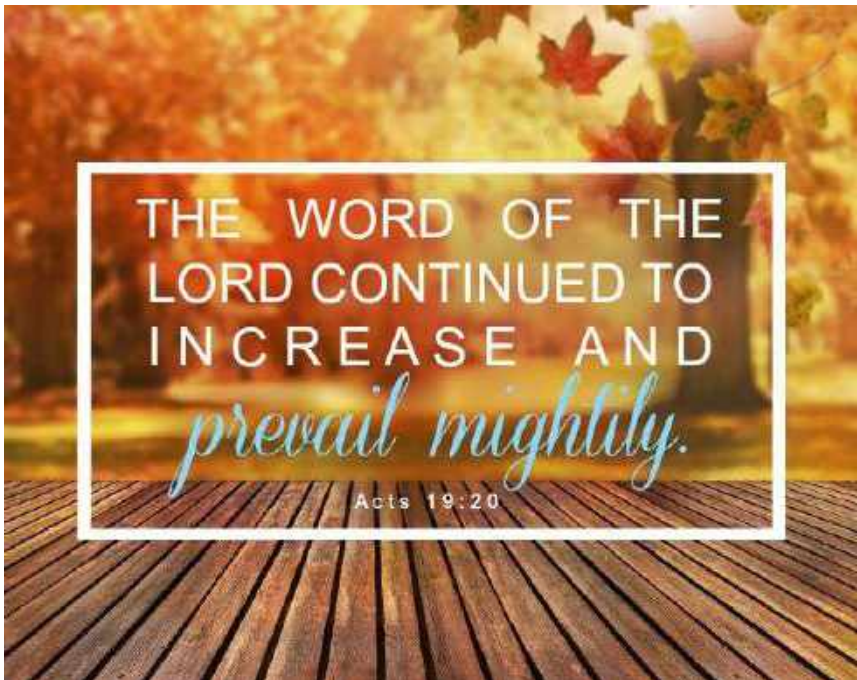


Wigan South Parish Magazine

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

St Thomas' & St Luke's edition



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Parish Information

Baptisms

Baptisms are held around the Parish throughout the month. To qualify for baptism parents should live within the parish boundaries or be a regular worshipper at one of the worship communities within the Parish. Godparents should have been baptised 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

If you would like further information or to book a funeral, wedding or a baptism, please attend at one of our churches or see the contact details at the rear of the

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.

	November	December	January
Deadline for material	28 October	25 November	16 December
Publish date	7 November	5 December	2 January

Heavenly Halloween

A lady had recently become a Christian and been baptised. Curious, one of her colleagues at work asked her what it was like to be a Christian.

The lady was caught off guard and didn't know how to answer. Then she saw the office 'jack-o'-lantern' on a nearby desk and blurted: "Well, it's like being a pumpkin."

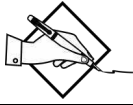
Her colleague asked her to explain that one. So she said: "Well, God picks you up out of the patch and brings you in and washes off all the dirt on the outside that you got from being around all the other pumpkins.

"Then He cuts off the top and takes all the yucky stuff out from inside you. He removes all those seeds of doubt, hate, greed, etc. Then He carves you a new smiling face and puts His light inside of you to shine for all to see.

"It is our choice to either stay outside and rot on the vine, or come inside and be something new and bright."

Are you something new and bright? Will you be smiling today, and shining with His light?





Letter from Helen

Whilst for some of you celebrations of Harvest Festival were in September, at St. Aidan's we celebrate our Harvest Festival in October. This image of one single lonely tree above a vast harvested field in Billinge brought to mind, for one giving a Sunday reflection, Jesus on the 'tree' (cross) watching over the harvest that he longs for us to gather in. The Church Wigan vision is adapted here to reap a harvest – to grow our limited communities. The land will bloom, but will we be faithful and fruitful, setting up 'wells' so that our communities can thankfully taste and drink in the Holy Spirit?



Harvest is a time when we give thanks to God for his wonderful provision throughout the year, and in a 'normal' year we decorate our church with items of food – our crops if we are gardeners, or maybe from our store cupboard. These are traditionally given to those in need, who can then also be thankful! A 'well' for the community.

Harvest can be very variable, depending on the weather. This year we have had a glut of plums, in other years hardly any! For us, that's just disappointing, for our farmers it can make a huge difference to their livelihoods! The harvest matters! And now the problems of the lack of HGV drivers is kicking in. Distribution matters. I love the fact that God built a world where we are interconnected. But when we do not co-operate with one another that lack of interconnection becomes a burden.

When it's a good year it's easy to say thank you for the bonuses. In the hard years, it's more difficult to say thank you for the little, yet we should be grateful for these gifts. If we lived in flooded Europe or the States where vast amounts of crops were damaged, or in Afghanistan or Haiti, trying to feed ourselves through conflict or earthquake, we would be grateful for even small amounts to sustain us. We like to think that we are in control, but so many things in our lives are a gift from God. We should thank Him for His provision at all times.

In South Hub, with Jeremy returning from his sabbatical, but Sue F suffering ill health it's perhaps the right time for me to say how grateful I am of God's provision to help with the services, ministry and outreach of our Parish from other ordained ministers and from our teams of volunteers. God has provided for us richly in so many ways. We pray that He will bless Sue F with restored health, and also bless us as we work and pray together. Let's pray for the development of our vision!

