

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



October 2020

50p

www.stthomasstluke.org.uk

Church Services in St Thomas' and St Luke's

Sundays

St Thomas'

1st Sunday

9am Communion
10.45 All Age
Worship

2nd Sunday

9am Morning

St Luke's at 11am

Worship

Communion

Family Worship

Family Worship

Weekdays

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

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

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. Please note that places are limited.

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

Deadline	November	December
Hand Written	16th October	13th November
Emailed	23rd October	20th November
Magazine Release	1st November	29th November

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Booking Baptisms and Weddings

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

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. For details please contact the church office on: 01942 727275or office@stthomasstluke.org.uk



Letter from Izzy

'To the saints in Ashton the faithful in Christ Jesus. Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.'

As you have probably realised I have begun my letter with the opening passage of Paul's letter to the church in Ephesus with just one slight difference. I have substituted Ashton for Ephesus. Paul was on his missionary journeys and missed the church in Ephesus which he was very fond of and at the moment just like Paul I am missing my church family as I am sure you are too.

Paul's only method of communication was by letter which we the church still benefit from today. We on the other hand, are able to communicate in so many different ways, beside the written word, we can telephone, email, tweet, use social media, and we are also able to hold meetings and church services with the help of Zoom. In the present circumstances these methods of communication have been invaluable, helping us to keep in touch.

But, however, remarkable these things are, there is really no substitute for meeting face to face. Last Sunday we went to St Luke's for a communion service for the first time since we were in Lock-down in March, and it was lovely to see familiar faces that we had not seen since then, although I must say I found it difficult not to being able to hug and kiss people but we had to keep to social distancing and follow the rules.

It is a very strange world we are living in at the moment as the Corona virus continues to infect people and it is necessary to follow the rules of social distancing, washing hands, wearing masks, not meeting up with our extended family and not traveling to visit friends and family and many people are forced to stay in isolation which can be difficult and lonely.

But we must not lose heart because we worship a God who loves us so much he sent Jesus to die for us and we know that nothing can separate us from that love neither life or death or Corona Virus nothing can ever separate us from God's love.

We know that through this time of fear and suffering God our Father is in control and we are called to be faithful prayers, interceding for our world praying that a vaccine would soon be found so that we can return to normal life. During these last few months we have been forced to slow down and stop rushing from one thing to another, taking stock of what is important to us and it has given us more time to pray and our world needs our prayers.

I pray that you will all stay safe and healthy and until we can all meet once again to worship and praise our God, **may the Lord of peace himself give you peace at all times and in every way, the lord be with all of you. (2 Thes.)**

Amen

Izzy





Mothers' Union

I was both excited and apprehensive when organising the first meeting for some time which was planned for 16 September with Marion Henderson due to speak to us. The government restrictions sadly put a damper on that particular plan. I have now received official notification from the MU that it is not advisable, at the moment, to organise meetings.

However as our planned meeting for October is our annual Communion service taking place in church I do propose that we proceed with this meeting. Rev Sue Fulford has agreed to officiate.

I would like to take this opportunity of thanking you all for really making an effort to keep in touch with one another during the past few months. Little did I know that when I looked at our membership list way back in March and having created it into contact groups that we would still be relying on that organisation more than 6 months later. I am sure that many of you living alone have appreciated a friendly call.

After some difficulty we have at last received the MU Christmas catalogue and order forms. Maureen our literature representative is now happy and indeed is looking forward to taking your orders.





Mothers' Union

Harvest time has come again —
Reaping, gathering golden grain.
Praises sung in church and choir,
Round family hearth and crackling fire;

Stories told, of days of yore,
When farmers strived, and muscles tore
As scythe and sickle crops did axe —
A happy band to stook and stack...

So different now, with huge machines
Catching the sun as metal gleams;
A lonelier life, but still the joy
Of harvest gathered, man and boy...

So far removed from harsher climes
Where hunger stalks; the deathbell chimes:
'Too much rain; too much drought':
'Nothing grows', the helpless shout...

