

# St. Luke's Formby Dec 2024/Jan 25

## Parish Magazine

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

## 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



Shyira District Hospital



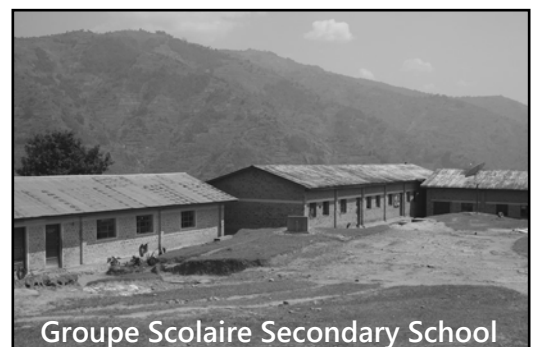
Lake Kivu

## Primary Schools

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

## Groupe Scolaire Secondary School

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



Groupe Scolaire Secondary School

## How YOU can help

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

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

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

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

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

**Vicar – Revd. Dr. Matt Davis**

From the Vicarage

Dear Friends



It's December. It's that time of year again when the big retailers try to outdo each other with the best Christmas advert to woo shoppers to their stores. Two adverts hark back to childhood. Roald Dahl's BFG makes an appearance at a Sainsbury's supermarket to help a grown-up Sophie source much needed Christmas groceries. Meanwhile, Narnia's magic wardrobe effect appears in a rack of clothes in a John Lewis store, helping a desperate last-minute shopper find just the right present for her sister. Elsewhere, the Coca-Cola advert isn't much to write home about: it feels like an average remake of every other recent Coca-Cola "Holidays are coming" advert. I later found out it was generated by Artificial Intelligence (AI), so it actually *is* an average remake of every other recent Coca-Cola "Holidays are coming" advert!

Like last year, one Christmas advert stood out for me. This year, it's the M&S Clothing and Home advert. A young girl, bored by her older relatives discovers she can control them and the Christmas decorations with a magic snow globe! The boredom soon evaporates as the Jackson Sisters sing "I believe in miracles ... I believe in you!" in the background.

Christmas movies and television encourage us to imagine miracles. It might be a title like "Miracle on 34<sup>th</sup> Street" or a scene like reindeer flying for the first time in "Santa Claus the Movie". For children in particular, Christmas feels like a magical time. If there was ever a time miracles might occur, maybe it's Christmas. Maybe miracles do exist? Do you believe in miracles?

Over the coming weeks, many of us will hear, and even sing, these lyrics:

*He came down to earth from heaven  
Who is God and Lord of all.*

I think this is the biggest miracle of all time. A miracle that happened at Christmas. The miracle that gave us Christmas. I don't know how it could happen, but somehow God became a person. The Creator became a creature. The Infinite became finite.

The apostle John describes this miracle with these words:

*The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us.* (John 1:14)

This mind-bending miracle was for a purpose. Jesus didn't come to do some sightseeing. He came to be with us, to be among us. His visit was because of love. He wants to be among us. He wants us to get to know him. He wants us to believe in him and trust him. Why? Because of his love.

Once in Royal David's City's second verse finishes with these words:

*With the poor and meek and lowly,  
Lived on earth our saviour holy.*

(Cont. on p2)

Joint Editors: Margaret Cooke (e-mail: [macooke29@gmail.com](mailto:macooke29@gmail.com)) and Ken Davies  
(e-mail: [kendavies1989@gmail.com](mailto:kendavies1989@gmail.com))   Illustrator: Joan MacDonald  
St. Luke's Web Site: <http://www.stlukesformby.org.uk>  
St. Luke's Facebook Page: [facebook.com/StLukesChurchFormby](https://www.facebook.com/StLukesChurchFormby)

There's nothing overly special about us, other than the fact that Jesus has chosen to be with us. That's the miracle of Christmas: God has come to be with us. I believe in miracles. I believe in Jesus.

With every blessing this Advent and Christmas,

**Matt**

.....  
**CHURCH REGISTER**

No baptisms, weddings, funerals or burial of ashes in November.  
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**DATES AND NOTES**

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

**CTiFAH CHRISTMAS NATIVITY**

**St Stephen's Church Hall Hightown, Saturday 14 December @ 11.00am featuring Make Noise Choir – NOT in the Village this year.**

Besides this performance, over a few days during the final week of the school term, a scaled-down version of the Nativity will be performed in at least six of the local primary schools by the "Open the Book" team, mainly composed of CTiFAH members. This was also done last year, but the number of schools included this year has risen by 50% - praise the Lord!

**SOUTHPORT SOUP KITCHEN CHRISTMAS APPEAL**

In addition to the usual non-perishable food items, special Christmas food items like tinned/boxed chocolates/biscuits, tinned ham, Christmas puddings and mince pies (nearer to Christmas), along with gifts/books for small children and even doggie treats! All can be left in the Church porch on any Sunday. Money can also be donated – refer <https://southportsoupkitchen.net> for details.

The staff at the SSK are extremely grateful for all donations from St Luke's Church and School and Range HS throughout the year. They thank you all!

