

# St. Luke's Formby Dec 23/Jan 24 Parish Magazine

Price: £1.20 per issue

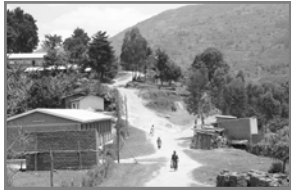
Cheaper by annual subscription

£10.00 for 10 issues a year



**Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess,  
for He who promised is faithful.**      *Hebrews 10:23*





# Shyira Trust

Registered Charity Number 1118979

Hon President: Prof Allan Hobson MBE

Serving the people of Rwanda, Africa



relieving poverty

advancing education

preserving and protecting good health

## Kivu Diocese

**Aim:** To support Bishop Augustin's 5 point programme

- Palliative care in the community
- Church leadership courses
- Development of job creation (entrepreneurship) among youth and women
- Fighting malnutrition and stunting
- Supporting home and family life



Shyira District Hospital

## Mothers' Union

**Aim:** To support MU members in serving their communities

**Achieved:**

- Members supported with bedding and kitchen utensils
- Training of 25 MU trainers from all over the Diocese
- Successful Revolving Goat Loan project

**Challenges:**

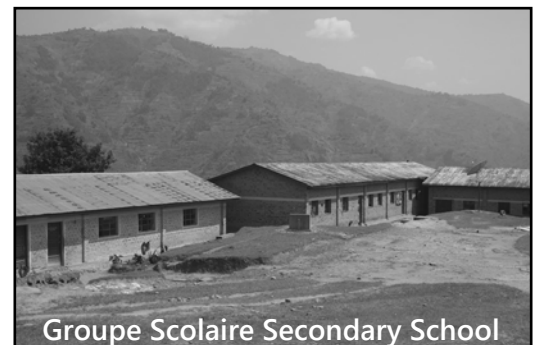
- To extend the MU support across Kivu Diocese
- To work through the Gisenyi MU to help the most needy parts of the Diocese



Lake Kivu

## Primary Schools

**Aim:** To support school ministry by providing equipment, school materials and evangelistic outreach



Groupe Scolaire Secondary School

## Groupe Scolaire Secondary School

**Aim:** To support needy students in Shyira

## How YOU can help

See our website: <http://www.shyiratrust.org.uk>

Email us for further information: [shyira-06@shyiratrust.org.uk](mailto:shyira-06@shyiratrust.org.uk)

Donations may be sent to: Shyira Trust, Secretary: Ken Davies  
53 Stapleton Road, Formby, Liverpool L37 2YT

Donate online: <https://www.stewardship.org.uk/partners/shyiratrust>

Like us on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/shyiratrust>



**Vicar – Revd Dr Matt Davis**



From the Vicarage

At the time of going to press, I'm reliably informed there are only 40 sleeps to go until Christmas Day. I'm not sure if you or anyone in your house is counting down, but the Christmas fervour is only going to increase. Wreaths are already appearing on front doors, the Formby Christmas lights are up and tested awaiting their imminent switch on, choirs are practising carols and shops are hoping for a bumper festive season.

It's now the time of year that the major retailers try to outdo each other with their Christmas TV adverts. John Lewis has a heart-warming Christmas tree story with a Little Shop of Horrors twist. Aldi's offering sees the return of Kevin the Carrot at a Willy Wonka style factory. But it is Marks & Spencer's advert that caught my eye this year with the theme song "I would do anything for love".

M&S imagines celebrities getting ready for Christmas and putting up with things they don't really want to out of love for their friends and family. I guess most of us can relate to that! However, as anyone who's heard Meatloaf singing before will know, he does have limits—"but I won't do that!"—and so too do the celebrities. Cue all sorts of Christmas upset involving a fish tank, blowtorch, baseball bat, and even a garden shredder! As the music fades and logo appears, we're told, "This Christmas, do only what you love". If only it were that simple ...

While I enjoyed the mischievous twist, the advert also got me thinking that the first Christmas was God "doing anything for love". That all too familiar miracle-baby-in-a-manger story is actually the Creator becoming a creature, the divine becoming human, the King becoming a servant. The Son of God leaving his throne in heaven to come down to the muck and mess of this broken world is HUGE. And when we remember that Christmas happened so that Easter could occur, we realise that there is no "but I won't do that" with God. The most famous verse of the Bible (John 3:16—one I've sure I must have quoted here before) tells us: "*God loved the world so much that he gave his one and only Son, so that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.*" Jesus' birth paved the way for his death: nothing is off limits with God's love.

My prayer is that you'd experience the unlimited love of God afresh this Christmas as you consider Jesus. We'd love you to join us for our special Advent and Christmas services, as well as our regular Sunday services. Details are in the following pages, and everyone is invited to join us.

With every blessing this Advent and Christmastime,

**Matt**

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**Joint Editors: Margaret Cooke (e-mail: [macooke29@gmail.com](mailto:macooke29@gmail.com)) and Ken Davies (e-mail: [kendavies1989@gmail.com](mailto:kendavies1989@gmail.com))**

**Illustrator: Joan MacDonald**

**St. Luke's Web Site: <http://www.stlukesformby.org.uk>**

**St. Luke's Facebook Page: [facebook.com/StLukesChurchFormby](https://www.facebook.com/StLukesChurchFormby)**



## NOTICES

**St Luke's Parish Magazine Team wish all our readers 'a very happy Christmas and a peaceful New Year'.**

### Thank you!

Thank you for the donations of children's books to the YKids book shop, Kingsley & Co in Bootle, which were delivered to YKids at half term, in good time for Christmas shopping. The books are sold for a nominal amount.

The book shop continues to open for three days each week, Thursday, Friday and Saturday and has played a major role in the Bootle Children's Literary Festival during October and November. This year's theme was "Fairy Tale, Myth & Legend" with a Medieval Fair at half term, followed by two full day events on Saturdays, a Story Fair and Dragon Fest. The events included performances by battling knights and viking warriors, story workshops, trails, crafts and medieval games.



### Hillary Griffin

#### **Christmas crafts @ Open Door Saturday**

Our last Open Door coffee morning before Christmas will be on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of December 10-12noon, and we hope to have mince pies and some Christmas crafts for sale. Come along and help us raise funds for our church. Our Open Door coffee mornings will restart on Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> January 2024.

#### **Gifts-to-Funds coffee morning!**

2024 diaries and calendars are appearing in the shops, and we would like you to note that on **Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> February 10 – 12**, we will be having our 'Gifts-to-Funds' stall at our '**Open Door Saturday**' coffee morning.

