St Aidan's St Peter's Holy Trinity St Thomas' St Luke's St Aidan's
Wednesday 15th	10.00am: Holy Communion	St Aidan's
Thursday 16th	9.45am: BCP Holy Communion	St Thomas'

Sunday 19th	9.00am: Morning Worship 9.30am: Church Café 10.00am: Morning Worship 10.30am: Morning Prayer 10.30am: Morning Worship 10.45am: Holy Communion 11.00am: Family Worship 1.00pm: Pentecost Celebration 6.30pm: Evening Prayer	St Thomas' St Andrew's St Aidan's St Peter's Holy Trinity St Thomas' St Luke's Downall Green St Thomas'
Wednesday 22nd	10.00am: Holy Communion	Holy Trinity
Thursday 23rd	9.45am: BCP Holy Communion	St Thomas'
Sunday 27th	9.00am: Holy Communion 9.30am: Morning Worship 10.00am: St Aidan's Beacon 10.30am: Morning Prayer 10.30am: Holy Communion 10.45am: Worship Together 11.00am: Morning Worship 4pm: Holy Communion	St Thomas' St Andrew's St Aidan's St Peter's Holy Trinity St Thomas' St Luke's St Aidan's

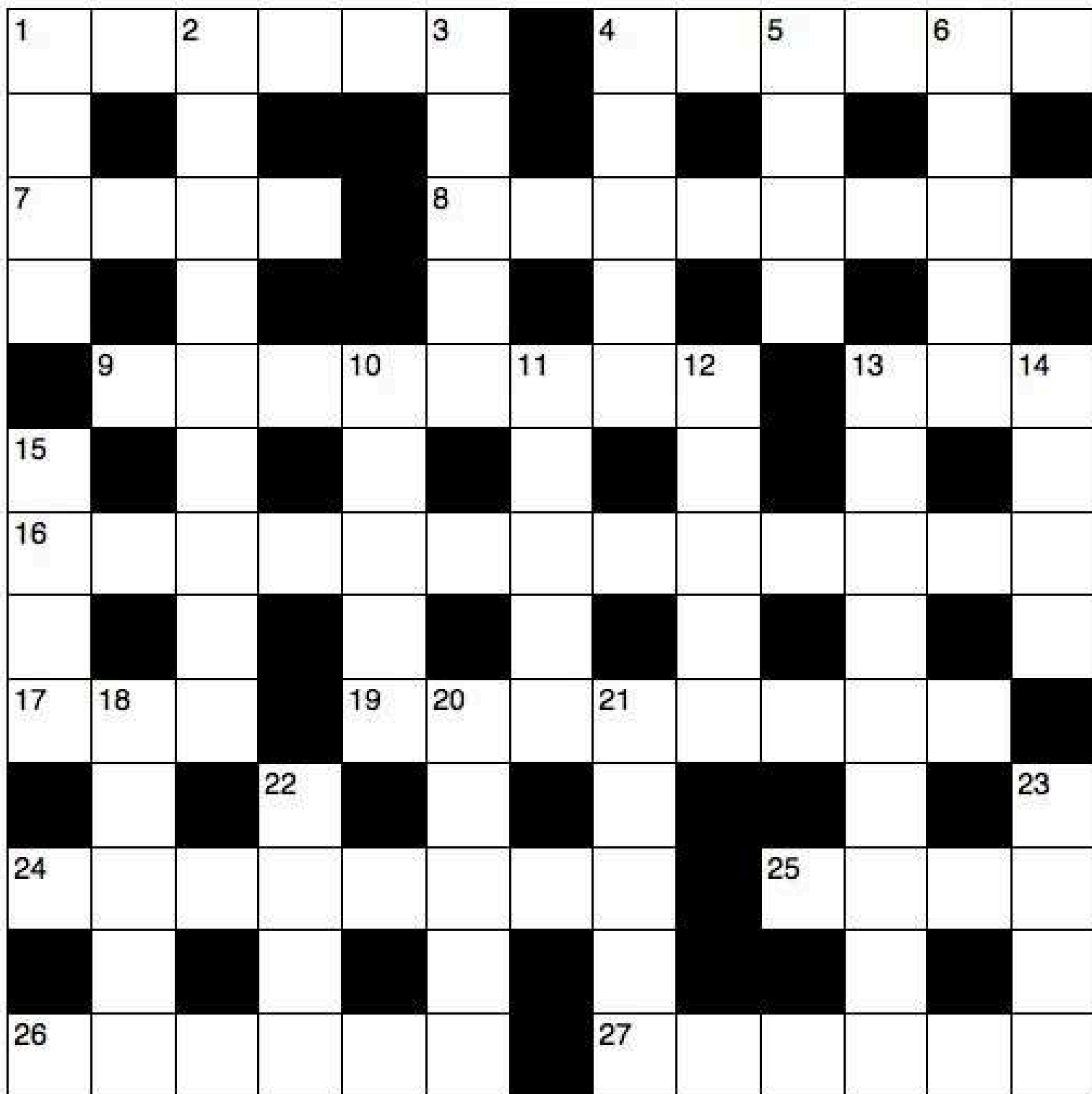


Advanced Notice:

Sunday 30th June, being the fifth Sunday of the month, will see a Wigan South service at 10.30am at St Thomas' Church. This will be Rev Jeremy Thomas' last service before his retirement.

All are welcome to join this service and to stay for cake with friends afterwards.

Crossword



Answers on page 19

Across

- 1 One who owes money, goods or services (Isaiah 24:2) (6)
- 4 'A good measure, pressed down, – together and running over' (Luke 6:38) (6)
- 7 Continuous dull pain (Proverbs 14:13) (4)
- 8 This bread contains yeast (Amos 4:5) (8)
- 9 'But take heart! I have – the world' (John 16:33) (8)
- 13 And the rest (abbrev.) (3)
- 16 What Paul was accused of by Tertullus, the high priest's lawyer, in his trial before Felix (Acts 24:5) (13)
- 17 Rap (anag.) (3)
- 19 Founder of the Jesuits in 1534 (8)
- 24 'For where your – is, there your heart will be also' (Luke 12:34) (8)
- 25 The first word written on the wall during King Belshazzar's great banquet (Daniel 5:25) (4)
- 26 'We all, like sheep, have gone – ' (Isaiah 53:6) (6)
- 27 One was given in honour of Jesus in Bethany (John 12:2) (6)

Down

