

# 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



# Wigan South Parish Contacts

<b>Hub Leader</b>	Rev Jeremy Thomas hubleader.south@churchwigan.org 01942 727275
<b>Associate Hub Leader</b>	Rev Sue Fulford ahl.south@churchwigan.org 01942 242369
<b>Ordained Local Minister</b>	Rev Izzy Schafer izzy@schaferassociates.co.uk 01942 717300
<b>SSM Curate</b>	Rev Sue Thomas hubadmin.south@churchwigan.org 01942 727275
<b>Wardens</b>	Paula Gillespie 07716 667763
	Helen Weaver 07796 334457
<b>Administrator</b>	Sue Thomas hubadmin.south@churchwigan.org 01942 727275
<b>Treasurer</b>	Sarah Riley sarahtreasurerstthomas@outlook.com 07712 584954
<b>Prayer</b>	Carol Foster twprayercarolfos@gmail.com 01942 733263
<b>PCC Secretary</b>	Tricia Hancox triciahancox@gmail.com
<b>Magazine</b>	Jess Bradley magazine@stthomasstluke.org.uk



# Contents

<a href="#">A Note from the Editor</a>	5
<a href="#">Letter from Jeremy</a>	6
<a href="#">For I am the Lord your God</a>	8
<a href="#">Get to know...</a>	9
<a href="#">Hub News</a>	10
<a href="#">Wordsearch</a>	11
<a href="#">Sorry, Lord, I couldn't make it</a>	12
<a href="#">Crossword</a>	14
<a href="#">September Holy Days</a>	16
<a href="#">Rob Carson's film report</a>	18
<a href="#">Crossword Answers</a>	20
<a href="#">Ashton Pantry</a>	21
<a href="#">Make time for the Sabbath</a>	22
<a href="#">News from our churches</a>	30
<a href="#">Mothers' Union</a>	34
<a href="#">Donations and Remembrance</a>	36
<a href="#">The Registers</a>	37

# 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 met.

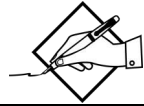
If you would like further information or to book a funeral, wedding or a baptism, please attend at one of our churches or see the contact details at the rear of the magazine.

# 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](mailto:magazine@stthomasstluke.org.uk).

	October	November	December
<b>Deadline for material</b>	23 September	28 October	25 November
<b>Publish date</b>	3 October	7 November	5 December

# A Note from the Editor



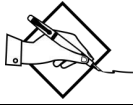
Welcome to the September edition of our Parish magazine—the first as Wigan South. The pandemic meant that we’ve been a little behind the changes within our parish but we hope that it’s worth the wait!

We have developed a magazine that includes news, articles and information relevant across the entire parish. Within each magazine is an insert at the back which is specifically tailored to each Worship Community with more local information and news. The front cover shall indicate which version it is (for example, it’ll say ‘St. Aidan’s edition’) so always check the front cover to make sure you’ve got the version you want. There shall be 11 editions a year, with a break for summer in August.

The magazine shall be a work in progress as we get to grips with ensuring all the relevant information for our readership is included along with some lighter pieces and interesting reads. Therefore, it may be that the editions change slightly over time as we work to create the best resource we can for all.

If you have any feedback or suggestions, please do not hesitate to contact any of the assistant editors or I. As always, contributions and articles are welcome from all people - we want this magazine to reflect our parishioners and to reflect the good work our God is doing amongst us,

**Jess**



# Letter from Jeremy

The parched land will be glad; the wilderness will rejoice and blossom.

Isaiah 35.1 (NIV)



The Atacama Desert in Chile

This month together with all churches in our Deanery, we consider our shared vision. The Isaiah 35 verse above is very meaningful as we look forward to the fruitfulness that the faithfulness of God's people in Wigan South and beyond will bring.

One of the illustrations we have used to illustrate this is the amazing flowering of the Atacama Desert in Chile, one of the driest places on Earth. Every few years rain falls and what looked like a place too dry to sustain life shows its potential for growth and flourishing when it receives life giving water. That which looked a barren land is really a place with stunning potential for beauty and life.

As I think of the illustration applying to us here in Wigan South, I can see it in many layers.

Firstly, the personal. As an individual child of God each one of us has the potential to flourish and blossom in Jesus' name as we work to know him better and to share him with the world as his eyes, hands and feet.

Secondly, in community. We pray for the blossoming of our families, our friendship groups, our church gatherings. After eighteen months of restriction and sacrifice, we long for ways to connect and to thrive alongside others. We may

be confident that God didn't create us to be alone, but to be with others, particularly gathering in Jesus' name - sharing him with those who have yet to find him and helping the Good Shepherd bring back those who are lost.

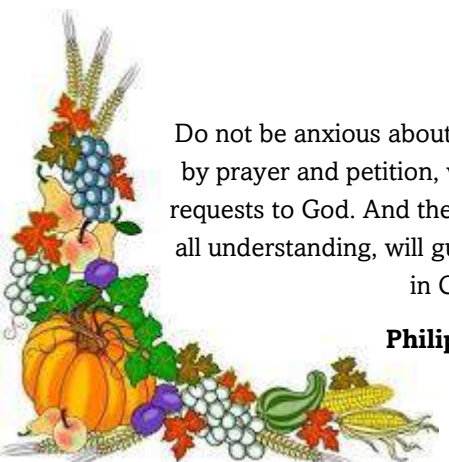
Thirdly, the places where we live and work – the street we live on, our estate or neighbourhood, the town or village we call home, our workplace. Our vision is for our communities in Wigan South, people and places, to bloom spiritually, culturally, and physically.