It might seem strange to be thinking of the tidying up after the festivities already, but we need you to hang on to those gifts that you might not use, are too big or too small or might make you fat (chocolates and sweets always go well!). Keep them safe, then bring them along to our coffee morning and we will turn them into funds.

Remember - what you are not sure of will be just what someone else has been looking for!

ps. '**Open Door Saturday**' coffee mornings will start on January 6<sup>th</sup> and continue on 20<sup>th</sup> January, 3<sup>rd</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> February, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> March.

#### **Tuesday Lunch**

Soup/sandwiches/cake & company from 12 – 2, 5<sup>th</sup> Dec and 16<sup>th</sup> Jan. Donations for lunch welcome. (NONE on 19<sup>th</sup> Dec and 2<sup>nd</sup> Jan.)

#### **Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 18<sup>th</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup> January**

This is traditionally observed as 18<sup>th</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup> January. Materials for the week in 2024 have been prepared by an ecumenical team from Burkina Faso facilitated by the local Chemin Neuf Community (CCN), and the chosen theme is '*You shall love the Lord your God...and your neighbour as yourself*' (Luke 10:27). A very apt theme for 2024!

## A PRIMARY SCHOOL CHRISTMAS: ST LUKE'S

If you have a couple of children or grandchildren, you will know how giddy and excited they can get in the run-up to Christmas. Imagine, if you can, almost 400 of them under one roof! A primary school is a very special place to be in December.

All our pupils learn about Christmas in their RE lessons. There is a different focus for each year group: Reception learn about Jesus' birth and that Jesus is the son of God; Y1 find out about why we give and receive gifts at Christmas; Y2 answer the question: *Why was the birth of Jesus such good news?* In Y3 we focus on God being with us at Christmas; our Y4 pupils explore the symbolism of light; Y5 consider the Christmas story in the gospels of Matthew and Luke; and finally, Y6 focus on the ways in which Christians prepare for Christmas.

Our Y1 pupils lead our church services at Christmas, re-telling the Nativity story and reading prayers they have written themselves. Y2 learn new songs and dance routines and put on several full-scale performances of the Nativity in the school hall for parents and friends. Tabz and Hettie from Southport Area Schools Workers Trust entertain the whole school with their version of the Christmas Story – this year entitled *To Nativity and Beyond!* And our Open the Book Team from Churches Together in Formby, who regularly lead worship in school, come in to share their Nativity with us.



In addition to all of this, we have a Christmas Takeover Day, organised by our PTA, the Friends of St Luke's School (FOSLS) which includes Breakfast with Santa or a Christmas Brunch for the older pupils, lots of arts and crafts activities and a Christmas Party. Our lovely cook, Lydia, and her team of helpers in the kitchen will be preparing and cooking a Christmas Dinner for around 450 staff and pupils - that's a LOT of sprouts and roast potatoes! Our musicians (brass, guitar, woodwind and strings) perform in a Christmas Concert and our Y4 pupils sing in the Church's Christingle celebration.



Meanwhile, the Choir will be singing carols at the Formby Village Christmas Lights switch-on. As if all of that wasn't enough, this year we are joining a virtual *Green Christmas* workshop, organised by Gillmoss Recycling Discovery Centre, to find out more about recycling and climate change! Term

ends four days before Christmas – just enough time for the staff to prepare for their own family Christmases or to lie down in a darkened room!

**Sharon Cowey, Headteacher**

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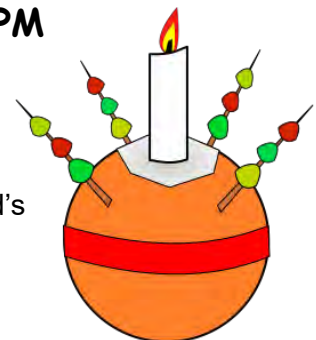
### CHRISTINGLE SERVICE - SUN 10 DEC @ 4.00PM

**ORANGE** – represents the world.

**RED RIBBON** – represents the love and blood of Christ.

**SWEETS & DRIED FRUIT** – represents the 4 seasons and all of God's creatures.

**LIT CANDLE** – represents Jesus as 'The Light of The World'.





# ¡Feliz Navidad!

**Merry Christmas from all of the children and staff at Habla Bilingual Day Nursery, Formby**

We can't believe another year has passed and it is just over 2 years since we opened. We have had another great year and are loving being part of your local community.

We have had lots of highlights over the last year. We have enjoyed some lovely walks to the pinewoods and even a trip to the beach in the summer. Our preschoolers enjoyed their visit to church with the donations for Harvest. We have also enjoyed celebrating a variety of English and Spanish festivals. Earlier in the year we were lucky enough to have two of our local police officers come and visit us and we even got to sit in the police car.



We have been enjoying lots of exciting and engaging activities in nursery and we have recently updated our outdoor area with some exciting new resources.

**Jenny Birch - Director**

Of course, we have also seen the children developing their Spanish skills and benefitting from being in a bilingual environment. Our babies often say some of their first words in Spanish and our preschoolers are showing a real flair for phonics.

We have welcomed lots of new children and their families to the setting as well as some new staff as our team continues to grow.

We are looking forward to seeing Matt for our annual Christmas visit and we hope to have another very special visitor to our Christmas party, who might bring us presents if we are really good.



*Habla Bilingual Day Nursery offers full day care from 7:30-5:45pm all year round. We have a baby room for under 2's and a toddler area and preschool area as well as purpose built outdoor space.*

**HABLA**

**SPEECH**

## L37 2DF



This is the postcode for St. Luke's Church Formby and locates it, so that it is easy to find. DF also stands for direction finding and that's what Sheila and Bob Wagstaff did when they came to Formby in 1975 - found the church and soon became members.

Sheila became Scripture Union secretary, which enabled her to meet other members of the church as she distributed the notes. She also delivered Church Magazines around the parish. Outside the church, she became a member of the Formby Society.

At home, with Bob, they had Bible Study groups which again enabled her to meet more members of the church; the group evolved into Alpha groups which spread throughout the rest of St. Luke's.

Sheila was thoroughly Anglican and a regular communicant.

