

St. Luke's Formby Parish Magazine

Price: £1.20 per issue

Cheaper by annual subscription

£10.00 for 10 issues a year

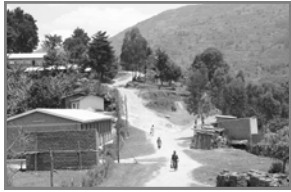
May 2024



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:

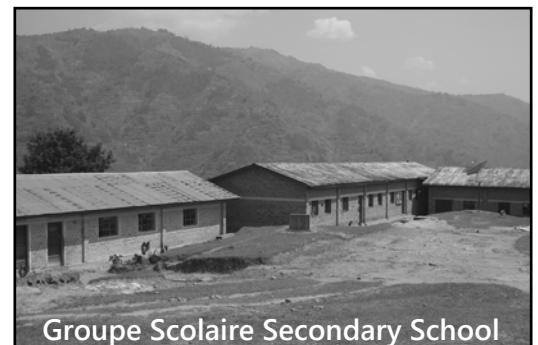
- To extend the MU support across Kivu Diocese
- To work through the Gisenyi MU to help the most needy parts of the Diocese



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

Last month saw a total solar eclipse delighting folk in North America, with a partial eclipse taking place here in Formby. Sadly, the cloud cover didn't make for a dramatic sunset across the Irish Sea. However, the resulting Spring tide, which coincided with stormy weather, had a dramatic effect on the coast. There are now mini cliffs along the length of the dunes and the wooden boardwalk had its bottom section dislodged.

The boardwalk has been closed for safety reasons and, while understandable, is a bit of a pain: it's my favourite way to get to the beach, and not just because it is the closest to the vicarage. As some of you know, I like to go running a few times a week and really enjoy running along the beach. There's nothing worse than being at the end of a run and having to run uphill on soft sand through the dunes with tired legs. While I can't claim to have ever run through actual treacle, I suspect soft sand is worse: at least treacle doesn't make your feet go backwards! I'm very much looking forward to the boardwalk being repaired and my favourite way to the beach reopening.

In the Bible, Jesus uses the idea of a "way" to describe himself. He says in John 14:6, *I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.* Jesus is saying that he is the way, he is the route to God. Jesus is how we can access a relationship with God the Father. He is the one who can introduce us to God. And because Jesus is the way to God, he is the one who brings life, who is life.

But Jesus goes further, which doesn't sound very politically correct: he is the *only* way to God the Father. He says he is *the* way, not *a* way, and, just in case we missed it, says explicitly, "No one comes to the Father except through me". This is where Jesus is different from the boardwalk through the dunes. He's not simply the best route or someone's favourite route among many possible routes. He is the only route to God the Father.

That can be hard for many of us to hear, never mind accept. But in fact, it is good that this is true because it means we can be fully confident in Jesus. Because Jesus is the only way to God, we can be sure he will lead us to God. He will never take a wrong turn. And because he is the only way, he will never be superseded by someone or something better. As the only, he is already the best. And finally, he will never be washed away or closed temporarily by a storm. That's the truth Jesus wants us all to know.

With every blessing,

Matt

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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)

CHURCH REGISTER

Funerals:

23rd April – Elizabeth Almond

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DATES AND NOTES

SERVICES – Services for May 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.

LENT PROJECT DONATIONS – The amount of £560 recorded in our April issue was an initial amount only. The total to date is £1,819. This may not be quite the final amount. Again, thank you to all who made donations in support of Lima (Peru) and Shyira (Rwanda).

SOUTHPORT SOUP KITCHEN – ongoing!

ASCENSION DAY – Thurs 9th May. Ascension Day Service is in St Michael & All Angels, Altcar @ 7.30pm.

PENTECOST & WHIT SUNDAY – 19th May.

TRINITY SUNDAY – 26th May.

APCM – Wed 8th May 7.30pm in Meeting Room.

NEXT PCC MEETING – Wed 22nd May 7.30pm.

NEXT MEETING OF SHYIRA TRUST TRUSTEES – Mon 20th May 7.30pm.

MOSES IN SHYIRA – p18.

INTERNATIONAL NURSES DAY – Sun 12th May.

MENTAL AWARENESS MONTH – May.

EARLY SPRING BANK HOLIDAY– Mon 6th May.

LATE SPRING BANK HOLIDAY – Mon 27th May.

NOTICES

Tuesday Lunch

Soup/sandwiches/cake & company, 12-2pm, Tues 7th May in Meeting Room. Donations for lunch welcome. Only one Tuesday Lunch in May.

Open Door Saturdays in Spring & Summer 10.00am - 12noon

We will be open on May 11th and 25th. Come along for a knit-and-natter, or just a natter. On May 11th there will be a plant sale in aid of Church funds – so we hope you will all bring along your spare seedlings and plants so that we have something to sell. Also, there will be sunflower seed planting for children (and the young at heart).

To keep us going through the Summer we hope to try and open every Saturday from 8th June until the 31st August. This, of course, will be dependent on there being more volunteers.