So, personally, in community, in the places we reside we simply need to hear and obey, for our primary task is to discern the Spirit's leading and choose to join in. Connected to and supported by all of Church Wigan, we listen to God and then have courage. The Spirit will provide both the inspiration and the gifting for us to fulfil the calling that God will place on us.

We believe this is the time to unstop the old 'wells' that have become dry, reinvigorating our traditional worship communities as places to draw deep on the refreshing presence of God. We believe also that this is the time to uncover many new 'wells' - fresh spiritual gatherings where people may encounter God. As we do so, the living water, the Holy Spirit, will bring blessing to the people and places of Wigan South and beyond.

The parched land will be glad; the wilderness will rejoice and blossom.

Jeremy



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**



# For I am the Lord your God

Recently, I was reminded of what is supposed to be the world's funniest joke:

*Holmes and Watson are on a camping trip. In the middle of the night Holmes wakes up and gives Dr. Watson a nudge. "Watson" he says, "look up in the sky and tell me what you see."*

*"I see millions of stars, Holmes," says Watson.*

*"And what do you conclude from that, Watson?"*

*Watson thinks for a moment. "Well," he says, "astronomically, it tells me that there are millions of galaxies and potentially billions of planets. Astrologically, I observe that Saturn is in Leo. Horologically, I deduce that the time is approximately a quarter past three. Meteorologically, I suspect that we will have a beautiful day tomorrow. Theologically, I see that God is all-powerful, and we are small and insignificant. Uh, what does it tell you, Holmes?"*

*"Watson, have you not deduced that someone has stolen our tent!"*

For me, this anecdote sums up – ironically- the importance of valuing simplicity and the fact that often the most important things are staring us right in the face. We often miss what is obvious because we are so preoccupied with other things which can detract from the essence of the situation. My Reader ministry training so far has really helped me to focus on just that.



Throughout my studies over the past year, I have been encouraged to reflect on the ways in which the Lord has been forming and equipping all his people for a role within his mission to the world. I have also developed in my Christian walk as a believer, and in the role of a Reader, learning new skills and knowledge, but also

being transformed into the person God wants me to be within his Church.



I have appreciated the teaching and learning, the fellowship and the support, all of which has helped me to grow in confidence in my service of Christ and his mission. In addition, despite leading a busy life with all that entails, I have been reassured that as the Lord has called me then he will continue equipping me with the time, energy, understanding and commitment needed to undertake the training.

Also, and most importantly, I have been able to reflect on the Lord's majesty. Whilst he certainly is all powerful, he is concerned about each one of us and the smallest details of our lives. So even when all around us might seem a challenge, he is the one who provides for all our needs.

Lesley Leppard

## Get to know...

As we come together to work more closely as Wigan South Parish it may be the case that we are working and praising alongside people we have not met before. We hope that we can use this space to learn more about those who serve in various roles across the parish.



**Name:** Helen Weavers

**Role** South Hub Church Warden & Lay Reader

**Responsibilities:** Helping and supporting the deputy church wardens, as reader I support the ministry team and help lead services.

**Favourite hymn:** Oceans (where feet may fail)

**Favourite bible verse:** Psalm 139

**Favourite church memory:** My first messy baptism occasion & being licensed at Wells Cathedral

**How and when did you become a Christian:** I have always been a Christian since I was a small child I have loved learning more about Jesus for as long as I can remember

**Interesting fact:** I worked in a prison for deaf prisoners.



# PRAY

AND

# Worship

## SATURDAY

## 11TH SEPTEMBER 2021

Come and join us as we worship God and pray for Wigan and the surrounding towns and communities.

The Reverend Neil Cook will be leading and encouraging us as we seek God together. We long to see God move amongst us and transform our streets and neighbourhoods.

The place is St Thomas' Church in Ashton and the time is from 10am until 11.30am. The doors are open from 09.30am so come along early for a drink and some fellowship and to see the wonderful refurbishment of the church building.

If you will be attending please drop an email to [prayer@churchwigan.org](mailto:prayer@churchwigan.org).

# Wordsearch

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

party  
trumpet  
everyone  
Adonijah  
king  
friends  
invited  
Nathan

promise  
sanctuary  
Bathsheba  
trouble  
mule  
mother  
scared  
announced

David  
Gihon  
son  
noise  
annointed  
Solomon  
celebrate  
old

# Sorry, Lord, I just couldn't make it

The bells ring out on Sunday morn,  
O did you hear their call?  
They call the faithful ones to prayer  
To Church they summon all.

But Lord, I cannot come today,  
I live a busy life,  
Still, when there's something special on  
I'll try and send the wife.

It poured with rain last Sunday  
An inch or two, I bet.  
You surely can't expect me then –  
I'd get my new suit wet.

Today the sky is blue and clear,  
but the car's as black as ink.  
And if I do not clean it soon,  
What will the neighbours think?



You know I do my bit, dear Lord  
I have a golden rule,  
I sometimes send my kids along  
To be at Sunday school.

But I really couldn't come as well,  
There's grass to mow, and beds to weed  
Shelves to fix, a dog to walk, and  
Sunday newspapers to read.

