

St. Luke's Formby Parish Magazine

: YVfi Ufm2024

Price: £1.20 per issue

Cheaper by annual subscription

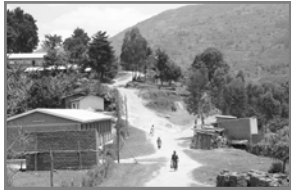
£10.00 for 10 issues a year



Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God - this is your true and proper worship.

Romans 12:1





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:

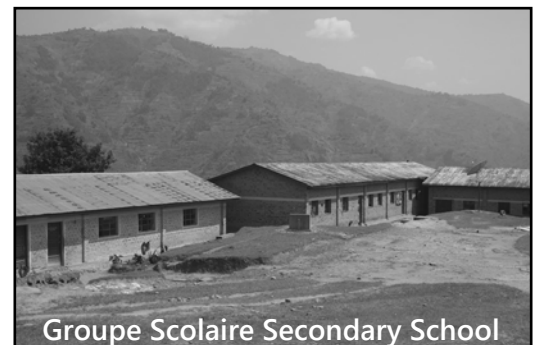
- To extend the MU support across Kivu Diocese
- To work through the Gisenyi MU to help the most needy parts of the Diocese



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

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

Dear Friends

I hate to admit it, but year-ago me was cleverer than present-day me. A few weeks ago, I was sorting out my tax return by getting everything in order to send to my accountant (clergy tax is complicated, and I have no idea how it works). I was looking everywhere for some receipts. If I couldn't find them, I knew it would be better not to claim for those expenses. But I wanted to find them. They may not have been huge, but it was the principle of the thing. So, I searched my study, including piles of past sermon notes, and in between past issues of the Church of England Newspaper. I searched my bedside cabinet, my wallet, the cupboards in the spare room, even coat pockets in the hallway. The receipts were nowhere to be found.

Eventually, I resigned myself to giving up and emailing through what I had been able to find to my accountant. As I opened my tax-return folder from my filing cabinet, guess what fell out? Yes, the receipts I was looking for that I'd safely stored there a year ago. Year-ago me was cleverer than present-day me.

Present-day me has now decided that 2024 should be the year of the tidy: tidying my study, my cupboards, the attic, the garage, the garden shed, even the vestry in church. Once everything is tidy and has its place, I'll be so organised I'll be dangerous! I love everything being tidy. The only problem is that everywhere gets untidy so easily. As soon as life gets busy, the tidiness falls apart.

The Christian life can be a bit like this: we decide we really need to read the Bible and pray every day, that we need to come to church and homegroup every week, and that we need to get to the church prayer meeting every month. But like tidying, before these things become a habit, life gets busy and our plans fall apart. It would be so easy to give up.

Thankfully, the wonderful truth of Christianity is that it is not down to our efforts, or how good we are. Instead, it is completely down to Jesus and what he has done for us. Hebrews 4:15–16 says this:

For we do not have a high priest who is unable to feel sympathy for our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are – yet he did not sin. Let us then approach God's throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.

(Continued on Page 2)

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Joint Editors: Margaret Cooke (e-mail: macooke29@gmail.com) and Ken Davies (e-mail: 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)

When we feel frustrated with ourselves, when we feel like we're making no progress, when we feel like things have fallen apart yet again, we can be encouraged that a relationship with God is not down to our efforts at holding it all together. Instead, it is down to Jesus and what he has done for us. That is why I am a Christian, and why I continue to put my faith in Jesus.

With every blessing for 2024.

Matt

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CHURCH REGISTER

Funerals:

3rd January 2024 – Phyllis Crewe

11th January 2024 – Alice Owen

29th January 2024 – Gary Buxton

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DATES AND NOTES

SERVICES – The wearing of face coverings and social distancing are no longer necessary in church. However, it is totally acceptable for those who wish to wear face coverings and socially distance to continue doing so. Zoom is no longer in operation. Services for Feb p10.

PRAYER CHAIN – Please contact **Philip Lowe** if you know of someone who would appreciate prayer support (p.h.lowe50@btinternet.com).

PASTORAL SUPPORT – If you, or someone you know would appreciate a visit from our pastoral team please telephone Hillary Griffin (871846) or Jean Watts (877662) (Pastoral Care Co-Ordinators). Jean is also Vulnerable Adults Officer.

FINANCIAL SUPPORT – If you would like to financially support the work of St Luke's, offerings may be placed on the plate near the back of church. There is also a card reader by the entrance. If you would prefer to donate from your bank account, there are various ways including the Parish Giving Scheme (parishgiving.org.uk) or ask Matt or the Wardens if you need any further information.

