

St. Luke's Formby

Parish Magazine

Price: £1.50 per issue

Cheaper by annual subscription

£12.00 for 10 issues a year

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2025 #&*



**Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God Almighty,
who was, and is, and is to come.**

Revelation 4:8





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:

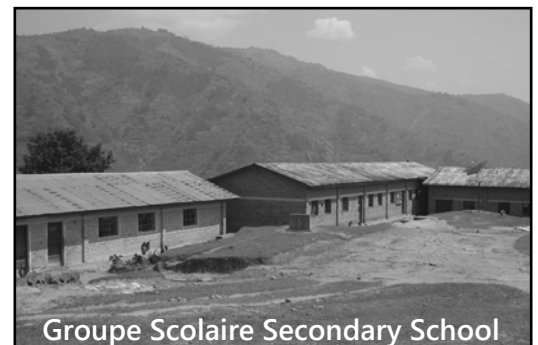
- To extend the MU support across Kivu Diocese
- To work through the Gisenyi MU to help the most needy parts of the Diocese



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

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Vicar – Revd. Dr. Matt Davis

Dear Friends

The British like to complain. We complain about the weather: it's too wet! it's too cold! it's too dry! it's too hot! We complain about the clocks changing: it's too dark! And we complain about Christmas starting too early each year (well, some of us do). I have some family members who put up their Christmas decorations at the start of November and take them down on Boxing Day. I'm not complaining, by the way. I just think they'd be more accurately named

"Advent decorations". Have you noticed how, apart from Advent calendars, Advent is almost all but forgotten these days (OK, so maybe I'm complaining a little bit).



Maybe we should rename the season of Advent. I propose calling it the "Season of Advert". So many adverts all around us. Have you spotted how many things we now need to buy because it's nearly Christmas? We need more presents, we need more food, we need more decorations, we need more clothes. Magazines, radio, TV and internet are busy advertising everything under the sun and we need it ALL in time for Christmas!

Among all the Christmas adverts, John Lewis' tagline struck a chord with me this year: "If you can't find the words, find the gift". As a preacher, I know how important it is to get the right words. I also know how difficult it can be (it's taken several attempts to write this). There's something similar with gift giving. It's so easy to give a voucher, it's much more time consuming to find the right gift for someone you love. But when you find the perfect gift for that special someone you buy it, even if it costs a bit more than you'd hoped. There's something about this tagline that sounds a bit like "actions speak louder than words". Thinking of a meaningful gift, searching for it, buying it and giving it speak volumes to the person receiving it. They know they're loved. They know they're valued. Not just a gift or any gift, but *the* gift, the perfect gift.

Amidst all the gifts of Christmas, there is one gift that stands out. *The* gift that started it all:

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. (John 3:16)

God has taken the time to consider us, to consider who we are and what we need. In his love, he knew that the gift we need is Jesus. That's why he sent his Son. Jesus is God's perfect gift. God doesn't have a problem finding the right words. Indeed, Christians believe that the Bible is God's perfect message. But God chose, in his wisdom, not just to speak, but to speak powerfully through sending his Son that first Christmas. God has given us a gift, the perfect gift.

John Lewis' advert is aimed at the givers, the shoppers. As a Christian, the tagline works well for us receivers: if you struggle with God's words, if you struggle to make sense of the Bible, if you struggle to make sense of life, don't fret. Look at his gift. Look at Jesus. I recently started the 321 Course to help people find out about Christianity. Unsurprisingly, it begins with Jesus. So, this Advent and Christmas, look for Jesus and find the gift who shows us God's vast love for us.

With every blessing, **Matt**

CHURCH REGISTER FOR NOVEMBER

Baptisms: Alex Highton & Kai Sanderson – 23rd November

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NOTICES

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 Adult Officer.

New course started Mon 17th Nov 7.30pm in the Meeting Room – ‘New Life According To Jesus in 3, 2, 1 ...’ Leaflets available from the back of Church.

Christmas Immersive Walkabout – Sat 6th Dec 2-4pm on Church site – aimed at primary age children and their friends and families. In addition to the walk there will be great stories, crafts, delicious gingerbread, and even animals to look out for!

‘Journeying Through Advent With Handel’s Messiah’ ‘Hallelujah’ – by Dave & Sally Gobbett. Special price of £1. Available from the back of church.

Dec services – p9 & Jan services – p10.

Range School Carol Service @ St. Luke’s – Thurs 11th Dec 6.30pm.