Still, faith rises — growing stronger—
Helping hands from friend and stranger.
Our Lord has not abandoned all
On his abundance learn to call!

And may your richest Harvest blessing
Be sharing food with needs more pressing!

In case my missive made you sad,
When I just wished to make you glad —
Please settle down — enjoy your supper —
Thank you, Lord, for right good tucker!



Love and prayers
Barbara

News from our churches

It is with great delight that I pen a few words for the October Magazine an edition that I never thought would see printed. I will be ever thankful to Jess Bradley who has stepped forward as our new editor to keep up what is a valued and long standing tradition of St Thomas and St Luke's churches, a monthly magazine. Now to more mundane matters but none the less a vital consideration having regard to present circumstances.

YOUR GIVING MATTERS NOW, MORE THAN EVER



The present corona virus pandemic is having a serious effect on the financial position and vision at St Thomas's and St Luke's. Our church is dependent on the your generosity never more so than now. We are doing everything we can to offer help to those who need it through our support of the asylum seekers and the ACT Food bank and at the same time to continue to provide all of the functions of an active parish church.

As a part of the Deanery of Church Wigan we have a commitment to meet our portion of the parish share as well as meeting the regular expenses of a large parish. In addition to one off donations we do need to take the opportunity to renew our giving. Each of us can ask the Lord how we can give financially as part of St Thomas'. This may be the opportunity to begin a regular pattern of giving, or to review and increase the amount we can contribute to the life and work of our church.

We need your support so that we can continue with our work here in the community of Ashton in Makerfield. **Everything we do at St Thomas and St Luke is made possible by your giving and we Thank You.**

There are a number of ways in which you can provide the support that we depend upon:-

- Firstly and the most helpful is by making a regular donation through your bank account to our account with the Parish Giving scheme. A payment is taken from your account on the 1st of each month and is then credited to our church account on the 15th. The real benefit to the church relates to those who pay tax as we receive each month the gift aid on your donation. That is 25p added to every pound of your donation, a life blood to our finances.
- Secondly you might consider a one off donation either to our general fund or to a specific restricted or designated fund such as the Fit For the Future appeal. The donation can be made either by cash or cheque, handed in at the Vicarage. at my address 32 Townfields or by a donation online through our webpage.

If you have been accustomed to using freewill envelopes given in at the weekly service we are now receiving the envelopes again at the Vicarage or 32 Townfields.

As we continue in a state of suspense so far as our normal church activities are concerned I do feel that there are some situations which you should be aware of.

Services in a very limited form have been held at 9.30am on Sunday for some weeks and a monthly communion service as part of this worship time is planned. Notwithstanding the new restrictions on meeting together funerals and weddings can still take place albeit with small numbers attending.

The church hall is being used again in a limited way for the exercise classes which are still permitted.



To comply with the necessary requirements of the church insurers it has been necessary to obtain amongst others a certificate in respect of our gas supply. This involved an inspection of the antiquated gas boilers which sadly were condemned meaning that until we complete the new heating scheme there will be very limited heating in church. That said we are hoping too make early progress with the scheme with tenders for the work expected shortly.

We do of course still need to raise the funds to pay for the work. The PCC have agreed to the sale of Greenfields Crescent which will help but not until a sale is completed. If you have not yet donated to the fund then it goes without saying that your help in this respect would be greatly appreciated.

Malcolm

Litter pick



On Saturday 19th September a group of volunteers gathered for the monthly litter pick around Ashton. The team worked on 3 different areas of the town and collected lots of rubbish on what turned out to be a lovely Autumnal morning.

If you'd like to join for the next litter pick on 17th October please meet at the church car park for 10am. Equipment shall be provided.

ACT Foodbank

Thank you to everyone who has been donating food to the food-bank 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



Edith Cavell

Edith Cavell is a good saint for NHS workers this year: she cared for the sick despite the danger to her own safety.

Edith was a vicar's daughter from Swardston in Norfolk, where she was born in 1865. She became a governess, but her heart was for nursing, so she went on to train at the London Hospital, before nursing in various hospitals such as St Pancras and Manchester.