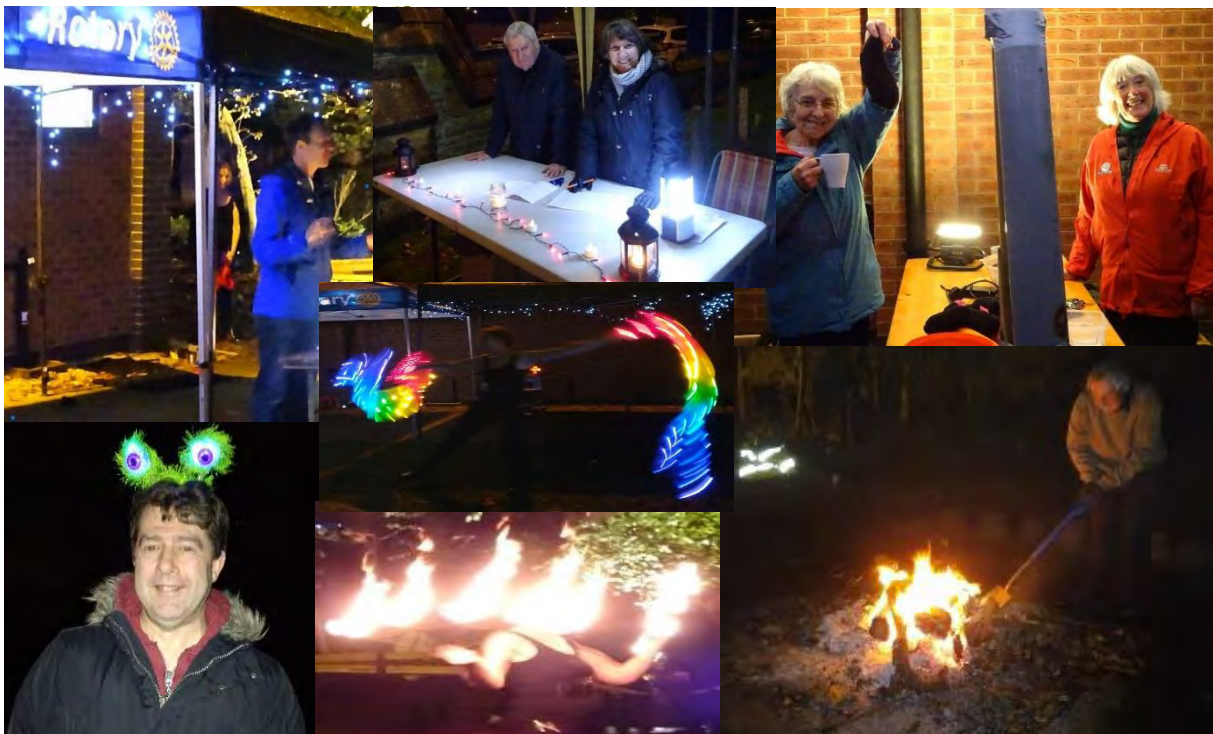
Two years ago, she had a fall in which she fractured her pelvis, and spent several weeks in hospital during the pandemic, which meant that Bob was unable to visit her. It was then that the first symptoms of dementia began to present themselves. After another fall, she was admitted to Southport hospital where, after three weeks, and excellent care, her Saviour called her home and she peacefully passed away.

### Bob

.....

## LIGHT FAIR AT ST LUKE'S SATURDAY 28<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER

*When Jesus spoke again to the people, he said, 'I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life'. (John 8:12)*





## **FURTHER MEMORIES OF THE LATE REVD ROY BAKER - a wonderful Sunday service in the Black Forest - By Church Member Joyce Eddlestone**

I first got to know Roy and Barbara 30 years ago when we had a deanery visit from a group of clergy from the Protestant Church of Baden in Germany. I only got involved because the clergy in our deanery couldn't provide enough beds, so they needed a few extra and a request was put in our weekly news sheet. Roy, who was Vicar of St Nicholas Blundellsands at that time, had offered to have some guests, and he and his wife Barbara welcomed Thea and Hanneli into their home. Since that time, Roy and Barbara have taken part in several exchange visits between the two deaneries of Sefton and Uberlingen-Stockach. Firm friendships have been made even though many participants didn't speak the other's language.

Some years ago, one of the German clergy, Dietmar, who had become a good friend, had the idea of organising a coach tour of England for his parish, visiting famous gardens. He thought it would be nice if they could come to Formby for a few days – what did I think? Was it possible to find enough people from our church to host them all? I wasn't sure, but when I asked, I quickly had enough offers of accommodation, including Bruni from St Jerome's, so it definitely was possible. By that time, Roy had retired to Formby and so was "one of us" at St Luke's. So, some time later, a large German coach arrived, bringing Dietmar, his wife Telse, and about 28 parishioners to Formby. Some of the friendships made between the hosts and the guests during that visit are still going strong today. And, of course, all the guests got to know Roy!

We were all invited to make a return visit to Dietmar's parish in St Georgen in the Black Forest. The next year, a group of us, including Roy and Barbara spent a lovely time staying in homes around St Georgen. There, the Protestant Church shared a very modern building with the local Roman Catholics. Before we set off, Dietmar and Telse asked Roy to pack his vestments, as they and the Roman Catholic Priest had planned an outdoor ecumenical service on the Sunday morning during our visit. They thought that it would be great to have English participation - making it not just ecumenical, but international as well!

One of my most treasured memories is of that service. We were all there, on a lovely bright sunny Sunday morning, surrounded by the beauty of the Black forest. The service was partly in English and partly in German. Leading from the front were the three clergy - Roy in his vestments, the Catholic Priest very similarly clothed as Roy, and Dietmar in his black Lutheran robe - all worshipping God together. Sitting in the congregation were our group from St Luke's, including Bruni; members of the Protestant Church of Baden; and members of the German Roman Catholic Church. Several of us took part, including Bruni, as our token Roman Catholic! It was a wonderful service - Roy and Dietmar were already firm friends, but the Priest really took to Roy, calling him his friend, and joked about how he envied Roy because he was able to retire - something the Priest wasn't allowed to do! Neither Roy nor the Catholic Priest could speak each other's language, but the joy and the friendship between them was plain to see. I wish I had thought to take a photo of the occasion. I've asked around, but unfortunately nobody present thought about a photo, I'm sorry to say. It was a real privilege and delight to be there, and a memory I shall always treasure. (Cont.p8)

I'm grateful that Roy had the opportunity to meet up with Dietmar and Telse again this year. It happened to be between Roy's many hospital stays. Roy, although very frail, but still with a bit of his old "bounce", spent a lovely afternoon at our house enjoying afternoon tea with Barbara, Dietmar and Telse.

