May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in Him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Romans 15: 13  [NIV]
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

Butaka Parish Church
Aim: To provide a church in Butaka
Achieved:
- Building completed
- Worshipping community in church
Challenges:
- Fund windows, doors and flooring

Groupe Scolaire Secondary School
- Continuing to support needy students in Shyira

Primary Schools
Aim:
- To support school ministry by providing equipment, school materials and evangelistic outreach.

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.give.net/shyiratrust
Like us on Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/shyiratrust
READER’S LETTER

Dear Friends

From the time of my writing this letter to the point when you read it, the headlines of our news and the circumstances we are living in will I imagine be quite different - though the headlines I would think will still be about the Corona Virus.

At this time Italy is in complete lock down, the new cases of the virus are rising fast across the world, along with the sadness and trauma of many deaths. We in the UK are in the containment stage of the virus and heading for the delay stage.

There is panic buying in the shops and a feeling of uncertainty about how we go about our everyday lives. There are those who right now are suffering the grief of bereavement because of the virus. We look to our Government for guidance to make the right and wise decisions. This is a heavy burden for them. We must pray for them, for ourselves, our country and the world - for God’s intervention to bring about healing and restoration.

We must not forget in our prayers either the trauma many are suffering due to the floods caused by the storms we have had.

Where do we turn for help? Where do we turn when we are worried and fearful?

In the Bible it tells us that the psalmist says “where does my help come from? My help comes from the Lord, the Maker of heaven and earth.”

So we need not fear when we trust in God who is the one who gives his peace in all circumstances. John tells us, in his first letter, how God loves us and says “perfect love drives out all fear.” There is no greater love than God’s, shown perfectly in Jesus. And also the promise of God to Isaiah and to us is: ‘So do not fear for I am with you, do not be dismayed, for I am your God’. ‘I will strengthen you with my righteous right hand’. There are many more verses in the bible which tell us not to fear but to trust in God.

You will be reading this in Holy Week, the week of Christ Jesus’ greatest suffering. Jesus knew what lay ahead for him, the abandonment of his frightened disciples, the lies, the beating, whipping and the nailing to the cross. Yet what was Jesus doing before his painful prayer in Gethsemane, before his arrest? Jesus was praying to God his Father for himself, that in all that lay ahead he would bring glory to God his father whom he trusted in all things.

Editor: Margaret Cooke (e-mail: macooke29@gmail.com)
Illustrator: Joan MacDonald
St. Luke’s Facebook Page: facebook.com/StLukesChurchFormby
He then prayed for his disciples, knowing they would abandon him, yet asking God to protect them and unite them in the power of the name of Jesus. Then he prayed for us, you and me and all who would believe in him. It is worth reading the whole of Chapter 17 of John’s Gospel to see and know what a beautiful Saviour and Lord we have.

God never stops thinking of us, or loving us and wanting us to know and experience his peace in our everyday lives.

I will end this letter with the hope God gives us as we trust in him. We see that hope perfectly when we remember the first Easter when God raised his son Jesus from the dead. The darkness of death could not hold him. And as we put our faith in him, our sins will be forgiven and we are assured of his help and his love in times of trouble as we lean on him.

I will round this letter off with our church’s verse for the year. ‘May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. Romans 15:13

God bless you.
Jean Watts

DATES AND NOTES

PRAYER CHAIN – Please contact Philip Lowe if you know of someone who would appreciate prayer support (p.h.lowe50@btinternet.com). We’d also like to remind you about the Book of Healing which is kept at the back of church on the left of the door as you come in. You can write in this the names of anyone you would like us to pray for.

EASTER MEMORIES – Saturday April 4th – now cancelled

TUESDAY LUNCH is cancelled till further notice.

WALK OF WITNESS AND PASSION PLAY on GOOD FRIDAY APRIL 10th. Meet at the Waitrose end of Chapel Lane for 11am. The Play is scheduled to start at 11.20am.

WOODLAND WORKSHOP – this will start at 9am on Saturday April 11th. Please speak to Peter Griffin if you are interested in helping.

CRAFT MORNING – cancelled till further notice.

LIGHT BREAKFAST – cancelled till further notice.

ANNUAL PAROCHAL CHURCH MEETING scheduled to take place on Thursday April 23rd at 7.30pm will probably be postponed. More information in the next issue or on the website.

WHAT’S ON FOR THE ELDERLY IN APRIL – please see Page 15 BUT CHECK BEFOREHAND.

SHYIRA TRUST – Coffee Morning at Holy Trinity Workshop raised £294. A big thankyou to everyone who helped to raise this sum.

