

# 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**

**To every thing there is a season, and a time  
to every purpose under the heaven**



**June 2024**

**70p**

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# Parish Information

## Baptisms

Baptisms (also called Christenings) are held around the Parish throughout the month. Please come along to the morning service at the church of your choice, and you can talk about booking a date that works well for you and church. Godparents must have been baptised themselves and be prepared to attend a baptism preparation session with the parents.

## Funerals

Every parishioner has the right to a service in church, followed by a committal.

## Marriage

You can marry in a CofE Church of your choice if certain criteria are shown to be met.

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

# Magazine Deadlines

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

	July	August	September
<b>Deadline for material</b>	20 June	Summer break	15 August
<b>Publication date</b>	30 June	Summer break	25 August

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# The Chief Purpose of Man

How clever man is, he has conquered the skies,  
Reached for the stars and stepped onto the moon,  
But he still does not know why he is here  
Or what is the purpose, or why he was born.

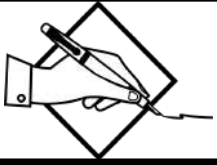
And did it all start with one big bang  
As stars and galaxies burst into space?  
Or was it the hand of a mighty Creator  
Who lovingly fashioned this wondrous place?

Into this world God planted a garden  
And placed man there to enjoy its delights,  
But he soon disobeyed and sin entered in,  
And so, man was banished and thrust from God's sight.

How gracious God is, He has reached out again  
To reconcile man and bring him back home,  
Sin's debt has been paid by the death of His Son,  
To know God as Father is why man was born.

***By Megan Carter***





# June Letter

June always reminds me of Walking Days. One of my earliest memories is my first walking day. I was three years old, dressed in my new frock and waiting for the procession to move off. The brass band struck up and startled by the noise I burst into tears. My lovely dad had to rescue me, and that year I walked with the men of the parish. Many of us will have fond memories of sunny afternoons, new dresses, flowers and jelly. Sadly a few years ago the Police changed their policies on walking days meaning that they are now largely a thing of the past.

Walking Days were more formally known as 'Processions of Witness'. A day when we took to the streets to declare our faith. Although we might miss those days, we still have many opportunities to answer Jesus' challenge in Matthew 28: 18 - 20 to go out and make disciples. We might find it daunting to speak of our faith but Jesus has promised to be with us to the end of the age. And it's not just by our words that we show that we follow Jesus, it's also by our actions - what we do and how we treat one another. Everyone of us has a different gift. They are all equally important and yet one that many people seem to regard as a lesser gift is hospitality.

When I was growing up we didn't have a lot but everyone was welcome in our home and we shared what we had. This made a big impression on one of my friends who asked my mum what made our family so different. My mum explained that we tried to follow the example of Jesus. Over the next few weeks she led my friend to know Jesus. The following year she was confirmed and began a journey of faith that continues today.

Every day we are among people who are searching for love and acceptance. Let's show them the love of Jesus as we walk alongside them.

***With every blessing  
Sue Fulford***

## Wigan South APCM

The APCM took place on 22 May and it was great to see an increased number of people in attendance compared to 2023. It was a very informative evening, led by Sandra, where we heard comprehensive updates on the work taking place across the parish, our financial position (for which a huge thanks goes to Sarah Riley and the assistant treasurers for preparing the accounts and report) and our aims for the year ahead.

Jeremy Thomas provided his final hub leader update, reflecting over the last 14 years since his arrival in Ashton. Over this time he has seen the re-ordering of St Thomas', the formation of Wigan South Hub, St Peter's moving into Brigade Hall, a global pandemic, the right buildings review, moving from vicar in charge of two churches to Hub Leader of six as well as much, much more.

Everyone extended their thanks to Catherine Cloake, Lesley Hughes and Ros Unsworth for all the time they have given as their terms on the PCC came to an end and to Tricia Hancox who stepped down as PCC Secretary – a role she has performed diligently for a few years now. And welcomed Tricia Hancox, Marilyn Richardson and Christine Wakefield to take up these vacancies.

For the upcoming year, the PCC representatives for Wigan South are:

- Rev Sandra Jones (Chair)
- Rev Sue Fulford
- Stuart Barton
- Jess Buckley (PCC Secretary)
- Tony Card
- Jan Cornthwaite
- Alex Finney
- Paula Gillespie (Church Warden)
- Tricia Hancox
- Linda High
- Mansell High
- Sharon Liptrot
- Sue Neil
- Carole Pye
- Marilyn Richardson
- Sarah Riley (Treasurer)
- Joan Roberts
- Philip Stott
- Helen Weavers (Church Warden)
- Christine Wakefield
- Eth Yates

# Parish News

## Weekly Events

### Mondays

- 9.30am - 10.30am: Mini Street Pop Up Play (St Andrew's)
- 6.30pm: Girls Brigade (St Peter's)



### Tuesdays

- 10am - 12pm: Coffee Morning (St Thomas' church hall)
- 6pm: Boys Brigade (St Peter's)

### Wednesdays

- 1pm - 2.30pm: Wednesday Weenies (St Thomas' church hall)
- 1pm - 2.30pm: Walk the Walls (St Thomas')
- 1pm - 3pm: Knit and Chat group (St Peter's)
- 3pm - 4pm: Hot Spot for Y7 - 11 (St Thomas' church hall)
- 4pm - 5pm: Discipleship Group for Y7 - 11 (St Thomas' church hall)
- 7.30pm: Women's Fellowship (St Peter's)



### Thursdays

- 2.30pm - 3.30pm: English Classes (St Thomas' church hall)
- 2pm - 3pm: Gentle dance class (St Luke's)