**RANGE SCHOOL CAROL CONCERT @ ST LUKE'S** – Thurs 12<sup>th</sup> Dec 6.30pm.

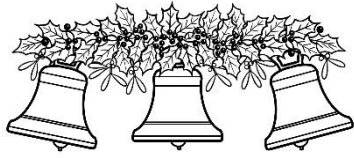
**ROTARY CAROL CONCERT** – Fri 13<sup>th</sup> Dec 7.30 – 9.30pm in Church (Aughton Male Voice Choir). Admission by ticket only, price £5 (includes mulled wine and a mince pie). Tickets obtainable by telephone: Formby 874438. Proceeds to aid Zimbabwe School Project.

**FORMBY ROTARY CAROL WAGON** – check website for when Santa will be in your area.

**WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY** – Sat, 18<sup>th</sup>– Sat, 25<sup>th</sup> Jan.

**PCC MEETING** – Wed 22<sup>nd</sup> Jan 7.30pm in Church.

## NOTICES



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

**Creche@StLuke's** - Sundays during the 10.30 service for pre-schoolers up to age 4.

**Kids@StLuke's** - Reception to Year 5. Games, crafts and age-appropriate Bible teaching by DBS-checked leaders during the 10.30 Sunday service. For more information, email [kids@stlukesformby.org.uk](mailto:kids@stlukesformby.org.uk)

**Youth@StLuke's** - Year 6 and above, Sundays at 10.30.

**The Hive (brand new Youth Group)** - School years 6-9. Fridays during term time 7.30-9.00pm in the Parish Hall, Kirklake Road. Lots of organised fun! £1 subs. For more information, email [office@stlukesformby.org.uk](mailto:office@stlukesformby.org.uk)

**Together@StLuke's** - A new initiative since Easter for anyone in the local community who would like to join us. It is on the first Saturday of the month. The walk (of differing abilities) starts at 2.00pm from the Meeting Room by the main church building, followed by drinks and snacks and crafts for primary aged children from 3-4pm. Come for some or all of it! It's free but donations are welcome - 7<sup>th</sup> December and 4<sup>th</sup> January.

**Tuesday Lunch** - Soup/sandwiches/cake & company, 3<sup>rd</sup> & 17<sup>th</sup> Dec and 7<sup>th</sup> & 21<sup>st</sup> Jan in the Meeting Room. Donations for lunch welcome.

**Christmas crafts stall at Open Door Saturday** - Last Open Door coffee morning before Christmas will be on the 7<sup>th</sup> December. Our Open Door coffee mornings will restart on Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> January 2025 and continue on the 25<sup>th</sup> January, the 8<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> February, then the 8<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> March.

**Gifts-to-Funds coffee morning!** - 2025 diaries and calendars are appearing in the shops, and we would like you to note that on **Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> January 10 – 12**, we will be having our 'Gifts-to-Funds' stall at our 'Open Door Saturday' coffee morning.

We need you to hang on to those Christmas gifts that you might not use, are too big or too small or might make you fat (chocolates and sweets always go well!). Keep them safe, then bring them along to our coffee morning and we will turn them into funds.

**New Boiler Fund** - £7,200 raised by middle of November. Many thanks to all who have donated, but still a way to go!

**The Light Fair** - see p15 for photos (by Rev. Matt). Well done to Mike Thomas (Coordinator) and all who helped in the successful organisation of this year's event on 26<sup>th</sup> Oct.

**Operation Christmas Child (shoe box appeal)** - grateful thanks to all who participated.

**Light before Christmas: Starlight at Liverpool Anglican Cathedral** - Tickets are on sale now, don't miss out as this Christmas family favourite returns to Liverpool Cathedral from 29<sup>th</sup> November to 7<sup>th</sup> December. After the huge success of last year's event, Luxmuralis are returning to our Cathedral for Christmas 2024.

# iFeliz Navidad!

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

We still can't quite believe that Habla Formby turned three in September! The nursery has grown and developed so much in the past three years, and we are so grateful for the support we have had from the church. In particular, we would like to thank Steve, Pete and Fiona for all their help!



The children really enjoyed being involved in preparations for the church Harvest festival. We asked parents for donations and some of our preschoolers also went to the shops and bought some items to donate. We got everything ready for when Rev. Matt came to visit. He read a story with the preschool children which they really enjoyed, and it was lovely for the children to hear how they were helping others with their donations.



Our preparations for Christmas are under way and we are looking forward to visiting the church with some of the children and also having Rev. Matt join us for our Nativity.

We would like to wish you all a very merry Christmas and a peaceful New Year – ¡Feliz Navidad y Prospero Año Nuevo!

*(Habla Bilingual Day Nursery offers full day care from 7.30-5.45pm all year round. We have a baby room for under-2s, toddler and preschool areas as well as purpose built outdoor space. Our setting is bilingual giving children the opportunity to learn Spanish and get the other benefits of a bilingual Early Years education.)*

**Jenny Birch - Director**

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## **4TH FORMBY ST. LUKE'S GUIDES**

St. Luke's Guides have had a very busy summer term this year!