Telse, after hearing the news that Roy had died, said how pleased she was to have had the opportunity to see Roy for the last time. Roy captured the hearts of the people from the Black Forest. When the sad news spread round St Georgen, Telse told me that the parishioners who could speak a little English were helping the others to send condolence cards to Barbara. We shall all miss him, but the memories live on!

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## ANGLICAN CATHEDRAL NEWS IN DECEMBER

Below are highlighted just some of the main events leading up to Christmas at the Liverpool Cathedral.

### CHRISTMAS LIGHTS SHOW -

The first week in Dec will see the return of last year's "must see" Christmas light and sound show 'The Light Before Christmas'. This year, Peter Walker is returning with his award-winning artistic collaboration Luxmuralis performing "Light Before Christmas: The Manger", the second of The Light Before Christmas series.

1<sup>st</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> December; 4.30 – 8.30pm every day except Mon/Tues/Wed when it finishes at 7.30pm. Please call 0344 8000 410 Mon-Frid 9-5.00pm for further information. Tickets required.

### OTHER EVENTS -

Sat 2<sup>nd</sup> Dec - Music in Unison hosts 'Take it to the Floor Christmas Concert' for those 0-4 in the Lady Chapel @ 10.00am, 11.30am & 13.00pm.

Sun 3<sup>rd</sup> Dec – **Soundbath Evensong** in the Lady Chapel @ 15.00pm.

Tues 5<sup>TH</sup> & Thurs 7<sup>TH</sup> Dec – **Coffee & Carols** in the Welsford Bistro @ 14.00pm.

Sun 10<sup>th</sup> Dec – **Lighting of the Tree & Blessing of the Crib** @ 15.00pm.

Tues 12<sup>th</sup> Dec – **All Ages Sing Christmas Concert** @ 19.30pm.

Wed 13<sup>th</sup> Dec – **Cheshire & Merseyside NHS Carol Concert** @ 19.30pm.

Sat 16<sup>th</sup> Dec - **A Christmas Sequence of Carols** with the Cathedral Choir @ 15.00pm.

Sun 17<sup>th</sup> Dec - **Procession of the Holly Bough** @15.00pm.

Frid 22<sup>nd</sup> Dec – **The Snowman Tour** @ 17.00 & 19.30pm.

Sun 24<sup>th</sup> Dec - **Family Christmas Carols** @ 11.00am.

Sun 24<sup>th</sup> Dec – **Carols for Christmas Eve** @ 14.00 & 16.00pm.

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**THOUGHT FOR DECEMBER** – That we live the true Christmas and not the commercial one. **KD**

**THOUGHT FOR JANUARY** – Descending peace upon a troubled world. **KD**

*"Have a heart that never hardens, a temper that never fires, and a touch that never hurts."*  
Charles Dickens. **Sent in by Linda Trollope.**

Lines from a poem by **Daphne Kitching (Parish Pump)** – Opening lines: *"Light a candle, Look into the Light, Pray"*, and closing lines: *"Because of Jesus Christmas is every day. The Lord is here. Hallelujah"*.

## SERVICES FOR DECEMBER 2023

### Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> December – Advent

8.30am Holy Communion BCP  
10.30am All-age Service with  
Holy Communion CW

### Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> December

11.00am Holy Communion CW

### Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> December – Advent 2

8.30am Holy Communion CW  
10.30am Morning Service with  
Children's Church\*  
4.00pm Christingle Service

### Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> December – Advent 3

8.30am Holy Communion BCP  
10.30am Holy Communion CW  
with Children's Church\*  
7.00pm Candlelit Carol Service

### Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> December

7.00pm Blue Christmas Service

### Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> December – Christmas Eve

8.30am Holy Communion CW  
10.30am Morning Service  
4.00pm Crib Service  
11.15pm Midnight Communion CW

### Monday 25<sup>th</sup> December – Christmas Day

10.00am All-age Service with  
Holy Communion CW

### Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> December – 1<sup>st</sup> of Christmas

8.30am Holy Communion CW  
10.30am Morning Service

(\*Term time only)



Let us hold unwaveringly to the hope we profess, for He who promised is faithful.  
(Hebrews 10:23 NIV)

## ADVENT



Advent in the Christian calendar means 'coming' and is the period before Christmas which celebrates the birth of Jesus. It is all about preparing for Christmas Day and starts on Sunday December 3<sup>rd</sup> in 2023 – four weekends before Christmas.

Advent calendars traditionally would have images that show the story of the Nativity, as most still do. Some churches have an advent wreath with five candles, one for each of the four Sundays leading up to Christmas Day and one for Christmas Day itself.



## SERVICES FOR JANUARY 2024

### Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> January

11.00am Holy Communion CW

### Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> January – Epiphany

8.30am Holy Communion BCP  
10.30am All-age Service with  
Holy Communion CW

### Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> January – Epiphany 2

8.30am Holy Communion CW  
10.30am Morning Service with  
Children's Church\*

### Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> January – Epiphany 3

8.30am Holy Communion BCP  
10.30am Holy Communion CW  
with Children's Church\*

### Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> January – Epiphany 4

8.30am Holy Communion CW  
10.30am Morning Service with  
Children's Church\*



(\*Term time only)

**Let us hold unwaveringly to the hope we profess, for He who promised is faithful.  
(Hebrews 10:23 NIV)**

## EPIPHANY

In Christianity, the Epiphany refers to a realization that Christ is the Son of God. Western churches generally celebrate the Visit of the three Magi (Wise Men / Kings) as the revelation of the incarnation of the infant Christ and commemorate the Feast of Epiphany on January 6 (The 12<sup>th</sup> Day of Christmas). The season runs until the first Sunday of Lent.

The three Magi in Matthew's Gospel were distinguished foreigners who visited Jesus after his birth bearing gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh.