### Fridays

- 2pm: Bible Study (St Thomas' church hall)
- 11.30am - 12.30pm : Mini Street Pop Up Play (St Andrew's)



### Sundays

- 1pm - 3pm: Asylum seeker and refugee drop in (St Thomas' church hall)

Please check locally for dates around term times



# June Diary



**Monday 3rd June** 11am: Communion at Garswood House (organised by St Peter's)

**Tuesday 4th June** 10am - 11.30am: Bereavement Support Group (St Luke's)  
1.30pm - 3pm: Bereavement Support Group (St Andrew's)

**Friday 7th June** 7.30pm: Quiz Night (St Aidan's) \*see overleaf for ticket details\*

**Saturday 8th June** 9.30am - 1pm: Exploring the Psalms (St Francis of Assisi)

**Sunday 9th June** 6.30pm - 7.30pm: GAP worship and chill for older teenagers and young adults (St Thomas')

**Tuesday 25th May** 1.30pm - 3pm: Peace of Mind Dementia Cafe with Spectrum Choir (St Andrew's)

**Tuesday 11th June** 10am - 1.30pm: Pop Up Sale (St Thomas')

**Saturday 15th June** 10am: Litter Pick (meeting at St Thomas' church car park)

**Saturday 22nd June** 9am - 1pm: St Aidan's Antique Road Show (St Aidan's)

**Thursday 27th June** 2pm: Friendship Group with guest speaker, Jane Longworth, talking about the Rise Up domestic abuse campaign (St Aidan's)

## **ADVANCED DATES FOR YOUR DIARY**

**Saturday 6th July** 10am - 1pm: Antiques Valuation Roadshow (Holy Trinity)

**Friday 12th July** 1.30pm onwards: Rectory School garden party

**Wednesday 17th July** 7pm: Mothers' Union Summer Evening (St Thomas') \*see advert for ticket details\*



You are cordially invited to  
**ST THOMAS AND ST LUKES  
MOTHERS' UNION SUMMER EVENING**

Wednesday 17th July 2024  
7pm

Tickets £5.00 each available to buy  
from Paula Gillespie and Margaret Lyon at St Thomas'  
and Carole Pye at St Luke's.

Entertainment provided by the  
amazing vocalist Shannon Gillespie  
with refreshments provided.

Tickets are limited.



**St Aidan's Quiz Night**



Friday 7th June  
7.30pm

Join us for an evening of competitive fun  
along with a raffle, refreshments and hot drinks

Tickets £5  
Contact Barbara Goulden to buy



# Antiques & Collectables Valuation Roadshow

At both events Steven Parkinson MNAVA Senior valuer for Adam Partridge Auctioneers will be giving valuations on all your antiques, collectables, especially jewellery, watches, coins, all art, modern art, pottery & porcelain, art, toys.

What if your treasures are worth a fortune and you want to sell them? Our valuers will give you an itemised receipt and enter it/them in to the next live internet auction.



**Saturday 22nd June**  
**9am to 1pm**  
**At St Aidan's Church**

There will be a bucket for old foreign and English coin which will be sorted and sold with all proceeds going to church funds. All contributions gratefully received.



**Saturday 6th July**  
**10am to 1pm**  
**At Holy Trinity Church**

Donations for valuations  
£2 per item or £5 for 3 or more items

Refreshments available





# 50 YEARS

AND STILL COUNTING



**RECTORY CE PRIMARY SCHOOL IS 185 YEARS OLD, BUT THE NEW SCHOOL BUILDING IS 50 YEARS OLD THIS YEAR!**

To celebrate the school and Holy Trinity are coming together to have a garden party on the school grounds. Everyone is invited and welcome to come along and celebrate with us!

FRIDAY  
**12**  
JULY

FROM  
**1:30PM**

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HIGH STREET  
GOODS



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prices for  
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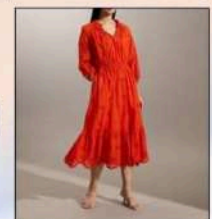
Clothing &  
accessories, toys,  
homeware, gifts.

We accept cash &  
card.  
All proceeds go to the  
Rebuild with Hope  
Foundation & Ashton  
Food Pantry

**Tuesday, 11<sup>th</sup> June 2024**  
St Thomas Church,  
Warrington Road,  
Ashton in Makerfield,  
Wigan,  
WN4 9PL  
10:00 – 13:30



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COME JOIN US

*for a time of*

PRAISE AND  
WORSHIP

*led by....*



**Tongues of Fire**

ST THOMAS CHURCH  
ASHTON

23RD JUNE

AT 6.30PM

Together with local businesses, we are working to reduce the amount of food going to land fill.

The pantries are 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 1.30pm - 3pm

Sunday 3pm - 4pm

Max 2 visits per week

Additional donations welcome to be used to build a pantry and kitchen behind the church hall.