From April to September, we spent a lot of time outdoors taking part in the Wildlife Trust's 30 days of wild activities, along with Team GB's 'Path to Paris Challenge', as we travelled virtually around the world, starting in Athens in May, before finally reaching Paris in September.

We have also had some very emotional goodbyes over the summer. We spent a wonderful evening around the campfire in July with the 8<sup>th</sup> St. Luke's Brownies, saying goodbye to some amazing leaders and girls before their unit closed, but also very happy to have welcomed 5 of their Brownies into our Guide unit in September.

(Cont. on p5)

Our activities this term have been based on London, Peru and, you guessed it, Paddington Bear! The girls have sculpted clay models, eaten marmalade sandwiches, sketched their own Paddington bears, completed some tricky Peruvian weaving, located some famous landmarks on a giant map of London and obviously watched the first Paddington movie.

**Julie Clark – Guide Leader**

On our first day after half term Year 4 dressed up as Anglo-Saxons, a long top over leggings and a belt. It set the scene for us to time travel back over 1000 years to the time of the Anglo-Saxons. Our visitor, Ranvar (Ben), brought a large sail and many artefacts to show us.

The image shows a classroom scene where a teacher and two children are engaged in a role-play activity. The teacher, a man in a dark jacket, stands behind two children who are holding a long wooden stick. A large screen in the background displays a cartoon knight and text about knights' agreements. The text on the screen reads: "They fought in battles, but only fought on foot as they found it easier to fight on horseback. To fight other knights or lords." Below this, it says: "They brought agreed with each other as well as a special promise." The children are dressed in simple clothing, and the classroom is decorated with various educational materials.

any point, you were guilty so were killed. We would have preferred the cake to the hot water!

(Images show Eleanor and Xander fighting to solve an argument, as they did in Anglo-Saxon times, and Josie receiving the keys to the house after getting married!)

## CHRISTMAS DAY 1924

What is special about 25th December 1924? Well, 100 years ago this man was born. We didn't meet him until we came to live in Formby in 1971 and joined our parish church and met Rev. Thomas Arnold Moon, his wife Doris and their children Andrew and Alison, both students.

The Moons came to St. Luke's in 1970 and stayed for 25 years. They came from St. Benedict's, Everton which became redundant as slum streets were cleared and Everton Park was created, improving the area and reducing the population.



Arnold had previously been a curate at St. Emmanuel Church, Fazakerley. He took over at St. Luke's from Rev. Norman Cowden who lived in the vicarage with his sister. Norman was a keen Everton F.C. supporter who, I'm told, managed never to take a wedding when his team were playing at home!

Arnold started a church choir, led by Peter Mossop with Stan Roberts, organist. He introduced the Anglican Hymn Book which we used for many years. Mission Praise hymn books were introduced through Mission England in 1984.

We had Beavers, Cubs, Scouts, Guides, Brownies and monthly Parade Services with a full church. Pathfinders, Explorers and Climbers were introduced, and Youth Fellowship run by Geoff and Silvia Mason in their home.

Arnold preached the gospel most Sundays, often inviting people to make a personal statement of their faith.

Andrew Moon was a good guitarist and started our first group called "One Way", ('Oh, there's only one way to heaven, brother, so you'd better get on that road'), with me playing bass, Norma Jones and Ginny Rounding singing. Andrew studied electronics at Liverpool Polytechnic under Prof. Allan Hobson and built our first guitar amplifiers and church sound system which we installed.

But perhaps Arnold's greatest achievement was his introducing St. Luke's to MAM - Mid Africa Mission in Ruanda which he supported throughout his ministry. Eventually this led St. Luke's starting The Shyira Trust in Rwanda. Ask Allan Hobson; read his book (Linking Parishes, Harvesting Friendship). Thank God for Arnold's faithful ministry.

**Philip Lowe**

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## PERCY FRENCH CONCERT - SATURDAY OCTOBER 26<sup>TH</sup>

The Solstice Choir from Roscommon in Ireland, where Percy French was born, came to Liverpool for 4 nights towards the end of October to coincide with the addition of a pair of bronze shoes to the Irish Famine Memorial at St. Luke's Church (the "bombed-out" church) on Sunday October 27<sup>th</sup>. The choir was due to sing a series of songs at the ceremony which was to be attended by the Irish Ambassador to the UK and the Consul-General. The shoes commemorate the occasion in 1847 when 1,490 people were evicted from Strokestown Estate near Roscommon and forced to walk the 100 miles to Dublin where they were put on cargo ships to Liverpool and then on to Canada. It's estimated that only half the original number survived to reach their final destination and the route they walked in Ireland is now known as the National Famine Way. It is marked at regular intervals by commemorative pairs of bronze shoes.