## WHO'S WHO

Vicar	Rev Dr Matt Davis
Readers	Mrs Anne Dixon Prof. Allan Hobson Mrs Jean Watts Mr Chris Mulford
Reader emeritus	
Churchwardens	Mr Steve Ginn Mrs Fiona Grieveson
Deputy Churchwardens	Mr John McGibbon Mrs Sheila Rodger
Treasurer	Mr Hugh Dixon
Deputy Treasurer	Mrs Gwyneth Croft
PCC Secretary	Dr David Hogben
Electoral Roll Officer	Mrs Jean Cox
Deanery Synod Representatives	Mr Andrew Cox Mr John Gelder Mrs Hillary Griffin Dr David Hogben
Gift Aid Officer	Mrs Rachel Patterson
Legacy Officer	Mr John McGibbon
Parish Hall Secretary	Mr Steve Ginn
Meeting Room Secretary	Mrs Fiona Grieveson
Newsletter Editor	Mrs Irene Powell
Magazine Editors	Mrs Margaret Cooke Mr Ken Davies (Contributions by <b>10th</b> of the month – preferably by email – see page 1)
Magazine Distribution	Mr Colin Cooke
Magazine Collation	Mr David Moore
Magazine Adverts	Mrs Margaret Cooke
Church and Churchyard Maintenance	Mr Allan Worthington
Safeguarding Officer	Dr Peter Griffin
Child Protection Officer	Mrs Joyce Eddlestone
Pastoral Care Co-ordinators	Mrs Hillary Griffin Mrs Jean watts
Vulnerable Adults Officer	Mrs Jean Watts
Health & Safety Officer	Dr David Hogben
Woodland Workshop Co-ordinator	Dr Peter Griffin
Cathedral Representative	Mrs Elizabeth Lowe
Church & Mid-African Mission	Mrs June McGibbon
Church Administrator	Mrs Valerie Hogben

## WHAT'S ON

**Monthly Prayer Meetings** – See weekly news sheet for details. Monday or Tuesday evenings likely days, 7.30/7.45pm in MEETING ROOM.

**Weekly Home Bible Groups** – If you would like to join a group, please speak to Matt. The groups are looking at Romans this autumn. The course will be video inter-active in nature.

**Next What If? Course** – Speak to Matt or email: [revmattdavis@gmail.com](mailto:revmattdavis@gmail.com) for details.

**St Luke's Youth Group** for Y6 children and above from 7.45-9.00pm each Sun during school term time. It is led by Liz & Matt in the MEETING ROOM. There are pizzas/snacks; games; and a chance to explore and grow our faith in Jesus.

**Creche** - a creche is available at all 10.30am services.

**(Toilet facilities available in the Meeting Room throughout all services).**

**Confirmation classes** for juniors and adults are held annually.

**Home Communion** – The Wardens welcome the names and addresses of the sick and elderly who would like Holy Communion at home.

**Baptisms & Weddings** – Contact the Wardens after the 10.30 service.

**Woodland Workshop** – contact Peter Griffin (871846) for details.

**Uniformed Organisations** in the Church Hall unless otherwise stated –

<b>Rainbows</b>	Contact District Commissioner		Sheila Kirk	875393
<b>Brownie Guides</b>				
4 <sup>th</sup> Formby	Monday (In Meeting Room)	6.00pm	Julie Maher	07811 907003
8 <sup>th</sup> Formby	Wednesday	6.00pm	Jenette Rowlands	
<b>Guides</b>				
4 <sup>th</sup> Formby	Wednesday	7.30pm	Julie Clark	833757
<b>Beavers</b>	Thursday (In Meeting Room)	5.45pm	John Gelder (Beavers8thFormbyStLukes@outlook.com)	876456
<b>Cub Scouts</b>	Thursday (In Meeting Room)	6.45pm	Bob Ford (Cubs8thFormbyStLukes@outlook.com)	873026
<b>Group Scout Leader</b>			Gordon Hilbert	874167

**PCC** – if you would like to communicate a concern to the PCC, **the Standing Committee Members are** Rev Dr Matt Davis (Vicar), Mr Hugh Dixon (Treasurer), Mr Steve Ginn (Warden), Mrs Fiona Grieveson (Warden), Dr David Hogben (Secretary).

**Other PCC Members are** Mr Andrew Cox, Miss Debbie Davies, Mr Ken Davies, Mrs Ann Dennison, Mrs Anne Dixon, Mr John Gelder, Mrs Hillary Griffin, Dr Peter Griffin, Prof Allan Hobson, Mrs June McGibbon, Mrs Chris Payne, Mrs Sheila Rodger, Mrs Jean Watts.



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## WHAT'S ON FOR THE 'ELDERLY' IN DECEMBER & JANUARY

**St Luke's Church** – Refer to p2 & 3; p9 & 10 for Services; p12 What's On; & Weekly News Sheets for details.

### **St Peter's Church and Parish Hall (Paradise Lane) – 01704 871171**

- Bingo for the elderly every Sun 8.00-9.30pm and Mon 2.00-4.00pm.
- Bacon Barm & Banter – Mon 4<sup>th</sup> Dec, 10.30-12noon (1<sup>st</sup> Monday of the month except Bank Holidays, none on 1<sup>st</sup> Jan) in the Bier House (on church site). Free admission, breakfast butties and hot drinks with vegetarian options available. Especially suitable for carers and their loved ones.
- Singing Thursdays! (except for 1st Thurs of the month) in the parish hall. All groups will meet at 2pm (doors open 1.45pm) and finish approx. 3.30pm. Free entry and refreshments. Everyone welcome – especially carers and their loved ones.
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> Dec & 11<sup>th</sup> Jan – Singing for Fun.
  - 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> Dec & 18<sup>th</sup> Jan – Singing is Good for Your Brain!
  - 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> Dec (CHECK date between Christmas and the New Year) & 25<sup>th</sup> Jan– Singalong with Ian & Geraldine.

### **Formby Methodists**

- Coffee Club 1st Tues of each month (5<sup>th</sup> Dec & 2<sup>nd</sup> Jan) 2-4pm – see FBS below.
- The Carers' Support Group meets every Fri afternoon 2.00-4.00pm at the Methodist Church. The group is open not only to all carers and the person/s they care for, but also to anyone who needs some additional company or support. Contact Irene for further information on Tel: 876219 or Email: [info@formbybefriendingscheme.org.uk](mailto:info@formbybefriendingscheme.org.uk)

### **Formby Library (01704 874177) – Mon to Fri 10.00-4.30pm and Sat 10.00-1.30pm**

- Limited delivery service on offer; enquire at Library for details.
- Open for browsing and computer use.
- Police Help Desk – every 3<sup>rd</sup> Mon of the month, 18<sup>th</sup> Dec & 15<sup>th</sup> Jan.
- Family History Help Desk – once a month on a Tuesday. Contact Library for details and book in advance. Started Sept.
- Monthly talks – contact Library for updates. Booking a place in advance advisable.
- Regular Free Coffee Mornings every Thursday 10.30-12noon throughout the winter.
- Creative Writing and Formby Hub drop-in are still happening - enquire at Library for details.
- Gardening Club will continue throughout the winter and interested persons can go on the mailing list to be notified about sessions.
- Plans are in progress for a relaxing, low-key, reading group which will run every month starting in the New Year. A cuppa, a biscuit, a read through and chat about excerpts of various fiction/non-fiction based on a monthly theme – no pressure to get your book read in a month. Everything discussed will be read during the meeting! Contact the Library for details.
- Warm Spaces may be back for the winter. Check Library for information.
- Check Sefton Libraries website regularly for up-to-date information on events and activities.