USED INK CARTRIDGES FOR SHYIRA TRUST – is the Editor the only person not using Epson cartridges? All other cartridges can be posted to a recycling organisation who then make a small donation to the Shyira Trust. For envelopes, please speak to Margaret Cooke.

PLEASE NOTE THAT ACTIVITIES MENTIONED ON PAGE 12 ARE PROBABLY ALL IN ABYANCE UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE
Tea Room Opens
Friday 1st May
and
each Friday, Saturday
& Bank Holiday Monday
11:00am - 4:00pm
until August 31st
in

Lifeboat Tea Room Update

You will see on our advertisement that we hope to open the Tea Room on Friday 1st May. As I type this the situation re. Covid-19 is changing by the minute with ‘self-isolation’ for the over 70s seemingly imminent. If this happens our pool of volunteers for the Tea Room will be greatly reduced so it really is a case of WATCH THIS SPACE.

St. Luke’s Meeting Room
THE CAT WITH NINE LIVES!

I watch our local cat with some amusement. With his black and white fur he is to be seen most days prowling around his patch and at times doing some rather peculiar things. For example not so long ago I watched him take on a passing dog. We have an area of grass in front of the house which is part of his territory along which dog walkers regularly pass. Our furry friend began leaping garden walls at high speed to confront a passing dog on a lead. It screamed and spat at the dog then attacked it. The dog’s owner pulled on the lead to separate them and hurried off. Our cat friend just sat on its haunches under a tree and started to lick its paws. I don’t know to which house the cat belongs in our area. Perhaps someone will let me know.

That’s not all because some time afterwards our paths crossed again. On a hot sunny day when backing out of the drive onto the road, I checked my rear mirror. I was horrified to see the cat lying in the middle of the road just behind the car - apparently dead. Shock! Horror! I had obviously run over it. I leaped from the car thinking of the nearest Vet. Walking towards the body I remembered the time when our daughter Justine had run over her own cat in similar circumstances. As I approached, believe it or not, the cat raised its head, looked at me and began to lick its paws! It took not a blind bit of notice of me, nor of a neighbour who had seen it all. The cat stretched itself, got to its feet off the warm tarmac and sauntered off. ‘I watched it,’ said my neighbour. ‘It was sunbathing in the middle of the road and took no notice as you backed out.’

Now I’m a cat person and could tell you some funny stories about the cats I grew up with as a child. I grew up with a particular cat, ‘Wally’, who, when I left for school, would jump up and wrap himself round my neck until the end of the road when I would deposit him on a gate post. Believe it or not, when I came home in the late afternoon he was on the gate post waiting for me. He would wrap himself round my neck until home was reached. He was 18 when he died. I still mourn his loss. And why not, I ask? He shared my childhood with me.

It seems that we humans have only one life to live which is of course the same as cats who are really in effect escapologists. The end of that one life worries us. In reply to
our questions the atheist says, ‘when you are dead, you’re dead.’ A bit like my old friend from student days, Epicurus, who taught in a garden in the Athens of the third century B.C. Once a man came to see him and said that he was afraid of death. ‘Don’t worry,’ said Epicurus. ‘When it happens, you won’t be there.’ Also he said to the man. ‘Can you remember anything before you were born.’ ‘No,’ said the man. ‘Well then’, said Epicurus. ‘It will be the same after you are dead.’ By the way, his book on ‘The Art of Happiness’ is as good today as it was in his own day and age. In it he said that the greatest happiness in life was relief from pain. Just think about that one! That old boy knew a thing or two!

Now it may seem strange to some of my readers that the cars down St Luke’s Road on a Sunday do not all belong to the dog owning fraternity but members of St Luke’s who actually declare that there is another life after death. In the Creed every Sunday we say, ‘And we look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come’. That is built on a faith, not a philosophy of life. A faith built on the hard historical and verifiable facts of the death and resurrection of Jesus of Nazareth in 30 A.D. which we will be thinking about during Holy Week and especially on Easter Day, the 12th April. So from cats with nine lives to you and me with our one life. Don’t let your cat, if you have one, fool you. He is definitely an escapologist. But you and I are really offered new life in God’s Kingdom and it’s there to be taken. Happy Easter!

Revd. Roy Baker

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DATES AND NOTES CONTD.

PAGE 12 – WHAT’S ON – please note that virtually all these activities will be in abeyance at the moment until further notice.

