

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



November 2023

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

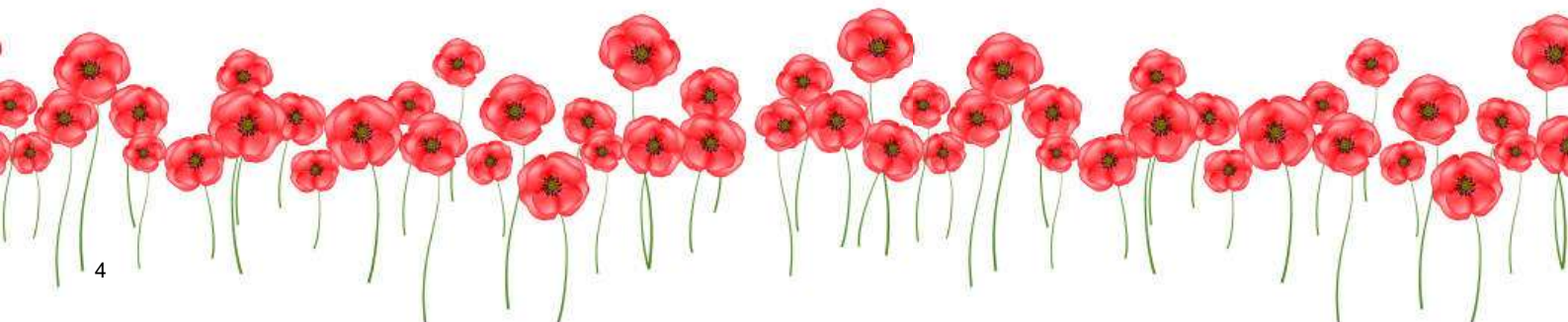
Please send any material for the magazine to your local assistant editor (see contact details at the back) or magazine@stthomasstluke.org.uk.

	December	January	February
Deadline for material	16th November	Christmas Break	18th January
Publication date	26th November	Christmas Break	28th January

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Watch, Wait

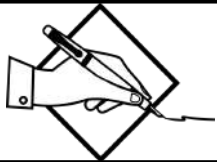
(Mk 13:31-37, Rev 21:3,4,22:20)

Help us to watch, Lord,
While we wait.
To watch as we serve You,
On the margins,
In the mainstream,
In the mix-up of this world.
Yet always preparing,
Building for Your kingdom
Ready for Your return.

Help us to respond, Lord,
To the signs,
While we wait.
Not demanding details,
But trusting Your word,
Holding Your promise
To wipe away tears and suffering
When You make all things new
On that day.

Help us Lord, oh help us
While we watch
In the darkness,
While we wait
Through the between times
For You
To come,
To be our God,
Our glorious, victorious King.

Come Lord Jesus.



Letter from Ros



Dear friends,

As I write this to you the country is still reeling from the Storm Babet and even today the forecast informs us that the heavy rain will continue over the next 7 days. The pictures on the television tell their own story of floods, destruction and sadly loss of life.

The feelings of despair are paramount amongst communities and their thoughts must be turning to HOPE for improvement for their situations. I am reminded of the words of Psalm 121 verses 1-2:

I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills, from whence cometh my help. My help cometh from the LORD, which made heaven and earth.

We are witnessing too the atrocities that are taking place in Ukraine, in Israel and Gaza such mindless acts of war, where innocent people are being killed, injured, taken hostage and made homeless.

In addition we are also hearing shocking stories with regard to the Cost of Living crisis, the impact of the growing number of Food Banks that are popping up in towns and villages and in our own Communities of Church Wigan more churches are setting up Food Pantries. We all need to express the importance of HOPE for everyone.

Over the last few weeks we have all experienced the challenges of the Right Buildings Review which has affected all of our churches in one way or another, and you will have read the various documents that have been sent out to all congregations. During this review, following inspections of buildings and a team meeting each church was assessed and given a colour coding of green to retain, amber to review, red to release.

This has proved to be a very sad time as some churches were deemed to be released appearing in the red category, and the four buildings identified will eventually close as the buildings cannot easily support growth of mission without large investments to develop or re-locate them.

However, returning to our theme of HOPE our PCC is now leading the process to gather comments and questions and to review the reports to consider the potential of these buildings and their missional value. It also provides us with an opportunity to identify where we can strive to turn ourselves around and to consider how we can use our resources in the future.

This is a time of great challenge for all concerned and as Church Wigan we must all try to give love and support to these communities.

In Isaiah 41 verse 10 we read:

So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.

All of us in the South Hub must continue to pray for the congregations who are feeling threatened at the moment and pray that a more positive outcome can be recognised for them.

***Blessings
Rosalyn xx***

The Country Parson

The parson, tall and debonair,
Engaged in his Pastoral Care:
With his trusty old bike;
Rather than hike,
He brings solace to souls in despair.

John Daniels

Bereavement Support Group in Wigan South Hub

Main Aim: To set up a support group for anyone affected by grief and loss in our community.

Objectives:

- To provide a caring, friendly, safe environment where people can share their memories of loss & grief
- To offer a listening ear & support in ways which are social as well as spiritual
- A recognition that everyone grieves in their own way, that grief is normal & is not prescriptive.
- A confidential, non-judgemental & supportive space which is accessible for all

The purpose of the group is to offer support, help, and friendship to all people who have experienced any form of bereavement, be that recently or long ago. It is about reaching out to people who may feel, lost, bewildered, and uncertain at what may be a difficult time in their life journey. This is in order to give them a sense of hope for the future and themselves.