When Edith was 42, she decided to go abroad, and was appointed matron of a large training centre for nurses in Brussels. She was still there seven years later, when the First World War broke out and German troops invaded Belgium on their way to Paris and the Channel Ports.

Edith's nursing school became a Red Cross hospital, and she turned down the opportunity to return to the safety of England. Instead, her nurses tended wounded soldiers from both German and Allied armies.

Sadly, in 1915, when the Germans began their occupation of Brussels, they took a dim view of Edith's work. But they would have been even more unhappy had they known she was helping to smuggle 200 British soldiers across the border into the Netherlands!

Finally, the Germans arrested Edith in August 1915, and put her into solitary confinement. They tricked her into confessing to a charge which carried the death penalty. But Edith refused to show either regret at what she had done, or any fear or bitterness towards her captors.

On 11th October 1915, the night before her execution, Edith was visited by the Anglican chaplain to Brussels, the Revd Stirling Gahan. Together they said the words of *Abide with Me*, and Edith received her last Holy Communion.

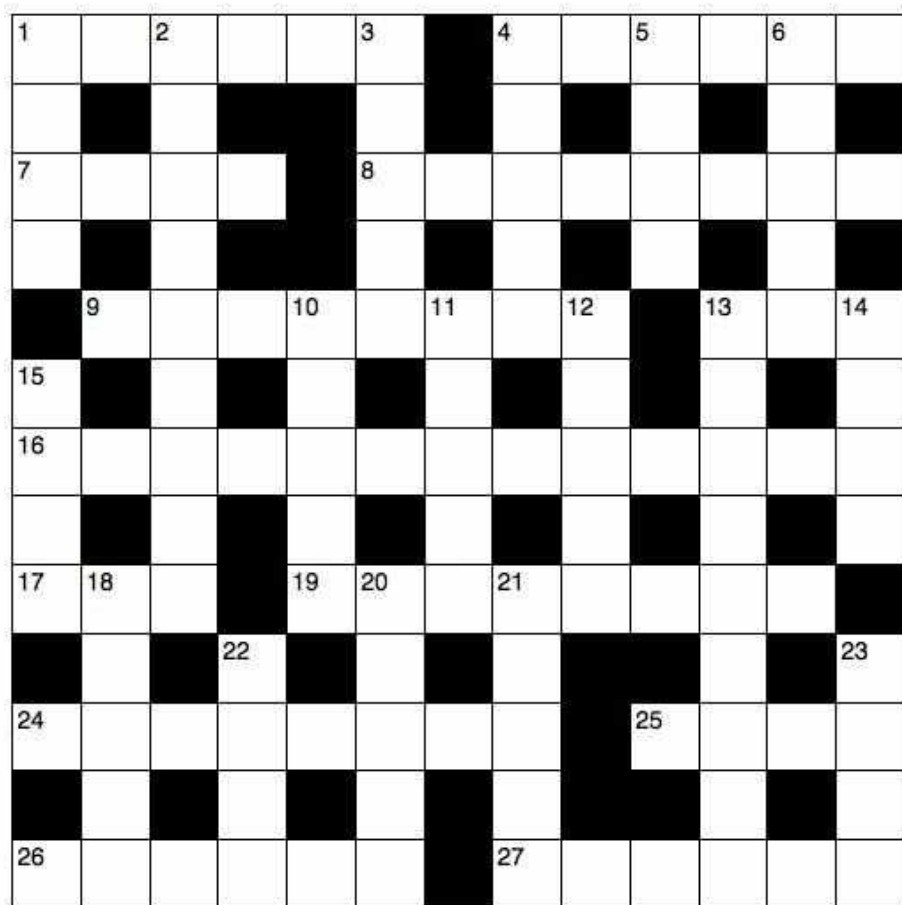
She told Gahan: "I am thankful to have had these ten weeks of quiet to get ready. Now I have had them and have been kindly treated here. I expected my sentence and I believe it was just. Standing, as I do, in view of God and eternity, I realise that patriotism is not enough. I must have no hatred or bitterness to anyone."