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I was just wondering if I could get some time off to hibernate this winter.

with acknowledgment to the Oldie magazine
Enthusiastic, excited children are dressed up ready. It’s nearly time for the school assembly; a ladder and tree are in place. The story of Jesus and Zacchaeus is about to unfold, led by the team of storytellers.

It all started ten years ago when storytellers, who were involved in sharing Bible stories with children in primary schools in Crosby and Waterloo, were invited to help launch a similar initiative in Formby. The storytellers go into local primary schools sharing Bible stories in a fun, interactive way with drama, props, and costumes.

Now, ten years later, we are building on this great work to launch ‘Open the Book’, the Bible Society’s principal primary education programme. Each week thousands of children in primary schools across the country are able to engage with the Bible through these assemblies. The programme is carefully designed to be suitable for children of all faiths and none; it is favourably received by OFSTED and helps schools meet the statutory requirements for collective worship. We are pleased that Open the Book has been adopted by Churches Together in Formby, Altcar and Hightown.

Currently we are involved with leading Open the Book assemblies in four primary schools: St Luke’s (Church of England), Our Lady of Compassion (Catholic), Redgate (community school), and St Jerome’s (Catholic). Our vision is to offer this programme to all primary schools in Formby. In order to make this a reality we need a large pool of storytellers from local churches who can be called on from time to time according to their availability. At the moment we visit the schools on a monthly basis and meet to pray and plan for about an hour during the week before the assemblies.

Before I moved to Formby last year I was involved with Open the Book in Malvern and found it to be an exciting mission initiative helping to build the Kingdom of God. We praise God that children describe Open the Book as the ‘the best assembly of the week’ and we pray for the seeds that are planted to grow and flourish. Recently, the head teacher at one of our schools reported that children were excited about Open the Book and were asking when the team were coming in again.

You do not need any special skills to be involved; just a love of working with children and a desire to share life-transforming stories from the Bible. If you would like to know more, email geraldine@malvernfosters.me.uk or phone Geraldine (01704) 831 611. We are hoping to arrange a training day delivered by the Bible Society in May - more information to follow. Please pray that God will raise up storytellers and that every primary school child in Formby can hear God’s story and find out who he is.

Geraldine Foster
THE NATIONAL GARDENS SCHEME

HISTORY OF THE SCHEME

The Queen’s Nursing Institute has always relied upon donated income in order to carry out its work in supporting community nurses. The charity was originally founded with the money donated by the women of Britain for Queen Victoria’s Golden Jubilee in 1887, hence its original name, Queen Victoria’s Jubilee Institute for Nurses. A second collection was made ten years later on her Diamond Jubilee in 1897. However neither donation was sufficient to endow the charity in perpetuity and fundraising had to continue for the charity to survive.

In 1926 at a meeting of the Institute, Ms Elsie Wagg came up with the novel idea to raise funds by opening private gardens to the public and charging admission. Thus the National Garden Scheme was born, originally as a fundraising committee of the Queen’s Nursing Institute, in which role it continued until it became an independent charity in 1980.

In June of 1927, 349 gardens opened, including Sandringham in Norfolk and Blenheim Palace in Oxfordshire. Members of the public paid one shilling each to enter. The scheme was so successful it was continued into September by which time over six hundred gardens had opened and over £8000 raised. In following years a network of county organisers was established in order to encourage garden owners to re-open their gardens annually. As well as the royal family, the RHS, Country Life magazine, the BBC and the AA were all early supporters. By 1930 the number of gardens opened reached 900 and Sir Winston Churchill and Vita Sackville-West were among those who opened famous private gardens to the public.

The Second World War severely curtailed the scheme as gardeners downed tools, ornamental gardens were sacrificed to the ‘Dig for Victory’ campaign and estates were requisitioned. The royal family led the way in subsequently rebuilding support for the scheme and opening more royal gardens including Sandringham, Frogmore, Harewood and Coppins. From 1947 the National Trust also played an increasing role, opening estates that had been surrendered to the Exchequer by their former owners in lieu of tax and death duties.

In 1948 the National Health Service came into being but fundraising continued, particularly to support working and retired nurses in financial need. Today nearly 3700 gardens open each year and £3m is raised annually. As well as supporting the Queen’s Nursing Institute, many other charities including Macmillan Cancer Support, Marie Curie Cancer Care, Help the Hospices, Crossroads and The National Trust all benefit. To find out more about how you can become involved, visit www.ngs.org.uk.
LOCAL GARDENS SCHEDULED TO BE OPEN THIS SUMMER

FORMBY - Sun July 5th (10am – 4pm) - 6 West Lane, Formby and 33 Brewery Lane – combined admission £3.50

BIRKDALE - Sun May 31st, Sun July 12th (11am – 5pm) 22 Hartley Crescent, 10 Meadow Ave, 14 Saxon Rd, 1 Westbourne Gdns – combined admission £5

HIGHTOWN - Sun May 31st (1 – 5pm) – 5 and 11 Blundell Ave., 11 and 75 Blundell Rd - combined admission £5

Many garden owners normally serve home-made teas.