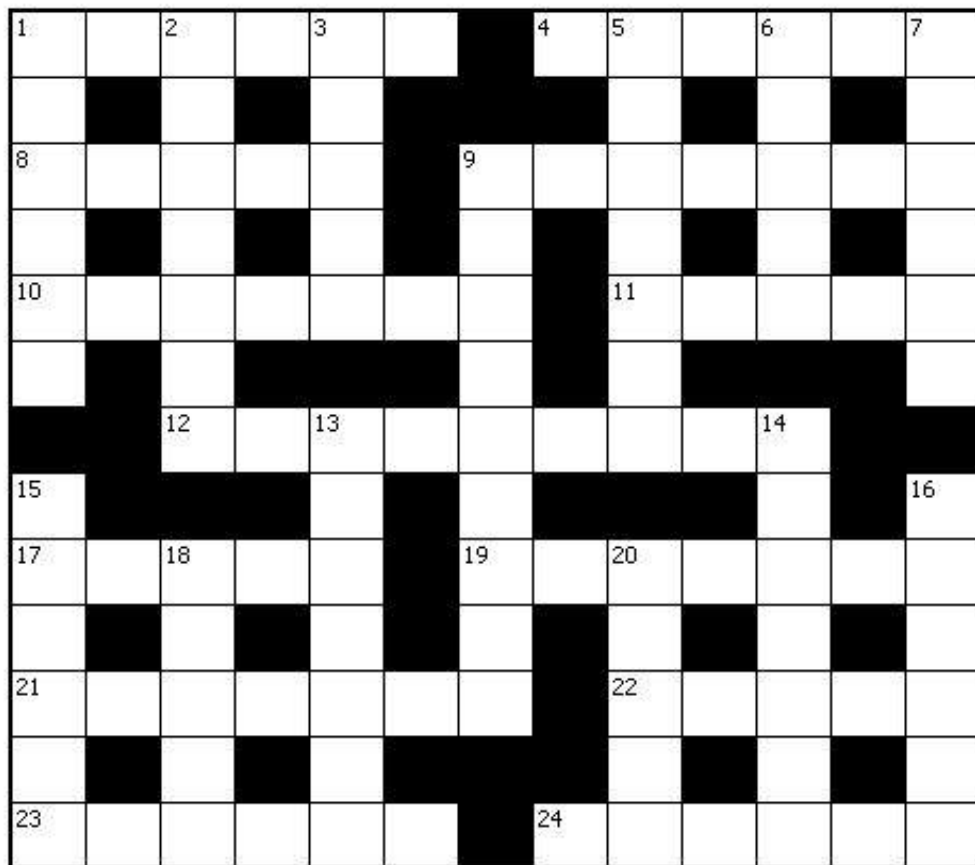
And now this day has ended, Lord  
How fast the weekends go!  
I ask for faith and strength this week  
For I feel (spiritually) quite low.

Inflame, O Lord, my feeble faith  
My lamp burns rather dim,  
For God depends on me, of course,  
And I depend on Him.



*Author unknown*

# Crossword



## Clues Across

- 1 'Through [Christ] we have gained .... by faith into this grace' (Romans 5:2) (6)
- 4 Deprives of sight (Deuteronomy 16:19) (6)
- 8 The words of a hymn do this (mostly) (5)
- 9 Faithful allegiance (1 Chronicles 12:33) (7)
- 10 Belgium's chief port (7)
- 11 Where John was baptizing 'because there was plenty of water' (John 3:23) (5)
- 12 Imposing height (Psalm 48:2) (9)
- 17 Jesus' tempter in the wilderness (Mark 1:13) (5)
- 19 Comes between Amos and Jonah (7)
- 21 'Your will be done' ... as it is in heaven' (Matthew 6:10) (2,5)
- 22 Gale (Matthew 8:24) (5)
- 23 Axle, eh? (anag.) (6)
- 24 'Out of the... I cry to you, O Lord' (Psalm 130:1) (6)

## Clues Down

- 1 Popular Christian author and humorist, Plass (6)
- 2 Transparent ice-like mineral (Revelation 4:6) (7)
- 3 Method of compelling surrender by surrounding target of attack (2 Chronicles 32:1) (5)
- 5 Expose (Isaiah 52:10) (3,4)
- 6 Lonny (anag.) (5)
- 7 Utterance (1 Timothy 1:15) (6)
- 9 Husband of Deborah, the prophetess (Judges 4:4) (9)
- 13 Burial service (Jeremiah 34:5) (7)
- 14 What Christ threatened to do to the lukewarm church in Laodicea (Revelation 3:16) (4,3)
- 15 Simon Peter climbed aboard and dragged the net (John 21:11) (6)
- 16 His response to Jesus' decision to return to Judea was 'Let us also go, that we may die with him' (John 11:16) (6)
- 18 There will be weeping and gnashing of ... (Matthew 8:12) (5)
- 20 Walkway between rows of pews in a church (5)

# September Holy Days

## 14<sup>th</sup> September: Holy Cross Day

On Holy Cross Day the Church celebrates the Cross as a symbol of triumph, as the sign of Christ's victory over death. Holy Cross Day goes right back to 14 September 335, and we have the mother of a Roman Emperor to thank for it.

Helena was a devout Christian, and after her son, Constantine, was converted, they agreed that she should travel from Rome to Israel, to seek out the places of special significance to Christians.

Of course, much of Jerusalem had been destroyed by the Romans around 135 AD. But even so, Helena finally located what she believed to be the sites of the Crucifixion and of the Burial (and modern archaeologists think she may well be correct). The sites were so close together that she built one large church over them - the Church of the Holy Sepulchre.

That church, built in honour of the Cross, was dedicated on 14 September 335.

The sign of the Cross has been used by Christians since early times. Tertullian, writing his *De Corona* (3:2) around AD 211, noted that Christians seldom did anything significant without making the sign of the Cross.

What is its significance? Well, people often put their initials or some sort of personal mark on something to show that it belongs to them. The Cross is the personal mark of our Lord Jesus Christ, and we mark it on ourselves as a sign that we belong to him. Even in the book of Revelation, we read that the servants of God are 'sealed' or 'marked' on their foreheads as a sign that they are His.

A preacher once put it this way: if you were explaining to someone how to make a cross, you would say: "Draw an I." That is you, standing before the Lord, saying, 'here I am'. Then cancel that vertical stroke with a horizontal stroke – as if to say: "Lord, I abandon my self-will and make You the centre of my life instead. I abandon myself to Your love and service."

