

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



1926 - 2022



October 2022

60p

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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 funeral, wedding or a baptism, please attend at one of our churches or see the contact details at the rear of the magazine

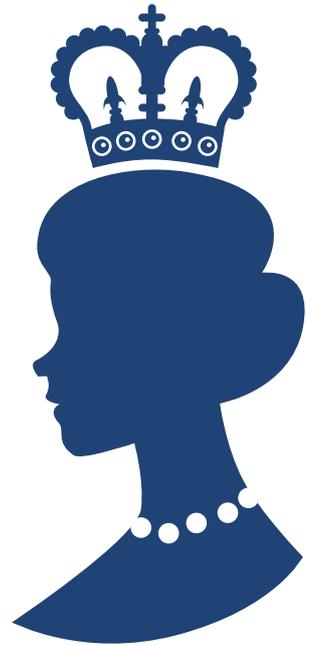
Magazine Deadlines

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	15 October	17 November	15 December
Publication date	30 October	27 November	25 December

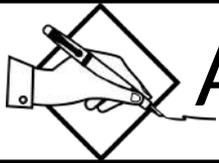
8th September, 2022

You were old, already, when I was born
And I took your gentle face for granted:
On every coin and every postage stamp,
Each Christmas message, poppy wreath laid.
Most famous of faces around the world,
I saw you, once or twice, felt I knew you
And many people cherish their stories
Of garden parties and medals received.



We feel the sands of time shift beneath us
As history is marked before our eyes.
We feel the cold wind blow, the night draw in
And pull our coats tightly around our chests;
We raise our heads, as you did, say a prayer;
We cling to the true rock, the true anchor
As you did. We live with faith, hope and love.

Sorrel May



A Letter from the Archbishop

It is with profound sadness that I join the nation, the Commonwealth and the world in mourning the death of Her Late Majesty The Queen. My prayers are with The King and the Royal Family. May God draw near them and comfort them in the days, weeks and months ahead.

As we grieve together, we know that, in losing our beloved Queen, we have lost the person whose steadfast loyalty, service and humility has helped us make sense of who we are through decades of extraordinary change in our world, nation and society.

As deep as our grief runs, even deeper is our gratitude for Her Late Majesty's extraordinary dedication to the United Kingdom, her Realms and the Commonwealth. Through times of war and hardship, through seasons of upheaval and change, and through moments of joy and celebration, we have been sustained by Her Late Majesty's faith in what and who we are called to be.

In the darkest days of the Coronavirus pandemic, The Late Queen spoke powerfully of the light that no darkness can overcome. As she had done before, she reminded us of a deep truth about ourselves – we are a people of hope who care for one another. Even as The Late Queen mourned the loss of her beloved husband, Prince Philip, we saw once again evidence of her courage, resilience and instinct for putting the needs of others first – all signs of a deeply rooted Christian faith.

As we sustain one another in the face of this challenge, our shared grieving will also be a work of shared reimagining. I pray that we commence this journey with a sense of Her Late Majesty's faith and confidence in the future.

As a faithful Christian disciple, and also Supreme Governor of the Church of England, she lived out her faith every day of her life. Her trust in God and profound love for God was foundational in how she led her life – hour by hour, day by day.

In The Late Queen's life, we saw what it means to receive the gift of life we have been given by God and – through patient, humble, selfless service – share it as a gift to others.

Her Late Majesty found great joy and fulfilment in the service of her people and her God, “whose service is perfect freedom” (BCP). For giving her whole life to us, and allowing her life of service to be an instrument of God's peace among us, we owe her a debt of gratitude beyond measure.

The Late Queen leaves behind a truly extraordinary legacy: one that is found in almost every corner of our national life, as well as the lives of so many nations around the world, and especially in the Commonwealth.

It was my great privilege to meet Her Late Majesty on many occasions. Her clarity of thinking, capacity for careful listening, inquiring mind, humour, remarkable memory and extraordinary kindness invariably left me conscious of the blessing that she has been to us all.

In my prayers at this time I also give thanks for the marriage of The Late Queen and His Late Royal Highness Prince Philip. Theirs was an inspirational example of Christian marriage – rooted in friendship, nourished by shared faith, and turned outwards in service to others.

May Her Late Majesty Queen Elizabeth II rest in peace and rise in glory.