The support offered will take various forms from individual, group, prayer, quiet time, social time and a memorial service.

If you feel called to be part of this team and can offer a prayerful, helpful presence and a listening ear, then please consider this ministry. Full training will be provided for any member of the team who wishes to be involved in this group. It is envisaged that the support group will meet at two venues - once a month at each venue in the hub.

All ministers who conduct funerals in the hub will provide people with details of the Bereavement Support Group when they visit families. The details of the support group will in time be distributed to local GP's, Funeral Directors, libraries and local community groups.

If you would like to chat or find out more details, please contact Revd Dave Hamlett - dhamlett@blueyonder.co.uk / 07972577801

Parish News



Weekly Events This Month

Mondays

- 9.30am - 10.30am Mini Street Pop Up Play (St Andrew's)



Tuesdays

- 10am - 12pm Coffee Morning (St Thomas' church hall)

Wednesdays

- 1pm – 2.30pm: Wednesday Weenies (St Thomas' church hall)
- 1pm - 3pm: Knit and Chat group at (St Peter's)
- 7.30pm: Women's Fellowship (St Peter's)



Thursdays

- 2pm - 3.15pm Gentle dance class (St Luke's)

Fridays

- 10am Bible Study (St Thomas' church hall)
- 12.30pm - 1.30pm Mini Street Pop Up Play (St Andrew's)

November Events

Saturday 4th November

3pm Ashton Churches Together Songs of Worship & Praise (Holy Trinity)

Saturday 18th November

11am - 2pm Christmas Fayre (St Thomas')

Tuesday 28th November

1.30pm - 3.00pm Peace of Mind Dementia Café at (St Andrew's)

Saturday 3rd December

11am - 1pm Christmas Fayre (St Luke's)





Ladies Christmas Meal

Christine Moorfield, at Holy Trinity, has once again organised the 'Ladies Christmas Meal' at Ashton Masonic Hall, Bryn on Tuesday 12th December, 6.30pm for 7pm. The cost of the meal is £28 including entertainment. Menus are now available from Christine. This is always a most enjoyable evening and puts us all in the Christmas mood.

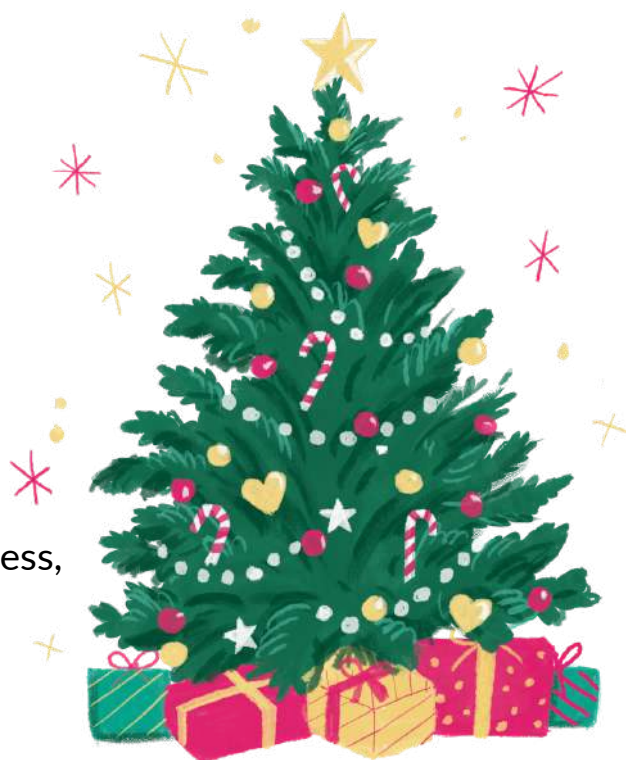
Christmas Tree Festival

Due to popular demand, we are holding another Christmas Tree Festival at St Aidan's Church in Billinge. This will run from 8th December to 10th December. The trees will be displayed in church from 8th December up until Christmas.

This is an ideal opportunity to advertise your business - decorate a tree to represent your business, leave business cards/ information so the local community can see what you offer. Families may enjoy decorating a tree to your own design.

Tree sponsorship - It costs just £30 to sponsor a tree. There will be a range of activities and events running over the weekend of the tree festival so lots of people will view the trees. The trees look beautiful all lit up, come along and see the spectacle.

If you would like to sponsor and decorate a tree please contact Alison Corkill - email alisoncorkill@sky.com or ring 07837549722 evenings and weekends.





Songs of Praise & Worship

**Hosted by Holy Trinity Church, Downall Green
Saturday 4th November at 3:00pm
Free parking on Rectory School Car Park
EVERYONE WELCOME!**

Services in November



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 Family 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	St Thomas'
Sunday 12th	9.00am Holy Communion 9.30am Holy Communion 10.30am Sta's4all in school 10.30am Remembrance Sunday 10.30am Remembrance Sunday 10.45am Remembrance Service 11.00am Holy Communion 4.00pm Civic Remembrance Service	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 6.30pm Evening Prayer	St Thomas' St Andrew's St Aidan's St Peter's Holy Trinity St Thomas' St Luke's St Thomas'
Wednesday 22nd	10.00am Holy Communion	Holy Trinity
Thursday 23rd	9.45am BCP Holy Communion	St Thomas'
Sunday 26th	9.00am Holy Communion 9.30am Morning Worship 10.00am St Aidan's Beacon 10.30am Café Church 10.30am Holy Communion 10.45am Worship Together 11.00am Family Worship 4.00pm Holy Communion	St Thomas' St Andrew's St Aidan's St Peter's Holy Trinity St Thomas' St Luke's St Aidan's



Everyone is welcome to join all services.