As we try to emerge from the difficulties of a pandemic I feel grateful for those, too many to mention, who have been involved in all sorts of activities in Parish life, (many in unseen roles) over many years, who have realised that as part of Christ's body here on earth, their contributions are as important now as they've ever been.

It's going to take a while to iron out the wrinkles, and I hope that the communities that we serve will be understanding when we may not be able to respond to needs as quickly as we would like. These communities, if we remain interconnected, can help us to identify where we are falling short and how we, as a church can continue to show God's love for all in this community. Let's not bring ourselves down by focusing on our lack. But may we and they be thankful for the harvest that we have been given.

God bless!

Helen Steele



Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Philippians 4: 6-7



Get to know...

Name: Eth Yates

Role & Responsibilities: I am the Local Mission Leader (LML) at St Peter's. In that role I am responsible, with a team, for the organisation of the morning service. Between us we do the reflections, intercessions and choose the music. My role has become much wider and it is great to be part of the group of people giving their all to keep the church family going.



Favourite hymn / bible verse: Oh well, where do I start? At the moment the worship song I love is Holy Over Shadowing by Graham Kendrick. However, I love so many songs I can't pick a favourite—10,000 reasons, just as I am, Be Thou My Vision are all ones I also love.

I am the same with bible verses. I love the Lilies of the Field verses from Matthew 6, where we are told to worry about nothing, that God loves the birds of the air so how much more does he love us. But recently verses like 'For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord. Plan to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.' (Jeremiah 29 v11) have begun to mean so much more to me given our situation at St Peter's.

Favourite church memory or occasion: I have so many! I think when you have been brought up in a church family you have so very many memories. Mine would certainly be around family events, our son's weddings and our daughter's too, our grandchildren's christenings and baptisms and uplifting funerals we have been to. Certainly a very proud moment for us as a family was our son's ordination. But also seeing our granddaughter taking the offering at our morning service. So many happy memories..

How and when did you become a Christian: I have always gone to church, but I asked Christ into my life when I was 18, just before I went to college. Whilst I was away I explore that much more and came back from college a Christian.

Favourite sports team: I can be very definite about this—Wigan Rugby League! I have been a fan from being very young and although I don't go to matches as often anymore, we watch them on the TV and no tea is eaten when they lose!

Contd.

Get to know...

Interesting fact: I am very much a 'what you see is what you get person' but I walked up Snowdon on my 65th birthday and everyone on the Girl's Brigade and Boy's Brigade camp sang Happy Birthday to me at the summit. I love going in the sea in my wet suit when we are all together as a family. I may look like a landed whale but I love it!



Name: Peter Hughes

Role & Responsibilities: I worship at St Aidan's, where I am an Assistant Warden and Chairman of the church committee. I lead worship with my guitar and prior to Covid-19 we had a small but developing music group, which hopefully we will be able to restart soon.

Favourite hymn: I like so many hymns this is difficult, but at the moment my favourite to play and to sing is 'This I Believe' by Hillsong. This song is The Creed set to music, and obviously the

words are really powerful.

Favourite church memory or occasion: This would be Christingle 2 years ago. I persuaded my eldest daughter, Kate, to sing with me in church. We sang 'Hope of Heaven' and for me it was magical.

How and when did you become a Christian: I don't feel that there is a time I can point to but preparing for Kate to be christened was the turning point for me. Thinking through whether I could say the vows and believe them changed me and led to my being confirmed soon after.

Favourite sports team: SAINTS , obviously!! If we are talking football, then it is Liverpool.

Interesting fact: I played in a country group, originally called Countryside for almost 30 years.



Africa Funds News

What Is It?

The Africa fund supports two amazing Christian-run projects in south-west Uganda: a children's home at Rukungiri and the Kigezi Diocese Water and Sanitation Project which provides outlying communities with access to clean water and proper sanitation. Both projects play a massive part in saving and changing lives.

Each month generous donors support the Africa fund with standing orders. However, the monthly income does not match our donations from the fund to the projects we support. Additional fund-raising events therefore play an invaluable part in helping us to meet our commitments.

You can find out more about the Africa fund on our web site: <http://www.stthomasstluke.org.uk/ourworld/africafund/>

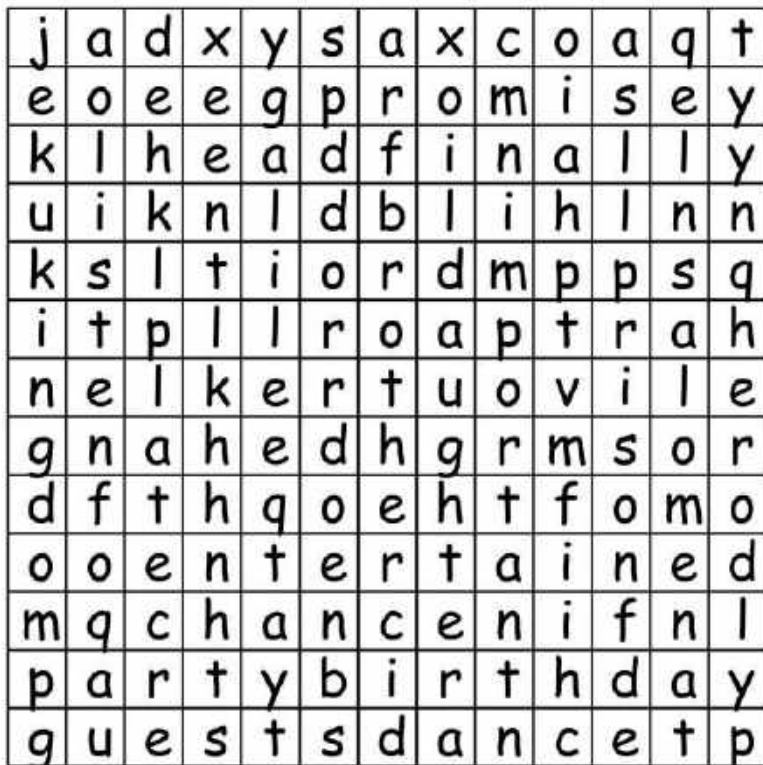
We would especially welcome new donors and if you are interested then please contact Chris Wooff (01942 724207).