**Formby Befriending Scheme** - FBS will be holding their Open Coffee Club on the first Tues of each month (5<sup>th</sup> Dec & 2<sup>nd</sup> Jan) 2-4pm at the Methodist Church. It is open to older adults who would like to make new friends or just to have some company. For more information, ring: 07437 479 417 or email: [info@formbybefriendingscheme.org.uk](mailto:info@formbybefriendingscheme.org.uk)

**Sefton Dementia Action Alliance** – contact Jan Campbell: [jan.campbell@seftoncvcs.org.uk](mailto:jan.campbell@seftoncvcs.org.uk) for information.



## FURTHER PHOTOS & REFLECTIONS OF SHYIRA

**John Gelder** writes: "Someone asked me before I went to Shyira if I was mentally prepared for the trip; and my response was, 'No, not really'. All I knew for sure was that I wanted to make the most of every moment I was there and embrace every opportunity that God was providing for me.

A friend of mine told me that when I first arrived that I should stop and smell the air and simply 'Breathe Africa' - and he was right! It certainly felt that the Holy Spirit was at work in each and every one of us in guiding us through this life changing experience. As a result, I rediscovered three very important aspects of my life that perhaps had got a bit lost in the busyness of my life here in Formby - Love, Fellowship and Faith!



Rwanda is overflowing with God's love. From the amazing sunrises and the stunning scenery to the overwhelming love that everyone greeted us with from the minute we arrived. A country that has suffered so much through genocide can teach us all so much about how hope can be restored through forgiveness.

The lifelong friendships we made are steeped in God's love and founded upon our shared faith as brothers and sisters in Christ. This in turn gives me hope for the future as we continue to worship together in the name of Christ Jesus and look at how we can support the projects that they need our help with.

A truly life changing experience that I simply want to praise God for. Alleluia!"



(Sunday worship)



(Scrapbook presented to Rev Jacques from St Luke's Beavers and Cubs)

(JG squeezing bananas)





# FURTHER IMAGES OF SHYIRA

(Rugby)



(Fiona grinding flour)



(Shyira valley)



(Traditional wedding)



(All images on pages 16 & 17 are with kind permission of Rev Jacques)

.....



We've got online carol-singers again!

## BRIEF REPORT OF THE SHYIRA TRUST AGM 2023

- Sunday 29 October 12.30pm St Luke's Church meeting room.
- 18 members attended + 6 guests. 8 members gave apologies for absence.
- 5 new members joined the Trust at the end of the meeting.
- Chair, Mr Peter Morgan, opened the meeting with a short prayer which included *In Memoriam* members and others associated with the Trust who had passed since the last AGM.
- Minutes of the 2022 AGM were unanimously accepted with no matters arising.
- The Chair presented the Accounts highlighting a minor amendment relating to incorrect placement of income from membership subs and money received for banana leaf card sales in the unrestricted and restricted columns of Section A (Financial Statement). The total income remained unchanged from the originally circulated Accounts.
- The Accounts were then unanimously accepted with no queries.
- Former trustee and treasurer, Mr Hugh Dixon, was formally thanked by the Chair for his assistance in drawing up the Accounts for the 2023 AGM.
- The Chair briefly presented the Trustees' Report, highlighting Bishop Augustin's request for the Trust to financially support his 5 ongoing projects over 2022-23 in Kivu Diocese. They are – palliative care in the community; church leadership courses and development; job creation among youth and women; fighting malnutrition and stunting; supporting home and family life.
- The Trustees' Report was unanimously accepted without comment.
- Trustees Mr Keith Braithwaite, Mrs June McGibbon and Revd Jane Morgan stepped down after their latest 3-year tenure of excellent service to the Trust; Mr Colin Cooke, Mr Ken Davies and Mr Peter Morgan were to continue as trustees, with KD continuing as the PCC nominated trustee.
- Mrs Margaret Cooke would continue as Voluntary Helper assisting with the sponsorship of students in Groupe Scolaire (secondary school).
- Two church members of the group which had recently visited Shyira through the church link with St Mark's had expressed interest in becoming co-opted trustees.
- The number of 3 remaining trustees and potentially 2 co-opted trustees was in line with the Trust's Constitution.
- Mr Peter Morgan was unanimously re-elected Chair and Mr Ken Davies likewise as Secretary until the next AGM. In the absence of a designated Treasurer, all financial matters were to be the collective responsibility of trustees.
- Mr James Patterson had agreed to continue as Independent Examiner until the next AGM.
- In conclusion –
  - (i) Trust member and Consultant Clinical Psychologist, Dr Dominic Bray, gave a brief summary of his role/interest in relation to palliative care, mentioning the different approach adopted in Rwanda to here in the UK, the approach in Rwanda being traditionally church based and within the family. However, palliative care in the community is now one of Bishop Augustin's 5 identified projects for support.
  - (ii) The Chair presented the new Trust website: [www.shyiratrust.org.uk](http://www.shyiratrust.org.uk)
- The meeting closed at 1.19pm with The Grace.

**Mr R K Davies – Secretary**

SMILE LINES –

What's red and white, red and white, and red and white? Father Christmas rolling down a hill.





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*“The care and attention is excellent. All the staff treat mum with great care and respect and ensure her dignity is not compromised in any way.”*

*“I was amazed at the standard of Formby Manor having visited care homes when my husband required nursing care. It is far superior to any I have seen.”*

*“I cannot praise this home enough. The care given and the commitment to the wellbeing of the residents is second to none. Thank you.”*

For further information, or to make an appointment to view **Formby Manor** contact the team on 01704 339090 or email [enquiries@newcarehomes.com](mailto:enquiries@newcarehomes.com)

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[newcarehomes.com](http://newcarehomes.com)