**St Aidan's Church,  
Billinge**

Friday 11am - 1.30pm



**Holy Trinity Church  
Downall Green**

Friday 9am - 10am

**Each Pantry has a £5 annual membership  
and minimum £3 donation per visit**



# Services in June



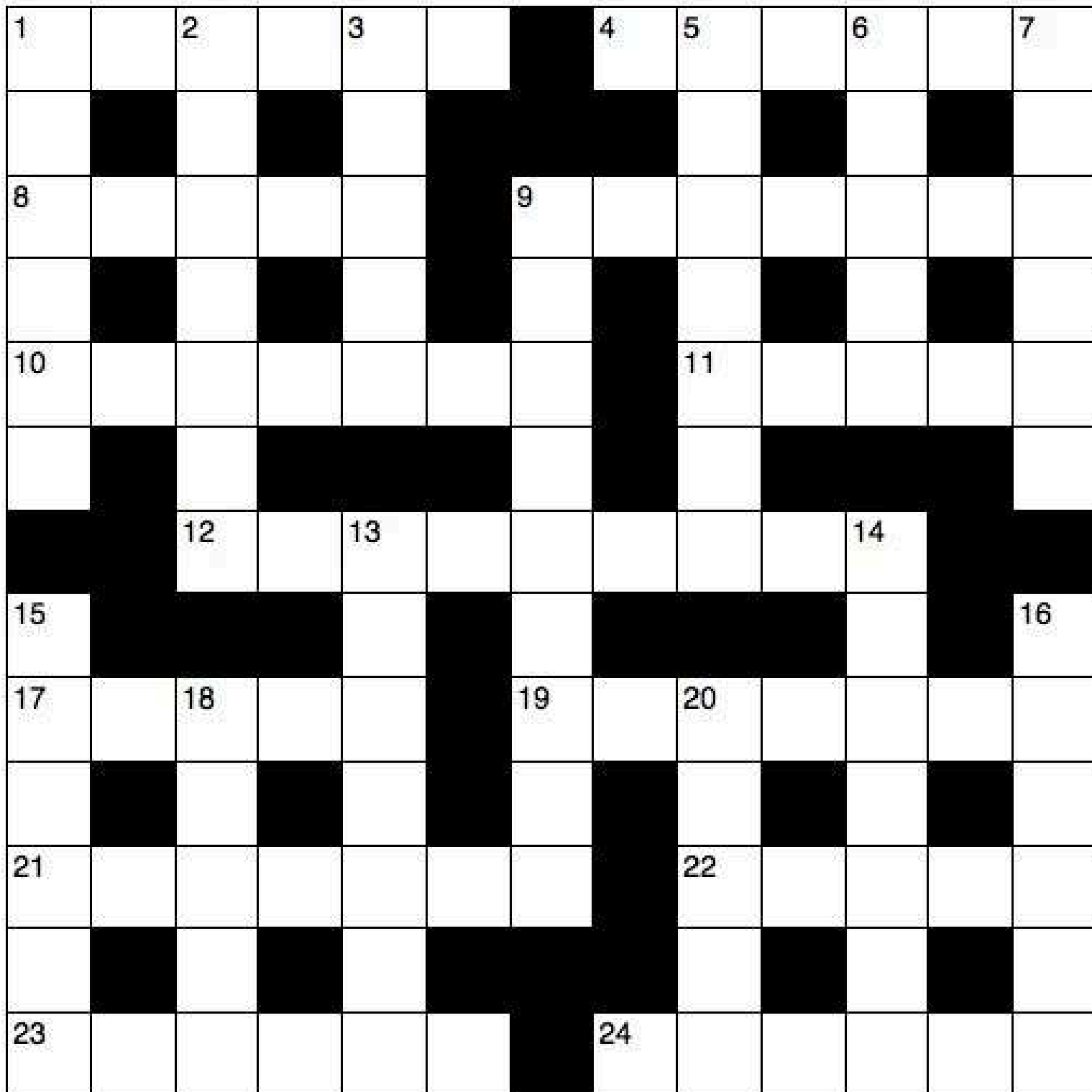
Sunday 2nd	<p>9.00am: Morning Worship  9.30am: Morning Worship  10.00am: Holy Communion  10.30am: Holy Communion  10.30am: Morning Worship  10.45am: Worship Together  11.00am: Morning Worship  6.30pm: Holy Communion</p>	<p>St Thomas'  St Andrew's  St Aidan's  St Peter's  Holy Trinity  St Thomas'  St Luke's  St Thomas'</p>
Wednesday 5th	<p>10.00am: Holy Communion</p>	<p>St Aidan's</p>
Thursday 6th	<p>9.45am: BCP Holy Communion</p>	<p>St Thomas'</p>
Sunday 9th	<p>9.00am: Holy Communion  9.30am: Holy Communion  10.30am: Sta's4all in school  10.30am: Morning Service  10.30am: Holy Communion  10.45am: Worship Together  11.00am: Holy Communion  4.00pm: Evening Prayer</p>	<p>St Thomas'  St Andrew's  St Aidan's  St Peter's  Holy Trinity  St Thomas'  St Luke's  St Aidan's</p>
Wednesday 12th	<p>10.00am: Holy Communion</p>	<p>Holy Trinity</p>
Thursday 13th	<p>9.45am: BCP Holy Communion</p>	<p>St Thomas'</p>



Sunday 16th	9.00am: Morning Worship 9.30am: Church Café 10.00am: Morning Worship 10.30am: Morning Prayer 10.30am: Morning Worship 10.45am: Holy Communion 11.00am: Family Worship 6.30pm: Evening Prayer	St Thomas' St Andrew's St Aidan's St Peter's Holy Trinity St Thomas' St Luke's St Thomas'
Wednesday 19th	10.00am: Holy Communion	St Aidan's
Thursday 20th	9.45am: BCP Holy Communion	St Thomas'
Sunday 23rd	9.00am: Holy Communion 9.30am: Morning Worship 10.00am: St Aidan's Beacon 10.30am: Morning Prayer 10.30am: Holy Communion 10.45am: Worship Together 11.00am: Morning Worship 4pm: Holy Communion 6.30pm: Tongues of Fire Worship	St Thomas' St Andrew's St Aidan's St Peter's Holy Trinity St Thomas' St Luke's St Aidan's St Thomas'
Wednesday 26th	10.00am: Holy Communion	Holy Trinity
Thursday 27th	9.45am: BCP Holy Communion	St Thomas'
Sunday 30th	10.30am: Wigan South Hub Holy Communion	St Thomas'

Everyone is especially welcome to the Hub service on 30 June. There will be no other services across the Parish on this day. This will be Rev Jeremy Thomas' last service as a vicar in Wigan South and it would be lovely for all to be there to celebrate and support him on this special day (and there will be cake!)