Formby Rotary Carol Wagon – Check website when Santa will be in your area.

Churches Together Village Nativity – p8.

Liverpool Anglican Cathedral Christmas Choir Concert – Sat 20th Dec 3.00-5.00pm. Check website for ticket bookings and prices.

Week of prayer for Christian unity – 18-25th Jan. Theme: “There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope of your calling”. (Ephesians 4:4)

Burns Night – Sun 25th Jan.

PCC Meeting – Wed 28th Jan 7.30pm.

General Donations to the Shyira Trust – please hand directly to Trust secretary Ken Davies (07793 613 582) and do NOT leave on the offertory plate. Many thanks. Use Gift Aid envelopes labelled Shyira Trust from back of Church if applicable.

NOTICES CONTINUED



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

Tuesday Lunch – Soup/sandwiches/cake & company. 2nd & 16th Dec and 6th & 20th Jan 12noon, in church Meeting Room. Donations for lunch welcome. **Anne**

Open Door Saturdays – Dec 6th and Jan 10th & 24th 10-12noon. Open for tea/coffee/cake & a chat. Continuing 8th & 21st Feb and 7th & 21st March. **Jean**

Gifts-to-Funds Coffee Morning

2026 diaries and calendars are appearing in the shops and we would like you to note that on **Saturday 24th Januray 10-12**, we will be having our usual '**Gifts-to-Funds**' stall during our '**Open Door Saturday**' coffee morning.

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

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

Southport Soup Kitchen (known as the Soupie to many) Christmas 2025

It's that time of the year when many families are beginning to think about Christmas - presents for family and friends. However, those living in poverty and cold are struggling in many ways. This is where charities such as the Soup Kitchen can bring a little relief to those in such unenviable circumstances. St. Luke's Church helps throughout the year but at times such as Christmas and Easter we make extra special efforts to help bring a little more to those very much in need. As well as the normal everyday items, we endeavour to give special items of food such as chocolates, mince pies, Christmas puddings, sweets, tinned goods such as salmon, tuna, meats, mincemeat, fruit, custard, pies - and not forgetting dog and cat food (tins or biscuits!). Please remember that all human food has to have a late December/January date on it. And don't forget non-food items like hats, gloves, mittens, scarves, handwarmers, footwarmers, thick socks (discreet colours except for children) and gifts for young children up to about 10/11.

And how about a Christmas card to the guests - sending love and compassion to those less fortunate than us. Let's help to give them a better Christmas than they would have expected.

May I wish all who receive this magazine a Blessed Christmas and a Happy New Year! Thank you for your continued support to the Soup Kitchen.

Love and God Bless,

Maggie

The Light Fair – Well done to **Mike Thomas** (Co-ordinator) and all his little elves who helped in the success of this year's event on Fri Oct 31st.

ST. LUKE'S SCHOOL

Remembrance Services led by Year 6



On Tuesday 11th November, Year 6 delivered two wonderful Remembrance Services to the St. Luke's community. The first service was presented to parents and carers of the Year 6 children, and the second service (timed for a silence at 11:00 am) was delivered to the rest of the children and adults around school.

This is an annual tradition for our Year 6 children, and it links very closely to our year-group Christian value of 'Respect'. As ever, this year's cohort did a fantastic job of sharing information about fallen servicemen and women from a range of global conflicts. The children were clear and confident and included information about local soldiers who fell during World War 1, and how they are memorialised locally at the Formby monument and in a special plaque in St. Luke's Church. All staff who helped to organise the services were extremely proud of the confident and poignant message on offer. Well done, Year 6!

Rachel Brown-Finnis visits St. Luke's School

On the 3rd of November we welcomed a very special visitor to St. Luke's. Rachel Brown-Finnis is an ex-professional footballer who has played in goal for both Liverpool and Everton as well as earning 82 caps for England from the age of 16. She is also an Olympian, representing Team GB at the 2012 London Olympics.

After retiring, Rachel became a football pundit and commentator and is also an Ambassador for Everton helping to develop and promote the women's game.



Rachel came to chat to the children about her career and promoted our LEARN ethos. She used her talk to motivate and inspire them to “Explore New Things” and not to be put off from following their dreams. She talked about “Never Giving Up” and building resilience to overcome barriers. It certainly was a motivational talk, and the children and adults all enjoyed the experience. Thank you to Rachel for giving time out of her extremely busy schedule and thank you to Emily Gerrard for arranging the visit.