If you would like to attend any services across the parish and need assistance with transport, please get in contact with your local leadership team.

Wigan South Hub Churches

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

Bereavement Support Group

Don't Walk Your
Journey Through
Grief Alone

**We invite you to
come to a Safe Space**

Share your experiences with a
group of loving people

A Pathway
To Hope

**1st Tuesday of
every month**

**Starting
December 2023**

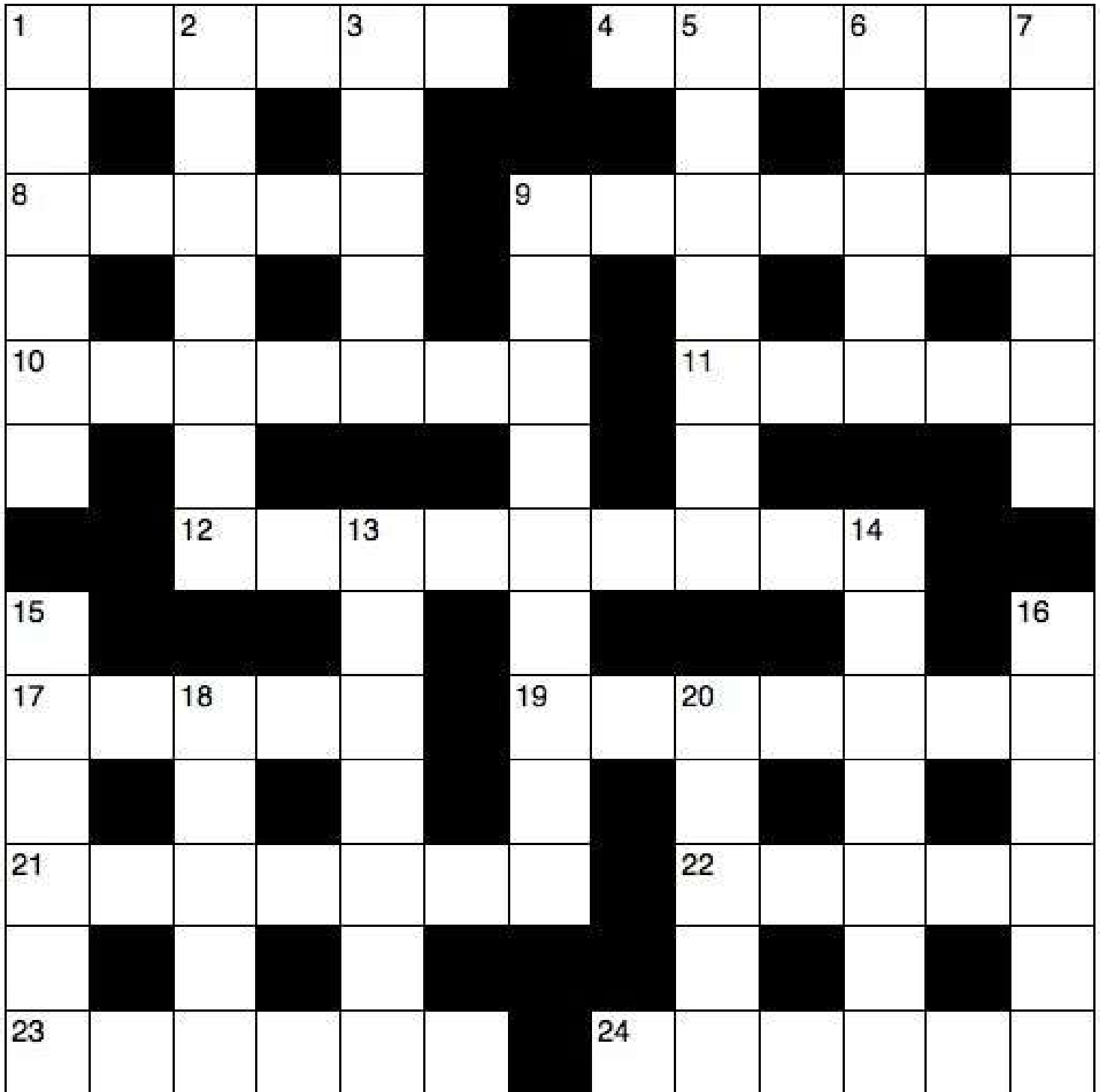
**St Luke's Church
Bolton Road
Stubshaw Cross
WN4 8UN**

10.00am - 11.30am

**St Andrew's Church
274 Garswood Road
Garswood
WN4 0TU**

1.30pm - 3.00pm

Crossword



Answers on page 19

Across

- 1 'The Lord Jesus... took bread, and when he had given — , he broke it' (1 Corinthians 11:24) (6)
- 4 'He has taken me to the banquet hall, and his — over me is love' (Song of Songs 2:4) (6)
- 8 Surrey town that hosts the National Christian Resources Exhibition (5)
- 9 Also known as Abednego (Daniel 1:7) (7)
- 10 Liken (Isaiah 40:18) (7)
- 11 A son of Etam, descendant of Judah (1 Chronicles 4:3) (5)
- 12 A part of the temple where the blood of a young bull was to be smeared (Ezekiel 45:19) (9)
- 17 'They make many promises, take false — and make agreements' (Hosea 10:4) (5)
- 19 Roman province to which Paul returned after evangelizing it on his first missionary journey (Acts 16:6) (7)
- 21 Material used to make baby Moses' basket (Exodus 2:3) (7)
- 22 'And feeble as — , in thee do we trust, nor find thee to fail' (5)
- 23 'The watchman opens the gate for him, and the sheep — to his voice' (John 10:3) (6)
- 24 Stalk carrying the sponge of wine vinegar given to Christ on the cross (John 19:29) (6)