YOUTH ALPHA – started Sun 21st Jan 7.45pm for secondary school students. See Matt for details.

TRANSFIGURATION SUNDAY – Sun 11th Feb. The last Sunday before Ash Wednesday and Lent.

ASH WEDNESDAY – 14th Feb.

ST VALENTINE'S DAY – Wed 14th Feb.

SPOTLIGHT ON THE DEANERY SYNOD – p18.

AFA AUTUMN EXHIBITION – p17.

NEXT PCC MEETING – Wed 27th March 7.30pm (None in Feb).

NOTICES

MESSAGE FROM THE MAGAZINE TEAM

We really would like you to show your copy of the magazine to anyone from St Luke's who doesn't currently read it.

We realise that people can read it on our church website for free but the problem with that is that we can't tell potential advertisers that we have a reasonably wide circulation if that's not the case.

We appreciate that most people's finances are stretched at present but each year we lose a few subscribers and we really do need to replace them. Please tell your friends that an annual subscription for 10 issues costs £10 and we think that's good value – considering the amount of time and effort put into it by many people.

We thank all subscribers for their ongoing annual support!

Southport Soup Kitchen & Food Bank

Maggie Elkington and all at the Southport Soup Kitchen and Food Bank would like to express their never-ending thanks for all donated gifts, chocolate, gloves, hats etc to this local charity who do so much to help a local community. Thanks to Range High School (see p8), St Luke's Church and St Peter's uniformed organisations. Thank you so much from a local charity whose guests and needy families are growing daily.

God Bless!

Maggie

Gifts-to-Funds coffee morning!

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

We hope you have hung onto those Christmas gifts that you may never use or eat – clothe items that are too big or too small or chocolates and sweets that might make you fat. If so, 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 continue on 3rd and 17th February, 2nd and 16th March.

Tuesday Lunch

Soup/sandwiches/cake & company from 12-2pm 6th & 20th February. Donations for lunch welcome.

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

This did not take place last January but has been re-arranged for May. It was felt more people would be able to attend when the weather should be hopefully better. Full details will be available nearer the time.

Formby Choral Society Spring Concert - Advance Notice!

Saturday 23rd March 7.30pm. Venue to be announced (see March issue).

ST LUKE'S SCHOOL NATIVITY ART COMPETITION 2023

The names of the category winners and overall winner of The Barbara Mossop Trophy are listed below. They were presented with their prize monies and Trophy during the end of term assemblies in church. We thank staff at St Luke's School for overseeing the competition along with judge Joan MacDonald.



Joan wrote the following about the winners and the competition as a whole –

Callum Hughes (7 years and below winner): “Well done Callum. I liked your Nativity picture. It was very carefully filled in with a mixture of coloured pencils and felt tips. It made a very pleasing image”.

Olivia Kirk (8-11 years winners and overall winner of The Barbara Mossop Trophy): “Congratulations Olivia, for your bright picture of the Nativity characters. You have made thoughtful choices for the colours and brought the scene to life”.

Isaac Lavin (age 11 and winner of the individually designed entry): “You should be proud of yourself, Isaac. I liked the tableau of Mary, Joseph and Baby Jesus with the Three Wise Men and the shepherd boy. The colours made the scene stand out”. (Isaac was also last year's winner of this category).

“Congratulations to all those who took part in the competition. Everyone has obviously tried hard, and your pictures were a pleasure to view. Well done to you all!”

And from St Luke's Church magazine team, well done to all who entered, with special congratulations to the winners. **KD**

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MUSICAL VILLAGE NATIVITY 2023



Churches Together in Formby, Altcar & Hightown's 2023 version of the Village Nativity was this time performed as a musical on the morning of Saturday 16th December and again took place in Formby Pool Gardens (by kind permission). The musical was introduced by CTiFAH Chair John Ryan (St Peter's). Make Noise Choirs added wonderfully to the onstage scenes. Molly Large, who played Mary, sang solo beautifully. All characters were played by CTiFAH

actors. The script was written by Dympna Edwards, who also directed the performance. Sound was by Mark Edwards and Choral Arrangements by Catherine Last (all of Our Lady's).

The 2023 Village Nativity event was well attended and well received by all. It made for a delightful presentation of the Nativity on the lead up to Christmas. Congratulations and well done to all involved in its production from St Luke's!



(More pictures on p16)

KD

KIDS@STLUKE'S

Each week at St Luke's kids' sessions we aim to teach the children about Jesus with fun, engaging stories from the Bible, discussion and activities appropriate to the various groups. Each session begins reflecting on the previous week and the children hearing a story from the Bible, singing together and a fun prayer drill being led by one of the children. We look at the Bible story or lesson in the age-appropriate groups with discussion time, crafts and worksheets around the session's theme.