On Holy Cross Day, we recall Jesus' wonderful promise: "And when I am lifted up, I will draw all men unto me." (John 12:32)

## 6<sup>th</sup> September: Captain Allen Gardiner – founder of SAMS

Captain Allen Gardiner is a saint for anyone who refuses to give up on their calling. For this courageous and indomitable man founded what became the South American Mission Society, though he sacrificed his own life in the process.



Gardiner had not started out to be a missionary. Born in 1794, he had left Berkshire to embark on a naval career which took him to Cape Town, Ceylon, India, Malaysia and China. But the death of his first wife in 1834 caused him to turn back to Christianity. He left the navy and became a missionary.

With his second wife, Elizabeth, Allen Gardiner felt called to South America. But from 1838 onwards he faced implacable opposition from the authorities there, both secular and religious. His efforts to evangelise among the Chilean Mapuches - which included a family journey of 1,000 miles overland by pack mule from Buenos Aires to Santiago and Concepción - met with hostility. So, in 1842 he settled on the Falklands, and tried to reach the Patagonian Indians. By 1844 he had founded the Patagonian Mission, because no other British Christian society felt able to take on responsibility for his work.

Next, Gardiner reached out to the Bolivian Indians of the Gran Chaco. But again, he was repulsed. So, he then decided on a bold attempt to evangelise the Indians of Tierra del Fuego.

He tried to raise the funds for a 120-ton schooner, which would have provided him with a secure base near Picton Island. But in the end, he could only manage two 26-foot launches, the *Pioneer* and *Speedwell*.

Nevertheless, in December 1850 Gardiner and six other men sailed to Picton Island. But again, nothing went well. Fierce weather, Indian hostility, a series of errors and logistical problems led to disease and finally disaster. By March 1851 the group had had to flee for their lives. They sailed eastwards to Spaniard Harbour, a bay at the mouth of Cooks River. Here they waited in vain for fresh stores to arrive, and by September all six men had died of starvation.

Gardiner's journal, water-damaged but readable, was found in his hand the following year by the crew of HMS Dido, and includes the plea to God, "Let not this mission fail", and this prayer:

*"Grant O Lord, that we may be instrumental in commencing this great and blessed work; but should Thou see fit in Thy providence to hedge up our way, and that we should even languish and die here, I beseech Thee to raise up others and to send forth labourers into this harvest..."*

The work of the South American Missionary Society in the subsequent 160 years and the growth of the Anglican Churches of South America are God's answer to that prayer. Gardiner had to face many failures in his life, but his solid, resolute faith is an inspiration.



# Rob Carson's Film Review

## Free Guy (12A)

**Directed by** Shawn Levy

**Stars:** Ryan Reynolds, Jodie Comer, Lil Rel Howery, Taika Waititi, Joe Kerry, Utkarsh Ambudkar, Channing Tatum, Britne Oldford, and Mike Devine

**Released:** August 13<sup>th</sup> 2021

**The Verdict:** Throughout the history of both the big screen and the smaller gaming screen, there has seemingly been an adage that it seems impossible to make a really solid movie based on a video game even though there have been various passable efforts (making a great video game from a movie on the other hand is similarly a fraught process but has had its shining stars like Goldeneye and Aladdin) and whilst Free Guy itself isn't necessarily based on a specific video game per say; it certainly proves to be a pretty good movie that it based on video games themselves. This very fun and pretty funny comedy flick from the director of Night at the Museum and Real Steel sees an ever charmingly naïve Ryan Reynolds play a background character in a video game suddenly become self-aware and start to do whatever he wants, much to the surprise of the people playing the game and those designing and marketing it too. Full of great visual flourishes, wonderful sight gags, insanely funny and crowd-pleasing cameos and a neat little cast of 'seen them before' people who might be becoming bigger soon. This is a simple and breezy blast which will win over audiences and become a neat little hit which will undoubtedly spawn a sequel or two, it features an unsurprisingly scene stealing turn by Taika Waititi as the villain of the piece while Jodie Comer as the female game designer/ unintentional love interest/ kinda hero of the piece just almost walks away with the whole film; she is simply wonderful, both the epitome of cool in her game persona and just a delight in general. The satire on video games in general and the culture is sharp and spot on, and the movie is just great for a game of 'spot that voice or cameo'. Simply plug in and enjoy.

**Rating:** 8/10

## Coming in November

Reviews of Shang Chi and the Legend of the Ten Rings  
Gunpowder Milkshake

## Jungle Cruise (12A)

**Directed by** Jaume Collet-Serra

**Stars:** Dwayne Johnson, Emily Blunt, Jack Whitehall, Jesse Plemons, Edgar Ramirez, Paul Giamatti, Veronica Falcon, Dani Rovira, and Andy Nyman

**Released:** July 30<sup>th</sup> 2021

**The Verdict:** Literally above we've talked about the fine art of translating a video game into a movie, well how about a theme park ride? How's that for a niche concept? Though after Pirates of the Caribbean made mega bucks, capitalising on that idea has become quite interesting... though funnily enough it's always Disney rides, because I haven't seen a Smiler or Oblivion movie yet, sadly the Venom movie wasn't based upon that classic Camelot ride nor was there a Pendragons Plunge movie. For now though, one of Disney's oldest and most classic rides is rocking it onto the big screen with a terrific cast and some luxurious visuals and locations. Leading the way like he does in most things is Dwayne Johnson with all the charisma and muscle that he always brings, he is as dependable as ever and makes

for a charming lead with some twists and turns involving his character that he sells whilst Emily Blunt kinda is the hero of the piece and is fabulous as ever, whilst Jack Whitehall may not be for everyone but he does the bumbling sidekick thing very well. If you've loved The Mummy or Indiana Jones or even The African Queen, then this is the movie for you. It's just fun and exciting and thrilling with creepy elements and lots of fun action. It's essentially a big old school blast with proper Hollywood charisma oozing from the leads with plenty of old school glamour and wit. It's simply a grand old time at the movies and really what more could you ask for?