***The Most Reverend and Right Honourable Justin Welby
Archbishop of Canterbury***

Services & Events in October



Parish Events

Saturday 8th	10.00am Caleb Walk (see page 10 for more information)	Bryn Crossroads
Saturday 15th	11.00am Small Items Auction (see page 12 for more details)	Holy Trinity
Saturday 15th	6.30pm Quiz and Raffle Night (see page 11 for further details)	St Peter's Brigade Hall
Tuesday 25th	1.30pm - 3.00pm Peace of Mind (Dementia Cafe)	St Andrew's Mission Hall



Weekday Services

Wednesday 5th	10.00am Holy Communion	St Aidan's
Thursday 6th	9.45am BCP Holy Communion	St Thomas'
Wednesday 12th	10.00am Holy Communion	Holy Trinity
Thursday 13th	9.45am BCP Holy Communion	St Thomas'
Wednesday 19th	10.00am Holy Communion	St Aidan's
Thursday 20th	9.45am BCP Holy Communion	St Thomas'
Wednesday 26th	9.30am Holy Communion	Holy Trinity
Thursday 27th	9.45am BCP Holy Communion	St Thomas'



Sunday Services



2nd	<p>9.00am Morning Worship 9.30am Morning Worship 10.00am Holy Communion 10.30am Morning Worship 10.30am Holy Communion 10.45am Worship Together 11.00am Family Worship 6.30pm Holy Communion</p>	<p>St Thomas' St Andrew's St Aidan's Holy Trinity St Peter's St Thomas' St Luke's St Thomas'</p>
9th	<p>9.00am Holy Communion 9.30am Holy Communion 10.30am Sta's4all 10.30am Morning Worship 10.30am Morning Prayer 10.45am Worship Together 11.00am Holy Communion 4.00pm Evening Prayer</p>	<p>St Thomas' St Andrew's St Aidan's Holy Trinity St Peter's St Thomas' St Luke's St Aidan's</p>
16th	<p>9.00am Morning Worship 9.30am Café Church 10.00am Morning Worship 10.30am Holy Communion 10.30am Morning Prayer 10.45am Holy Communion 11.00am Family Worship 6.30pm Evening Prayer</p>	<p>St Thomas' St Andrew's St Aidan's Holy Trinity St Peter's St Thomas' St Luke's St Thomas'</p>
23rd	<p>9.00am Holy Communion 9.30am Morning Worship 10.00am Beacon Service 10.30am Morning Worship 10.30am Café Church 10.45am Worship Together 11.00am Family Worship 4.00pm Evening Prayer</p>	<p>St Thomas' St Andrew's St Aidan's Holy Trinity St Peter's St Thomas' St Luke's St Aidan's</p>
30th	<p>10.00am All Hub Service with Holy Communion</p>	<p>St Thomas'</p>

Parish News

Caleb Walk through the communities in and around Wigan Saturday 8th October 2022

“The land on which your feet have walked will be your inheritance and that of your children forever, because you have followed the LORD my God wholeheartedly” Moses’ words to Caleb in Joshua 14:9



Because of his faith God’s good purposes for his people, Caleb received a promise that wherever his feet trod , God would give that land as a blessing to him and his descendants. We want to follow the example of Caleb. Just as he stepped out in faith, trusting that God wanted to give the land as a gift, so we want to step out and walk through the many communities in and around Wigan, speaking a blessing over them and praying that they will be transformed by the love and mercy of Jesus.

We will start at eight important places on the edge of Wigan and prayer walk to the symbolic centre of Mesnes Park where we will all meet at 2pm to give thanks.

Two of the starting points are in Wigan South. One in Ashton, and the other in Billinge. In Ashton we are asking you to walk from the church where you worship to meet at Bryn crossroads, outside Mr England’s Chippy at 10am. People from Downall Green or Garswood may join at Bryn or at St Aidan’s Church. Both walks are just over 5 miles. You can join in at a point along the routes or meet at Mesnes Park near the bandstand at 2pm.

Rev Fran Humphry, Curate in West Hub, will be leading the walk from Ashton. Her contact details are curate-west@churchwigan.org or tel no: 07592 024058.

Dave Sixsmith will be leading the walk from Billinge. His contact details are communications.officer@churchwigan.org or tel no: 07976 225706.

Please contact them for further information. And please do join us in praying for our communities.



[St Andrew's 90th celebration](#)

Dear friends,
St. Andrew's Church Family would like to invite you to join them on

Sunday 27th November at 2pm in the Mission Hall, Garswood

We shall be celebrating 90 years of worshipful service within the community of Garswood. When Mission Hall was built it was a temporary building but we are still here.