During the autumn term, we looked at lessons using the Mustard Seed study guides.

We began the term looking at Mark's Gospel, explaining his eyewitness account of events. In our first session, The King is Coming, we looked at John the Baptist, preparing the way – Joyce enjoyed dressing up as John the Baptist! The children learnt about

what made Jesus so much greater than John, how people reacted to John's warning and how we respond to the message. The older children looked at the meaning of 'repent'.

We continued in Mark's Gospel with sessions on: The King is Here; The King's Men; The King's Priority; The King's Forgiveness; The King's Friends; The King's Enemies.

During Advent we turned to the book of Isaiah and looked at the prophecies of Jesus - 'coming as the perfect King to rescue His people'.

Throughout the term the children were encouraged to memorise the memory verse using a washing line of cloths, with the words of the verse on each cloth jumbled up for the children to arrange in the right order.

The children also enjoyed a Christmas party, making crafts, edible crafts and playing games.

Some children took part in a light dance at the Crib Service, showing Jesus coming into the world and now living within us in our everyday lives.

This term the Creche has enjoyed some new mats for the children to play and learn on. As we looked at the King, Creche enjoyed making paper crowns.

The children were delighted to have their artwork and crafts displayed on the notice board in the meeting room.

Debbie and the Kids@StLuke's team

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SMILE LINES –

It's better for girls to be single but not for boys. Boys need someone to clean up after them – Anita, age 9.

READER MINISTRY



Have you ever had a feeling that there is something you are required to do? I had been a deputy church warden for two years and then a warden for nearly four years so was getting close to the maximum time allowed for serving as a warden at St. Luke's. I could be looking forward to a rest after the responsibility that goes with the job of warden, but I had the underlying feeling that I should be doing something else. Did that feeling come as a call from God? I think it probably did although I didn't realise it at the time.

The time is back in the early 1980s. Revd Arnold Moon was our Vicar and St Luke's had one Reader, Eric Burton. I was being prompted to become a Reader, also known as a licensed lay minister, but felt very insecure in imagining myself as a Reader. I felt sure that I didn't have the necessary expertise to take on

the teaching and preaching role expected but started to explore the possibilities. First, I discussed the idea with Marion, my wife, because her life would be affected by having a husband as a Reader. I then talked to Eric, who was quite enthusiastic about having a second person as a Reader.

Finally, I spoke to Revd Arnold, telling him about my thoughts and fears. His response was very positive, and he made a quite telling statement: "If the Lord wants you to do this work, then He will never let you down". Reader ministry would eventually take me into unexpected situations, but that statement has always proved to be true. The eventual outcome of my discussions and prayer was that I agreed that Arnold would put my name forward for Reader training. I then met with a small selection panel and was approved for training as a Reader.

In those days training was carried out by a tutor who would have a small group of potential Readers meeting fairly regularly, perhaps once a fortnight, with some work given between meetings. There was an emphasis on scripture and especially preaching – the Church of England does not normally allow just anyone to preach. So it was that on 4th April 1987 I was licensed, along with other people, by the Bishop of Warrington as a Reader. As part of the licensing service various promises had to be made, for example to uphold the traditional teaching of the Church of England. As a Reader I have undertaken the usual tasks of preaching, leading house groups and quite a lot more, including assisting wardens by organizing service rotas, including finding guest service leaders, through two Interregnums.

There is one thing I did as a Reader that was quite unusual. At the start of the millennium our Vicar, Revd Alison Woodhouse, received an invitation to join a Christian charity on a fact-finding visit to Rwanda. The invitation could be passed on to a Reader. I was very reluctant but did eventually agree to go. What happened I found to be life changing and it has been documented in a book. I have copies if anyone would like to know more.

Rwanda had been at the centre of the East African Revival of the 1930s and had several mission stations. All but one was getting help from the UK as they recovered from the Genocide of 1994. The neglected mission station was in a remote place called Shyira. Its hospital was dysfunctional, schools were closed or severely damaged and the church stripped of seating and the usual Christian symbols. The parish had absolutely no money to start sorting things out. I felt strangely called to try and do something to help Shyira, but what? The task was immense.

As I reflect on what happened I am convinced that the Lord had, in advance, a plan to restore Shyira after the Genocide. He had everything planned well before there was a need and had people with the right skills in place in St Luke's. He just required us to get the work done when the time came. I went and told the story when I got back. Other people with essential medical, teaching and financial skills came forward and we visited Shyira. The Lord worked through us and the community of Shyira was restored. We now have a relationship with that community in which we can simply call the people friends. "If the Lord wants you to do this work, then He will never let you down", Arnold told me, and it is true.