# Crossword



Answers on page 21

## Across

- 1 Military tactic used by Joshua to attack and destroy the city of Ai (Joshua 8:2) (6)
- 4 Place of learning (6)
- 8 'When Moses' hands grew — , they took a stone and put it under him and he sat on it' (Exodus 17:12) (5)
- 9 Unpleasant auguries of the end of the age, as forecast by Jesus (Matthew 24:7) (7)
- 10 Stronghold to which girls in King Xerxes' harem (including Esther) were taken (Esther 2:8) (7)
- 11 Where Saul went to consult a medium before fighting the Philistines (1 Samuel 28:7) (5)
- 12 Propitiation (Hebrews 2:17) (9)
- 17 Turn away (Jeremiah 11:15) (5)
- 19 So clear (anag.) (7)
- 21 'I have just got — , so I can't come': one excuse to be absent from the great banquet (Luke 14:20) (7)
- 22 Long weapon with a pointed head used by horsemen (Job 39:23) (5)
- 23 Musical beat (6)
- 24 What the Israelites were told to use to daub blood on their door-frames at the first Passover (Exodus 12:22) (6)

## Down

- 1 Fasten (Exodus 28:37) (6)
- 2 Art bite (anag.) (7)
- 3 'The people of the city were divided; some — with the Jews, others with the apostles' (Acts 14:4) (5)
- 5 Contend (Jeremiah 12:5) (7)
- 6 Possessed (Job 1:3) (5)
- 7 Sheen (Lamentations 4:1) (6)
- 9 'You love evil rather than good, — rather than speaking the truth' (Psalm 52:3) (9)
- 13 Large flightless bird (Job 39:13) (7)
- 14 They were worth several hundred pounds each (Matthew 25:15) (7)
- 15 'A — went out to sow his seed' (Matthew 13:3) (6)
- 16 How Jesus described Jairus's daughter when he went into the room where she lay (Mark 5:39) (6)
- 18 The part of the day when the women went to the tomb on the first Easter morning (John 20:1) (5)
- 20 Narrow passageway between buildings (Luke 14:21) (5)

## Using Rest to Pray



Most of us think of prayer as a very demanding activity, but did you know it can be extremely restful?

One of the great verses in the Bible says this: 'Be still and know that I am God' (Psalm 46:10). It suggests we experience God most fully when we are still. When we cease rushing around, pausing for a moment of thought and recollection, we are becoming prayerful, and God is very near. Even a break for a morning coffee can be a moment of prayer, if we slow ourselves down and allow our thoughts to turn towards God.

An essential part of resting is to breathe slowly. Christian tradition has always made a connection between prayer and breathing. You can learn to pray to the rhythm of your breathing, using chosen prayer words to focus. As you breathe in, you might say 'Abba', and then as you breathe out, add the word 'Father'. Choose words which are meaningful to you, deliberately slowing your breathing so you become relaxed and peaceful.

Perhaps you have a favourite chair where you are able to unwind easily. For a few moments sit and do nothing. Simply become aware of the present moment, reminding yourself you are in the presence of God. As you feel yourself relax, bask in the knowledge of God's love and acceptance of you. Sense His smile of approval upon you. You don't have to do anything, just 'be' for a moment. This too is prayer.

Sometimes we are forced to rest by circumstances... illness, disability, growing older and so on slow us down and we can't rush around like we used to do. Never mind. Don't fight against your circumstances. Enter into the place of rest that God is giving you. He loves you for who you are, not for what you do. Turn your thoughts into prayer and offer them to God. You don't need to advise God as to what He should do; simply hold people before Him, leaving the outcome to Him.

Prayer should be a natural expression of our relationship with God. Sometimes we have words, sometimes silence is enough. We don't need to impress God with our fervour. We can relax and be rested, even as we pray.

## **16th June Richard of Chichester, wanting God more clearly, dearly and nearly**

Ever wonder where the prayer ... 'May I know thee more clearly, love thee more dearly, and follow thee more nearly, day by day' comes from? Richard of Chichester, a bishop in the 13th century, wrote it.

He began life as Richard de Wych of Droitwich, the son of a yeoman farmer. But Richard was a studious boy, and after helping his father on the farm for several years, refused an advantageous offer of marriage, and instead made his way to Oxford, and later to Paris and Bologna to study canon law.

In 1235 he returned to Oxford, and was soon appointed Chancellor, where he supported Edmund, Archbishop of Canterbury, in his struggles against King Henry III's misuse of Church funds. After further study to become a priest, Richard was in due course made a bishop himself. He was greatly loved. He was charitable and accessible, both stern and merciful to sinners, extraordinarily generous to those stricken by famine, and a brilliant legislator of his diocese. He decreed that the sacraments were to be administered without payment, Mass celebrated in dignified conditions, the clergy to be chaste, to practise residence, and to wear clerical dress. The laity was obliged to attend Mass on Sundays and holy days, and to know by heart the Hail Mary as well as the Lord's Prayer and the Creed.

Richard was also prominent in preaching the Crusade, which he saw as a call to reopen the Holy Land to pilgrims, not as a political expedition. He died at Dover on 3rd April 1253. In art, Richard of Chichester is represented with a chalice at his feet, in memory of his having once dropped the chalice at Mass! One ancient English church is dedicated to him.