Sponsored Walk

On Saturday 11th September, we held a sponsored walk to raise money for the Africa Fund. The walk was a circular one starting from Viridor Wood and covered a distance of 7½ miles. The walk generated £1,483. This is a great effort because there were only 7 of us who walked on the day. We are indebted to the generosity of the many sponsors. The weather on the day was lovely and we enjoyed the opportunity to be out in God's beautiful world.



Wordsearch



prison

killed

finally

Salome

birthday

plate

head

chance

daughter

listen

party

mother

John

important

entertained

dead

guests

Herod

Galilee

brother

dance

promise

Herodias

kingdom

Coffee cup prayers

As you read this second copy of the new look magazine we will have just finished our sermon series about vision. What our mission and ministry could look like in the weeks and months ahead as we grow, learn and serve our Lord together.

The final part of the series encourages us to pray. Pray as we walk for the people living and working in our streets, pray as we work be that at home or in the workplace, pray as we wait for the kettle to boil!

We often struggle to know what to pray or to make time to pray. This set of short prayers are intended as prayer pointers to use at least once a day and can be said when you make a drink in the time it takes to boil a kettle. Take comfort and be encouraged that as you pray these prayers, others across our churches will be praying too.

Where ever two or three gather in my name, I will be in the midst of them says the Lord.

Matthew 18:20

Coffee cup prayers: pray whilst the kettle is boiling

SUNDAY (and every day)

Dear Lord Jesus, pour out your Spirit of Renewal on your disciples. Guide our steps as we seek your transformation for ourselves, our churches and the communities we serve. May we glorify your name and see your kingdom grow now and forever. **Amen**

MONDAY

Lord we pray to you in the knowledge that when things seem 'dry' your purpose is good and to make all things new. We ask today for you to send your Holy Spirit to help us find these 'dry' place and to change them to new 'wells' of refreshment to flourish and know your many blessings.

TUESDAY

We pray Lord for our worshipping communities. Those who have planted a rich heritage of faithfulness and we ask you to give us grace, wisdom and energy to continue in their footsteps. Help us Lord to be guided by our communities, to see where we can 'dig wells' for 'heaven to touch earth'

WEDNESDAY

Lord we pray for encouragement for one another. For us to see how we individually can use our 'gifts' and calling to bring about 'heaven touching earth'. Lord we pray especially for those who feel powerless, lonely, afraid. Give us courage Lord to reach these people so everyone feels valued and loved.

THURSDAY

Lord we thank you that we can bring all our worries and concerns to you in prayer. We thank you Lord for the gift of the Holy Spirit who brings comfort and instruction. Help us Lord when times are difficult, when we meet opposing opinions. Give us patience and the gift of love to listen and to encourage one another.

FRIDAY

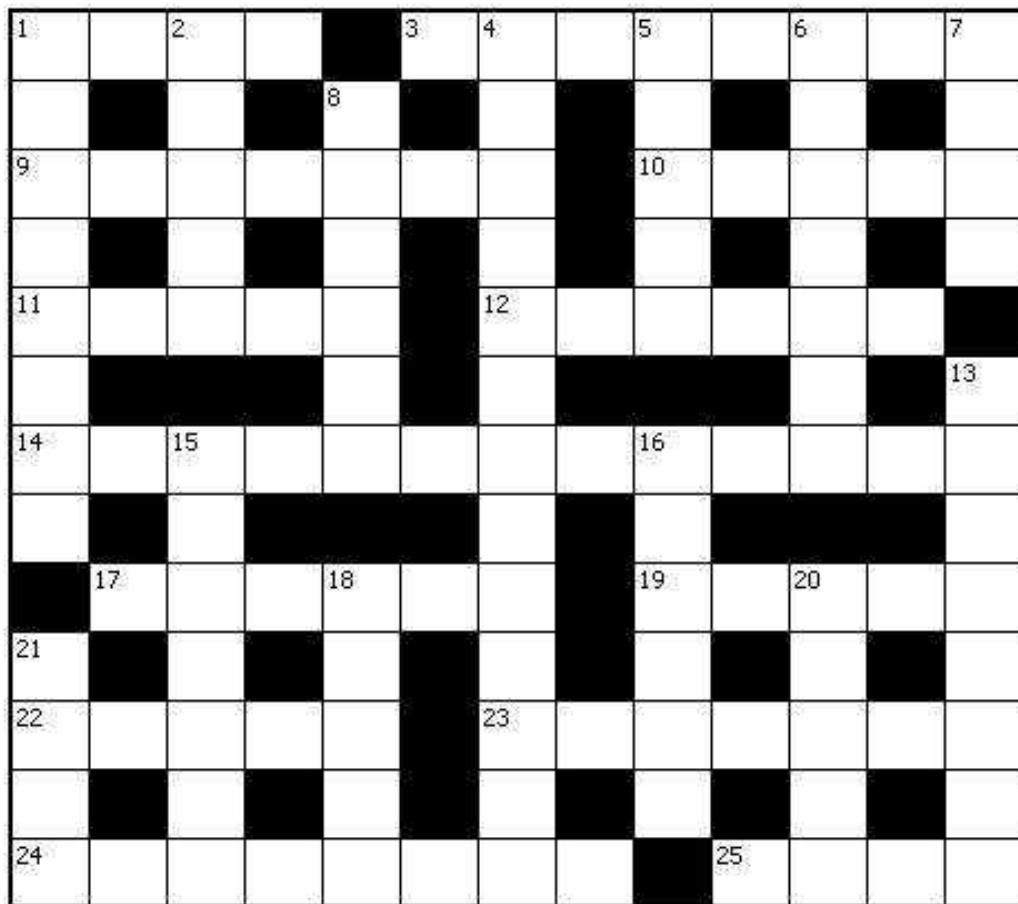
Today we pray for our Hub: Holy Trinity, St Aidan's, St Andrew's, St Luke's, St Peter's and St Thomas'. We pray that the Church Wigan vision will guide our congregations. Help us Lord to see your vision and to join in with unity to work together as one Church. Help us Lord to share ideas, prayers and collective worship.