Perhaps you are feeling that there is something you should be doing. If so, pray about it, talk to other people, and don't be afraid to get involved. God will call on people to do his work here on earth. Perhaps you could be a Reader? **Allan Hobson**

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RANGE HIGH SCHOOL CAROL SERVICE AT ST LUKE'S

The Range High School carol service, held on Tuesday 12th December, is always an exceptional event combining selections of magnificent music and readings. Months of preparation go into making the carol service a fitting start to the Christmas festivities.

Throughout the evening, the readers retold the story of the birth of Jesus, which was punctuated by performances of beautiful arrangements of well-known traditional Christmas songs, including 'O Holy Night' with solos from Serena Povey and Olivia Hughes.

The evening also included a number of instrumental pieces, such as 'The Snowman', as well as a festive assortment of well-known carols played in the "Compressed Carols Medley" which Mrs Davies and the Junior Orchestra ably performed. There was also a beautiful performance of the Woodwind Ensemble playing the traditional carol of 'We Three Kings'.

The performances of 'Gaudete', 'Angels We Have Heard on High', 'Glow', 'The Winter Song' and 'Carol of the Bells' by Vocal Range, Harmonix, and Bella Voce were nothing short of outstanding. Maria Byrne, Maisie Waring and Lara Kearon should be especially commended for their magnificent solos.

One particular highlight of the evening was a moving rendition of 'See Amid The Winter's Snow' performed by the fabulous Nadiya Scotland. The evening was made even better with the congregation joining in with the hymns!

Mrs Davies and Mr Povey are exceptionally proud of all the students involved for their hard work and commitment over the past few months.

Special thanks go to Rev Dr Matt Davis for his prayers and blessings, which also included a video and photographs taken during his recent visit to Rwanda, where he spent time at Groupe Scolaire, a school that Range High have been supporting for a number of years. It was wonderful to see a photo of the new minister of St Mark's and also head teacher of Groupe Scolaire, Rev Jacques with a Range High badge proudly displayed on the wall. At the end of the service, a collection was held, with proceeds going to Groupe Scolaire via the Shyira Trust. We would also like to take this opportunity to thank our friends at St. Luke's Church for the ongoing support offered to Range High School throughout the year. We are extremely honoured and grateful to feel part of your warm and welcoming community.

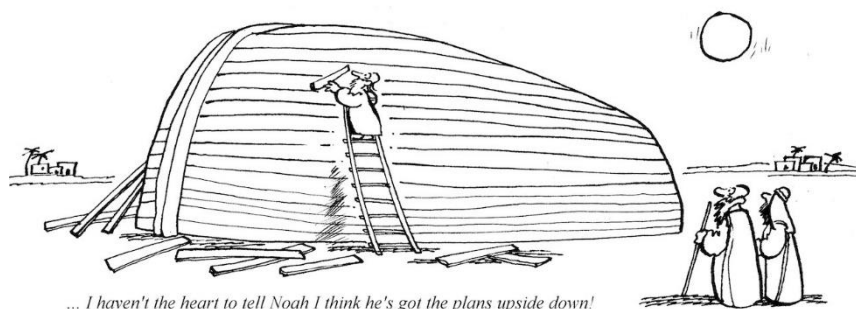
Mr. Povey

Mrs. Bridge

Curriculum Area Leader for Music

Curriculum Area Leader for RE

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RANGE HIGH SCHOOL'S COLLECTION FOR SOUTHPORT SOUP KITCHEN AND FOODBANK

In the run up to Christmas, pupils in Years 8, 9 and 10 as well as staff have been donating food and toiletries to Southport Soup Kitchen and Foodbank. Based in central Southport, The Soup Kitchen provides a welcoming place for those in need within Southport and surrounding areas. Having been established for over 20 years and run entirely by a team of dedicated volunteers, they offer support to the local community by providing hot meals and drinks as well as food parcels and resources including toiletries and other daily essentials. So far, two carloads of donations collected by pupils and staff have been delivered to the Soup Kitchen, with more donations still to take.

Currently, this charity is in crisis and desperate for donations, which can be made at any time of the year. If people would like to donate, The Soup Kitchen is in desperate need of:

- Tinned food, such a vegetables, meat, stew, soup, potatoes, pies, fruit and puddings
- Dried pasta or rice and sauces
- Cereals, long-life fruit juices, long-life milk, powdered milk, individual juices and small bottles of water
- Teabags, coffee, sugar, salt
- Cakes, biscuits, puddings, fruit pies, ready-made custard
- Toiletries including toothpaste, shampoo, conditioner, shower gel, hand gel, masks, shaving items, brush, comb, deodorant, feminine products, baby wipes and nappies
- Thermal gloves, scarves, socks

Please contact southportsoupkitchen@gmail.com if you wish to donate, to make delivery arrangements.