(Cont. on p7)





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## SERVICES FOR DECEMBER 2024

### Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> December – Advent 1

8.30am Traditional Service  
10.30am All-age Holy Communion  
(Readings: Jer 33:14-18 & Luke 21:25-36)

### Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> December

11.00am Holy Communion  
(Readings: Isaiah 26:1-6 & Matt 7:21-27)

### Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> December – Advent 2

8.30am Traditional Service  
10.30am Contemporary Service\*  
(Readings: Mal 2:17-3:5 & Luke 3:1-6)

### Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> December – Advent 3

8.30am Traditional Service  
10.30am Contemporary Service  
with Holy Communion\*  
(Readings: Zeph 3:14-20 & Luke 3:7-18)  
4.00pm Christingle Service  
(Reading: Luke 2:8-20)

### Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> December

7.00pm Blue Christmas Service

### Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> December – Advent 4

8.30am Traditional Service  
10.30am Contemporary Service\*  
(Readings: Micah 5:1-5a & Luke 1: 39-56)  
7.00pm Candlelit Carol Service

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

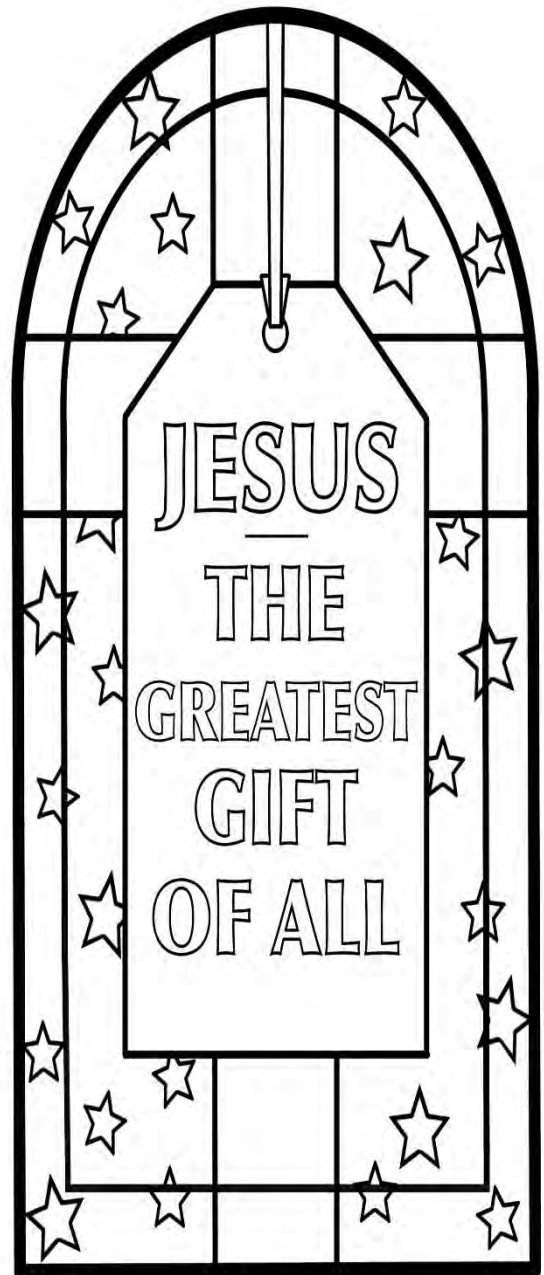
4.00pm Crib Service  
11.15pm Midnight Communion  
(Readings: Psalm 98 & Matt 1:18-25)

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

10.00am All-age Holy Communion  
Readings: Psalm 98 & Matt 1:18-25)

### Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> December – Christmas 1

8.30am Traditional Service  
10.30am Contemporary Service\*  
(Readings: Col 3:12-17 & Luke 2:41-52)



(\*with Children's Church)

**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 December 2024

Father, thank you that Jesus came into the world as Your Light; that He shines today as brightly and powerfully as He did then, and will do forever.

Help us to open our hearts and minds to allow His light to fill us with the assurance that, no matter what is going on, we are safe in Him. Help us, in thankfulness and love, to share Your Christmas Light and Hope and Joy. Hallelujah! In Jesus' name. Amen. **Daphne Kitching (PP)**

## SERVICES FOR JANUARY 2025

### Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> January

11.00am Holy Communion  
(Readings: 1 John 2:20-28 & John 1:19-28)

### Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> January – Christmas 2

8.30am Traditional Service  
10.30am All-age Holy Communion  
(Readings: Isaiah 60:1-6 & Matt 2:1-12)

### Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> January – Epiphany 1

8.30am Traditional Service  
10.30am Contemporary Service\*  
(Readings: Acts 11:19-30 & Luke 3:15-22)

### Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> January – Epiphany 2

8.30am Traditional Service  
10.30am Contemporary Service  
with Holy Communion\*  
(Readings: Acts 12:1-19a & Luke 2:1-11)

### Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> January – Epiphany 3

8.30am Traditional Service  
10.30am Contemporary Service\*  
(Readings: Acts 12:19b-24 & Luke 4:14-21)

(\* with Children's Church)



**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)**

## EPIPHANY

Epiphany is a Christian festival on the 6<sup>th</sup> of January (The 12<sup>th</sup> Day of Christmas) which celebrates the arrival of the 3 Magi (Wise Men / Kings) who came to see Jesus after he was born. The season runs until the first Sunday of Lent.

The 3 Magi in Matthew's Gospel were distinguished foreigners who visited Jesus bearing gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh.