SATURDAY

We pray for our communities; the streets where we live, We pray for opportunities to serve our wider community, linking with our schools, shops and businesses. Help us Lord to encourage new relationships.



Crossword



Answers on page 20

Across

- 1 'Those who were standing near Paul said, "You — to insult God's high priest?"' (Acts 23:4) (4)
- 3 They were assigned to guard the tree of life (Genesis 3:24) (8)
- 9 'Elkanah son of Jeroham, the son of Elihu, the — of — , the son of Zuph, an Ephraimite' (1 Samuel 1:1) (3,4)
- 10 Surrender (Joshua 24:23) (5)
- 11 Where American livestock can be reared (5)
- 12 Listen (anag.) (6)
- 14 Alternative name for Kiriath Jearim (2 Samuel 6:2) (6,2,5)
- 17 He founded Westminster Abbey, — the Confessor (6)
- 19 Hebrew word for the place of the dead (5)
- 22 Allies of Persia in the fifth century BC (Esther 1:3) (5)
- 23 Where John Wesley was forced to preach a lot (4,3)
- 24 Rebellion against God; abandonment of religious belief (8)
- 25 Note (anag.) (4)

Down

- 1 Give an account of (Mark 4:30) (8)
- 2 'I — — the path of your commands, for you have set my heart free' (Psalm 119:32) (3,2)
- 4 'He took the ephod, the other — — and the carved image' (Judges 18:20) (9,4)
- 5 'You are a chosen people, a — priesthood' (1 Peter 2:9) (5)
- 6 The meek, the merciful and the mourners are all this (Matthew 5:4-5, 7) (7)
- 7 Musical Instrument Digital Interface (1,1,1,1)
- 8 He was the son of Nun (Deuteronomy 34:9) (6)
- 13 'Let the little — come to me' (Matthew 19:14) (8)
- 15 'About three thousand were — — their number that day' (Acts 2:41) (5,2)
- 16 In John's vision, the wall of the new Jerusalem was made of this (Revelation 21:18) (6)
- 18 'Our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly — a Saviour from there, the Lord Jesus Christ' (Philippians 3:20) (5)
- 20 'Glorify the Lord with me: let us — his name together' (Psalm 34:3) (5)
- 21 Young Men's Christian Association (1,1,1,1)

October Holy Days

1st October: Theresa of Lisieux - making the most of life

Theresa of Lisieux (1873-97) should be the patron saint of teenage girls and young women who want to make the most of their lives, despite being constrained by family and school or work.

Theresa grew up in a strict, devout Roman Catholic middle-class family in France, one of four sisters. Her father was a watchmaker. Like her sisters, she entered a Carmelite convent at 15, and stayed there. She was never able to go anywhere, do anything extraordinary, or hold any responsibility. She died at the age of 24 of tuberculosis. Yet this quiet young Carmelite nun became so nationally popular that she was declared patroness of France 50 years after her death. Not bad for someone who didn't get out much!

So how did Theresa do it? By not intending to do it at all. Theresa never set out to become famous: instead, she quietly determined in her spirit to seek God, and, having found Him, to honour Him in her life, to live as closely as she could to the teaching in the gospels.

The result was a life so spiritually radiant that her convent asked her to write a short spiritual autobiography of her pilgrimage. Theresa obliged with 'L'Histoire d'une Ame', which soon became so popular that it was translated into most European languages and several Asiatic ones. Theresa also prayed for people who were ill, and there are many reports of miraculous healings that took place in answer.

After Theresa died in 1897, her book just went on selling. People found the artless sweet simplicity of her observations on her pilgrimage as a Christian compelling. Theresa reminded people of what Christianity was really all about: simple but utter devotion to Christ, not endless outward observance of religion. Theresa helped many in the Roman Catholic Church in France to remember the first principles of their faith.

11th October: James the Deacon

James the Deacon is the saint for any lay person who has stepped in to lead their church when the clergy are far away.