Please join us for a wonderful celebration followed by light refreshments.

Blessings to you all,
Rosalyn and the Garswood Team xx



There will be a quiz and raffle on

Saturday the 15th October
in St Peter's Brigade Hall starting at 6.30pm

Adults - £3
Children - £1

Sit down raffle will be 50p per ticket

Funds raised will go towards Brigade Hall upkeep



Small Items Auction

A small items auction will be held at Holy Trinity Church, Rectory Road, Downall Green, WN4 0QF on **Saturday 15th October**.



Viewing from 11am. Auction starts 12 noon.

Church will be open for donated items on Thursday 13th and Friday 14th October (afternoons 2pm-4pm) or contact Alex Finney 01942 720355 to make alternative arrangements,

Please support this fund-raising event. Everyone welcome.



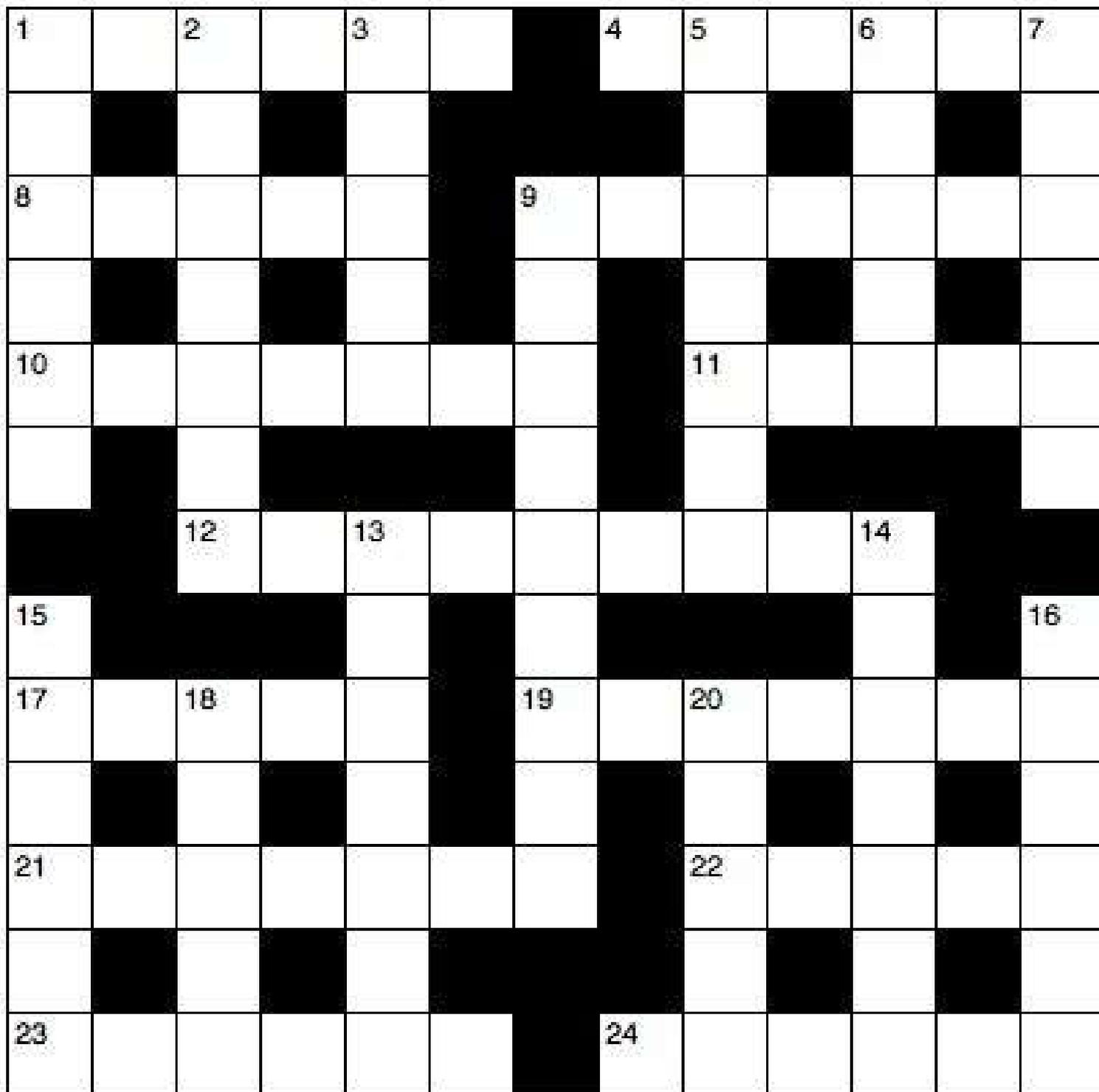
**Archives: Wigan & Leigh Our Town Pop Up Exhibition
Friday 11 November 1pm – 5pm, Ashton Library**