Edith was shot by a firing squad next day, on 12th October 1915.

After the war her body was exhumed and buried in Norwich Cathedral. Her memorial service in Westminster Abbey attracted thousands. A commemorative statue of her stands near Trafalgar Square.

*Heavenly Father,
whose blessed Son came not to be served but to serve:
bless all who, following in his steps,
give themselves to the service of others;
that with wisdom, patience, and courage,
they may minister in his name to the suffering and the needy;
for the love of him who laid down his life for us,
your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.
Amen.*

Crossword



Answers on page 21

Across

- 1 He must be 'the husband of but one wife and must manage his children and his household well' (1 Timothy 3:12) (6)
4 'For we must all — before the judgement seat of Christ' (2 Corinthians 5:10) (6)
7 'They reeled and staggered like drunken men; they were at their — end' (Psalm 107:27) (4)
8 See 19 Across
9 It concerned who among the disciples would be the greatest (Luke 9:46) (8)
13 Formed by the Jews in Thessalonica to root out Paul and Silas (Acts 17:5) (3)
16 'He has sent me to bind up the — ' (Isaiah 61:1) (6-7)
17 Moved rapidly on foot (Matthew 28:8) (3)
19 and 8 ' — a great company of the — host appeared with the angel' (Luke 2:13) (8,8)
24 Hindrance (Romans 14:13) (8)
25 Comes between Luke and Acts (4)
26 Empower (Acts 4:29) (6)
27 'Get these out of here! How dare you turn my Father's house into a — !' (John 2:16) (6)

Down

- 1 Sunrise (Psalm 119:147) (4)
2 The part of the day when Cornelius the Caesarean centurion had a vision of an angel of God (Acts 10:3) (9)
3 He was one of those who returned with Zerubbabel from exile in Babylon to Jerusalem (Nehemiah 7:7) (5)
4 'No one can see the kingdom of God unless he is born — ' (John 3:3) (5)
5 Animal hunted or killed as food (Ezekiel 22:25) (4)
6 'He encouraged them — — remain true to the Lord' (Acts 11:23) (3,2)
10 Ruses (anag.) (5)
11 Jewish priestly vestment (Exodus 28:6) (5)
12 Visible sign of what had been there (Daniel 2:35) (5)
13 This was the trade of Alexander, who did Paul 'a great deal of harm' (2 Timothy 4:14) (9)
14 'This is my — , which is for you; do this in remembrance of me' (1 Corinthians 11:24) (4)
15 One of Noah's great-great-grandsons (Genesis 10:24) (4)
18 Traditionally the first British Christian martyr (5)
20 Relationship of Ner to Saul (1 Samuel 14:50) (5)
21 Jacob had one at a place he named Bethel while on his way to Haran, fleeing from Esau (Genesis 28:12) (5)
22 Bats (anag.) (4)
23 'You strain out a — but swallow a camel' (Matthew 23:24) (4)

Proverbs 8.1-4,22-31

Does not wisdom call,
and does not understanding raise her voice?
On the heights, beside the way,
at the crossroads she takes her stand;
beside the gates in front of the town,
at the entrance of the portals she cries out:
“To you, O people, I call,
and my cry is to all that live.



The Lord created me at the beginning of his work,
the first of his acts of long ago.
Ages ago I was set up,
at the first, before the beginning of the earth.
When there were no depths I was brought forth,
when there were no springs abounding with water.
Before the mountains had been shaped,
before the hills, I was brought forth—
when he had not yet made earth and fields,
or the world's first bits of soil.
When he established the heavens, I was there,
when he drew a circle on the face of the deep,
when he made firm the skies above,
when he established the fountains of the deep,
when he assigned to the sea its limit,
so that the waters might not transgress his command,
when he marked out the foundations of the earth,
then I was beside him, like a master worker;
and I was daily his delight, in the human race.

In the book of Proverbs we encounter Wisdom in two ways. The first is as a quality we should all aspire to acquire, through its many Proverbs and sayings, especially about human nature and relationships. The second, and the one we find here, is Wisdom personified as a woman. We find her in the streets and at the crossroads calling out to us to follow the paths of righteousness. She is an essential part of God's creative and ordering role. Created by God but with him from the beginning of creation.