And, of course, he is author of that famous prayer, now set to popular music, which runs in full: "Thanks be to thee, my Lord Jesus Christ for all the benefits thou hast given me, for all the pains and insults which thou hast borne for me. O most merciful redeemer, friend and brother, may I know thee more clearly, love thee more dearly and follow thee more nearly, day by day."

## 25th June Maximus of Turin, first Bishop of Turin

When many of us think of a 'Maximus', we remember the popular film *Gladiator* and Russell Crowe starring as a Roman general who ends up as a slave successfully defying the Emperor.



But Maximus of Turin, the first Bishop of Turin, also led a tumultuous life in fighting evil. He had seen violence and suffering when in 397 he witnessed the martyrdom of Sisinnius, Martyrius and Alexander, three missionary bishops in Italy.

The following year, 398, great trouble came to Northern Italy when it was swept by barbarian incursions. Turin soon filled up with soldiers and refugees seeking safety. Maximus challenged the wealthy landowners of the city to use their fine estates and houses to help relieve the suffering of those in need. He also told them not to seek profit from the unrest, but instead to use their wealth to redeem prisoners of war.

All in all, Maximus of Turin risked his own life to act as guardian of the city. One historian has recorded that he "governed his flock wisely and successfully" during those terrible days of invasion, widespread panic and death.

Remarkably, more than 100 of Maximus' sermons still survive. They reveal him to have been a passionate evangelist, standing up to rural paganism, and stressing the importance of Christians knowing their faith. His writings and sermons did much to help the spread and consolidation of Christianity in Northern Italy.

Maximus of Turin even has a link with us: he is thought to have consecrated St Patrick as Bishop, on Patrick's return journey from Rome to Ireland.



## This is a rubbish campaign

Our world has an urgent rubbish problem. But Christians are uniting to take global action. So says the charity Tearfund, as it launches a campaign to highlight the threat of the growing mountains of plastic pollution.

“Two billion people have no safe way to dispose of rubbish, and it’s people in poverty who are suffering the worst impacts of this rubbish problem,” says the charity. “They are forced to live and work among piles of waste, which is making them sick, releasing toxic fumes, flooding communities and causing up to a million deaths each year.

“But Jesus told His followers that even the smallest amount of faith can move mountains. So, we are asking you to put your faith into action and join us in demanding an end to plastic pollution.”

And just now there is a “once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to do just that,” explains Tearfund. “During 2023 and now 2024, nearly 150 governments have been meeting to develop the first-ever global treaty on plastic pollution. But it’s not a done deal. Please add your voice to demand an end to plastic pollution and its harmful impact on people living in poverty.”

If you would like to know more and consider signing the petition, go to:  
<https://www.tearfund.org/campaigns/rubbish-campaign>

## Crossword Answers

ACROSS: 1, Ambush. 4, School. 8, Tired. 9, Famines. 10, Citadel. 11, Endor. 12, Atonement. 17, Avert. 19, Oracles. 21, Married. 22, Lance. 23, Rhythm. 24, Hyssop.

DOWN: 1, Attach. 2, Biretta. 3, Sided. 5, Compete. 6, Owned. 7, Lustre. 9, Falsehood. 13, Ostrich. 14, Talents. 15, Farmer. 16, Asleep. 18, Early. 20, Alley.

## Chaplains keep faith in football



Chaplains are playing a vital role in the Premier League and other leagues across the UK. Currently 11 English Premier League clubs and 55 Football League clubs have chaplains, with some clubs having more than one. There are also chaplains throughout the National League and in lower league clubs. The growth in women's football has led to more chaplains being appointed to serve women's teams.

Matt Baker is National Director for England overseeing all of English Sport for Sports Chaplaincy UK. He combines the role with being chaplain at London's Charlton Athletic, a position he has held since March 2000.

He explains: "The role of the chaplain is to be pastorally proactive and spiritually reactive. This means being regularly present, listening and supporting people whether they have a faith or not.

"From a spiritual perspective an example of this was when a player asked me 15 years ago whether I would pray with him before a game. On the first occasion there were a couple of players and we prayed together before every game for the rest of that season.

"This has continued ever since as there always seem to be Christian players in the squad and so pre-match prayers before a home game have become a part of the regular routine for those wanting it. When we have had players of other faiths a room has also been made available for prayers for them as well."

Matt loves his role. He tells me: "I'm a people person so I love being around staff and players, getting to know them, listening and helping to support wherever I can. It's a tremendous privilege to be a chaplain at a football club and I never take that lightly."

Many churches have local football and other sporting clubs on their doorsteps and may want to see if a chaplaincy might be possible. What would Matt's advice be to Christians wanting to make the connection?

He tells me, "Get in touch with us at Sports Chaplaincy UK. Depending on an individual's location and sport we can advise on any vacancies we are aware of, guide them through any openings and offer the relevant sports chaplaincy training and support."