Anglo-Saxon Day for Year 4

Year 4 had a fantastic introduction to the Anglo-Saxon period of history, brought to life by an engaging visit from Ravnah!



(Cont. on page 6)



THE CHRISTMAS SHOEBOX APPEAL



St. Luke's Church managed 42 boxes this year. Church member David Moore, who oversaw the collection, sends his appreciation and thanks to all who donated. At the same time, we should pay tribute to David for his dedication and hard work over a good number of years in organising this very worthy cause. Well done, David!

Further, David has called time on his key role with the monthly collation of our parish magazine. Again, his contribution has been tremendous over the past years, so yet again we pay tribute to him and thank him for his dedication to this important task. Many thanks again David, especially from the magazine collation team!

KNITTED HEARTS APPEAL



There was in our June magazine an appeal for knitted hearts in a short article by **Liz Davis**. The hearts were for Aintree Hospital's Frailty Unit to give to dying patients and their families in order for them to stay connected even when a family can't stay at the bedside.

The fruit of the dedicated knitters at St. Luke's who rose to the appeal was blessed by Matt on Sunday November 30th – too late for a photo in this magazine issue. But we hope to publish a photo of the hearts on display in our next February issue.

This is an ongoing appeal; so, knitters – keep knitting!



"Goodness! is it time for Christmas Fair organising, carol service planning and nativity play rehearsals already?!"



Village

NATIVITY

**11a.m. SATURDAY
13TH DECEMBER**

Formby Pool Gardens

Free Entry, All welcome



**In partnership with
MAKE NOISE Choirs**



Have you visited the Formby Christmas Windows?



SERVICES FOR DECEMBER

Thursday 4th December

11.00am Holy Communion
(Readings: Isaiah 26:1-6 & Matt 7:21,24-27)

Sunday 7th December – Advent 2

8.30am Traditional Service
10.30am All-age Holy Communion
(Readings: Romans 13:8-10 & Matt 3:1-12)

Sunday 14th December – Advent 3

8.30am Traditional Service
10.30am Contemporary Service*
(Readings: Isaiah 35:1-10 & Matt 11:2-11)
4.00pm Christingle (Reading: John 3:16-21)

Sunday 21st December – Advent 4

8.30am Traditional Service
10.30am Contemporary Service
with Holy Communion*
(Readings: Isaiah 7:10-16 & Matt 1:18-25)
7.00pm Carols

Monday 22nd December

7.00pm Blue Christmas

Wednesday 24th December – Christmas Eve

4.00pm Crib Service (Reading: Matt 1:18-25)
11.15pm Midnight Holy Communion
(Readings: Isaiah 9:2-7 & Luke 2:8-20)

Thursday 25th December – Christmas Day

10.00am All-age Holy Communion
(Readings: Isaiah 9:2-7 & Luke 2:8-20)

Sunday 28th December – Christmas 1

8.30am Traditional Service
10.30am Contemporary Service*
(Readings: Isaiah 63:7-9 & Matt 2:13-23)

(*with children's church)



**“Holy, holy, holy
Is the Lord God almighty,
Who was, and is, and is to come.”
(Revelation 4:8 NIV)**

Prayer for Christmas (Abridged)

Dear Father, Christmas is coming. It's all such a rush – planning, shopping, spending, wrapping, posting, stressing! What's it all about?

Lord, help us, in all the rat-race busyness, to make time to focus on that baby at the centre of it all. That baby who is Your Son, who was with You in the beginning and who, with You, created all things; that baby who brings life and light and hope and salvation; that baby who was and is Jesus, God, made man. Amen

Daphne Kitching (PP)

SERVICES FOR JANUARY

Sunday 4th January – Epiphany

8.30am Traditional Service
10.30am All-age Holy Communion
(Readings: Romans 5:12-21 & Matt 2:1-12)

Thursday 8th January

11.00am Holy Communion
(Readings: 1 John 4:7-10 & Mark 6:34-44)

Sunday 11th January – Epiphany 1

8.30am Traditional Service
10.30am Contemporary Service*
(Readings: 1 Cor 6:1-11 & Matt 3:13-17)

Sunday 18th January – Epiphany 2

8.30am Traditional Service
10.30am Contemporary Service
with Holy Communion*
(Readings: 1 Cor 6: 12-20 & John 1:29-42)

Sunday 25th January – Epiphany 3

8.30am Traditional Service
10.30am Contemporary Service*
(Readings: 1 Cor 7:1-16 & Matt 4:12-23)



(*with Children's Church)

**“Holy, holy, holy
Is the Lord God Almighty,
Who was, and is, and is to come.”
(Revelation 4:8 NIV)**

EPIPHANY

Epiphany is a Christian festival on the 6th of January (The 12th 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.