**Rating:** 8/10

## Also Seen

The Suicide Squad (15) 9/10

Space Jam: A New Legacy (U) 7/10

Snake Eyes: G.I Joe Origins (12A) 7/10

Candyman (15) 8/10

Luca (U) 10/10

Black Widow (12A) 8/10

Spiral: From the Book of Saw (18) 6/10

The Mitchells vs. the Machines (PG) 10/10

Freaky (15) 9/10

Fast and Furious 9 (12A) 8/10

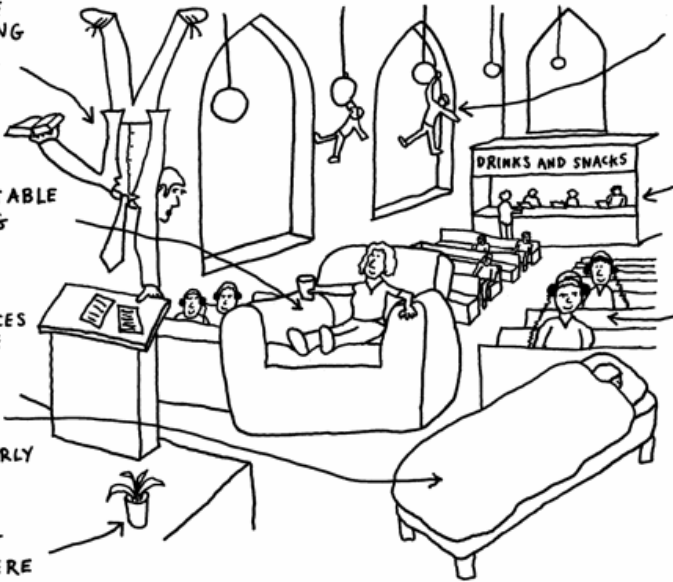
# HOW TO MAKE CHURCH BRILLIANT

MAKE THE  
PREACHING  
DYNAMIC

HAVE  
SOME  
COMFORTABLE  
SEATING

MAKE  
ALLOWANCES  
FOR THOSE  
WHO FIND  
THE  
SERVICE  
TIME  
A BIT EARLY

PLACE A  
NICE POT  
PLANT HERE



ENCOURAGE  
THE KIDS TO  
PARTICIPATE

SERVE  
DRINKS  
AND  
SNACKS

PLAY SOME  
GOOD TUNES,  
PERHAPS  
OVER SOME  
SORT OF  
HEADPHONE  
SYSTEM

OH YES,  
GENERALLY  
BE NICE  
TO ONE  
ANOTHER  
AND THAT  
SORT OF  
THING

CartoonChurch.com

## Crossword Answers

### ACROSS

1 access; 4 blinds; 8 rhyme; 9 loyalty; 10 Antwerp; 11 Aeon; 12 loftiness;  
17 Satan; 19 Obadiah; 21 on earth; 22 storm; 23 exhale; 24 depths

### DOWN

1 Adrian; 2 crystal; 3 siege; 5 lay bare; 6 nylon; 7 saying; 9 Lappidoth; 13 funeral;  
14 spit out; 15 ashore; 16 Thomas; 18 teeth; 20 aisle



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

£5 annual membership

Minimum £3 donation per visit with a wide range of foods available

Max 2 visits per week

Additional donations welcome.



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

# Time to reclaim the sabbath

Home working, zero hours contracts, the switch to home deliveries and online retailing, and an 'always on' culture - the world of work is changing fast and massively, and the Covid pandemic has accelerated the upheaval.

Now faith-based think tank Theos has come up with key proposals aimed at helping modern-day workers survive and thrive despite both the current changes - and the major challenges coming down the track. One proposal suggests 'recovering the sabbath.'

In a new report, 'Just Work: humanising the labour market in a changing world', Theos identifies three 'great disruptions' facing the world of work. They highlight: the technological - Artificial Intelligence, machine learning, and automation; the ecological - climate change and loss of biodiversity; and human vulnerability, as seen through the pandemic, mass migration and declining birth rates.

Paul Bickley, one of the report's authors, explains: "The issue is not work itself, but rather what happens when we make *work*, rather than *the people who do it*, our focus. We are disconnected from a healthy sense of work, and severing the needed boundaries between work and rest has set us adrift. The biblical idea of Sabbath is an ancient answer to modern anxieties. It's time to rediscover it."

During the pandemic, increasing numbers of people have shifted to working from home, from in-person shopping to ordering online, having take-aways delivered, and watching streaming services instead of going to the cinema.

But people working from home or in the 'gig economy' delivering food or online orders, have discovered they are being watched - and watched closely. Software fitted to home computers or installed in vehicles is monitoring when and how people are working. The move to home working has meant an increased erosion of defined working hours, with 'the boss' able to make demands round-the-clock.

In response, Theos makes three key proposals:

*1. First, a focus on a full work, rather than full employment economy.*

Paid employment is the main – but not the only – form of work, and unpaid labour, such as caring responsibilities and volunteer work, need greater esteem and focus from a policy perspective.

*2. Recognition of the human person as central to any healthy understanding of work.*

Investors, and first and foremost church investors, have achieved tangible changes through activism in areas such as climate change and governance. They should add clear requirements on the fair handling of wages, benefits, agency work, outsourcing and employee surveillance to the social criteria they look at within environmental, social and governance investing.