# ALAN JONES

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Whitley House, 438 Gidlow Lane, **Beech Hill T: 01942 829200** • 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**  
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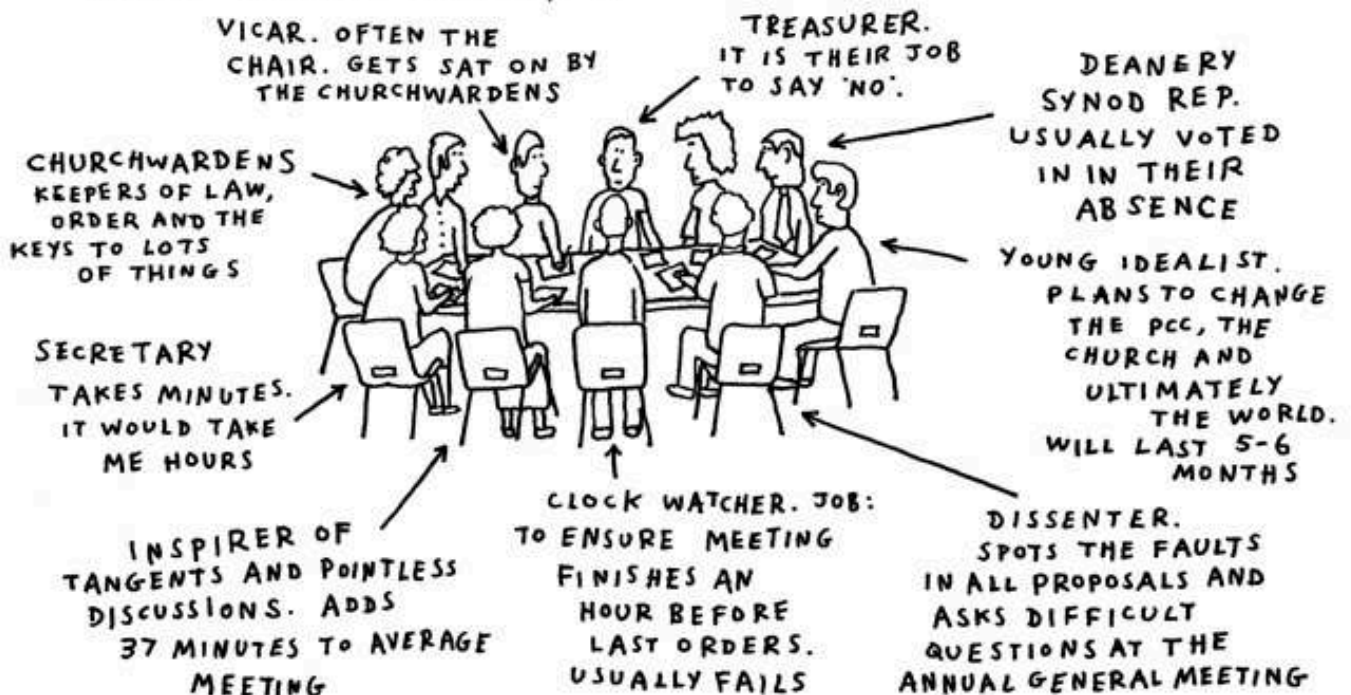
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## THE P.C.C.

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL MEETS EVERY NOW AND THEN TO DISCUSS THINGS TO DO WITH THE CHURCH. THESE ARE THE PEOPLE WHO ARE PART OF IT







# June Services

	<b>St Thomas'</b>	<b>St Luke's</b>
<b>Sunday 2nd</b>	9.00am: Morning Worship 10.45am: Worship Together 6.30pm: Holy Communion	11.00am: Morning Worship
<b>Thursday 6th</b>	9.45am: BCP Holy Communion	
<b>Sunday 9th</b>	9.00am: Holy Communion 10.45am: Worship Together	11.00am: Holy Communion
<b>Thursday 13th</b>	9.45am: BCP Holy Communion	
<b>Sunday 16th</b>	9.00am: Morning Worship 10.45am: Holy Communion 6.30pm: Evening Prayer	11.00am: Family Worship
<b>Thursday 20th</b>	9.45am: BCP Holy Communion	
<b>Sunday 23rd</b>	9.00am: Holy Communion 10.45am: Worship Together 6.30pm: Tongues of Fire Worship Group	11.00am: Morning Worship
<b>Thursday 27th</b>	9.45am: BCP Holy Communion	
<b>Sunday 30th</b>	10.30am: Hub Holy Communion	



All are welcome to join in a celebration of Jeremy's last service at St Thomas' after the 10.45am service on 16 June. There will be a BBQ (weather permitting!) and cake.

# News from our churches

The important meeting for the appointment of church wardens together with Annual General meeting was held on the 22 May at St Thomas Church. The two existing parish wardens were re-appointed and thanked for their work across the parish in 2023. The meeting, the first chaired by our new hub leader Sandra, appointed three new PCC members whilst the retiring members were thanked for their service during the time that they were elected.

It was announced that Tricia Hancox was retiring as PCC secretary and again she was roundly thanked for her work.

Jeremy then, and for the final time, went through and explained the annual report (copies available on line or just ask and we can provide a copy). Jeremy spoke warmly of the 14 years he had enjoyed firstly as vicar of St Thomas and St Luke and latterly as the hub leader of South parish.

It was then the turn of our dedicated Treasurer Sarah Riley to explain the parish finances for the previous year which she did in full detail with the news that the year showed a small credit balance. The Parish is very fortunate to have such an able and dedicated person looking after our finances assisted in each church by equally dedicated assistant Treasurers all of whom were thanked.

It was mentioned that the office of Electoral Roll officer is currently vacant and a volunteer sought to take this on. If anyone would like to enquire more about this role and what it entails, please do shout up!

To find all the information and details of the PCC members for the upcoming year, please take a look at page 7.

## Tuesday Coffee

I want to advertise again our Tuesday coffee in the church hall. The intention is to encourage more people who can spare the time to come along and enjoy the fellowship. It is run between 10.00am and 12.00pm in the left-hand church hall with coffee, tea, toast and teacakes served by our brilliant team of volunteers.