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## THOUGHT FOR DECEMBER AND JANUARY

When did I stop believing in Father Christmas and start believing in Jesus? My memory insists that I was about five or six when Father Christmas started being a bit of a fairy story and when Jesus began to have some influence on my life. Those childhood years around Christmas and New Year with family and friends in early 1950s Liverpool evoke many happy memories – from simple Christmas presents and home-made decorations to snow shifting for the odd bob or two on a winter's day one early January - thanks to my borrowed grandfather's shovel!

Did I need Jesus at that time when life seemed so joyous? Probably not! But, as the years rolled on by, I soon learnt that life is not always so full of joy. This is when Jesus became more and more important to me as my trusted companion and friend. He became someone whom I could talk and listen to and feel safe with. And today, HE is the reason why Christmas to me remains as joyous as it ever was all those years ago.

**KD**

## WHO'S WHO

Vicar	Rev Dr Matt Davis
Readers	Mrs Anne Dixon Mrs Jean Watts Mr Chris Mulford Prof Allan Hobson
Readers Emeritus	
Churchwardens	Mr Steve Ginn Mrs Fiona Grieveson Mr John McGibbon
Deputy Churchwarden	
Treasurer Deputy Treasurer	Mr Hugh Dixon 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 Meeting Room Secretary	Mr Steve Ginn Mrs Fiona Grieveson
Newsletter Editor	Mrs Irene Powell
Magazine Editors	Mrs Margaret Cooke Mr Ken Davies (Contributions by <b>10th</b> of the month – preferably by email – see page 1) Mrs Margaret Cooke Mrs Margaret Cooke Mr David Moore
Magazine Distribution Magazine Adverts Magazine Collation	
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 Mrs Jean Watts
Vulnerable Adults Officer	
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

Refer also to p2, p3 and Weekly News Sheets for further information on church activities and events. Dec/Christmas services p9 and Jan services p10.

**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.

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

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

**Parish Breakfast** – Most first Sundays of the month 9.30am between services.

**Woodland Workshop** – Contact Peter Griffin (871846) for details – 2<sup>nd</sup> Sat am of the month.

**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.

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

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

**PCC** – if you would like to communicate a concern to the PCC, the **Standing Committee Members** are Rev Dr Matt Davis (Vicar), 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, Prof Allan Hobson, Allyson Jump\*, Jean Mainey\*, Chris Payne, Michael Roberts\*, Jean Watts. (\*New Members)



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**FRCGP**  
MBBS Lon, DRCOG,  
DFFP, Cert. Med. Ed.

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## PEST CONTROL

Wasps, mice, rats etc

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01704 213025



**Christmas carols** - One night as Christmas approached, some friends decided to go carol singing. A man answered the door of one house, and gasped as they launched into the opening lines of the first carol. Within half a minute, he looked stricken. Soon tears were welling up in his eyes. The carolers sang and sang, and the man looked very moved by what he heard.

One caroler ventured: "I understand - our singing reminds you of your happy childhood Christmases". The man looked at her with misery in his eyes. "No", he whispered back. "It's just that I am a musician!"

**What would you like for Christmas?** A little girl visited Father Christmas in the local garden centre grotto. He welcomed her with a smile and asked what she would like for Christmas. She gasped and stared at him in horror. "Didn't you get my email?!"

**Father Christmas** - Of course, I had expected that by the age of seven it was inevitable that my son would begin to have serious thoughts about Father Christmas. Sure enough, one day near Christmas he suddenly said: "Mum, I know something about Father Christmas, the Easter Bunny and the Tooth Fairy". Taking a deep breath, I asked him what that might be. "Easy", he said, "They are all nocturnal."

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## WHAT'S ON FOR THE 'ELDERLY' IN DEC & JAN

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

**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 2<sup>nd</sup> Dec & 6<sup>th</sup> Jan, 10.30-12noon (1<sup>st</sup> Monday of the month except Bank Holidays) in the Bier House on Church site. Free admission.
- Singing Thursdays! (except for 1<sup>st</sup> Thurs of the month) in the parish hall – check with church for details in Dec and Jan.

## Formby Methodist

- FM Church & Formby Civic Society present A Christmas Tapestry - a Celebration in Carols and Flowers. Sing favourite carols and hear their story, demonstrated in floral displays - Liz Broad (Formby Flower Club) and Alastair Gillies (FM Church). Thurs 5<sup>th</sup> Dec 7.30pm FM Church, Elbow Lane. Refreshments (including mince pies) during the interval! Entry by donation at the door including entry into a draw to win one of Liz's creations!
- Coffee Club 1st Tues of each month (3<sup>rd</sup> Dec & 7<sup>th</sup> Jan) 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 by emailing the Formby Befriending Scheme – [info@formbybefriendingscheme.org.uk](mailto:info@formbybefriendingscheme.org.uk)

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

- Grief & Healing Session Tues 3<sup>rd</sup> Dec 10.30-12pm. All welcome. Free tea/coffee and biscuits.
- Reader Sessions – Wed 11<sup>th</sup> Dec & 22<sup>nd</sup> Jan, 11.30-1pm. From 22<sup>nd</sup> Jan, Reader Sessions will be fortnightly on a Wed at 11.30-1pm. Free tea/coffee served. New members welcome.
- Ukulele lessons have been very popular. There are two courses in the New Year (Jan & Feb) which are open to expressions of interest.
- All the usual events are happening in Dec & Jan including –
  - Police Help Desk – every 3<sup>rd</sup> Mon of the month, Mon 16<sup>th</sup> Dec & 20<sup>th</sup> Jan.
  - Free Coffee Mornings every Thursday 10.30-12noon.
  - Thursday IT helpdesk 11am-1pm.
  - Gardening Club - interested persons can go on the mailing list to be notified about sessions.
  - Creative writing group. Check with Library for details.