Can you help? Those of you who have been to our coffee morning will know that it is a simple event. Just mugs of tea and coffee, some cake and tea cakes. Items are not priced, and we only ask for donations. A team of 2 opens up, brings along milk, a cake (bought or home-made) and some tea cakes. Tea, coffee and sugar are all available in the meeting room. There are a couple of posters that can be put up on the lych gate.

If you can help or would like some more information, come along on the 11th or 25th, or speak to **Jean, Gwyneth or Di.**

(The Gifts to Funds Sat on 3rd Feb raised £230 for Church funds-thank you to all involved!)

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity - Sun 12th to Sat 18th May

The CTiFAH schedule for the week commences at St Peter's on Sunday 12th with evensong at 6.30pm and is followed by a half-hour prayer meeting 9.15-9.45am each morning at the following venues –

Monday 13th – The Lighthouse Church

Tuesday 14th – Our Lady of Compassion

Wednesday 15th – Formby URC

Thursday 16th – St Luke's

Friday 17th – St Stephen's, Hightown

Saturday 18th – Formby Methodist

Readers - have your say!

Do you have any suggestions for improving St Luke's Church parish magazine? If so, please contact our editors whose contact details can be found on pages 1 and 11 (p11 for paper copies). Positive and constructive ideas are always welcome for consideration.


Also, we are always searching for fresh and new contributions from our readers on various church related topics – articles, poems, photos etc – as a one-off or perhaps on a more regular basis. We would be happy to publish your contributions subject to editors' discretion.

The magazine has an important outreach function for our church and it 'belongs' to the parish. So why not have your say in its production. We want you to be more involved. Take ownership of it!

KD / MC

8th Formby (St Luke's) Scout Group Beavers and Cubs


Well, what a busy time we have been having here at our Beaver Colony and Cub Pack.

Scouts  At the beginning of the autumn term, we learnt about the History of Scouting across the World as well as the History of Scouting here at St Luke's, Formby. It really is exciting to know that in scouting we are part of a 'big family of young people', who share in the same values that make our world a better place to live in.

We have written letters to the children at St Mark's in Shyira and made a Scrapbook for Squirrel Beaver and Otter to take across to Rev Jacques when they visited in October. Along the way we learnt all about what life is like in Africa and in Shyira.

As always, our Leaders have kept us busy with lots of activities that enable us to earn more badges.



 In Beavers we have learnt lots of skills as part of our Skills Challenge including how to take care of ourselves and help with tasks around the house including: making our bed, keeping our room tidy and learning how to tie our shoelaces.

In Cubs we took the challenge one stage further and completed our Home Help badge, learning how to iron our scarves, sew on a badge, make a hot drink, and cook a simple meal. Hopefully, our young people are continuing to apply these helpful skills around the house!



We then went on to complete our My Faith Badge where we talked about what it means to live out our Scout promise and how we can always talk to God in prayer.



Our last major programme activity before Christmas was completing our Science Badge. As well as having a go at making crystals and slime we made an electrical circuit and constructed a magnetic lifting crane.



At the start of the summer term, we have welcomed six new Beavers and one new Cub Scout into the group. Getting to know each other has been lots of fun. We have tried some new fun games.

It was great to see some of our Beavers and Cubs at our wider Church events such as the Light Fair, and moving into the Spring term has opened up some other opportunities for them and their families to get involved in, including some great things that happen in the life of our Church. As a result of regularly helping at our Woodland Workshop, one of our Beavers achieved Stage 1 of the Community Impact Award.



(Continued on Page 5)



We also invited our Scout families to our Parish Breakfast for Shrove Tuesday. It was great to see some of our young people applying the skills they have learnt in scouting when making pancakes!

It was also great to see some of our children getting involved with reading prayers at our Mothering Sunday service as well as some of our scouting families coming along to the Easter Saturday walk and craft.

Throughout the term we have had a steady stream of young people eager to earn their Collectors badge and as such we have heard lots of interesting presentations from Beavers and Cubs about their collections - anything from Pokémon cards to aeroplanes.



We finished our spring term having

completed our Money Skills badge and going on our first Night Hike of the year; but not before our Leaders suggested how we could raise money for others less fortunate than ourselves as part of St Luke's Lent Project. Hopefully, our families are seeing the benefit of our 'job for the day for forty days' which will raise money for this year's Lent Project for Shyira (Rwanda) and Lima (Peru).

We really appreciate how lucky we are to have such amazing facilities here at St Luke's and hope to be able to take lots of opportunities during the summer term to use the great outdoor space and campfire. We might see many of you along the way and if we do we look forward to chatting to you a bit more about all the things we are doing.



Yours in Scouting,

The Beavers, Cubs their Leaders and Helpers.

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SMILE LINES –

Small boy: "Please, sir, my dad says you are a Doctor of Music". Famous pianist: "That is quite right". Small boy: "Then I wonder if you'd be so good as to mend my trumpet?".

"There will be a meeting of the Board immediately after the service", announced the minister. And so, after the close of the service, the Church Board gathered at the back of the church for the meeting. But there was a stranger in their midst - a visitor who had never attended their church before.

"My friend", said the minister gently, "Didn't you understand that this is a meeting of the Board?".

"Yes", said the visitor, "and after today's sermon, I suppose I'm just about as bored as anyone else who came to this meeting".