THOUGHTS FOR THE SEASON

Christmas is arguably the most joyful time of the year for most families. But how much more joyful it would be if the whole world truly believed in the birth of our Saviour, the baby Jesus. It is easy for those of us living comfortable lives to get sucked into the material side of Christmas. I am no Scrooge, but neither am I an advocate of Black Friday and 'selling' Christmas in November.

There is another side of Christmas which is a sad and lonely one for many. It can be a time of tearful memories, especially for those living isolated lives, the destitute and homeless. Our Blue Christmas service at St. Luke's (see p9) can perhaps be not only a source of solace for those attending but the spark for a closer relationship with Jesus in the hope of better and happier days ahead. The song Blue Christmas sung by Elvis Presley is a sad song, but the Blue Christmas service at St. Luke's could be used to stir the opposite within any saddened and desperate heart and mind. I pray for this!

And on we move to Epiphany and new year resolutions. There's only one I would recommend—'to find Jesus if you don't know him and to strengthen your relationship with him if you do'. **KD**

WHO'S WHO

Vicar	Rev Dr Matt Davis
Readers	Mrs Anne Dixon Mrs Jean Watts
Reader Emeritus	Prof Allan Hobson
Churchwardens	Mrs Fiona Grieveson Dr David Hogben
Deputy Churchwarden	Mr John McGibbon
Treasurer	Mr Hugh Dixon
Deputy Treasurer	Mrs Gwyneth Croft
PCC Secretary	Mrs Allyson Jump
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	Churchwarden/s 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 Magazine Adverts Magazine Collation	Mrs Margaret Cooke Mrs Margaret Cooke Mr David Moore
Church and Churchyard Maintenance	Contact Wardens for information
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, 7.30/7.45pm in MEETING ROOM.

Weekly Home Bible Groups – If you would like to join a group, please speak to Matt.

Children @ St. Luke's – Pre-Schoolers, Primary and Secondary – catered for every Sunday at 10.30am service. Refer Weekly News Sheet for details.

(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 – 2nd 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 –

Division Secretary for Girlguiding, Formby Sheila Kirk 875393

Rainbows, Brownies, Guides – Central waiting list (<http://www.girlguiding.org.uk/> for information). Enquiries via Sheila Kirk 875393

Brownie Guides @ St. Luke's

4th Formby Monday 6.00pm Julie Maher 07811 907003
(In Meeting Room)

Guides @ St. Luke's

4th Formby Wednesday 7.30pm Julie Clark 833757

Beavers Thursday 5.45pm John Gelder 876456
(In Meeting Room) (Beavers8thFormbyStLukes@outlook.com)

Cub Scouts Thursday 6.45pm Bob Ford 873026
(In Meeting Room) (Cubs8thFormbyStLukes@outlook.com)

Group Lead Volunteer Ben Kennedy 07534 653822

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), Allyson Jump (Secretary), Fiona Grieveson (Co-Warden), Dr. David Hogben (Co-Warden).

Other PCC Members are Andrew Cox, Debbie Davies, Ken Davies, Ann Dennison, Anne Dixon, John Gelder, Hillary Griffin, Prof. Allan Hobson, Jean Mainey, Chris Payne, Michael Roberts, Jean Watts.

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MRCGP
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Dr John Cosgrove
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BOSCH

What Are the Three Gifts?

While participating in a church Christmas pageant many years ago, I was delighted to be chosen as the narrator. Each rehearsal went off well and then on the night of the show, I announced, in a loud and penetrating voice, the gifts of the Magi as being "gold, Frankenstein and myrrh."

The Wrong Gift

A young couple began to assemble a special Christmas gift they had bought for their children. They had bought a kit for a tree house, but it didn't make sense. Then they realised that the materials were for a sailboat, so they wrote to the company to complain. The company's reply was brief: "While we regret the inconvenience this mistake must have caused you, we are more concerned about the man who is out on a lake somewhere, trying to sail your tree house."

New Year's Eve is coming soon...