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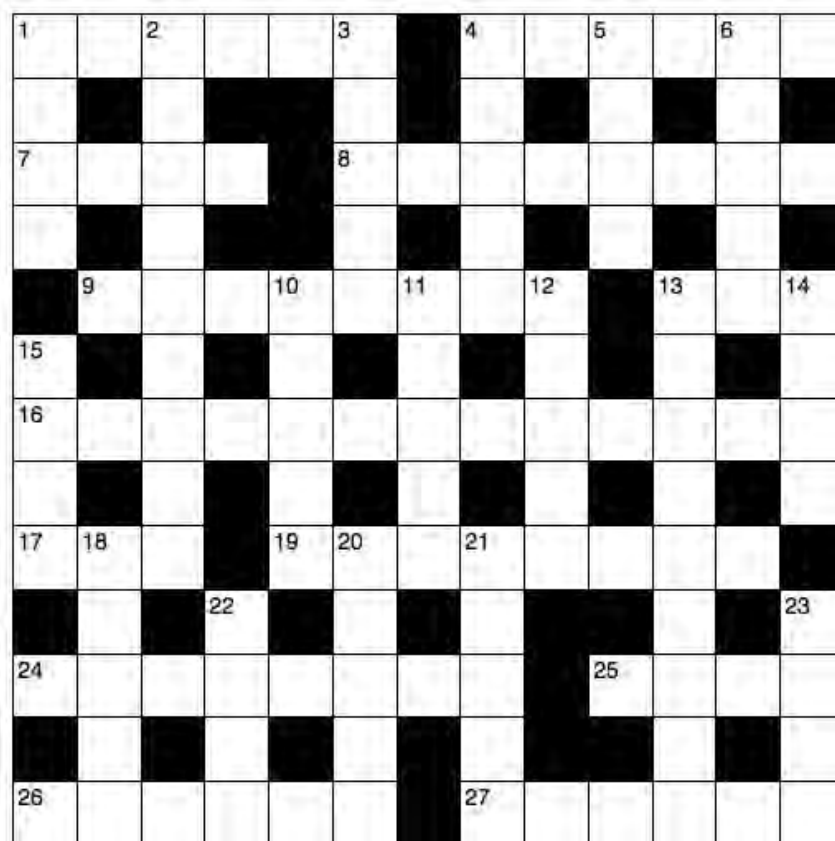
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Phone No: 07926 587776



## CROSSWORD



### Across

- 1 Rely (Psalm 62:7) (6)  
 4 'He stretches out the heavens like a —, and spreads them out like a tent to live in' (Isaiah 40:22) (6)  
 7 What the dove carried the olive leaf in, when it returned to Noah's ark (Genesis 8:11) (4)  
 8 Annoy (1 Samuel 1:6) (8)  
 9 Judah's last king, who ended his days as a blind prisoner in Babylon (Jeremiah 52:11) (8)  
 13 'They all — and were satisfied' (Luke 9:17) (3)  
 16 Eliphaz the Temanite was one; so was Bildad the Shuhite and Zophar the Naamathite (Job 2:11; 16:2) (4,9)  
 17 National Association of

- Evangelicals (of the USA) (1,1,1)  
 19 Popular song for New Year's Eve, Auld — — (4,4)  
 24 Able dock (anag.) (8)  
 25 The number of stones David chose for his confrontation with Goliath (1 Samuel 17:40) (4)  
 26 Elgar's best-known 'Variations' (6)  
 27 Soak (Isaiah 16:9) (6)

### Down

- 1 Money owing (Deuteronomy 15:3) (4)  
 2 Conciliatory (Titus 3:2) (9)  
 3 'Do this, whenever you — it, in remembrance of me' (1 Corinthians 11:25) (5)  
 4 A group assisting in the governance of the Roman Catholic Church (5)  
 5 One of the gifts Joseph's brothers took with them on their second journey to Egypt (Genesis 43:11) (4)  
 6 'Reach out your hand and — — into my side. Stop doubting and believe' (John 20:27) (3,2)  
 10 Be outstandingly good (2 Corinthians 8:7) (5)  
 11 'What — — that you are mindful of him, the son of man that you care for him?' (Psalm 8:4) (2,3)  
 12 Horse's feet (Judges 5:22) (5)  
 13 Notice (Deuteronomy 17:4) (9)  
 14 Comes between 2 Chronicles and Nehemiah (4)  
 15 One of Israel's northern towns conquered by Ben-Hadad (1 Kings 15:20) (4)  
 18 Narnia's Lion (5)  
 20 One of the two rivers in which Naaman would have preferred to wash (2 Kings 5:12) (5)  
 21 Avarice—one of the evils that come from inside people (Mark 7:22) (5)  
 22 Knight Grand Cross of St Michael and St George (1,1,1,1)  
 23 Jacob's first wife (Genesis 29:23) (4)

(SOLUTIONS ON PAGE 24)

# SUDOKU

EASY

MEDIUM

5		7				3		6
			4	9	6			
						2	1	
2		5		8	9	6		
4	8		2		7		9	5
		1	3	4		7		2
	2	8						
			7	3	8			
3		9				8		7

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6	1			7				
					4	5		2
				8				3
	7		8			9		
		2				6		
		3			2		8	
4				5				
1		6	3					
				4			9	7

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(SOLUTIONS ON PAGE 24)

## WORDSEARCH

M	O	H	R	L	A	A	M	A	S	S	T
R	T	N	E	L	I	S	T	I	L	L	E
Y	E	M	G	L	I	A	N	R	D	N	E
J	L	B	I	N	G	M	M	T	T	O	M
I	O	A	L	D	U	T	L	S	G	I	E
T	V	S	I	T	N	S	E	U	E	S	L
O	E	I	E	T	S	I	N	A	G	R	O
Y	D	N	H	P	R	R	G	A	E	E	D
O	A	G	I	P	H	H	I	H	C	V	Y
U	I	L	O	R	A	C	T	F	T	H	E
N	D	E	D	O	T	A	D	R	I	H	T
G	C	A	G	A	F	R	A	E	H	A	U