Margaret Cooke - NB The Hightown dates may now be changed.

SMILE LINES

Palm waving - It was Palm Sunday, but five-year-old Jamie stayed at home with mum because of a bad cold. When his father and sisters returned, they were carrying several palm fronds. His sister explained: “People held them over Jesus’ head as He walked by.” “That’s not fair!” Jamie protested. “The one Sunday I don’t go, and He shows up!”

Packet? - A small boy was asking his mother where he came from and when he heard his mother’s explanation, he replied: ‘Mummy, when God planted the seed in your tummy, was there a photo of me on the packet?’

QUOTE – VERY APPOSITE FOR YOUR EDITOR!

The hurrier I go, the behinder I get! Anon
SOUTHPORT SOUP KITCHEN

Southport Soup Kitchen - 75 London Street
Southport, PR9 9TX
Registered Charity 1137947

This is a local charity manned locally by volunteers and this is the charity we at St. Luke’s support. We aim to provide for the needs of the homeless who are from all walks of life and of all ages from Southport, Formby and the local areas. Sadly, many youngsters come from broken homes and are trying to survive in bed-sits, often shared with others.

Also the number of supported families has increased to 40. These are families who would not attend the Soup Kitchen, nor qualify for long term support from Food Banks. They have food hampers including baby food and nappies where needed. These are distributed on Sunday mornings. 12 family bags go to St Vincent de Paul for distribution. The time of opening on Wednesday and Thursday is 11-2pm and the menu consists of beans on toast, sandwiches, pie and custard and hot drinks. On Saturday and Sunday the hours are 10.30-2pm and the menu consists of vegetable and meat stew, pie and custard, cake, hot drinks and fresh fruit.

A small number of families come into the kitchen bringing small children although this is infrequent. The stew makers are subsidised and the Soup Kitchen food costs approximately £100 per week. The number of guests midweek is about 120 over the 2 days whilst at the weekend the number of guests is approximately 160.

Other ways of helping have been the provision of sleeping bags when needed and gas and electricity vouchers of £20 per person on presentation of a fuel key. These have been given to approximately 50 people. At Christmas the Soup Kitchen provides a Christmas dinner, 100 hampers and £25 cash vouchers for the guests.

When guests have offers of places to live, deposits are provided. Funding for accommodation is available for very vulnerable people.

The Soup Kitchen has a large basement where stocks of food donations are taken and sorted by a volunteer called Peter. Other volunteers distribute extras where needed, nappies, miscellaneous clothes, winter coats and shoes. One such example is a gentleman who through all his constant walking, regularly needs shoes replaced. Vouchers are also given out for the Salvation Army so that guests can obtain what they need for free.

Underlying the practical good is love and compassion, trying to help the guests feel some sense of worth.

PLEASE SUPPORT THE WORK OF THE SOUP KITCHEN – IT WILL BE NEEDED MORE THAN EVER DURING THE CORONA VIRUS PROBLEMS.
Maggie Elkington
As you have probably heard or read, the Archbishops have decided that no services are to be held during the period of the Corona Virus outbreak.

However, as long as this is allowed, church will be open for prayer from 8.15am to 11.45am on Sunday mornings. Please respect the 2 metre (6 and a half feet) self distancing rule.

If you would like to receive St. Luke’s bulletins, please email Jean Cox – jeanecox@btinternet.com

For those without email, we are hoping to set up a phoning system

Bishop Paul has issued several messages – the most recent ran as follows:-

The main thing is that God is faithful, that Jesus’ love is inexhaustible, and that the work and mission of the Holy Spirit goes on in these strange new circumstances. I encourage all colleagues to sustain your own daily disciplines of prayer and Bible reading, and to open yourselves to the creativity, hope and transforming power of the One who loves us. Please be sure that I, together with Bishop Bev and your Archdeacons, will be praying for you all as you do this.
WHO’S WHO