In fact, an historian has called James the Deacon 'the one heroic figure' in the Roman mission to Northumbria. No wonder – in a time of political chaos, with the king murdered and even the bishop fleeing for safety, James the Deacon stood firm.

It had begun when Pope Gregory the Great sent Paulinus, Bishop of York, to take Roman Christianity to Northumbria. James the Deacon, almost certainly an Italian, was among those who went with Paulinus.

The mission began well, and Edwin the king of Northumbria was converted. Roman Christianity in Northumbria took root and began to grow. But then in 633 Edwin fell in battle with Penda, the ruthless pagan king of Mercia. A pagan backlash began. The queen and her son fled for Kent, with the bishop Paulinus going south with them.

All that was left of Roman Christianity in Northumbria was James, now a solitary deacon.

But James was made of stern stuff, and despite the danger from Penda, James stayed on at a village near Catterick, often risking his life as he cared for the Christians, and continued to preach the gospel.

His success was discovered when the Northumbrian mission returned five to ten years later, and found an active Christian community still in Northumbria. James had been a faithful servant.

After Penda died, and Christian rule was re-established in Northumbria, James turned to teaching music, especially Gregorian Chant, to the fledgling churches in the region. Bede praised him for his honour and integrity. James was present at the Synod of Whitby in 664, which met to discuss the differences between the Celtic Northumbrian Church of the North, and the Roman Church of the South.

When James died sometime after 671, he was deeply mourned by the ordinary Christians of Northumbria, both Celtic and Roman. He had never deserted them.



Rob Carson's Film Review

Shang Chi and the Legend of the Ten Rings (12A)

Directed by Destin Daniel Cretton

Stars: Simu Liu, Awkwafina, Tony Chiu-Wai Leung, Michelle Yeoh, Meng'er Zhang, Fala Chen, Wah Yuen, Ben Kingsley, Florian Munteanu, Andy Le, Jayden Zhang, Paul W. He, Elodie Fong, and Arnold Sun

Released: September 3rd 2021

The Verdict: Surely, it's a sure-fire thing by now, a new Marvel movie is naturally just going to be awesome... so what else is new really? But that's never quite as assured a thing as you think, with the MCU going down new roads and new themes and new ideas, there is room for not every character or idea to work quite up to the standards of a Civil War or an Endgame. For every new Guardians of the Galaxy, there is a Black Widow that is fine but is in the end fairly inconsequential in the scheme of things. Thankfully this latest detour from the MCU that goes flying down the avenue of the mystical and magical arts is an absolute blast from start to finish that is the popular opposite of inconsequential—very consequential indeed! From breath taking cinematography and fight choreography to rich new characters and sumptuous new landscapes and worlds to explore. This is truly a daring new chapter in this varied universe. Whether it's the awesome range of weird and wonderful creatures and mythology or just the great range of new and interesting characters to meet and explore, whether it's the wonderfully charming and funny Awkwafina as Shangs' friend Katy, or the always reliable Michelle Yeoh as Shangs' auntie. Not to mention the fierce and menacing but soulful Tony Leung as his father, the leader of the Ten Rings and one very feared individual indeed. Plus a few nice surprises here and there that feed into the wider world and mythology of the MCU, the way that it segues nicely from where it's going into this whole new fantastical magical mythology is marvellous. Take great characters, the mythos and the mix of fight sequences and awesome mythos and you have a breathtaking new avenue of the most varied cinematic universe there is to now explore. An absolute treat and just a simply great time to be had for all.

Rating: 10/10

Zodiac (15)

Starring: Jake Gyllenhaal, Mark Ruffalo, Robert Downey Jr, Anthony Edwards, Brian Cox, John Carroll Lynch, Chloe Sevigny, Charles Fleischer, and Elias Koteas

Directed by David Fincher

Released: May 18th 2007

The Verdict: If you've seen the previous works of director David Fincher such as Fight Club, Panic Room and Seven... you'll know he's a director with a superb visual flair, he has a knack for camera tricks (in Panic Room, the camera goes through a handle on a coffee mug) and he also has a knack for creating superb tension. Though whilst his latest movie lacks the visceral entertainment value of a blockbuster movie it still retains both the visual flairs and the extreme tension, though albeit of a much more subdued nature. None of this stops this from becoming the gem it so clearly is, the different in pace to other films is a welcome relief, a slow-burning chiller that gets under your skin rather than simply shouting at you, it's very different in a lot of different ways, such as its attitude towards the villain (never revealing his identity) and the whole scenario, in focusing upon the cops rather than the villain it is much more intriguing. The way the murders play out as well is very creepy and interesting, you never see the killer's face and it's very interestingly acted out. The performances are excellent too, with both Downey and Gyllenhaal both excellent as well as good turns from Cox, Ruffalo and Sevigny. It's truly a very interesting film that takes its time but never drags, and plays out in a very different and interesting way, but is never less than gripping and compelling, and is definitely by far one of the best films made in a little while... catch it whilst you can! A stunning, riveting, creepy and excellently made thriller boasting superb performances and assured direction. Not your average serial killer movie, but still a one-of-a-kind masterpiece.

10/10

Also Seen

Mank (12) 9/10

Copshop (15) 8/10

Honest Thief (15) 7/10

Queen and Slim (15) 9/10

How to Build a Girl (15) 9/10

Coming in November

Reviews of No Time to Die and Dune



"But, Mum, if the vicar wasn't coming here Trick-Or-Treating, why did she still take the chocolates I gave her?"