In some ways she characterises the feminine side of god, a creative and ordering role but also an ethical one. Wisdom allows us to understand our role on earth and how our actions affect what God Created. Here it shows us that to get wisdom is part of the order and design of God's universe, allowing us to under-

Jesus was also with God at creation and when he appeared to us, he becomes Wisdom, as stated in John's gospel chapter 1.1-2.

'In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God.'

The lockdown and being furloughed from work has given me opportunities to appreciate the beauty of God's world on my doorstep. As part of my exercise walks I have been photographing the beautiful scenery surrounding me, and posting them on a WhatsApp group for some of our hub worshippers who are shielding and unable to get out themselves.

I live in Aspull and have found lots of different routes around Aspull, Haigh, New Springs and Whelley. It has been wonderful to see the beauty of God's creation on our doorstep and to have the time to appreciate the changes in seasons.

The other thing that is evident, is that the effects of our industrial past can be rectified. There are quite a few coal slag heaps around Aspull, the largest, known locally as 'The Woochie'. These are now covered in trees and full of wild-life and fauna. Capped mine airshafts are surrounded by flowers.

The old railway line, that used to carry coal into Wigan along the edge of the Haigh Plantations, is now a scenic public footpath that takes you towards Wigan, crossing the cleaned up Leeds/Liverpool Canal. Other people have had the same idea and the local Facebook groups have been full of wonderful pictures of the Wigan flashes, the spectacular sunsets we've been having and deer swimming in the canal.

Yet there is still a lot to be done, nationally and internationally. Climate change is with us but maybe if we each look after and care for our own environment as God's Wisdom asks us to – recycling, watching our fuel and energy consumptions, both in our homes and cars and trying to avoid single use plastics where we can – we can all make a difference.

Educating people internationally on what affects the environment is also a way forward, encouraging the use of green energy sources. Stopping the destruction of the rainforests, knocking down and returning former Industrial sites to nature instead of leaving buildings empty and derelict. The list goes on.

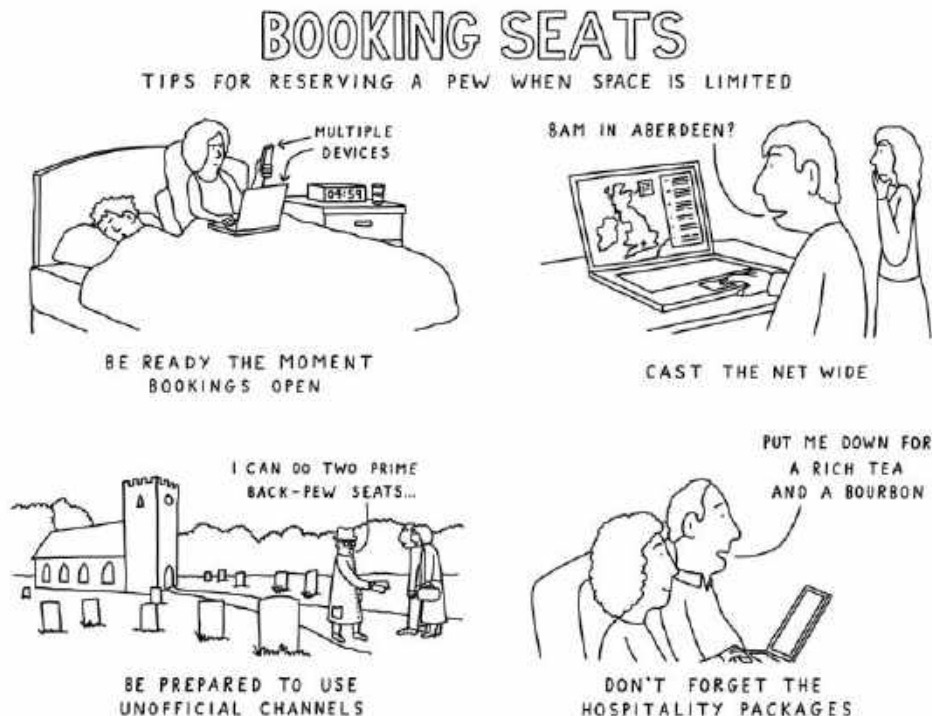
Time may be against us but seeing the restoring effects of nature that have happened globally during this lockdown on our environment has hopefully made us realise that the pollution we create cannot continue.