*3. Recovery of shared practices of rest to counter our culture of overwork.*

Dissolving boundaries between our employment and our leisure – exacerbated during the pandemic – have negatively affected many workers. Overwork is literally killing people. For many, a combination of technology and the pandemic have broken the link between work and particular places and times – leading to an expectation, even if it is only an expectation of ourselves, that we will always be available.

*By the Revd Peter Crumpler, a Church of England priest in St Albans, Herts, and a former communications director for the C of E.*



<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

## *Flowertime Florist*

*5 Bolton Road, Ashton in Makerfield, WN4 8AA*

*Email: [flowertime.ashton@gmail.com](mailto:flowertime.ashton@gmail.com)*

*Tel: 01942 715716*

*'We use the best quality Dutch flowers for all special occasions such as Weddings, Anniversaries, Birthdays, Funeral Tributes and many more. Please call today for your free quotation'*

### *Special Offers*

- ❖ 5% Discount on Orders Under £100 (Minimum Spend £25 to receive discount)*
- ❖ 10% Discount on Orders Over £100*

*Please present this voucher at Flowertime Florist to receive any of the above discounts. One voucher per customer.*





# Paul Clift

## Painting & Decorating



- Quality Workmanship
- FREE No Obligation Quotes
- Trustworthy & Reliable Service
- Over 25 Years Experience
- All Aspects of Decorating Covered
- No Job Too Small

**Tel: 01942 716389**

**Mob: 07765 078295**



MOBILE SCRATCH & SCUFF REPAIR



# ScratchFix Limited

IAN BOARDMAN- SMART REPAIR TECHNICIAN

Tel: 01942 274586 Mobile: 07769 717836



VAUXHALL



SAAB



mazda



Mobile: 07769 717836

## **SCRATCHFIX LIMITED**

**SAVE UP TO 50% ON BODYSHOP COSTS**

*Don't be without your car for days.. Most repairs completed within  
the hour at your home or workplace*

- Key and vandal scratches
- Textured bumper scuffs
- Wing mirror scrapes
- Alloy wheel repairs
- Cracked bumper repairs
- Stone chips
- Colour coded bumper scuffs
- Full body polish

# Alan Jones

FUNERAL DIRECTORS LTD

*Local Independent Family Business*

Traditional and modern funeral services

Horse-drawn or limousine driven funeral processions

Memorial Monuments and Services

Pre-paid Funeral Plans

*Professional funeral services in the Wigan areas.*

*To discuss any funeral plans please don't hesitate to contact us today.*



Ashland House  
87 Old Road, Ashton in Makerfield

Tel: 01942 271824 24 Hours



Danesbrook House  
21 Ladies Lane  
Hindley

Tel: 01942 525504

Dove Cottage  
51 Johns Avenue  
Haydock

Tel: 01942 724777

Millbrook House  
56 High Street  
Golborne

Tel: 01942 272027

[info.alanjonesfunerals@gmail.com](mailto:info.alanjonesfunerals@gmail.com)

[www.alanjonesfuneraldirectors.com](http://www.alanjonesfuneraldirectors.com)





☎ 01942 727985  
✉ sales@eaveswaytravel.com  
🌐 www.eaveswaytravel.com

### 5\* Cruiselink Service - Private Hire - Excursions

- ▶ Eavesway Cruiselink - taking thousands of people to and from their cruise holiday each year in style and comfort
- ▶ Executive Coach Hire - perfect for school trips, sporting events and days out
- ▶ Eavesway Exclusive - the very best in luxury coach travel, ideal for corporate hospitality and special occasions

*Eavesway Travel Ltd.  
Bryn Side, Bryn Road, Ashton-in-Makerfield, Wigan, WN4 8BT*



# bowen & leeming opticians



Mon 9:00 - 17:30  
Tues 9:00 - 17:30  
Weds 9:00 - 17:30  
Thur 9:00 - 17:30  
Fri 9:00 - 17:30  
Sat 9:00 - 13:00  
Sun - Closed

49 Gerard Street,  
Ashton-in-Makerfield,  
Wigan,  
WN4 9AG

01942 722386  
info@bowenandleeming.com

# RB | R BANKS & SON FUNERALS LTD

Brian Halliwell Dip F.D M.B.I.E.

ESTABLISHED 1921

## Independent Funeral Directors • Monumental Masons

**A local family run business, R. Banks & Son are one of the largest independent funeral directors in the Wigan area**

Founded in 1921 and now with ten funeral homes across the Wigan area the company has established itself by gaining a reputation for excellence, professionalism and sympathetic attitude.

### 'Golden Charter' Pre Arrangement Funeral Scheme

- Inflation proof
- Peace of mind that painful decisions will be made rationally
- Tailored to your individual needs
- All necessary disbursements included i.e. Crematorium/ Burial fees, Church fees and Doctor's fees.
- One up front payment or monthly instalments



Golden Charter   
Funeral Plans

**24 hour service • Caring family firm**

[www.rbanksandson.co.uk](http://www.rbanksandson.co.uk)

**FINANCE NOW AVAILABLE  
on Funerals & Memorials**

*Subject to status,  
written details on request*

**Head Office: Halliwell House, 758/768 Ormskirk Rd, Pemberton, Wigan WN5 8BB  
T: 01942 222156**

**Local Offices: Clifford House, 1 Grove Lane, Standish T: 01257 422011**

Hallbank House, 407 Wigan Road, Bryn T: 01942 271392 • Parsonage House, 100 Railway Road, Leigh T: 01942 261415

Windsor House, 232 Scholes, Wigan T: 01942 820526 • Whitley House, 439 Gidlow Lane, Beech Hill T: 01942 829200

Elliot House, 20 Shuttle Street, Tyldesley T: 01942 887312 • Bentham House, 220 Spendmore Lane, Coppull T: 01257 793880

Stretton House, 23 Hall Green, Upholland T: 01695 622099 • Templeton Lodge, Templeton Road, Platt Bridge T: 01942 863936



## News from our churches

Our sermon series for August was all about New Beginnings, a very appropriate subject having regard to the country as a whole and our church of St Thomas in particular. The restrictions in relation to the pandemic were being relaxed and our building was reopening for worship following the completion of the reorder and this the first edition of the new South Parish magazine has been produced.