Vicar

Please speak to the Wardens during the Interregnum

Readers
Prof Allan Hobson
Mrs Anne Dixon
Mrs Jean Watts

Readers emeritus
Mr Colin Trollope
Mr Chris Mulford

Churchwardens
Mr Peter Griffin
Mrs Andrea Brown

Deputy Churchwardens
Mrs Ann Wood
Mr John McGibbon

Treasurer
Mr Hugh Dixon

Deputy Treasurer
Mrs Gwyneth Croft

PCC Secretary
Mrs Christine Payne

Electoral Roll Officer
Mrs Jean Cox

Deanery Synod Representatives
Mr James Patterson
Mrs Chris Payne
Mr Andrew Cox

Weekly Envelope Scheme
Mrs Rachel Patterson

and Gift Aid
Mr John McGibbon

Legacy Officer
Mrs Gwyneth Croft

Parish Hall Secretary and
Meeting Room Secretary
Mrs Gwyneth Croft

Newsletter Editor
Mrs Irene Powell

Magazine Editor
Mrs Margaret Cooke (Contributions to
Margaret by 10th of the month please
by e-mail if possible – see Page 1)

Assistant Editor
Mr Ken Davies

Magazine Distribution
Mr Colin Cooke

Magazine Adverts
Mrs Margaret Cooke

Church and Churchyard Maintenance
Mr Allan Worthington

Safeguarding Officer
Mrs Joyce Eddlestone

Health & Safety Officer
please see wardens

Woodland Workshop Co-ordinator
Mr Peter Griffin

Scripture Union Bible Notes
Mrs Rhona Heron

and Alpha organiser

Cathedral Representative
Mrs Elizabeth Lowe

Church Mission Society and
Mid-Africa Mission
Mrs June McGibbon

Children’s Society Boxes
Mrs Rachel Patterson
WHAT'S ON

Home Bible Groups meet regularly as part of the teaching and learning programme of the church -
Wednesdays 10.00am – contact Rhona Heron
Wednesdays 7.30pm - contact Anne Dixon
Mondays 7.30pm - contact Irene Powell

Alpha courses are also held at various times and locations (Co-ordinator Rhona Heron)

Tuesday Lunch in the Meeting Room on 1st and 3rd Tuesdays of the month between 12 and 2.00pm for food, drinks and a chat. (NB No lunch on the day after a Bank Holiday) Cancelled at Present

Young Children - there are limited play facilities at the back of the church.

Children's and Young People's Activities

Open Space – for Yr 6 – Yr 10 –usually on the 3rd Wednesday of the month 6.30 – 8.30pm – contact Isabel Jordan.

Uniformed Organisations in the Church Hall unless otherwise stated

Rainbows contact District Commissioner Sheila Kirk
Brownie Guides 4th Formby Monday 6.00pm Julie Maher
(In the Meeting Room)
8th Formby Wednesday 6.00pm Jenette Rowlands
Guides 4th Formby Wednesday 7.30pm Julie Clark
Beavers Thursday 6.00pm Graham Edgerley
Cub Scouts Monday 6.30pm Robert Ford
Scouts Group Leader Tuesday 7.30pm Ian Phillips Gordon Hilbert

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 monthly at home.

Baptisms, Weddings Contact the Wardens after the 10.30am service.

PCC – if you would like to communicate a concern to the PCC, the Standing Committee members are Mr Peter Griffin, Mrs Andrea Brown, Mr Hugh Dixon (treasurer), Mrs Christine Payne (secretary).

Other PCC members are Prof Allan Hobson, Mrs Anne Dixon, Mrs Jean Watts, Mr Colin Trollope, Mr Andrew Cox, Mrs Ann Wood, Mrs Sheila Rodger, Mrs Barbara Baker, Mrs Gwyneth Croft, Mr Ken Davies, Mrs Ann Dennison, Mrs Maggie Elkington, Mr. Steve Ginn, Mr John Heron, Mr David Moore, Mrs Rachel Patterson, Mr James Patterson, Mrs June McGibbon.

Toilet facilities are available in the Meeting Room and are open during the services.
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WHAT’S ON FOR THE ELDERLY IN APRIL

(A LISTED MONTHLY PROGRAMME OF EVENTS COMPILED IN AGREEMENT BY ST LUKE’S, ST PETER’S AND HOLY TRINITY ANGLICAN CHURCHES, FORMBY METHODISTS, ELIM PENTECOSTAL CHURCH AND FORMBY LIBRARY)

PLEASE NOTE – AT THE TIME OF GOING TO PRESS, WE BELIEVE THAT ALL THESE EVENTS ARE GOING AHEAD BUT WITH THE CORONA VIRUS SITUATION CHANGING ALMOST DAILY, WE RECOMMEND THAT YOU CHECK WITH THE ORGANISERS BEFORE ATTENDING ANY OF THESE EVENTS.