QUOTES FOR MAY FROM PARISH PUMP

Rogation Sunday (5th May) is about asking for God's protection and blessing -

Pure prayers have pure blessings. - *Thomas Goodwin*

Ascension Day (9th May) – the promise to return -

Many people will be surprised when Jesus comes again – but nobody will be mistaken. - *Anon*

He that rose from the clouds we expect from the clouds. - *Thomas Adams*

Pentecost (19th May) - that day in Jerusalem when God poured out the Holy Spirit -

A Christian may not always be conscious of the Holy Spirit's presence, but he would not even be a Christian in His absence. - *John Blanchard*

Before Christ sent the church into the world, He sent the Spirit into the Church. The same order must be observed today. - *John R W Stott.*

There are churches so completely out of the hands of God that if the Holy Spirit withdrew from them, they wouldn't find it out for many months. - *AW Tozer*

The Spirit is not given to make Bible study needless, but to make it effective. - *J I Packer*

Be ye fishers of men - you catch them, and He'll clean them. - *Anon*

Before Pentecost the disciples found it hard to do easy things; after Pentecost they found it easy to do hard things. - *A Gordon*

With Trinity Sunday (26th May) to remember -

Tell me how it is that in this room there are three candles and but one light, and I will explain to you the mode of the divine existence. - *John Wesley*

Miscellaneous musings on life -

How can we expect someone else to keep our secret if we have not been able to keep it ourselves? - *Francois, Duc de La Rochefoucauld*

Great faith is not the faith that walks always in the light and knows no darkness, but the faith that perseveres, in spite of God's seeming silence, and that faith will most certainly and surely get its rewards. - *Fr Andrew SDC*

It is easier for a father to have children than for children to have a real father. - *Pope John XXIII.*

Only one petition in the Lord's Prayer has any condition attached to it; it is the petition for forgiveness. - *Archbishop William Temple*

Hoping is disciplined waiting. - *E Hoffmann*

Humility is the hallmark of wisdom. - *J Collier*

To be aware that you are ignorant is a great step to knowledge. - *Anon*

A good man does good merely by living. - *Anon*

IMAGES OF CTIFAH GOOD FRIDAY VILLAGE WALK OF WITNESS AND PASSION PLAY AT FORMBY POOL GARDENS

(Images supplied by Angie Mullen and Patrick Trollope)



Angie Mullen



Patrick Trollope



Angie Mullen



Patrick Trollope



Patrick Trollope

Congratulations and well done to all involved in the production!



Association
of Formby Artists

ART EXHIBITION

Saturday 11th May 9.30am to 4-30

**Holy Trinity Church Hall,
Rosemary Lane, Formby**

**Admission - Adults £1 -
Refreshments Included**

FORMBY CHORAL SOCIETY



**A CONCERT OF
ANNIVERSARIES**

**Formby High School
(Freshfield Road, L37 3HW)**

Sat 8th June 7.30pm

**Tickets £13 (under 19 free)
available at www.formbychoralsociety.org**

FORMBY BEFRIENDING SCHEME - CHARITY NO 1171771



(Working together to reduce loneliness and isolation among older people)



“Many older people become lonely when they lose a loved one or family move away from the area; sometimes their mobility declines or they develop health problems that result in them being confined to the house more often. This can make them feel very isolated and lead to increased anxiety or, in some cases, depression.

The Formby Befriending Scheme (FBS) offers companionship and support to older people who have become isolated or who are no longer able to get out as much as they need to. Our main aim is to match volunteers to older people in Formby, Hightown and Ince Blundell who might benefit from the regular companionship of a ‘befriender’.

Regular Coffee Clubs are held to provide a meeting place for people involved in the FBS and others who perhaps live alone or simply want to make new friends.” (FBS website: formbybefriendingscheme.org.uk). For further information on Coffee Clubs email: info@formbybefriendingscheme.org.uk or ring 07437 479 417.



The Co-Op has something called the Local Community Fund. Co-Op members choose which local cause they want to support each time they shop, and last year the FBS were one of the lucky recipients with £3,381.55 being donated. The FBS team were amazed at the generous support from Co-Op members and extremely grateful to everyone involved, including



the management and staff at your local Co-Op in Queens Road. Their support means FBS can continue their befriending and Coffee Clubs all year round - as the photos show.

The FBS team also say “thank you” to all friends in the Scheme, especially volunteers. More volunteers are always needed, especially ‘volunteer drivers’.