Down

- 1 Elijah dug one round the altar he built on Mount Carmel and filled it with water (1 Kings 18:32) (6)
- 2 'I am not — of the gospel, because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes' (Romans 1:16) (7)
- 3 Buddhist term relating to belief in reincarnation (5)
- 5 Damascus disciple who, at God's command, restored the sight of the blinded Saul of Tarsus (Acts 9:12) (7)
- 6 and 16 Horses: their sound (Jeremiah 50:11) (5) and their gait (Joel 2:4) (6)
- 7 A three (anag.) (6)
- 9 Athenian council addressed memorably by Paul (Acts 17:22) (9)
- 13 Abide by (Galatians 3:5) (7)
- 14 Persian princes (Daniel 3:2) (7)
- 15 Force (Galatians 6:12) (6)
- 16 See 6 Down (6)
- 18 Paste (anag.) (5)
- 20 How the cedars of Lebanon are described (Isaiah 2:13) (5)

November High & Holy Days

6th November: William Temple - Archbishop of Canterbury

During the Second World War, Winston Churchill was Britain's Prime Minister. At the same time, William Temple was Archbishop of Canterbury. While Churchill led the country against Germany, Temple encouraged the British people to trust the Lord for their deliverance and strength. Like Churchill, Temple was a great leader, a gifted orator and a prolific writer. He was also a theologian and social activist.

Temple was born on 15th October 1881 in Exeter, Devon. He was educated at Rugby School and Balliol College, Oxford, from 1900 to 1904. He became president of the Oxford Union and after graduation, was a lecturer in philosophy at Queen's College, Oxford. Following his ordination in 1909, and priesting in 1910, Temple was headmaster of Repton School for four years.

From 1921-29 Temple was Bishop of Manchester. During this time he was seen as a pioneer of the Ecumenical Movement and gradually became a national figure. In 1926 he urged the British government to seek a negotiated agreement to the General Strike.

Temple excelled as a moderator; a teacher and a preacher and his appointment as Archbishop of York (1929-40) was a popular one. His influence also led to the formation of the British Council of Churches and the World Council of Churches. During the 2nd World War he jointly founded the Council of Christians and Jews to combat anti-Semitism and other forms of prejudice in Britain.

As Archbishop of Canterbury (1942-44) Temple became an outspoken advocate of social reform and became involved in the campaign against unemployment, poverty and poor housing. He believed in the rights of all people, whether rich or poor, and was a leading force for social justice. He was grounded in the problems of the working man and in his book *Christianity and Social Order* (1942) he shared his vision for all to have access to healthcare, 17

education and decent housing. His radical thinking and activism played a foundational role in the formation of the British Welfare State.

Temple died aged 63 at Westgate-on-Sea, Kent on 26th October 1944. He was the first Primate of All England to be cremated and his ashes were buried in the cloister garden of Canterbury Cathedral. He is the last Archbishop of Canterbury to have died while in office.

26th November: The excitement of the Sunday of Christ the King

The last Sunday in November is the last Sunday of the church year, and in some ways the most important. Why? Because everything else in the Christian year looks BACK on what happened 2000 years ago. The Sunday of Christ the King looks FORWARD to what we can expect next.... the return one day of Jesus Christ to this earth, as King of Kings.

Does the idea of Jesus of Nazareth literally returning to earth seem a bit quaint to accept, in our computerised world of e-mails and the internet? Well, that is what the Bible says will happen – it is promised more than 250 times!

The Bible is quite clear: the return of the Lord Jesus Christ as King of Kings will take place personally, powerfully, bodily, visibly, publicly – and INSTANTLY. (Read Matthew 24:30,31, or I Thessalonians 4:13 – 5:3.) Here are words of Jesus Himself:

For the Son of Man in his day will be like the lightning, which flashes and lights up the sky from one end to the other. (Luke 17:24)

This will be no local story for a BBC TV reporter to cover if he gets time. That day he won't be interviewing the Carpenter of Nazareth, wearing Galilean homespun. Jesus will be in His incandescent brilliance as the 'Son of Man' – a bit of a challenge even for TV reporters! Certainly when Peter, James and John were witness to their familiar Master 'transfigured', as the same irradiated

Person – in a dramatic preview of Christ's triumphant final rule (Luke 9:28-36), they did not feel very confident.

The martyred Stephen, about to die, had a similar glimpse: "Behold I see the heavens opened, and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God' (Acts 7:56). The exiled apostle John on the island of Patmos saw the same figure: '...His face was like the sun shining in full strength' (Revelation 1:16.)

When Christ one day returns, the whole world will finally witness this same spectacle (Revelation 1:7). His return will mark the end of history, as we know it. It will inaugurate the final Judgment. It will re-unite the Lord with His Church on earth.

Jesus' return to us will bring about the new heaven and the new earth. Pain, death, persecution, privation and sorrow will all be banished. The entire edifice of evil that has raised itself against the rule of God will be dismantled in a moment.

We have been warned all along not to place a date or a time upon the Second Coming of Christ. (Matthew 24:42-44) Sadly, many people ignore this warning and waste endless time in calculations. The way in which we should be spending our days before the end is to work, watch and witness to our Lord Jesus – whether or not ours is a world of computers, e-mail and all the rest!