- 1 'The blind receive sight, the lame walk, the - hear, the dead are raised' (Luke 7:22) (4)
- 2 Conduct (Colossians 1:21) (9)
- 3 In the Catholic and Orthodox traditions, the body of a saint or his belongings, venerated as holy (5)
- 4 'Like a – of locusts men pounce on it' (Isaiah 33:4) (5)
- 5 Very old (Genesis 44:20) (4)
- 6 In Calvinist theology, one who is predestined by God to receive salvation (5)
- 10 How Nicodemus addressed Jesus when he visited him (John 3:2) (5)
- 11 Sea (Psalm 148:7) (5)
- 12 'I will – you, my God the King; I will praise your name for ever and ever' (Psalm 145:1) (5)
- 13 One of the groups of philosophers that Paul met in Athens, who disagreed with his teaching about the resurrection (Acts 17:18) (9)
- 14 Barred enclosure (Ezekiel 19:9) (4)
- 15 'Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in - with the Spirit' (Galatians 5:25) (4)
- 18 Cares (anag.) (5)
- 20 Garish (Ezekiel 16:16) (5)
- 21 'So God said to Noah, "I am going to put – – to all people"' (Gen 6:13) (2,3)
- 22 Just (2 Corinthians 6:13) (4)
- 23 'The – of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge' (Proverbs 1:7) (4)

Scottish Parliament recognises 'iconic' St Giles' as the congregation celebrates 900 years

A recent motion has been laid in the Scottish Parliament recognising St Giles' Cathedral as "a prominent part of the life of Edinburgh and Scotland for 900 years".



It commends the "iconic" cathedral, which was probably founded by King David I in 1124, for "its various projects, designed to reach out to people of all ages, backgrounds and faiths across the city".

The citation continues stating that "1.5 million people from around the world visited St Giles' in 2023, underlining its status as a dynamic centre celebrating Scotland's heritage and culture, as well as being an active place of worship".

The motion was laid down by Miles Briggs, a Lothian MSP, and will now be circulated for other MSPs to sign. If you would like more information about the 900th anniversary, please check for updates on the St Giles' website.