Alternatively, they accept vouchers to any major supermarket chain or you may donate money on their Just Giving page, <https://www.justgiving.com/southport-soup-kitchen>



Mrs C Bridge - Curriculum Area Leader for Religious Education

UP ON THE ROOF (And it wasn't The Drifters!)

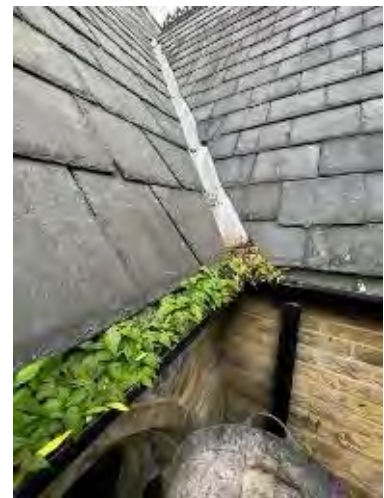


The PCC has a legal responsibility for the care and maintenance of the church building and every five years a professional report is required on its structural condition and state of repair (the 'Quinquennial Report').

Our last Quinquennial Inspection was carried out by a Diocese appointed surveyor in 2020 and work identified as being necessary started in the summer of 2023.

Overall, the building was considered to be in a good state of repair but there were several recommendations made including a general inspection of the roof by a contractor to:

- Remove debris
- Replace loose and missing slates
- Examine flashings and repoint where necessary
- Check the bell hanging and ringing mechanism
- Clear and flush rainwater pipes
- Clear and check parapet gutters
- Clear gullies
- Cut back vegetation at the base of the walls



We undertook a tender exercise to find a suitable contractor with experience of church roofs who could do the work at a competitive price. Of the five contractors approached, we chose CAS Roofing, a local firm that had undertaken extensive work on St Peter's Church.

To date the work has cost just under £10,000 but there is more to be done including leadwork and pointing on the roof above the chancel, and some slates on the lych gate need attention. The cost of this will be about £1,100.

We are blessed with a church building that has not caused too much concern for PCCs over recent years, and willing volunteers who do a fantastic job in maintaining it and its grounds. However, with the ravages of time and weather conditions that seem to get ever harsher, the



building will inevitably start to creak more and more. It is clear that we need to keep an even closer eye on things as serious problems can develop between inspections if relatively minor matters go unchecked. As they say, "A stitch in time...."

Unfortunately, there is not a central 'CofE fund' we can go to for the cost of building maintenance and repairs, therefore all we spend on our building has to come out of our own local funds, that is the generous giving we receive. And that money already has many calls on it. So let us be mindful of the financial resources needed to keep the church a safe, warm and dry place to worship now and for years to come. And as you review your giving, please consider making extra provision for that.

Steve Ginn (Churchwarden)

SERVICES FOR FEBRUARY 2024

Thursday 1st February

11.00am Holy Communion CW

Sunday 4th February – 2 before Lent

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

Sunday 11th February – 1 before Lent

8.30am Holy Communion CW
10.30am Parade Service

(14th February – Ash Wednesday
7.30pm St Stephens Hightown for
local Anglican churches)

Sunday 18th February – Lent 1

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

Sunday 25th February – Lent 2

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



(*Term time only)

**Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God – this is your true and proper worship.
(Romans 12:1 NIV)**

PRAYER FOR FEBRUARY 2024

Father,

In this coldest and shortest of months, this month when traditionally thoughts turn to love and the promise of Spring, help us to be thankful and steadfast and to see Your bigger picture in what is sometimes a frightening world, a world where love between nations seems to be in short supply and the future uncertain.

We pray for all those whose lives are in turmoil through a lack of love and justice. Help us to remember the great love You have for Your world and Your people, so great that You sent Jesus to show us how to live, how to love and how to overcome the troubles of the world.

Thank you that Your love is stronger than the forces of evil, stronger than death. Help us to put our trust in Jesus, to keep our focus on Him, knowing He will never leave us or forsake us.

In His name, Amen.

Daphne Kitching – Parish Pump

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 10th 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.

Next What If? Course – Speak to Matt or email: revmattdavis@gmail.com for details.

Refer also to p2 & p3 for further information.

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 –

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

St Luke's Church – Refer to p2 & 3; p10 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 5th Feb, 10.30-12noon (1st Monday of the month except Bank Holidays) in the Bier House (on church site). Free admission, breakfast butties and hot drinks with vegetarian options available.
- 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.
 - 2nd Thursday 8th Feb – Singing for Fun.
 - 3rd Thursday 15th Feb – Singing is Good for Your Brain!
 - 4th Thursday 22nd Feb – Singalong with Ian & Geraldine.