The FBS Team

SERVICES FOR MAY 2024

Thursday 2nd May

11.00am Holy Communion
(Readings: Acts 15: 7-21 & John 15: 9-11)

Sunday 5th May – Easter 6

8.30am Traditional Service
10.30am All-Age Holy Communion
(Readings: Acts 2: 42-47 & John 15: 9-17)

Sunday 12th May – Easter 7

8.30am Traditional Service
10.30am Contemporary Service*
(Readings: Acts 3: 11-26 & John 17: 6-19)

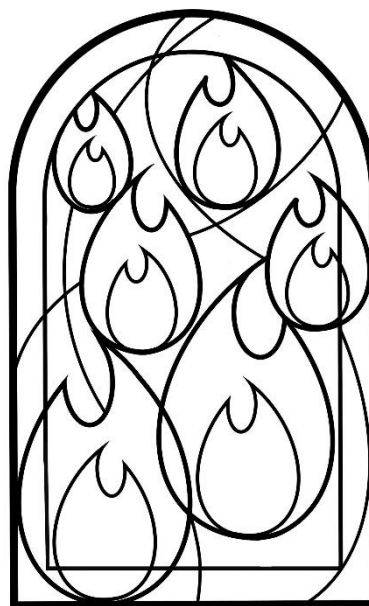
Sunday 19th May – Pentecost

8.30am Traditional Service
10.30am Contemporary Service*
with Holy Communion
(Readings: Rom 8: 22-27 & John 15: 26 -16: 11)

Sunday 26th May – Trinity

8.30am Traditional Service
10.30am Contemporary Service*
(Readings: Isa 6: 1-8 & Mark 1: 1-13)

(*Kids@StLuke's - 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)**

A poetic prayer for Pentecost by Alan Millichip (Parish Pump)

*Happy Birthday to all Christians,
This is where it all began.
Out from here went the apostles,
Taking Christ to everyone.*

*Able now to speak to nations,
With the good news to proclaim.
Crucified for our salvation,
Hear His message, learn His name.*

*Out they went to every corner,
Fearless as they spread the word.
Bringing light to those in darkness,
Giving hope to all that heard.*

*So must we with every blessing,
Follow in the steps they trod.
Showing love and help and kindness,
All come from the breath of God.*

WHO'S WHO

Vicar	Rev Dr Matt Davis
Readers	Mrs Anne Dixon Mrs Jean Watts
Reader Emeritus	Mr Chris Mulford Prof Allan Hobson
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 Valerie Hogben
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.

Refer also to p2 & p3 for further information.

Youth Alpha Group for secondary school students from 7.45-9.00pm each Sun during school term time. Started late January. It is led by Liz & Matt in the MEETING ROOM. It is a relaxed time with a short video. 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 – 2nd Sat am of the month.

Uniformed Organisations in the Church Hall unless otherwise stated –

Rainbows	Contact District Commissioner		Sheila Kirk	875393
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Brownie Guides

4 th Formby	Monday (In Meeting Room)	6.00pm	Julie Maher	07811 907003
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8 th Formby	Wednesday	6.00pm	Jenette Rowlands	
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Guides

4 th Formby	Wednesday	7.30pm	Julie Clark	833757
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Beavers	Thursday (In Meeting Room)	5.45pm	John Gelder (Beavers8thFormbyStLukes@outlook.com)	876456
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Cub Scouts	Thursday (In Meeting Room)	6.45pm	Bob Ford (Cubs8thFormbyStLukes@outlook.com)	873026
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Group Scout Leader		Gordon Hilbert		874167
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PCC – if you would like to communicate a concern to the PCC, **The Standing Committee Members** are Rev Dr Matt Davis (Vicar), Hugh Dixon (Treasurer), Steve Ginn (Warden), Fiona Grieveson (Warden), Dr David Hogben (Secretary).

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

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WHAT'S ON FOR THE 'ELDERLY' IN MAY

St Luke's Church – Refer p2 & 3; p10 for Services; p12 What's On; Weekly News Sheets.

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 13th May, 10.30-12noon (1st Monday of the month normally, except Bank Holidays, May Day on Mon 6th May) in the Bier House on Church site. Free admission.
- Singing Thursdays! (except for 1st Thurs of the month) in the parish hall - 2pm (doors open 1.45pm) and finish approx. 3.30pm. Free entry and refreshments. Everyone welcome – especially carers and their loved ones.
 - 2nd Thursday 9th May – Singing for Fun.
 - 3rd Thursday 16th May – Singing is Good for Your Brain!
 - 4th Thursday 23rd May – Singalong with Ian & Geraldine.

Formby Methodist

- FM are celebrating their 150th anniversary this year and are marking it with several events throughout the year at Elbow Lane. One event in May.
 - Fri 10th May at 7.30pm – Ian Tracey (Liverpool Anglican Cathedral Organist) with Jack Watson (Tenor).
- Coffee Club 1st Tues of each month (7th May) 2-4pm.
- The Carers' Support Group meets every Fri afternoon 2.00-4.00pm at the Methodist Church. Contact Irene for further information: tel 876219 or via email on p16 for Formby Befriending Scheme.

150 Years of Methodism in the Formby Community

No One's A Stranger Twice

by

local author

Alastair Gillies

"It was not until I had the privilege of reading this carefully researched and thoughtfully written book, beautifully illustrated, that I came to realise the breadth and depth of the history of Formby Methodist Church within the Formby community. Enjoy! You are in for a treat." (Rev Dr Sheryl Anderson, Chair of Liverpool Methodist District)

Available from 3 March 2024

from

Derbyshires, Chapel Lane and Formby Methodist Church, Elbow Lane (Sundays)

£10

(plus £2.50 p&p)

(all proceeds to Church funds)

With kind support from

Formby Parish Council, Formby Civic Society and Derbyshires

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, Mon 20th May.
- Family History & IT Desk one to one sessions running as usual – once a month on a Tuesday. Contact Library for date and time and to book in advance.
- Regular Free Coffee Mornings every Thursday 10.30-12noon throughout the Spring and Summer.
- Gardening Club will continue through Spring and interested persons can go on the mailing list to be notified about sessions.