Good dog!

Recent scientific research has found evidence that having a dog is good for you. "Science is finally catching up with what humans have intuitively known for thousands of years." So says Professor Emeritus Aubrey Fine of Cal Poly University, a paediatric clinical psychologist.

A recent study at Konkuk University in Korea found that participants' alpha-band brain waves increased while playing and walking with dogs, while their beta-band brain waves increased while grooming, massaging, or playing with dogs. All participants were left feeling "less fatigued, depressed and stressed".

In one American academic journal, *Circulation: Cardiovascular Quality and Outcomes*, a study found that, overall, dog owners have a 24 per cent decreased risk of all-cause mortality, and that that percentage rises to 31 per cent for cardiovascular-related issues.

Faith in Families to run Wales' first multibank

Cwtch Mawr, Wales' first 'multibank', has been officially opened by First Minister Mark Drakeford and Gordon Brown, the former Prime Minister.

Multibanks are based on the foodbank model, but provide a wider range of non-perishable goods, enabling businesses to redistribute surplus unsold items to people for free.

Cwtch Mawr will be run by Faith in Families, with support from Gordon Brown and Amazon, who co-founded the multibank initiative. The Welsh Government is providing £125,000 for the start-up of the project, with other support coming from local partners including Swansea Council, Pobl Housing Association and The Moondance Foundation.

Cwtch Mawr will be supported by donations from Amazon and other companies, including cleaning wipes, sanitary products, toilet paper, kitchen rolls and toys. New and reusable household goods, food, clothes, toiletries, furnishings, bedding, children and baby goods are expected to be provided in future.

The multibank model encourages businesses to cut down on waste through the creation of a bank of surplus household goods. Cwtch Mawr plans to donate more than 300,000 surplus essential goods to 40,000 families in poverty this year.



9th May - Ascension Day, 40 Days with the Risen Christ

40 days after Easter comes Ascension Day. These are the 40 days during which the Risen Christ appeared again and again to His disciples, following His death and resurrection. (Matthew 28; Mark 16; Luke 24; and John 20.)

The Gospels give us little of Christ's teachings and deeds during those 40 days. Jesus was seen by numerous of His disciples: on the road to Emmaus, by the Sea of Galilee, in houses, etc. He strengthened and encouraged His disciples, and at last opened their eyes to all that the Scriptures had promised about the Messiah. Jesus also told them that as the Father had sent Him, He was now going to send them - to all corners of the earth, as His witnesses.

Surely the most tender, moving 'farewell' in history took place on Ascension Day. Luke records the story with great poignancy: 'When Jesus had led them out to the vicinity of Bethany, He lifted up His hands - and blessed them.'

As Christmas began the story of Jesus' life on earth, so Ascension Day completes it, with His return to His Father in heaven. Jesus' last act on earth was to bless His disciples. He and they had a bond as close as could be: they had just lived through three tumultuous years of public ministry and miracles - persecution and death - and resurrection! Just as we part from our nearest and dearest by still looking at them with love and memories in our eyes, so exactly did Jesus: 'While He was blessing them, He left them and was taken up into heaven.' (Luke 24:50-1) He was not forsaking them, but merely going on ahead to a kingdom which would also be theirs one day: 'I am ascending to my Father and to your Father, to my God and your God...' (John 20:17)

The disciples were surely the most favoured folk in history. Imagine being one of the last few people on earth to be face to face with Jesus, and to have Him look on you with love. No wonder then that Luke goes on: 'they worshipped Him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy. And they stayed continually at the temple, praising God.' (Luke 24:52,53)

No wonder they praised God! They knew they would see Jesus again one day! 'I am going to prepare a place for you... I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am.' (John 14:2,3) In the meantime, Jesus had work for them to do: to take the Gospel to every nation on earth.

THY KINGDOM COME – 9th to 19th May 2024

This year more than a million Christians worldwide will be joining in long-distance prayer between Ascension Day to Pentecost (9th – 19th May).

What started in 2016 with the Archbishops of Canterbury and York inviting the CofE to pray, has grown into an annual international and ecumenical call to 11 days of specific prayer that more people will come to know Jesus.

According to the organisers of Kingdom Come, the movement is now in nearly 90% of countries worldwide, and spread among 85 different denominations and traditions.