I think the Message Bible version of verses 1-4, although Americanised, is more a warning of what needs to be done:

Do you hear Lady Wisdom calling?
Can you hear Madame Insight raising her voice?
She's taken her stand at First and Main,
at the busiest intersection.
Right in the city square
where the traffic is thickest, she shouts,
"You—I'm talking to all of you,
everyone out here on the streets!
Listen, you idiots—learn good sense!
You blockheads—shape up!
Don't miss a word of this—I'm telling you how to live well,
I'm telling you how to live at your best.

Lets all try to live at our best and look after God's creation.

Andrew Turton



He gave us eyes to see them: 'St Francis of Assisi preaching to the fish'

- The Revd Michael Burgess

On 4th October we give thanks for one of the most loved saints in the church - Francis of Assisi. He died in 1226, but his example and witness have lived on to inspire Christians through the centuries.

His was a life focused on the crib and the cross, Lady Poverty and the stigmata, suffering and transfiguration. But also, it was a life marked by a deep love of creation: St Francis had a special nearness to all creatures great and small. As we read the stories of Thomas of Celano, we learn how he tamed a wolf in Gubbio, how swallows would chirp and fly around his head, how lambs would come close and gaze with delight, how his faithful donkey wept as the saint approached death, and in this month's painting, how fish would come to the shore to hear him preach.

Thomas relates how Francis returned some fish that had been caught to the water, telling them not to be caught again. They lingered near the boat, listening to the saint until he gave them permission to leave.

The sermon to the fish is portrayed in this work by Luc-Olivier Merson, a French artist who lived from 1846 to 1920. He is better known for his work with designs for banknotes, postage stamps, and the basilica of Sacré - Coeur in Montmartre. Here in this canvas, we see St Francis with followers young and old, a faithful dog and the fish at the water's edge.

What was the saint telling them? I think that they were loved and valued as part of the rich tapestry of God's creation, and they must return that love. It is the mood of the Benedicite where all things that move in the earth, the skies and the seas are exhorted to praise the Lord and magnify him forever. St Francis captures that mood in his own Canticle of the Sun.

In the weeks and months of lockdown many of us have had the time to look afresh at our relationship with the world of nature as we have journeyed through the seasons of spring and summer. We have learnt to wonder at the richness and variety of creation. We need to take that lesson into the 'new normal' as restrictions are gradually relaxed. The clock and the complexity of life may easily take over again, but St Francis is inviting us to journey with him in simplicity and joy as we praise God with all His creatures:

*'Let all things their Creator bless
and worship Him in humbleness.'*



Robert Carson's Film Report

Bill and Ted Face the Music (PG)

Directed by Dean Parisot

Stars: Keanu Reeves, Alex Winter, Samara Weaving, Brigitte Lundy-Paine, Kristen Schaal, Holland Taylor, William Sadler, Kid Cudi, Anthony Carrigan, Erinn Hayes, Jayma Mays, and Jillian Bell