St Peter’s Church

(i) **The Saturday Crew** – Saturday 4th April 10.30-12noon in the Bier House, Green Lane.

(ii) **A Relaxed Easter Service** - St Peter’s Church, Sunday 5th April 2.30pm. A 30 minute Palm Sunday service followed by refreshments.

(iii) **Singing for Fun** – Monday 6th April 2.00-3.30pm in St Peter’s Parish Hall, Paradise Lane, Formby. No charge refreshments included!

(*Anyone living with memory loss is ESPECIALLY welcome along with their carers).

For further information of the above, contact St Peter’s Parish Office 01704 871171 or email: stpetersformby@gmail.com (website: www.stpetersformby.co.uk).

Circular F1 and F2 stop outside church. Parking available behind Parish Hall.

**St Luke’s Church Meeting Room (St Luke’s Church Road)**

(i) **Tuesday Lunch** – Tuesday 7th and 21st April 12noon (donations for lunch).

(ii) **Easter Memories DAA** – Saturday 4th April 2.00-4.00pm in St Luke’s Church meeting room on Church site. Springtime songs and reminiscences of Easter’s past. Ring June on 01704 871244 or Rachel on 07779 214893 for further details.

Circular F3 stops nearby.

**Formby Methodist Church (Elbow Lane)**

(i) **Memory Café (organised by the Alzheimer’s Society)** – Thursday 9th April 2.00-4.00pm. Anyone living with dementia, along with family and friends, is welcome to attend.

(ii) **Formby Carers Support Group** – every Friday 2.00-4.00pm. It is a friendly group who meet for a cuppa and chat with occasional activities. All carers are welcome, along with the person they care for. **CHECK** if meeting on Good Friday 10th April.

(iii) **Formby Befriending Scheme Coffee Club** – Tuesday 7th April (first Tuesday of each month) 2.00-4.00pm.

**Formby Library (01704 874177)** – CLOSED over Easter weekend, Friday 10th, Saturday 11th, Sunday 12th and Monday 13th April.

(i) **Coffee Morning** – 10.30-12noon Thursday 2nd April.

(ii) **Reading and Creative Writing Group** – new dates being considered. Check Library for details.

(iii) **Family History Help Desk** – research your family tree with help from the Liverpool & SW Lancashire Family History Society. First Tuesday of the month 7th April 10.15-12.00noon.

(iv) **Monthly talk** - Tuesday 14th April 2.00pm. Check Library for details.
(i) **Edible Garden** – Wednesday mornings, contact Library for details.

(ii) **Beyond the War Memorials** – [www.Seftonwar memorials.org](http://www.Seftonwar memorials.org)

(iii) **Read and relax with Orla the dog** – come along and meet Orla, the friendly therapy dog, who is excited to meet children, adults with autism, dementia or mental health difficulties. Contact Library for more information and to make an appointment.

**Elim Pentecostal Church** (93 Church Road Formby registered charity 251549) – Meeting Point 1.30pm Monday 27th April – Vikings Skiffle Band. Afternoon tea served 2.30-ish. £2 admission. (Ring Valerie on 01704 873452 for further information).

**Formby Friends of the Alzheimer’s Society, Luncheon Club Family** (Rosemary Lane) - varied programme – Saturday 4th April 10.30-12.30pm (light refreshments); call Vicky or Bob on 01704 873317 for further information.

Ken Davies
On Friday 6th March, a group of girls from St. Luke's CE Primary School attended a World Day of Prayer service at St. Luke’s Church, Formby, which coincided with this year’s International Women’s Day.

The girls (Freya Dalton, Maisie Rydill and Sophia Pickard) of Year 6 were joined by Ruby Dalton of Year 5.

To assist with the service, the girls carried out jobs including: lighting candles; readings; and holding up cards, which said, ‘Love’, ‘Peace’ and ‘Reconciliation’.

The service was written by women in Zimbabwe where equal rights for women and freedom of speech cannot yet be taken for granted.

Sophia Pickard, who represented love, wore red; Maisie Rydill, who represented peace, wore white; and Freya Dalton, who represented reconciliation, wore yellow.

At the end of the service, the girls were presented with a framed photograph of a Flame Lily, which is the national flower of Zimbabwe (formerly Southern Rhodesia). The photograph was given to commemorate a gift given to Queen Elizabeth II on a visit in 1947 when she was still Crown Princess.