Kingdom Come explains that it encourages: “Every person, household and church to pray that those who have not yet heard the Good News of Jesus Christ and His love for the world, will hear it for themselves and respond and follow Him.

“Specifically, we again invite each Christian to pray that God’s Spirit might work in the lives of 5 people whom they know, who have not responded with their ‘Yes’ to God’s call.”

Whether you have joined in ‘Thy Kingdom Come’ before or not, you are invited to take part this year. Archbishop Justin Welby says: “In praying ‘Thy Kingdom Come’ we all commit to playing our part in the renewal of the nations and the transformation of communities.”

Crossword Answers

ACROSS: 1, Debtor. 4, Shaken. 7, Ache. 8, Leavened. 9, Overcome. 13, Etc. 16, Troublemaking. 17, Par. 19, Ignatius. 24, Treasure. 25, Mene. 26, Astray. 27, Dinner.

DOWN: 1, Deaf. 2, Behaviour. 3, Relic. 4, Swarm. 5, Aged. 6, Elect. 10, Rabbi. 11, Ocean. 12, Exalt. 13, Epicurean. 14, Cage. 15, Step. 18, Acres. 20, Gaudy. 21, An end. 22, Fair. 23, Fear.

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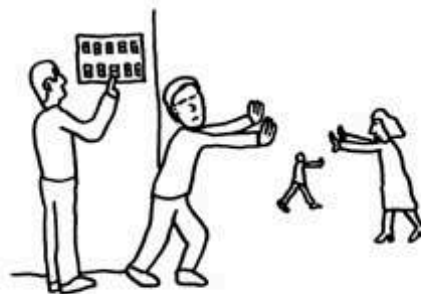
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LEAVING CHURCH

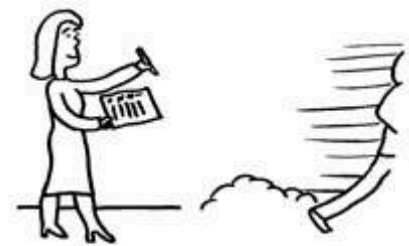
SOMETIMES IT CAN BE DIFFICULT TO ENCOURAGE PEOPLE TO LEAVE AFTER A SERVICE BECAUSE THEY HAVE BEEN HAVING SUCH A GREAT TIME. THESE ARE SOME OF THE TACTICS THAT THE CHURCHWARDENS ADOPT:



JANGLING KEYS



TURNING OUT THE LIGHTS



APPROACHING PEOPLE WITH A ROTA



ORGANISING A WORK PARTY



THE COMMENCEMENT OF A GROUP HUG



SOME ODD OR UNPREDICTABLE BEHAVIOUR



May Services

	St Thomas'	St Luke's
Thursday 2nd	9.45am: BCP Holy Communion	
Sunday 5th	9.00am: Morning Worship 10.45am: Worship Together 6.30pm: Holy Communion	11.00am: Morning Worship
Thursday 9th	9.45am: BCP Holy Communion	
Sunday 12th	9.00am: Holy Communion 10.45am: Worship Together	11.00am: Holy Communion
Thursday 16th	9.45am: BCP Holy Communion	
Sunday 19th	9.00am: Morning Worship 10.45am: Holy Communion 6.30pm: Evening Prayer	11.00am: Family Worship
Thursday 23rd	9.45am: BCP Holy Communion	
Sunday 26th	9.00am: Holy Communion 10.45am: Worship Together	11.00am: Morning Worship

Advanced Notice:

Sunday 30th June, being the fifth Sunday of the month, will see a Wigan South service at 10.30am at St Thomas' Church. This will be Rev Jeremy Thomas' last service before his retirement.

All are welcome to join this service and to stay for cake with friends afterwards.



News from our churches

Our celebration of the Easter Festival at St Thomas is a highlight of our Christian year. Easter 2024 was no exception; there was lots going on and much effort was made by those involved in the organisation of the services and the Easter events, bringing home to us the great sacrifice made for us by our Lord Jesus Christ. I was particularly grateful to Tricia for the very thoughtful and moving Good Friday reflection on the crucifixion of our Lord and also to all those who took part in the service.