Have you ever wondered what life was like in Ashton in the 1600s? How about what the symbols in the Ashton coat-of-arms mean? Archives: Wigan & Leigh are celebrating the rich history of Our Town with a brand-new exhibition exploring the archive collections of local townships, from Ashton to Orrell, launching in October.

The Archives will also be taking the collection on the road! Come join us and explore archival items covering hundreds of years of Ashton history! Whilst we are there, we will be asking you to help create a community display celebrating the history of your local area, so come on down and enjoy a unique opportunity to celebrate your local history.

You can also visit our permanent exhibition celebrating local history in Leigh Town Hall, open 10 – 4 Tuesday to Saturday.

Crossword



Answers on page 17

Across

- 1 Tertullus, who presented the high priest's case against Paul in his trial before Felix, was one (Acts 24:1) (6)
- 4 As balm (anag.) (6)
- 8 Having explored Canaan, he and Joshua urged the Israelites to take possession of it (Numbers 13:30) (5)
- 9 On becoming king of Judah, he had all six of his brothers killed (2 Chronicles 21:4) (7)
- 10 'Even the — has found a home, and the swallow a nest for herself' (Psalm 84:3) (7)
- 11 Banishment(Jeremiah29:1)(5)
- 12 'And now I will show you the most — way'(1Corinthians12:31) (9)
- 17 'Titus did not exploit you, did he? Did we not — the same spirit and follow the same course?' (2 Corinthians 12:18) (3,2)
- 19 Mice den(anag.)(7)
- 21 How Egypt is often described in the Old Testament: 'the land of — ' (Exodus 13:3) (7)
- 22 One of the first Levites to resettle in Jerusalem after the exile in Babylon (1 Chronicles 9:15) (5)
- 23 'As a sheep before her shearers is —,so he did not open his mouth' (Isaiah 53:7) (6)
- 24 Paul's birthplace(Acts22:3)(6)

Down

- 1 Ravenous insect inflicted on Egypt in vast numbers as the eighth plague (Exodus 10:14) (6)
- 2 Well-being (Philippians 2:20) (7)
- 3 Small piece of live coal or wood in a dying fire (Psalm 102:3) (5)
- 5 Sportsman or woman (2 Timothy 2:5) (7)
- 6 The original name of Abraham's wife (Genesis 17:15) (5)
- 7 'So in Christ we who are many form one body, and each — belongs to all the others' (Romans 12:5) (6)
- 9 According to Peter, a wife's beauty should not come from wearing this (1 Peter 3:3) (9)
- 13 'For God did not send his Son into the world to — the world' (John 3:17) (7)
- 14 'The Lord of heaven and earth...does not live in — built by hands' (Acts 17:24) (7)
- 15 'If your hand — you to sin,cut it off'(Mark9:43)(6)
- 16 Something like these fell from Saul's eyes as soon as Ananias placed his hands on him (Acts 9:18) (6)
- 18 Track(Job41:30)(5)
- 20 Religious doctrine(5)

October Holy Days

12th October Edith Cavell, nurse

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

Edith was a vicar's daughter from Swardeston 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.

18th October Thank you, Dr Luke!

'Matthew, Mark, Luke and John, bless the bed that I lie on' - my grandma taught me that one. At least it meant I never forgot the names of the writers of the four Gospels. This month Luke, the writer of the third of them, has his feast day - 18th October.

He was, we learn from the letters of St Paul, a 'physician' - an educated man and probably the only one of the writers of the New Testament who was not a Jew. In modern terms, he was Turkish. Paul took him as one of his missionary team on a long journey around the Middle East, and they clearly became close friends. Under house arrest later in his life Paul could write, 'only Luke is with me'.

However, it is his Gospel which has established him as a major figure in the history of the Christian Church. Mark's Gospel may have more drama, Matthew's more prophetic background and John's a more profound sense of the mystery of the divine, but Luke offers us a Jesus who is utterly and believably real. This man turned no one away, reserved his harshest words for hypocrites and religious grandees, cared for the marginalised, the poor, the persecuted, the handicapped and the sinful. His Gospel is full of people we can recognise - indeed, in whom we can often recognise ourselves.