Crossword Answers

ACROSS

1 dare; 3 cherubim; 9 son Tohu; 10 yield; 11 ranch; 12 enlist; 14 Baalah of Judah; 17 Edward; 19 Sheol; 22 media; 23 open air; 24 apostasy; 25 Eton

DOWN

1 describe; 2 run in; 4 household gods; 5 royal; 6 blessed; 7 MIDI; 8 Joshua; 13 children; 15 added to; 16 Jasper; 18 await; 20 exalt; 21 YMCA



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The Friend at Midnight

This month we are looking at the Parable of the Friend at Midnight (Luke 11:5-8). It is found in a passage where Jesus is teaching His disciples to pray.

Pray Shamelessly:

The parable concerns a man coming to his friend at midnight and asking '*Friend, lend me three loaves, for a friend of mine has arrived on a journey, and I have nothing to set before him*' (5-6). Despite the hour, the rules of hospitality would mean this was not an unreasonable request.

But the friend refuses to help because everyone in his house is asleep. Jesus adds, '*though he will not get up and give him anything because he is his friend, yet because of the man's boldness he will rise and give him whatever he needs*'. Jesus uses this parable to encourage us to come in *shameless boldness* to our heavenly Father with our needs. In contrast to the parable, God is not slow in responding to us. It's not God who is reluctant to answer, but we to ask. Do we pray with shameless boldness?

Pray Persistently:

Such confidence is the basis for persistent prayer: '*Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you.*' All three verbs indicate a continual habit: '*Keep on asking...seeking...knocking*'. We will not be content simply to ask once and then move on. Jesus tells us to bring our prayers to God persistently. Do we give up too easily in prayer?

Pray Expectantly:

'For everyone who asks receives, and the one who seeks finds, and to the one who knocks it will be opened.' Do we pray expectantly, believing that God delights in answering your prayers? Why not begin this adventure of prayer today!

Canon Paul Hardingham

Zacchaeus

(Luke 19:1-10)

I wanted to sit here
And watch Him,
Just watch the man Jesus walk by.
Hidden by the leaves,
Hidden from the loathing of my lifestyle
I simply wanted to see Him
From my tree.

As I searched for His face
He found mine,
Reached where I was and looked up,
Looked into the heart of my being,
And Jesus did not walk by,
He came to me,
He spoke to me,

A tree is not a hiding place, my friend,
Believe me.
Come down from your tree,
Come down and be different,
Come down and change your world,
Follow me.

By Daphne Kitching



<u>Opening Times</u>	
Monday	9am-5pm
Tuesday	9am-5pm
Wednesday	9am-5pm
Thursday	9am-5pm
Friday	9am-5pm
Saturday	9am-4pm
Sunday	Closed Except for Mothering Sunday

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News from our churches

The Leprosy Mission

After the disruption caused by the last eighteen months by the Covid pandemic, not to mention in my case (Barbara) increasing old age, Margaret and I feel the time has come for us to resign from the Leprosy Mission charity. We would like to very sincerely thank everyone who has given us such generous support, and of course, benefitted this very worthwhile charity, over the years.

We also hope that someone will feel that this is a project which needs to continue and will volunteer to take our place. The main responsibility lies in organising the annual gift day, so please think about it.

Once again, a very big thank you from

Barbara Burton and Margaret Raymond

As we try to come to terms with the new normal I don't like having once again to mention the topic of money. The past experience of lockdown and limited access to our buildings has had a serious effect on the financial position and vision at St Thomas's and St Luke's. As always we are dependent on the your generosity, never more so than now and you have our thanks for your loyal support to date.

We are doing everything we can to maintain a church life as before covid supporting the asylum seekers and Pantry Parcels (formerly ACT Food bank) and the Pantry along with all our other activities particularly with the young people and indeed 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's is made possible by your giving and we thank you.

There 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 you donation. That is 25pence 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 set up for a specific purpose. We have now made it possible to donate online through our webpage as well as the traditional methods of cash and cheque.

We have continued to use freewill offering envelopes and are grateful to those who have handed the envelopes in throughout lockdown etc.

You may have noticed the QR codes at the back of church, these allow a one off donation using your mobile phone and following the instruction which you will see when making the connection.

If you need any information our Parish Treasurer Sarah Riley, our Assistant Treasurer Philip Hayton and myself will be only too willing to discuss matters with you in the strictest confidence.

We are slowly returning to a more active church life after a considerable period of totally uncertainty. We are now doing our best to revive many of our previous activities. Some of our very dedicated volunteers have decided that they would like to take the opportunity of the break to take a well earned retirement. I would like to take the express our gratitude to them all for their dedication.

It does however open up the chance for others to explore their own ministries in God's service. I would like to you to consider the tasks which we do need to fill:

- Part of a team to assume responsibility for setting of the timing for the new under floor heating system. This will involve setting the times for the heating in accordance with the timetable of events for the week. Full training will be given. A real opportunity to become very popular with the church users.