(Continued on Page 16)

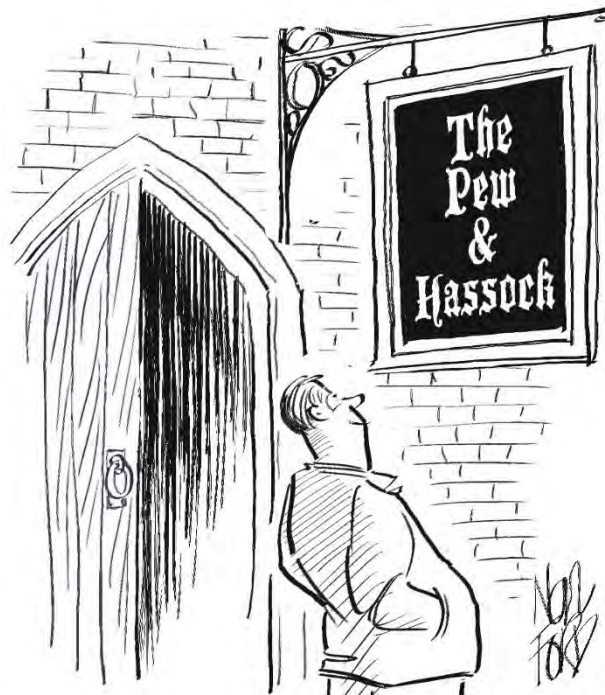
- There was a taster Creative Needlework session with Narwhal Gebreel last March. Following on from the taster the Library hoped to run a 6-week course. Contact Library to check if this is still the case.
- Monthly talk; Creative Writing & Formby Hub; Shared Reading Group – all ongoing, check with Library for details.
- Check Sefton Libraries website regularly for up-to-date information on events and activities.

St Michael & All Angels, Altcar – annual summer invitation to any of the CTiFAH churches to a joint evensong on Sun 5th May. Tea, coffee and cakes served from 2.00 to 4.00pm followed by evensong. All visitors welcome.

Formby Befriending Scheme – See p9. For further information on activities and events, email: info@formbybefriendingscheme.org.uk

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

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Changing the name from 'St Mark's Parish Church', resulted in a big increase in the number of men attending services

THOUGHT FOR MAY

May is Mental Health Awareness Month and has been observed since 1949. How the physiological processes of the brain and psychological workings of the mind function are both beyond my meagre comprehension. I know the brain exists as an organ inside the head of a human body, but where can we find the mind within that same body? Does it exist at all in any tangible form? If we acknowledge that it does exist and thereby influences our mental thought processes and subsequent actions – mind over matter for better or worse – then we need to take its existence seriously. After all, MIND is a mental health charity and that exists.

At the extremities of the mind's workings, we can experience great joy and happiness at one end polarised against grave anxiety and depression at the other. Mental illness can harm us for a lifetime - and even destroy us altogether! What then is the best therapy for anyone persistently prone to the downside of life? Answer – make Jesus your best friend!

KD

St Luke's PCC continue to donate 10% of the monies received through voluntary giving each year to eleven different charities. This is one of an occasional series of articles highlighting the work of one of those charities.

MERCY SHIPS

Living on the coast as we do, it seems appropriate that one of the charities which we support has a maritime connection. **Mercy Ships** is an international charity, working to follow Jesus' example of bringing hope and healing to the poor. Its main aims are to provide:

- Medical care and surgery
- Training for local healthcare professionals
- Improvements to healthcare infrastructure

It operates in some of the poorest coastal nations in Africa from its two hospital ships, *Africa Mercy* and *Global Mercy*. In sub-Saharan Africa, around 90% of the population do not have access to safe, timely and affordable surgery.

The charity worked on projects and partnerships with nine African countries in 2023:

- Senegal and Gambia: *Global Mercy* based at Dakar for surgeries up until June, in addition to training local health professionals. This was the first period of field service for *Global Mercy*
- Guinea: training in dentistry, anaesthetics and biomedical engineering in partnership with the University
- Sierra Leone: *Global Mercy* arrives in August to start a 10-month period of field service during which hundreds of surgeries will be performed
- Liberia and Benin: anaesthesia training and nutritional agriculture training programmes
- Togo: working in partnership with local organisations providing cataract surgery
- South Africa: obstetrics and paediatrics training
- Madagascar: preparation for field service in 2024, assessing patients

During the year, *Africa Mercy* was refitted in South Africa. This included renovations to the hospital, updating laboratory, pharmacy and radiology equipment in addition to maintenance of less specialised areas of the vessel. It is hoped that *Africa Mercy* will now be able to continue its work well into the 2030s.

The scope of the work is very wide, but the impact on individuals is often life changing. Many of the health conditions which are treated are those that are associated with poverty and could otherwise be eradicated.