Over the years many of our church members both past and present have enjoyed the fellowship of friends and a good old chinwag and I might add that this is a valuable fund raiser towards church hall expenses.

## Why does every church need online giving?

I spotted this headline on the Diocesan bulletin and realised that we, as a church congregation, should be making use of the opportunity to advantage of online giving having already implemented the card reader in church.

With the Parish Giving Scheme (PGS) now offering a 'one-off gift' option, anyone can make an online donation using the same platform as your regular givers.

To help you find St Thomas 'Donate' or 'Give' button simply Google "How to donate to St Thomas Church Ashton in Makerfield" and see how many 'clicks' it takes you to find our church website giving page/donate button.

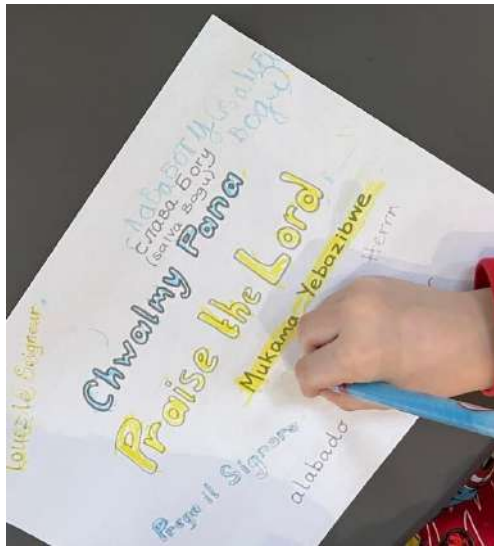
It really is so easy and a great benefit to your church.

**Malcolm**

## Messy Church

During the May half term holidays, a wonderful team came together to deliver a Pentecost Messy Church for many children.

They enjoyed birthday cake to celebrate the start of the church. And explored the wind and flames that represent the Holy Spirit through blow football, wind chimes and all the brightly coloured streamers!



Our Litter Picking team did a fantastic job clearing the areas near to the Three Sisters and this was very grateful received.

A big thank you to a team from Hayes Recruitment who came to cut grass and tidy the old graveyard - they made a big difference!

All are welcome on Saturday 8th June to get stuck in for a Big Help Out doing odd jobs, maintenance and grave yard tidying.





# Africa Fund News



St Thomas and St Luke's Africa Fund supports two amazing Christian-run projects in south west Uganda:

- Biojemss rescues children from exploitation and abuse, restores them, their families and communities through practical, emotional and spiritual support and releases them into true freedom and transformation.
- The Kigezi Diocese Water and Sanitation Project provides outlying communities in the Kabale district with access to clean water and proper sanitation.

Both projects play a massive part in saving and changing lives. You can find out more about the Africa Fund on our web site:

<http://www.stthomasstluke.org.uk/ourworld/africafund/>

On Saturday 11th May we held a brunch to raise money for our Africa Fund. This raised a grand total of £761.32. We are indebted to all of those people who generously provided their time, food, plants, cards and prizes. Thanks also go to those people who came along to support us on the day or who made a donation..

Each month a number of 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. Events like the Brunch therefore play an invaluable part in helping us to meet our commitments.

If you would like to know about our Africa fund or would like to help then please contact me on 01942 724207 or by email at [chriswooff@outlook.com](mailto:chriswooff@outlook.com)<<mailto:chriswooff@outlook.com>>

**Chris Wooff**

## Dates for your diary:

Mothers' Union Summer Evening

Wednesday 17th June - 7.00pm at St Thomas' Church

Tickets available £5, more information below.



Deanery Festival

Tuesday 9th July 2024 - 7.30pm at St Luke's, Orrell

Indoor Members Service

TBC September 2024 - 2pm at St Marks, Newtown

Modern Day Slavery Service

Friday, 18th October 2024 - 12.00pm at Liverpool Cathedral

16 days of Activism Service

Monday, 25th November 2024 - 12.00pm at Liverpool Cathedral

Lunch and speaker afterwards

## Notices

This month's MU members are attending Wigan Little Theatre to watch 'Cider with Rosie' on Wednesday 5th June 2024. We will meet outside at 7pm, the performance starts at 7.30pm. I have everyone's tickets.



If you are able to provide a lift, or if you would like a lift. Please text 07757014727 for more information.

Due to us going to the theatre in June, there will be no MU meeting in the Church hall.



## **Prison Parenting Course - MU Wigan update**

Reverend Catherine Johnson has completed all the training and has the first group of men ready to start. There are 12 men signed up for the first course and we will see how it goes. They are starting the first parenting course today.

On behalf of the Chaplaincy Team, please pass on sincere thanks to you all for making this possible, it is greatly appreciated.

## **RISE-UP**

RISE UP Against Domestic Abuse is Mothers' Union's new campaign to raise awareness about domestic abuse. Our aim is to make sure that activism against domestic abuse and gender-based violence happens 365 days of the year.

We are currently in the process of being award the bronze level for supporting the RISE-UP campaign.

Please remember those who are affected by domestic abuse in your personal prayers, thank you.

May God give us eyes  
to recognise abuse where it exists.  
May God give us a heart  
to reach out in compassion.  
May God give us courage and resolve  
to make a difference wherever we are.  
And the Blessing of God Almighty,  
the Holy Trinity,  
guide our steps today,  
this week and always.  
Go in peace and in resolve.  
Amen

***Love and prayers  
Michelle***

Another glimpse into our past courtesy of David Fearnley

## **MUNICIPAL BATHS, MORDEN AVENUE, ASHTON IN MAKERFIELD**

Ashtonians still recall the municipal baths in Morden Avenue but few, if anyone, can recall someone who swam in the baths. This is not surprising since the last water leaked from the baths in 1917 and the baths were never refilled. A doctor's surgery now occupies the site of the Ashton baths.