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

THE LIGHT FAIR 26<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER



## ASSOCIATION OF FORMBY ARTISTS

### Autumn Exhibition Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> November 2024

For those who missed our autumn exhibition, you missed a treat! The weather was really beautiful which resulted in a good number of people coming through the door. Throughout the day a procession of over 300 adults and children were able to enjoy viewing a fantastic variety of pictures on the screens, as well as displays of crafts around the hall.

The artists had used a range of media including watercolours, gouache, oils, pastels, acrylics, coloured pencils and marker pens. Some artists used collage, with various fabrics and embroidery to create beautiful, desirable images. Others used inks and dyes on silk, whilst some had used a mixture of material such as tin foil, wood, twigs and newsprint! A lot of ingenuity and imagination made for a really interesting show.

The subjects chosen covered something for everyone. There were landscapes, cityscapes, seascapes and portraits. There were animals in profusion, birds, sea creatures, wild animals, dogs and cats. There were beautiful flowers and impressive trees, even wonderful fungi! Nature in all its glory, both in the wild and in the garden, could be found.

Within the hall there were items for sale including handmade silk goods, handmade cards and beautiful embroidered boxes and ornaments.

In the tearoom, where tea and coffee were available, there was the opportunity to purchase a piece of cake for a pound - an absolute bargain! There was also the chance to browse through pre-loved art books and materials which were for sale at very reasonable prices. There was a raffle - the painting was won by Mr. McIntyre; the whisky went to Matt Pullen; and the embroidered box went to Alan Hills.



The voting by visitors, for 3 favourite paintings was as follows -

No59 'Pink Roses'	an oil by Elizabeth Harding Huber	58 votes	1st
No114 'Beach'	a digital edition by Rico Oldfield	23 votes	2nd
No134 'Back to the Branch'	an acrylic by Di Pearson	21 votes	3rd



If you missed this Exhibition the next one is in May. Hope to see you then!

**Joan MacDonald**

Thank you for the donations of children's books to the YKids book shop, Kingsley & Co in Bootle. The books are sold for a nominal amount and donations are particularly welcome in the run up to Christmas.



The project will continue to offer a range of additional activities including regular story times for preschool children and themed Saturday morning events for a wider age range.

Even if you don't have children, the shop is well worth a visit; there is a lovely atmosphere, the staff are very welcoming, delicious cakes and excellent coffee are served!

## Hillary Griffin

It has been over a year since a group of 8 of us went to Rwanda to rekindle our connection with St Mark's in Shyira.

A visit to the Primary School made a mark on me, to which I felt called to respond. As a retired teacher I was very disappointed to see a complete lack of resources in the Reception Class. When I returned to Formby I asked Prof Allan Hobson how reliable the post was from Formby to Shyira. He said it was mixed and that one package had taken over 2 years and others had not arrived at all.

In July, Zilpa (Rev Jacques' wife) said she was about to have their second child. I bought the baby (a boy) a linen suit (in a large size) and their existing daughter a magnetic drawing tablet. I chose the tablet wondering whether it would be useful for school. I also bought 20 balls of wool for the Mothers' Union – available in the capital Kigali, but expensive. I sent them all by Royal Mail hoping that some years later the postal service had improved. To my delight Zilpa sent me photos of both the children with their gifts and the card I had sent. Ironically, I bought the baby suit so he could be the smartest young man at church, which has now been closed (refer to September and October magazines for reasons why).



Following news of this successful postal delivery, I have bought some wooden educational toys (avoiding plastic for environmental reasons). I also bought some more wool and parcelled them up for posting (late October). I will let you know if they arrive. Watch this space!