He was also a masterly storyteller. Try, for instance, the story of the Prodigal Son (Luke 15:11-32). Read it (this time) not as a sacred text but as a brilliant piece of story-telling: subtle repetitions ('your son, this brother of yours'), believable characters, drama and profound emotion. There is the older brother, so cynical about his sibling's alleged reformation, the 'prodigal' himself, so hesitant about throwing himself on his father's mercy after the folly of his earlier behaviour, and there is the father, of course, abandoning the dignity of his role in the family and actually running to welcome his wretched son's return.

There are more women in Luke's Gospel than in any of the others, but also more poor people, more lepers, more 'sinners' and tax-collectors, more 'outsiders' who are shown to be 'inside' the love of Christ. This, for many of us, is the great Gospel of inclusion and compassion. Here is a Jesus for the whole world and for every one of us. Thank you, Dr Luke!

David Winter

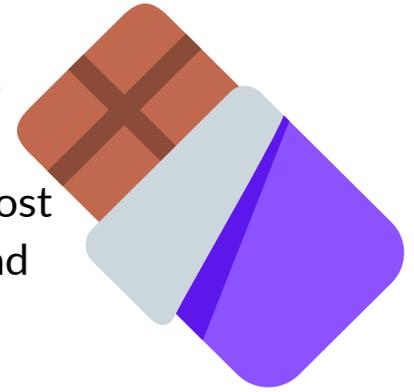
Crossword Answers

ACROSS: 1, Lawyer. 4, Balsam. 8, Caleb. 9, Jehoram. 10, Sparrow. 11, Exile. 12, Excellent. 17, Act in. 19, Endemic. 21, Slavery. 22, Galal. 23, Silent. 24, Tarsus.

DOWN: 1, Locust. 2, Welfare. 3, Ember. 5, Athlete. 6, Sarai. 7, Member. 9, Jewellery. 13, Condemn. 14, Temples. 15, Causes. 16, Scales. 18, Trail. 20, Dogma.

George Cadbury – the chocolate man with a heart for welfare

One hundred years ago, on 24th October 1922, George Cadbury died. He had transformed his father's failing chocolate and cocoa business into one of the world's most successful companies and provided low-cost housing and improved working conditions for his employees.



George was the third son of John Cadbury, a Quaker who founded Cadbury's cocoa and chocolate company. With his brother Richard, George took over the family business in 1861 and founded the chocolate producer Cadbury Brothers. But his consuming interest was in the welfare of his employees and others: having taught in an adult school he was aware that poor housing was a major problem.

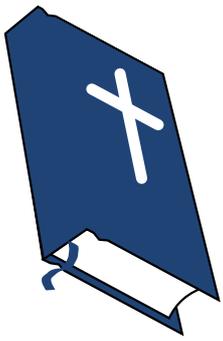
One of his first moves was to relocate his factory to a greenfield site south-west of Birmingham with access to canals and the new railways. It was here that he later founded a Quaker higher educational institution – now the Woodbrooke Quaker Study Centre.

But apart from his chocolate he is best known for his creation of a rural factory village (designed by architect William Alexander Harvey), called Bournville after the nearby river Bourn. The houses – not exclusively for factory employees – were never privately owned, and they remain attractive and affordable to the present day: a huge change from the poor living conditions in town.

Cadbury was a keen proponent of Quaker values. In 1901 he bought the Daily News (later the News Chronicle), where he campaigned for improved working conditions and social security. He was prominent in setting up the Birmingham Civic Society in 1918, and he gave a country park to the people of Birmingham, as well as a large house to the Crippled Children's Union to use as a hospital. It is now the Royal Orthopaedic Hospital.

Tim Lenton

Celebrating Bible Sunday 30th October



What is a good way to 'celebrate' this annual day of appreciation for our Bibles?

One way might be to send a Bible to someone in prison. Certainly, Bibles seem to be wanted there just now.

Bible Society reports that: "Prison chaplains are telling us that more and more prisoners urgently want to read God's Word. Dominic Dring, who serves at two prisons, says he brings ten Bibles in with him and every one of them gets taken.

"This is an amazing opportunity. You can share the transformative love of Jesus with someone who has lost everything. You can increase the number of Bibles going into prisons this year. As demand rises, we need your help to meet it. Just £10 can provide a Bible to a prisoner in a UK prison. Imagine the impact that could have on someone longing for a second chance."