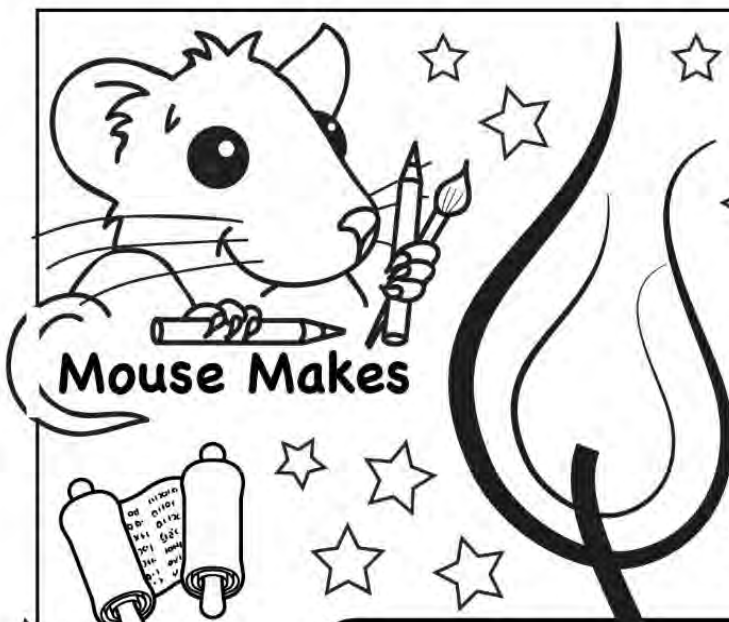
### The story of Silent Night

This much-loved carol comes from Austria, where it was first sung as *Stille Nacht, heilige Nacht* on Christmas Eve, 1818. It was written by Father Joseph Mohr, a young priest at St Nicholas parish church, in the village of Oberndorf bei Salzburg. As Christmas 1818 approached, he asked the local schoolmaster, Franz Xaver Gruber, to compose a melody for his carol. Gruber was organist in the nearby village of Arnsdorf, and so was happy to oblige. On Christmas Eve they presented the carol to the church during the midnight mass. The carol went on to become loved world-wide; and the version

sung by Bing Crosby is the third best-selling single of all time.

- |              |              |               |               |               |
|--------------|--------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| Silent Night | First Sung   | Christmas Eve | Young Priest  | Melody Single |
| Loved Carol  | Stille Nacht | Father Joseph | Organist      | Bing Version  |
| Austria      | Heilige      | Mohr          | Midnight Mass | Third         |





**Mouse Makes**



**GOD'S PROMISE**

*Isaiah 9:6-7*

CHILD • BORN • SON  
GIVEN • WONDERFUL  
COUNCELLOR  
MIGHTY • GOD  
EVERLASTING  
FATHER • PRINCE  
PEACE • LORD



**AN ANGEL MESSENGER**

*Luke 1:26-38*

ANGEL • GABRIEL  
JOSEPH • MARY  
FAVOUR • SON  
JESUS • GREAT  
THRONE • REIGN  
FOREVER • HOLY  
SERVANT • WORD

**ADVENT**  
comes from  
the Latin  
'AD VENTO'  
which means  
**ARRIVAL**

In Advent we  
celebrate Jesus' birth  
and look forward to  
the time when Jesus  
will come again.



**A LONG JOURNEY**

*Luke 2:1-20*

BETHLEHEM  
REGISTER • BIRTH  
MANGER • INN  
SHEPHERDS • FLOCK  
ANGELS • JOY  
GOOD NEWS • PRAISE  
SAVIOUR • CHRIST



**THE BEST GIFT OF ALL**

*John 3:16*

GOD • SO • LOVED  
WORLD • HE • GAVE  
ONLY • SON  
WHOEVER • BELIEVES  
ETERNAL • LIFE

V	R	P	R	I	N	C	E	L	R	O	D
W	O	R	D	C	F	A	T	H	E	R	E
J	A	G	M	A	N	G	E	R	G	E	B
O	W	H	O	E	V	E	R	W	I	I	J
S	J	O	Y	B	O	R	N	O	S	G	E
E	S	L	S	E	R	V	A	N	T	N	S
P	P	Y	J	C	H	I	L	D	E	P	U
H	R	O	S	H	E	P	H	E	R	D	S
F	A	V	O	U	R	E	F	R	W	S	O
B	I	R	T	H	S	W	O	F	O	D	L
I	S	A	V	I	O	U	R	U	R	L	O
F	E	C	O	U	N	C	E	L	L	O	R
A	N	G	E	L	B	J	V	K	D	V	D
B	E	T	H	L	E	H	E	M	G	E	S
L	A	N	G	E	L	S	R	G	O	D	V
I	G	A	B	R	I	E	L	T	D	S	M
F	P	G	I	V	E	N	A	H	U	O	A
E	E	H	G	A	V	E	S	R	W	N	R
S	A	E	G	R	E	A	T	O	N	L	Y
O	C	H	R	I	S	T	I	N	N	J	O
N	E	O	G	O	O	D	N	E	W	S	N
F	L	O	C	K	M	I	G	H	T	Y	B



# SUDOKU SOLUTIONS

EASY

5	9	7	8	1	2	3	4	6
1	3	2	4	9	6	5	7	8
8	4	6	5	7	3	2	1	9
2	7	5	1	8	9	6	3	4
4	8	3	2	6	7	1	9	5
9	6	1	3	4	5	7	8	2
7	2	8	9	5	1	4	6	3
6	5	4	7	3	8	9	2	1
3	1	9	6	2	4	8	5	7

MEDIUM

6	1	5	2	7	3	8	4	9
3	8	9	1	6	4	5	7	2
7	2	4	5	8	9	1	6	3
5	7	1	8	3	6	9	2	4
8	4	2	7	9	5	6	3	1
9	6	3	4	1	2	7	8	5
4	3	7	9	5	8	2	1	6
1	9	6	3	2	7	4	5	8
2	5	8	6	4	1	3	9	7

## CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS

**ACROSS:** 1, Depend. 4, Canopy. 7, Beak. 8, Irritate. 9, Zedekiah. 13, Ate. 16, Job's comforter. 17, NAE. 19, Lang Syne. 24, Blockade. 25, Five. 26, Enigma. 27, Drench.

**DOWN:** 1, Debt. 2, Peaceable. 3, Drink. 4, Curia. 5, Nuts. 6, Put it. 10, Excel. 11, Is man. 12, Hoofs. 13, Attention. 14, Ezra. 15, Ijon. 18, Aslan. 20, Abana. 21, Greed. 22, GCMG. 23, Leah.

.....



*Sara preferred to let people work out the hymns for themselves*



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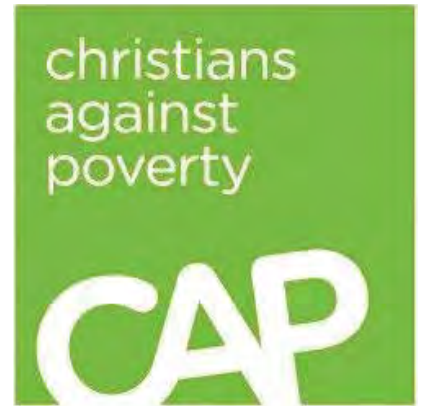
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(Lev 27:30)



**St. Mark's Parish**  
**SHYIRA**  
**Rwanda**