## Yvonne Yule

## BRIEF REPORT OF THE SHYIRA TRUST AGM 2024

- Sunday 27 October, 12.15pm, St Luke's Church meeting room.
- 16 members attended + 1 guest. 11 members gave apologies for absence.
- Guest renewed membership at the end of the meeting.
- Chair, Mr Peter Morgan, opened the meeting with a short prayer including *In Memoriam* members and others associated with the Trust who had passed away since the last AGM.
- Minutes of the 2023 AGM were unanimously accepted with no matters arising.
- The Chair presented the Accounts, which were then unanimously approved. Former trustee and Treasurer, Mr Hugh Dixon, was formally thanked once more by the Chair for his assistance in drawing up the Accounts for the 2024 AGM.
- The Chair briefly presented the Trustees' Report. There had been no visits either way during the reporting period. However, substantial monies had been transferred particularly in support of Bishop Augustin's 5 ongoing priority projects. This was ring-fenced money from the large anonymous donation several years ago. The Trustees' Report was unanimously approved.
- The rationale behind the trustees proposed two changes to the Constitution under Section 6 on Trustees – to allow members to be eligible for election as trustees at an AGM who have not been members since the preceding AGM – was unanimously accepted.
- Trustee and Chair Mr Peter Morgan was retiring as trustee after his latest 3-year tenure; Mr Ken Davies (year 2 of his 3-year tenure) and Mr John Gelder (year 1 of his 3 years) were the two PCC nominated trustees (declared at a PCC meeting on Wed 25 Sept) and Mr Mark Hogben, Mrs Margaret Cooke and Mrs Pam Thomas were 3 newly elected trustees. Mr John Gelder was to be the new Chair of the Trust, with KD to continue as Secretary. The Trust did still not have a designated Treasurer, so all financial matters were to continue under the collective responsibility of the trustees.
- Mrs Margaret Cooke would continue with the sponsorship of students in Groupe Scolaire (secondary school).
- Members approved Mr James Patterson to continue as Independent Examiner until the next AGM.
- The Open Forum allowed for a general exchange of thoughts and information between members and trustees on the current work of the Trust – mandated to financially support Bishop Augustin's 5 priority projects throughout Kivu Diocese and the Trust's support for the parish link through the facilitation of money transfers to Shyira via Bishop Augustin on the grounds of good governance, transparency and accountability.
- A change of name for the Trust had been put to Bishop Augustin but was declined.
- The number of sponsors for Groupe Scolaire students was healthy, but more would always be welcome.
- There were no visits currently planned, but the Chair stressed the importance of such, not only to ascertain progress of supported projects but also to enhance relationships.
- Member Prof Allan Hobson stated that the many churches like St Mark's currently closed due to insufficient/poor basic amenities were informed 5 years ago by the national government that they had to upgrade or risk closure after the 5-year period.
- The Chair reflected on his many years with the Trust - since its inception in 2006 – and declared how visits to Rwanda had proved to be life-changing. The Secretary read out an email from Bishop Augustin thanking the Chair for his long devotion to the work of the Trust and wishing him well in the future. Honorary Life President Prof Allan Hobson proposed that the retiring Chair, Mr Peter Morgan, be made a second Honorary Life President of the Trust in line with 5.8 (7) General Meetings of the Constitution. This was approved unanimously with applause.
- The meeting closed at 1.35pm with The Grace.

**Mr Ken Davies - Secretary**



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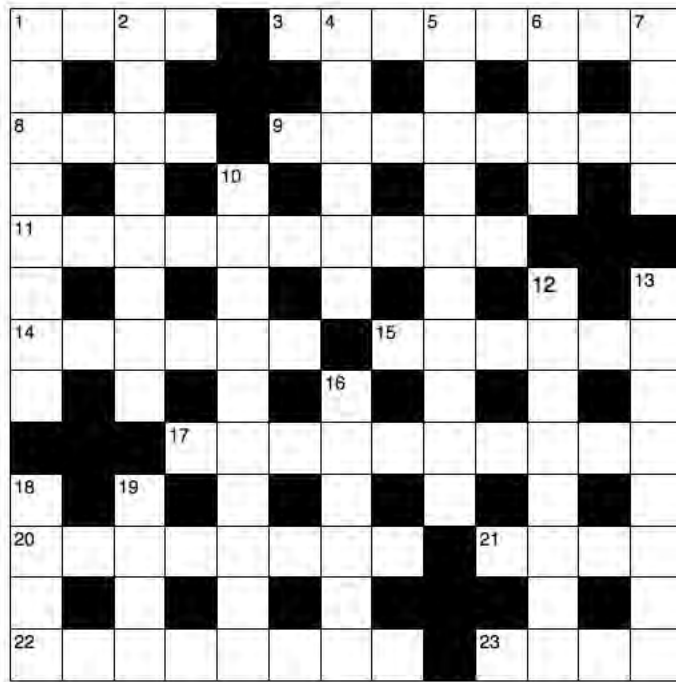
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# CROSSWORD



**ACROSS:** 1 'The blind receive sight, the — walk' (Luke 7:22) (4)

3 Got (Philippians 3:12) (8)

8 Leave out (Jeremiah 26:2) (4)

9 Castigated for using dishonest scales (Hosea 12:7) (8)

11 Weighty (1 John 5:3) (10)

14 'Now the serpent was more — than any of the wild animals the Lord God had made' (Genesis 3:1) (6)

15 'Those controlled by the sinful nature cannot — God' (Romans 8:8) (6)

17 Because Israel lacked one of these, tools had to be sharpened by the Philistines (1 Samuel 13:19) (10)

20 In his vision of the two eagles and the vine, this is how Ezekiel described the latter (Ezekiel 17:8) (8)

21 Rite (anag.) (4)

22 Nine gigs (anag.) (8)

23 'The eye cannot say to the —, "I don't need you"' (1 Corinthians 12:21) (4)

**DOWN:** 1 'Flee for your lives! Don't — —, and don't stop anywhere in the plain!' (Genesis 19:17) (4,4)

2 Principal thoroughfare (Numbers 20:19) (4,4)

4 'The tax collector... beat his — and said, "God have mercy on me, a sinner"' (Luke 18:13) (6)