Bagpipes are the missing link between music and noise. - E K Kruger

The inventor of the bagpipes was inspired when he saw a man carrying an indignant asthmatic pig under his arm. Unfortunately, the man-made sound never equalled the purity of the sound achieved by the pig. - Alfred Hitchcock.

Bring not a bagpipe to a man in trouble. - Jonathan Swift.

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

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

Formby Pantry Welcome Space - in the Activity Centre behind the Gild Hall, Church Road, on Thursdays from 11.00 – 1.00pm. Tea, coffee and cakes are provided as well as a light lunch. No charge but donations are gratefully appreciated. All are welcome.

Formby Library (01704 874177) – Mon to Fri 10.00-4.30pm and Sat 10.00-1.30pm – regular activities and events as usual throughout Dec/Jan; check Library for details especially over the holiday period.

- Wed 10th Dec 11.30-1.00pm – last shared reading group of the year with a Christmas themed text to share. Mince pies to feature.
- Christmas themed Coffee Morning on Thurs 18th Dec at 10.30am; mince pies available.
- Formby Library also hosts an illuminated snowman in the garden throughout Dec until when the Library closes at 5.00pm on Christmas Eve – fun for all the family!

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

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With friends and relatives in mind....

If you pray for another, you will be helped yourself. - *Yiddish proverb*

We make a living by what we get. We make a life by what we give. - *Duane Hulse*

Gossip is letting the chat out of the bag. - *Anon*

A good example is the best sermon. - *Anon*

Happiness is made to be shared. - *French proverb*

This world is all a fleeting show, For man's illusion given;
The smiles of joy, the tears of woe, Deceitful shine, deceitful flow,
There's nothing true but Heaven. - *Thomas More*

And post-Christmas...with New Year on the way

Depression: a period when you can't spend money you don't have. – *Anon*

Making the most of today is the best way to be ready for tomorrow. – *Anon*

I find that distance lends enchantment to bagpipes. - *William Blezard*

The second day of a New Year's diet is always easier than the first. By the second day you're off it. - *Jackie Gleason*

With New Year's Resolutions in mind, here is John Wesley's rule of conduct:

Do all the good you can; By all the means you can; In all the ways you can; In all the places you can; At all the times you can; To all the people you can; As long as ever you can.

(PP)

ASSOCIATION OF FORMBY ARTISTS AUTUMN EXHIBITION SATURDAY 8TH NOVEMBER 2025

This Autumn's exhibition was the best we've had for many years. There were over 500 visitors including children through the door on what turned out to be a nice warm day.

There were more than 240 pictures on view, of which over 60 were sold. The great variety of subjects meant there was something for everyone to like. They covered many media, including oil, watercolour, pen and ink, embroidery and collage, sometimes all mixed together! Also, on show and for sale were handmade cards, silk goods, handmade sewn and embroidered boxes and ornaments.

In the tearoom were many preloved art materials, magazines and books on sale for reasonable amounts. There was also the opportunity to buy a piece of cake to have with your tea or coffee.

There was also a raffle. The results were: -

- The painting - won by ticket no.206 (Barbara C)
- The sparkling wine - won by ticket no.56 (Julie P)
- The embroidered box - won by ticket no.219 (Sheila H)
- The Christmas Cake - won by ticket no.65 (Liz H-H)

The result of the votes for the 3 favourite paintings of the day were: -

- | | | | |
|----------|---------|-------------------------------|----------------------|
| 65 votes | no. 186 | Peonies in a Vase (oil) | by Liz Harding-Huber |
| 27 votes | no. 93 | Just a Little Nudge (acrylic) | by Diane Pearson |
| 27 votes | no. 216 | Study in Acrylic (acrylic) | by Elaine Dean |



It was a really enjoyable day for everyone, for both visitors and contributors. If you missed it maybe we will see you at the next Exhibition in May 2026.

Joan MacDonald.

CANON EMMANUEL'S VISIT CONTINUED

The harvesting of friendships during Canon Emmanuel's recent visit can be further illustrated in the photos and text below. We hope we have gone some way in doing his visit justice.



A visit to the Blackley Centre in Elland, West Yorkshire – a centre set up by Blackley Baptist Church in 1993 for retreats, away days, meetings, training and conferences. Photo shows Canon Emmanuel

with Revd Andy Williams (Director for Inter Faith Religions) and Revd Joanna Williams (Director for Reconciliation). Canon Emmanuel spent a day of prayer and reflection at the Centre.



Canon Emmanuel shakes hands with the Vice-Dean Revd Shemil Matthew on his visit to Emmanuel Theological College, Warrington. Revd Matthew has international links with Rwanda.