Formby Methodist

- FM are celebrating their 150th anniversary this year and are marking it with several events throughout the year. The first event will take place on Thurs 7th March at 7.30pm (advanced notice) and is an illustrated talk by Joan Rimmer and Stephen Gerrard (not the footballer).
- Coffee Club 1st Tues of each month (6th Feb) 2-4pm – Formby Befriending Scheme.
- 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

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 3rd Mon of the month, 19th Feb.
- Family History Help Desk – once a month on a Tuesday. Contact Library for details and book in advance.
- 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.
- Reader Group's 1st session is on Frid 23rd Feb at 11.00am. This will be a relaxing, low-key, reading group which will run every month 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!
- 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 - For more information on activities and events, email: info@formbybefriendingscheme.org.uk

Sefton Dementia Action Alliance – contact Jan Campbell: jan.campbell@seftoncvcs.org.uk for information.

THE GALLERY

Churches Together's Musical Village Nativity



(Photos courtesy of David Hogben)

It's nice to be popular in Shyira!



(Photos courtesy of Fiona Grieveson)

Fiona writes: 'Wherever we went in Shyira we were always surrounded by children. Happy smiling children. They loved to have their photo taken but were even more keen to see the photos on our phones!!'

.....

CIRCUMSTANCES!

*How we pet them; how we give them right of way!
But the master never planned that we should fall beneath their sway.
Paul made circumstances serve him, made them glorify his Lord;
Turned each trial into blessing as he boldly preached the word.
'These things turned to my advantage' this old warrior oft would say,
For our good they work together, though they seem to cloud the day.*

Sent in by Barbara Weldrake (writer unknown)

ASSOCIATION OF FORMBY ARTISTS AUTUMN EXHIBITION 4TH NOVEMBER 2023

Our biannual Show of paintings and artwork at Holy Trinity Church Hall happened in November, when around 300 adults and children visited throughout the day. As usual, the high standard of such a variety of work allowed something for everyone, whatever their age!

The artists had used oils, acrylics, water-colours, inks, coloured pencils and pastels to achieve some amazing images. There were works using fabric, wool, beads and other materials to make marvellous pictures, patterns and impressions. Subjects included flowers, insects, animals and portraits. There were landscapes, seascapes and cityscapes. The images portrayed had used reality, imagination and abstraction – fantastic!

There was also the opportunity for children (and adults) to have a go at painting for themselves in the adjacent refreshment room.

In the main hall visitors could browse and buy from side tables offering:

1. Silk goods such as scarves, ties, bags and brooches
 2. Embroidered boxes and ornaments
 3. Handmade cards for a variety of occasions
- all of very high quality and ideal for Christmas gifts.

There was a raffle for an original painting by a local artist, Michael Treanor or an exquisitely embroidered box by Jen Palmer.

Everyone had an opportunity to vote for their favourite three paintings. Results were as follows:

- | | | |
|--------|-----------------------|---|
| No.133 | Cheeky Chap | by Di Pearson (a red squirrel) |
| No.65 | Tony from the Railway | by Elizabeth Harding-Huber (a portrait) |
| No.45 | Rainy London | by Geoff Fielding (a cityscape) |



Such a good day for all. If you missed it, then maybe we will see you next time in May!

Joan MacDonald AFA

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THOUGHT FOR FEBRUARY

Are you sticking to any new year's resolution/s you may have made last January? If you have given up on any, what about: "We cannot do great things. We can only do little things with great love" (Mother Teresa), or: "It's loving and giving that makes life worth living" (poet unknown). Both quotes taken from UCB Word for Today 13 January.

Jesus was the epitome of 'loving' and 'giving' – no better example to follow or resolution to keep in 2024 I would suggest!

KD

SPOTLIGHT ON DEANERY SYNOD

Despite being a member of the Church of England for many years, I had never really thought about the role of the Deanery Synod until I was asked to become one of St Luke's representatives earlier this year. A "synod" is simply a word for an "assembly", and the deanery synod is an assembly made up of clergy and lay representatives from each of its parishes. St Luke's is in the deanery of Sefton North, which includes the three Anglican churches in Formby together with churches in Great Altcar, Hightown, Maghull (3), Melling, Aintree, Blundellsands (2) and Crosby (2). This is a very diverse area with small rural parishes, a team ministry in Maghull and Melling, suburban and urban parishes of varying sizes. Our deanery is one of fifteen deaneries in the Diocese of Liverpool. The Diocese includes Southport, Wigan, Warrington, Widnes, St Helens, Ormskirk and Winwick.