Easter Sunday began with the traditional 6.30am communion service at the Three Sisters. Along with Barbara I have attended these services since they were introduced by Rev Derek Mellors many years ago. It is always difficult to be ready for a service so early in the morning, this year was however more difficult having regard to the hour going forward. We were up at what on the day before would have been 4.45am but was now 5.45am, 20 brave people made the effort, and I don't know how they felt but I was fit for nothing later in the day!

After the bleakness of Good Friday our church was beautifully presented on Easter Sunday with gorgeous floral displays. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Flower Guild members for their considerable efforts in this regard. All those involved in our Easter celebrations deserve our thanks whether leading services or doing the much-appreciated children's work.

I recently had a conversation with Dave Hamlett and we are looking to bring back the Men's breakfast on a Saturday morning sometime in the near future. Perhaps with a guest speaker, the plans are at an early stage but chaps please watch this space.

I was very sad to hear that David Trigg, a regular member of our 10.45am congregation, had died suddenly. David was a staunch volunteer helping Graham trying to cope with Heath Road graveyard and I am sure that he will be sorely missed by his friends at St Thomas'.

On 6th April, David and I were married at St Thomas' church. It was wonderful and joyous occasion and we were so blessed to be joined by so many of our church family - both in person and online - along with our families and friends to celebrate our marriage. The service was lead with beautiful words from Jeremy Thomas and Sue Fulford, to both of whom we are extremely grateful.

Storm Kathleen meant we had a battle with the winds, but we were otherwise extremely fortunate to have a dry and sunny day which was also unseasonably warm. Albeit, a note to any future brides, don't go near the rose bushes in the church gardens with a veil in windy weather - you'll soon know about it when you're tangled up in the branches! Although David would like it noting that anyone else would realise this after the first instance and not do it again two more times like I did...

Some of our guests had not entered the doors of our church before and were pleasantly surprised by how refreshing, bright and wonderful it looked (you can just imagine how beaming I was for others to see what I see every week!). They also all received such a warm welcome and were overwhelmed by the uplifting atmosphere.

Ofcourse, this would not have been possible without the work of so many people; there are those who cleaned, and indeed do so every week, hoovering even up to the arrival of guests! Those who keep the building and grounds so beautifully maintained and safe, those who arranged the seating, ensured everything was in the right place and manned the AV desk. A huge thank you to you all, and especially to all the flower ladies who, a week after creating such beautiful Easter displays, amended them to fit the wedding colours and they were gorgeous. Church truly sang that day - literally too thanks to our wonderful music group who led our worship in song.