On his travels Canon Emmanuel also met with the President of Rotary Club St Helens Jon Betteridge to talk about links with Formby Rotary and the building of the new hospital in Shyira.



Canon Emmanuel in Liverpool at St. Nicholas Church, Pier Head, and pictured with the Beatles statue.

It is also necessary to finally mention the building of friendships through communal meals like The Fish and Chip Supper in

the Church Meeting Room and meals with parishioners in their homes and out and about; and not forgetting day trips to Liverpool and Chester – and much more! Well done to all who participated and helped to make Canon Emmanuel's visit a memorable one.



(Information and photos courtesy of John Gelder)

KD

NEW YEAR POEMS

PP Editor: with Epiphany in mind, here are some lovely lines from a longer poem by Ursula A Fanthorpe, a very popular English poet (1929 – 2009)

This was the moment

This was the moment when Before
Turned into After...
When ... three
Members of an obscure Persian sect
Walked haphazard by starlight - straight
Into the kingdom of heaven.

by Ursula A Fanthorpe

**

The New Year

He comes, he goes, his times are set,
The New Year now has shown his face.
For time is here and will not wait
For dwellers all in time and space.

We sojourn here on this fair earth,
Just for a time so quickly gone,
Our lives just like a vapour spent,
As we await another dawn.

There is a day God has ordained,
When we will reach a distant shore,
Eternity our new address
Where time will cease and be no more.

by Megan Carter (PP)

**

New Year

A carillon, then twelve long chimes.
We join in noisy 'Auld Lang Syne'
To celebrate the changing times -
And times of hope, not fear!
Even while the chimes still ring
And while we gaily laugh and sing
We pray the coming years will bring
Good reasons for good cheer!

All the sadness of last year -
Every sorrow, every tear-
Let them fade and disappear;
Yes - let them fade away!
Hearken to the chiming bells!
See the fireworks' sparkling spells!
The sights and sounds and tastes and smells
Of ev'ry New Year's Day!

by Nigel Beeton (PP)

(The poems on this page have been taken from the January 2024 Parish Pump)



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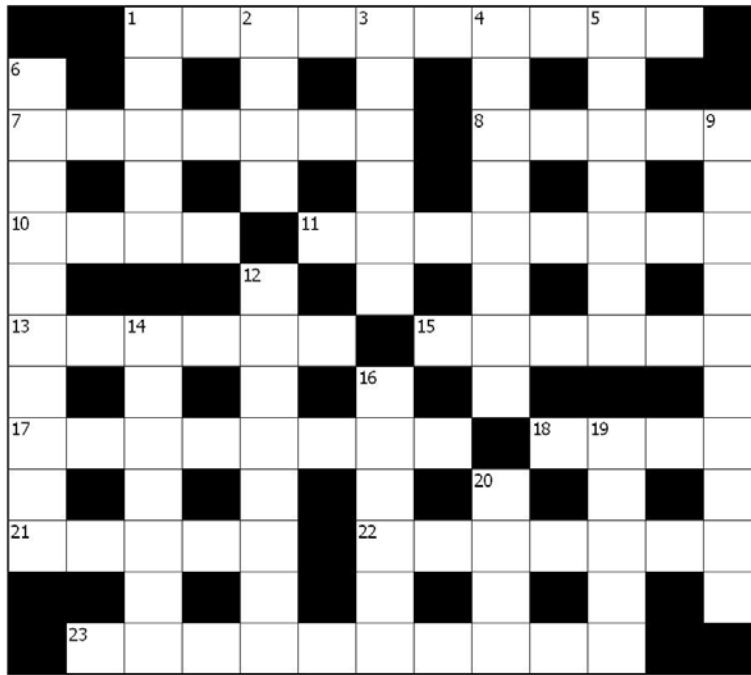
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CROSSWORD



ACROSS:

- 1 Provisional meeting place of God and the Jews (Exodus 25:9) (10)
- 7 David's third son, killed when his head got caught in a tree during a battle with his father (2 Samuel 18:14,15) (7)
- 8 They ruled much of the west coast of South America in the 15th and early 16th centuries (5)
- 10 Small deer of European and Asian extraction (4)
- 11 Seized control of (Numbers 21:25) (8)
- 13 Terror (Luke 24:5) (6)
- 15 First World War heroine shot by the Germans in Brussels, Nurse Edith (6)
- 17 Stormy (8)