So, what does the Deanery Synod do? This is perhaps best explained by describing a recent meeting of the Synod, which was held at St Andrew's, Maghull.

The meeting was opened by one of the Maghull clergy team, who briefly described the team ministry in Maghull and the history of St Andrew's, the oldest church in the town. This was followed by the main presentation of the meeting, an overview of the diocese's "Growing Faith Adventure" initiative from Dawn Harrison, the Diocesan Schools' Adviser. Churches, schools and parents are being encouraged to find new ways of working and worshipping together in order to spread the good news of the Gospel to both parents and children. This could involve meeting to worship at different times and in different places; finding ways to give children a voice in the life of the church; working together across school, church and home to give to those in need. Prayer is the common thread that should underpin each project, however big or small.

It struck me how relevant this is to St Luke's: we have an active Children's Church, strong links with St Luke's Primary School and we host Brownies, Guides, Beavers and Cubs in church buildings. But there is always room for fresh ideas and the diocesan initiative may help us along the way.

After a break for refreshments, the second half of the meeting was led by the lay chair, Liz Chestnutt, and Area Dean, Rev Canon Anne Taylor. There were updates about clergy moves, finance and administration matters. Whilst each parish pays its Parish Share directly to the Diocese, some monies are paid back to deaneries to fund Mission and Growth projects. It was good to hear that such funds are available, even in these difficult financial times.

The final presentation of the evening was from Andrew Cox, who was reporting back to the Deanery Synod from the Diocesan Synod. Financial and attendance details for 2022, the first "normal" year after COVID had been presented; across the Diocese, there has been a reduction of over 20% in church attendance and a financial deficit for 2022 in excess of £1 million. Fortunately, the Diocese has successfully procured funding from the national church to cover recent losses. Whilst Liverpool is not unusual in facing declining attendances, it does not have significant assets in property or investments to provide a buffer. The future will be challenging.

This Synod meeting is a good example of the blend between presentations about new initiatives and Diocesan resources on the one hand and administrative and financial issues on the other. The role of synod members is to report back to our PCCs and wider congregation, so that new ideas can be taken forward if appropriate for our own parish and to prepare for the challenges that lie ahead.

Hillary Griffin



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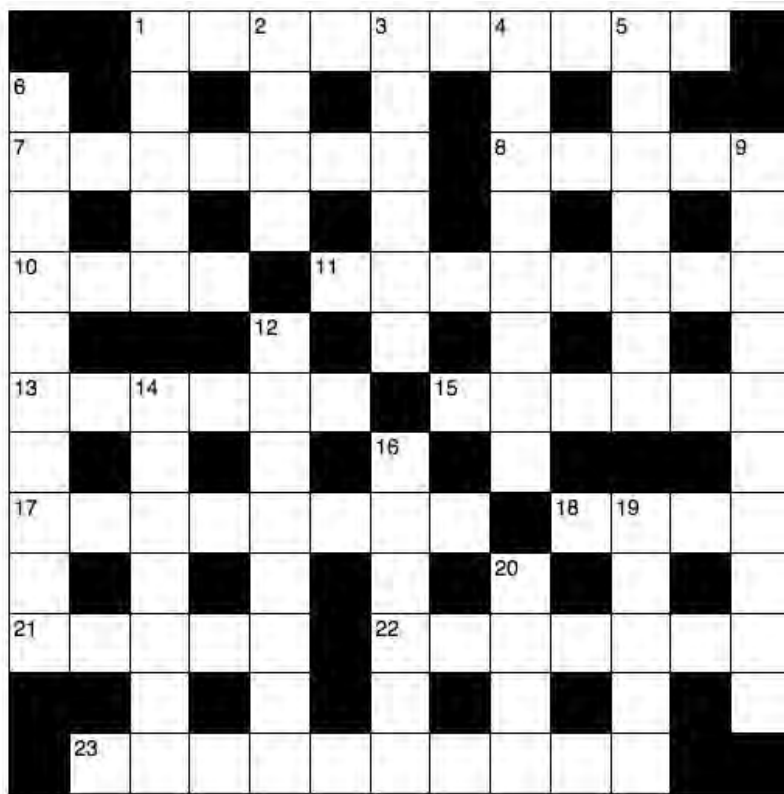
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CROSSWORD



Across

- 1 Success or wealth (Deuteronomy 28:11) (10)
- 7 Forbidden fruit for Nazirites (Numbers 6:3) (7)
- 8 Concede (Job 27:5) (5)
- 10 Look at (Psalm 48:13) (4)
- 11 Much in evidence after weddings (8)
- 13 Condense (Job 36:27) (6)
- 15 Breakwater (6)
- 17 Give a tan (anag.) (8)
- 18 More usually now called Pentecost, — Sunday (4)
- 21 After living for 365 years, it was said of him that 'he walked with God' (Genesis 5:23–24) (5)
- 22 Trampled (Judges 9:27) (7)