In the meantime, where is Jesus now? The Bible writers tells us that Jesus has returned to the place of privilege and power, and is 'seated at the right hand' of the Father (Ephesians 1:20-21; Colossians 3:1; Hebrews 1:3), and is waiting for the Father's timing for Him to return to earth in glory (Mark 13:26-27,32), to raise the dead (1 Thessalonians 4:13-18), and give them their resurrection bodies (1 Corinthians 15:35-44).

Jesus will never be a baby again. He is now Christ the King – today, tomorrow, forever.

Why go to church?

A church-goer complained to his minister: "I've been coming to church every Sunday for 30 years, and in that time I have heard thousands of sermons, but for the life of me, I can't think of a single one now. So, I think I have wasted my time."

The minister thought for a moment and replied: "I've been married for 30 years, and my wife and I have cooked thousands of meals. For the life of me I can't recall the entire menu of a single one of those meals now. But I do know that each one nourished us and gave us strength to carry on living. If we had not had those meals, but snacked on rubbish instead, we would have been stunted and eventually starved. Without regular Christian nourishment, we also will starve – spiritually."

Crossword Answers

ACROSS:

1, Thanks. 4, Banner. 8, Esher. 9, Azariah. 10, Compare. 11, Ishma.
12, Doorposts. 17, Oaths. 19, Galatia. 21, Papyrus. 22, Frail. 23, Listen.
24, Hyssop.

DOWN:

1, Trench. 2, Ashamed. 3, Karma. 5, Ananias. 6, Neigh. 7, Reheat.
9, Areopagus. 13, Observe. 14, Satraps. 15, Compel. 16, Gallop. 18, Tapes.
20, Lofty.

Be a Barnabas - encourage one another

'You'll never amount to much' said a Munich schoolteacher to the ten-year-old Albert Einstein. Good thing that he did not listen – and instead went on to prove his teacher wrong!

Just as children need encouragement, so do God's children. St Paul urged the Christians in his young churches to 'encourage one another.' (1 Thess 5:11). In the Upper Room, Jesus used the same word to describe the Holy Spirit, meaning one 'called alongside to help'.

When we encourage others, we exercise a ministry like that of the Spirit to each other. In Acts we read of Joseph, a wealthy Levite from Cyprus. We know him better by his nickname Barnabas, which means 'Son of Encouragement' (Acts 4:36). How did Barnabas encourage others?

He was an example of generous giving (Acts 4:36-7), when he sold property and offered the money to the church for those in need. In the midst of a caring and sharing community, he was singled out as a symbol of generosity. Are we prepared to be generous to those in need around us?

He later gave encouragement to a new Christian in the person of Paul (Acts 9:27). After Paul's conversion and aware of his reputation, Barnabas came alongside Paul and brought him into the fellowship of the Church. Are we ready to help those who are new to the faith to find a place in our church?

Finally, Barnabas was sent to the church in Antioch and there 'saw the evidence of the grace of God' (Acts 11:23). Here was a church which brought together Jewish and Gentile believers together for the first time. Like Barnabas, are we able to rejoice when we see God doing new things? Are we also willing to encourage others to embrace these things and facilitate change?

Don't forget, 'In the middle of every difficulty lies opportunity.' (Albert Einstein).



Together with local businesses, we are working to reduce the amount of food going to land fill. The pantry is regularly stocked with food that is near its sell by date but can still be used to feed bellies not bins.

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Sunday 3pm—4pm

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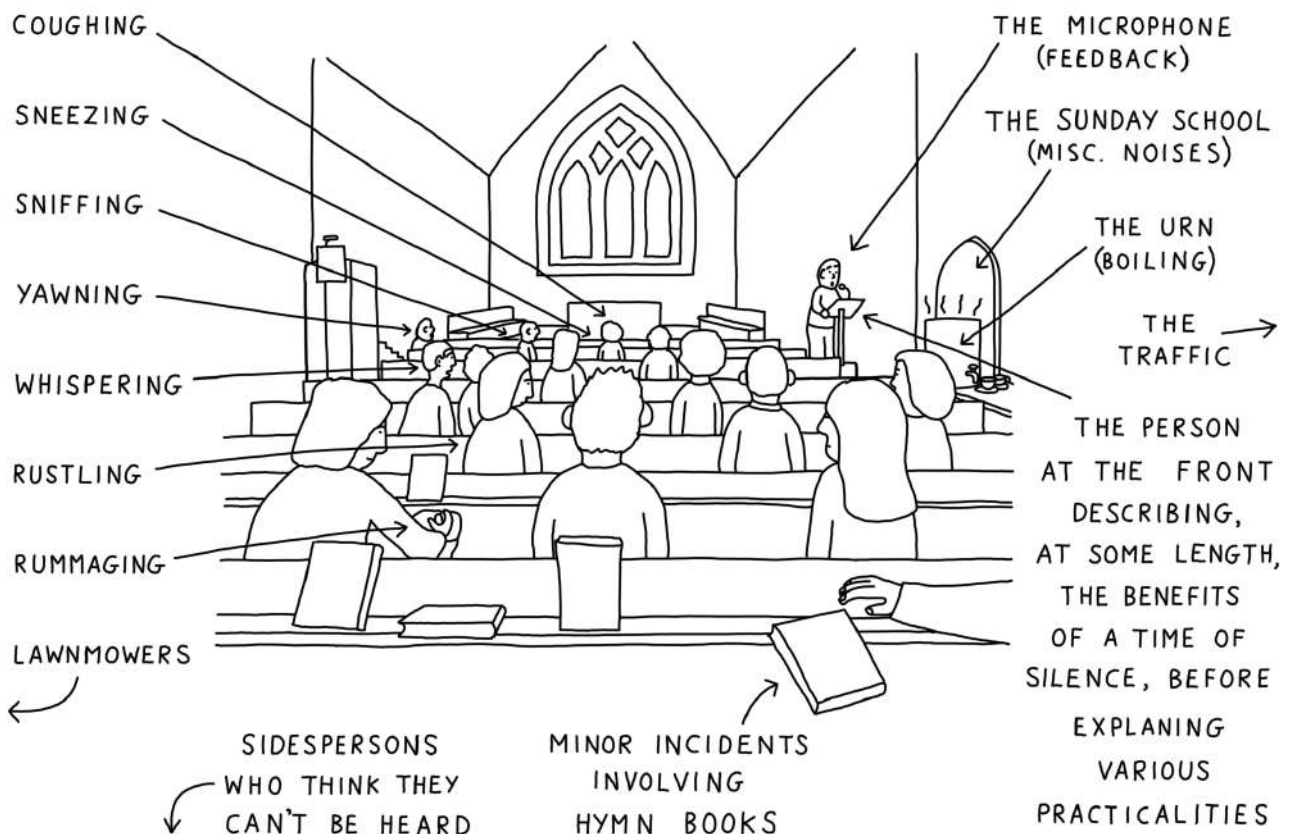
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A TIME OF SILENCE