More at <https://www.biblesociety.org.uk/contact-us/>

Ever wonder how many Bible translations there are in the world? And how many more are still needed? Wycliffe Bible Translators reports the following, as of 2021:

There are now 3,495 languages, which have some Scripture available to 7.04 billion people.

This figure of 3,495 breaks down into:

717 languages with a complete Bible – 5.75 billion people

1,582 languages with a complete New Testament (some also have Old Testament portions) – 830 million people

1,196 languages with some translated Bible portions – 457 million people

Meanwhile, there are a further 828 languages which have work in progress – 67.6 million people. And also, there are 1,892 languages still waiting for translation (or preparatory work) to begin – 145 million people.



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.

St Thomas' Church Hall, Ashton in Makerfield

Tuesday 11am–12pm

Thursday 3pm–4pm

Saturday 11am–12pm

Sunday 3pm–4pm

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Any additional monies shall be used to build a pantry and kitchen behind the church hall.



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Carina Lodge, 178 Tyldesley Rd, Atherton T: 01942 318025 • Century House, 6-8 Wigan Road, Hindley T: 01942 318081

October Services



	St Thomas'	St Luke's
Sunday 2nd	9.00am: Morning Worship 10.45am: Worship Together with Harvest 6.30pm: Holy Communion	11.00am: Family Worship and Baptism
Sunday 9th	9.00am: Holy Communion 10.45am: Worship Together 12.45pm: Baptisms	11.00am: Holy Communion
Sunday 16th	9.00am: Morning Worship 10.45am: Holy Communion 6.30pm: Evening Prayer	11.00am: Family Worship
Sunday 23rd	9.00am: Holy Communion 10.45am: Worship Together 12.45pm: Baptisms	11.00am: Family Worship
Sunday 30th	10.00am: Wigan South Communion Service at St Thomas'	



Thursdays 6th, 13th, 20th & 27th October:
9.45am BCP Holy Communion at St Thomas' church.

News from our churches

In times of increasing living costs especially energy and food I find it a difficult time to talk about our giving. However, our commitment to meet our portion of the parish share as well as meeting the regular expenses of a large parish, just like our personal financial affairs are taking a knock. It does seem a bad time, but we do need to review our giving. This does need to be undertaken prayerfully by asking our Lord how we can support St Thomas's. 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.

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

- The Parish Giving scheme is a wonderful opportunity to help this works by a payment being taken from your account bank account on the 1st of each month and is then credited to our church account on the 15th. These payments made regularly help our treasurer budget better and has the real benefit to the church in ensuring were appropriate we get the gift aid each month. That is the 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 by the use of a card machine placed at the back of church. It can also be done 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.
- Over the years we have benefitted considerably from a number of generous legacies, these are always well received and faithfully applied. A leaflet explaining all about legacies can be found at the back of church.

In this article in October last year I commented that we were slowly returning to a more active church life and that we were doing our best to revive many of our previous activities. We were looking to replace some of our previous volunteers decided to take a well-earned retirement.

I did set out a number of positions which we needed to fill some of which have been taken up.

- We can now rely on Keith Stone in conjunction with Sue T. to set our heating requirements in line with church use.
- Viv Howarth and Keith Naylor have taken over responsibility for the printing of the church magazine, but we could really do with a small team to manage the distribution to magazine deliverers and the recording and banking of the money. We are unsure that we are getting the magazine to all who wish to receive it.
- Linda Mansell answered the call to help with our support of the Leprosy Mission and leprosy, this greatly appreciated.
- I pointed out that we have a treasured history of supporting Christian Aid week. We still recognise the week, but our support remains uncoordinated. We are still looking for volunteers to take up the cause.
- Whilst we no longer have sides people, I did ask for volunteers to act as stewards with responsibilities in our services for welcoming, taking the offertory and being generally available to assist the wardens when necessary. People are helping when asked, for which we are grateful but in our reordered church volunteers stewards are 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.
- Our church is now providing the accommodation for a wide variety of community functions as well as our own church services. We have hosted band and choir concerts weddings and other events, however, 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. Also volunteers to manage the booking element.

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

Mothers' Union



I received this letter from Caroline which I would like to share with you.

Mothers' UNION Christian care for families

THE MOTHERS' UNION LIVERPOOL DIOCESE

Dear Trustees and Branch Leaders

It is with deep sadness that we have heard the news of the death of our beloved Queen Elizabeth II

The queen was a wife, Mother, a Grandmother and Great-Grandmother She was also our patron.