In 1894 a meeting of Ashton Council discussed the proposal of building a municipal baths in Ashton in Makerfield. The building cost was assessed at £2,000 - £3,000. The councillors stated that there was a need for a baths since the local lads were swimming in any water areas available such as canals and colliery reservoirs which were dangerous places and several deaths had occurred. The water, Millingford Brook, behind the Congregational Church, now the site of the Sir Thomas Gerard pub, was a popular swimming area.

It was not until 1908/9 that building of the municipal baths began in Morden Avenue, Ashton, on land given by Lord Gerard. In March 1910 Lady Mary Gerard officially opened the public baths for the Ashton Urban District Council. The baths cost £6,000 with a total water area of 75 feet x 30 feet. There was a plunge bath (swimming /diving pool) 6 feet deep and slipper baths were available.

With few houses having a bathroom and most using a tin bath, filled with a kettle in front of the fire, the alternative was, for a small fee, to take a slipper bath at the local municipal baths – a numbered cubicle in a long row, each cubicle containing a six foot bath. The water was controlled by an attendant who operated valves outside the cubicle. Towel and soap provided.

By the provision of a moveable floor the area within the building could be made available for use as a public hall providing accommodation for c1,000 people. After the official opening a gala was held followed by a water polo match between teams from Wigan and Tyldesley. The municipal baths opened to the public on March 21st 1910. Within two months of opening 12,310 had

used the baths. The Ashton Swimming Club was established with Frederick John, Lord Gerard, as President. In June 1913 over 5,768 people visited the baths and the receipts were £51 19s 4d. The Wigan Water Polo team played most of its matches at Ashton since Ashton had a larger venue than Wigan baths.

1917 early morning staff arriving at the baths found the baths no longer held any water. Coal mining subsidence beneath the baths had disturbed the foundations resulting in water leaking from the baths.

In 1939 Ashton Council considered that building new baths, with a car park, would cost £16,150. It was proposed to apply for a grant to the National Fitness Council which had been set up to encourage sporting activities to improve the general health of the population. The National Fitness Council offered £6,000 towards the total cost but the outbreak of war later in the year put an end to this plan.

No more plans concerning Ashton Baths were proposed until 1955 when a surveyor was asked to report on the cost of providing new baths in Ashton. Nothing came of this and the building now referred to as the "Baths Hall" was used for social and local events such as recitals, music, dances, wedding receptions and inter-school events such as choir competitions. In 1960 the BBC Radio programme "Have A Go", with Wilfred Pickles, was broadcast from the Baths Hall. It was not until 1977 with the building of the Old Road Leisure Centre that Ashton finally received its replacement baths.



**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



Loving birthday memories of a dear husband and dad Allan Deluce  
From Elsie and Family

Thanks for home communion - Elsie Deluce

In Loving Memory of Mum and Dad, John & Freda Melling  
From Susan

Africa Fund - Anne Abbott

Pantry Building - P Barrell

In thanksgiving of our wedding day (6 April)  
and for everyone's prayers, well wishes and support for our marriage.  
Jess & David Buckley



# The Registers



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

22 April	William James Jenkins	80
7 May	George Eaves	85
9 May	Jean Bennett	97
14 May	Leon Leat	87
15 May	Eileen Gaskell	88

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

26 May	Stanley Alan Oscar Price
26 May	Grayson Ronnie York

Thank You for these precious baptisms into Christ and may they learn to grow in grace and in knowledge of him who loved each one of us and gave himself for us all. Fill them day by day with your spirit.

# St Thomas' and St Luke's Organisations

## Coffee Mornings

Tues 10am - 12pm  
St Thomas' church  
Barbara Taylor  
01942 205136

## Wednesday Weenies

Wed 1pm - 2.30pm  
St Thomas' church hall  
Jan Cornthwaite  
01942 721626

## Mothers' Union

3rd Wed 7.30pm  
St Thomas' church  
Michelle  
Rawsthorn

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## Fairtrade Stall

3rd Sun 11.45am  
St Thomas' church  
Anne Wooff  
01942 724207

## Litter Pick

3rd Sat 10am - 12pm  
Meet at St Thomas' car park  
Chris Wooff  
01942 724207

## Flower Guild

Meta Laites  
01942 723679

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## Asylum Seeker Support

English Class  
Thurs 2pm - 3pm

## Ashton Pantry

Tues & Sat 11am - 12pm

## Girl Guiding

Brownies  
Thurs 6.30pm

Social Drop in  
Sun 1pm - 3pm

Thurs & Sun 3pm - 4pm

Guides  
Tues 7pm

Anne & Chris Wooff  
01942 724207

Sue Thomas  
07877704645

Rachel Starkie  
01942 718350

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## Children's Sunday Clubs

Sun 10.45am  
Karen Cunliffe  
07721770305

For more information, please visit our website at [stthomasstluke.org.uk](http://stthomasstluke.org.uk)



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



St Thomas



# St Thomas' and St Luke's Church Officials

## 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:  
Carole 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

## Administration, Bookings and Advertising

Cheryl Knowles  
cheryl.knowles@churchwigan.org

## Magazine Editor

Jess Bradley 07498323469  
magazine@stthomasstluke.org.uk

## Freewill Offerings Secretary

Malcolm Taylor 205136

## Electoral Roll Secretary

Ruth Laemmel see below

## Asylum Seeker Support

Anne & Chris Wooff 724207

## Children, Young People & Families

Jan Cornthwaite  
721626

## 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