In a Nutshell: If like me, you grew up watching and loving the Bill and Ted movies (I personally first saw Bogus Journey back in the 90s and it became a regular favourite before going back to watch Excellent Adventure and of course loving that too) then the news that after more or less 30 years that Alex and Keanu would be returning with the two most excellent heroes for a new bodacious adventure, well that was most excellent indeed. Well the movie has finally arrived in these most uncertain of times and in the UK at least has been one of the only movies to go see on the biggest screen you can. So, with this most welcome of news, I went along very excited to rock along once more; and I can say right now that I enjoyed every single moment. Yeah, it's ridiculous in every sense.... The plot is completely mad and not every joke really lands. But if you're a huge fan like me, then you'll already be familiar with these guys and go along with them all the same and kinda know that this is exactly the sort of adventure you're in for with these two. So yeah, it's ridiculous and silly beyond compare, but if you're surprised by any of this, then I wonder why you've come to see a Bill and Ted movie. Special mention has to go to Anthony Carrigan who is pitch perfect as a killer robot with a bit of a flaw and Weaving and Lundy-Paine as the daughters of our heroes who are simply terrific and deserve their own series of adventures now. Honestly I don't believe this needs the hard sell, if you're a big fan of the Bill and Ted movies then you'll have a great time and if you're not then this surely isn't going to change that... but anyone who isn't struck with a sense of real poignancy come the final musical act, then I do wonder if you need to check your heart is still beating somewhat. In the end, the feeling of reuniting with these two and going on another excellent adventure... well it is most excellent!

Rating: 8/10

The New Mutants (15)

Directed by Josh Boone

Stars: Blu Hunt, Maisie Williams, Anya Taylor-Joy, Charlie Heaton, Alice Braga, Henry Zaga, and Adam Beach

In a Nutshell: If you're even vaguely familiar with the inner workings of movie land or if you generally follow movie news and release dates, then you'll know that this very movie has had a troubled history to say the least... first due for release back in 2017 as a spin off from X-Men: Apocalypse and the various X-Men movies; it's since been delayed and delayed and delayed and was finally due for a cinematic release back in April when disaster struck once more and it looked like we'd never see this movie get its due.

Now the X-Men saga over at Fox has come and gone and finished with the dud that was Dark Phoenix last June, this is now only a vague tie in to the X Universe as there is not much cinematically to tie into at the moment and is its own unique beast (pun very much intended) and is finally getting a chance to shine if very limitedly due to diminished numbers in people willing to visit a cinema, but still a big cinema release nonetheless and you'd think after such a troubled history that this would be a bit of a messy thing indeed... but actually it's pretty darn good. Taking the idea of mutants in a school that are struggling with their powers and going full horror with that concept yields a moody and exciting piece that showcases some fantastic young talent and some pretty cool effects and while the way they try and weave it into the further world of the X-Men whilst actually trying maybe not to anymore (the references to the further world of the franchise are considerably downplayed somewhat now) is a bit here and there... this is a chilling ride and features utterly mesmerizing turns from Williams, Taylor-Joy and Heaton for starters whilst Braga, Hunt and Zaga are all on solid form too. You'll probably see reviews going for the kill considering its troubled history and saying how it's a mess and wasn't worth the wait and so on... but this really isn't true. Sitting down to finally see this, I wasn't sure what to expect and I really really enjoyed every moment. These are characters that I really hope to see more of in the future and because of the troubled production and likely limited box office it's such a shame that we likely won't get to see much more now going forward. While you have the chance, seek this out and give it a go... I have a feeling you'll be very pleasantly surprised.

Rating: 8/10

Also Seen

Mulan (12A) 9/10

The Good Liar (15) 8/10

Coming in November

Reviews of The Trial of the Chicago 7 and Enola Holmes

Crossword answers

ACROSS: 1, Deacon. 4, Appear. 7, Wits. 8, Heavenly. 9, Argument. 13, Mob. 16, Broken-hearted. 17, Ran. 19, Suddenly. 24, Obstacle. 25, John. 26, Enable. 27, Market.

DOWN: 1, Dawn. 2, Afternoon. 3, Nehum. 4, Again. 5, Prey. 6, All to. 10, Users. 11, Ephod. 12, Trace. 13, Metalwork. 14, Body. 15, Eber. 18, Alban. 20, Uncle. 21, Dream. 22, Stab. 23, Gnat.