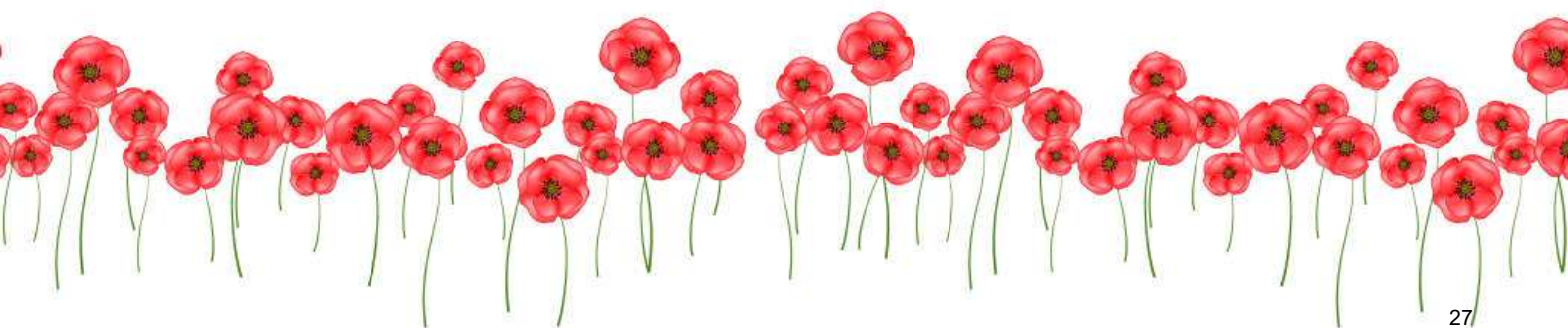
PLEASE IGNORE ALL DISTRACTIONS





November 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: Family Worship
Thursday 9th	9.45am: BCP Holy Communion	
Sunday 12th	9.00am: Holy Communion 10.45am: Remembrance Service	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: Family Worship



News from our churches

Magazine Material

The magazine with St Thomas and St Luke's news is now fully established as an essential means of parish communication and our continued thanks must go to Jess Bradley for this a new lease of life. I have said before that we can't leave everything to Jess. We do need material from across our congregation; over the many years that I have been providing the parish news I have been aware of the lack of interesting articles from the church members. If you know that something is happening in the parish then please use the magazine as a means of telling other people so that the congregation can know what is happening right across our church life.

Harvest Festival

I would like to thank all those who kindly donated much appreciated gifts at our Harvest Festival a particular thanks to our school. They were able to attend church for their annual Harvest Service which was a lovely celebration of God's generosity. Our food ministry also expressed their thanks to our members and the parents of the school children for their generosity.

Afternoon Tea

A big thanks to Jan and Carole and their small, but incredibly hard working, team for producing a lovely afternoon tea in mid-October. The event took place on tables set out at the back of church which provided a warm and comfortable venue for the 42 attending. I was there and the food was great as was the fellowship. There does however seem to have been a feeling that this was a ladies only event; no such thing! All are welcome to these events and the few chaps who did support the tea were welcomed and well looked after. Let's see more men there in future - you won't regret it. Not only was it an enjoyable afternoon but also raised £440 for church funds.

Parish Giving Scheme

The recent series on the generosity of God to mankind and in turn our response has led to several enquiries as the procedure involved in joining the parish giving scheme. This scheme has been a real help to church finances especially during the pandemic. In simple terms regular donations to church are paid through the donors bank to the scheme administrators on the 1st of the month and on the 15th of the month those funds, including where appropriate the gift aid contributions arrive in our church bank account.

It is now quite simple to join either by calling PGS direct on 0333 002 1271 or via their own churches PGS page our church page is <https://www.parishgiving.org.uk/donors/find-your-parish/ashton-in-makerfield-st-thomas-ashton-in-makerfield/>
If you encounter any difficulty please contact me. Hard copy forms are available.

Cleaning Rota

Just a note to that wonderful band of volunteers who take on the task of keeping our church clean and tidy. The schedule of the work done by each team affixed to the door of the cleaning cupboard seems to have fallen into disuse. Could I ask you to tick the details so that the work doesn't get duplicated by the next team.