It is well worth digging deeper and reading some of the individual stories which can be found on the charity's website, www.mercyships.org.uk

Hillary Griffin

Moise KANYAMUHANDA in Rwanda

Moise, or Moses as he is known in English, is a Catechist in Rwanda. A Catechist is the Rwandan equivalent of a Reader in England. I first got to know him when I went to Shyira in 2001 and have been very friendly with him ever since. In Rwanda Catechists are often used to run churches, or a second church of a parish, referred to as a sub parish.



Moses was moved from Shyira to Butaka where he was tasked with planting a church and getting a building for the new congregation. We at St. Luke's helped with funding for the new church building. Moses was an excellent person for the task because he is a dedicated evangelist. On one occasion when a group from St Luke's were visiting, we came across Moses conducting a Bible study.

There was a group of women sat on the grass verge of a track with Moses standing in the roadway teaching with quite a lot of arm waving (see picture).

I am no longer able to travel to Rwanda and that has prompted Moses to send me an email that contained the following message (English is his third language so you will need to excuse the errors):

'For us, we are good and still serving the Lord where we were appointed by Bishop of Shyira Diocese as new leader of Sub Parish even if we still struggling with long Walking Journey from our home place to church but we thank God for his trust on us.

Truly, we have a request that we want to address to you, we wish that you can find for us a New friend at Formby parish which is active especially in those who use to come and visit Rwanda as you did in the years ago, so that we can have a Friendship and being Connected with so that he/she may also visiting us at Church as you did before.

We wish you a blissful Lent Season as we experience the Love of God upon the World.

May the Lord bless you and keep you make his face shine upon you and be gracious to you.'

Please let me know if you would like to be that friend and I will put you in touch with Moses.

(NB Moses' parish is in Shyira Diocese. Shyira village is part of Kivu Diocese under Bishop Augustin. Shyira Diocese has its own separate bishop).

Allan Hobson

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SMILE LINES - After the local mission outreach had concluded, the three ministers were discussing the results with one another. The Methodist minister said, "The mission worked out great for us! We gained four new families". The Baptist preacher said, "We did better than that! We gained six new families". The Anglican priest said, "Well, we did even better than that! We got rid of our 10 biggest troublemakers!".



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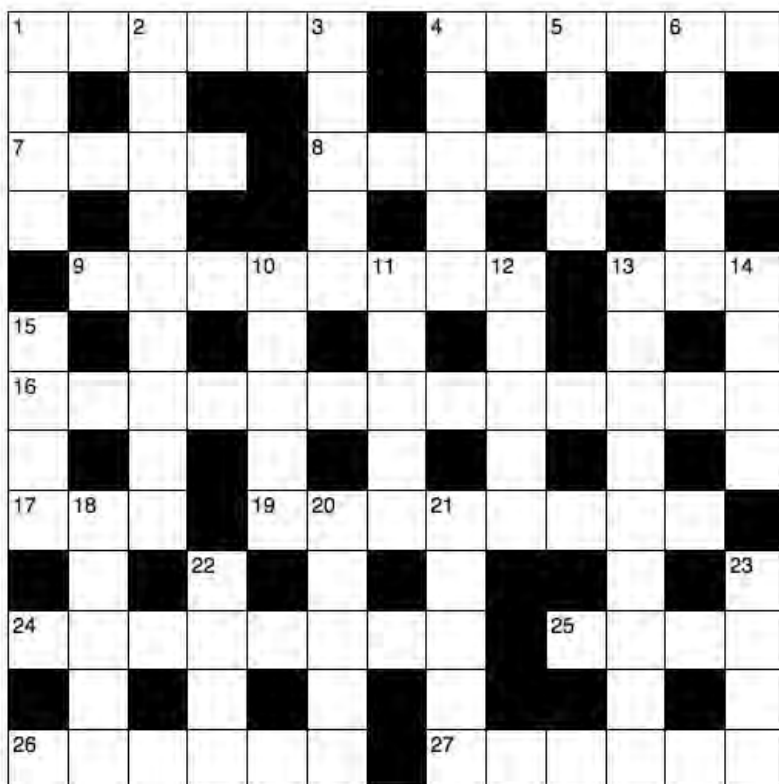
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CROSSWORD



ACROSS

- 1 One who owes money, goods or services (Isaiah 24:2) (6)
 4 'A good measure, pressed down, — together and running over' (Luke 6:38) (6)
 7 Continuous dull pain (Proverbs 14:13) (4)
 8 This bread contains yeast (Amos 4:5) (8)
 9 'But take heart! I have — the world' (John 16:33) (8)
 13 And the rest (abbrev.) (3)
 16 What Paul was accused of by Tertullus, the high priest's lawyer, in his trial before Felix (Acts 24:5) (13)
 17 Rap (anag.) (3)
 19 Founder of the Jesuits in 1534 (8)
 24 'For where your — is, there your heart will be also' (Luke 12:34) (8)

- 25 The first word written on the wall during King Belshazzar's great banquet (Daniel 5:25) (4)
 26 'We all, like sheep, have gone —' (Isaiah 53:6) (6)
 27 One was given in honour of Jesus in Bethany (John 12:2) (6)