- 18 A bitter variety of this, together with lamb and unleavened bread, was the Passover menu for anyone unclean (Numbers 9:11) (4)
- 21 Arson (anag.) (5)
- 22 How John Newton described God's grace in his well-known hymn (7)
- 23 Habitation (Isaiah 27:10) (10)

DOWN:

- 1 and see that the Lord is good (Psalm 34:8) (5)
- 2 The wicked man flees though no one pursues, but the righteous are as...as a lion (Proverbs 28:1) (4)
- 3 One of the exiles, a descendant of Parosh, who married a foreign woman (Ezra 10:25) (6)
- 4 He escaped from Nob when Saul killed the rest of his family and joined David (1 Samuel 22:19,20) (8)
- 5 City and lake in Central Switzerland (7)
- 6 Offer your bodies as living, holy and pleasing to God (Romans 12:1) (10)
- 9 Pouches carried by horses (Genesis 49:14) (10)
- 12 One who accepts government by God (8)
- 14 Aromatic substance commonly used in Jewish ritual (Exodus 30:1) (7)
- 16 He asked Jesus, 'What is truth?' (John 18:38) (6)
- 19 Are (Romans 13:1) (5)
- 20 You are to give him the name Jesus, because he will ... his people from their sin (Matthew 1:21) (4)

(SOLUTIONS ON PAGE 24)

.....

Know what?

As we were putting out cookies for Father Christmas one Christmas Eve, I accidentally dropped one. I picked it up and dusted it off before placing it back on the plate. "You can't do that," argued my four-year-old. But I assured him that Father Christmas would never know.

He shot me a dubious look. "So, he knows if I've been bad or good all year, but he doesn't know if you dropped his cookie on the floor?"

SUDOKU

EASY

MEDIUM

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

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

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(SOLUTIONS ON PAGE 24)

WORDSEARCH

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

Did the Old Testament expect Jesus to come? Yes indeed! Here are just some examples of OT prophecies:

He would be born of a virgin. 'The virgin will conceive and give birth to a Son and will call Him Immanuel.' (Isaiah 7:14)

He would be born in Bethlehem. 'But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, out of you will come for me one who will be ruler over Israel...' (Micah 5:2)

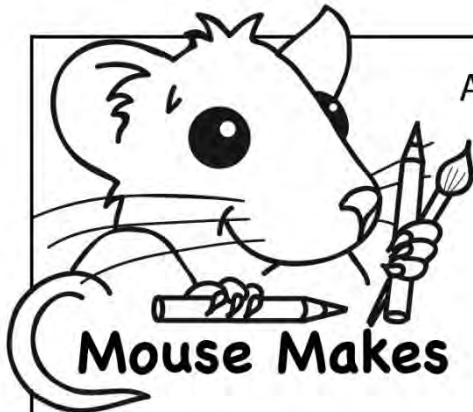
His lineage would be of the line of David. 'I will raise up for David a righteous Branch, a King who will reign wisely and do what is just and right in the land.' (Jeremiah 23:5-6).

He would bring healing. 'Then will the eyes of the blind be opened and the ears of the deaf unstopped. Then will the lame leap like a deer, and the mute tongue shout for joy.' (Isaiah 35:5-6)

He would be crucified. They pierce my hands and my feet. All my bones are on display; people stare and gloat over me. They divide my clothes among them and cast lots for my garment. (Psalm 22)

He would rise from the dead. 'You will not abandon me to the realm of the dead, nor will you let your faithful one see decay...' (Psalm 16: 8-11)

Born	Israel	Healing	Crucified	Rise
Virgin	David	Blind	Pierce	Dead
Immanuel	King	Deaf	Hands	Abandon
Bethlehem	Just	Lame	Feet	Decay
Ruler	Right	Mute	Gloat	Realm



At Christmas we celebrate the birth of Jesus, God's Son and our Saviour coming into the world as a baby, and we look forward to the time when Jesus will come again, not as a baby but as the King of kings and Lord of lords!

read
John 14:3

A baby needs clothes to keep warm like a snuggly sleep suit or a vest and nappy.

What were you dressed in?
Jesus was wrapped in

.....