Wordsearch

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

want
return
drank
master
story
good
food
putting

warned
disciples
always
follow
while
friends
everything
amount

long
Jesus
ate
ready
chased
servant
bad
charge

Bible Bite

A short story from the Bible

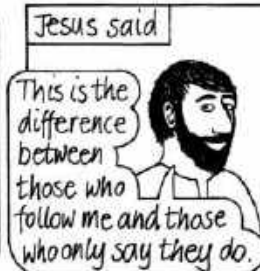
It can be read in the Bible in
Matthew 24: 44-51, Luke 12: 40-46

Jesus warned his disciples to be always
ready for his return at the end of time
by telling the story of two servants

The good servant



The bad servant





Opening Times

Monday	9am-5pm
Tuesday	9am-5pm
Wednesday	9am-5pm
Thursday	9am-5pm
Friday	9am-5pm
Saturday	9am-4pm
Sunday	Closed Except for Mothering Sunday

Flowertime Florist

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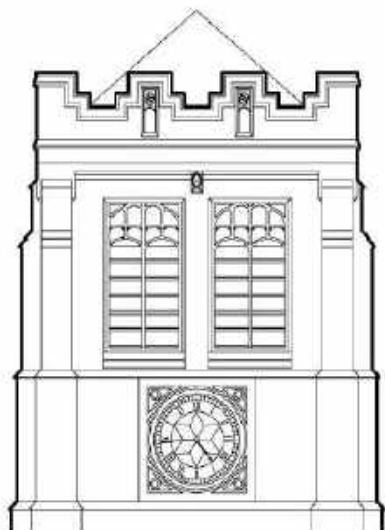
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Ephesians 2.10

*For we are God's handiwork,
created in Christ Jesus to do good works,
which God prepared in advance for us to do.*

I'm sure that we can all think back to the awe and wonder we have felt looking at a new born baby. At the tiny versions of our hands and feet. The movement in their limbs and their chest moving up and down as they breathe in and out. Their vulnerability and their dependency. Our overwhelming love for them.

I heard someone describe this moment to a new dad who was not a Christian at the time but who recognised its spiritual significance, as a 'creation moment', when we are in wonder of God's handiwork.

We are all born with so much potential. We are all born to be in relationship with God, and it is in him that we find our inspiration. I love Tom Wright's reflection that "It is as though we are all born with a musical score inside us, but it is only when we meet with Christ that we know how to play it."

Every new-born baby has potential for greatness, and we get enormous pleasure in watching those we love grow and develop into little people. But seeing them develop spiritually brings a new dimension of joy.

However, the reality is that so many live lives without knowledge of the truth and the miracle of God's ongoing creation, and the harmony this would bring to their lives. They are missing out on the re-creation we find in Jesus, when, through our faith, we are lifted out of spiritual lifelessness, born again and re-mastered by God.

For God's kingdom to come here on earth, in our nation, in our deanery, transformed people are needed, who realise their potential to be as he intends.

It is as we carry out the good works that are God's plan for us.

As people see God working through us.

As we encourage, challenge, love and bring hope to people around us.

As we nurture people spiritually and support their spiritual growth.

As they find their purpose in Christ,

that our towns will be transformed and God's kingdom be seen.

We pray Lord for awareness of the work you have planned for us, for your Holy Spirit to equip us and for us to draw others close to you.

Amen.

Sue Thomas

St Thomas' Donations & Remembrance



In memory of my mother, Catherine Mary Hurst who
passed away on the 29th August 1974.

From David Hurst





St Thomas' Donations & Remembrance

Please place your donation in an envelope with your full name and amount written on it. Please post through the vicarage door while church is closed. Please make cheques payable to **St Thomas' PCC**. If you want the donation to be for something specific, please write clearly on the envelope.

GIFT AID

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

REGULAR GIVING

Many people are asking us how they can give their usual weekly offerings. We do appreciate your concern for the finances of the church as the plate offerings help towards the payment that has to go to the diocese each month. We need to continue these payments as the outgoings of the diocese will remain the same while church is closed. 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, Garden of Rest, General, Grave Maintenance, Heath Road Graveyard, Heating and Fit for the Future.

Unless otherwise stated donations will go into the General Fund.

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

Please note that no funerals, baptisms or weddings took place at Church during September.

Church Organisations in St Thomas' and St Luke's

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

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

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