DOWN

- 1 'The blind receive sight, the lame walk, the — hear, the dead are raised' (Luke 7:22) (4)
 2 Conduct (Colossians 1:21) (9)
 3 In the Catholic and Orthodox traditions, the body of a saint or his belongings, venerated as holy (5)
 4 'Like a — of locusts men pounce on it' (Isaiah 33:4) (5)
 5 Very old (Genesis 44:20) (4)
 6 In Calvinist theology, one who is predestined by God to receive salvation (5)
 10 How Nicodemus addressed Jesus when he visited him one night (John 3:2) (5)
 11 Sea (Psalm 148:7) (5)
 12 'I will — you, my God the King; I will praise your name for ever and ever' (Psalm 145:1) (5)
 13 One of the groups of philosophers that Paul met in Athens, who disagreed with his teaching about the resurrection (Acts 17:18) (9)
 14 Barred enclosure (Ezekiel 19:9) (4)
 15 'Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in — with the Spirit' (Galatians 5:25) (4)
 18 Cares (anag.) (5)
 20 Garish (Ezekiel 16:16) (5)
 21 'So God said to Noah, "I am going to put — — to all people"' (Genesis 6:13) (2,3)
 22 Just (2 Corinthians 6:13) (4)
 23 'The — of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge' (Proverbs 1:7) (4)

(SOLUTIONS ON PAGE 24)

SUDOKU

EASY

MEDIUM

(SOLUTIONS ON PAGE 24)

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

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

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WORDSEARCH

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

Rogation Sunday

The first Sunday in May is Rogation Sunday. This is when many parishes still 'beat the bounds'. Rogation means an asking of God - for blessing on the seed and land. The practice began with the Romans, who processed around the cornfields each Spring, singing and dancing, sacrificing animals, in order to get rid of evil. About 465 AD the Western world was suffering from earthquake and storm. Mamertius, Bishop of Vienne, aware of the pagan custom, ordered that prayers should be said in the ruined or neglected fields. Thus 'beating the bounds' became a Christian ceremonial. It arrived in England early in the eighth century. Each Spring, led by the priest, a little party from the parish would set out with a Cross to trace the boundaries of the

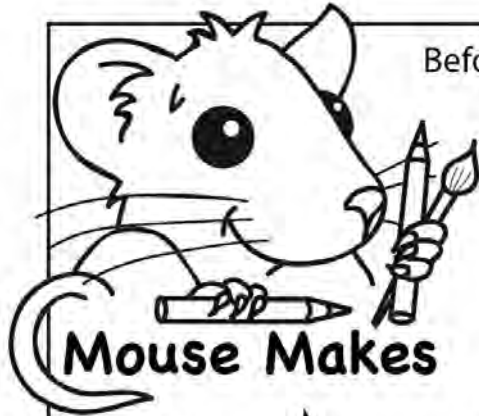
parish. They'd implore God to keep their corn and roots and boughs in good health and bring them to harvest. In the days when maps were scarce, 'beating the bounds' helped remind everyone just where the boundaries were. Do you know yours today?

Sunday
 May
 Rogation
 Beat
 Bounds


Asking
 Blessing
 Seed
 Land
 Romans

Processed
 Cornfields
 Spring
 Earthquake
 Storm

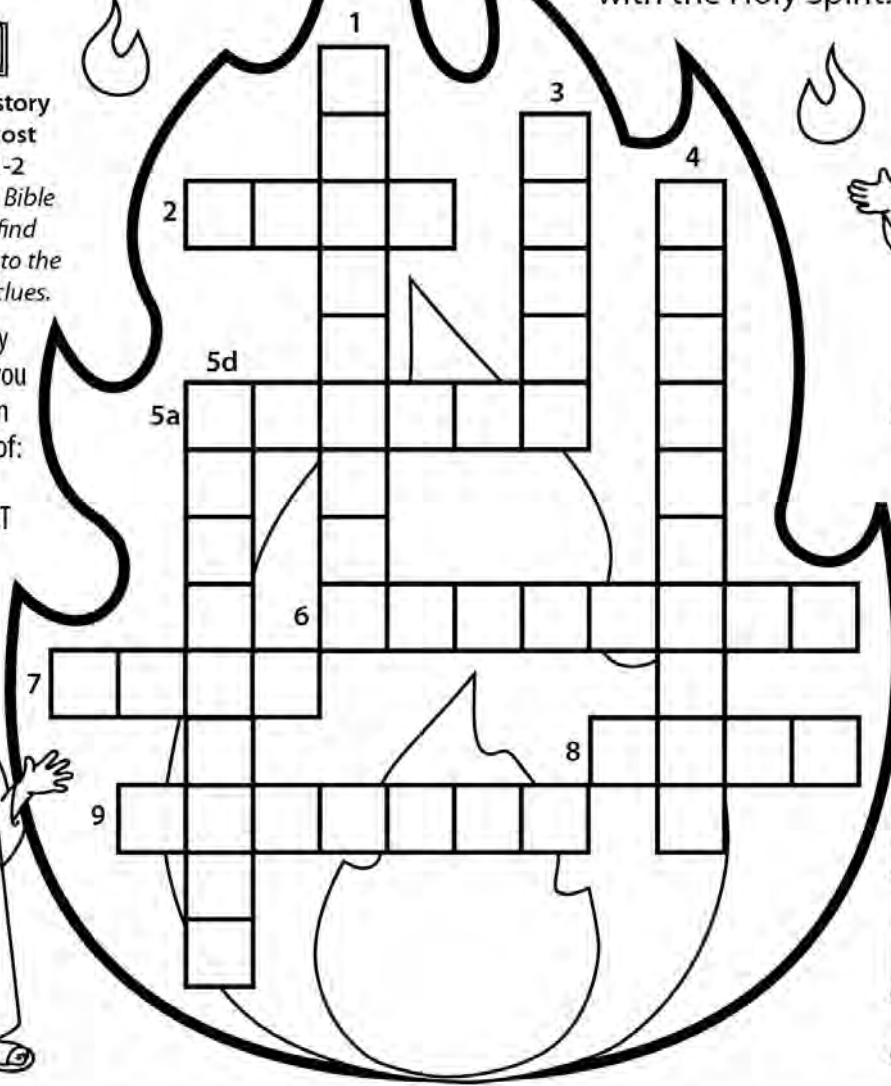
Prayer
 Cross
 Boundaries
 Crops
 Harvest
 Maps