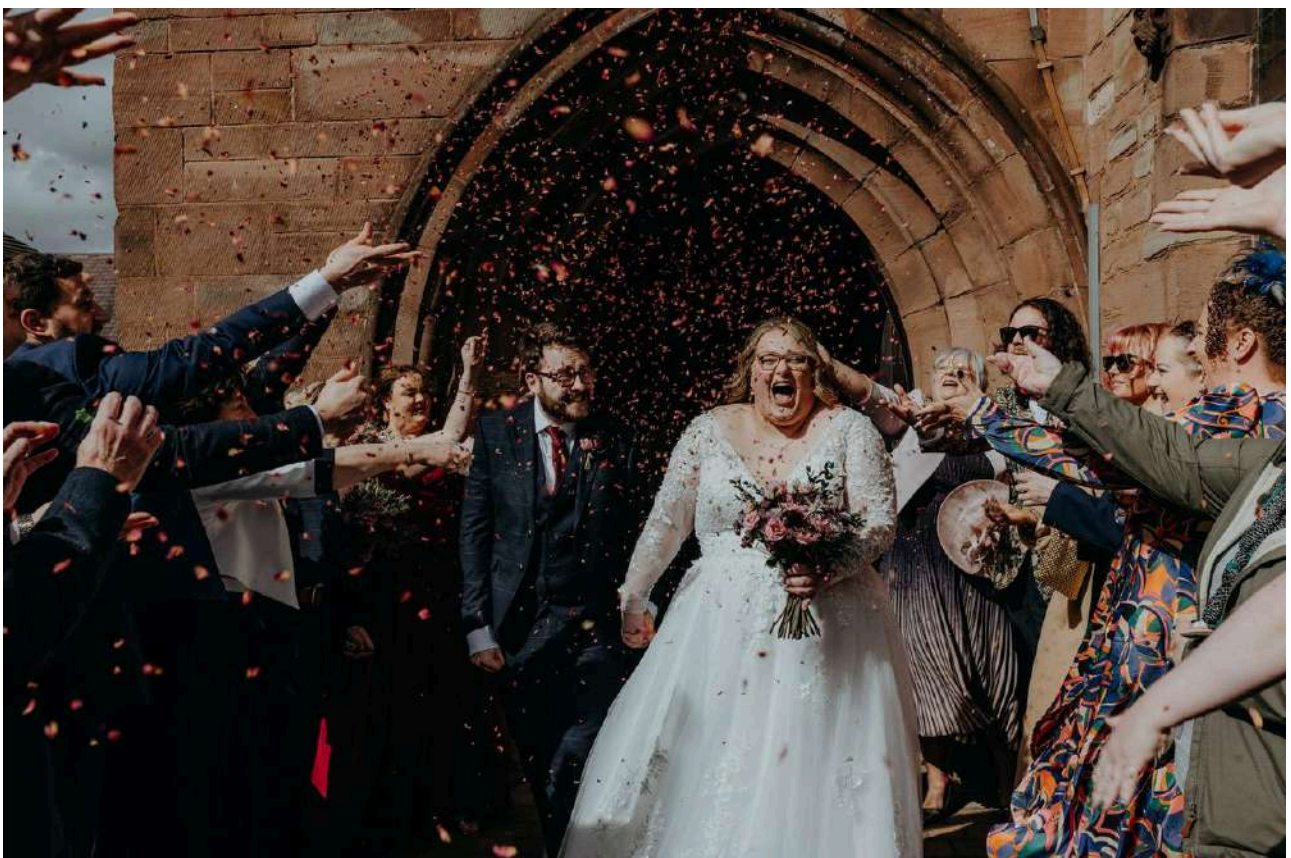


It also shone with the love and support of those who filled it, exemplified in the resounding and loud 'we will' when asked if you would support us in our married life. How truly heartwarming!

A wedding can get so caught up in its own sense of occasion with worries over totally insignificant things. But the sense of peace and joy I felt when I entered through the doors of church was a feeling I will never forget. To know that we were about to get married, in the presence of God and in a church that feels like home, was all we needed. The words that were prayed over us and Jeremy's sermon in the 'spring' of our marriage are words that we will carry throughout our married lives.

We are truly thankful to all for the good wishes, advice and prayers throughout our engagement (nearly two years ago!), whilst our banns were being read and over these last few weeks in particular. How blessed we are to have such a wonderful church family.

***With grateful hearts and much love,
Jess Bradley (now Buckley!)***





St Thomas' was once again the last stop on the Always Ashton Easter trail. We welcomed 240 people into church for refreshments and crafts. We're indebted to all the volunteers who worked hard to make this such a success.



It was great to see so many people at our Good Friday Messy Church.

After working hard on all the crafts and a short time of worship, we enjoyed a fish finger lunch.

The adults enjoyed their fish and chips too!



The history of our little town is once more opened up in another article from David Fearnley

FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY FOR ASHTON IN MAKERFIELD 1906

In July 1903 there was a meeting of Ashton Council, in the Town Hall, Bryn Street, on the receiving of a letter with a written offer from Mr Andrew Carnegie to the council of a sum of money towards the establishment of a free public library in Ashton. Mr William Valiant, chairman of the council, presided. The letter read –

Skibo Castle, Dornoch, Sutherland, Scotland.

To Mr. Albert Sykes, Clerk of Ashton in Makerfield Urban District Council

Dear Sir,

Replying to your appeal on behalf of Ashton in Makerfield, Mr Carnegie will be glad to give £5,000 (today £481,000) sterling to the erection of a Free Public Library for Ashton in Makerfield. The Public Library Act, passing through parliament, will provide an additional £360 to stock the library with books. A site must also be given for the building, the cost not being a burden on the rates.

Private Secretary/Mr. Carnegie

Andrew Carnegie was one of the richest men in American history with a fortune of (by today's valuation \$350 billion (equal to £278 billion). More than Jeff Bezos, the founder of Amazon, or Elon Musk of Tesla cars and "X". He was born in 1835 in Dunfermline, Scotland and died 1919 in Massachusetts, USA. In 1848 his family emigrated to Pittsburgh, USA.