Sophia Pickard said,” I think that it was a very meaningful service; it clearly meant a lot to the people who all attended!”

Article written by: Freya Dalton, Maisie Rydill and Sophia Pickard with support from Harriet Tunley and Evie Balshaw.
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Contact
Elizabeth Foggin TEP
Solicitor

to make a personal appointment

T. 01704 870404

Email: liz@autumnyearslaw.co.uk
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JUST THINKING

It is not so strange, but sometimes quite devastating, when one has promised to do something and then forgotten all about it! I used to wonder at the use of, “Oh I forgot,” or even the saying “Really, did you ask me and I agreed to do it? Surely not”. He, or she, often looks for an excuse to hide the cause of the forgetfulness. I used to pride myself on having a wonderfully highly reliable memory, yet these days, the curse of forgetfulness has suddenly become all too apparent.

So I ask myself, and naturally you as well, how often do we forget our God? Is it enough to say a prayer, or several, when awakening first thing in the morning, and possibly just before going to bed in the evening hours? Why not at other times during the day? Three different questions, but on careful reflection only one meaning. So, how often do we forget God? Just another question to ask on the same lines. Are you too easily becoming like the majority of people these days? Like me, but I did have a good excuse this morning - I overslept! I woke at just gone eleven in the morning. Had God caused that to happen? Good question, but possibly so as I had not been near St Luke’s for several Sundays.

When I come to think about that, what a good excuse. We all put God onto our back-burner, so-to-speak, and unnoticed danger arises. Now, at the end of a new Holy Bible, which I recently acquired from the Bible Society, I discovered a section on prayers and devotions; one was an Act of Contrition; it went as follows:- “O my God, I am heartily sorry for having offended You, and I detest all my sins …..” so it went on about actually confessing. How often then do we say “sorry” to God, and actually admit our sins, intentional or accidental. All too often, we do in fact commit sin, on a daily basis without realising what we have done, or even said.

The really big sin we commit daily is Forgetting God!!! So each evening, we should be on our knees admitting sins which we have committed, knowingly or otherwise, during the day now ending, to God, and possibly later also to someone we may somehow have offended in some way. At the end of every day I am now only too aware of having sinned in some way or another. So my final question to you is – Do we sufficiently often ask God to forgive our Forgetfulness of Him?

Colin Trollope

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SMILE LINES

Environmentally friendly transport

While driving in the countryside, a family caught up to an old farmer and his horse-drawn cart. The farmer obviously had a sense of humour, because attached to the back of the carriage was a hand printed sign: ‘Ecologically efficient vehicle: Runs on oats and grass. Caution: Do not step in exhaust.’

What God looks like

An infants’ teacher was observing her classroom of children while they drew. One little girl was working away furiously, and so she asked her what the drawing was. The girl replied, "I'm drawing God."

The teacher paused and said, "But no one knows what God looks like." Without missing a beat, the little girl replied, "They will in a minute."
Why Easter will never go away

How do you make sense of the Resurrection? Dead men don't rise, so why believe that this particular dead man did rise?

At the end of St Luke's Gospel we read that: “they still did not believe it because of joy and amazement” (Luke 24.4). This is highly significant. The Gospels do not show us a group of disciples who were in a receptive frame of mind. After the crucifixion, they were in hiding, frightened and scattered. Then suddenly, they came out of hiding and were totally different; excited, joyful. By Pentecost they were confident, with one firm message: “You crucified Jesus, but God raised him up!”

How did they know this? Because of direct personal experience. Some of them had visited the tomb of Jesus: it was empty. Others claimed to have seen and touched the risen Lord. Were they hallucinating? People can hallucinate in groups – when taking drugs, for example. But, of course each one will see a different hallucination. But the disciples all saw the same thing. Or rather, the same person. Jesus.

Were they lying? Jesus had died a humiliating death as a criminal. Perhaps they wanted to rescue His good name. So did they pretend they had seen Him?

This theory has a big problem. Their preaching led them into trouble with the authorities. They were beaten and imprisoned and some of them killed. People will die for ideas and causes which they believe in passionately. But not for things they have made up. We might suffer for our convictions, we will not suffer for our inventions.

What about the ‘swoon’ theory? That Jesus didn’t die on the cross, despite terrible wounds. He recovered in the tomb, and then escaped. The disciples nursed Him back to health. But Roman soldiers knew when a man was dead; and there was the guard on the tomb. Also, the events which followed simply don’t fit. If the disciples had been hiding Jesus, they would have kept very low-key, and out of the way, so that the authorities did not come after Him again.