What a journey we have all been through over the past what is now rapidly approaching a couple of years. Initially church was closed in lockdown and we were extremely grateful for Zoom allowing us to meet digitally at 10.30am every Sunday. Our thanks does go to all involved in this production which went a long way to keeping people in touch, even though at a distance. We are also grateful to those volunteers who have kept those essential areas of church life functioning even when we were in lockdown, the clergy, the wardens, the treasurers, the church committee and leadership group. All these have been active throughout, there have also been many other examples of help for which we are thankful. I am concerned that if I mention individual names I could inevitably miss someone out, so thank you all you know who you are.



One of our major problems with church closed or not fully functioning has been the question of finance. With no fees coming from weddings and funerals we have been very reliant on the regular donations of the members of our congregation. Thank you to all who continued to donate through the bank either by standing order or by using the Parish Giving scheme and those who ensured that we continued to receive the freewill offering envelopes. We have still incurred considerable regular outgoings such as insurance premiums and utility payments. However our main item of expense is our share of the South Parish deanery share which is not an insubstantial sum.

As we return to the new normality we are keen to revive the functions which were a regular feature of our church life before the pandemic threw everything into total confusion. A great deal of the work of a church is carried out by a team of willing volunteers. As we seek to reorganise a number of volunteers who have served with dedication for many years have chosen to retire and we are most grateful for their years of dedication. A very important aspect of our church life is the social fellowship particularly after worship. We are looking for volunteers to join a rota for refreshments after each of our services which are Thursday 9.45am, Sunday 9.00am and 10.45am. I am delighted to report that Tuesday coffee mornings are now functioning with a team of volunteers but more would be welcome. I think that it is pertinent to mention that in addition to fellowship these events also provide valuable financial support. I must thank Thursday coffee for a substantial contribution to the new printer and Tuesday coffee for the payment of the cost of the burglar alarm fitted to the hall.

What a wonderful occasion it was when we were at last able to reopen church after the very substantial reorder and what a fraught time we had during the construction work. As a member of the project group, I felt first hand that the Devil was worried about all we had planned for the future and determined to create problems for us. And we experienced many. There were delays with material, chairs seemingly stuck in Poland, illness of people working on the site and even a partner in the firm of plumbers doing the underfloor heating dying. There was unexpected extra work required particularly when the condensation in the building caused the paintwork to peel from the high ceiling and necessitated a complete redecoration.

There was a degree of nervousness regarding the time the work was taking as we had taken bookings for two weddings in July. Delays in the supply of the floor tiles increased the palpitations and the first of the weddings went ahead with the floor still not quite completed. The second wedding a week later proved to be a joyous church family event when Joanna and Mike chose not only to celebrate the wedding in church but to invite the congregation to the reception also in church. This event proved the viability of the premises as a facility of which we can be truly pleased. We set about providing a community asset as well as a more comfortable and well equipped worship centre, from early comments this objective would seem to have been achieved. We now need to encourage its use.

We are grateful once again for a contribution to our magazine by our friend David Fearnley which I am sure will bring back your own memories of our town.

Malcolm

### A NOSTALGIC WALK AROUND ASHTON IN MAKERFIELD: PART 1

In this series of articles I thought I would take a nostalgic walk around Ashton to remember some of the features that no longer exist. The list is not conclusive and you will probably remember other items to add. It is simply a list of some of the features I have remembered after living seven decades in Ashton.

Gerard Street – at the junction of Gerard Street and Warrington Road was the Coop drapery, (can you remember your divi number?) next door in Warrington Road was the shoe department and then the Coop butchers. I think the butchers later moved into Butchers Lane. After the butchers was the Employment Exchange in the Cooperative Hall on Warrington Road. Opposite, next to the “Kings Arms”, was the old police station (before my time). On Gerard Street after Butchers Lane was the Billiard Hall, Westminster Bank, Cunliffe’s vegetable shop, Rickard’s coffee shop and juke box music and then the Squeeze Bally Entry. A large white house, replaced by Crompton’s office block, occupied the location of the Makerfield Eye Centre - KFC today, then Crompton’s hinge and lock factory. You will probably recall at 5pm all the workers pouring out of the gates at Crompton’s and at the same time coaches passing through Ashton and visible through the windows the blackened faces of miners returning home from their shift in the local pits. Between the “Red Lion” and Middleton & Woods, where the Job Centre is today, there was a row of houses with long front gardens. The houses were demolished to create an open space with advertisement hoardings. Each Christmas a large Christmas tree was erected in this space. In the row of shops before Princess Road was Sharratt’s, later Jack Maltby’s, newsagents. On Bolton Road a short distance on the left side was a saddler’s shop making leather school satchels, bags etc. with a lovely smell of leather in the shop.