23 For example, Miriam, Deborah (Exodus 15:20; Judges 4:4) (10)

Down

- 1 Arrogance (Proverbs 8:13) (5)
- 2 Roman poet from first century BC (4)
- 3 So rapt (anag.) (6)
- 4 Declare again (2 Corinthians 2:8) (8)
- 5 Paul's 'fellow worker', to whom he sent two epistles (Romans 16:21) (7)
- 6 God's foreseeing care and protection (Job 10:12) (10)
- 9 Traditional form of Roman Catholic Mass (10)
- 12 'The Lord... has given the — of Israel to David and his descendants for ever' (2 Chronicles 13:5) (8)
- 14 'My soul glorifies the Lord and my spirit rejoices in God my —' (Luke 1:46–47) (7)
- 16 The central element in Nebuchadnezzar's dream, identified and interpreted by Daniel (Daniel 2:31) (6)
- 19 'On this rock I will build my church, and the gates of — will not overcome it' (Matthew 16:18) (5)
- 20 City where Paul was under house arrest for two years (Acts 28:16) (4)

(SOLUTION ON PAGE 24)

SMILE LINES –

Last night our WiFi stopped working, so I had to spend a few hours with my family. They seem like good people.

Many people's ambition: to be weighed and found wanting.

Seen it all, done it all, can't remember most of it.

SUDOKU

EASY

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

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MEDIUM

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

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(SOLUTIONS ON PAGE 24)

WORDSEARCH

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

February

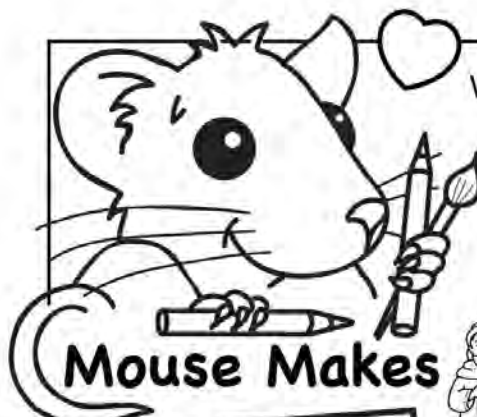
February is the month of romance. Millions of Valentine cards will be sent in the next week or two, as we celebrate our romantic love for that special person in our lives. But there are other kinds of love to celebrate: and on Candlemas we remember Mary and Joseph taking their baby son to the temple to present Him to God. Jesus' whole life was a loving present to us from God. Through His death for us on the cross, and His resurrection, His love can now transform anyone's life. Romances can die, but God's love for us is always there. But it won't do us much good – unless we accept it!

Valentine
Hearts
Rose
Romance
Love

Restaurant
Present
Kiss
Hug
Girlfriend

Boyfriend
Fiance
Worship
Repentance
Angels

Baby
Temple
Mary
Candlemas
Presentation



Who were the first couple?
 _____ and _____

Genesis 2:22-25

Who's wife became a pillar of salt because she disobeyed the angel's warning?

_____ Genesis 19:26



Which of Laban's daughters did Jacob love?

_____ Genesis 29:18

Who was Moses' wife?

Exodus 2:21

Who married Boaz to become King David's great-grandmother and a distant relative of Jesus?

_____ Matthew 1:5



FIND THE BIBLE VERSE

Change each letter in this bible verse to the letter **before** it in the alphabet.

XIBU HPE IBT
 KPJOFE UPHFUIFS,
 MFU OPU NBO
 TFQBSBUF.

NBSL
 UFO WFSTF
 OJOF

CONNECT THE BIBLE COUPLES

- ADAM ELIZABETH
- ABRAHAM MARY
- ISAAC HANNAH
- JACOB PRISCILLA
- BOAZ EVE
- ZECHARIAH RUTH
- ELKANAH REBEKAH
- AQUILA RACHEL
- JOSEPH SARAH

Which couple helped the Apostle Paul in his ministry?

_____ and _____ Romans 16:3

DID YOU KNOW?

King Solomon had **700** wives! They were princesses of royal birth and he loved them all, but his wives caused him to turn away from God
 See 1 Kings 11:1-3

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

- ABRAHAM
- ADAM • AQUILA
- BOAZ • ELKANAH
- ELIZABETH
- EVE • HANNAH
- ISAAC • JACOB
- JOSEPH • MARY
- PRISCILLA
- RACHEL
- REBEKAH • RUTH
- SARAH
- ZECHARIAH



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(Lev 27:30)



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