Besides, to preach that God had raised Jesus from the dead – which is exactly what they did preach – would have been a lie. Beatings and threat of death would soon have loosened their tongues. Inventions crumble under pressure; convictions hold fast.

Another reason for believing in the Resurrection is this: Jesus’ continuing impact. Thousands and soon millions of people in every generation since have shared an inescapable sense of being ‘accompanied’ through life. Though unseen, they identify this presence as the Risen Lord.

Sometimes this experience of meeting Jesus is gentle and fitful. Sometimes it is dramatic and life-changing. This reminds us that the resurrection of Jesus is not just an interesting historical puzzle. It is a vital, present day reality. It brings wonderful comfort, assuring us of the central Christian truths: death is dead; Jesus is alive; God is love.

This central notion was captured, most movingly, by the great Albert Schweitzer: ‘He came to those men who knew Him not. He speaks to us the same word: “Follow thou me”, and sets us to the tasks which He has to fulfil for our time. He commands. And to those who obey Him, whether they be wise or simple, He will reveal Himself in the toils, the conflicts, the suffering which they shall pass through in His fellowship, and, as ineffable mystery, they shall learn in their own experience who He is.’ Have a joyful – and a challenging – Easter.
ARCHBISHOP OF CANTERBURY PAYS TRIBUTE TO THE ARCHBISHOP OF YORK

The Archbishop of Canterbury has paid tribute to the Archbishop of York in General Synod what would have been his final Synod.

Archbishop Justin Welby praised the Archbishop of York who is currently travelling in the Pacific. He said: “He (John Sentamu) has gone to visit parts of the world which are suffering the effects of climate change right now. He has gone typically to be alongside those who are suffering: a pattern of his life throughout his ministry.”

The Archbishop continued: “Speaking about Sentamu when he’s not here … means we can show our gratitude, thanks and love for him without him being able to stop us.”

Recalling the Archbishop of York’s work on the Stephen Lawrence Inquiry, Archbishop Justin added that “he has said that he himself was stopped at least eight times by the police”.

Reflecting on the Archbishop of York’s impact nationally, the Archbishop of Canterbury said: “The Church of England will miss you Sentamu and the wider country will miss you. There aren’t a lot of bishops who are so well known outside the church.”

CHURCH MINISTER WAS INSPIRATION BEHIND ‘GREAT ESCAPE’

A Church of Scotland minister nicknamed ‘Padre Mac’ has been named as the inspiration behind the Great Escape.

The Revd Professor Murdo Ewen Macdonald’s “fiery sermons” motivated the famous breakout of a German Prisoner of War camp in March 1944, according to an author.

Dr Linda Barker said the Great Escape is often heralded as a plan masterminded by English officers, and the theme tune to the 1963 film of the same name is sung by England football fans.

The theologian has been given credit for a minor role in hiding tunnel sand in the famous break-out over the course of a year. However, the historian claims his influence was possibly far more significant, as he had previously made his own escape while in transit to a PoW camp.

He was a chaplain for the men of Stalag Luft III, including RAF Squadron Leader Roger Bushell, who has always been known as the mastermind of the Great Escape.

Dr Parker is the author of “Nearer My God to Thee: Airborne Chaplains in the Second World War,” which examines the full story of padres who accompanied the airborne forces to all theatres of war between 194 and 1945.

“Murdo Ewen Macdonald, known as Padre Mac, may have been the “inspiration that led to many great escapes’ during the Second World War,” she said. “He was moved to Stalag Luft III, where the Great Escape would take place in March 1944. Here, he befriended Roger Bushell, and Harry ’Wings’ Day, both instigators and organisers of the Great Escape”.

“As a chaplain, he would have had access to all the troops and would have been able to speak with them, in confidence, to motivate them with the story of his own escape attempt.”

(from the Parish Pump website)
**CHURCH FLOWERS**

The flower rota for 2020 can be found on the notice board in the church porch. If you would like to remember a special person or occasion with flowers, just add your name to the list. You may wish to arrange the flowers yourself or arrangements can be made for their display.

If you have any queries, please speak to Maggie Elkington

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**THE PARISH REGISTER**

**Baptisms**

**Weddings**

**Funerals**

11<sup>th</sup> Feb - Margaret McCoy
23<sup>rd</sup> Mar - Peggy Weston

**Interment of Ashes**

4<sup>th</sup> Feb - Kathleen Rosemary Bell
16<sup>th</sup> Feb - Barbara Beryl Kirwin

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