On the opposite side of Gerard Street many will remember Peet’s Stores, Boardman’s gent’s outfitters, Leadbetter’s photography, after the Golden Lion was Calderbank’s stationers, some may remember the antique Stephen’s Ink barometer on the wall between Calderbank’s and the “Golden Lion” before some enterprising thief removed it. Next door was a shoe shop then I think a fruit and veg shop. Then the steps up to the “Gerard Arms” which later became Greenway’s. At the end of the row was the gas showrooms. Lower down the street Dickinson’s clothes, Dyke & Brown grocers, where Gee-Tees is today, was Slaters outfitters, remember buying your school blazers? I think there was a



greengrocers (Latimer's?) and Slynn's wallpaper shop. The first shop in the next block was Unsworth's TV & radio shop, some may remember the large friendly Alsatian dog that used to sit and look out of the window in the 1950's, further along Kay's butchers, Abel Ogden, barber and umbrella repairs and next door, where the carpet shop is today, Unsworth's record shop where you paid 6s 8d (34 pence) for the latest 45rpm records (real music!). Then where the Thomas Gerard pub is today was the staircase of steps leading up to the Congregational Church (replaced by Kwik Save).

Bryn Street - At the top of Bryn Street, where Houghton & Pigot is today, was Les Hampson, shoe cobbler, also Sam Billingham's ironmongery shop with the inside of the shop covered in pots, pans, watering cans etc. also hanging outside from the window frames were the same items. Lower down the Town Hall; Fire Station with engine in Council Avenue; Lightfoot's grocers, and the former Post Office on the corner of Millingford Grove. At the corner of Bryn Street and Garswood Street was the electric showrooms. Beverley's clothes shop was on the corner with Old Road.

David A. Fearnley.

Our church and  
community litter  
picking team tackled  
King George's playing  
fields and the Jubilee  
Park in very wet  
weather so that the area  
was clean and safe  
ahead of the Ashton BIG  
Summer Festival. Well  
done to everyone  
involved!





# Mothers' Union

**Diary: 15th September** will be our Holy Communion Service in Church at 7.30pm. I look forward to seeing you all.

**Literature Sales:** I know that it is still summer but it is at this time that I remind you that our Literature Representative Maureen Cook is waiting for your orders of Christmas Cards, calendars, books etc as detailed in the catalogue. I would urge you to contact her in plenty time to place your orders. Please remember that the money received by Liverpool Diocese related to turnover has a knock on effect by helping to keep subscriptions down. This is achieved by the sale of cards etc right through the year but in particular with good Christmas Sales.

On Saturday 28th August Beth, our Diocesan Treasurer, married Ben, son of the Bishop of Chester, in Chester Cathedral.

2021 is a special year in the life of the Mothers Union as we celebrate 145 years since our foundation and the centenary of the death of our founder Mary Sumner. As a movement started and sustained by the strength of Mary Sumner's vision of women supporting one another, we continue to thrive all these 100 years since her death.

*Mary Sumner Personal Prayer*

*All this day, O Lord,*

*let me touch as many lives*

*as possible for thee;*

*and every life I touch,*

*do thou by thy spirit quicken,*

*whether through the word I speak,*

*the prayer I breathe,*

# 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



**Freda Middlehurst.** We would like to thank you all for your kind support, cards and donations following the passing of our much loved and much missed Mum. We managed to donate to both St Thomas' for the maintenance of the graveyard and garden of rest and to Wigan Cancer Care.

Thanks again, Karen, Janet, Wendy, Tracy and families x

Birthday remembrance of **Alex Parr** 17<sup>th</sup> September from Margaret and family

In memory of **Olive Van der Boon**

In memory of my much loved and missed mother, **Catherine Mary Hurst** (August 29<sup>th</sup> 1974) from David

**Donations for chairs**

In loving memory of our daughter **Susan** from Joan and Terry

In thanks for baptism from the Naylor family





# The Registers

Funerals 'May they rest in peace'

2 July	Jillian Rollins	54	Millingford Grove
15 July	William Melling	86	Wigan Road
23 July	Dorothy Ferris	92	Coldstone Drive
26 July	Margaret Sudworth	89	Crescent Avenue
28 July	Anne McKreel	93	Ellesmere Road
4 August	Edith Taylor	84	Old Road
12 August	Norah Brown	94	Crestwood Avenue
13 August	Margaret Rampling	67	Bolton Road
19 August	Jean Rose	90	Penrith Crescent
20 August	Victoria Hird	90	Whitledge Green
23 August	James Lysons	73	Satinwood
25 August	Olive Van der Boon	91	Edge Lane
27 August	Robert Hughes	82	Townfields



# The Registers



## Holy Matrimony 'All the days of their lives'

16 July	Rachel Liptrot & Ben Lloyd
24 July	Joanna Wooff & Michael Allender



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

11 July	Charlotte Anne Robertson
25 July	Aurora Anne Crooks
25 July	Lucas Patrick Morrall Campbell
8 August	Ruby Rose-El Naylor
22 August	Heidi Rose Rowlinson



# 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](http://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

### St Thomas' Deputy Wardens

Barbara Taylor 205136

Mansell High 727052

### Assistant Treasurers

St Thomas': Phil Hayton

phaytonuk@yahoo.co.uk

St Luke's: John Boon 728900

### Administration, Bookings and Advertising

Sue Thomas 727275

hubadmin.south@churchwigan.org

### Magazine Editor

Jess Bradley 07498323469

magazine@stthomasstlukes.org.uk

### Freewill Offerings Secretary

Malcolm Taylor 205136

### Electoral Roll Secretary

Sue Thomas 07877704645

### Asylum Seeker Support

Anne & Chris Wooff 724207

### Children, Young People & Families

Sue Thomas 727275

### Flowers

Meta Laites 723679

### Church Architect

Bill Schafer 717300

### St Thomas' Worship Group

Mary Owen 203277

### St Thomas' Organist

Paul Tushingam 711085

### Magazine Distribution

Vacant



[stthomasstluke.org.uk](http://stthomasstluke.org.uk)