Community use of the church building

The asset which we have in the form of the church building is seriously underused. I met the organiser of a choir planning a December concert who said that it was the best venue she has seen. This comment is followed many times when people see the facilities for the first time, especially those who have attended in the more distant past. Our problem is that we desperately need both a person with the necessary media skills to promote the building and someone to manage the bookings when they come. If you are either or both of these people please contact me for more details.



Malcolm

Bom dia!

I hope all of you are doing well! I am writing you from Olinda, Brazil. My last few weeks here, or one and a half months, have flown by! So much I want to tell you about and so many pictures I would love to show you!



I definitely had an interesting start with many surprises and difficulties, but God has really been present and faithful through it all.

I'm finding a lot of strength and joy in my work with the girls. We currently have 13 girls living with us, age 3 to 17. Each of them arrived with a different story, trauma and case. Yet each one of them is loving, kind and caring and so much more. Whatever they have been through, it hasn't dimmed their light, that's for sure!

But my monthly newsletter can tell you much more about my first month in Brazil. Have you subscribed yet? If not, why not give Jan or Tony your email after the service?

Until then I hope you stay safe, well and close to the Lord. He has shown me once again how important it is to walk close beside him, so we can hear him better and get less scared when tribulations come our way!

Thank you for all your support and prayers, in the last months and also now.

I keep you all in my heart and prayers.

ASHTON CONGREGATIONAL CHAPEL, GERARD STREET

Ashtonians will remember that in the 1960's on Gerard Street, in the location of the present "Sir Thomas Gerard" pub, on a prominent and elevated position stood the Ashton Congregational Chapel. A stairway of steep stone steps facing onto Gerard Street gave access to the chapel. The beginning of Congregationalism in Ashton in Makerfield was due to Rev. William Alexander who came by horse from Prescott in 1802 to conduct open - air meetings. In 1822 & 1823 grants of £5 were given by the Lancashire Congregational Union to support the religion.

In 1824 a church was formed in a barn near Captain's Fields, off Bolton Road by 7 men – Henry Jenkin, Thomas Leather, William Lythgoe, Henry Holland, Thomas Sutton, Samuel Pierpoint and William Grundy. In 1827 Rev. J. Penkethman became the first minister. He preached twice a week at Golborne and gave sermons at Brocstedes; Long Lane/Bryn Road; Park Lane; Lodge Lane/Warrington Road, Haydock; Seneley Green and Edge Green.

The first chapel was built in Chapel Street and opened 23/4/1829 with a membership of 27. In 1867 when the Gerard Street church was built the old chapel became a "British school" which were formed to promote education for the poor and were supported by Protestant non – conformist and non – denominational religions. 1841 – 1842 under Rev. G.S. Spencer the chapel was enlarged at a cost of £150 and in 1850 Rev. Frederick Clark Dowthwaite became pastor.

In 1866 Richard Evans, of the large mansion "Haydock Grange" and wealthy owner of the Haydock collieries attended a service along with his daughter Ruth (see Ruth Evans article) and sons Josiah and Joseph. He remarked upon the poor condition of the chapel and, encouraged by Mr. Charles Latham, a member of the chapel for over 50 years, agreed to provide finance for a new chapel. Charles Latham was a grocer and lived at "Havelock Villas", 26 Bolton Road, after the former "Rockleigh Hotel".

In 1866 the foundation stone for the Gerard Street church was laid by Ruth Evans. The church cost over £5,000 and could accommodate 510.

9/4/1867 the new chapel opened under Rev. W. B. MacWilliam. In 1875 the church received a legacy of £2,000 from the estate of Josiah Evans. In 1882 a memorial window was erected to the late Josiah Evans – the Good Samaritan window – at a cost of £350. In 1886 the funeral service was conducted for Charles Latham, for over 50 years Superintendent of the Congregational Chapel Sunday Schools.

The chapel's high location provided a commanding position over Gerard Street. The chapel tower held a memorial clock erected in memory of Mr. Charles Latham by the chapel and Sunday Schools. The clock was declared a memorial by Miss Ruth Evans of "Hurst House", Prescott, at a ceremony in May 1887 and Ruth set the clock in motion. In 1882 she had presented 5 Communion chairs to the chapel engraved "Presented by Miss R. Evans, 16/10/1882". (In 1848 Ruth's sister, Emma Evans, had married Theodore Drayton Grimke, of South Carolina, America, at St. Thomas', Ashton, (see Theodore Drayton Grimke article). In 1887 the church now had a membership of 118.

Above the vestry door was a tablet in memory of the late Mr. Richard Evans, the founder of "Richard Evans & Co." coal mining company, Haydock, with the inscription "This tablet is placed here by the congregation as a tribute of respect to the memory of Richard Evans Esq. of Haydock Grange in grateful remembrance of his deep and long continued interest in the prosperity of this church. He was chiefly instrumental in the erection of this House of Prayer "The memory of the just is blessed" Proverbs 10/7".

In the church was a stained glass window to the memory of the late Mr. Josiah Evans who, in addition to his financial support to the church during his lifetime, made a provision in his will for the purchase of "The Manse", Old Road, for the residence of the pastor. Ashtonians will remember "The Manse", if not by name, because it was the schools clinic situated after the former police station in Old Road. Remember the visits to the dentist and for vaccinations! The subject of the window was the Good Samaritan and the Assumption.

In 1881 Rev. Henry Wilson lived at "The Manse". In 1888 a stained glass window was presented by Dr. William Latham and his two sisters in memory of their mother with the inscription "Erected in loving memory of Ellen Latham by

their mother with the inscription “Erected in loving memory of Ellen Latham by her children”. Dr. Latham lived at “Elmfield”, 90 Wigan Road, the large house on the corner of Greenway and Wigan Road (see “Elmfield”, Dr. William Latham article). Ellen Latham was a grocer in Nicol Lane and later resided at 32 Bolton Road near “Havelock Villas”.