This year we have spent time celebrating her Platinum Jubilee and reflecting on her inspirational life and what she means to us.

We all have our own memories of her Majesty and they will be very personal and special to each individual.

We are now entering a period of mourning and I would ask that our branches and members respect this time and use this time in prayer, holding our Queen, our King and all the Royal family in those prayers.

We will take the opportunity to celebrate her Majesty's life at our Council meeting in November 7th but for now let us keep each other in our thoughts and prayers as we mourn together.

Her Majesty was a wonderful example of a Christian who's faith was very important to her and an example to us all.

I will be sending our condolences to the King and the family and will be lighting a candle each day during this period of mourning and would ask you to join me in lighting a candle and signing a book of condolence ending you message with your name and then Mothers Union Member.

As we look to the future, we remember the past and celebrate the new Reign of King Charles III and as our Majesty the Queen would want by saying these words

GOD SAVE THE KING

Caroline xx

Diocesan President
Mothers' Union Liverpool Diocese

Diary:

Wednesday 19th October our speaker is Angela Wigglesworth

Advance Notice:

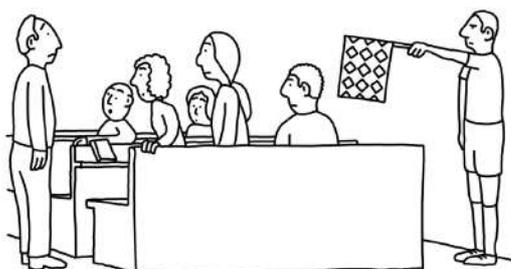
Our annual Carol Service will be held on Wednesday 21st December we will again be joined by Spectrum Choir.

Let us not avert our gaze
From the challenging issues of life
But offer your love in tangible ways.
May Christ be our inspiration and guide
As we seek to act with insight and integrity
To make a difference in our world.

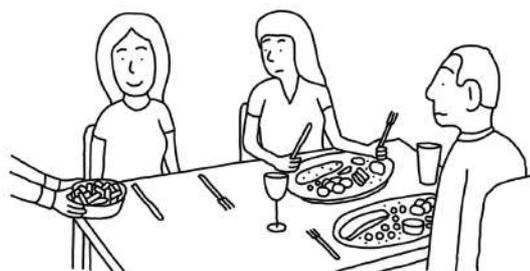
*Love and prayers
Barbara*

SIDESPERSONS

COMMON MISUNDERSTANDINGS ABOUT THEIR ROLE



PEOPLE WHO KEEP AN EYE ON THINGS FROM THE SIDE AISLES



FRIENDS WHO ONLY ORDER CHIPS AT A RESTAURANT



PERSONS MADE UP ONLY OF SIDES



BACKING DANCERS FOR LITURGICAL ROUTINES

Once again I am grateful to our resident historian David Fearnley for another visit to our past.

JOSEPH STEVENSON 1874 - 1947, MILL STREET/HEATH ROAD

Joseph Stevenson born 8/9/1874, son of Joseph & Mary Stevenson (Smith), colliery weighman, of Ashton Heath, was baptized at St. Thomas', Ashton, 18/10/1874. In 1881 the family lived at 9 Mill Street, Ashton. In 1891, still living in Mill Street, Joseph, aged 16, was an apprentice bricklayer. In the 1901 census the family lived at 105 Heath Road but Joseph, aged 26, was serving with the Lancashire Hussars Imperial Yeomanry in the Boer War, South Africa. Joseph returned home December 1901.

In 1848 in Ashton in Makerfield Sir John Gerard of New Hall raised a volunteer regiment of cavalry called the Lancashire Hussars. The regiment consisted of 4 troops which attracted recruits from Ashton, Garswood, Golborne, Newton, Windle, Moss Bank, St. Helens and Skelmersdale. In 1900 the Lancashire Hussars formed part of the Imperial Yeomanry force that was sent out to South Africa to fight the Dutch or Boers. The Boer War was to last until 1902. 121 recruits enlisted, for one year, from all the above named districts including 21 recruits from Ashton in Makerfield. Among the 21 was bricklayer Joseph Stevenson, Trooper/Private, No.8975, Lancashire Hussars Imperial Yeomanry.