- A small team to manage the distribution of the St Thomas and St Luke's edition of the church magazine which involves the collection of money from the individual magazine deliverers and advertisers. It doesn't involve actual delivery of magazines and probably can be done by one or two people.
- Volunteers to take on magazine delivery routes.
- For many years we have supported the Leprosy Mission and leprosy is still a real health problem in parts of the world. I thank Barbara Burton and Margaret Raymond for looking after this mission but having now retired we are looking for a replacement(s). Basically it involves looking after the envelopes collected in church during leprosy week and possibly a fund raising coffee morning or similar.
- Similar to the Leprosy Mission we have a treasured history of supporting Christian Aid week. Again our thanks go to Maureen Cook Hilda Bramwell and Phil Hayton for their service to this cause. Surely we are going to continue our proud tradition. To do this we need volunteers to take up the cause.
- Prior to Transforming Wigan and the church reorder at each annual parish meeting we appointed sides persons with responsibilities in our services for welcoming, taking the offertory and being generally available to assist the wardens when necessary. In our reordered church volunteers are still required but with a more extensive responsibilities. In addition to the welcoming aspect we need the volunteers to be responsible for setting out the seats and tables in appropriate arrangements to suit the needs of the particular service and to clear away afterwards. This is an opportunity to take on a job that will make you feel a real part of something special.
- We are blessed with having a church school attached to our parish and over the years many dedicated members have given valued service as school governors. The governing body comprises of 12 governors, 7 of which are foundation governors appointed by the church. The appointment is for a minimum four year term. I would like to thank Claire Roby and Sarah Riley for their many years of valuable service. They have both decided to stand down now that their latest term has expired and need to be replaced. It is essential that we do find volunteer replacements but it is also essential that our new governors add to the skills of the other members of the board. Sarah is of course our Parish Treasurer and a chartered accountant and it follows that we would like her replacement to have financial skills particularly as the finance is a vital aspect of the governors' responsibilities. Clair provided a skill in health care which is

now covered but a person with HR experience would be valued or skills in dealing with people.

- Now that the church has reopened and is able to accommodate a variety of community functions as well as our own church services we need to make the facilities as widely known as possible. We would like to recruit people with an interest in the media to publicise and promote the use of those facilities.

Much to take in and much to pray over, this article has only touched on the basics of the various tasks. If you are interested in any aspect of the work that we need to cover, full details will be made available. Please chat to me Jan or the wardens in full confidence.

Malcolm

I am sure that many of you who enjoyed the reading part 1 of David's nostalgic walk round Ashton will enjoy part 2. Thanks David.

A NOSTALGIC WALK AROUND ASHTON IN MAKERFIELD PART 2

Bryn Street continued

On the corner of Bryn Street and Garswood Street was the premises of Johnny Morris with petrol pumps outside in Garswood Street. You will remember Johnny Morris with his trilby hat and shop coat. Almost anything that you needed could be found in the shop but only Johnny could find it for you since the shop was a complete mess. Then there was Cunliffe's DIY shop, then Wood's toffee shop where you could buy Jubbly a frozen orange drink, spangles, penny arrows, black jacks, refreshers, love hearts etc. Then the Palace Cinema where every Saturday afternoon, avoiding the pea-shooter pellets and flying ice cream, we attended the kids matinee to watch "Zorro" and "Flash Gordon". On the corner with Wigan Road was Horace's shoe shop. Around the corner on Wigan Road was Speakman's clock repairs, Howe's DIY shop, Williams chemists, Sewing Box wool shop, a toffee shop and the Queens cinema, a toffee shop, Maltby's DIY, a butchers and Chapman's newspaper shop and Mort's grocers near today's Barclays bank. Across the road was the British or Evans primary school now Ashton View Care Home. On the corner of Armoury Bank in the old band house building was Dickinson's coffee shop and juke box music. Not forgetting the pies and cakes from Pilling's in Garswood Street.

On Princess Road, where Aldi is today, was Hankinson's plumbing and yard, on

the opposite side the gasworks with the large gasometers and where Travis Perkins, York Road, is today was the large Record cotton mill. On Ladysmith Avenue was Lane's the printers and also my late uncle Alan Cunliffe the blacksmith. When hammering on the anvil the sound could be heard in the centre of Ashton. On Hilton Street, "Hilton & Ince" building contractors. Further along Princess Road grazing on pasture near the Millstone Inn, which no longer exists, was the horse that pulled the cart of Mr. James Gillett the fishmonger.

Old Road – the police station, now flats; a row of terraced houses sweeping behind the police station along Stonecroft Terrace and also a row down to the Steam Engine bridge. Both terraced rows met together at a shop that faced Old Road. (How to tell a true Ashtonian? – ask them "where is the Steam Engine"). Ashton baths in Morden Avenue. Next to the police station was the school clinic which you also attended for the dreaded vaccinations; Pennington haulage; in Spion Cop the Labour Club, now Alan Jones'; on Old Road the Coop which is now Alan Jones'; next was Old Road Farm, owned by the Sutton family; opposite was "Ronnie's" the hairdressers on the corner of Eastwell Road. Dr. McCurdy's surgery at the corner of Old Road and Osborne Road. In Osborne Road, before the bungalows, was Jolley's shop, where you could receive a few pennies for returning empty glass pop bottles of Tizer, Jusoda, Vimto and Dandelion & Burdock. Corney's shop opposite Westfield Avenue was next to the old Labour Club, then the Post Office, which is now the fishing shop and Lloyd's grocers just before Low Bank Road. The Central School with greenhouses and gardens where gardening was taught, a large old building after Wolmer Street was Gaskell's bakery, then at the top of Old Road was the Grammar School.