In 1892 the old chapel in Chapel Street being used as a school was replaced with the building of the Emmanuel or British School in Wigan Road financed by Ruth Evans of Haydock. The chapel was later used as the Salvation Army barracks and then as a Labour Club.

In 1922 a war memorial window was erected in the Congregational church for the 8 men who died during the war. In 1938 a stained glass window in memory of Mr. William Aspinall, Mrs. Jane Aspinall and Mrs. Ellen Latham was erected. William Aspinall lived at “Rockleigh”, Bolton Road, and was the owner of a chemist shop 16 Gerard Street, Ashton.

In 1967 estimates of repairs to the church were £12,000. Financial difficulties and further deterioration in the building resulted in the sale of the church in 1973 the last service being 6/3/1973. The church was demolished and replaced by a Kwik Save store and later the Sir Thomas Gerard pub. Money from the sale of the church, plus loans from the Congregational Union and Congregational Federation, financed the buying of a plot of land on Hilton Street, Ashton, for a new church. The foundation stone was laid 19/3/1975 and the church opened 3/12/1977.

David A. Fearnley



Mothers' Union



Diary: Wednesday 15th November our speaker at this meeting is John Ollerton who will be talking to us about 'Knowing what to do, when you don't know what to do.' This meeting will be back in the church hall at the usual time of 7.30pm

Advance Notice: 19th January 2024 our annual Mothers' Union and Friends meal at Bryn Masonic Hall, 7.00pm for 7.30pm. If you would like to join us, please put your name on the list at the back of church or let Barbara Taylor.

As this is my first publication for the Church magazine, I would like to say a huge thank you to Barbara Taylor for her amazing service as the Branch Leader for The Mothers' Union. I have had such a warm welcome from everyone within The Mothers' Union, which I am extremely grateful for.

We are actively looking for new members to join The Mothers' Union, if anyone would like more information, please either speak to Patricia Hamilton our secretary or myself and we will gladly help with any questions. Also, if anyone is having difficulty in attending the meeting, please let Patricia or myself know, and either one of us will be pleased to offer lifts.



16 Days of Activism against gender-based violence, will be held between 25th November to 10th December 2023. If you wish to take part, one way to do so is to hold a silence at 1.03pm on Saturday 25th November to mark that 1 in 5 women worldwide have experienced domestic or sexual abuse.



5

More than 5 women or girls are killed every hour by someone in their family



1/5

In 2021, nearly 1 in 5 women aged 20-24 were married before turning 18



1/3

One in three women have been subjected to violence at least once in their lifetime

Diocesan Carole Service on Saturday 2nd December 2pm at St Michaels Blundellsands. The Retiring collection will be donations for Students who will be spending Christmas at Hope either because of the inability to travel home or because of family estrangement. We will hopefully be able to assist in the provision of Christmas essentials for these young people. Further information to follow. A suggestion was made that if our branch is unable to come to the service perhaps a donation plate be used at our meetings.

We do hope to continue our support of the young people at Coops Foyer with Christmas gifts. Can I ask you to have this in mind as we begin our Christmas preparations.

Dear Lord,

Thank you for the breath to say

Thank you for another day

Thank you for the eyes to see the
world of beauty surrounding me

Thank you for the ears to hear your
message of hope loud and clear

Thank you for the hands to serve
and far more blessings than I
deserve

Thank you for the legs to run the
race of life until it's won

Thank you for the voice to sing
Thank you, Lord, for everything

Amen



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

Donations & Remembrance



Flower Guild

In loving memory of **Austin Bullen** from wife Jean & family

St Luke's donations

In memory of **Jaqueline Fawcett-Swift** from her family

St Thomas' donations

from Anne Abbott

from Barbara Davies

from Elsie Deluce with thanks for home communion

In memory of **Marlene Thomas**

from Isobel Bowen with thanks for home communion

In loving Memory of **Ronald Boon** from Jean

Birthday remembrance of **Austin Bullen**

from Jean, Karen Keith, Jaki, Simon, Toni and Ben

In loving memory of **Peter Raymond** (8th November)

from Margaret and Family

Barbara Anders

Ashtonians Football Club

Proceeds from Plant sale



The Registers



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

2 October	Carole Thomas	68
10 October	Neil Stirrup	46
31 October	John Frodsham	85
31 October	Jean Deluce	86

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

Amen

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

8 October	Harper - Rae Cranfield
22 October	Harlen Peter James Wall

St Thomas' and St Luke's Organisations

Coffee Mornings

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

Wednesday Weenies

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

Mothers' Union

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

Fairtrade Stall

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

Litter Pick

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

Flower Guild

Meta Laites
723679

Asylum Seeker Support

English Class
Thurs 2pm - 3pm
Social Drop in
Sun 1pm - 3pm

Anne & Chris Wooff
724207

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

Ashton Pantry Sue Thomas 07877704645

Tuesday & Saturday 11am – 12pm

Thursday & Sunday 3pm – 4pm

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

Sunday 10.45am

Girl Guiding Rachel Starkie 718350

Brownies: Thursday 6.30pm

Guides: Tuesday 7.00pm

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St Luke's: Carole Pye 517318

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Carole Pye 517318
Helen Weavers 07796334457

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Paula Gillespie 711270

St Luke's: Carole Pye 517318
John Boon 204082

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Barbara Taylor 205136

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