In December 1900 a cavalry column of 28 soldiers, including 18 Lancashire Hussars set out for an isolated abandoned farm at Hamelfontein near the Orange River, Cape Colony, South Africa. On the morning of the second day at the farm shots rang out from a large group of Boers who surrounded the farm. Several were killed including Sergeant Samuel Swann of Earlestown and others wounded. The soldiers ran into the farmhouse and outbuildings to return fire through the windows, doors and holes cut into the walls. They refused requests from the Boers to surrender and continued the fight. After several days with food, water and ammunition low and many wounded Captain Fletcher, of Liverpool, asked for a volunteer to ride 50 miles to the nearest British garrison for assistance. Joseph Stevenson volunteered and carrying an important note from Fletcher describing conditions in the farm mounted his horse and holding the reins of another horse galloped from the barn into a hail of bullets. He was pursued by Boer riders into the distance.

Unfortunately Joseph ran into several hundred Boers approaching on the trail and could not avoid capture. He still had the note from Fletcher describing the strategic conditions inside the farm so he ate the note and swallowed it. The Boers, continually on the move on horseback and oxen-pulled carts, had no facilities for prisoners. They relieved prisoners of horse and equipment and allowed them to make their way back to their lines. This they did with Joseph and he made the British lines several days later.

Meanwhile at the farm, the following morning the Boers, afraid of a relief column of British soldiers heading for the farm, had departed leaving many dead. The fight against overwhelming odds was celebrated in the local newspapers. Joseph Stevenson was mentioned in despatches by Lord Kitchener and Lord Roberts and promoted sergeant.

In June 1901 most of the Lancashire Hussars who embarked for South Africa in 1900, having served their one year, returned home. Some, including sergeant Joseph Stevenson, stayed to fight with the new recruits sent out to the war.

On Christmas Eve 1901 merry celebrations were underway in "The Fleece", Ashton in Makerfield, when through the door walked Joseph Stevenson, he had returned home. Celebrations continued well into the night and Joseph was finally carried to his home in Heath Road on the shoulders of the crowd.

29/7/1903 at St. Thomas, Ashton, Joseph Stevenson, 28, bricksetter, of Heath Lane, father Joseph Stevenson, storekeeper, married Mary Ellen Turton, 31, teacher, of Heath Road, father Frederick Turton. plasterer. In 1911 Joseph & Mary Ellen Stevenson (Turton) lived at 117 Heath Road with Mary Ellen's parents Frederick & Jane Turton. In 1921 living at 117 Heath Road were Joseph Stevenson, bricklayer for "Kearsley & Gee", Heath Road, & Mary Ellen Stevenson, school teacher, manageress St. Thomas' School, Heath Road. In 1939 living at 8 Vicarage Road, were Joseph Stevenson, bricklayer, and Mary Ellen Stevenson, retired elementary school teacher. Joseph Stevenson, of Vicarage Road, died 1947 aged 73.

David A. Fearnley.

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



Donations to General, Building, Church Hall and Pantry Funds



The Registers



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

11 September	Ophelia Rose Davies Nixie Blossom Davies Aimee Rose Archer
18 September	Ramin Haghi
25 September	Delilah Rose Bradbury Eliza Louise Bradbury Ezra Beau Wall

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

1 September	Jane Elizabeth Jones	92
5 September	Lynn Hurst	69
6 September	John Pasquill	60
8 September	May Hughes	88
14 September	Christopher Graham Casson	69
15 September	John Swift	94
20 September	James Anthony Davis	47
23 September	Janet Anne Sharkey	65
28 September	Michael Evans	79



For all those who woke this morning
to the loneliness of bereavement -
the empty bed or chair,
an unaccustomed quietness,
a life now incomplete -
may they know your presence
in the stillness of the day,
and through the love of friends
who offer their condolence.
And in the darker moments
may they reach out to hold your hand
and feel the warmth of the One
who has already passed from death to life
to welcome others into God's Kingdom.



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

Bowling Club

Henry Hunter
712709

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

Youth Clubs

JYC: (for Y3–Y6) Mon 6pm - 7pm

JYC Extra: Mon 5.30pm - 6pm

Friday Youth Club: 7pm–8pm fortnightly

11–18 year olds : Sun 6pm–7pm

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

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 204082

St Thomas' Deputy Wardens

Barbara Taylor 205136

Assistant Treasurers

St Thomas': Phil Hayton
phaytonuk@yahoo.co.uk

St Luke's: John Boon 204082

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Meta Laites 723679

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Bill Schafer 717300

St Thomas' Worship Group

Mary Owen 203277

St Thomas' Organist

Paul Tushingham 711085

Magazine Distribution

Vacant

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St Thomas' and St Luke's
Church, Ashton in Makerfield