5 'The zeal of the Lord Almighty will — this' (2 Kings 19:31) (10)

6 'The day of the Lord is — for all nations' (Obadiah 15) (4)

7 Specified day (Acts 21:26) (4)

10 Deadly epidemic (Deuteronomy 32:24) (10)

12 Roman Catholic church which has special ceremonial rights (8)

13 Tied up (2 Kings 7:10) (8)

16 In his speech to the Sanhedrin, Stephen described Moses as 'powerful in speech and ----' (Acts 7:22) (6)

18 'Although he did not remove the high places, — heart was fully committed to the Lord all his life' (1 Kings 15:14) (4)

19 Tribe (Deuteronomy 29:18) (4)

**(SOLUTIONS ON PAGE 24)**

# SUDOKU

EASY

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

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MEDIUM

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

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(SOLUTIONS ON PAGE 24)

## WORDSEARCH

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

### Christmas 2024

Father Christmas is based on St Nicholas, who was born in the 3rd century in the Greek village of Patara, on what is today the southern coast of Turkey. His family were both devout and wealthy, and when his parents died in an epidemic, Nicholas decided to help people. He gave to the needy, the sick, the suffering, and was made Bishop of Myra while still a young man. As a bishop, he suffered in prison with other bishops under the emperor Diocletian's persecution of Christians.

One story of his generosity explains why we hang Christmas stockings over our mantelpieces today. There was a poor family with three daughters who needed dowries if they were to marry, and not be

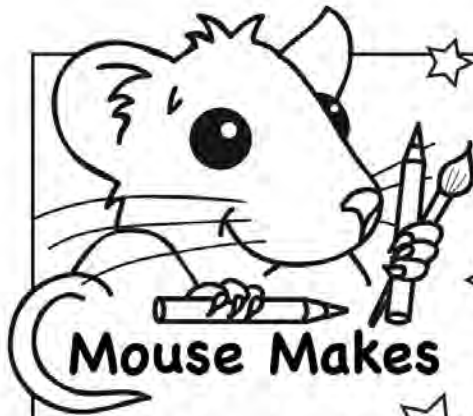
sold into slavery. Nicholas heard of their plight and tossed three bags of gold into their home through an open window – thus saving the girls from a life of misery. The bags of gold landed in stockings or shoes left before the fire to dry. Hence the custom of children hanging out stockings – in the hope of attracting presents of their own from St Nicholas - on Christmas Eve. That is why three gold balls, sometimes represented as oranges, are one of the symbols of St Nicholas.

Father  
Christmas  
Nicholas  
Born  
Third

Century  
Greek  
Village  
Devout  
Wealthy

Needy  
Sick  
Suffering  
Prison  
Emperor

Poor  
Family  
Three  
Daughters  
Stockings



**Mouse Makes**

"Jesus said,  
I am the \_\_\_\_ Y  
and the \_\_\_\_ U \_\_\_\_  
and the \_\_\_\_ I \_\_\_\_.  
No one comes to the Father  
except through me."  
*John 14:6*

"The child to be born  
will be called  
H \_\_\_\_ , the  
\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_"  
*Luke 1:35*

"For unto you is born  
this day a  
S \_\_\_\_ who is  
\_\_\_\_ R \_\_\_\_  
the \_\_\_\_ R \_\_\_\_"  
*Luke 2:11*

## THE GREATEST GIFT

"She will bear a son,  
and shall call his name

\_\_\_\_\_  
for he will save his  
people from their sins."  
*Matthew 1:21*

"Jesus said,  
I am the

\_\_\_\_\_  
and the life."  
*John 11:25*

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

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

**JESUS  
—  
THE  
GREATEST  
GIFT  
OF ALL!**

P R O P H E T I  
R E D E E M E R  
I E M I L I G  
E M E S S I A H  
S R M E G F T  
T E A C H E R E

E V E R L A S T I N G  
K I N G O F K I N G S  
I N K I G W F D O U  
S E S O N O F G O D D  
S E W O C O U W O R D  
C O U N S E L L O R U

EMMANUEL • MESSIAH • REDEEMER • KING OF KINGS • WORD  
SON OF MAN • EVERLASTING • SHEPHERD • PRIEST • PROPHET • TEACHER  
LIGHT • BREAD • VINE • DOOR • LAMB • COUNSELLOR • CHRISTMAS • GIFT

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## SUDOKU SOLUTIONS

EASY

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

MEDIUM

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

## CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS

**ACROSS:** 1, Lane. 3, Obtained. 8, Omit. 9, Merchant. 11, Burdensome. 14, Crafty. 15, Please. 17, Blacksmith. 20, Splendid. 21, Tier. 22, Singeing. 23, Hand.

**DOWN:** 1, Look back. 2, Main road. 4, Breast. 5, Accomplish. 6, Near. 7, Date. 10, Pestilence. 12, Basilica. 13, Tethered. 16, Action. 18, Asa's. 19, Clan.



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income is given to  
charity  
(Lev 27:30)



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