Low Bank Road – on the right the laundry building with its chimney, on the left before the path leading to Skitters Wood a series of pens or allotments, the Skitters path which still exists just before the "Pit Pony", Radcliffe's garage at the present day "Pit Pony", and then the steep descent of Low Bank Road, between high sandstone banks, to the position of the present M6 and the steep climb up Almond Hill to Spindle Hillock. Could you ride your bike up Almond Hill without getting off?

David A. Fearnley.



Mothers' Union

Diary: On **Wednesday 20th October** our speaker is Marion Henderson who will speak on her experiences as a prison chaplain. Marion is a friend of Rene Palmer who is known to many of us when she was leading the Salvation Army in Ashton. We met them both in Jerusalem on our visit to the Holy Land in 2019.

Advance Notice: Our annual Carol Service will be held on Wednesday the 15th December we will again be joined by Spectrum Choir.

Our Mothers' Union and friends meal at Bryn Masonic hall will be on the 21 January 2022. If you would like to go to the meal please let me know along with details of any friends who wish to join us. I can then let you have menus for your choice of meal.

Autumn

Heavenly Father we thank you for the beauty of the Autumn season - the reds, yellows and oranges of the leaves that reflect our joy in your creation, the deep blue of the September sky that reflects the depth of your love for us, and the crisp cool mornings that speak of change in our lives. We thank you for your ever-present step beside us in these transitional times.

Grant us courage and peace as we move into a new season in our lives, in our faith, and in our love for you. In Jesus' name we pray. **Amen**

Love and prayers

Barbara

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 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.

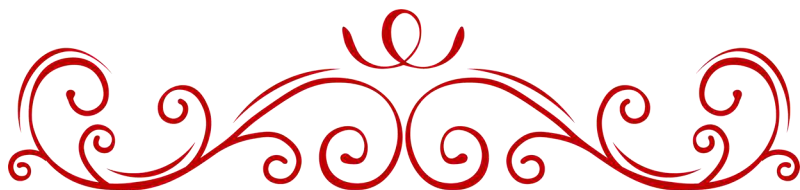
Wills and Legacies : If you wish to discuss any issues around Wills and Legacies please ring the Parish Treasurer, Sarah Riley, on 01942 722747.

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.

St Thomas' Donations & Remembrance

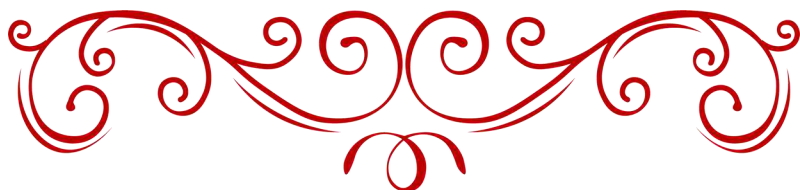


In memory of **Olive Van der Boon**
From Ron & Jean Boon

Donations for Chairs

Henry & Val Hunter

The Ashton Festival Committee



The Registers



Funerals 'May they rest in peace'

2 September	Peggy Tarleton	88	Violet Street
8 September	Cyril Marshall	87	Babylon Lane
9 September	Eileen Harrison	91	Upland Road
10 September	Eric Bentham	69	Harold Avenue
10 September	Barbara Thompson	70	Wigan Road
13 September	Margaret Rimmer	63	Nicol Road
15 September	Marguerite Brown	84	Old Road
27 September	Vera Parkinson	85	York Road South

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

12 September	Lily Littler
12 September	Allie Rose Coombes
19 September	Freddie Adam Gree
26 September	Jada Skye Taffe
26 September	Lennox James William Winstanley
26 September	Charlie Joe Frank Meehan

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 730pm at St Thomas'

Barbara Taylor
205136

Fairtrade Stall

3rd Sun 11.45am at St Thomas'

Anne Wooff
724207

Asylum Seeker Support

3rd Sun 11.45am at St Thomas'

Anne & Chris Wooff
724207

Fur Clemt Stubshaw

Mon 12pm—1pm at St Luke's

Jennifer Harrison
718618

Litter Pick

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

Chris Wooff
724207

Flower Guild

Meta Laites
723679

Bowling Club

Henry Hunter
712709

Duke of Edinburgh Scheme

Sun evenings in Church Hall

Ceri Mansell 727417

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

Ashton Pantry Sue Thomas 07877704645

Tuesday & Saturday 11am – 12pm

Thursday & Sunday 3pm – 4pm

Youth Clubs

GYM (ages 11+): Mon 3.45pm—5pm

Friday Nights: 7pm—8pm

JYC: (for Y3—Y6) Mon 5.45pm—6.45pm

11—18 year olds : Sun 7pm—8pm

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

Bubbles: Pre school

Splash: Reception—Y2

Xstream: Y3—Y6

Bell Tower: Y7—Y11

Girl Guiding Rachel Starkie 718350

Rainbows: Tues 5.30pm

Brownies: Thurs 6.30pm

Guides: Tues 7.15pm

St Thomas' and St Luke's Church Officials

Sunday Morning Worship Local Mission

Leaders

St Thomas': Jan Cornthwaite 721626
St Luke's: Carole Pye 517318

Readers

Tricia Hancox 201540
Alan Harrison 718618
Carole Pye 517318
Helen Weavers 07796334457

Assistant Wardens

St Thomas': Tony Cornthwaite 721626
Paula Gillespie 711270
St Luke's: Carol Pye 517318
John Boon 728900

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