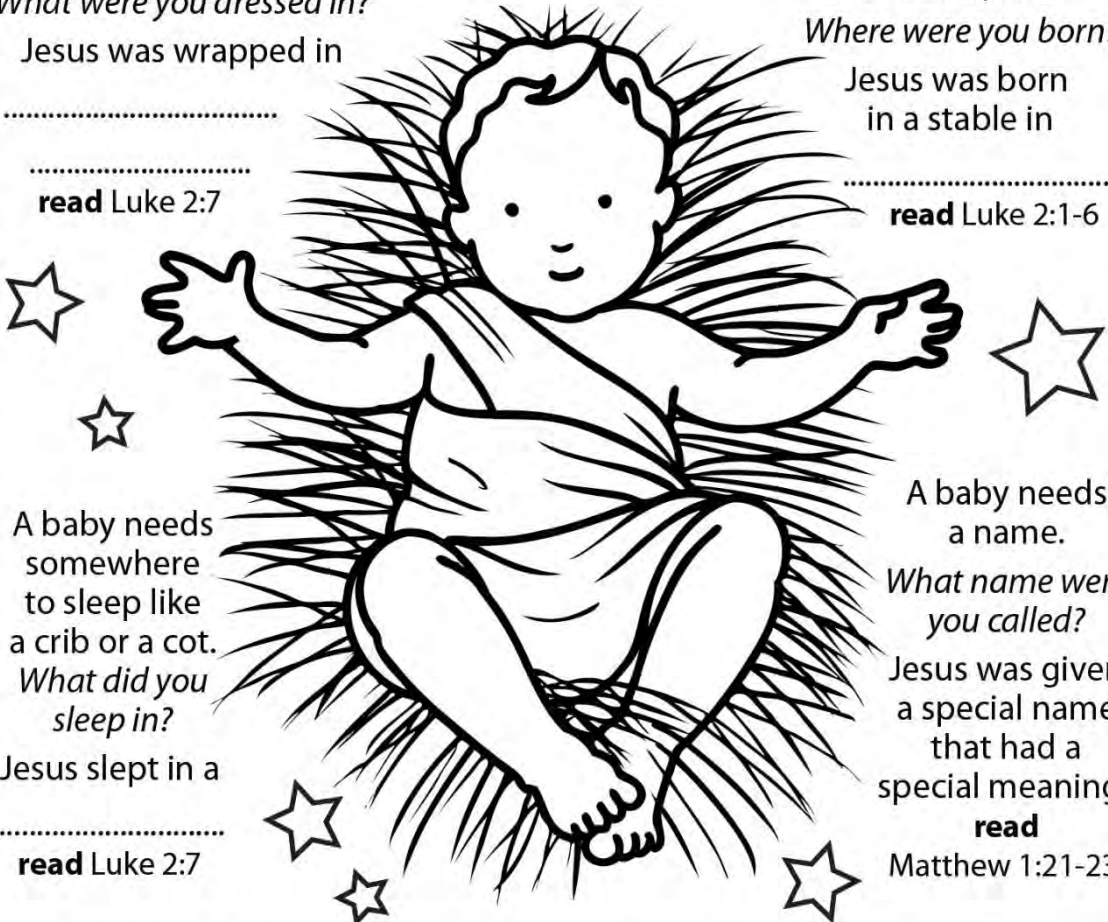
read Luke 2:7

A baby needs somewhere to be born like at home or in a hospital.

Where were you born?
Jesus was born in a stable in

.....

read Luke 2:1-6



A baby needs somewhere to sleep like a crib or a cot.
What did you sleep in?

Jesus slept in a

.....

read Luke 2:7

A baby needs a name.
What name were you called?

Jesus was given a special name that had a special meaning.

read

Matthew 1:21-23

HAPPY CHRISTMAS!

NADOLIG LLAWEN ☆ NOLLAIG CHRÌDHEIL ☆ NOLLAG SHONA

JOYEUX NOËL • FELIZ NAVIDAD • BUON NATALE • GOD JUL • FROHE WEIHNACHTEN

SUDOKU SOLUTIONS

EASY

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

MEDIUM

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

CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS

ACROSS: 1, Tabernacle. 7, Absalom. 8, Incas. 10, Roes. 11, Captured. 13, Fright. 15, Cavell. 17, Cyclonic. 18, Herb. 21, Sonar. 22, Amazing. 23, Settlement.

DOWN: 1, Taste. 2, Bold. 3, Ramiah. 4, Abiathar. 5, Lucerne. 6, Sacrifices. 9, Saddlebags. 12, Theocrat. 14, Incense. 16, Pilate. 19, Exist. 20, Save.



Sara preferred to let people work out the hymns for themselves



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