Before Jesus ascended to heaven he told his disciples
 "You will receive power when the Holy Spirit
 has come upon you, and you will be my
 witness in Jerusalem and in all Judea
 and Samaria, and to the end of the earth"...
 ...When the day of Pentecost arrived,
 they were all together in one place,
 and they were all filled
 with the Holy Spirit."


READ the story
 of Pentecost
 in Acts 1-2
 Look up the Bible
 verses to find
 the answers to the
 crossword clues.

How many
 words can you
 make from
 the letters of:
 DAY OF
 PENTECOST



- 1 After Jesus ascended into heaven, which city did the Apostles return to? *Acts 1:12*
- 5a What did the Apostles devote themselves to? *Acts 1:14*
- 6 Who was chosen to replace Judas? *Acts 1:26*
- 5d Which special day was it? *Acts 2:1*

- 8 What rushing sound came from heaven? *Acts 2:2*
- 2 What appeared? Tongues of ...? *Acts 2:3*
- 4 What were the disciples filled with? *Acts 2:4*
- 9 What did they start speaking in? *Acts 2:4*
- 3 Who spoke to the crowd? *Acts 2:14*
- 7 Who had prophesied this? *Acts 2:16*

SUDOKU SOLUTIONS

EASY

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

MEDIUM

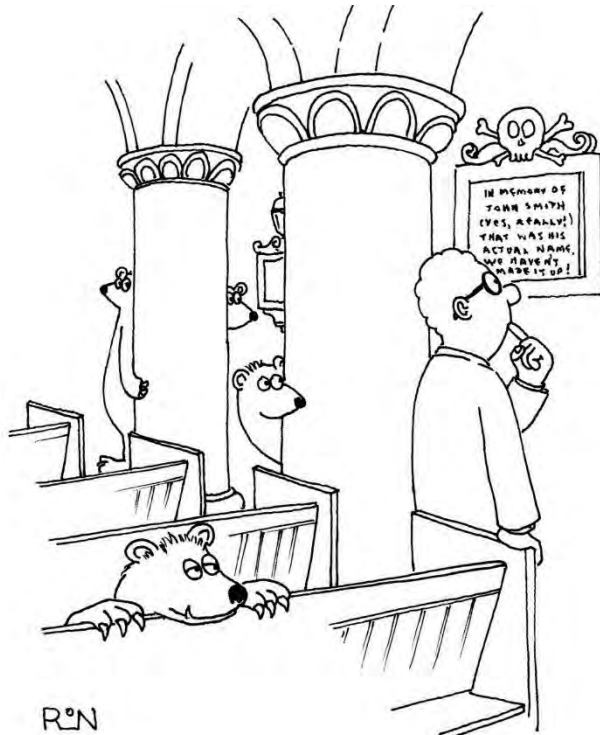
3	2	7	8	9	1	4	5	6
9	1	4	6	5	3	8	2	7
5	8	6	7	4	2	9	1	3
4	6	9	2	7	5	1	3	8
7	5	2	3	1	8	6	4	9
1	3	8	4	6	9	2	7	5
6	9	5	1	2	7	3	8	4
2	7	3	9	8	4	5	6	1
8	4	1	5	3	6	7	9	2

CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS

ACROSS: 1, Debtor. 4, Shaken. 7, Ache. 8, Leavened. 9, Overcome. 13, Etc. 16, Troublemaking. 17, Par. 19, Ignatius. 24, Treasure. 25, Mene. 26, Astray. 27, Dinner.

DOWN: 1, Deaf. 2, Behaviour. 3, Relic. 4, Swarm. 5, Aged. 6, Elect. 10, Rabbi. 11, Ocean. 12, Exalt. 13, Epicurean. 14, Cage. 15, Step. 18, Acres. 20, Gaudy. 21, An end. 22, Fair. 23, Fear.

.....



*Dennis spent a long time in church
looking for his forbears*



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IN THE POOREST NATIONS



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of our unrestricted
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charity
(Lev 27:30)



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