Taking advantage of a local businessman who opened his library to working class boys he self-educated himself for his future career. Later he wrote "It was from my own early experience that I decided there was no use to which money could be applied so productive - as the founding of a public library". He gave \$56 million to building 2,509 libraries around the world. c660 Carnegie libraries were built in Britain including Pemberton (1906), Earlestown/Newton le Willows (1909) and Ashton in Makerfield (1906).

Carnegie invested in railways, iron & steel, oil, ships and the Carnegie Steel Corporation was the largest in the world. He bought Skibo Castle, Scotland, in 1898 for £85,000, today £8.75 million (in 2000 Madonna married Guy Ritchie at Skibo Castle).

He retired in 1901 with the intention to give away his entire fortune during his lifetime with the belief that "The man who dies rich dies disgraced". On his death in 1919 only \$30 million (£24 million) remained (today worth £560 million).

Mr Valiant considered this a handsome offer. He thought Mr Carnegie would make some offer but not £5,000. The offer was accepted. In Ashton there was a growing population and no public library so the library would provide a great benefit to the town. Where to choose a site for the library? Mr Robins, Garswood House/Le Chateau, Millfield Lane, land agent to Lord Gerard, said that Lord Gerard supported the idea of a library and would provide a suitable site. He had been instructed to offer several sites. The sites offered would be free and no burden on the rates. Mr Robins provided plans showing the different sites offered. The best site appeared to be at the junction of Wigan Road and Bryn Street. This site formerly contained a lot of property which had been cleared several years ago by Lord Gerard at a cost of £2,000. So the total monetary offer to the council was £7,000. The architects for both Ashton in Makerfield and Pemberton libraries were William & John Berry Thornley, Powell Buildings, Millgate, Wigan. In 1911 William Thornley lived at 239 Wigan Road, Ashton in Makerfield.

The library was built 1905/6 and opened by Lord Gerard 17/3/1906 with a special key for the occasion. The words "Carnegie Library" are above the entrance in Wigan Road and there is a commemorative tablet inside the library which reads:

"Urban District of Ashton in Makerfield, Public Library presented by Andrew Carnegie. Site given by Lord Gerard. By whom the Library was opened on the 17th day of March 1906. Mr. Valiant JP Chairman of the Council. Thomas Price Chairman of the Library Committee. Albert Sykes Clerk of the Council".

The words "Lecture Hall", are above the Old Road entrance. The Lecture Hall can accommodate 350. In 1907 the library held 3,000 books and there was room for 2,000 more.

A Commemorative Album of the official opening was sent to Mr. Carnegie with the inscription "Presented to Andrew Carnegie Esq. by the Urban District Council of Ashton in Makerfield in token of the great benefit conferred upon the township by his generous gift of the public library, opened 17th March 1906".

David A. Fearnley

On 20th April, our church and community litter pick group made a big difference to our local area. As always, more volunteers are always welcome!





Thanks also to Wigan Council's Legal Place Team who spent their volunteering day cutting the grass and tidying part of the Heath Road graveyard.



Donations & Remembrance



Garden of Rest

Thanks for home communion from Isobel Bowen

General Fund

Thanks for home communion from Doreen Lee



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

The Registers



Funerals or Burials of Ashes 'May they rest in peace'

2 April	Carol Ann Caine	77
20 April	Thomas Walsh	81
22 April	David Trigg	57
25 April	John Peet	73

Holy Baptism 'We welcome them into the Lord's family'

14 April	Olivia Anne Massey
14 April	Edward Michael Barrass
28 April	Otis Francis Crabtree

Holy Matrimony 'All the days of their lives'

6 April	David Adam John Buckley & Jessica Rose Bradley
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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

English Class
Thurs 2pm - 3pm

Ashton Pantry

Tues & Sat 11am - 12pm

Girl Guiding

Brownies
Thurs 6.30pm

Social Drop in
Sun 1pm - 3pm

Thurs & Sun 3pm - 4pm

Guides
Tues 7pm

Anne & Chris Wooff
01942 724207

Sue Thomas
07877704645

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':
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St Luke's:
Carole Pye 517318

Readers

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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

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Malcolm Taylor 205136

Electoral Roll Secretary

Ruth Laemmel see below

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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